


TCSS 422: OPERATING SYSTEMS

Multi-Level Page Tables,  
Beyond Physical Memory



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University of Washington - Tacoma

May 25, 2023

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OBJECTIVES – 5/25

Questions from 5/23

Memory Segmentation Activity + answers (available in Canvas)

Assignment 2 – June 2

Assignment 3 - (Tutorial) Introduction to Linux Kernel Modules

Final exam – Thursday June 8 @ 3:40pm

Quiz 4 – Page Tables - Due June 8 @ 11:59 am

Chapter 20: Paging: Smaller Tables

- Smaller Tables, Multi-level Page Tables, N-level Page Tables

Chapter 21/22: Beyond Physical Memory

- Swapping Mechanisms, Swapping Policies

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ONLINE DAILY FEEDBACK SURVEY

Daily Feedback Quiz in Canvas – Available After Each Class

Extra credit available for completing surveys **ON TIME**

Tuesday surveys: due by ~ Wed @ 11:59p

Thursday surveys: due ~ Mon @ 11:59p

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Spring 2023

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TCSS 422 - Online Daily Feedback Survey - 4/1

Available until Apr 5 at 11:59pm | Due Apr 5 at 10pm | 1/1 pts

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TCSS 422 - Online Daily Feedback Survey - 4/1

Quiz Instructions

Question 1

0.5 pts

On a scale of 1 to 10, please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Mostly Review to Me

Equal New and Review

Mostly New to Me

Question 2

0.5 pts

Please rate the pace of today's class:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

slow

just right

fast

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MATERIAL / PACE

Please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class (36 respondents):

1-mostly review, 5-equal new/review, 10-mostly new

Average – 6.65 (↓ - previous 6.89)

Please rate the pace of today's class:

1-slow, 5-just right, 10-fast

Average – 5.58 (↓ - previous 6.01)

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FEEDBACK FROM 5/23

I would like to ask about the last example, how do we calculate it?

We will review the 2-level page table example that we did in the last minutes of class on Tuesday 5/23

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FEEDBACK - 2

- Address translation still isn't completely clear to me.
- On the final, you will not perform address translation directly
- Instead, the idea is to understand the process
- We will review how the Linux OS perform address translation with multi-level page tables
  - Linux uses 5-level page tables
- We only consider sizing questions for 2-level and 3-level page tables

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FEEDBACK - 3

- Some tips for problems with exponential math and bits:
- >>> It is good to review charts and patterns:
- 8 bits = 1 byte
- 16 bits = 2 bytes
- 32 bits = 4 bytes
- 64 bits = 8 bytes
- 1,024 bytes = 1 kilobyte ( $2^{10}$ )
- 1,024 kilobytes = 1 megabyte ( $2^{20}$ )
- 1,024 megabytes = 1 gigabyte ( $2^{30}$ )
- 1,024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte ( $2^{40}$ )
- 1,024 terrabytes = 1 petabyte ( $2^{50}$ )

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FEEDBACK - 4

- For simplicity rounding is often acceptable:
- 1 kilobyte ( $2^{10}$ ) = 1,024 bytes → **1,000 bytes**
- 1,024 kilobytes ( $2^{20}$ ) = 1 megabyte → **1,000,000 bytes**
- 1,024 megabytes = 1 gigabyte ( $2^{30}$ ) → 1,000,000,000 bytes
- 1,024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte ( $2^{40}$ ) → 1,000,000,000,000 bytes
- 1,024 terrabytes = 1 petabyte ( $2^{50}$ ) → 1,000,000,000,000,000 bytes

