MODERN OPERATING SYSTEMS

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Chapter 3 Memory Management

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| Memory Management

- Memory (RAM) is an important and rare resource
 - Programs expand to fill the memory available to them
- Programmer's view
 - Memory should be private, infinitely large, infinitely fast, nonvolatile...
- Reality
 - Best of people's mind: memory hierarchy
 - □ Register, cache, memory, disk, tape
- Memory manager
 - Efficiently manage memory
 - Keep track the free memory, allocate memory to programs...

Memory Management

Basic memory management

Swapping

Virtual memory

Design issues for paging systems

Implementation issues

Segmentation

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| Memory management

■ The memory management in this chapter ranges from very simple to highly sophisticated...

No Memory Abstraction

- Early mainframe, early minicomputers, early personal computers had no memory abstraction...
 - □ MOV REGISTER1, 1000
 - Here 1000 means move the content of physical memory address1000 to register
- Impossible to have two programs in memory

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Multiple problems without abstraction

- IBM 360
 - Memory divided into 2-KB blocks and each one with a 4-bit protection key
 - □ PSW also has a 4-bit protection key
 - Hardware will trap any attempt tries to access memory with a protection code different from PSW key

No Memory Abstraction

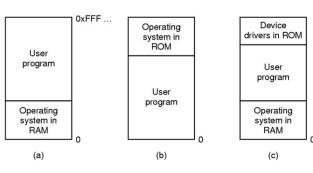


Figure 3-1. Three simple ways of organizing memory with an operating system and one user process.

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Multiple Programs Without Memory Abstraction: Drawback (nhược điểm)

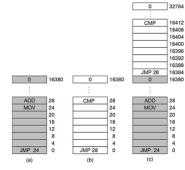


Figure 3-2. Illustration (minh hoa) of the relocation problem.

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Drawback of no abstraction

- Problem is that both programs reference absolute physical memory
- People hope that they can have a private space, that is, addresses local to it
- IBM 360
 - Modify the second program on the fly (nhanh chóng) as it loaded it into memory
 - Static relocation
 - When a program is loaded into 16384, then the constant is added to every address
 - Slow down loading, needs extra information
- No abstraction memory still used in embedded and smart systems

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Dynamic relocation

- Equip CPU with two special register: base and limit
 - Program be loaded into a consecutive (liên tiếp, liên tuc) space
 - No relocation during loading
 - When process is run and reference an address,
 CPU automatically adds the base to that address;
 as well as check whether it exceeds (vượt quá)
 the limit register

Abstraction: address space

- Not to expose (phoi bày) physical address to programmers
 - Crash (phá vỡ) OS
 - Hard to parallelize
- Two problems to solve:
 - Protection
 - Relocation
- Address space:
 - A set of memory processes can use to address memory
 - Each process has its own address space, independent of each other
 - □ How?

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Base and Limit Registers

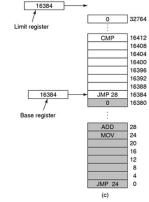
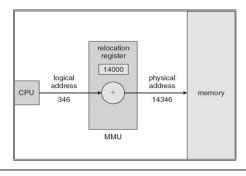


Figure 3-3. Base and limit registers can be used to give each process a separate address space.

Dynamic relocation using a relocation register



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Relocation and Protection

- Relocation registers used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data
 - Base register contains value of smallest physical address
 - Limit register contains range of logical addresses – each logical address must be less than the limit register
 - □ MMU maps logical address *dynamically*

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Basic Memory Management

Relocation and Protection

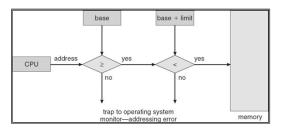
- Cannot be sure where program will be loaded in memory
 - address locations of variables, code routines cannot be absolute
 - must keep a program out of other processes' partitions
- Use base and limit values
 - address locations added to base value to map to physical addr
 - address locations larger than limit value is an error

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Basic Memory Management

HW address protection with base and limit registers



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Base and Limit Registers

- Disadvantage:
 - Need to perform an addition and a comparison on every memory reference

