**Paging**

- Use disk to simulate larger virtual than physical mem

**Paging challenges**

- How to resume a process after a fault?
  - Need to save state and resume
  - Process might have been in the middle of an instruction!
- What to fetch from disk?
  - Just needed page or more?
- What to eject?
  - How to allocate physical pages amongst processes?
  - Which of a particular process’s pages to keep in memory?

**What to fetch**

- Bring in page that caused page fault
- Pre-fetch surrounding pages?
  - Reading two disk blocks approximately as fast as reading one
  - As long as no track/head switch, seek time dominates
  - If application exhibits spatial locality, then big win to store and read multiple contiguous pages
- Also pre-zero unused pages in idle loop
  - Need 0-filled pages for stack, heap, anonymously mmapped memory
  - Zeroing them only on demand is slower
  - Hence, many OSes zero freed pages while CPU is idle

**Selecting physical pages**

- May need to eject some pages
  - More on eviction policy in two slides
- May also have a choice of physical pages
- Direct-mapped physical caches
  - Virtual → Physical mapping can affect performance
  - Applications can conflict with each other or themselves
  - Scientific applications benefit if consecutive virtual pages to not conflict in the cache
  - Many other applications do better with random mapping

**Working set model**

- Disk much, much slower than memory
  - Goal: Run at memory, not disk speeds
- 90/10 rule: 10% of memory gets 90% of memory accesses
  - So, keep that 10% in real memory, the other 90% on disk
  - How to identify the hot 10%?

**Re-starting instructions**

- Hardware provides kernel w. info about page fault
  - Faulting virtual address (In %cr2 reg on x86—may see it if you modify Pintos page fault and used fault_addr)
  - Address of instruction that caused fault
  - Was the access a read or write? Was it an instruction fetch? Was it caused by user access to kernel-only memory?
- Hardware must allow resuming after a fault
- Idempotent instructions are easy
  - E.g., simple load or store instruction can be restarted
  - Just re-execute any instruction that only accesses one address
- Complex instructions must be re-started, too
  - E.g., x86 move string instructions
  - Specify src, dst, count in %esi, %edi, %ecx registers
  - On fault, registers adjusted to resume where move left off
Superpages

- How should OS make use of “large” mappings
  - x86 has 2/4MB pages that might be useful
  - Alpha has even more choices: 8KB, 64KB, 512KB, 4MB
- Sometimes more pages in L2 cache than TLB entries
  - Don’t want costly TLB misses going to main memory
- Or have two-level TLBs
  - Want to maximize hit rate in faster L1 TLB
- OS can transparently support superpages [Navarro]
  - “Reserve” appropriate physical pages if possible
  - Promote contiguous pages to superpages
  - Does complicate evicting (esp. dirty pages) – demote

Straw man: FIFO eviction

- Evict oldest fetched page in system
- Example—reference string 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 3 physical pages: 9 page faults
- 4 physical pages: 10 page faults

Belady’s Anomaly

- More physical memory doesn’t always mean fewer faults

Optimal page replacement

- What is optimal (if you knew the future)?
- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time
- Example—reference string 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- With 4 physical pages:
LRU page replacement
• Approximate optimal with least recently used
  - Because past often predicts the future
• Example—reference string 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
• With 4 physical pages: 8 page faults

Straw man LRU implementations
• Stamp PTEs with timer value
  - E.g., CPU has cycle counter
  - Automatically writes value to PTE on each page access
  - Scan page table to find oldest counter value = LRU page
  - Problem: Would double memory traffic!
• Keep doubly-linked list of pages
  - On access remove page, place at tail of list
  - Problem: again, very expensive
• What to do?
  - Just approximate LRU, don’t try to do it exactly

Clock algorithm
• Use accessed bit supported by most hardware
  - E.g., Pentium will write 1 to A bit in PTE on first access
  - Software managed TLBs like MIPS can do the same
• Do FIFO but skip accessed pages
• Keep pages in circular FIFO list
• Scan:
  - page’s A bit = 1, set to 0 & skip
  - else if A = 0, evict
• A.k.a. second-chance replacement

Other replacement algorithms
• Random eviction
  - Dirty simple to implement
  - Not overly horrible (avoids Belady & pathological cases)
• LFU (least frequently used) eviction
  - Instead of just A bit, count # times each page accessed
  - Least frequently accessed must not be very useful
  - Decay usage counts over time (for pages that fall out of usage)
• MFU (most frequently used) algorithm
  - Because page with the smallest count was probably just brought in
    and has yet to be used
• Neither LFU nor MFU used very commonly
Naïve paging

