Linux Performance Analysis
New Tools and Old Secrets

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Porting these to Linux...
• Massive Amazon EC2 Linux cloud
  – Tens of thousands of instances
  – Autoscale by ~3k each day
  – CentOS and Ubuntu

• FreeBSD for content delivery
  – Approx 33% of US Internet traffic at night

• Performance is critical
  – Customer satisfaction: >50M subscribers
  – $$$ price/performance
  – Develop tools for cloud-wide analysis; use server tools as needed
Brendan Gregg

• Senior Performance Architect, Netflix
  – Linux and FreeBSD performance
  – Performance Engineering team (@coburnw)

• Recent work:
  – Linux perf-tools: ftrace & perf_events
  – Testing of other tracers: eBPF

• Previously:
  – Performance of Linux, Solaris, ZFS, DBs, TCP/IP, hypervisors, …
  – Flame graphs, heat maps, methodologies, DTrace tools, DTraceToolkit
Agenda

1. Some one-liners
2. Background
3. Technology
4. Tools
1. Some one-liners

(cut to the chase!)
tpoint for disk I/O

• Who is creating disk I/O, and of what type?

```plaintext
# ./tpoint -H block:block_rq_insert
Tracing block:block_rq_insert. Ctrl-C to end.
# tracer: nop
#

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK-PID</th>
<th>CPU#</th>
<th>TIMESTAMP</th>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>flush-9:0-9318 [013]</td>
<td>1936182.007939:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,16 W 0 () 280100936 + 8 [flush-9:0]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>java-9469 [014]</td>
<td>1936182.316184:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 1319592 + 72 [java]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>java-9469 [000]</td>
<td>1936182.331270:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 1125744 + 8 [java]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>java-9469 [000]</td>
<td>1936182.341418:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 2699008 + 88 [java]</td>
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<tr>
<td>java-9469 [000]</td>
<td>1936182.341419:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 2699096 + 88 [java]</td>
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<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 2699184 + 32 [java]</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1936182.345870:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 1320304 + 24 [java]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>java-9469 [000]</td>
<td>1936182.345870:</td>
<td>block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 1716848 + 16 [java]</td>
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^C
Ending tracing...
```

• tpoint traces a given tracepoint. -H prints the header.
tpoint for disk I/O

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<th>FUNCTION</th>
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<th>offset</th>
<th>size (sectors)</th>
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</table>
^C
Ending tracing...
```

• tpoint traces a given tracepoint. -H prints the header.
• 1,257 tracepoints for this Linux kernel
# ./tpoint -h

**USAGE:**


tpoint -l

   -d seconds       # trace duration, and use buffers
   -p PID           # PID to match on I/O issue
   -v               # view format file (don't trace)
   -H               # include column headers
   -l               # list all tracepoints
   -s               # show kernel stack traces
   -h               # this usage message

**eg,**

tpoint -l | grep open  # find tracepoints containing "open"
tpoint syscall:sys_enter_open # trace open() syscall entry

tpoint block:block_rq_issue
   # trace block I/O issue

tpoint -s block:block_rq_issue
   # show kernel stacks

See the man page and example file for more info.
Some tpoint One-Liners

# List tracepoints
tpoint -l

# Show usage message
tpoint -h

# Trace disk I/O device issue with details:
tpoint block:block_rq_issue

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion with details:
tpoint block:block_rq_insert

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion with details, and include header:
tpoint -H block:block_rq_insert

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion, with kernel stack trace:
tpoint -s block:block_rq_insert

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion, for reads only:
tpoint -s block:block_rq_insert 'rwbs = "*R*"

# Trace 1,000 disk I/O device issues:
tpoint block:block_rq_issue | head -1000
DEMO
One-Liners

• Useful
  – Keep a collection, copy-n-paste when needed

• Instructive
  – Teaches tool usage by-example
  – Can also show what use cases are most useful

• Intuitive
  – Follows Unix/POSIX/IEEE traditions/standards
  – getopt, -h for help, Ctrl-C to end, etc.

• Competitive
  – Why this tool? Demonstrate key, competitive, features.
DTrace One-Liners (Wikipedia)

Command line examples [edit]

DTrace scripts can be invoked directly from the command line, providing one or more probes and actions as arguments. Some examples:

