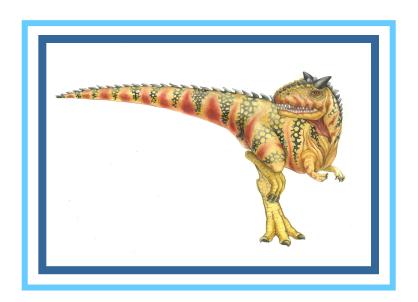
# Chapter 9: Virtual-Memory Management





#### **Chapter 9: Virtual-Memory Management**

- Background
- Demand Paging
- Copy-on-Write
- Page Replacement
- Allocation of Frames
- Thrashing
- Memory-Mapped Files
- Allocating Kernel Memory
- Other Considerations
- Operating-System Examples





#### **Objectives**

- To describe the benefits of a virtual memory system
- To explain the concepts of demand paging, page-replacement algorithms, and allocation of page frames
- To discuss the principle of the working-set model





#### Background

- Code needs to be in memory to execute, but entire program rarely used
  - Error code, unusual routines, large data structures
- Entire program code not needed at same time
- Consider ability to execute partially-loaded program
  - Program no longer constrained by limits of physical memory
  - Program and programs could be larger than physical memory

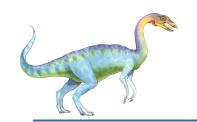




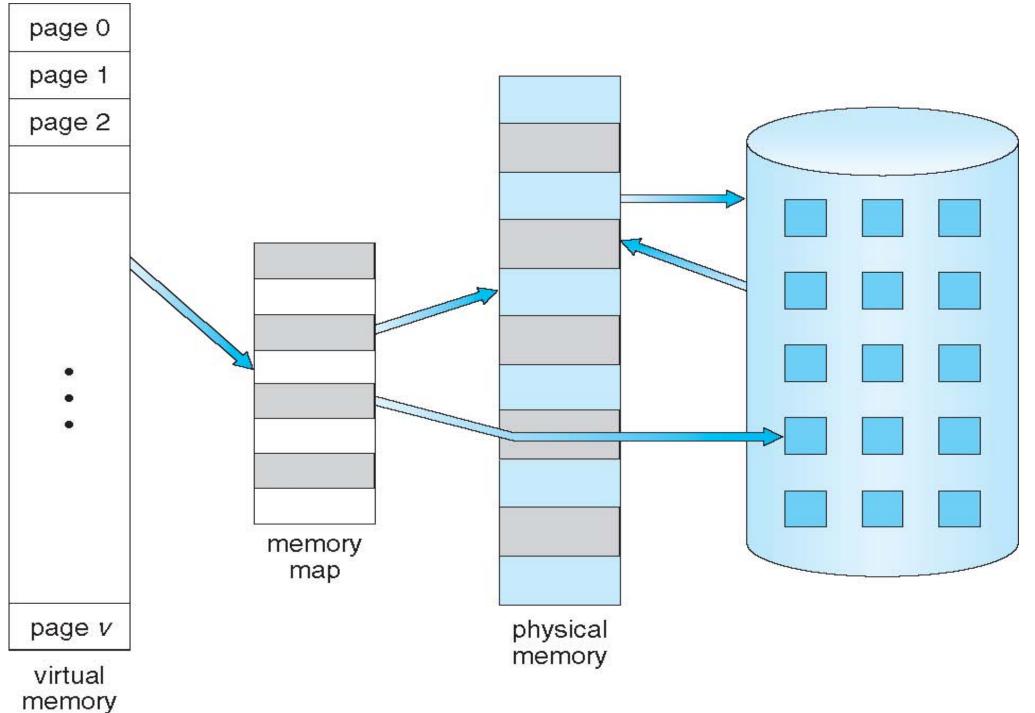
#### Background

- Virtual memory separation of user logical memory from physical memory
  - Only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
  - Logical address space can therefore be much larger than physical address space
  - Allows address spaces to be shared by several processes
  - Allows for more efficient process creation
  - More programs running concurrently
  - Less I/O needed to load or swap processes
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
  - Demand paging
  - Demand segmentation



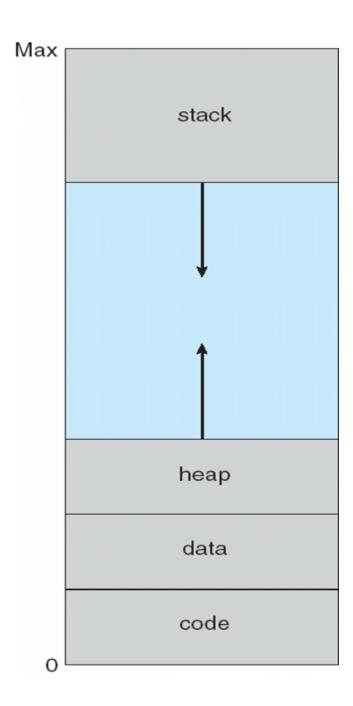


#### Virtual Memory That is Larger Than Physical Memory





#### Virtual-address Space







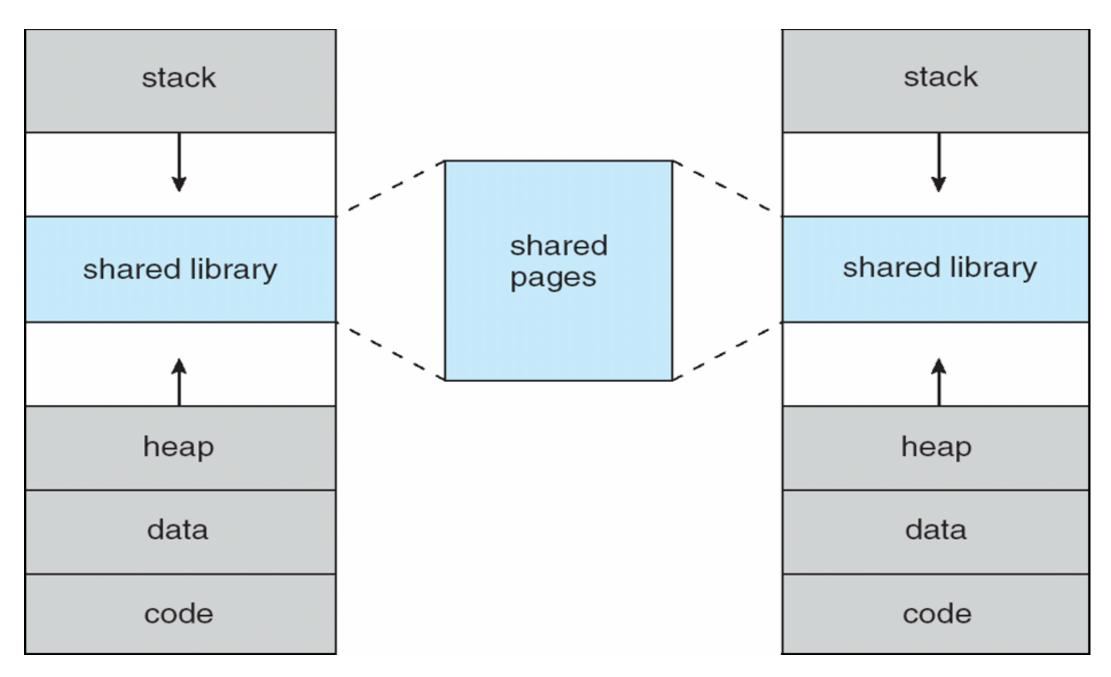
#### Virtual Address Space

- Enables sparse address spaces with holes left for growth, dynamically linked libraries, etc
- System libraries shared via mapping into virtual address space
- Shared memory by mapping pages read-write into virtual address space
- Pages can be shared during fork(), speeding process creation





### **Shared Library Using Virtual Memory**



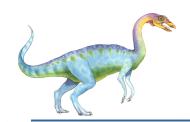




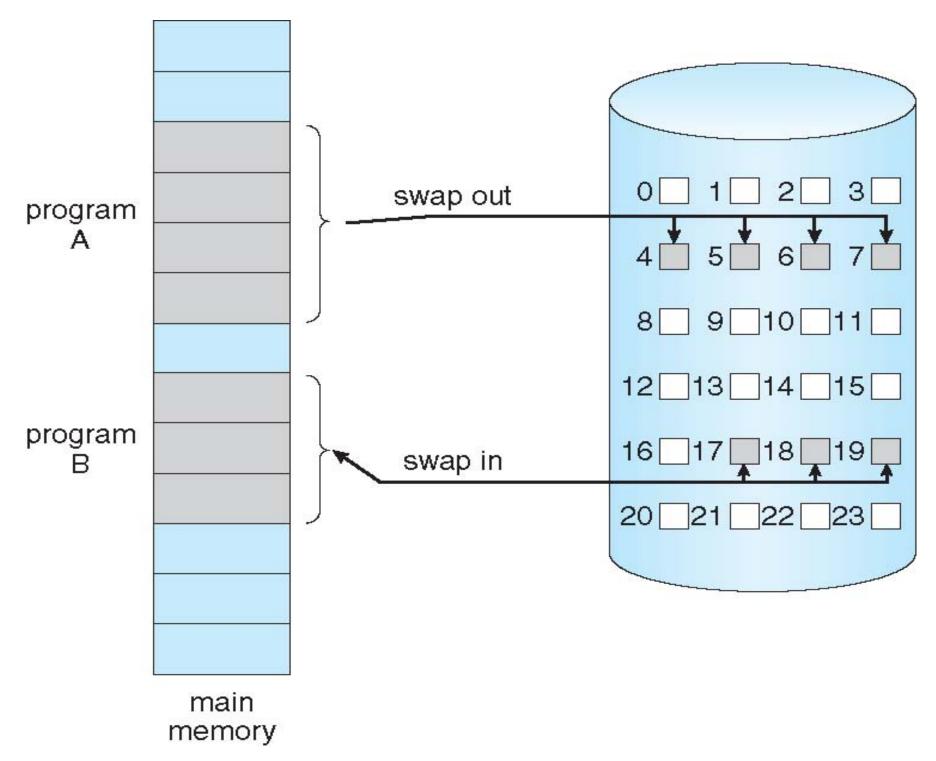
#### **Demand Paging**

- Could bring entire process into memory at load time
- Or bring a page into memory only when it is needed
  - Less I/O needed, no unnecessary I/O
  - Less memory needed
  - Faster response
  - More users
- Page is needed  $\Rightarrow$  reference to it
  - invalid reference ⇒ abort
  - not-in-memory ⇒ bring to memory
- Lazy swapper never swaps a page into memory unless page will be needed
  - Swapper that deals with pages is a pager





