Computer Architecture
(CSC-3501)
Lecture 22
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Announcement

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Cache memory enhances performance by providing faster memory access speed.
- Virtual memory enhances performance by providing greater memory capacity, without the expense of adding main memory.
- Instead, a portion of a disk drive serves as an extension of main memory.
- If a system uses paging, virtual memory partitions main memory into individually managed *page frames*, that are written *(or paged)* to disk when they are not immediately needed.

6.5 Virtual Memory

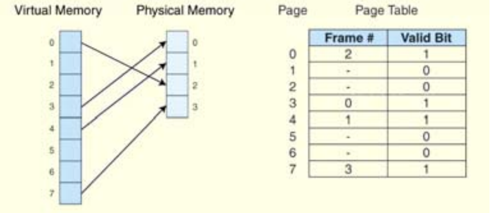
- A *physical address* is the actual memory address of physical memory.
- Programs create *virtual addresses* that are *mapped* to physical addresses by the memory manager.
- *Page faults* occur when a logical address requires that a page be brought in from disk.
- *Memory fragmentation* occurs when the paging process results in the creation of small, unusable clusters of memory addresses.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Main memory and virtual memory are divided into equal sized pages.
- The entire address space required by a process need not be in memory at once. Some parts can be on disk, while others are in main memory.
- Further, the pages allocated to a process do not need to be stored contiguously-- either on disk or in memory.
- In this way, only the needed pages are in memory at any time, the unnecessary pages are in slower disk storage.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Information concerning the location of each page, whether on disk or in memory, is maintained in a data structure called a *page table* (shown below).
- There is one page table for each active process.



Page	Frame #	Valid Bit
0	2	1
1	-	0
2	-	0
3	0	1
4	1	1
5	-	0
6	-	0
7	3	1

6.5 Virtual Memory

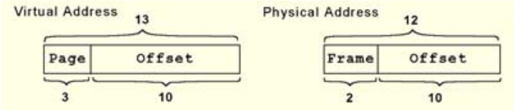
- When a process generates a virtual address, the operating system translates it into a physical memory address.
- To accomplish this, the virtual address is divided into two fields: A *page* field, and an *offset* field.
- The page field determines the page location of the address, and the offset indicates the location of the address within the page.
- The logical page number is translated into a physical page frame through a lookup in the page table.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- If the valid bit is zero in the page table entry for the logical address, this means that the page is not in memory and must be fetched from disk.
  - ☐ This is a page fault.
  - ☐ If necessary, a page is evicted from memory and is replaced by the page retrieved from disk, and the valid bit is set to 1.
- If the valid bit is 1, the virtual page number is replaced by the physical frame number.
- The data is then accessed by adding the offset to the physical frame number.

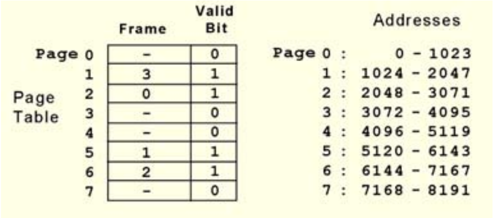
6.5 Virtual Memory

- As an example, suppose a system has a virtual address space of 8K and a physical address space of 4K, and the system uses byte addressing.
  - ☐ We have $2^{13}/2^{10} = 2^3$ virtual pages.
- A virtual address has 13 bits (8K = 2^{13}) with 3 bits for the page field and 10 for the offset, because the page size is 1024.
- A physical memory address requires 12 bits, the first two bits for the page frame and the trailing 10 bits the offset.



6.5 Virtual Memory

- Suppose we have the page table shown below.
- What happens when CPU generates address 5459_{10} = 1010101010011_2?

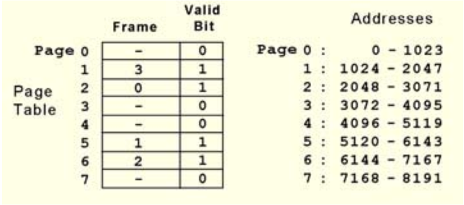


Page Table

Page	Frame	Valid Bit	Addresses
0	–	0	0 - 1023
1	3	1	1024 - 2047
2	0	1	2048 - 3071
3	–	0	3072 - 4095
4	–	0	4096 - 5119
5	1	1	5120 - 6143
6	2	1	6144 - 7167
7	–	0	7168 - 8191

6.5 Virtual Memory

- The address 1010101010011_2 is converted to physical address 010101010011 because the page field 101 is replaced by frame number 01 through a lookup in the page table.

