Memory Management Part 3
Unix and Virtual Memory: The *fork/exec* Problem

- Naive implementation:
  - *fork* actually makes a copy of the parent’s address space for the child
  - child executes a few instructions (setting up file descriptors, etc.)
  - child calls *exec*
  - result: a lot of time wasted copying the address space, though very little of the copy is actually used
vfork

- Don’t make a copy of the address space for the child; instead, give the address space to the child
  - the parent is suspended until the child returns it
- The child executes a few instructions, then does an exec
  - as part of the exec, the address space is handed back to the parent

- Advantages
  - very efficient

- Disadvantages
  - works only if child does an exec
  - child shouldn’t do anything to the address space
A Better \textit{fork}

- Parent and child share the pages comprising their address spaces
  - if either party attempts to modify a page, the modifying process gets a copy of just that page

- Advantages
  - semantically equivalent to the original \textit{fork}
  - usually faster than the original \textit{fork}

- Disadvantages
  - slower than \textit{vfork}
Lazy Evaluation

• Always put things off as long as possible

• If you wait long enough, you might not have to do them
Copy on Write (1)

L1 Page Table -> L2 Page Tables -> Pages -> L2 Page Tables -> L1 Page Table
Copy on Write (2)

Data = 17;
The \textit{mmap} System Call
Share-Mapped Files

Data = 17;
Private-Mapped Files

L1 Page Table \rightarrow L2 Page Tables \rightarrow File Pages \rightarrow L2 Page Tables \rightarrow L1 Page Table

Data = 17;
A Private-Mapped File Changes

Data = 17;

OtherData = 6;
Virtual Copy

• Local RPC
  – “copy” arguments from one process to another
    - assume arguments are page-aligned and page-sized
    - map pages into both caller and callee, copy-on-write
Share Mapping (1)

Process A has share mapped the file object.
Share Mapping (2)

Process A has share-mapped the file object.
A forks, creating B.

Share-mapped file object
Private Mapping (1)

Process A

A modifies page $x$.

Shadow object

Private-mapped file object

$\begin{array}{c}
x \\
y \\
z \\
\end{array}$
Private Mapping (2)

A modifies page x.
A forks, creating B.
A modifies page z.
B modifies page y.
Private Mapping (3)

A modifies page x.
A forks, creating B.
A modifies page z.
B modifies page y.
B forks, creating C.
B modifies page x.
C modifies page z.
Share and Private Mapping

A virtual copies $x$, $y$, and $z$ into B. B modifies $y$. A modifies $x$. 
Quiz!

- Unix process X has private-mapped a file into its address space. Our system has one-byte pages and the file consists of four pages. The pages are mapped into locations 100 through 103. The initial values of these pages are all zeroes.
- X stores a 1 into location 100
- X forks, creating process Y
- X stores a 1 into location 101
- Y stores a 2 into location 102
- Y forks, creating process Z
- X stores 111 into location 100
- Y stores 222 into location 103
- Z sums the contents of locations 100, 101, and 102, and stores them into location 103
- What value did Z store into 103?
Answer

3
Fork Bomb!

```c
int main() {
    while (1) {
        if (fork() == 0)
            exit(0);
    }
    return 0;
}

int main() {
    while (1) {
        if (fork() > 0)
            exit(0);
    }
    return 0;
}
```
Private Mapping (Continued)

Process A

Process B

Process C

Process B exits
Process A exits
The Backing Store

Page Frames

File System

Disk

??
Backing Up Pages (1)

• Read-only mapping of a file (e.g. text)
  – pages come from the file, but, since they are never modified, they never need to be written back

• Read-write shared mapping of a file (e.g. via `mmap` system call)
  – pages come from the file, modified pages are written back to the file
Back to:  

Back up:  

• Read-write private mapping of a file (e.g. the data section as well as memory mapped private by the `mmap` system call)  
  – pages come from the file, but modified pages, associated with shadow objects, must be backed up in swap space  
• Anonymous memory (e.g. bss, stack, and shared memory)  
  – pages are created as zero fill on demand; they must be backed up in swap space
Swap Space

• Space management possibilities
  – radical-conservative approach: pre-allocation
    - backing-store space is allocated when virtual memory is allocated
    - page outs always succeed
    - might need to have much more backing store than needed
  – radical-liberal approach: lazy evaluation
    - backing-store space is allocated only when needed
    - page outs could fail because of no space
    - can get by with minimal backing-store space
Space Allocation in Linux

- Total memory = primary + swap space
- System-wide parameter: `overcommit_memory`
  - three possibilities
    - maybe (default)
    - always
    - never
- `mmap` has MAP_NORESERVE flag
  - don’t worry about over-committing
Space Allocation in Windows

• Space reservation
  – allocation of virtual memory
• Space commitment
  – reservation of physical resources
    - paging space + physical memory
• `MapViewOfFile` (sort of like `mmap`)
  – no over-commitment
• Thread creation
  – creator specifies both reservation and commitment for stack pages