## Transfer of a Paged Memory to Contiguous Disk Space







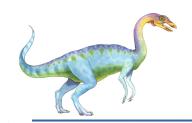
#### Valid-Invalid Bit

- With each page table entry a valid–invalid bit is associated (v ⇒ in-memory – memory resident, i ⇒ not-in-memory)
- Initially valid—invalid bit is set to i on all entries
- Example of a page table snapshot:

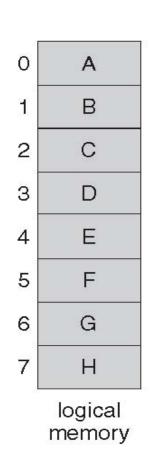
| Frame #    | valio | valid-invalid bit |  |
|------------|-------|-------------------|--|
|            | V     |                   |  |
|            | V     |                   |  |
|            | V     |                   |  |
|            | V     |                   |  |
|            | i     |                   |  |
|            |       |                   |  |
|            |       |                   |  |
|            | i     |                   |  |
|            | i     |                   |  |
| page table |       |                   |  |

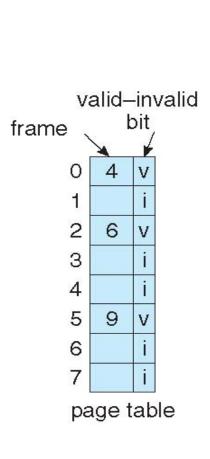
■ During address translation, if valid—invalid bit in page table entry is I ⇒ page fault

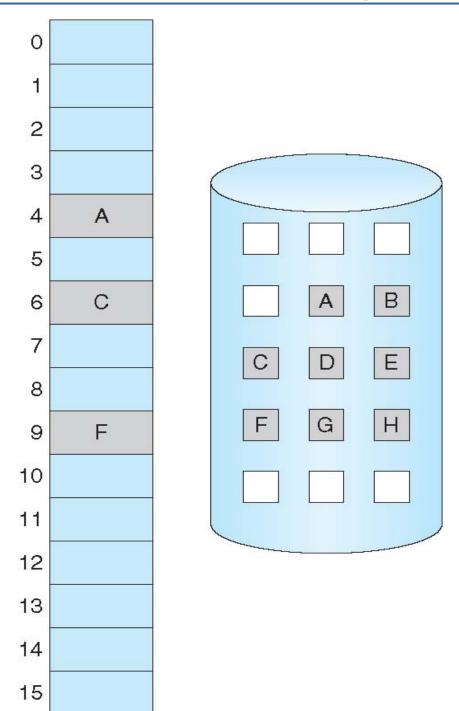




## Page Table When Some Pages Are Not in Main Memory









physical memory



#### Page Fault

If there is a reference to a page, first reference to that page will trap to operating system:

#### page fault

- 1. Operating system looks at another table to decide:
  - Invalid reference ⇒ abort
  - Just not in memory
- 2. Get empty frame
- 3. Swap page into frame via scheduled disk operation
- 4. Reset tables to indicate page now in memory Set validation bit = v
- 5. Restart the instruction that caused the page fault

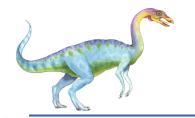




#### **Aspects of Demand Paging**

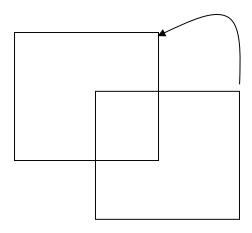
- Extreme case start process with no pages in memory
  - OS sets instruction pointer to first instruction of process, non-memory-resident -> page fault
  - And for every other process pages on first access
  - Pure demand paging
- Actually, a given instruction could access multiple pages -> multiple page faults
  - Pain decreased because of locality of reference
- Hardware support needed for demand paging
  - Page table with valid / invalid bit
  - Secondary memory (swap device with swap space)
  - Instruction restart





#### **Instruction Restart**

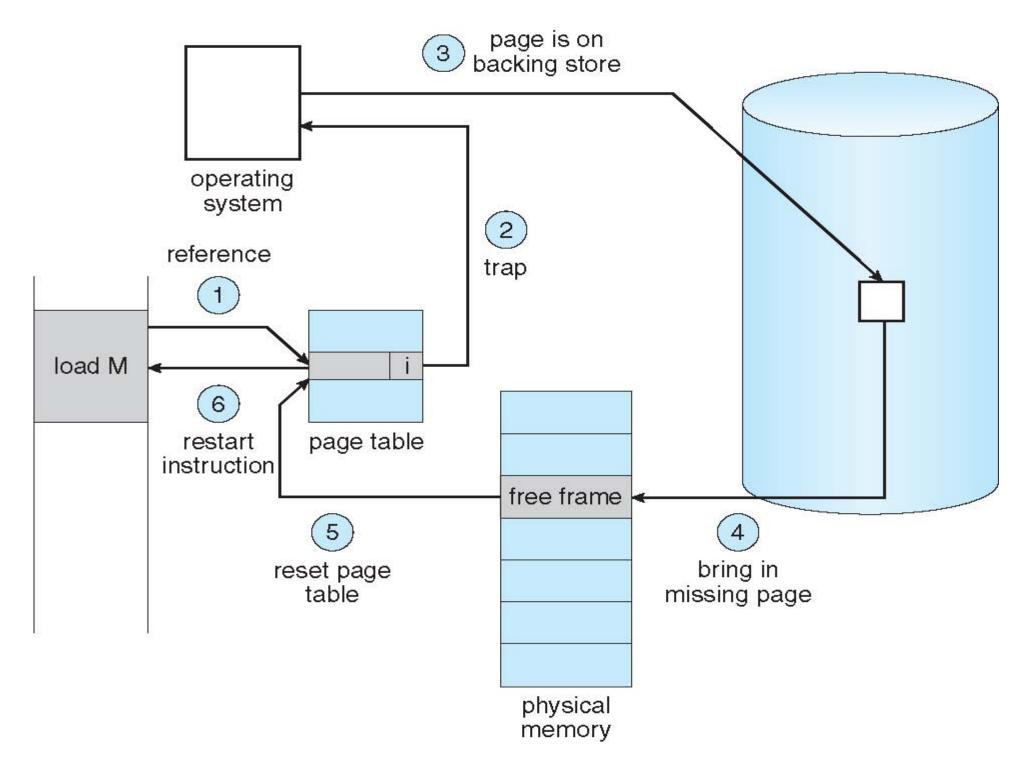
- Consider an instruction that could access several different locations
  - block move



- auto increment/decrement location
- Restart the whole operation?
  - What if source and destination overlap?



#### Steps in Handling a Page Fault





#### **Performance of Demand Paging**

- Stages in Demand Paging
- 1. Trap to the operating system
- Save the user registers and process state
- 3. Determine that the interrupt was a page fault
- 4. Check that the page reference was legal and determine the location of the page on the disk
- 5. Issue a read from the disk to a free frame:
  - 1. Wait in a queue for this device until the read request is serviced
  - 2. Wait for the device seek and/or latency time
  - 3. Begin the transfer of the page to a free frame
- 6. While waiting, allocate the CPU to some other user
- 7. Receive an interrupt from the disk I/O subsystem (I/O completed)
- 8. Save the registers and process state for the other user
- 9. Determine that the interrupt was from the disk
- 10. Correct the page table and other tables to show page is now in memory
- 11. Wait for the CPU to be allocated to this process again
- 12. Restore the user registers, process state, and new page table, and then resume the interrupted instruction





- Page Fault Rate  $0 \le p \le 1$ 
  - if p = 0 no page faults
  - if p = 1, every reference is a fault
- Effective Access Time (EAT)

```
EAT = (1 - p) x memory access
+ p (page fault overhead
+ swap page out
+ swap page in
+ restart overhead
```





#### **Demand Paging Example**

- Memory access time = 200 nanoseconds
- Average page-fault service time = 8 milliseconds
- EAT =  $(1 p) \times 200 + p (8 \text{ milliseconds})$ =  $(1 - p \times 200 + p \times 8,000,000)$ =  $200 + p \times 7,999,800$
- If one access out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then EAT = 8.2 microseconds.

This is a slowdown by a factor of 40!!