```bash
# New processes with arguments
dtrace -n 'proc:::exec-success { trace(curpsinfo->pr_psargs); }'

# Files opened by process
dtrace -n 'syscall::open*:entry { printf("%s %s",execname,copyinstr(arg0)); }'

# Syscall count by program
dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @num[execname] = count(); }'

# Syscall count by syscall
dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @num[probefunc] = count(); }'

# Syscall count by process
dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @num[pid,execname] = count(); }'

# Disk size by process
dtrace -n 'io:::start { printf("%d %s %d",pid,execname,args[0]->b_tcbcount); }'

# Pages paged in by process
dtrace -n 'vminfo:::pgpgin { @pg[execname] = sum(arg0); }'
```
DTrace One-Liners (Wikipedia)

• Good examples: Useful, Instructive, Intuitive
• Taken from a longer list:
  – (I wish they'd have included latency quantize as well)
• And, competitive
  – Linux couldn't do these in 2005
Linux One-Liners

• Porting them to Linux:

```bash
# New processes with arguments
execsnoop

# Files opened by process
opensnoop

# Syscall count by program
syscount

# Syscall count by syscall
funcount 'sys_*'

# Syscall count by process
syscount -v

# Disk size by process
iosnoop -Q

# Pages paged in by process
iosnoop -Qi '*R*'
These Linux one-liners (and tpoint) are from my collection of Linux performance analysis tools
  - https://github.com/brendangregg/perf-tools

New tools for old Linux secrets
  - Designed to work on 3.2+ kernels
  - Uses ftrace & perf_events, which have existed for years
2. Background
Background

• Linux tracing is:
  1. ftrace
  2. perf_events (perf)
  3. eBPF
  4. SystemTap
  5. ktap
  6. LTTng
  7. dtrace4linux
  8. Oracle Linux DTrace
  9. sysdig

• Understanding these is time consuming & complex
  – May be best told through personal experience...
Personal Experience

• Became a systems performance expert
  – Understood tools, metrics, inference, interpretation, OS internals
• Became a DTrace expert (2005)
  – Wrote scripts, books, blogs, courses
  – Helped Sun compete with Linux
• Began analyzing Linux perf (2011)
  – Tried SystemTap, dtrace4linux, ktap, …
  – Limited success, much pain & confusion
• Switched to Linux (2014)
  – And expected it to be hell (bring it on!)
The one that got away…

• Early on at Netflix, I had a disk I/O issue
  – Only 5 minutes to debug, then load is migrated
  – Collected iostat/sar, but needed a trace
    • No time to install any tracers (system was too slow)
  – Failed to solve the issue. Furious at Linux and myself.
  – Noticed the system did have this thing called ftrace…

• Ftrace?
  – Part of the Linux kernel
  – /sys interface for static and dynamic tracing
  – Already enabled on all our Linux 3.2 & 3.13 servers
WHY AM I NOT USING FTRACE ALREADY?

WHY IS NO ONE USING FTRACE ALREADY?
Linux Secrets

• Re-focused on what Linux already has in-tree
  – ftrace & perf_events
  – These seem to be well-kept secrets: no marketing

• Clears up some confusion (and pain)
  – Instead of comparing 9 tracing options, it’s now:
    1. In-tree tools (currently: ftrace, perf_events)
    2. Everything else
  – Works for us; you may prefer picking one tracer

• Many of our tracing needs can now be met
  – Linux has been closing the tracing gap
    It’s not 2005 anymore
A Tracing Timeline