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Swapping

- Problems
 - Addresses different as swaps in and out
 - Static relocation/dynamic relocation
 - Memory holes
 - Memory compaction
 - □ Require CPU time
 - □ Move 4 byes in 20ns, then 5 sec to compact 1 GB
 - How much memory allocate for a program
 - Programs tend (có xu hướng) to grow
 - Both data segment (heap) and stack

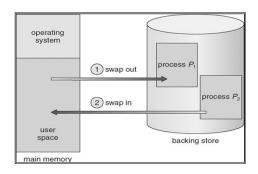
Swapping

- Many background server processes run in the system
- Physical memory not large enough to hold all programs
 - Swapping
 - Bring in and swap out programs
 - Virtual memory
 - Run programs even (ngay cả) when they are partially in memory

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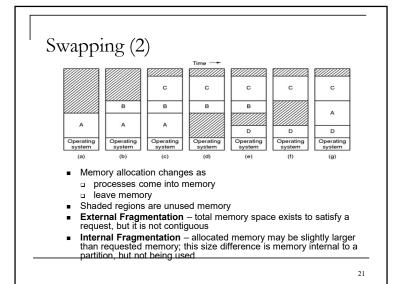
Swapping (1)

Schematic View of Swapping



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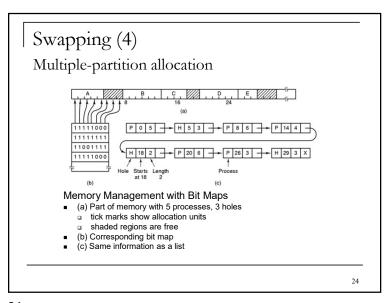
Swapping (4) Multiple-partition allocation

- Multiple-partition allocation
 - Hole block of available memory; holes of various size are scattered throughout memory
 - When a process arrives, it is allocated memory from a hole large enough to accommodate it
 - Operating system maintains information about:
 a) allocated partitions
 b) free partitions (hole)
 - There are two ways to keep track of memory usages
 - Memory Management with Bit Maps
 - Memory Management with Linked Lists

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Swapping (3) B-Stack Room for growth Room for growth B-Data Actually in use B-Program A-Stack Room for growth A-Data Α Actually in use A-Program Operating system Operating system • (a) Allocating space for growing data segment • (b) Allocating space for growing stack & data segment

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Swapping (5)

Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

How to satisfy a request of size n from a list of free holes

- First-fit: Allocate the first hole that is big enough
- Next fit: Start seaching the list from the place where it left off last time
- Best-fit: Allocate the smallest hole that is big enough; must search entire list, unless ordered by size
 - Produces the smallest leftover hole
- Worst-fit: Allocate the largest hole; must also search entire list
 - Produces the largest leftover hole
- First-fit and best-fit better than worst-fit in terms of speed and storage utilization

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Memory Management with Bitmaps

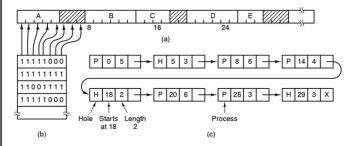


Figure 3-6. (a) A part of memory with five processes and three holes. The tick marks show the memory allocation units. The shaded regions (0 in the bitmap) are free. (b) The corresponding bitmap. (c) The same information as a list.

Managing free memory

- Bit maps and linked lists
- Bitmap
 - Memory is divided into allocation units (a few word to KB)
 - Corresponding to each unit, there is a bit in the bitmap
 - □ Hard to find a given length free space

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Memory Management with Linked Lists

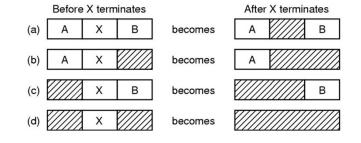


Figure 3-7. Four neighbor combinations for the terminating process, X.

| Manage free memory

Linked list

- Double linked list
- How to allocate free memory to programs?
 - First fit
 - u quick; beginning used more often; break a large free space
 - Next fit
 - Every time from where last time used
 - Best fit
 - □ Search entire list, finds the hole close to the actual size
 - Worst fit
 - □ Finds the largest hole
 - Quick fit
 - Keeps separate queues of processes and holes