- If want performance degradation < 10 percent</p>
  - 220 > 200 + 7,999,800 x p20 > 7,999,800 x p
  - p < .0000025
  - < one page fault in every 400,000 memory accesses</p>





#### **Demand Paging Optimizations**

- Copy entire process image to swap space at process load time
  - Then page in and out of swap space
  - Used in older BSD Unix
- Demand page in from program binary on disk, but discard rather than paging out when freeing frame
  - Used in Solaris and current BSD





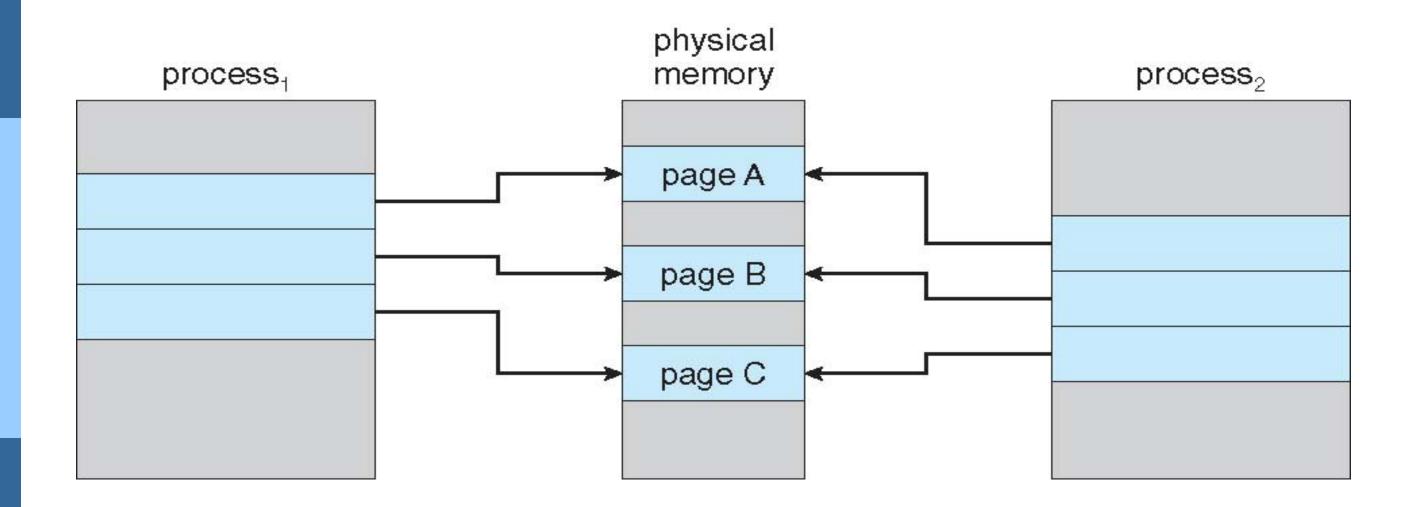
#### Copy-on-Write

- Copy-on-Write (COW) allows both parent and child processes to initially share the same pages in memory
  - If either process modifies a shared page, only then is the page copied
- COW allows more efficient process creation as only modified pages are copied
- In general, free pages are allocated from a **pool** of **zero-fill-on-demand** pages
  - Why zero-out a page before allocating it?
- vfork() variation on fork() system call has parent suspend and child using copy-on-write address space of parent
  - Designed to have child call exec()
  - Very efficient





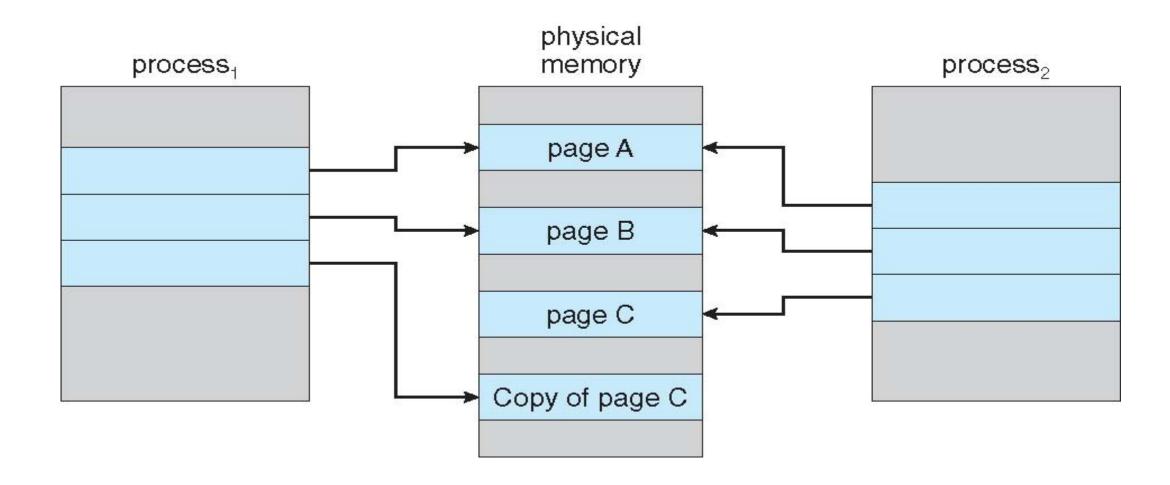
#### Before Process 1 Modifies Page C



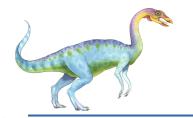




#### After Process 1 Modifies Page C







#### What Happens if There is no Free Frame?

- Used up by process pages
- Also in demand from the kernel, I/O buffers, etc
- How much to allocate to each?
- Page replacement find some page in memory, but not really in use, page it out
  - Algorithm terminate? swap out? replace the page?
  - Performance want an algorithm which will result in minimum number of page faults
- Same page may be brought into memory several times





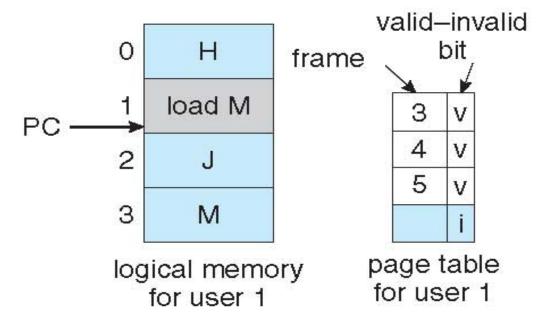
#### Page Replacement

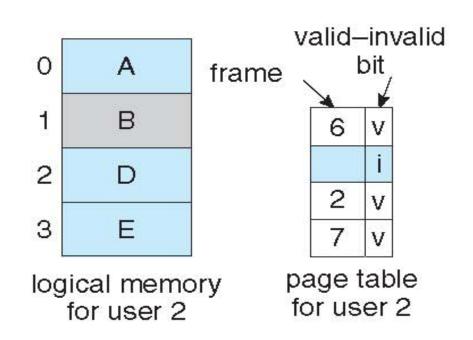
- Prevent over-allocation of memory by modifying page-fault service routine to include page replacement
- Use modify (dirty) bit to reduce overhead of page transfers only modified pages are written to disk
- Page replacement completes separation between logical memory and physical memory large virtual memory can be provided on a smaller physical memory