- 1990’s: Static tracers, prototype dynamic tracers
- 2004: Linux kprobes (2.6.9)
  - Dynamic kernel tracing, difficult interface
- 2005: Solaris DTrace (s10)
  - Static & dynamic tracing, user & kernel level, production ready, easy to use, far better than anything of the time, and, marketed
- 2008: Linux ftrace (2.6.27)
- 2009: Linux perf (2.6.31)
- 2009: Linux tracepoints (2.6.32)
  - Static kernel tracing
- 2010-2014: ftrace & perf_events enhancements
- 2014: eBPF patches
  - Fast (JIT’d) in kernel aggregations and programs
3. Technology
Tracing Sources

- Linux provides three tracing sources
  - **tracepoints**: kernel static tracing
  - **kprobes**: kernel dynamic tracing
  - **uprobes**: user-level dynamic tracing
Tracepoints

- Statically placed at logical places in the kernel
- Provides key event details as a “format” string
  - more on this later…
Probes

- **kprobes**: dynamic kernel tracing
  - function calls, returns, line numbers
- **uprobes**: dynamic user-level tracing
Tracers

- Tracing sources are used by the tracers
  - **In-tree**: ftrace, perf_events, eBPF (soon?)
  - **Out-of-tree**: SystemTap, ktap, LTTng, dtrace4linux, Oracle Linux DTrace, sysdig
ftrace

• A collection of tracing capabilities
  – Tracing, counting, graphing (latencies), filters
  – Uses tracepoints, kprobes
  – Not programmable (yet)

• Use via /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/…
  – Or use via front-end tools

• Added by Steven Rostedt and others since 2.6.27
  – Out of necessity for Steven’s real time work

• Can solve many perf issues
ftrace Interface

• Static tracing of block_rq_insert tracepoint

```
# cd /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
# echo 1 > events/block/block_rq_insert/enable
# cat trace_pipe
# echo 0 > events/block/block_rq_insert/enable
```

• Dynamic function tracing of tcp_retransmit_skb():

```
# cd /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
# echo tcp_retransmit_skb > set_ftrace_filter
# echo function > current_tracer
# cat trace_pipe
# echo nop > current_tracer
# echo > set_ftrace_filter
```

• Available tracing capabilities:

```
# cat available_tracers
blk function_graph mmiotrace wakeup_rt wakeup function nop
```
I Am SysAdmin (And So Can You!)

• What would a sysadmin do?

```
# cd /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
# echo tcp_retransmit_skb > set_ftrace_filter
# echo function > current_tracer
# cat trace_pipe
# echo nop > current_tracer
# echo > set_ftrace_filter
```

• Automate:

```
# functrace tcp_retransmit_skb
```

• Document:

```
# man functrace
[...]
SYNOPSIS
    functrace [-hH] [-p PID] [-d secs] funcstring
[...]
```
ftrace Interface

- Plus many more capabilities
  - buffered (trace) or live tracing (trace_pipe)
  - filters for conditional tracing
  - stack traces on events
  - function triggers to enable/disable tracing
  - functions with arguments (via kprobes)

- See Documentation/trace/ftrace.txt
perf_events

• Use via the “perf” command
• Add from linux-tools-common, …
  – Source code is in Linux: tools/perf
• Powerful multi-tool and profiler
  – interval sampling, CPU performance counter events
  – user and kernel dynamic tracing
  – kernel line tracing and local variables (debuginfo)
  – kernel filtering, and in-kernel counts (perf stat)
• Not very programmable, yet
  – limited kernel summaries. May improve with eBPF.
perf_events tracing