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Virtual Memory

Manage bloat ware

- Where programs are too big to fit into memory
- Being split by programs is a bad idea (overlays)
- Virtual memory
 - Every program has its own address space
 - The address space is divided into chunks called **pages**
 - Each page is a contiguous area and mapped to physical address
 - But, not all pages are needed to in physical memory
 - OS maps page addresses and physical addresses on the fly
 - When a needed page not in memory, OS needs to get it in
 - Every page needs relocation

exercise

- In a swapping system, memory consists of the following hole sizes in memory order: 10KB, 4KB, 20KB, 18KB, 7KB, 9KB, 12KB and 15KB. Which hold is taken for successive segment requests of
 - □ 12KB
 - □ 10KB
 - □ 9KB

For first fit? Best fit? Worst fit? And next fit?

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Virtual Memory – Paging (1)

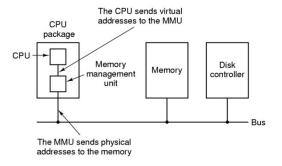
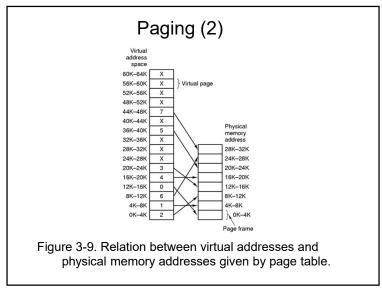
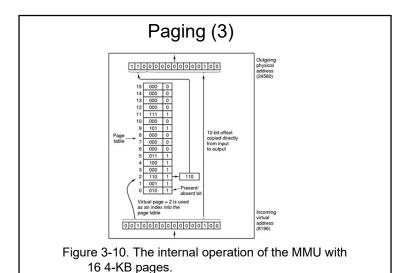


Figure 3-8. The position and function of the MMU – shown as being a part of the CPU chip (it commonly is nowadays). Logically it could be a separate chip, was in years gone by.

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Paging

■ MMU(memory management unit)

CPU: MOV REG, 0
MMU: MOV REG, 8192
CPU: MOV REG 8192
MMU: MOV REG 24576
CPU:MOV REG 20500
MMU:MOV REG 12308

MMU:MOV REG 12308CPU: MOV REG 32780

■ MMU: page fault

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Page tables

- Virtual addresses mapping
 - Virtual address split into virtual page number and offset
 - □ 16-bit address: 4KB page size; 16 pages
 - $\ensuremath{\text{\footnote\dashed}}$ Virtual page number: index to the page table
 - Purpose of page table
 - Map virtual pages onto page frames

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Structure of Page Table Entry

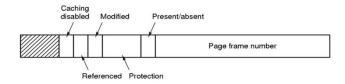


Figure 3-11. A typical page table entry.

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Speeding Up Paging

Paging implementation issues:

- The mapping from virtual address to physical address must be fast.
- If the virtual address space is large, the page table will be large. (32bit/64bit)
- Every process should have its own page table in memory

Page Table Structure

- Protection
 - What kinds of access are permitted
- Modified:
 - When a page is written to (dirty)
- Referenced:
 - □ When a page is referenced
- Cache disabling
 - Data inconsistency

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Speeding up paging

- To keep the page table in register?
 - No more memory access needed during process execution
 - But unbearably expensive
- To keep the page table entirely in memory?
 - Each process has its own page table
 - Page table is kept in memory
 - How many memory access needed to perform a logical memory access?

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Speed up paging

- Effective memory-access time, time needed for every data/instruction access
 - Two time memory-access time; reduces performance by half
 - Access the page table & Access the data/instruction
- Solution:
 - A special fast-lookup hardware cache called associative registers or translation look-aside buffers (TLBs)

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TLB

- TLB is usually inside MMU and consists of a small number of entries
- When received a virtual address
 - MMU first check to see if its virtual pager number is in TLB;
 - if it's, there is no need to visit page table; if not, evict one entry from TLB and replaces it with the page table entry

Translation Lookaside Buffers

Valid	Virtual page	Modified	Protection	Page frame
1	140	1	RW	31
1	20	0	RX	38
1	130	1	RW	29
1	129	1	RW	62
1	19	0	RX	50
1	21	0	RX	45
1	860	1	RW	14
1	861	1	RW	75

Figure 3-12. A TLB to speed up paging.

