

FREE SPACE MANAGEMENT

How should free space be managed, when satisfying variable-sized requests?

What strategies can be used to minimize fragmentation?

What are the time and space overheads of alternate approaches?

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FRAGMENTATION

■ Consider a 30-byte heap

30-byte heap: free used free
0 10 20 30

■ Request for 15-bytes

free list: head → addr:0 len:10 → NULL

■ Free space: 20 bytes
■ No available contiguous chunk → return NULL

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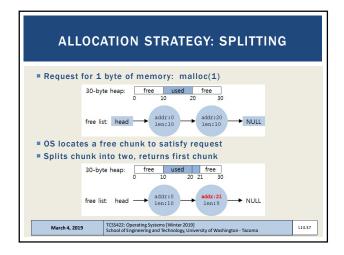
FRAGMENTATION - 2

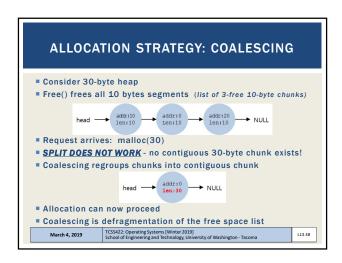
• External: OS can compact
• Example: Client asks for 100 bytes: malloc(100)
• OS: No 100 byte contiguous chunk is available: returns NULL
• Memory is externally fragmented - - Compaction can fix!
• Internal: Iost space - OS can't compact
• OS returns memory units that are too large
• Example: Client asks for 100 bytes: malloc(100)
• OS: Returns 125 byte chunk
• Fragmentation is *in* the allocated chunk
• Memory is lost, and unaccounted for - can't compact

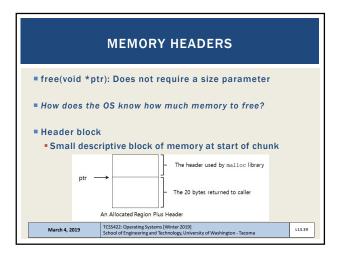
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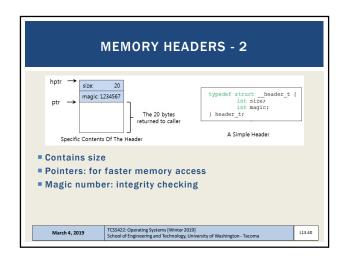
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MEMORY HEADERS - 3

Size of memory chunk is:
Header size + user malloc size
N bytes + sizeof(header)

Easy to determine address of header

void free (void *ptr) {
header_t *hptr = (void *)ptr - sizeof(header_t);
}

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THE FREE LIST

Simple free list struct

typedef struct __node_t {
    int size;
    struct __node_t *next;
} nodet_t;

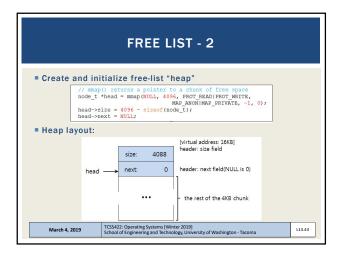
Use mmap to create free list

4kb heap, 4 byte header, one contiguous free chunk

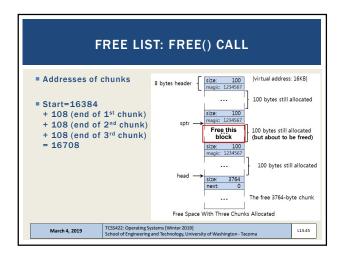
// mmap() returns a pointer to a chunk of free space
    node_t *head = mmap(NULL, 4096, PROT RRAD) PROT NRITE,
    head->size = 4096 - sizeof(node_t);
    head->next = NULL;

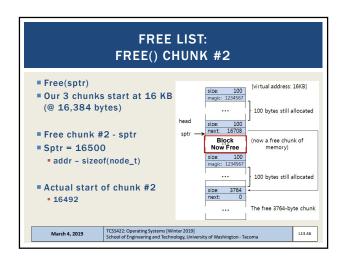
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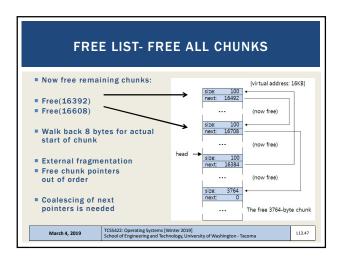
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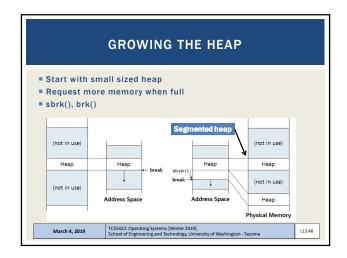