- Naïve page replacement: 2 disk I/Os per page fault

Page buffering

- Idea: reduce # of I/Os on the critical path
- Keep pool of free page frames
  - On fault, still select victim page to evict
  - But read fetched page into already free page
  - Can resume execution while writing out victim page
  - Then add victim page to free pool
- Can also yank pages back from free pool
  - Contains only clean pages, but may still have data
  - If page fault on page still in free pool, recycle

Page allocation

- Allocation can be global or local
- Global allocation doesn’t consider page ownership
  - E.g., with LRU, evict least recently used page of any proc
  - Works well if P1 needs 20% of memory and P2 needs 70%
    - Doesn’t protect you from memory pigs
      (imagine P2 keeps looping through array that is size of mem)
- Local allocation isolates processes (or users)
  - Separately determine how much mem. each process should have
  - Then use LRU/clock/etc. to determine which pages to evict
    within each process

Thrashing

- Processes require more memory than system has
  - Each time one page is brought in, another page, whose contents will soon be referenced, is thrown out
  - Processes will spend all of their time blocked, waiting for pages to be fetched from disk
  - I/O devs at 100% utilization but system not getting much useful work done
- What we wanted: virtual memory the size of disk with access time the speed of physical memory
- What we have: memory with access time of disk

Reasons for thrashing

- Access pattern has no temporal locality (past ≠ future)
  - (90/10 rule has broken down)
- Hot memory (the 10% absorbing most accesses) does not fit
  - P1
  - mem
- Each process fits individually, but too many for system
  - At least this case is possible to address

Multiprogramming & Thrashing

- Must shed load when thrashing
Dealing with thrashing

- **Approach 1: working set**
  - Thrashing viewed from a caching perspective: given locality of reference, how big a cache does the process need?
  - Or: how much memory does the process need in order to make reasonable progress (its working set)?
  - Only run processes whose memory requirements can be satisfied

- **Approach 2: page fault frequency**
  - Thrashing viewed as poor ratio of fetch to work
  - PFF = page faults / instructions executed
  - If PFF rises above threshold, process needs more memory. Not enough memory on the system? Swap out.
  - If PFF sinks below threshold, memory can be taken away

Calculating the working set

- **Working set**
  - All pages process will access in next T time
  - Can’t calculate without predicting future

- **Approximate by assuming past predicts future**
  - So working set ≈ pages accessed in last T time

- **Keep idle time for each page**

- **Periodically scan all resident pages in system**
  - A bit set? Clear it and clear the page’s idle time
  - A bit clear? Add CPU consumed since last scan to idle time
  - Working set is pages with idle time < T

Two-level scheduler

- **Divide processes into active & inactive**
  - Active – means working set resident in memory
  - Inactive – working set intentionally not loaded

- **Balance set**
  - Must keep balance set smaller than physical memory

- **Use long-term scheduler [recall from lecture 4]**
  - Moves procs active → inactive until balance set small enough
  - Periodically allows inactive to become active
  - As working set changes, must update balance set

- **Complications**
  - How to chose idle time threshold T?
  - How to pick processes for active set
  - How to count shared memory (e.g., libc.so)

Some complications of paging

- **What happens to available memory?**
  - Some physical memory tied up by kernel VM structures

- **What happens to user/kernel crossings?**
  - More crossings into kernel
  - Pointers in syscall arguments must be checked (can’t just kill process if page not present—might need to page in)

- **What happens to IPC?**
  - Must change hardware address space
  - Increases TLB misses
  - Context switch flushes TLB entirely on old x86 machines (But not on MIPS... Why?)
64-bit address spaces

- Recall x86-64 only has 48-bit virtual address space
- What if you want a 64-bit virtual address space?
  - Straight hierarchical page tables not efficient
- Solution 1: Guarded page tables [Liedtke]
  - Omit intermediary tables with only one entry
  - Add predicate in high level tables, stating the only virtual address range mapped underneath + # bits to skip
- Solution 2: Hashed page tables
  - Store Virtual → Physical translations in hash table
  - Table size proportional to physical memory
  - Clustering makes this more efficient [Talluri]

Recall typical virtual address space

- Dynamically allocated memory goes in heap
  - Top of heap called breakpoint
    - Addresses between breakpoint and stack all invalid

Early VM system calls

- OS keeps “Breakpoint” – top of heap
  - Memory regions between breakpoint & stack fault on access
- char *brk (const char *addr);
  - Set and return new value of breakpoint
- char *sbrk (int incr);
  - Increment value of the breakpoint & return old value
- Can implement malloc in terms of sbrk
  - But hard to “give back” physical memory to system