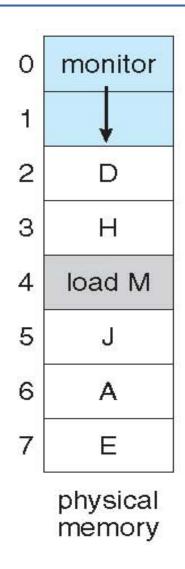


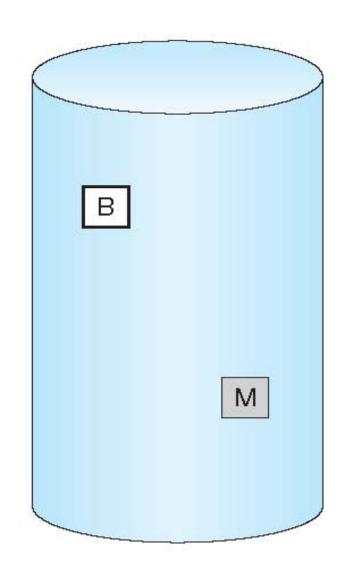


#### Need For Page Replacement

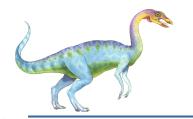












#### **Basic Page Replacement**

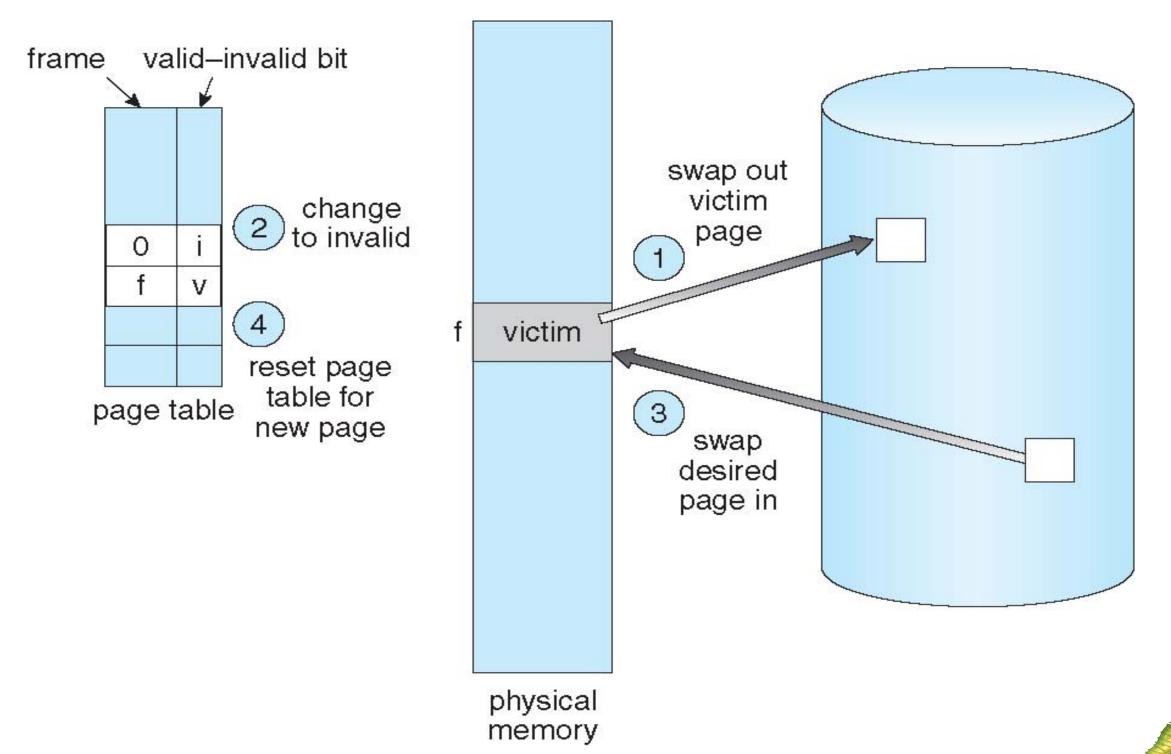
- 1. Find the location of the desired page on disk
- 2. Find a free frame:
  - If there is a free frame, use it
  - If there is no free frame, use a page replacement algorithm to select a victim frame
    - Write victim frame to disk if dirty
- 3. Bring the desired page into the (newly) free frame; update the page and frame tables
- 4. Continue the process by restarting the instruction that caused the trap

Note now potentially 2 page transfers for page fault – increasing EAT





#### Page Replacement





#### Page and Frame Replacement Algorithms

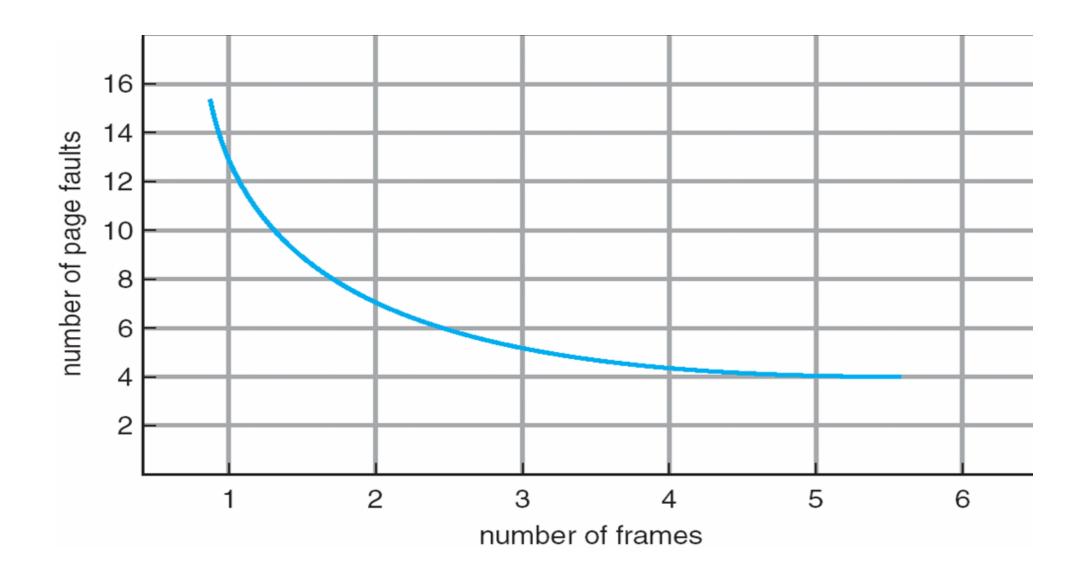
- **Frame-allocation algorithm** determines
  - How many frames to give each process
  - Which frames to replace
- Page-replacement algorithm
  - Want lowest page-fault rate on both first access and re-access
- Evaluate algorithm by running it on a particular string of memory references (reference string) and computing the number of page faults on that string
  - String is just page numbers, not full addresses
  - Repeated access to the same page does not cause a page fault
- In all our examples, the reference string is

7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1

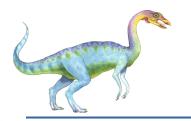




### **Graph of Page Faults Versus**The Number of Frames

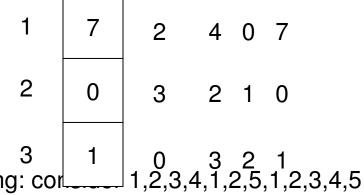






#### First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

- Reference string: 7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1
- 3 frames (3 pages can be in memory at a time per process)



15 page faults

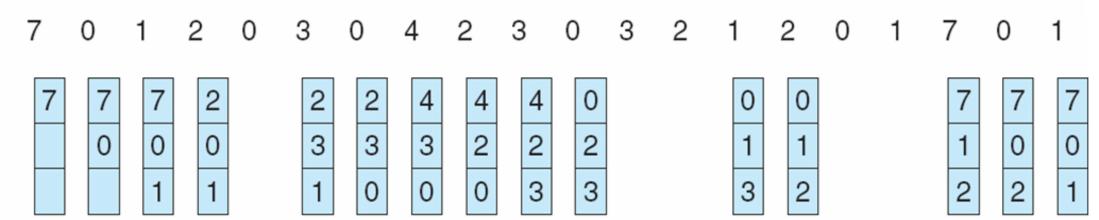
- Can vary by reference string: cor 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4
  - Adding more frames can cause more page faults!
    - Belady's Anomaly
- How to track ages of pages?
  - Just use a FIFO queue





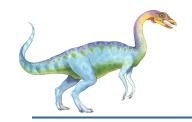
#### FIFO Page Replacement



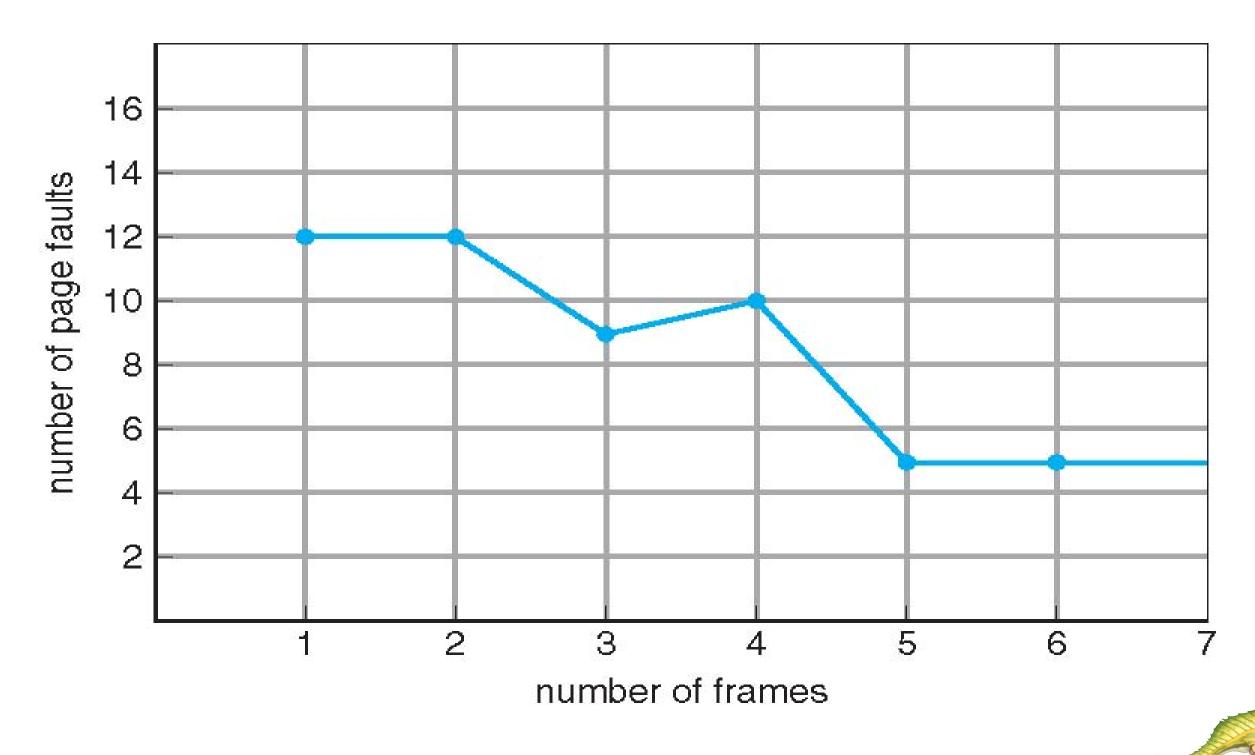


page frames





#### FIFO Illustrating Belady's Anomaly





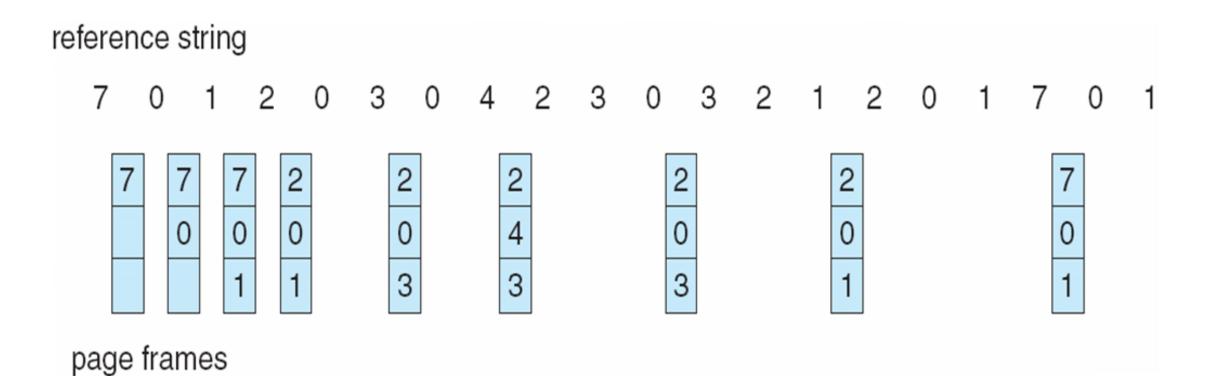
#### **Optimal Algorithm**

- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time
  - 9 is optimal for the example on the next slide
- How do you know this?
  - Can't read the future
- Used for measuring how well your algorithm performs