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$2^1$	2	$2^{17}$	131,072	$2^{33}$	8,589,934,592	$2^{49}$	562,949,953,421,312
$2^2$	4	$2^{18}$	262,144	$2^{34}$	17,179,869,184	$2^{50}$	1,125,899,906,842,624
$2^3$	8	$2^{19}$	524,288	$2^{35}$	34,359,738,368	$2^{51}$	2,251,799,813,685,248
$2^4$	16	$2^{20}$	1,048,576	$2^{36}$	68,719,476,736	$2^{52}$	4,503,599,627,370,496
$2^5$	32	$2^{21}$	2,097,152	$2^{37}$	137,438,953,472	$2^{53}$	9,007,199,254,740,992
$2^6$	64	$2^{22}$	4,194,304	$2^{38}$	274,877,906,944	$2^{54}$	18,014,398,509,481,984
$2^7$	128	$2^{23}$	8,388,608	$2^{39}$	549,755,813,888	$2^{55}$	36,028,797,018,963,968
$2^8$	256	$2^{24}$	16,777,216	$2^{40}$	1,099,511,627,776	$2^{56}$	72,057,594,037,927,936
$2^9$	512	$2^{25}$	33,554,432	$2^{41}$	2,199,023,255,552	$2^{57}$	144,115,188,075,855,872
$2^{10}$	1,024	$2^{26}$	67,108,864	$2^{42}$	4,398,046,511,104	$2^{58}$	288,230,376,151,711,744
$2^{11}$	2,048	$2^{27}$	134,217,728	$2^{43}$	8,796,093,022,208	$2^{59}$	576,460,752,303,423,488
$2^{12}$	4,096	$2^{28}$	268,435,456	$2^{44}$	17,592,186,044,416	$2^{60}$	1,152,921,504,606,846,976
$2^{13}$	8,192	$2^{29}$	536,870,912	$2^{45}$	35,184,372,088,832	$2^{61}$	2,305,843,009,213,693,952
$2^{14}$	16,384	$2^{30}$	1,073,741,824	$2^{46}$	70,368,744,177,664	$2^{62}$	4,611,686,018,427,387,904
$2^{15}$	32,768	$2^{31}$	2,147,483,648	$2^{47}$	140,737,488,355,328	$2^{63}$	9,223,372,036,854,775,808
$2^{16}$	65,536	$2^{32}$	4,294,967,296	$2^{48}$	281,474,976,710,656	$2^{64}$	18,446,744,073,709,551,616

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0

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FEEDBACK - 6

- How many bits are required to index the following amounts of memory?

1. 1,024 bytes = 1 kilobyte ( $2^{10}$ )
2. 1,024 kilobytes = 1 megabyte ( $2^{20}$ )
3. 1,024 megabytes = 1 gigabyte ( $2^{30}$ )
4. 1,024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte ( $2^{40}$ )
5. 1,024 terrabytes = 1 petabyte ( $2^{50}$ )

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FEEDBACK - 7

- With paging, we divide an address space in fixed sized pieces (known as the page size)
- Assuming a computer indexes memory using 1 kilobyte memory pages ( $2^{10}$ )
- How many unique pages are required to manage/index memory?

- 1 kilobyte ( $2^{10}$ ) of memory
  - 1 page
- 1 megabyte ( $2^{20}$ ) of memory
  - 1,024 pages ( $2^{10}$ )
- 1 gigabyte ( $2^{30}$ ) of memory
  - 1,048,576 pages ( $2^{20}$ )
- 1 terabyte ( $2^{40}$ ) of memory
  - 1,073,741,824 pages ( $2^{30}$ )
- 1 petabyte ( $2^{50}$ ) of memory
  - 1,099,511,627,776 pages ( $2^{40}$ )

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OBJECTIVES – 5/25

- Questions from 5/23
- Memory Segmentation Activity + answers (available in Canvas)
- Assignment 2 – June 2
- Assignment 3: (Tutorial) Intro to Linux Kernel Modules - June 9
- Final exam – Thursday June 8 @ 3:40pm
- Quiz 4 – Page Tables - Due June 8 @ 11:59 am
- Chapter 20: Paging: Smaller Tables
  - Smaller Tables, Multi-level Page Tables, N-level Page Tables
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ASSIGNMENT 3:  
INTRODUCTION TO LINUX KERNEL MODULES

- Assignment 3 provides an introduction to kernel programming by demonstrating how to create a [Linux Kernel Module](#)
- Kernel modules are commonly used to write device drivers and can access protected operating system data structures
  - For example: Linux `task_struct` process data structure
- Assignment 3 is scored in the Quizzes / Activities / Tutorials category
  - Lowest two grades in this category are dropped

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FINAL EXAM – THURSDAY JUNE 8 @  
3:40PM<sup>TH</sup>

- Thursday June 8 from 3:40 to 5:40 pm
  - Final (100 points)
  - SHORT: similar number of questions as the midterm
  - 2-hours
  - Focus on new content - since the midterm (~70% new, 30% before)
- Final Exam Review -
  - Complete Memory Segmentation Activity
  - Complete Quiz 4
  - Practice Final Exam Questions – 2<sup>nd</sup> hour of June 1<sup>st</sup> class session
  - Individual work
  - 2 pages of notes (any sized paper), double sided
  - Basic calculators allowed
  - NO smartphones, laptop, book, Internet, group work

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CHAPTER 20:  
PAGING:  
SMALLER TABLES



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MULTI-LEVEL PAGE TABLES

- Consider a page table:
- 32-bit addressing, 4KB pages
- 2<sup>20</sup> page table entries
- Even if memory is sparsely populated the *per process* page table requires:

Page table size =  $\frac{2^{32}}{2^{12}} * 4Byte = 4MByte$
- Often most of the 4MB *per process* page table is empty
- Page table must be placed in 4MB contiguous block of RAM
- MUST SAVE MEMORY!**

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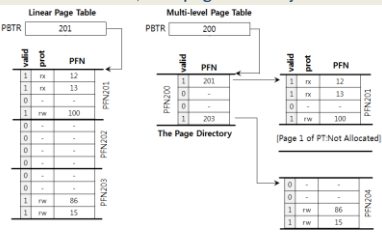
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MULTI-LEVEL PAGE TABLES - 2

- Add level of indirection, the “page directory”



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MULTI-LEVEL PAGE TABLES - 2

■ Add level of indirection, the “page directory”

Linear Page Table

Multi-level Page Table

Two level page table:  
2<sup>20</sup> pages addressed with  
two level-indexing  
(page directory index, page table index)

Linear (Left) And Multi-Level (Right) Page Tables

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4 GB computer (2<sup>32</sup>) and 4KB pages (2<sup>12</sup>)

1. How much space is required for a 2-level page table with one page directory (PD) and one page table (PT)?

2. How much memory can a single PD pointing to a single PT address?

PD

PT

PT

1023

1023

1023

1024 × 4

4096

1024 × 4

4096

1024 × 4

4096

8192 bytes

2<sup>10</sup>

2<sup>12</sup>

2<sup>22</sup> → 4MB → 8MB WITH A SECOND PT

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2-LEVEL

PD

PT1

PT2

1023

1023

1023

1024 × 4

4096

1024 × 4

4096

1024 × 4

4096

8192 bytes

1 PD

1 PT

can index

4096KB

~ 4MB

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MULTI-LEVEL PAGE TABLES - 3

■ Advantages

■ Disadvantages

■ Only allocates page table space in proportion to the address space actually used

■ Can easily grab next free page to expand page table

■ Multi-level page tables are an example of a time-space tradeoff

■ Sacrifice address translation time (now 2-level) for space

■ Complexity: multi-level schemes are more complex

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EXAMPLE

■ 16KB address space, 64byte pages

■ How large would a one-level page table need to be?

■ 2<sup>14</sup> (address space) / 2<sup>6</sup> (page size) = 2<sup>8</sup> = 256 (pages)

code

code

heap

heap

stack

stack

Flag

Detail

Address space

16 KB

Page size

64 byte

Virtual address

14 bit

VPN

8 bit

Offset

6 bit

Page table entry

2<sup>8</sup> (256)

A 16-KB Address Space With 64-byte Pages

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0

Offset

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EXAMPLE - 2

■ 256 total page table entries (64 bytes each)

■ 1,024 bytes page table size, stored using 64-byte pages = (1024/64) = 16 page directory entries (PDEs)

■ Each page directory entry (PDE) can hold 16 page table entries (PTEs) e.g. lookups

■ 16 page directory entries (PDE) x 16 page table entries (PTE) = 256 total PTEs

■ Key Idea: the page table is stored using pages too!

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PAGE DIRECTORY INDEX

- Now, let's split the page table into two:
  - 8 bit VPN to map 256 pages
  - 4 bits for page directory index (PDI – 1<sup>st</sup> level page table)
  - 6 bits offset into 64-byte page

Page Directory Index: 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

VPN: 13 12 11 10

Offset: 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

14-bits Virtual address

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PAGE TABLE INDEX

- 4 bits page directory index (PDI – 1<sup>st</sup> level)
- 4 bits page table index (PTI – 2<sup>nd</sup> level)

Page Directory Index: 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

VPN: 13 12 11 10

Offset: 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

14-bits Virtual address

- To dereference one 64-byte memory page,
  - We need one page directory entry (PDE)
  - One page table Index (PTI) – can address 16 pages

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EXAMPLE - 3

- For this example, how much space is required to store as a single-level page table with any number of PTEs?
- 16KB address space, 64 byte pages
- 256 page frames, 4 byte page size
- 1,024 bytes required (single level)

- How much space is required for a two-level page table with only 4 page table entries (PTEs)?
- Page directory = 16 entries x 4 bytes (1 x 64 byte page)
- Page table = 16 entries (4 used) x 4 bytes (1 x 64 byte page)
- 128 bytes required (2 x 64 byte pages)
- Savings = using just 12.5% the space !!!

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For this example, how much space is required to store as a single-level page table with any number of PTEs?

