CS343 - Operating Systems

Module-4A

Introduction to Memory Management

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Overview of Memory Management

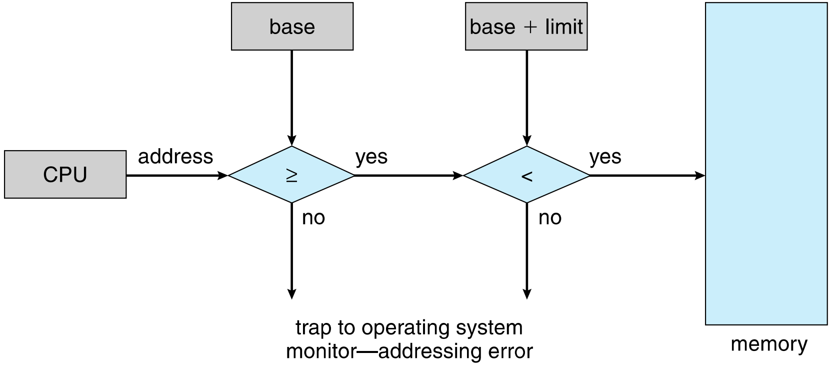
- Background
- Swapping
- Contiguous Memory Allocation
- Segmentation
- Paging
- Structure of the Page Table

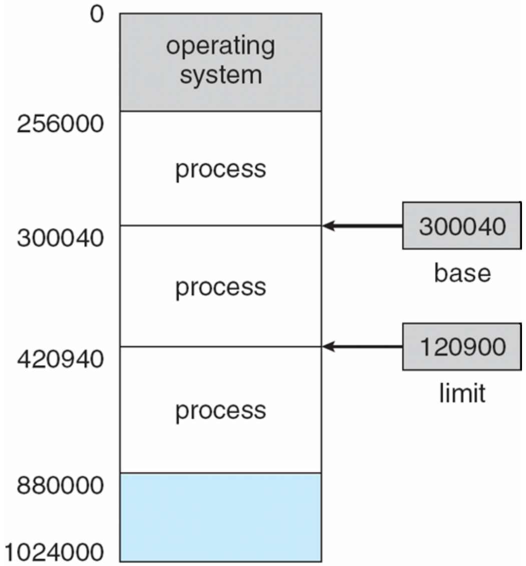
Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run
- Main memory and registers are only storage CPU can access directly
- Memory unit only sees a stream of addresses + read requests, or address + data and write requests
- Register access in one CPU clock
- Main memory can take many cycles, causing a **stall**
- **Cache** sits between main memory and CPU registers
- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation

Hardware Protection using Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base** and **limit registers** define the logical address space
- CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to be sure it is between base and limit for that user





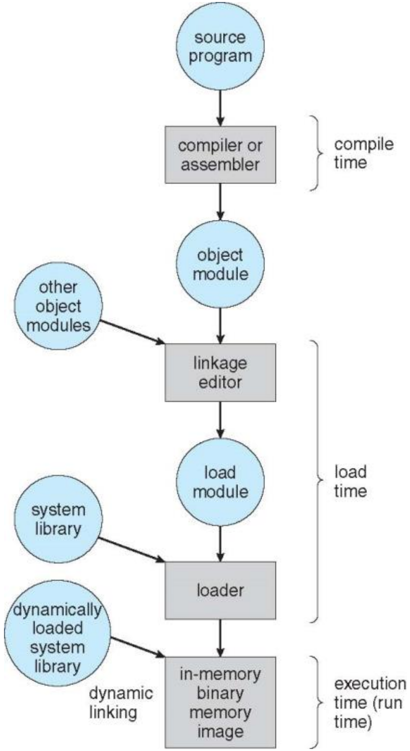
Address Binding

- Programs on disk, ready to be brought into memory to execute.
- Without support, must be loaded into address 0000
- Inconvenient to have user process physical address always at 0000
- Addresses represented in different ways in a program’s life
  - Source code addresses usually symbolic
  - Compiled code addresses **bind** to relocatable addresses
    - i.e. “14 bytes from beginning of this module”
  - Linker or loader will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses
    - i.e. 74014

Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

- Address binding of instructions and data to memory addresses can happen at three different stages
  - **Compile time**: If memory location known a priori, **absolute code** can be generated; must recompile code if starting location changes
  - **Load time**: Must generate **relocatable code** if memory location is not known at compile time
  - **Execution time**: Binding delayed until run time if the process can be moved during its execution from one memory segment to another
    - Need hardware support for address maps (e.g., base and limit registers)

Multistep Processing of a User Program



Logical vs. Physical Address Space

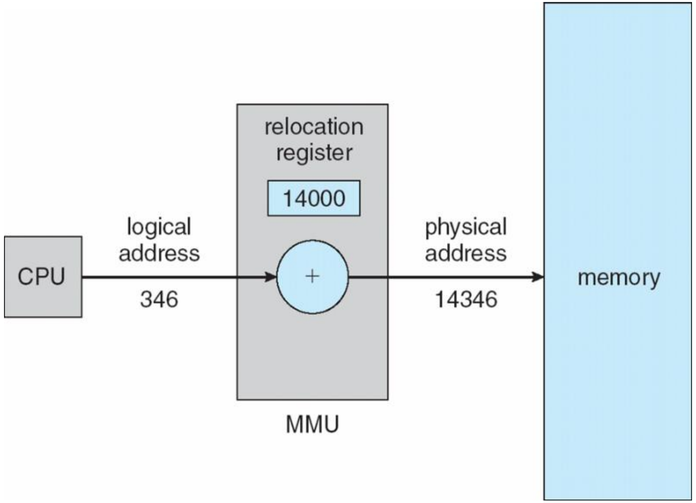
- **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
- **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit
- Logical and physical addresses are the same in compile-time and load-time address-binding schemes; logical (virtual) and physical addresses differ in execution-time address-binding scheme
- **Logical address space** is the set of all logical addresses generated by a program
- **Physical address space** is the set of all physical addresses generated by a program

Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

- Hardware device that at run time maps virtual to physical address
- To start, consider simple scheme where the value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory
  - Base register now called **relocation register**
- The user program deals with logical addresses; it never sees the real physical addresses
  - Execution-time binding occurs when reference is made to location in memory
  - Logical address bound to physical addresses

Dynamic relocation using a relocation register

- Routine is not loaded until it is called
- Better memory-space utilization; unused routine is never loaded
- All routines kept on disk in relocatable load format
- Useful when large amounts of code are needed to handle infrequently occurring cases



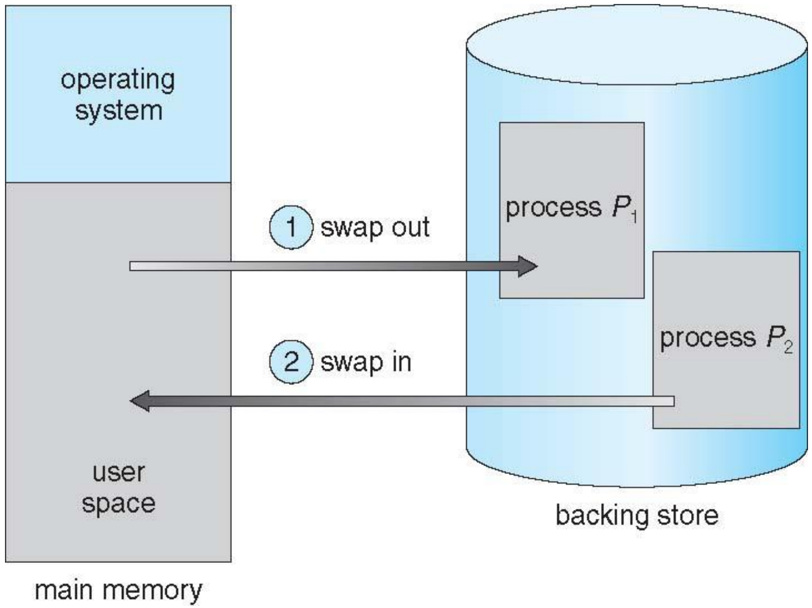
Dynamic Linking

- **Static linking** – system libraries and program code combined by the loader into the binary program image
- Dynamic linking –linking postponed until execution time
- Operating system checks if routine is in processes' memory address
  - If not in address space, add to address space
- Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries
- System also known as **shared libraries**