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Effective Access Time

- Associative Lookup = ε time unit; memory cycle time = t time unit; Hit ratio = α
- Effective Access Time (EAT)

EAT =
$$(t + \varepsilon) \alpha + (2t + \varepsilon)(1 - \alpha)$$

= $2t + \varepsilon - t\alpha$

- If ϵ (20 ns), t(100 ns), α 1(80%), α 2(98%):
 - TLB hit: 20+100=120 ns
 - TLB miss: 20+100+100=220 ns
 - EAT1 = 120*0.8 + 220 * 0.2 = 140 ns
 - EAT2 = 120*0.98 + 220 * 0.02 = 122 ns

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Page Table for Large Memory

■ Address space: 32bit

■ Page size: 4KB

■ Page Numbers: 20bit, 1M pages

■ 32bit per page entry, then needs 4MB to store a page table

■ Not to mention 64bit system

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Multilevel Page Tables Multilevel Page Tables Page Tabl

Multilevel page table

- 32bit virtual memory divided into three parts
 10bit PT1, 10bit PT2, 12bit offset
- Multilevel page table
 - Not to have all page tables in memory all the time
 - Page tables are stored in pages, too
 - Example: a program has 4G address space, it needs 12M to run: 4M code; 4M data; 4M stack

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■ A computer has 32-bit virtual addresses and 4-KB pages. The program and data together fit in the lowest page (0-4095) the stack fits in the highest page. How many entries are needed in the page table if traditional paging is used? How many page table entries are needed for 2-level paging, with 10 bits in each part?

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(b) Two-level page tables.

Inverted Page Table

- When virtual address spaces is much larger than physical memory
- Inverted page table: entry per page frame rather than per page of virtual address space
- · Search is much harder
 - TLB
 - Hash
- Inverted page table is common on 64-bit machines

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- Array A[1024, 1024] of integer, each row is stored in one page
- · Program 1

```
for j := 1 to 1024 do
for i := 1 to 1024 do
A[i,j] := 0;
```

- $_{\text{-}}~$ 1024 \times 1024 page faults
- Program 2

```
for i := 1 to 1024 do
for j := 1 to 1024 do
A[i,j] := 0;
```

- 1024 page faults

Inverted Page Tables

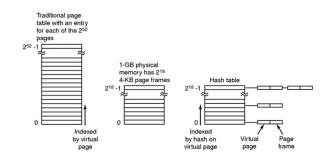


Figure 3-14. Comparison of a traditional page table with an inverted page table.

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Page Replacement Algorithms

- Optimal page replacement algorithm
- Not recently used page replacement
- First-In, First-Out page replacement
- · Second chance page replacement
- Clock page replacement
- Least recently used page replacement
- Working set page replacement
- WSClock page replacement

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Impact (tác động) of page fault

Page fault time = 25ms

ma = 100ns

With page miss rate as p:

EAT = $100(1-p)+25 \times 10^6 \times p$ = 100 + 24.999.900p

If p=1/1000, then EAT =25,099.9 ns

If needs EAT <110ns, then 100+24,999,900p<110

that is p <10/24,999,900<10/25,000,000 =1/2,500,000

 $=4 \times 10^{-7}$

Page fault rage p must be smaller than 4×10^{-7}

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Optimal Page replacement

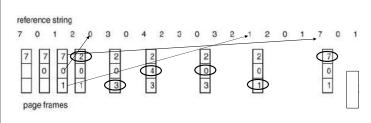
- Easy to describe but impossible to implement
 - Each page be labelled with the number of instructions that will be executed before that page is first referenced
 - □ The page with the highest label be removed
 - OS won't know when each page will be reference next
 - Be used to compare the performance of realizable algorithms

Page replacement

- When a page fault occurs, some page must be evicted from memory
- If the evicted page has been modified while in memory, it has to be write back to disk
- If a heavily used page is moved out, it is probably that it will be brought back in a short time
- How to choose one page to replace?