Memory mapped files

- Other memory objects between heap and stack

mmap system call

- void *mmap (void *addr, size_t len, int prot,
  int flags, int fd, off_t offset)
  - Map file specified by fd at virtual address addr
  - If addr is NULL, let kernel choose the address
- prot – protection of region
  - OR of PROT_EXEC, PROT_READ, PROT_WRITE, PROT_NONE
- flags
  - MAP_ANON – anonymous memory (fd should be -1)
  - MAP_PRIVATE – modifications are private
  - MAP_SHARED – modifications seen by everyone

More VM system calls

- int msync(void *addr, size_t len, int flags);
  - Flush changes of mmapped file to backing store
- int munmap(void *addr, size_t len)
  - Removes memory-mapped object
- int mprotect(void *addr, size_t len, int prot)
  - Changes protection on pages to or of PROT ...
- int mincore(void *addr, size_t len, char *vec)
  - Returns in vec which pages present
Exposing page faults

```
struct sigaction {
    union { /* signal handler */
        void (*sa_handler)(int);
        void (*sa_sigaction)(int, siginfo_t *, void *);
    }
    sigset_t sa_mask; /* signal mask to apply */
    int sa_flags;
};

int sigaction (int sig, const struct sigaction *act, struct sigaction *oact)
```

- Can specify function to run on SIGSEGV (Unix signal raised on invalid memory access)

Example: OpenBSD/i386 siginfo

```
struct sigcontext {
    int sc_gs; int sc_fs; int sc_es; int sc_ds;
    int sc_edi; int sc_esi; int sc_ebp; int sc_ebx;
    int sc_edx; int sc_ecx; int sc_eax;
    int sc_eip; int sc_cs; /* instruction pointer */
    int sc_efs; /* condition codes, etc. */
    int sc_esp; int sc_ss; /* stack pointer */
    int sc_onstack; /* sigstack state to restore */
    int sc_mask; /* signal mask to restore */
    int sc_trapno;
    int sc_err;
};
```

VM tricks at user level

- Combination of mprotect/sigaction very powerful
  - Can use OS VM tricks in user-level programs [Appel]
  - E.g., fault, unprotect page, return from signal handler
- Technique used in object-oriented databases
  - Bring in objects on demand
  - Keep track of which objects may be dirty
  - Manage memory as a cache for much larger object DB
- Other interesting applications
  - Useful for some garbage collection algorithms
  - Snapshot processes (copy on write)

4.4 BSD VM system [McKusick]¹

- Each process has a vmspace structure containing
  - vm_map – machine-independent virtual address space
  - vm_pmap – machine-dependent data structures
  - statistics – e.g. for syscalls like getrusage()
- vm_map is a linked list of vm_map_entry structs
  - vm_map_entry covers contiguous virtual memory
  - points to vm.object struct
- vm.object is source of data
  - e.g. vnode object for memory mapped file
  - points to list of vm.page structs (one per mapped page)
  - shadow objects point to other objects for copy on write

¹See library.stanford.edu for off-campus access

4.4 BSD VM data structures

Pmap (machine-dependent) layer

- Pmap layer holds architecture-specific VM code
- VM layer invokes pmap layer
  - On page faults to install mappings
  - To protect or unmap pages
  - To ask for dirty/accessed bits
- Pmap layer is lazy and can discard mappings
  - No need to notify VM layer
  - Process will fault and VM layer must reinstall mapping
- Pmap handles restrictions imposed by cache
Example uses

- **vm map entry structs for a process**
  - r/o text segment → file object
  - r/w data segment → shadow object → file object
  - r/w stack → anonymous object

- **New vm_map_entry objects after a fork:**
  - Share text segment directly (read-only)
  - Share data through two new shadow objects
    (must share pre-fork but not post-fork changes)
  - Share stack through two new shadow objects

- **Must discard/collapse superfluous shadows**
  - E.g., when child process exits

What happens on a fault?

- **Traverse vm_map_entry list to get appropriate entry**
  - No entry? Protection violation? Send process a SIGSEGV

- **Traverse list of [shadow] objects**

- **For each object, traverse vm_page structs**

- **Found a vm page for this object?**
  - If first *vm.object* in chain, map page
  - If read fault, install page read only
  - Else if write fault, install copy of page

- **Else get page from object**
  - Page in from file, zero-fill new page, etc.