

# Chapter 8: Main Memory



(slides selected/reordered/fixd by R. Doemer, 01/26/09)



## Chapter 8: Memory Management

- Background
- Contiguous Memory Allocation
- Swapping
- Paging
- Structure of the Page Table
- Segmentation
- Example: The Intel Pentium

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## Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run
- Main memory and registers are only storage CPU can access directly
- Register access in one CPU clock (or less)
- Main memory can take many cycles
- **Cache** sits between main memory and CPU registers
- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation



## Contiguous Allocation

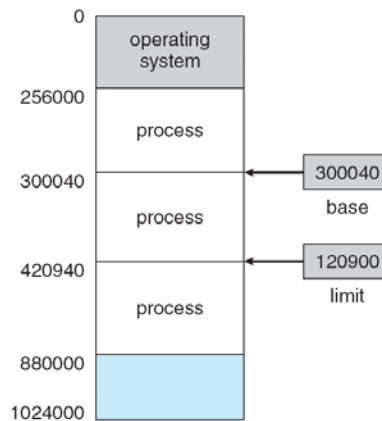
- Main memory is usually divided into two partitions:
  - Resident operating system, usually held in low memory with interrupt vector
  - User processes then held in high memory
- Relocation registers are used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data
  - Base register contains value of smallest physical address
  - Limit register contains range of logical addresses – each logical address must be less than the limit register
  - MMU maps logical address to physical address *dynamically*



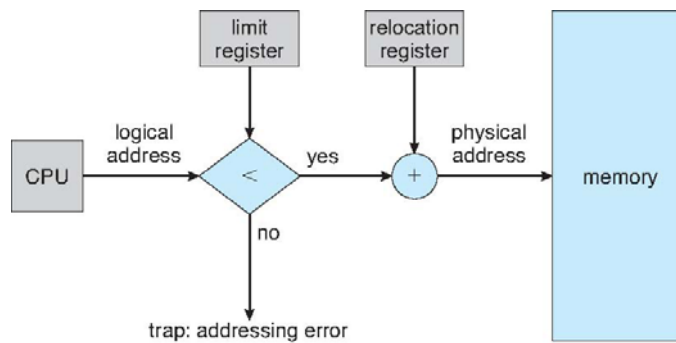


## Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base** and **limit** registers define the logical address space



## Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers





## Logical vs. Physical Address Space

- The concept of a logical address space that is bound to a separate **physical address space** is central to proper memory management
  - **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
  - **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit
- Logical and physical addresses are the same in compile-time and load-time address-binding schemes; logical (virtual) and physical addresses differ in execution-time address-binding scheme



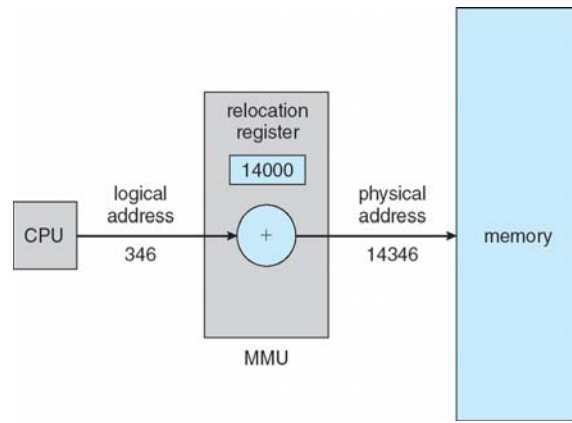
## Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

- Hardware device that maps virtual to physical address
- In MMU scheme, the value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory
- The user program deals with *logical* addresses; it never sees the *real* physical addresses



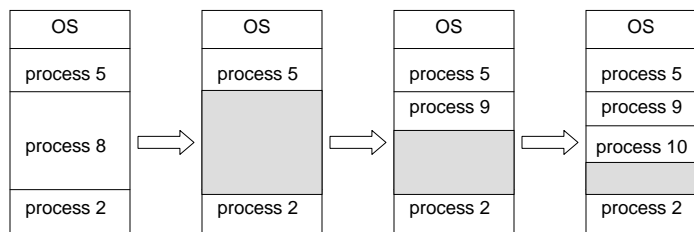


## Dynamic relocation using a relocation register



## Contiguous Allocation (Cont)

- Multiple-partition allocation
  - Hole – block of available memory; holes of various size are scattered throughout memory
  - When a process arrives, it is allocated memory from a hole large enough to accommodate it
  - Operating system maintains information about:
    - a) allocated partitions
    - b) free partitions (hole)





## Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

How to satisfy a request of size  $n$  from a list of free holes

- **First-fit:** Allocate the *first* hole that is big enough
- **Best-fit:** Allocate the *smallest* hole that is big enough; must search entire list, unless ordered by size
  - Produces the smallest leftover hole
- **Worst-fit:** Allocate the *largest* hole; must also search entire list
  - Produces the largest leftover hole

First-fit and best-fit better than worst-fit in terms of speed and storage utilization



## Fragmentation

- **External Fragmentation** – total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous
- **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used
- Reduce external fragmentation by **compaction**
  - Shuffle memory contents to place all free memory together in one large block
  - Compaction is possible *only* if relocation is dynamic, and is done at execution time
  - I/O problem
    - Latch job in memory while it is involved in I/O
    - Do I/O only into OS buffers



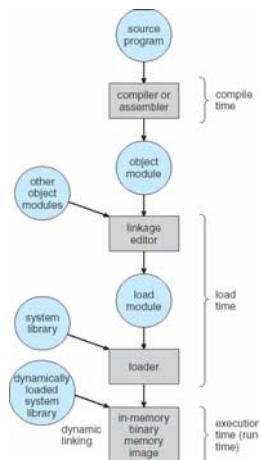


## Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

- Address binding of instructions and data to memory addresses can happen at three different stages
  - **Compile time:** If memory location known a priori, **absolute code** can be generated; must recompile code if starting location changes
  - **Load time:** Must generate **relocatable code** if memory location is not known at compile time
  - **Execution time:** Binding delayed until run time if the process can be moved during its execution from one memory segment to another. Need hardware support for address maps (e.g., base and limit registers)



## Multistep Processing of a User Program





## Dynamic Linking

- Linking postponed until execution time
- Small piece of code, *stub*, used to locate the appropriate memory-resident library routine
- Stub replaces itself with the address of the routine, and executes the routine
- Operating system needed to check if routine is in processes' memory address
- Dynamic linking is particularly useful for libraries
- System also known as **shared libraries**



## Swapping

- A process can be swapped temporarily out of memory to a backing store, and then brought back into memory for continued execution
- **Backing store** – fast disk large enough to accommodate copies of all memory images for all users; must provide direct access to these memory images
- **Roll out, roll in** – swapping variant used for priority-based scheduling algorithms; lower-priority process is swapped out so higher-priority process can be loaded and executed
- Major part of swap time is transfer time; total transfer time is directly proportional to the amount of memory swapped
- Modified versions of swapping are found on many systems (i.e., UNIX, Linux, and Windows)
- System maintains a **ready queue** of ready-to-run processes which have memory images in main memory







## Schematic View of Swapping