- Static tracing of block_rq_insert tracepoint:

```
# perf record -e block:block_rq_insert -a
^C[ perf record: Woken up 1 times to write data ]
[ perf record: Captured and wrote 0.172 MB perf.data (~7527 samples) ]

# perf script
# ========
# captured on: Wed Nov 12 20:50:05 2014
# hostname : bgregg-test-i-92b81f78
[...]
# ========
#
java 9940 [015] 1199510.044783: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4783360 + 88 [java]
java 9940 [015] 1199510.044786: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4783448 + 88 [java]
java 9940 [015] 1199510.044786: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4783536 + 24 [java]
java 9940 [000] 1199510.065194: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4864000 + 88 [java]
java 9940 [000] 1199510.065195: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4864088 + 88 [java]
java 9940 [000] 1199510.065196: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4864176 + 80 [java]
java 9940 [000] 1199510.083745: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 4864344 + 88 [java]
[...]
```
 perf_events One-Liners

• Great one-liners. From http://www.brendangregg.com/perf.html:

# List all currently known events:
perf list

# Various basic CPU statistics, system wide, for 10 seconds:
perf stat -e cycles,instructions,cache-references,cache-misses -a sleep 10

# Count ext4 events for the entire system, for 10 seconds:
perf stat -e 'ext4:*' -a sleep 10

# Sample CPU stack traces for the entire system, at 99 Hertz, for 10 seconds:
perf record -F 99 -ag -- sleep 10

# Sample CPU stack traces, once every 100 last level cache misses, for 5 seconds:
perf record -e LLC-load-misses -c 100 -ag -- sleep 5

# Trace all block device (disk I/O) requests with stack traces, until Ctrl-C:
perf record -e block:block_rq_issue -ag

# Add a tracepoint for the kernel tcp_sendmsg() function return:
perf probe 'tcp_sendmsg%return'

# Add a tracepoint for tcp_sendmsg, with size and socket state (needs debuginfo):
perf probe 'tcp_sendmsg size sk->__sk_common.skc_state'

# Show perf.data as a text report, with data coalesced and percentages:
perf report --stdio
**eBPF**

- Extended BPF: programs on tracepoints
  - High performance filtering: JIT
  - In-kernel summaries: maps

  eg, in-kernel latency heat map (showing bimodal):

```
root@bgregg-test-i-b7874e9d:/mnt/src/linux-3.16bpf2/samples/bpf# ./ex3
writing bpf-7 -> /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/events/block/block_rq_issue/filter
captured=270 missed=0 max_lat=0 usec
captured=3694 missed=0 max_lat=0 usec
captured=3485 missed=12 max_lat=18902 usec
captured=3541 missed=19 max_lat=82377 usec
captured=1945 missed=33 max_lat=24441 usec
captured=1636 missed=0 max_lat=0 usec
captured=3441 missed=18 max_lat=51263 usec
captured=2864 missed=71 max_lat=60497 usec
```

- Time
- Low latency cache hits
- High latency device I/O
eBPF

• Created by Alexei Starovoitov
• Gradually being included in Linux (see lkml)
• Has been difficult to program directly
  – Other tools can become front-ends: ftrace, perf_events, SystemTap, ktap?
Other Tracers

• Discussion:
  – SystemTap
  – ktap
  – LTTng
  – DTrace ports
  – sysdig
The Tracing Landscape, Nov 2014

Ease of use
(better)

Stage of Development
(alpha) → (mature)

Scope & Capability

(my opinion)

sysdig

perf

ktap

eBPF

ftrace

stap

dtrace4L.
4. Tools
## Tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>one-liners:</td>
<td>many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>front-end tools:</td>
<td>perf, trace-cmd, perf-tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tracing frameworks:</td>
<td>ftrace, perf_events, eBPF, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back-end instrumentation:</td>
<td>tracepoints, kprobes, uprobes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Front-end Tools

- For ftrace
  - `trace-cmd` by Steven Rostedt
  - `perf-tools`: `tpoint, iosnoop, execsnoop, kprobe, ...`

- For `perf_events`
  - `perf` (how `perf_events` is commonly used)
  - `perf-tools`: `eg, syscount, bitesize, ...`