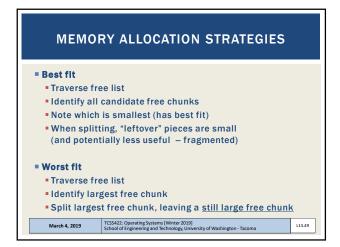


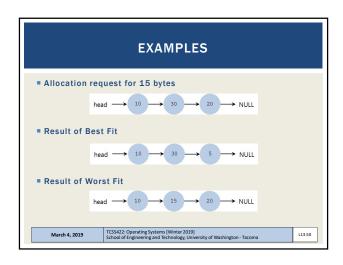












MEMORY ALLOCATION STRATEGIES - 2

First fit
 Start search at beginning of free list
 Find first chunk large enough for request
 Split chunk, returning a "fit" chunk, saving the remainder
 Avoids full free list traversal of best and worst fit

Next fit
 Similar to first fit, but start search at last search location
 Maintain a pointer that "cycles" through the list
 Helps balance chunk distribution vs. first fit
 Find first chunk, that is large enough for the request, and split
 Avoids full free list traversal

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SEGREGATED LISTS

For popular sized requests
e.g. for kernel objects such as locks, inodes, etc.

Manage as segregated free lists
Provide object caches: stores pre-initialized objects

How much memory should be dedicated for specialized requests (object caches)?

If a given cache is low in memory, can request "slabs" of memory from the general allocator for caches.
General allocator will reclaim slabs when not used

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BUDDY ALLOCATION

Binary buddy allocation
Divides free space by two to find a block that is big enough to accommodate the request; the next split is too small...
Consider a 7KB request

64 KB

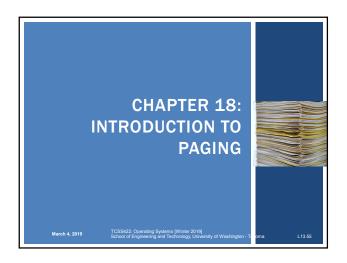
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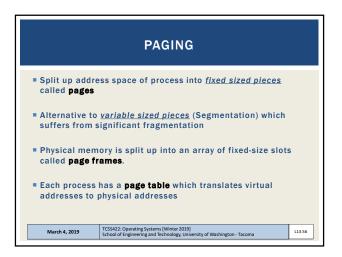
BUDDY ALLOCATION - 2

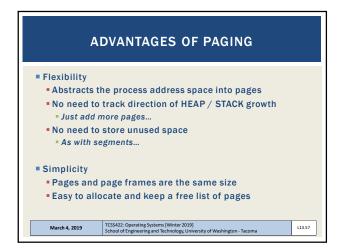
Buddy allocation: suffers from internal fragmentation

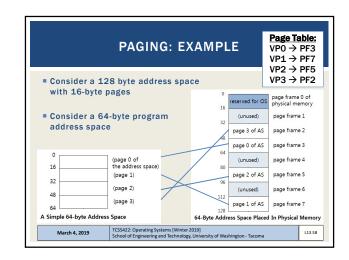
Allocated fragments, typically too large

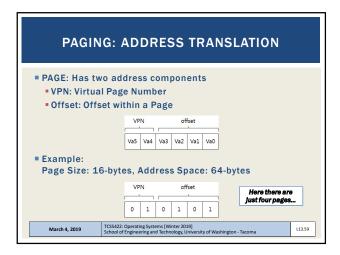
Coalescing is simple
Two adjacent blocks are promoted up

