CS 471 Operating Systems

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Swapping: Beyond Physical Memory

What's in code?

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Many large libraries, some of which are rarely/never used

How to avoid wasting physical pages to back rarely used virtual pages?

Physical memory

How to Know Where a Page Lives?

- o With each PTE a present is associated
	- $-1 \rightarrow \text{in-memory}, 0 \rightarrow \text{out}$ in disk

An 32-bit X86 page table entry (PTE)

o During address translation, if present bit in PTE is $0 \rightarrow$ page fault

What if NO Memory is Left?

called "swapping out" Present Bit or "**paging out**"

Why not Leave Page on Disk?

Storage Hierarchy

Why not Leave Page on Disk?

- o Performance: Memory vs. Disk
- How long does it take to access a 4-byte int from main memory vs. disk?
	- DRAM: ~100ns
	- Disk: ~10ms

Beyond the Physical Memory

- o Idea: use the disk space as an extension of main memory
- o Two ways of interaction b/w memory and disk
	- Demand paging
	- Swapping

Demand Paging

- o Bring a page into memory only when it is needed (demanded)
	- Less I/O needed
	- Less memory needed
	- Faster response
	- Support more processes/users
- \circ Page is needed \Rightarrow use the reference to page
	- If not in memory \Rightarrow must bring from the disk

Swapping

- \circ Swapping allows OS to support the illusion of a large virtual memory for multiprogramming
	- Multiple programs can run "**at once**"
	- Better utilization
	- Ease of use
- o Demand paging vs. swapping
	- On demand vs. page replacement under memory pressure

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Swap Space

- o Part of disk space reserved for moving pages back and forth
	- Swap pages out of memory
	- Swap pages into memory from disk
- o OS reads from and writes to the swap space at page-sized unit

Address Translation Steps

o Hardware: for each memory reference:

Extract **VPN** from **VA**

Check **TLB** for **VPN**

TLB hit:

Build **PA** from **PFN** and offset

Fetch **PA** from memory

TLB miss:

Fetch **PTE** if (!valid): exception [segfault] else if (!present): exception [page fault: page miss] else: extract **PFN**, insert in **TLB**, retry

o Q: Which steps are expensive??

Address Translation Steps

- o Hardware: for each memory reference:
- (cheap) Extract **VPN** from VA
- (cheap) Check TLB for VPN

TLB hit:

- Build **PA** from **PFN** and offset (cheap)
- Fetch **PA** from memory **(expensive)**

TLB miss:

- Fetch **PTE (expensive)**
- if (!valid): exception [segfault] **(expensive)**
- else if (!present): exception [page fault: page miss] **(expensive)**
	- else: extract **PFN**, insert in **TLB**, retry (cheap)

