CS 45: Operating Systems

CLab 8: segmentation & paging

Write your answers in `README.md`. Create a `COLLAB.md` file to keep track of any outside resources you might use. Be sure to push to the repo after class (even if you are not done).

1 Segmentation

Use `segmentation.py` (in `ostep-homework/`) to see if you understand how segmentation-based daddress translation works.

1. First let's use a tiny address space to translate some addresses. Here's a simple set of parameters with a few different random seeds; can you translate the addresses?

```
segmentation.py -a 128 -p 512 -b 0 -l 20 -B 512 -L 20 -s 0
segmentation.py -a 128 -p 512 -b 0 -l 20 -B 512 -L 20 -s 1
segmentation.py -a 128 -p 512 -b 0 -l 20 -B 512 -L 20 -s 2
```

2. Now, let's see if we understand this tiny address space we've constructed (using the parameters from the question above). What is the highest legal virtual address in segment 0? What about the lowest legal virtual address in segment 1? What are the lowest and highest *illegal* addresses in this entire address space? Finally, how would you run `segmentation.py` with the `-A` flag to test if you are right?

3. Let's say we have a tiny 16-byte address space in a 128-byte physical memory. What base and bounds would you set up so as to get the simulator to generate the following translation results for the specified address stream: valid, valid, violation, ..., violation, valid, valid? Assume the following parameters:

```
segmentation.py -a 16 -p 128 -A 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
--b0 ? --l0 ? --b1 ? --l1 ?
```

4. Assume we want to generate a problem where roughly 90% of the randomly-generated virtual addresses are valid (not segmentation violations). How should you configure the simulator to do so? Which parameters are important to getting this outcome?

5. Can you run the simulator such that no virtual addresses are valid? How?

2 Paging

Use `paging-linear-translate.py` (in `ostep-homework/`) to see if you understand how simple virtual-to-physical address translation works with linear page tables.

1. Before doing any translations, let's use the simulator to study how linear page tables change size given different parameters. Compute the size of linear page tables as different parameters change. Some suggested inputs are below; by using the `-v` flag, you can see how many page-table entries are filled. First, to understand how linear page table size changes as the address space grows, run with these flags:

```
-P 1k -a 1m -p 512m -v -n 0
-P 1k -a 2m -p 512m -v -n 0
-P 1k -a 4m -p 512m -v -n 0
```

Then, to understand how linear page table size changes as page size grows:

```
-P 1k -a 1m -p 512m -v -n 0
-P 2k -a 1m -p 512m -v -n 0
-P 4k -a 1m -p 512m -v -n 0
```

Before running any of these, try to think about the expected trends. How should page-table size change as the address space grows? As the page size grows? Why not use big pages in general?

2. Now let's do some translations. Start with some small examples, and change the number of pages that are allocated to the address space with the `-u` flag. For example:

```
-P 1k -a 16k -p 32k -v -u 0
-P 1k -a 16k -p 32k -v -u 25
-P 1k -a 16k -p 32k -v -u 50
-P 1k -a 16k -p 32k -v -u 75
-P 1k -a 16k -p 32k -v -u 100
```

What happens as you increase the percentage of pages that are allocated in each address space?

3. Now let's try some different random seeds, and some different (and sometimes quite crazy) address-space parameters, for variety:

```
-P 8 -a 32 -p 1024 -v -s 1
-P 8k -a 32k -p 1m -v -s 2
-P 1m -a 256m -p 512m -v -s 3
```

Which of these parameter combinations are unrealistic? Why?

4. Use the program to try out some other problems. Can you find the limits of where the program doesn't work anymore? For example, what happens if the address-space size is *bigger* than physical memory?

3 Multi-level Paging

Use `paging-multilevel-translate.py`, (in `ostep-homework/`) to see if you understand how multi-level pag tables work.

1. Use the simulator to perform translations given random seeds 0, 1, and 2, and check your answers using the `-c` flag. How many memory references are needed to perform each lookup?
2. Given your understanding of how cache memory works, how do you think memory references to the page table will behave in the cache? Will they lead to lots of cache hits (and thus fast accesses?) Or lots of misses (and thus slow accesses)