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Optimal Page replacement



Page fault 9 times, replacement 6 times

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Not Recently Used

- Replacing based on page usages
- Pages have R and M bit
 - When a process is started up, both page bits are set to 0, periodically, R bit is cleared
 - Four classes can be formed
 - Class 0: not referenced, not modified
 - Class 1: not referenced, modified
 - Class 2: referenced, not modified
 - Class 3: referenced, modifed

С	R	М		
0	0	0		
1	0	1		
2	1	0		
3	1	1		
•				

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First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

Replace "the oldest one"
Simple, with unsatisfactory (THƯỞNG)performance reference string

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

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

page frames

Page fault 15, replacement 12

Not Recently Used (NRU)

- Example
 - 4 page frames
 - Reference string

123412512345

- 8 page faults
- Pros
 - Implementable
- Cons
 - Require scanning through reference bits and modified bits

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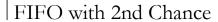
More Frames → Fewer Page Faults?

Belady's Anomaly

- Consider the following with 4 page frames
 - Algorithm: FIFO replacement
 - Reference string:10 page faults
- 123412512345
- . 0
- Same string with 3 page frames
 - Algorithm: FIFO replacement
 - Reference string:
 - 9 page faults!
- 123412512345
- This is so called "Belady's anomaly" (Belady, Nelson, Shedler 1969)

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Page out 5 3 4 7 9 11 2 1 15 Recently loaded

- Algorithm
 - Check the reference-bit of the oldest page
 - □ If it is 0, then replace it
 - If it is 1, clear the referent-bit, put it to the end of the list (as if it had just been loaded), and continue searching
- Example
 - 4 page frames
 - Reference string:
 - 8 page faults 123412512345
- Pros
- Simple to implement
- Cons
 - The worst case may take a long time (moving pages around on the list)

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The Clock Page Replacement Algorithm

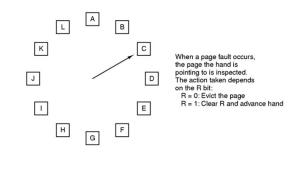
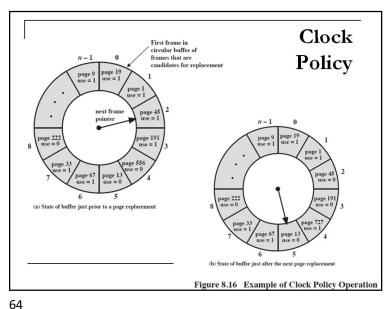


Figure 3-16. The clock page replacement algorithm.

Clock

- 2nd chance is inefficient:
 - It constantly (luôn luôn) moves pages around in its list
- An alternative (sự lựa chọn):
 - To keep all the page frames on a circular list in the form of a clock

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LRU

- An approximation to the optimal algorithm:
 - Pages have not been used for ages will probably remain unused for a long time
 - When a page fault occurs, throw out the page that has been unused for the longest time
- to implement LRU
 - To record time or use a linked list of all pages in memory;
 - □ Or use hardware counter or a matrix

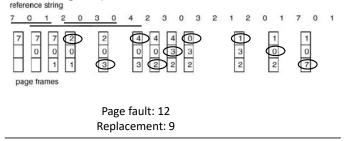
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Ex.

■ If FIFO page replacement is used with four page frames and ten pages, how many page faults will occur with the reference string 0172327103 if the four frames are initially empty? Now repeat this problem for LRU.

LRU algorithm

- LRU = Least Recently Used
- Replace the page that has not been used for the longest period of time.



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Page Replacement Algorithm Summary

Algorithm	Comment	
Optimal	Not implementable, but useful as a benchmark	
NRU (Not Recently Used)	Very crude	
FIFO (First-In, First-Out)	Might throw out important pages	
Second chance	Big improvement over FIFO	
Clock	Realistic	
LRU (Least Recently Used)	Excellent, but difficult to implement exactly	
NFU (Not Frequently Used)	Fairly crude approximation to LRU	
Aging	Efficient algorithm that approximates LRU well	
Working set	Somewhat expensive to implement	
WSClock	Good efficient algorithm	

Local versus Global Allocation Policies (1) Age 10 A0 A0 A1 A1 A1 A2 A2 A2 АЗ АЗ АЗ A4 A4 A4 A5 (A6) A5 BO BO B0 B1 B1 B1 B2 B2 B2 ВЗ ВЗ (A6) B4 B4 B4 B5 B5 B5 B6 B6 B6 C1 C1 C1 C2 C3 C2 C2 СЗ (a) Original configuration. (b) Local page replacement. (c) Global page replacement.

