

Problem Set 4

Due Sunday February 26, 11:59pm

1. Suppose in xv6 user code, I call a procedure `foo`, with a large automatic variable. What happens and why? What if the size of the automatic is much larger? What if the code is in the xv6 kernel? What happens and why?

```
void foo() {  
    int big[2000];  
  
    big[1500] = 0xBEEF;  
}
```

2. Improve your `mmap` code to allow multiple processes to map the same file at the same time, and to work when a process forks (both child and parent have access to the `mmap`'ed region. Hint: memory for a mapped file should only be reclaimed when all processes have unmapped it.

3. Add copy on write for processes sharing memory. The UNIX `fork/exec` mechanism seems inefficient – first, make a copy of the address space, and then throw that copy away during `exec`. An efficient UNIX `fork` is possible, however, by supporting copy on write (see sidebar in OSPP p. 381). The `fork` makes a copy of the address space page table, marking every page as read-only in both the parent and child, and then resumes execution. When either the parent or the child modifies the page, a page fault occurs and the kernel can fill in the missing page.