#### **Optimal Page Replacement**



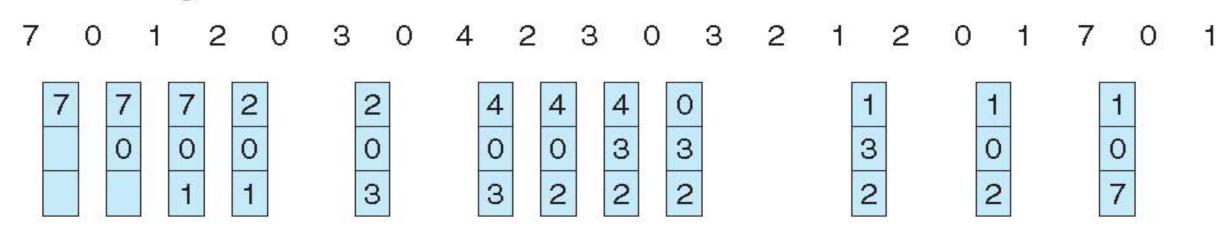




# Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

- Use past knowledge rather than future
- Replace page that has not been used in the most amount of time
- Associate time of last use with each page

#### reference string



page frames

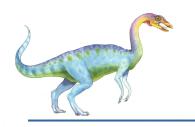




# LRU Algorithm (Cont.)

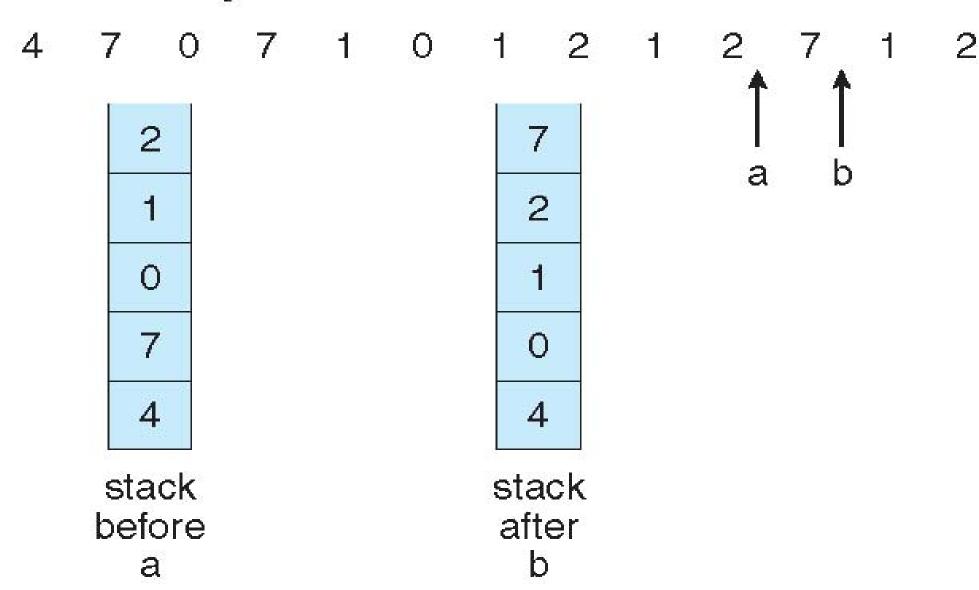
- Counter implementation
  - Every page entry has a counter; every time page is referenced through this entry, copy the clock into the counter
  - When a page needs to be changed, look at the counters to find smallest value
    - Search through table needed
- Stack implementation
  - Keep a stack of page numbers in a double link form:
  - Page referenced:
    - move it to the top
    - requires 6 pointers to be changed
  - But each update more expensive
  - No search for replacement
- LRU and OPT are cases of **stack algorithms** that don't have Belady's Anomaly



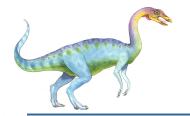


# **Use Of A Stack to Record The Most Recent Page References**

reference string







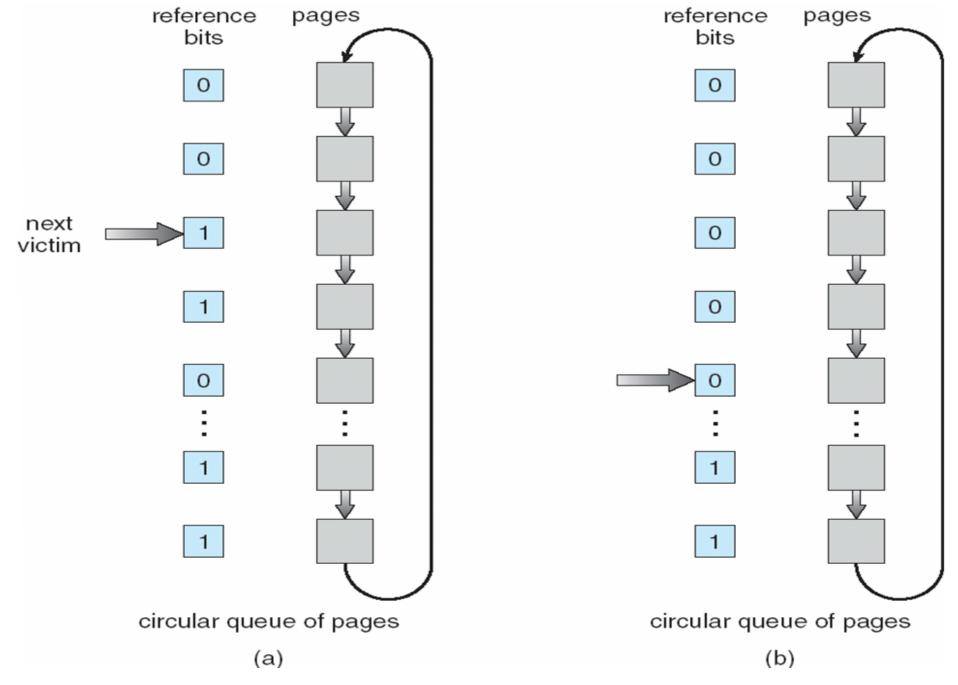
#### LRU Approximation Algorithms

- LRU needs special hardware and still slow
- Reference bit
  - With each page associate a bit, initially = 0
  - When page is referenced bit set to 1
  - Replace any with reference bit = 0 (if one exists)
    - We do not know the order, however
- Second-chance algorithm
  - Generally FIFO, plus hardware-provided reference bit
  - Clock replacement
  - If page to be replaced has
    - Reference bit = 0 -> replace it
    - reference bit = 1 then:
      - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
      - replace next page, subject to same rules





#### Second-Chance (clock) Page-Replacement Algorithm





### **Counting Algorithms**

- Keep a counter of the number of references that have been made to each page
  - Not common
- LFU Algorithm: replaces page with smallest count
- MFU Algorithm: based on the argument that the page with the smallest count was probably just brought in and has yet to be used



9.42



# Page-Buffering Algorithms

- Keep a pool of free frames, always
  - Then frame available when needed, not found at fault time
  - Read page into free frame and select victim to evict and add to free pool
  - When convenient, evict victim
- Possibly, keep list of modified pages
  - When backing store otherwise idle, write pages there and set to non-dirty
- Possibly, keep free frame contents intact and note what is in them
  - If referenced again before reused, no need to load contents again from disk
  - Generally useful to reduce penalty if wrong victim frame selected





- All of these algorithms have OS guessing about future page access
- Some applications have better knowledge i.e. databases
- Memory intensive applications can cause double buffering
  - OS keeps copy of page in memory as I/O buffer
  - Application keeps page in memory for its own work
- Operating system can given direct access to the disk, getting out of the way of the applications
  - Raw disk mode
- Bypasses buffering, locking, etc





#### **Allocation of Frames**

- Each process needs *minimum* number of frames
- Example: IBM 370 6 pages to handle SS MOVE instruction:
  - instruction is 6 bytes, might span 2 pages
  - 2 pages to handle from
  - 2 pages to handle to
- Maximum of course is total frames in the system
- Two major allocation schemes
  - fixed allocation
  - priority allocation
- Many variations