16KB address space, 64 byte pages, 256 page frames, 4 byte page size

PT

0 255

each entry costs 4 bytes

$2^{14} \rightarrow 16\text{KB RAM}$

$2^6 \rightarrow 64\text{ bytes page size}$

$2^{14} / 2^6 = 2^8 \rightarrow \text{pages} \rightarrow 256$

$256 \text{ entries} \times 4 \text{ bytes} = 1024 \text{ bytes}$

1 KB

Storage requirement: bytes required (single level)

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How much space is required for a two-level page table with only 4 page table entries (PTEs)? (one page each for code segment, stack segment, heap segment, data segment)

16KB address space, 64 byte pages, 256 page frames, 4 byte page size

8 bit VPN

PD

0 15

PT

code

stack

heap

data

0 15

16 x 4 bytes

16 x 4 bytes

128 bytes

64 byte page size

$16 \times 64$

$2^4 \times 2^6$

$2^{10}$

1,024 bytes

896 savings in bytes

$128 / 1024 = 12.5\%$

Page directory = 16 entries x 4 bytes (1 x 64 byte page)

Page table = 16 entries (4 used) x 4 bytes (1 x 64 byte page)

Store requirement = 128 bytes required (2 x 64 byte pages)

Savings =

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32-BIT EXAMPLE

- Consider: 32-bit address space, 4KB pages, 2<sup>20</sup> pages
- Only 4 mapped pages

- Single level: 4 MB (we've done this before) 12.5%
- Two level: (old VPN was 20 bits, split in half)
- Page directory = 2<sup>10</sup> entries x 4 bytes = 1 x 4 KB page
- Page table = 4 entries x 4 bytes (mapped to 1 4KB page)
- 8KB (8,192 bytes) required
- Savings = using just .78 % the space !!!
- 100 sparse processes now require < 1MB for page tables
- 8KB x 100 = 800KB

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WE WILL RETURN AT  
5:00 PM



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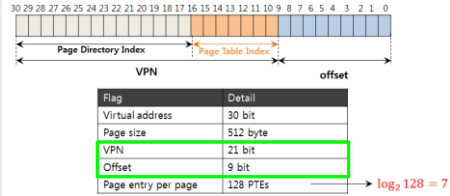
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MORE THAN TWO LEVELS - 2

- Page table entries per page =  $512 / 4 = 128$
- 7 bytes – for page table index (PTI)



Flag	Detail
Virtual address	30 bit
Page size	512 byte
VPN	21 bit
Offset	9 bit
Page entry per page	128 PTEs

→  $\log_2 128 = 7$

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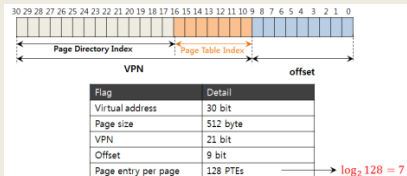
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MORE THAN TWO LEVELS - 3

- Consider 1 GB computer:  $2^{30}=1\text{GB}$  RAM, 512-byte ( $2^9$  pages)
- $2^{14} = 16,384$  page directory entries (PDEs) are required
- When using  $2^7$  (128 entry) page tables...
- Page size = 512 bytes \* 4 bytes per addr



Flag	Detail
Virtual address	30 bit
Page size	512 byte
VPN	21 bit
Offset	9 bit
Page entry per page	128 PTEs

→  $\log_2 128 = 7$

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MORE THAN TWO LEVELS - 3

- Consider 1 GB computer:  $2^{30}=1\text{GB}$  RAM, 512-byte ( $2^9$  pages)
- $2^{14} = 16,384$  page directory entries (PDEs) are required
- When using  $2^7$  (128 entry) page tables...
- Page size = 512 bytes / 4 bytes per addr

Can't Store Page Directory with 16K pages, using 512 bytes pages. Pages only dereference 128 addresses (512 bytes / 32 bytes)

Virtual address	30 bit
Page size	512 byte
VPN	21 bit
Offset	9 bit
Page entry per page	128 PTEs

→  $\log_2 128 = 7$

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MORE THAN TWO LEVELS - 3

- Consider 1 GB computer:  $2^{30}=1\text{GB}$  RAM, 512-byte ( $2^9$  pages)
- $2^{14} = 16,384$  page directory entries (PDEs) are required
- When using  $2^7$  (128 entry) page tables...
- Page size = 512 bytes / 4 bytes per addr

Need three level page table:  
Page directory 0 (PD Index 0)  
Page directory 1 (PD Index 1)  
Page Table Index

Virtual address	30 bit
Page size	512 byte
VPN	21 bit
Offset	9 bit
Page entry per page	128 PTEs

→  $\log_2 128 = 7$

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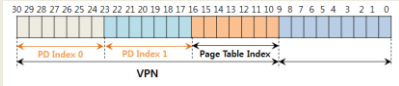
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MORE THAN TWO LEVELS - 4

- We can now address 1GB with "fine grained" 512 byte pages
- Using multiple levels of indirection



- Consider the implications for address translation!
- How much space is required for a virtual address space with 4 entries on a 512-byte page? (let's say 4 32-bit integers)
- PD0 1 page, PD1 1 page, PT 1 page = 1,536 bytes
- Memory Usage= 1,536 (3-level) / 8,388,608 (1-level) = .0183% !!!