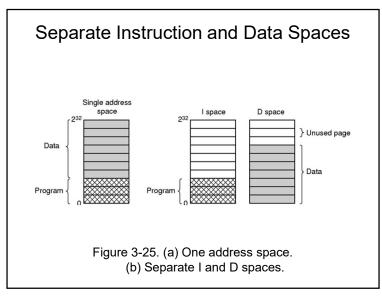
Number of page frames assigned

Figure 3-24. Page fault rate as a function of the number of page frames assigned.

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Local versus Global Allocation Policies (2)

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Shared Pages

Process table

Program

Data 1

Data 2

Page tables

Figure 3-26. Two processes sharing the same program sharing its page table.

Shared Libraries 36K Process 1 RAM Process 2

Figure 3-27. A shared library being used by two processes.

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Page Fault Handling (2)

- If the page frame selected is dirty, the page is scheduled for transfer to the disk, and a context switch takes place.
- When page frame is clean, operating system looks up the disk address where the needed page is, schedules a disk operation to bring it in.
- When disk interrupt indicates page has arrived, page tables updated to reflect position, frame marked as being in normal state.

Page Fault Handling (1)

- The hardware traps to the kernel, saving the program counter on the stack.
- An assembly code routine is started to save the general registers and other volatile information.
- The operating system discovers that a page fault has occurred, and tries to discover which virtual page is needed.
- Once the virtual address that caused the fault is known, the system checks to see if this address is valid and the protection consistent with the access

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Page Fault Handling (3)

- Faulting instruction backed up to state it had when it began and program counter reset to point to that instruction.
- Faulting process scheduled, operating system returns to the (assembly language) routine that called it.
- This routine reloads registers and other state information and returns to user space to continue execution, as if no fault had occurred.

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Backing Store (1)

Main memory
Pages
O 3
4 6
Page table table
O 3
C 5
Disk
Page table table
O 3
Disk
Page table
O 3
Disk
O 3
Disk
O 4
Disk
O 5
Disk
O 6
Disk
O 7
Disk
O 8
Disk
O 9
Disk

7

Backing Store (2) Main memory Pages O 3 4 6 Page table Disk map (b) Figure 3-29. (b) Backing up pages dynamically.

Separation of Policy and Mechanism (1)

Memory management system is divided into three parts:

- A low-level MMU handler.
- A page fault handler that is part of the kernel.
- An external pager running in user space.

Separation of Policy and Mechanism (2) 3. Request page Main memory User User Externa process space 4. Page pager page MMU Kernel handler 6. Map Figure 3-30. Page fault handling with an external pager.

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Segmentation stack subroutine 1400 segment 3 2400 symbol table segment 0 1000 1400 400 6300 Sqrt segment 4 3200 2 400 4300 3 1100 3200 program 4 1000 4700 egment 1 segment 2 segment 2 logical address space physical memory

Segmentation

 Segmentation allows the programmer to view memory as consisting of multiple address spaces or segments

Advantages:

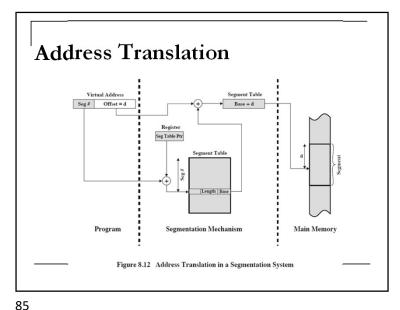
- simplifies handling of growing data structures
- allows programs to be altered and recompiled independently
- Lends (thích hợp) itself to sharing data among processes
- lends itself to protection

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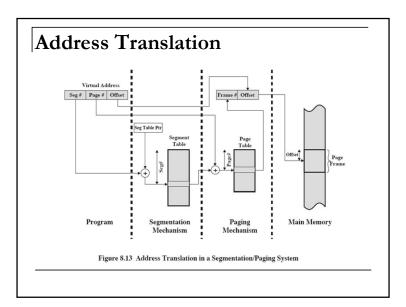
Segment Organization