#### **Fixed Allocation**

- Equal allocation For example, if there are 100 frames (after allocating frames for the OS) and 5 processes, give each process 20 frames
  - Keep some as free frame buffer pool
- Proportional allocation Allocate according to the size of process
  - Dynamic as degree of multiprogramming, process sizes change

$$-s_i = \text{size of process } p_i$$

$$-S = \sum s_i$$

$$-m = total number of frames$$

$$-a_i = \text{allocation for } p_i = \frac{s_i}{S} \times m$$

$$m = 64$$

$$s_1 = 10$$

$$s_2 = 127$$

$$a_1 = \frac{10}{137} \times 64 \approx 5$$

$$a_2 = \frac{127}{137} \times 64 \approx 59$$

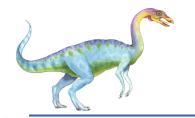




#### **Priority Allocation**

- Use a proportional allocation scheme using priorities rather than size
- If process  $P_i$  generates a page fault,
  - select for replacement one of its frames
  - select for replacement a frame from a process with lower priority number





#### Global vs. Local Allocation

- Global replacement process selects a replacement frame from the set of all frames; one process can take a frame from another
  - But then process execution time can vary greatly
  - But greater throughput so more common
- Local replacement each process selects from only its own set of allocated frames
  - More consistent per-process performance
  - But possibly underutilized memory





#### **Non-Uniform Memory Access**

- So far all memory accessed equally
- Many systems are NUMA speed of access to memory varies
  - Consider system boards containing CPUs and memory, interconnected over a system bus
- Optimal performance comes from allocating memory "close to" the CPU on which the thread is scheduled
  - And modifying the scheduler to schedule the thread on the same system board when possible
  - Solved by Solaris by creating Igroups
    - Structure to track CPU / Memory low latency groups
    - Used my schedule and pager
    - When possible schedule all threads of a process and allocate all memory for that process within the Igroup





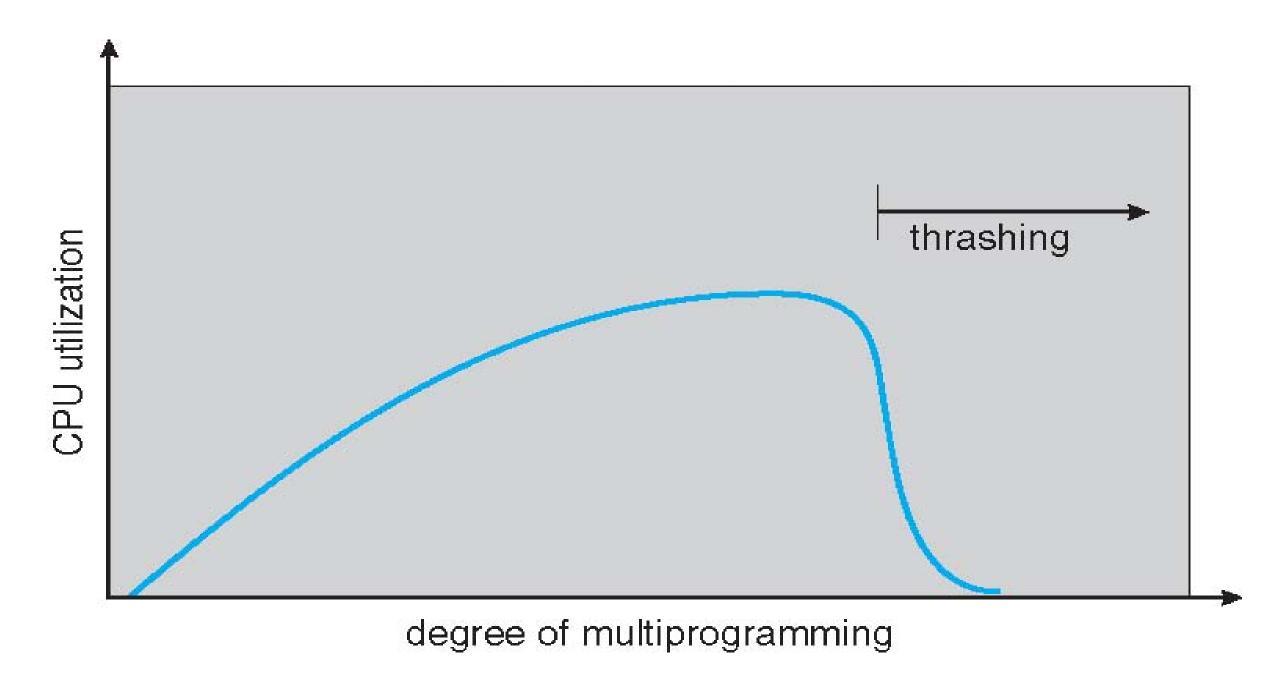
#### **Thrashing**

- If a process does not have "enough" pages, the page-fault rate is very high
  - Page fault to get page
  - Replace existing frame
  - But quickly need replaced frame back
  - This leads to:
    - Low CPU utilization
    - Operating system thinking that it needs to increase the degree of multiprogramming
    - Another process added to the system
- Thrashing = a process is busy swapping pages in and out





# **Thrashing (Cont.)**







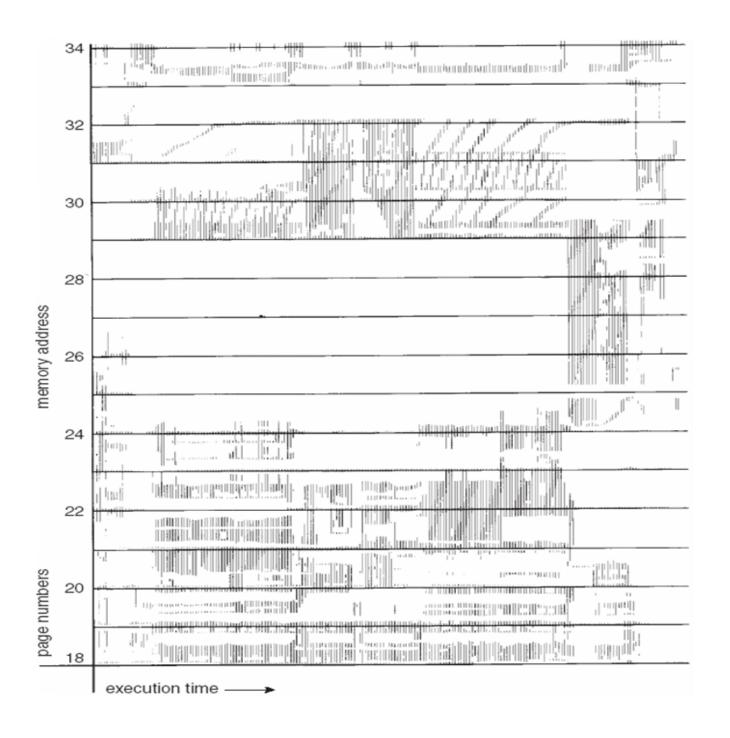
### **Demand Paging and Thrashing**

- Why does demand paging work? Locality model
  - Process migrates from one locality to another
  - Localities may overlap
- Why does thrashing occur?  $\Sigma$  size of locality > total memory size
  - Limit effects by using local or priority page replacement





#### **Locality In A Memory-Reference Pattern**







#### Working-Set Model

- $\Delta$  = working-set window = a fixed number of page references Example: 10,000 instructions
- $WSS_i$  (working set of Process  $P_i$ ) = total number of pages referenced in the most recent  $\Delta$  (varies in time)
  - if  $\Delta$  too small will not encompass entire locality
  - if  $\Delta$  too large will encompass several localities
  - if  $\Delta = \infty \Rightarrow$  will encompass entire program
- $D = \Sigma$  *WSS*<sub>i</sub> = total demand frames
  - Approximation of locality
- if  $D > m \Rightarrow$  Thrashing
- Policy if D > m, then suspend or swap out one of the processes

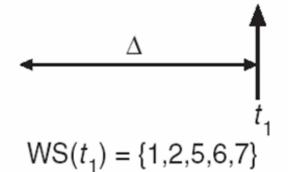




#### Working-set model

#### page reference table

... 261577775162341234443434441323444344...



$$\Delta$$

$$WS(t_2) = \{3,4\}$$

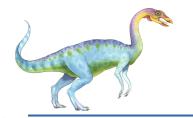




# Keeping Track of the Working Set

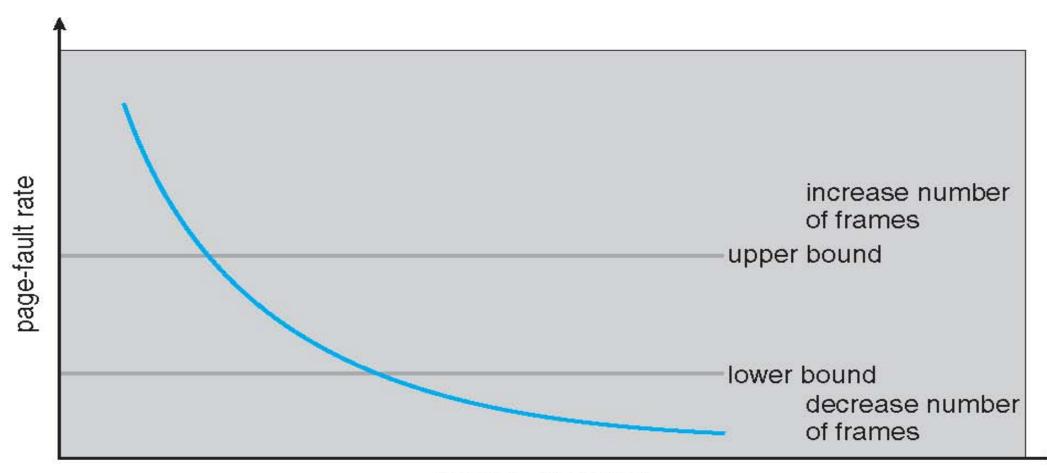
- Approximate with interval timer + a reference bit
- Example:  $\Delta = 10,000$ 
  - Timer interrupts after every 5000 time units
  - Keep in memory 2 bits for each page
  - Whenever a timer interrupts copy and sets the values of all reference bits to 0
  - If one of the bits in memory =  $1 \Rightarrow$  page in working set
- Why is this not completely accurate?
- Improvement = 10 bits and interrupt every 1000 time units



