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More on the LOH

Earlier we talked about the SOH in terms of segments and virtual memory commitment. The LOH follows the same rules and will decommit portions of a segment that aren't being used to store live objects. This takes place during a full GC, and Figure 3.4 illustrates the process whereby Object B has become rootless and, after a full GC, is marked as free.

What actually happens is that, as mentioned in Chapter 2, the occupied memory block is marked in the Free Space table as being available for allocation. The actual pages used in virtual memory are, in fact, reset, which means that they are not paged to and from disk.

The rest of the segment, from the last live object to the end of the heap, isn't committed until needed.

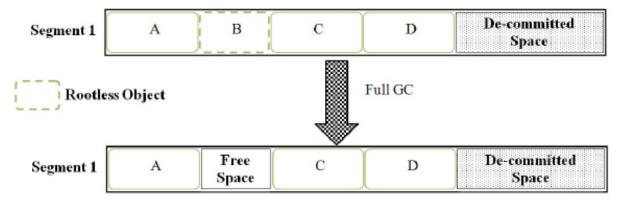


Figure 3.4: LOH memory model