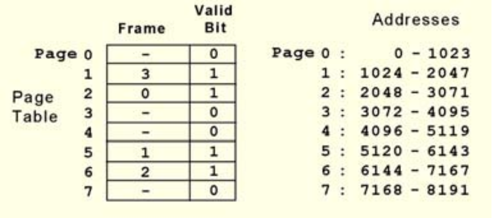


Page Table

Page	Frame	Valid Bit	Addresses
0	–	0	0 - 1023
1	3	1	1024 - 2047
2	0	1	2048 - 3071
3	–	0	3072 - 4095
4	–	0	4096 - 5119
5	1	1	5120 - 6143
6	2	1	6144 - 7167
7	–	0	7168 - 8191

6.5 Virtual Memory

- What happens when the CPU generates address 1000000000100_2?



Page Table

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6	2	1	6144 - 7167
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6.5 Virtual Memory

- We said earlier that effective access time (EAT) takes all levels of memory into consideration.
- Thus, virtual memory is also a factor in the calculation, and we also have to consider page table access time.
- Suppose a main memory access takes 200ns, the page fault rate is 1%, and it takes 10ms to load a page from disk. We have:

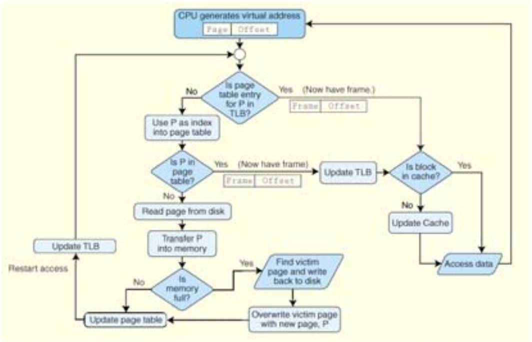
EAT = 0.99(200ns + 200ns) 0.01(10ms) = 100, 396ns.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Even if we had no page faults, the EAT would be 400ns because memory is always read twice: First to access the page table, and second to load the page from memory.
- Because page tables are read constantly, it makes sense to keep them in a special cache called a *translation look-aside buffer* (TLB).
- TLBs are a special associative cache that stores the mapping of virtual pages to physical pages.

The next slide shows how all the pieces fit together.

6.5 Virtual Memory



6.5 Virtual Memory

- Another approach to virtual memory is the use of *segmentation*.
- Instead of dividing memory into equal-sized pages, virtual address space is divided into variable-length segments, often under the control of the programmer.
- A segment is located through its entry in a segment table, which contains the segment's memory location and a bounds limit that indicates its size.
- After a page fault, the operating system searches for a location in memory large enough to hold the segment that is retrieved from disk.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Both paging and segmentation can cause fragmentation.
- Paging is subject to *internal* fragmentation because a process may not need the entire range of addresses contained within the page. Thus, there may be many pages containing unused fragments of memory.
- Segmentation is subject to *external* fragmentation, which occurs when contiguous chunks of memory become broken up as segments are allocated and deallocated over time.

6.5 Virtual Memory

- Large page tables are cumbersome and slow, but with its uniform memory mapping, page operations are fast. Segmentation allows fast access to the segment table, but segment loading is labor-intensive.
- Paging and segmentation can be combined to take advantage of the best features of both by assigning fixed-size pages within variable-sized segments.
- Each segment has a page table. This means that a memory address will have three fields, one for the segment, another for the page, and a third for the offset.

6.6 A Real-World Example

- The Pentium architecture supports both paging and segmentation, and they can be used in various combinations including unpaged unsegmented, segmented unpaged, and unsegmented paged.
- The processor supports two levels of cache (L1 and L2), both having a block size of 32 bytes.
- The L1 cache is next to the processor, and the L2 cache sits between the processor and memory.
- The L1 cache is in two parts: and instruction cache (I-cache) and a data cache (D-cache).

The next slide shows this organization schematically.

6.6 A Real-World Example