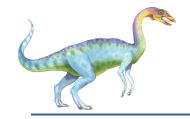


# Page-Fault Frequency

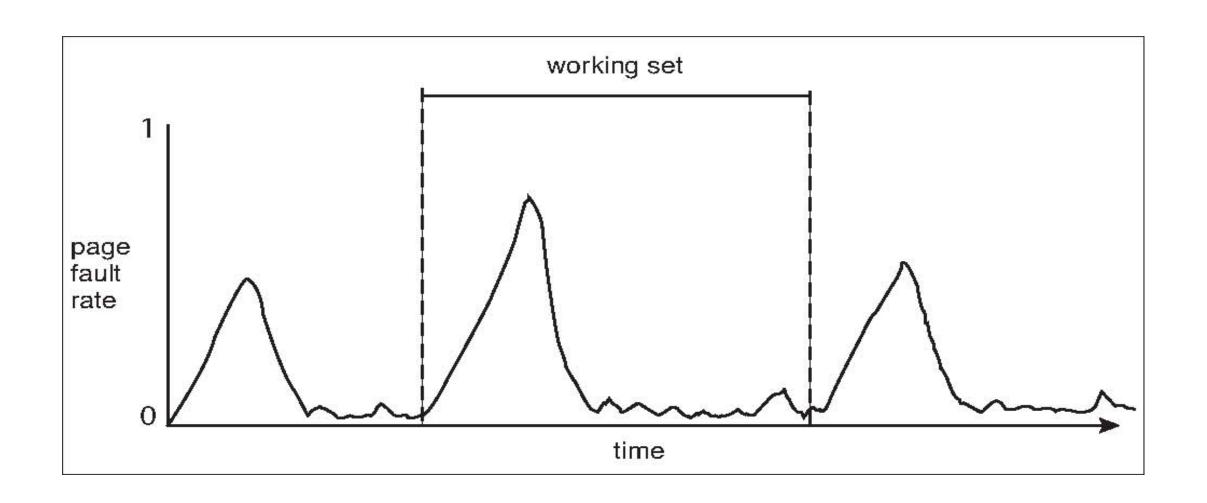
- More direct approach than WSS
- Establish "acceptable" page-fault frequency rate and use local replacement policy
  - If actual rate too low, process loses frame
  - If actual rate too high, process gains frame



number of frames



# Working Sets and Page Fault Rates







#### **Memory-Mapped Files**

- Memory-mapped file I/O allows file I/O to be treated as routine memory access by mapping a disk block to a page in memory
- A file is initially read using demand paging
  - A page-sized portion of the file is read from the file system into a physical page
  - Subsequent reads/writes to/from the file are treated as ordinary memory accesses
- Simplifies and speeds file access by driving file I/O through memory rather than read() and write() system calls
- Also allows several processes to map the same file allowing the pages in memory to be shared
- But when does written data make it to disk?
  - Periodically and / or at file close() time
  - For example, when the pager scans for dirty pages



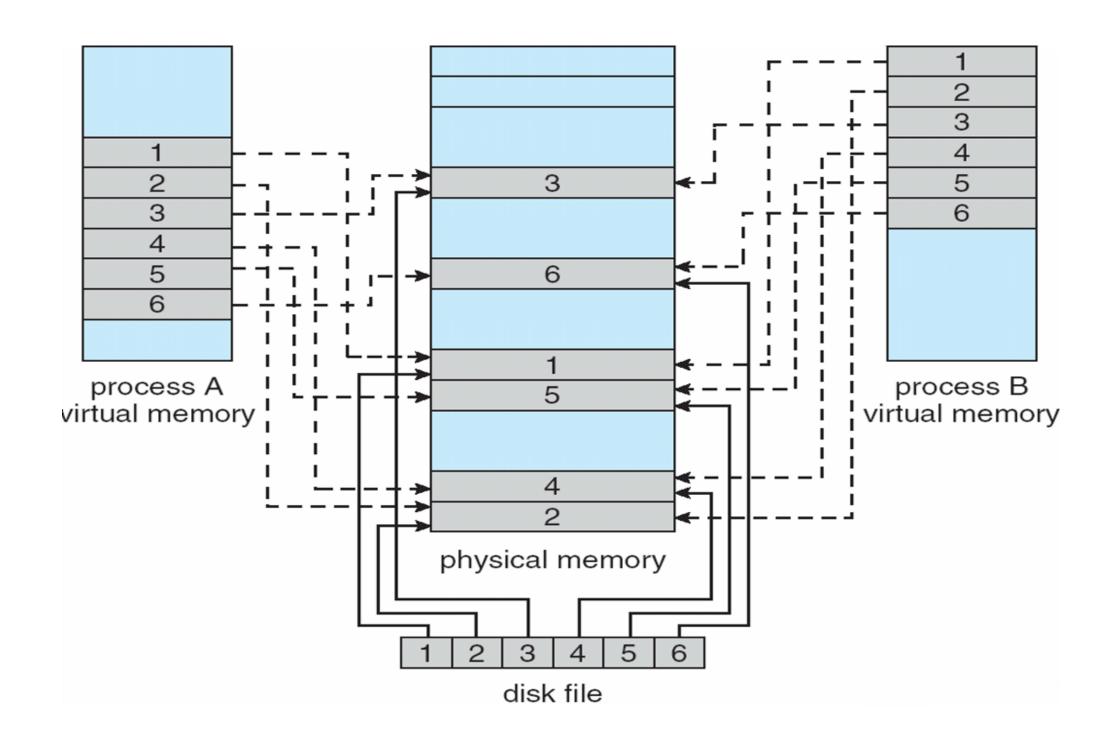


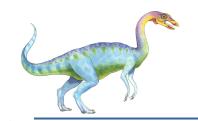
- Some OSes uses memory mapped files for standard I/O
- Process can explicitly request memory mapping a file via mmap () system call
  - Now file mapped into process address space
- For standard I/O (open(), read(), write(), close()), mmap anyway
  - But map file into kernel address space
  - Process still does read() and write()
    - Copies data to and from kernel space and user space
  - Uses efficient memory management subsystem
    - Avoids needing separate subsystem
- COW can be used for read/write non-shared pages
- Memory mapped files can be used for shared memory (although again via separate system calls)



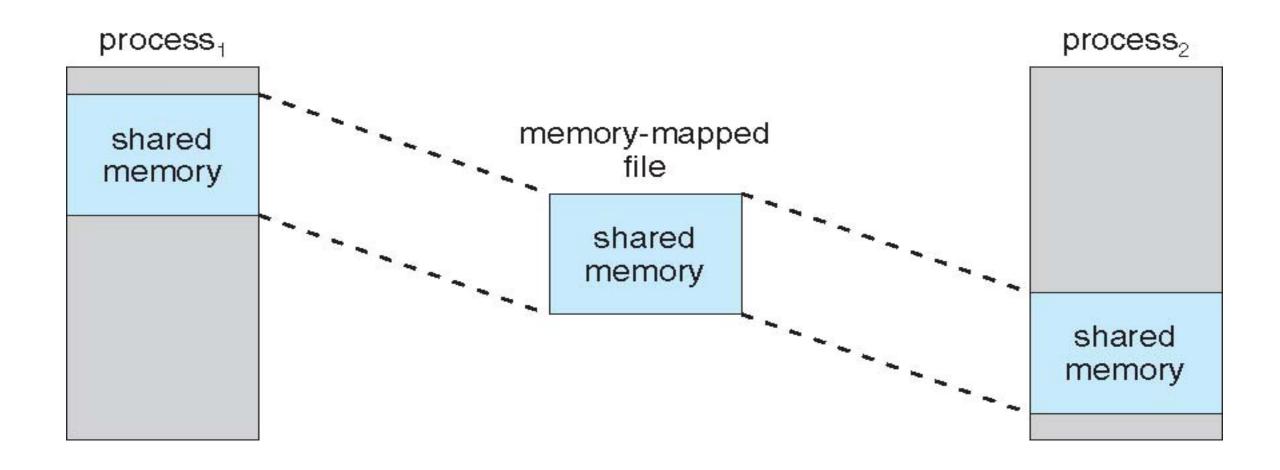


#### **Memory Mapped Files**





# Memory-Mapped Shared Memory in Windows







# **Allocating Kernel Memory**

- Treated differently from user memory
- Often allocated from a free-memory pool
  - Kernel requests memory for structures of varying sizes
  - Some kernel memory needs to be contiguous
    - I.e. for device I/O





