

Midterm Exam #2 Sample Questions

5. In class, we discussed copy-on-write for memory pages shared among multiple processes. We cannot apply this same concept blindly to process creation using Unix `fork()`, but instead are forced to copy some parts immediately while other parts can be delayed.
 - a. Knowing the components of general processes, which parts must be copied immediately, and which parts can be delayed and copied-on-write?

 - b. Why is copy-on-write potentially better than copying the entire process immediately upon creation?

6. Briefly describe the steps taken to read a block of data from the disk to the memory using DMA controlled I/O.

7. Explain what is symbolic link and list at least two of its drawbacks.