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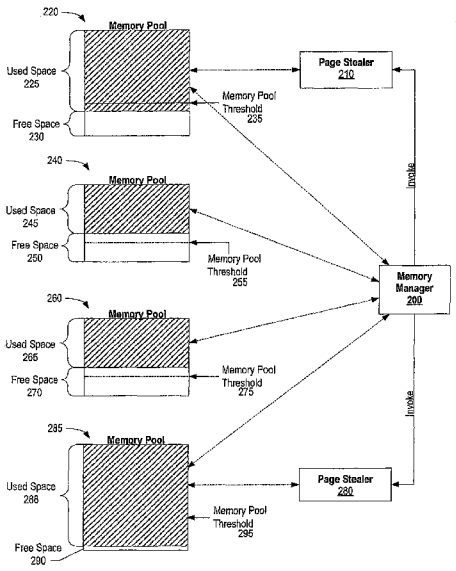
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PREFERRED MEMORY AFFINITY



(57) **Abstract:** Memory is freed from individual pools of memory in response to a threshold being reached that corresponds with the individual memory pools. The collective memory pools form a system wide memory pool that is accessible from multiple processors. When a threshold is reached for an individual memory pool, a page stealer method is performed to free memory from the corresponding memory pool. Remote memory is used to store data if the page stealer is unable to free pages fast enough to accommodate the application's data needs. Memory subsequently freed from the local memory area is once again used to satisfy the memory needs for the application. In one embodiment, memory affinity can be set on an individual application basis so that affinity is maintained between the memory pools local to the processors running the application.

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