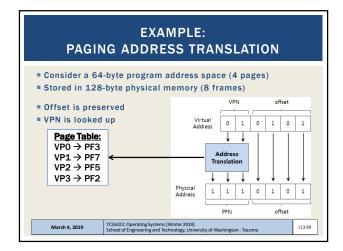


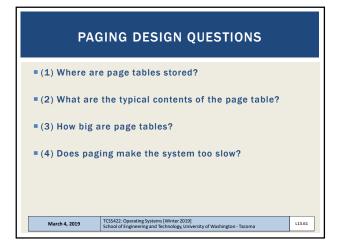


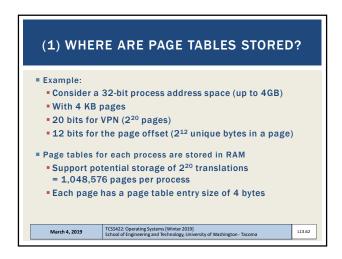




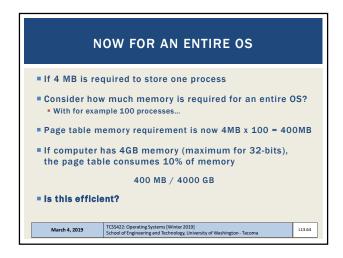








PAGE TABLE EXAMPLE With 2²⁰ slots in our page table for a single process ■ Each slot dereferences a VPN VPN₁ Provides physical frame number VPN₂ ■ Each slot requires 4 bytes (32 bits) 20 for the PFN on a 4GB system with 4KB pages 12 for the offset which is preserved VPN₁₀₄₈₅₇₆ (note we have no status bits, so this is unrealistically small) How much memory to store page table for 1 process? 4,194,304 bytes (or 4MB) to index one process TCSS422: Operating Systems [Winter 2019] School of Engineering and Technology, University of Washington - Tacoma March 4, 2019 L13.63



(2) WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THE PAGE TABLE

■ Page table is data structure used to map virtual page numbers (VPN) to the physical address (Physical Frame Number PFN)
■ Linear page table ⇒ simple array

■ Page-table entry
■ 32 bits for capturing state

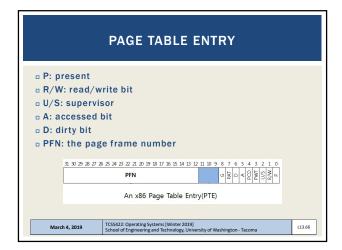
31 30 29 28 77 26 52 44 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 4 3 2 1 0

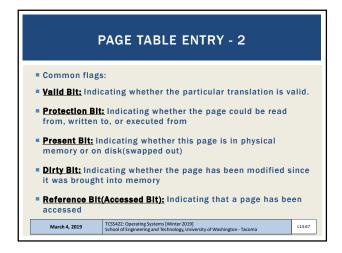
PFN

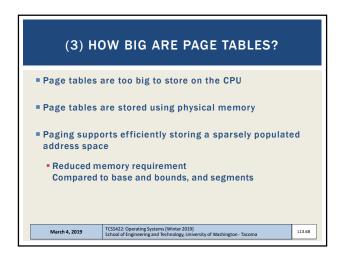
An x86 Page Table Entry(PTE)

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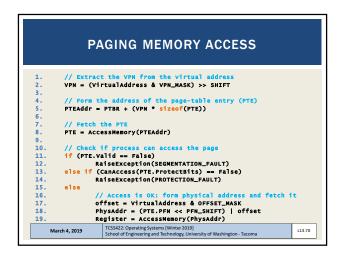
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(4) DOES PAGING MAKE
             THE SYSTEM TOO SLOW?
■ Translation
■ Issue #1: Starting location of the page table is
 needed
                                                       Page Table:
  HW Support: Page-table base register
                                                       VPO \rightarrow PF3
    stores active process
                                                       VP1 \rightarrow PF7
    Facilitates translation
                                    Stored in RAM → VP2 → Fr 5 VP3 → PF2
■ Issue #2: Each memory address translation for paging
 requires an extra memory reference
  HW Support: TLBs (Chapter 19)
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COUNTING MEMORY ACCESSES

Example: Use this Array initialization Code

int array[1000];
...
for (i = 0; i < 1000; i++)
array[i] = 0;

Assembly equivalent:

0x1024 mov1 50x0, (tedi, %eax, 4)
0x1024 mov1 50x0, (tedi, %eax, 4)
0x102c cmp1 $0x03e8, %eax
0x102c cmp1 $0x03e8, %eax
0x1030 jne 0x1024

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