- For eBPF
  - `still evolving`
  - Could be used via ftrace, perf_events, SystemTap, ktap?
Tool Types

• Multi-tools
  – perf
  – trace-cmd
  – perf-tools: tpoint, kprobe, funccount, ...
  – Narrow audience: engineers & developers who can take the time to learn them; others via canned one-liners

• Single purpose tools
  – perf-tools: iosnoop, execsnoop, bitesize, ...
  – Wide audience: sysadmins, developers, everyone
  – Unix philosophy: do one thing and do it well
perf-tools

• A collection of tools for both ftrace and perf_events
  – https://github.com/brendangregg/perf-tools

• Each tool has:
  – The tool itself
  – A man page
  – An examples file
  – A symlink under /bin

```
perf-tools> ls -l execsnoop bin/execsnoop man/man8/execsnoop.8 \ 
examples/execsnoop_example.txt
lrwxr-xr-x 1 bgregg 1001 12 Jul 26 16:35 bin/execsnoop@ -> ../execsnoop
-rw-r--r-- 1 bgregg 1001 2533 Jul 31 15:34 examples/execsnoop_example.txt
-rwxr-xr-x+ 1 bgregg 1001 8529 Jul 31 15:36 execsnoop*
-rw-r--r--+ 1 bgregg 1001 3497 Jul 31 22:40 man/man8/execsnoop.8
```
perf-tools

• WARNING: These are unsupported hacks
  – May not work on some kernel versions without tweaking
    • I've tried to use stable approaches as much as possible, but it isn't always possible
  – May have higher overhead than expected
    • Extreme case: slow target app by 5x
    • See the "OVERHEAD" section in the man pages
    • If this is a problem, re-implement tool in C using perf_events style interface (dynamic buffered)
  – Over time this will improve as Linux includes more tracing features, and workarounds can be rewritten
Dependencies

• Depends on your Linux distribution
  – On our Ubuntu servers, perf-tools just works

• Might need
  – mount -t debugfs none /sys/kernel/debug
  – CONFIG_DEBUG_FS, CONFIG_FUNCTION_PROFILER, CONFIG_FTRACE, CONFIG_KPROBES, ...
  – awk (awk, mawk, or gawk), perl
# perf-tools

- Current single purpose tools (Nov 2014):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iosnoop</td>
<td>trace disk I/O with details including latency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iolatency</td>
<td>summarize disk I/O latency as a histogram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>execsnoop</td>
<td>trace process exec() with command line argument details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opensnoop</td>
<td>trace open() syscalls showing filenames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>killsnoop</td>
<td>trace kill() signals showing process and signal details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syscount</td>
<td>count syscalls by syscall or process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disk/bitesize</td>
<td>histogram summary of disk I/O size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net/tcpretrans</td>
<td>show TCP retransmits, with address and other details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tools/reset-ftrace</td>
<td>reset ftrace state if needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## perf-tools

- Current multi-tools (Nov 2014):

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<tr>
<td>system/tpoint</td>
<td>trace a given tracepoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kernel/funccount</td>
<td>count kernel function calls, matching a string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kernel/functrace</td>
<td>trace kernel function calls, matching a string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kernel/funcslower</td>
<td>trace kernel functions slower than a threshold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kernel/funcgraph</td>
<td>graph kernel function calls, showing children and times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kernel/kprobe</td>
<td>dynamically trace a kernel function call or its return, with variables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
perf-tools (so far...)

Diagram showing the structure of an operating system with various tools and libraries, including:
- opensnoop
- syscount
- killsnoop
- execsnoop
- funccount
- functrace
- funcslower
- funcgraph
- kprobe
- iosnoop
- isolatency
- bitsize
- VFS
- Sockets
- TCP/UDP
- Scheduler
- File Systems
- IP
- Virtual Memory
- Volume Manager
- Ethernet
- Block Device Interface
- Device Drivers
- I/O Bus
- Expander Interconnect
- I/O Bridge
- Network Controller
- Port
- Interface Transports
- Disk
- Swap
- CPU Interconnect
- Various:
  - tpoint
- Memory Bus
- DRAM

Brendan Gregg 2014
perf-tools (so far...)