Swapping

- A process can be **swapped** temporarily out of memory to a backing store, and then brought back into memory for continued execution
- Total virtual memory space of processes can exceed physical memory
- **Backing store** – fast disk large enough to accommodate copies of all memory images for all users; must provide direct access to these memory images
- **Roll out, roll in** – swapping variant used for priority-based scheduling algorithms; lower-priority process is swapped out so higher-priority process can be loaded and executed
- Major part of swap time is transfer time; total transfer time is directly proportional to the amount of memory swapped
- System maintains a **ready queue** of ready-to-run processes which have memory images on disk

Swapping



operating system
user space
main memory
1 swap out
2 swap in
process P_1
process P_2
backing store

Context Switch Time including Swapping

- If next processes to be put on CPU is not in memory, need to swap out a process and swap in target process
- Context switch time can then be very high
- 100MB process swapping to hard disk with transfer rate of 50MB/sec
  - Swap out time of 2000 ms
  - Plus swap in of same sized process
  - Total context switch swapping component time of 4000ms (4 seconds)
- Can reduce if reduce size of memory swapped – by knowing how much memory really being used
  - System calls to OS: `request_memory()` and `release_memory()`

Swapping on Mobile Systems

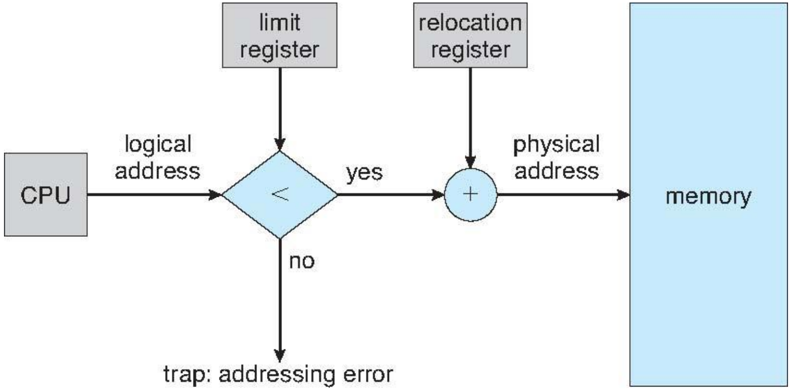
- Not typically supported in flash memory based systems
  - Small amount of space
  - Limited number of write cycles
  - Poor throughput between flash memory and CPU
- iOS ***asks*** apps to voluntarily relinquish allocated memory
  - Read-only data thrown out and reloaded from flash if needed
  - Failure to free can result in termination
- Android terminates apps if low free memory, but first writes **application state** to flash for fast restart

Contiguous Allocation

- Main memory must support both OS and user processes
- Limited resource, must allocate efficiently
- Contiguous allocation is one early method
- Main memory has usually into two **partitions**:
  - Resident operating system, usually held in low memory with interrupt vector
  - User processes then held in high memory
  - Each process contained in single contiguous section of memory

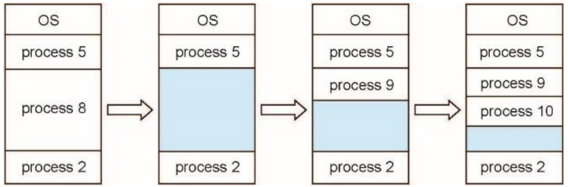
Contiguous Allocation

- 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*



Multiple-partition allocation

- Multiple-partition allocation
  - Degree of multiprogramming limited by number of partitions
  - **Variable-partition** sizes for efficiency as per size of process
  - **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
  - Process exiting frees its partition, adjacent free partitions combined
  - Operating system maintains information about:
    a) allocated partitions   b) free partitions (hole)



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
- **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

Fragmentation

- **External Fragmentation** – total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous
- **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used
- First fit analysis reveals that given *N* blocks allocated, 0.5 *N* blocks lost to fragmentation
  - 1/3 may be unusable -> **50-percent rule**

Fragmentation

- Reduce external fragmentation by **compaction**
  - Shuffle memory contents to place all free memory together in one large block
  - Compaction is possible *only* if relocation is dynamic, and is done at execution time
  - I/O problem
    - Latch job in memory while it is involved in I/O
    - Do I/O only into OS buffers
- Now consider that backing store has same fragmentation problems

Thank you

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