Operating Systems
Practical Coursework 2

Tom Spink
tspink@inf.ed.ac.uk

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Task 1 was to implement a round-robin scheduler
Answer!
Coursework Task 1

Notes:

- UniqueIRQLock
- OS-X SSH X forwarding – Mac sends Mac scan codes
- Other
Coursework Task 1

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Task 2

Buddy Memory Allocator
Due: Thursday 8th March, 2018 @ 4PM GMT
Worth 50 marks
Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- Two types of memory allocators in InfOS:
  - Page Allocator
  - Object Allocator
- InfOS has an interface for physical memory allocation called the page allocation algorithm
- Your job is to implement this interface, by creating a buddy memory allocator
Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- (mm/mm.cpp)
- mm/page-allocator.cpp
- mm/simple-page-alloc.cpp
  - Simple, and inefficient, linear scan.
  - Does not use the next_free pointer.
- include/infos/mm/page-allocator.h
  - Contains PageDescriptor structure.
  - You do not (and should not) modify the type field.
Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- Provided skeleton is `buddy.cpp`
- You are given these useful methods:
  - `insert_block`
  - `remove_block`
- Implement these six methods:
  - `split_block` (helper)
  - `merge_block` (helper)
  - `alloc_pages`
  - `free_pages`
  - `reserve_page`
  - `init`
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Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- Page allocator returns page descriptors NOT pointers.
- One page descriptor for every physical page.
- Page descriptors held in a contiguous array.
- Page descriptors in the array have a one-to-one mapping to contiguous physical pages.
- If you have a pointer to a page descriptor, then advancing the pointer moves to the next page descriptor, and hence the next physical page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRAY INDEX</th>
<th>PAGE DESCRIPTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>DESCRIPTOR FOR 0x00000000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DESCRIPTOR FOR 0x00001000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DESCRIPTOR FOR 0x00002000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DESCRIPTOR FOR 0x00003000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>DESCRIPTOR FOR N * 0x1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diagram:
- Array index
  - 0: PAGE 0x0000
  - 1: PAGE 0x1000
  - 2: PAGE 0x2000
  - N: PAGE 0x0000
  - PAGE 0x0000
  - PAGE 0x1000
  - PAGE 0x2000
  - PAGE 0x3000

Tom Spink tspink@inf.ed.ac.uk School of Informatics
Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- Page Descriptor structure contains a `next_free` pointer.
- Use this to build linked-lists.
- You **cannot** use the `List<>` or `Map<>` containers, and you **cannot** allocate memory.
alloc_pages

- Allocates by order, not by size or count.
- **Always** returns contiguous pages, by returning first page descriptor in a sequence.
- Order 0 allocation means $2^0 = 1$ pages.
- Order 4 allocation means $2^4 = 16$ pages.
- Use `split_block` here.
Counter-part to alloc_pages
Frees by order, not by size or count.
Always frees contiguous pages, by accepting first page descriptor in a sequence.
Use merge_block here.
• Called by the kernel to mark a **specific** page as allocated.
• Your allocator sees the entire physical memory as one big blob.
• Therefore, your allocator must be told which pages contain the kernel, so you do not allocate those pages!
• Accepts a **single** page descriptor, you must remove it from your free lists (following the buddy algorithm)
• Use `split_block` here.
• Your opportunity to initialise the free lists.
Task 2: Buddy Memory Allocator

- Test by using the `build-and-run.sh` script
  - `./build-and-run.sh pgalloc.algorithm=buddy`
- If your implementation is broken, it's likely that the system will hang.
  - Although you could get away with not implementing `free_pages`, the self-test will fail if this doesn't work.
- Use the **self-test mode** to test the memory allocator.
  - `./build-and-run.sh pgalloc.algorithm=buddy pgalloc.self-test=1`
- There are no shell test commands, but being able to run any command in the shell is a **good** indication that your allocator is working.
- Modify the skeleton however you want, but you should only need to implement the six functions (technically four if you don’t want to implement the helpers).
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notice: mm: PAGE ALLOCATOR SELF TEST - BEGIN
notice: mm: ------------------------
info: mm: * INITIAL STATE
debug: mm: BUDDY STATE:
debug: mm: [0]
debug: mm: [1]
debug: mm: [2]
debug: mm: [3]
debug: mm: [4]
debug: mm: [5]
debug: mm: [6]
debug: mm: [7]
debug: mm: [8]
debug: mm: [9]
debug: mm: [10]
debug: mm: [11]
debug: mm: [12]
debug: mm: [13]
debug: mm: [14]
debug: mm: [15]
debug: mm: [16] 0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000 70000 80000 90000 a0000 b0000 c0000 d0000 e0000 f0000 100000 110000 120000 130000 140000
Self-test Output

info: mm: ------------------------
info: mm: (1) ALLOCATING ONE PAGE
info: mm: ALLOCATED PFN: 0x0
debug: mm: BUDDY STATE:
debug: mm: [0] 1
debug: mm: [1] 2
debug: mm: [2] 4
debug: mm: [3] 8
debug: mm: [4] 10
debug: mm: [5] 20
debug: mm: [6] 40
debug: mm: [7] 80
debug: mm: [8] 100
debug: mm: [9] 200
debug: mm: [10] 400
debug: mm: [11] 800
debug: mm: [12] 1000
debug: mm: [14] 4000
debug: mm: [15] 8000
debug: mm: [16] 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000 70000 80000 90000 a0000 b0000 c0000 d0000 e0000 f0000 100000 110000 120000 130000 140000
Questions/Clarifications?