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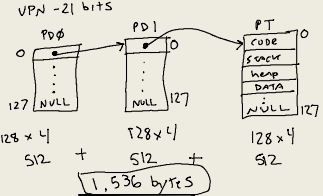
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$2^{30} = 1GB$   
 $2^9 = 512 \text{ byte page size}$   
 $2^{30} / 2^9 \rightarrow 2^{21} \text{ PAGES} \rightarrow 2 \text{ million PAGES}$   
 $2^{21} \times 4 \text{ bytes} \rightarrow 2^{23} \rightarrow 8 \text{ MB}$

SINGLE Level PG-TABLE

Three Level PG-TABLE



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ADDRESS TRANSLATION CODE

```
// 5-level Linux page table address lookup
//
// Inputs:
// mm_struct - process's memory map struct
// vpage - virtual page address

// Define page struct pointers
pgd_t *pgd;
p4d_t *p4d;
pud_t *pud;
pmd_t *pmt;
pte_t *pte;
struct page *page;
```

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ADDRESS TRANSLATION - 2

```
pgd = pgd_offset(mm, vpage);
if (pgd_none(*pgd) || pgd_bad(*pgd))
    return 0;
p4d = p4d_offset(pgd, vpage);
if (p4d_none(*p4d) || p4d_bad(*p4d))
    return 0;
pud = pud_offset(p4d, vpage);
if (pud_none(*pud) || pud_bad(*pud))
    return 0;
pmd = pmd_offset(pud, vpage);
if (pmd_none(*pmd) || pmd_bad(*pmd))
    return 0;
if (!(pte = pte_offset_map(pmd, vpage)))
    return 0;
if (!(page = pte_page(*pte)))
    return 0;
physical_page_addr = page_to_phys(page);
pte_unmap(pte);
return physical_page_addr; // param to send back
```

**pgd\_offset():**  
Takes a vpage address and the mm\_struct for the process, returns the PGD entry that covers the requested address...

**p4d/pud/pmd\_offset():**  
Takes a vpage address and the pgd/p4d/pud entry and returns the relevant p4d/pud/pmd.

**pte\_unmap()**  
release temporary kernel mapping for the page table entry


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INVERTED PAGE TABLES



- Keep a single page table for each physical page of memory
- Consider 4GB physical memory
- Using 4KB pages, page table requires 4MB to map all of RAM
- Page table stores
  - Which process uses each page
  - Which process virtual page (from process virtual address space) maps to the physical page
- All processes share the same page table for memory mapping, kernel must isolate all use of the shared structure
- Finding process memory pages requires search of  $2^{20}$  pages
- Hash table: can index memory and speed lookups

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MULTI-LEVEL PAGE TABLE EXAMPLE

- Consider a 16 MB computer which indexes memory using 4KB pages
- (#1) For a single level page table, how many pages are required to index memory?
- (#2) How many bits are required for the VPN?
- (#3) Assuming each page table entry (PTE) can index any byte on a 4KB page, how many offset bits are required?
- (#4) Assuming there are 8 status bits, how many bytes are required for each page table entry?

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MULTI LEVEL PAGE TABLE EXAMPLE - 2

- (#5) How many bytes (or KB) are required for a single level page table?
- Let's assume a simple HelloWorld.c program.
- HelloWorld.c requires virtual address translation for 4 pages:
  - 1 – code page                      1 – stack page
  - 1 – heap page                      1 – data segment page
- (#6) Assuming a two-level page table scheme, how many bits are required for the Page Directory Index (PDI)?
- (#7) How many bits are required for the Page Table Index (PTI)?

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MULTI LEVEL PAGE TABLE EXAMPLE - 3

- Assume each page directory entry (PDE) and page table entry (PTE) requires 4 bytes:
  - 6 bits for the Page Directory Index (PDI)
  - 6 bits for the Page Table Index (PTI)
  - 12 offset bits
  - 8 status bits
- (#8) How much **total** memory is required to index the HelloWorld.c program using a two-level page table when we only need to translate 4 total pages?
- **HINT:** we need to allocate one Page Directory and one Page Table...
- **HINT:** how many entries are in the PD and PT

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MULTI LEVEL PAGE TABLE EXAMPLE - 4