Various:
tpoint

CPU Interconnect

Memory Bus

DRAM

I/O Controller

Disk

Swap

Network Controller

Port

Port

I/O Bridge

Expander Interconnect

I/O Bus

Device Drivers

Block Device Interface

Volume Manager

File Systems

VFS

Sockets

TCP/UDP

Scheduler

Virtual Memory

System Call Interface

System Libraries

Applications

Operating System

tpoint syscalls:*
killsnoop

execsnoop

tpoint

tpoint ext4:*

funcount

functrace

funcslower

funcgraph

kprobe

opensnoop

syscount

iosnoop

isolatency

bitesize
DEMO
iosnoop

- Block I/O (disk) events with latency:

```plaintext
# ./iosnoop -ts
Tracing block I/O. Ctrl-C to end.

STARTs      ENDS       COMM  PID  TYPE  DEV    BLOCK     BYTES  LATms
5982800.302061 5982800.302679 supervise 1809  W  202,1  17039600  4096   0.62
5982800.302423 5982800.302842 supervise 1809  W  202,1  17039608  4096   0.42
5982800.304962 5982800.305446 supervise 1801  W  202,1  17039616  4096   0.48
5982800.305250 5982800.305676 supervise 1801  W  202,1  17039624  4096   0.43
[...]
```

```plaintext
# ./iosnoop -h

USAGE: iosnoop [-hQst] [-d device] [-i iotype] [-p PID] [-n name] [duration]
-d device # device string (eg, "202,1")
-i iotype # match type (eg, 'R' for all reads)
-n name # process name to match on I/O issue
-p PID # PID to match on I/O issue
-Q # include queueing time in LATms
-s # include start time of I/O (s)
-t # include completion time of I/O (s)
-h # this usage message
duration # duration seconds, and use buffers
[...]
```
### iolatency

- **Block I/O (disk) latency distributions:**

```bash
# ./iolatency
Tracing block I/O. Output every 1 seconds. Ctrl-C to end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&gt;= (ms) .. &lt; (ms)</th>
<th>I/O</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 -&gt; 1</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>####################################################</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 -&gt; 2</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 -&gt; 4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 -&gt; 8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 -&gt; 16</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>####</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 -&gt; 32</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>#########################</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 -&gt; 64</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>#####</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

- **User-level processing** sometimes can’t keep up
  - Over 50k IOPS. Could buffer more workaround, but would prefer in-kernel aggregations
**opensnoop**

- Trace open() syscalls showing filenames:

```bash
# ./opensnoop -t
Tracing open()s. Ctrl-C to end.
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>COMM</th>
<th>PID</th>
<th>FD</th>
<th>FILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4345768.332626</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x8</td>
<td>/proc/self/oom_adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.333923</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>global/pg_filenoode.map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.333971</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>global/pg_internal.init</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.334813</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>base/16384/PG_VERSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.334877</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>base/16384/pg_filenoode.map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.334891</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>base/16384/pg_internal.init</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.335821</td>
<td>postgres</td>
<td>23886</td>
<td>0x5</td>
<td>base/16384/11725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.347911</td>
<td>svstat</td>
<td>24649</td>
<td>0x4</td>
<td>supervise/ok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.347921</td>
<td>svstat</td>
<td>24649</td>
<td>0x4</td>
<td>supervise/status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.350340</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/etc/ld.so.cache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.350372</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libselinux...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.350460</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.350526</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl.so.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.350981</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/proc/filesystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4345768.351182</td>
<td>stat</td>
<td>24651</td>
<td>0x3</td>
<td>/etc/nsswitch.conf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[...]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
funcgraph