### **Buddy System**

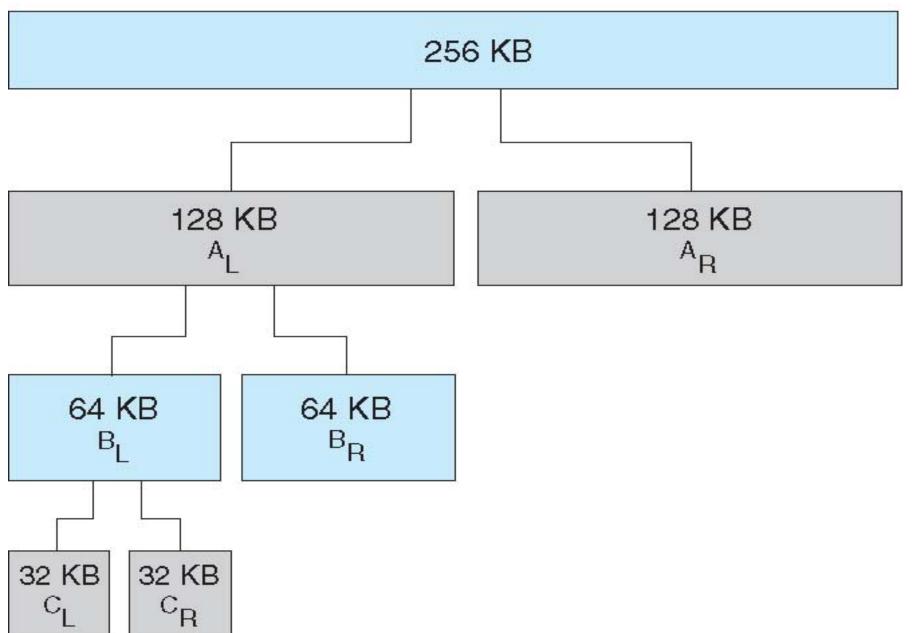
- Allocates memory from fixed-size segment consisting of physically-contiguous pages
- Memory allocated using power-of-2 allocator
  - Satisfies requests in units sized as power of 2
  - Request rounded up to next highest power of 2
  - When smaller allocation needed than is available, current chunk split into two buddies of next-lower power of 2
    - Continue until appropriate sized chunk available
- For example, assume 256KB chunk available, kernel requests 21KB
  - Split into A<sub>L and</sub> A<sub>r</sub> of 128KB each
    - One further divided into B<sub>L</sub> and B<sub>R</sub> of 64KB
      - One further into  $C_L$  and  $C_R$  of 32KB each one used to satisfy request
- Advantage quickly coalesce unused chunks into larger chunk
- Disadvantage fragmentation





#### **Buddy System Allocator**

physically contiguous pages







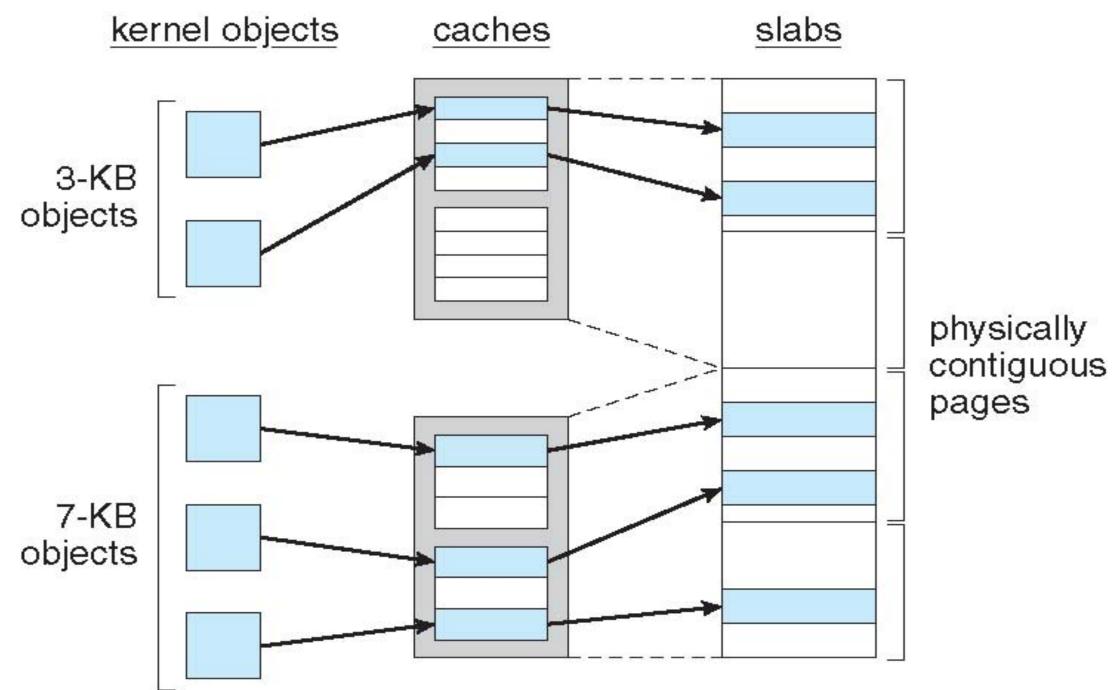
#### **Slab Allocator**

- Alternate strategy
- Slab is one or more physically contiguous pages
- Cache consists of one or more slabs
- Single cache for each unique kernel data structure
  - Each cache filled with objects instantiations of the data structure
- When cache created, filled with objects marked as free
- When structures stored, objects marked as used
- If slab is full of used objects, next object allocated from empty slab
  - If no empty slabs, new slab allocated
- Benefits include no fragmentation, fast memory request satisfaction





#### **Slab Allocation**





### Other Considerations -- Prepaging

#### Prepaging

- To reduce the large number of page faults that occurs at process startup
- Prepage all or some of the pages a process will need, before they are referenced
- But if prepaged pages are unused, I/O and memory was wasted
- Assume s pages are prepaged and  $\alpha$  of the pages is used
  - Is cost of  $s * \alpha$  save pages faults > or < than the cost of prepaging  $s * (1-\alpha)$  unnecessary pages?
  - $\alpha$  near zero  $\Rightarrow$  prepaging loses





### Other Issues – Page Size

- Sometimes OS designers have a choice
  - Especially if running on custom-built CPU
- Page size selection must take into consideration:
  - Fragmentation
  - Page table size
  - Resolution
  - I/O overhead
  - Number of page faults
  - Locality
  - TLB size and effectiveness
- Always power of 2, usually in the range 2<sup>12</sup> (4,096 bytes) to 2<sup>22</sup> (4,194,304 bytes)
- On average, growing over time





#### Other Issues – TLB Reach

- TLB Reach The amount of memory accessible from the TLB
- TLB Reach = (TLB Size) X (Page Size)
- Ideally, the working set of each process is stored in the TLB
  - Otherwise there is a high degree of page faults
- Increase the Page Size
  - This may lead to an increase in fragmentation as not all applications require a large page size
- Provide Multiple Page Sizes
  - This allows applications that require larger page sizes the opportunity to use them without an increase in fragmentation





#### Other Issues – Program Structure

- Program structure
  - Int[128,128] data;
  - Each row is stored in one page
  - Program 1

```
for (j = 0; j < 128; j++)
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)
data[i,j] = 0;
```

 $128 \times 128 = 16,384$  page faults

• Program 2

```
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)

for (j = 0; j < 128; j++)

data[i,j] = 0;
```

128 page faults

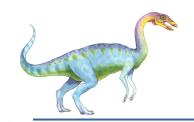




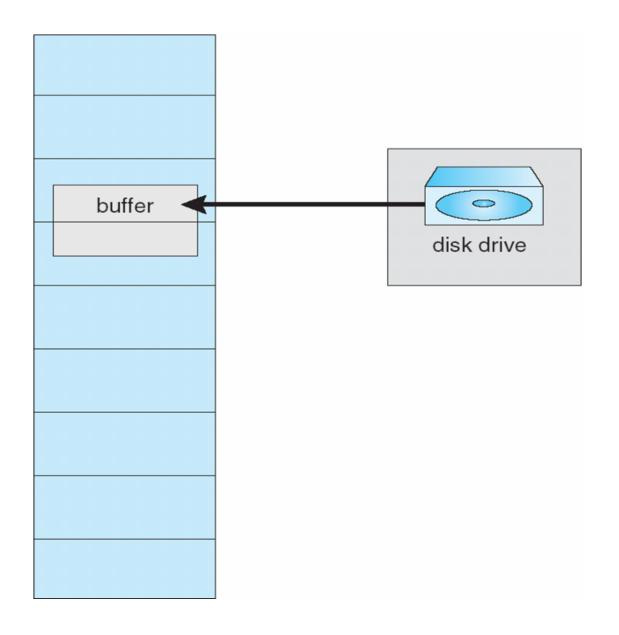
#### Other Issues – I/O interlock

- I/O Interlock Pages must sometimes be locked into memory
- Consider I/O Pages that are used for copying a file from a device must be locked from being selected for eviction by a page replacement algorithm

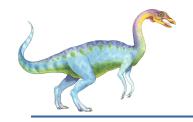




# Reason Why Frames Used For I/O Must Be In Memory







# **Operating System Examples**

- Windows XP
- Solaris





#### Windows XP

- Uses demand paging with clustering. Clustering brings in pages surrounding the faulting page
- Processes are assigned working set minimum and working set maximum
- Working set minimum is the minimum number of pages the process is guaranteed to have in memory
- A process may be assigned as many pages up to its working set maximum
- When the amount of free memory in the system falls below a threshold, automatic working set trimming is performed to restore the amount of free memory
- Working set trimming removes pages from processes that have pages in excess of their working set minimum





#### **Solaris**

- Maintains a list of free pages to assign faulting processes
- Lotsfree threshold parameter (amount of free memory) to begin paging
- Desfree threshold parameter to increasing paging
- Minfree threshold parameter to being swapping
- Paging is performed by *pageout* process
- Pageout scans pages using modified clock algorithm
- Scanrate is the rate at which pages are scanned. This ranges from slowscan to fastscan
- Pageout is called more frequently depending upon the amount of free memory available
- Priority paging gives priority to process code pages





# Solaris 2 Page Scanner

