

TD3 : Formatted I/O Library

Master M1 MOSIG, Grenoble Universities

Lenka Kuníková Lina Marsso

26/10/2014

1 Introduction

In this project we have to implement a memory allocator. We also explore different allocation strategies. And evaluate their performances in different applications.

Firstly in this report we give answers of questions in the subject. Then we present you our implementation. Then we speak about the safety checks implementation. Finally, we analyse the performance and conclude this project.

2 Subject questions

2.1 Question 1

3 Implementation

1. We initialize the memory with the function `memory_init`
2. We alloc the new block with `mem_alloc` like that :
 - We find the address of new block allocated with one between the strategy 3 (First fit, Worse fit, best fit). We can choose. Basically, it's first fit.
 - We allocate the full block and update list of freeblock
3. We can free a block with `free_block` :
 - We find an adjacent block to the one to be freed and try to merge then
 - If no adjacent block : create a new block and insert it in the list

4 Safety checks

5 Performance evaluation

$$\left(\frac{Requested_memory}{Sum_of_memory_used} \right) \quad (1)$$

Figure 1: Memory requested and memory used with first fit strategy

Figure 2: Memory requested and memory used with worst fit strategy

5.1 Table with fragmentation level of different programs

program	worst_fit	best_fit	first_fit
ls	1.83	1.83	2.48
wc	0.96	0.96	0.96
ps	1.37	1.36	1.37
hostname	2.42	2.42	3.23

6 Conclusion

The goal of this project was to get familiar with the concept of memory management and I think we succeeded. We managed to implement a simple version of memory allocator which allows users to allocate and free memory.

During the implementation we had to deal with several problems. For example we needed to find a way on how to determine positions of free blocks when we do not have linked lists of them, or think about the algorithm that helps us merge contiguous blocks of free space. Moreover, we implemented the three most common algorithms for finding an appropriate free block (first-fit, best-fit and worse-fit). We are now able to describe pros and cons for each of them.

In the second part, we added some other features to our memory allocator. All of them related to security checks. Now we know that implementing functions for free and alloc memory is not enough and we also need to deal with situations where users (on purpose or by chance) do not act the way we expect. The control we are making is not perfect but it helps us to deal with many cases that may happen.

Finally, we can see an application of our allocator. We can analyse its performance with many applications like ls, hostname... It was a very interesting project.

Figure 3: Memory requested and memory used with best fit strategy