- (#9) Using a single page directory entry (PDE) pointing to a single page table (PT), if all of the slots of the page table (PT) are in use, what is the total amount of memory a two-level page table scheme can address?
- (#10) And finally, for this example, as a percentage (%), how much memory does the 2-level page table scheme consume compared to the 1-level scheme?
- **HINT:** two-level memory use / one-level memory use

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ANSWERS

- #1 – 4096 pages
- #2 – 12 bits
- #3 – 12 bits
- #4 – 4 bytes
- #5 –  $4096 \times 4 = 16,384$  bytes (16KB)
- #6 – 6 bits
- #7 – 6 bits
- #8 – 256 bytes for Page Directory (PD) (64 entries x 4 bytes)  
256 bytes for Page Table (PT) **TOTAL = 512 bytes**
- #9 – 64 entries, where each entry maps a 4,096 byte page  
With 12 offset bits, can address 262,144 bytes (256 KB)
- #10-  $512/16384 = .03125 \rightarrow 3.125\%$

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OBJECTIVES – 5/25

- Questions from 5/23
- Memory Segmentation Activity + answers (available in Canvas)
- Assignment 2 – June 2
- Assignment 3: (Tutorial) Intro to Linux Kernel Modules - June 9
- Final exam – Thursday June 8 @ 3:40pm
- Quiz 4 – Page Tables - Due June 8 @ 11:59 am
- Chapter 20: Paging: Smaller Tables
  - Smaller Tables, Multi-level Page Tables, N-level Page Tables
- **Chapter 21/22: Beyond Physical Memory**
  - Swapping Mechanisms, Swapping Policies


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CHAPTER 21/22:  
BEYOND PHYSICAL  
MEMORY



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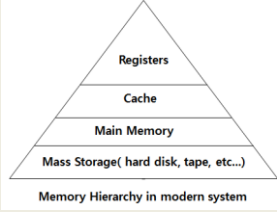
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### MEMORY HIERARCHY

- Disks (HDD, SSD) provide another level of storage in the memory hierarchy



The diagram shows a pyramid with four levels. From top to bottom: Registers, Cache, Main Memory, and Mass Storage (hard disk, tape, etc...). Below the pyramid is the text 'Memory Hierarchy in modern system'.

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### MOTIVATION FOR EXPANDING THE ADDRESS SPACE

- Provide the illusion of an address space larger than physical RAM
  - For a single process
    - Convenience
    - Ease of use
  - For multiple processes
    - Large virtual memory space supports running many concurrent processes. . .

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### LATENCY TIMES

- Design considerations:
  - SSDs 4x the time of DRAM
  - HDDs 80x the time of DRAM

Action	Latency (ns)	(μs)	
L1 cache reference	0.5ns		
L2 cache reference	7 ns		14x L1 cache
Mutex lock/unlock	25 ns		
Main memory reference	100 ns		20x L2 cache, 200x L1
Read 4K randomly from SSD*	150,000 ns	150 μs	~1GB/sec SSD
Read 1 MB sequentially from memory	250,000 ns	250 μs	
Read 1 MB sequentially from SSD*	1,000,000 ns	1,000 μs	1 ms ~1GB/sec SSD, 4K memory
Read 1 MB sequentially from disk	20,000,000 ns	20,000 μs	20 ms 80x memory, 20X SSD

- Latency numbers every programmer should know
- From: <https://gist.github.com/jboner/2841832#file-latency-txt>

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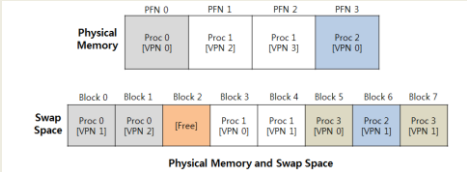
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### SWAP SPACE

- Disk space for storing memory pages
- “Swap” them in and out of memory to disk as needed



The diagram illustrates the mapping between physical memory and swap space. It shows four processes (Proc 0, Proc 1, Proc 2, Proc 3) with their Virtual Page Numbers (VPN 0, VPN 1, VPN 2, VPN 3). Above them is 'Physical Memory' with blocks for each process. Below them is 'Swap Space' with blocks for each process. Block 2 of Proc 1 is highlighted as '(Free)'. The caption below is 'Physical Memory and Swap Space'.