- Each segment table entry contains the starting address of the corresponding segment in main memory and the length of the segment
- A bit is needed to determine if the segment is already in main memory
- Another bit is needed to determine if the segment has been modified since it was loaded in main memory

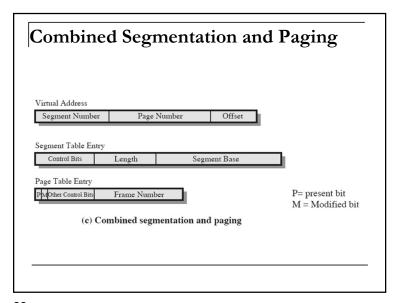
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Combined Paging and Segmentation In a combined paging/segmentation system Segmentation is visible to the programmer a user's address space is broken up into a number of segments. Each segment is broken up into a number of fixed-sized pages which are equal in length to a main Paging is transparent to the programmer memory frame



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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (1)

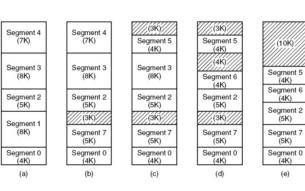


Figure 3-34. (a)-(d) Development of checkerboarding. (e) Removal of the checkerboarding by compaction.

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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (5)

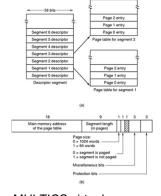


Figure 3-35. The MULTICS virtual memory. (b) A segment descriptor. The numbers are the field lengths.

Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (2)

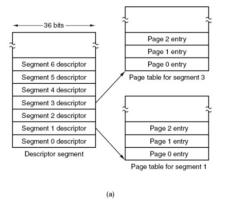


Figure 3-35. The MULTICS virtual memory. (a) The descriptor segment points to the page tables.

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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (6)

When a memory reference occurs, the following algorithm is carried out:

- The segment number used to find segment descriptor.
- Check is made to see if the segment's page table is in memory.
 - If not, segment fault occurs.
 - If there is a protection violation, a fault (trap) occurs.

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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (7)

- Page table entry for the requested virtual page examined.
 - If the page itself is not in memory, a page fault is triggered.
 - If it is in memory, the main memory address of the start of the page is extracted from the page table entry
- The offset is added to the page origin to give the main memory address where the word is located.
- The read or store finally takes place.

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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (9)

MULTICS virtual address

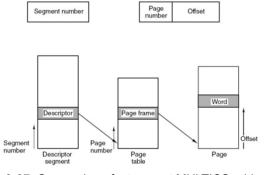


Figure 3-37. Conversion of a two-part MULTICS address into a main memory address.

Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (8)

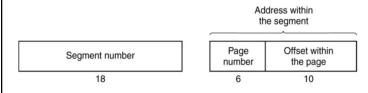


Figure 3-36. A 34-bit MULTICS virtual address.

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Segmentation with Paging: MULTICS (10)

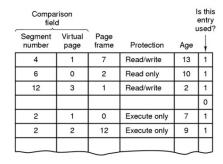
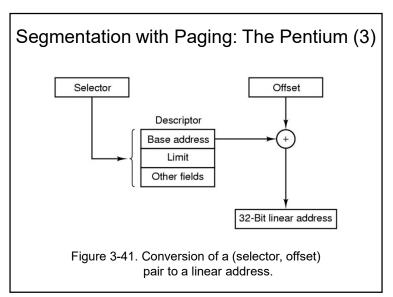
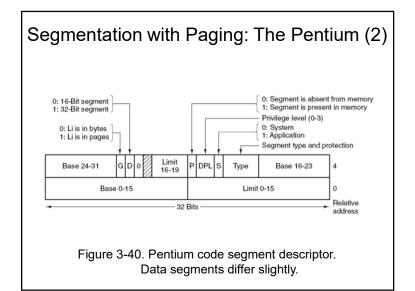


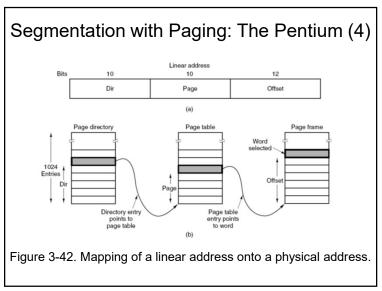
Figure 3-38. A simplified version of the MULTICS TLB. The existence of two page sizes makes the actual TLB more complicated.