o Q: Which steps are expensive??
Page Fault

- o The act of accessing a page that is not in physical memory is called a **page fault**
- o OS is invoked to service the page fault – Page fault handler
- o Typically, **PTE** contains the page address on disk

```
PFN = FindFreePage()
if (PFN == -1)
     PFN = EvictPage()
DiskRead(PTE.DiskAddr, PFN)
PTE.present = 1
PTE.PFN = PFN
retry instruction
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Q: which steps are expensive?

- **PFN** = FindFreePage() (cheap)
- (cheap) **if (PFN** == -1)
- **PFN** = EvictPage() (depends)
- DiskRead(**PTE**.DiskAddr, **PFN**) **(expensive)**
	- (cheap) PTE.present = 1
	- **PTE**.**PFN** = **PFN** (cheap)
	- (cheap) retry instruction

Q: which steps are expensive?

Major Steps of A Page Fault

Impact of Page Faults

- o Each page fault affects the system performance negatively
	- The process experiencing the page fault will not be able to continue until the missing page is brought to the main memory
	- The process will be blocked (moved to the waiting state)
	- Dealing with the page fault involves disk I/O
		- Increased demand to the disk drive
		- Increased waiting time for process experiencing page fault

Memory as a Cache

- \circ As we increase the degree of multiprogramming, over-allocation of memory becomes a problem
- \circ What if we are unable to find a free frame at the time of the page fault?
- o OS chooses to page out one or more pages to make room for new page(s) OS is about to bring in
	- The process to replace page(s) is called **page replacement policy**

Memory as a Cache

- o OS keeps a small portion of memory free proactively
	- **High watermark** (HW) and **low watermark** (LW)
- o When OS notices free memory is below LW (i.e., memory pressure)
	- A background thread (i.e., swap/page daemon) starts running to free memory
	- It evicts pages until there are **HW** pages available

What to Evict?

Page Replacement

- o Page replacement completes the separation between the logical memory and the physical memory
	- Large virtual memory can be provided on a smaller physical memory
- o Impact on performance
	- If there are no free frames, two page transfers needed at each page fault!
- \circ We can use a modify (dirty) bit to reduce overhead of page transfers – only modified pages are written back to disk

Page Replacement Policy

o Formalizing the problem

- Cache management: Physical memory is a cache for virtual memory pages in the system
- Primary objective:
	- High performance
	- High efficiency
	- Low cost
- Goal: **Minimize cache misses**
	- To minimize # times OS has to fetch a page from disk
	- -OR- **maximize cache hits**

Average Memory Access Time

o Average (or effective) memory access time (AMAT) is the metric to calculate the effective memory performance

 $AMAT = (P_{Hit} \cdot T_M) + (P_{Miss} \cdot T_D)$

- \circ T_M: Cost of accessing memory
- \circ T_n: Cost of accessing disk
- \circ P_{Hi+}: Probability of finding data in cache (hit) – Hit rate
- \circ P_{Miss}: Probability of not finding data in cache (miss) – Miss rate

An Example

- o Assuming
	- $-$ T_M is 100 nanoseconds (ns), T_D is 10 milliseconds (ms)
	- $-$ P_{Hit} is 0.9, and P_{Miss} is 0.1
- Ω AMAT = $0.9*100$ ns + $0.1*10$ ms = 90ns + 1ms = 1.00009ms
	- Or around 1 millisecond
- \circ What if the hit rate is 99.9%?
	- Result changes to 10.1 microseconds (or us)
	- Roughly 100 times faster!

First-In First-Out (FIFO)

First-in First-out (FIFO)

- o Simplest page replacement algorithm
- o Idea: items are evicted in the order they are inserted
- o Implementation: FIFO queue holds identifiers of all the pages in memory
	- We replace the page at the head of the queue
	- When a page is brought into memory, it is inserted at the tail of the queue

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assume cache size 3

- o Idea: items are evicted in the order they are inserted
- o **Issue:** the "oldest" page may contain a heavily used data
	- Will need to bring back that page in near future

- \circ FIFO: items are evicted in the order they are inserted
- \circ Example workload: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

(a) size 3 (b) size 4

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Belady's Anomaly

- o Reference string: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	- Size-3 (3-frames) case results in 9 page faults
	- Size-4 (4-frames) case results in 10 page faults
- Program runs potentially slower w/ more memory!
- o Belady's anomaly
	- More frames \rightarrow more page faults for some access pattern

Random

Random Policy

o Idea: picks a random page to replace

o Simple to implement like FIFO

o No intelligence of preserving locality

Random Policy

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 1.0

How Random Policy Performs?

- Depends entirely on **how lucky you are**
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Belady's Optimal

OPT: The Optimal Replacement Policy

- o Many years ago **Belady** demonstrated that there is a simple policy (OPT or MIN) which always leads to fewest number of misses
- o Idea: evict the page that will be accessed furthest in the future
- o Assumption: we know about the future
- o Impossible to implement OPT in practice!
- o But it is extremely useful as a practical best-case baseline for comparison purpose
Proof of Optimality for Belady's Optimal Replacement Policy

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.307.7603&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

A Short Proof of Optimality for the **MIN** Cache Replacement Algorithm

Benjamin Van Roy **Stanford University**

December 2, 2010

Abstract

The MIN algorithm is an offline strategy for deciding which item to replace when writing a new item to a cache. Its optimality was first established by Mattson, Gecsei, Slutz, and Traiger [2] through a lengthy analysis. We provide a short and elementary proof based on a dynamic programming argument.

Keywords: analysis of algorithms, on-line algorithms, caching, paging

The MIN Algorithm

Erasing Belady's Limitations

<https://www.usenix.org/conference/atc16/technical-sessions/presentation/cheng>

Erasing Belady's Limitations: In Search of Flash Cache Offline Optimality

Yue Cheng, *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University;* **Fred Douglis, Philip Shilane, Michael Trachtman, and Grant Wallace,** *EMC Corporation;* **Peter Desnoyers,** *Northeastern University;* **Kai Li,** *Princeton University*

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The optimal number of cache hits is **6** for this workload!

Least-Recently-Used (LRU)

- \circ Use the recent pass as an approximation of the near future (**using history**)
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 1.1

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LRU Stack Implementation

- o Stack implementation: keep a stack of page numbers in a doubly linked list form
	- Page referenced, move it to the top
	- Requires quite a few pointers to be changed
	- No search required for replacement operation!

Using a Stack to Approximate LRU

Using a Stack to Approximate LRU

LRU Hardware Support

- o Sophisticated hardware support may involve high overhead/cost!
- o Some limited HW support is common: **Reference (or use) bit**
	- With each page associate a bit, initially set to 0
	- When the page is referenced, bit set to 1
	- By examining the reference bits, we can determine which pages have been used
	- **We do not know the** *order* **of use, however!**
- o Cheap approximation
	- Useful for **clock** algorithm

Clock: Look For a Page

Evict **page 2** because it has not been recently used

Clock: Look For a Page
Clock: Access a Page

page 0 is accessed

Clock: Look For a Page

Clock: Look For a Page

Evict **page 1** because it has not been recently used

Clock: Look For a Page

- o FIFO
	- Why it might work? Maybe the one brought in the longest ago is one we are not using now
	- Why it might not work? No real info to tell if it's being used or not
	- Suffers "**Belady's Anomaly**"

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	- However, can be used as a **best case baseline** for comparison purpose
- o LRU
	- Intuition: we can't look into the future, but let's look at past experience to make a good guess
	- Out "bet" is that pages used recently are ones which will be used again (**principle of locality**)