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### SWAP SPACE - 2

- The size of the swap space can be seen using the Linux free command: “free -h”

```
wlloyd@dlone:~$ free -h
              total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:           30G          11G          14G           1.3G        4.4G          17G
Swap:           31G           0B           31G
```

- With sufficient disk space, a common allocation is to create Swap space greater than or equal to physical RAM

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SWAP SPACE - 3

- Swap space lives on a separate logical volume in Ubuntu Linux that is managed separately from the root file system
- Check logical volumes with "sudo lvsdisplay" command:

```
... logical volume ...
LV Path          /dev/ubuntu-vg/swap_1
LV Name          swap_1
VG Name          ubuntu-vg
LV auto          1
LV write access   read/write
LV creation host, time  ubuntu, 2018-09-30 15:44:10 -0700
LV status        available
# open            2
LV size          876.00 MB
Current LE       244
Segments         1
Allocation        inherit
Read ahead sectors  currently set to 256
Block device      253:1
```

- See also "lvm lvs" command

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PAGE LOCATION

- Memory pages are:
  - Stored in memory
  - Swapped to disk
- Present bit
  - In the page table entry (PTE) indicates if page is present
- Page fault
  - Memory page is accessed, but has been swapped to disk

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PAGE FAULT

- OS steps in to handle the page fault
- Loading page from disk requires a free memory page
- Page-Fault Algorithm

```
1: PFN = FindFreePhysicalPage()
2: if (PFN == -1) // no free page found
3:   PFN = EvictPage() // run replacement algorithm
4: DiskRead(PTE.DiskAddr, pfn) // sleep (waiting for I/O)
5: PTE.present = True // set PTE bit to present
6: PTE.PFN = PFN // reference new loaded page
7: RetryInstruction() // retry instruction
```

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PAGE REPLACEMENTS

- Page daemon
  - Background threads which monitors swapped pages
- Low watermark (LW)
  - Threshold for when to swap pages to disk
  - Daemon checks: free pages < LW
  - Begin swapping to disk until reaching the highwater mark
- High watermark (HW)
  - Target threshold of free memory pages
  - Daemon free until: free pages >= HW

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REPLACEMENT POLICIES



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CACHE MANAGEMENT

- Replacement policies apply to "any" cache
- Goal is to minimize the number of misses
- Average memory access time (AMAT) can be estimated:

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

Argument	Meaning
$T_M$	The cost of accessing memory (time)
$T_D$	The cost of accessing disk (time)
$P_{Hit}$	The probability of finding the data item in the cache(a hit)
$P_{Miss}$	The probability of not finding the data in the cache(a miss)

- Consider  $T_M = 100\text{ ns}$ ,  $T_D = 10\text{ms}$
- Consider  $P_{Hit} = .9\text{ (90\%)}$ ,  $P_{Miss} = .1$
- Consider  $P_{Hit} = .999\text{ (99.9\%)}$ ,  $P_{Miss} = .001$

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OPTIMAL REPLACEMENT POLICY

- What if:
  - We could predict the future (... with a magical oracle)
  - All future page accesses are known
  - Always replace the page in the cache used farthest in the future
- Used for a comparison
- Provides a "best case" replacement policy
- Consider a 3-element empty cache with the following page accesses:

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

What is the hit/miss ratio?  
6 hits

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FIFO REPLACEMENT

- Queue based
- Always replace the oldest element at the back of cache
- Simple to implement
- Doesn't consider importance... just arrival ordering
- Consider a 3-element empty cache with the following page accesses:

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

4 hits  
LRU Incorporates history

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RANDOM REPLACEMENT

- Pick a page at random to replace
- Simple and fast implementation
- Performance depends on luck of random choices

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

Random Performance over 10,000 Trials

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HISTORY-BASED POLICIES

- LRU: Least recently used
  - Always replace page with oldest access time (front)
  - Always move end of cache when element is read again
  - LRU requires constant reorganization of the cache
  - Considers temporal locality (when pg was last accessed)

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

What is the hit/miss ratio?  
6 hits

- LFU: Least frequently used
  - Always replace page with the fewest # of accesses (front)
  - Incorporates frequency of use - must track pg accesses
  - Consider frequency of page accesses

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

Hit/miss ratio is=6 hits

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Consider a 3-element cache. With a FIFO replacement policy, how many hits occur with the following page access sequence:

1 2 0 1 3 1 2 0 1 3

2 hits

3 hits

4 hits

5 hits

6 hits

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Consider a 3-element cache. With an LRU replacement policy, how many hits occur with the following page access sequence:  
1 2 0 1 3 1 2 0 1 3

2 hits

3 hits

4 hits

5 hits

6 hits

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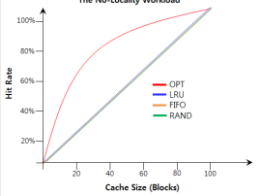
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WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: NO-LOCALITY

No-Locality (Random Access) Workload

- Perform 10,000 random page accesses
- Across set of 100 memory pages

The No-Locality Workload



When the cache is large enough to fit the entire workload, it doesn't matter which policy you use.