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Segmentation with Paging: The Pentium (1) Bits 13 Index 0 = GDT/1 = LDT Privilege level (0-3) Figure 3-39. A Pentium selector.







Segmentation with Paging: The Pentium (5) Typical uses of the levels Figure 3-43. Protection on the Pentium.

Linux
Memory Management

Shares many characteristics with Unix
Is quite complex

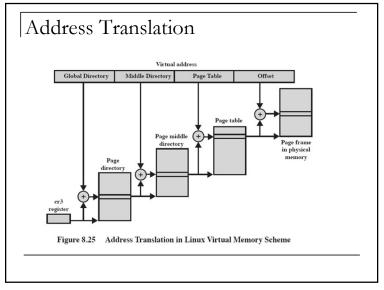
oprocess virtual memory
two main aspects

kernel memory allocation

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Linux Virtual Memory ■ Three level page table structure: Page middle Page directory Page table directory process has a single page may span multiple pages may also span multiple pages directory each entry points to one page of the page middle directory each entry points to one page each entry refers to one virtual in the page table page of the process must be in main memory for an active process

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Linux Page Replacement

- Based on the clock algorithm
- The use bit is replaced with an 8-bit age variable
 - incremented each time the page is accessed
- Periodically decrements the age bits
 - □ a page with an age of 0 is an "old" page that has not been referenced is some time and is the best candidate for replacement
- A form of least frequently used policy

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Windows Memory Management

- Virtual memory manager controls how memory is allocated and how paging is performed
- Designed to operate over a variety of platforms
- Uses page sizes ranging from 4 Kbytes to 64 Kbytes





Kernel Memory Allocation

- Kernel memory capability manages physical main memory page frames
 - primary function is to allocate and deallocate frames for particular uses

Possible owners of a frame include:

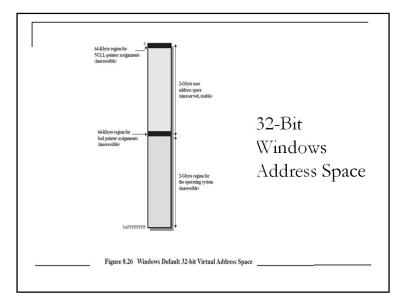
- user-space processes
- dynamically allocated kernel data
- static kernel code
- page cache
- A buddy algorithm is used so that memory for the kernel can be allocated and deallocated in units of one or more pages
- Page allocator alone would be inefficient because the kernel requires small short-term memory chunks in odd sizes
- Slab allocation
 - used by Linux to accommodate small chunks

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Windows Virtual Address Map

- On 32 bit platforms each user process sees a separate 32 bit address space allowing 4 Gbytes of virtual memory per
 - by default half is reserved for the OS
- Large memory intensive applications run more effectively using 64-bit Windows
- Most modern PCs use the AMD64 processor architecture which is capable of running as either a 32-bit or 64-bit system





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Resident Set Management System

- Windows uses variable allocation, local scope
- When activated, a process is assigned a data structure to manage its working set
- Working sets of active processes are adjusted depending on the availability of main memory



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Windows Paging

- On creation, a process can make use of the entire user space of almost 2 Gbytes
- This space is divided into fixed-size pages managed in contiguous regions allocated on 64 Kbyte boundaries
- Regions may be in one of three states:

available

reserved

committed

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Summary

- Memory management requirements
 - relocation
 - protection
 - sharing
 - logical organization
 - physical organization
- Paging

- Memory partitioning
 - fixed partitioning
 - dynamic partitioning
 - buddy system
 - relocation
- Segmentation

Summary

- Desirable (Khao khát) to:
 - maintain as many processes in main memory as possible
 - free programmers from size restrictions (sự giới hạn) in program development
- With virtual memory:
 - all address references are logical references that are translated at run time to real addresses
 - a process can be broken up into pieces
 - two approaches are paging and segmentation
 - management scheme requires both hardware and software support