Lab04: Contiguous Memory Allocation

Due date

Please refer to the lab assignment requirements.

Goal

The goal of this project is to practice different algorithms for contiguous memory allocation.

Details

In our textbook, we presented different algorithms for contiguous memory allocation. This project will involve managing a contiguous region of memory of size MAX where addresses may range from 0 ... MAX − 1. Your program must respond to four different requests:

1. Request for a contiguous block of memory
2. Release of a contiguous block of memory
3. Compact unused holes of memory into one single block
4. Report the regions of free and allocated memory

Your program will be passed the initial amount of memory at startup. For example, the following initializes the program with 1 MB (1,048,576 bytes) of memory:

./allocator 1048576

Once your program has started, it will present the user with the following prompt:

allocator>

It will then respond to the following commands: RQ (request), RL (release), C (compact), STAT (status report), and X (exit).

A request for 40,000 bytes will appear as follows:

allocator>RQ P0 40000 W

The first parameter to the RQ command is the new process that requires the memory, followed by the amount of memory being requested, and finally the strategy. (In this situation, " W " refers to worst fit.)

Similarly, a release will appear as:

allocator>RL P0

This command will release the memory that has been allocated to process P0 . The command for compaction is entered as:

allocator>C

This command will compact unused holes of memory into one region. Finally, the STAT command for reporting the status of memory is entered as:

allocator>STAT

Given this command, your program will report the regions of memory that are allocated and the regions that are unused. For example, one possible arrangement of memory allocation would be as follows:

Addresses [0:315000] Process P1

Addresses [315001: 512500] Process P3

Addresses [512501:625575] Unused

Addresses [625575:725100] Process P6

Addresses [725001] . . .

Allocating Memory

Your program will allocate memory using one of the three approaches listed in our textbook, depending on the flag that is passed to the RQ command. The flags are:

• F —first fit

• B —best fit

• W —worst fit

This will require that your program keep track of the different holes representing available memory. When a request for memory arrives, it will allocate the memory from one of the available holes based on the allocation strategy.

If there is insufficient memory to allocate to a request, it will output an error message and reject the request.

Your program will also need to keep track of which region of memory has been allocated to which process. This is necessary to support the STAT command and is also needed when memory is released via the RL command, as the process releasing memory is passed to this command. If a partition being released is adjacent to an existing hole, be sure to combine the two holes into a single hole.

Compaction

If the user enters the C command, your program will compact the set of holes into one larger hole. For example, if you have four separate holes of size 550 KB , 375 KB , 1,900 KB , and 4,500 KB , your program will combine these four holes into one large hole of size 7,325 KB .

There are several strategies for implementing compaction, one of which is suggested in our

textbook. Be sure to update the beginning address of any processes that have been affected by compaction.

Submission

Your submission should include (1) the code (a makefile or its equivalent is required), (2) a readme file describing your design and how to compile / use your code, and (3) a report for the following home assignments:

- Your design of the program
- Snapshots of experimental results(statistics) with analysis
- Problems encountered and your solution
- Summarize the different memory management methods listed in our textbook.
- Reference materials
- Your suggestions and comments

Environment

Linux (Ubuntu 18.04/16.04 is recommended) and C/C++, or Java if you like.

References

Textbook or any other articles you find useful.