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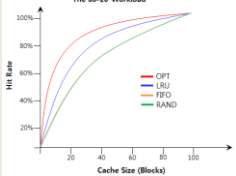
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WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: 80/20

80/20 Workload

- Perform 10,000 page accesses, against set of 100 pages
- 80% of accesses are to 20% of pages (hot pages)
- 20% of accesses are to 80% of pages (cold pages)

The 80-20 Workload



LRU is more likely to hold onto hot pages (recalls history)

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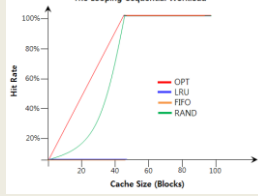
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WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: SEQUENTIAL

Looping sequential workload

- Refer to 50 pages in sequence: 0, 1, ..., 49
- Repeat loop

The Looping-Sequential Workload



Random performs better than FIFO and LRU for cache sizes < 50

Algorithms should provide "scan resistance"

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With small cache sizes, for the looping sequential workload, why do FIFO and LRU fail to provide cache hits?

Cache hits in this scenario require consideration of how frequently accessed memory is for cache replacement

Memory accesses are unpredictable and too random. Unpredictable accesses require a random cache replacement policy for cache hits

Memory accesses to elements that are accessed repeatedly are too spread apart temporally to benefit from caching

Unlike Random cache replacement, both FIFO and LRU fail to speculate memory accesses in advance to improve caching

None of the above

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IMPLEMENTING LRU

Implementing last recently used (LRU) requires tracking access time for all system memory pages

- Times can be tracked with a list
- For cache eviction, we must scan an entire list
- Consider: 4GB memory system ( $2^{32}$ ), with 4KB pages ( $2^{12}$ )

This requires  $2^{20}$  comparisons !!!

Simplification is needed

- Consider how to approximate the oldest page access

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IMPLEMENTING LRU - 2

- Harness the Page Table Entry (PTE) Use Bit
  - HW sets to 1 when page is used
  - OS sets to 0
- Clock algorithm (*approximate LRU*)
  - Refer to pages in a circular list
  - Clock hand points to current page
  - Loops around
    - IF USE\_BIT=1 set to USE\_BIT = 0
    - IF USE\_BIT=0 replace page



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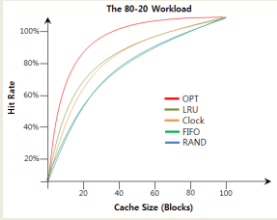
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CLOCK ALGORITHM

- Not as efficient as LRU, but better than other replacement algorithms that do not consider history





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CLOCK ALGORITHM - 2

- Consider dirty pages in cache
  - If DIRTY (modified) bit is FALSE
    - No cost to evict page from cache
  - If DIRTY (modified) bit is TRUE
    - Cache eviction requires updating memory
    - Contents have changed
- Clock algorithm should favor no cost eviction

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WHEN TO LOAD PAGES

- On demand → demand paging
- Prefetching
  - Preload pages based on anticipated demand
  - Prediction based on locality
  - Access page P, suggest page P+1 may be used
- What other techniques might help anticipate required memory pages?
  - Prediction models, historical analysis
  - In general: accuracy vs. effort tradeoff
  - High analysis techniques struggle to respond in real time

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OTHER SWAPPING POLICIES

- Page swaps / writes
  - Group/cluster pages together
  - Collect pending writes, perform as batch
  - Grouping disk writes helps amortize latency costs
- Thrashing
  - Occurs when system runs many memory intensive processes and is low in memory
  - Everything is constantly swapped to-and-from disk

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OTHER SWAPPING POLICIES - 2

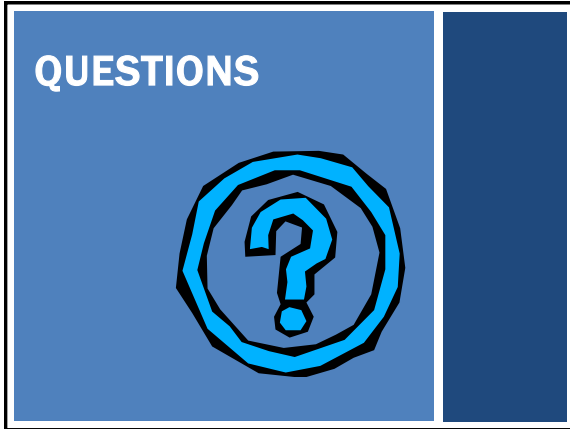
- Working sets
  - Groups of related processes
  - When thrashing: prevent one or more working set(s) from running
  - Temporarily reduces memory burden
  - Allows some processes to run, reduces thrashing

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