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Beyond Physical Memory: Mechanisms



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Swap Space

Realistically, an address space doesn't fit into physical memory.

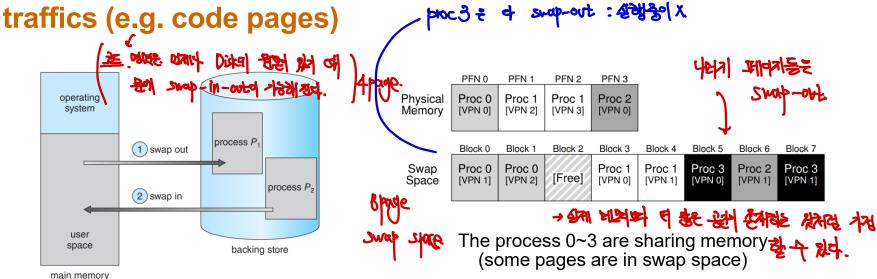
OS needs a place to stash away portions of address spaces that currently aren't in great demand → additional level in the memory hierarchy (e.g. disk)

For moving pages back and forth, OS reserves some space, refer to as swap space, on the disk

OS can read from and write to the space in page-size units

– OS needs to remember the disk address of a given page স্টেই কিলাগি কি

The swap space is not the only on-disk location for swapping



The Present Bitw

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 - →TLB SCINK 10型川 科学》.
- Overview of the memory reference
 - The running process generates a virtual address
 - The hardware extracts VPN, checks TLB, and obtains physical address if hit
 - Otherwise, the hardware locates the page table in memory and looks up PTE.
- To allow pages to be swapped to disk, more machinery is needed
 - When the hardware looks in the PTE, it may find that the page is not present in physical memory and this information is known as the present bit in the PTE

P	resent Bit	. Meaning
	0	The page is not in memory but rather on disk somewhere
	1	The page is present in physical memory

- The act of accessing a page that is not in physical memory is commonly referred to as a page fault
 - Upon a page fault, OS is invoked to service the page fault (page fault handler)

Page Fault

- The page faults are handled by software (OS) for the systems regardless of hardware- or software-managed TLBs.
 - Note that TLB miss handling is done in differently according to TLB type
- If a page is not present and has been swapped to disk, OS will need to swap the page into memory to service the page fault
 - Then, the question is how will OS know where to find the desired page?,
 - Usually, the page table is a natural place to store such information
- When the OS receives a page fault for a page:
 - 1) Looking in the PTE to find a disk address for the page
 - 2) Issuing the request to disk to fetch the page into memory
 - 3) During disk I/O to swap the page in → the process to be in the blocked state
 - 4) Updating the page table to mark the page as present in memory
 - 5) Retrying the instruction → This may result in a TLB miss
 - 6) Updating the TLB with the new entry
 - 7) Restarting the instruction and this will be a TLB hit → Finally, memory access!

Page Fault Control Flow

What hardware does during the address translation: Steps in handling a page fault VPN = (VirtualAddress & VPN_MASK) >> SHIFT page is on (Success, TlbEntry) = TLB_Lookup(VPN) backing store if (Success == True) // TLB Hit if (CanAccess(TlbEntry.ProtectBits) == True) = VirtualAddress & OFFSET_MASK 脚翅脂 PhysAddr = (TlbEntry.PFN << SHIFT) | operating system Register = AccessMemory (PhysAddr) else reference RaiseException (PROTECTION_FAULT) // TLB Miss else PTEAddr = PTBR + (VPN * sizeof(PTE))load M PTE = AccessMemory (PTEAddr) (6) if (PTE.Valid == False) RaiseException (SEGMENTATION_FAULT) restart page table instruction else free frame if (CanAccess(PTE.ProtectBits) == False) backing store RaiseException (PROTECTION FAULT, else if (PTE.Present == True). bring in reset page table missing page // assuming hardware-managed /LB valid & present TLB_Insert (VPN, PTE.PFN, PTE.ProtectBits RetryInstruction() else if (PTE.Present == False) valid & !present RaiseException(PAGE_FAULT) What (0S) does upon a page fault: PFN = FindFreePhysicalPage() OS to find a physical frame for the soon-be-faulted-in page if (PFN == -1)// no free page found to reside within and run replacement algorithm if failed PFN = EvictPage()// run replacement algorithm sleep (waiting for I/O) DiskRead (PTE DiskAddr. PTE.present = True PTE of // update page table with present PTE.PFN // bit and translation (PFN) // retry instruction RetryInstruction()

When Page Replacement Occur?

- When memory is full of pages, OS needs to swap old page(s) in memory out to disk to make room for new page(s) in disk
 - The process of picking a page to kick out, or replace is known as the pagereplacement policy
- When replacements really occur?
 - To keep a small amount of memory free, OS usually has high watermark (HW) and low watermark (LW) to decide when to start evicting pages from memory
 - If (# of free pages < LW), a background thread that is responsible for freeing memory runs to evicts pages and goes to sleep if (# of free pages > HW)
 - This background thread is called swap daemon or page daemon
- - Many systems will cluster or group a number of pages and write them out at once to the swap partition, thus increasing the efficiency of the disk