• Trace a graph of kernel code flow:

```c
# ./funcgraph -Htp 5363 vfs_read
Tracing "vfs_read" for PID 5363... Ctrl-C to end.
# tracer: function_graph

#     TIME        CPU  DURATION                  FUNCTION CALLS
#      |          |     |   |                     |   |   |   |
# 4346366.073832 |   0)               | vfs_read() {
# 4346366.073834 |   0)               |   rw_verify_area() {
# 4346366.073834 |   0)               |     security_file_permission() {
# 4346366.073834 |   0)               |       apparmor_file_permission() {
# 4346366.073835 |   0)   0.153 us    |         common_file_perm();
# 4346366.073836 |   0)   0.947 us    |   __fsnotify_parent();
# 4346366.073836 |   0)   0.066 us    |   tty_read();
# 4346366.073836 |   0)   0.080 us    |       __fsnotify_parent();
# 4346366.073837 |   0)   2.174 us    |     __fsnotify_parent();
# 4346366.073837 |   0)   2.656 us    |     tty_read();
# 4346366.073837 |   0)               |   tty_paranoia_check();
# 4346366.073837 |   0)   0.060 us    |[...]
```
funccount

- Count a kernel function call rate:

```
# ./funccount -i 1 'bio_*'
Tracing "bio_*"... Ctrl-C to end.
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNC</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bio_attempt_back_merge</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_get_nr_vecs</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_alloc</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_alloc_bioset</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_endio</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_free</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_fs Destructor</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_init</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_integrity_enabled</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_put</td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio_add_page</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counts are in-kernel, for low overhead

- `-i`: set an output interval (seconds), otherwise until Ctrl-C
kprobe

• Just wrapping capabilities eases use. Eg, kprobes:

```bash
# ./kprobe 'p:open do_sys_open filename=+0(%si):string' 'filename ~ "*stat"'
Tracing kprobe myopen. Ctrl-C to end.
  postgres-1172 [000] d... 6594028.787166: open: (do_sys_open +0x0/0x220) filename="pg_stat_tmp/pgstat.stat"
  postgres-1172 [001] d... 6594028.797410: open: (do_sys_open +0x0/0x220) filename="pg_stat_tmp/pgstat.stat"
  postgres-1172 [001] d... 6594028.797467: open: (do_sys_open +0x0/0x220) filename="pg_stat_tmp/pgstat.stat"
^C
Ending tracing...
```

• By some definition of “ease”. Would like easier symbol usage, instead of +0(%si).
tpoint One-Liners

# List tracepoints
tpoint -l

# Trace disk I/O device issue with details:
tpoint block:block_rq_issue

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion, with kernel stack trace:
tpoint -s block:block_rq_insert

# Show output format string and filter variables:
tpoint -v block:block_rq_insert

# Trace disk I/O queue insertion, for reads only:
tpoint block:block_rq_insert 'rwbs ~ "*R*"'

# Trace 1,000 disk I/O device issues:
tpoint block:block_rq_issue | head -1000

# Trace syscall open():
tpoint syscalls:sys_enter_open
Tracepoint Format Strings

# ./tpoint -H block:block_rq_insert
Tracing block:block_rq_insert. Ctrl-C to end.
# tracer: nop
#
#     TASK-PID    CPU#    TIMESTAMP  FUNCTION
#        | |       |          |         |
java-9469 [000] 1936182.331270: block_rq_insert: 202,1 R 0 () 1125744 + 8 [java]

include/trace/events/block.h:
DECLARE_EVENT_CLASS(block_rq,
 [...]  
  TP_printk("%d,%d %s %u (%s) %llu + %u [%s]",
             MAJOR(__entry->dev), MINOR(__entry->dev),
             __entry->rwbs, __entry->bytes, __get_str(cmd),
             (unsigned long long)__entry->sector,
             __entry->nr_sector, __entry->comm)

– Kernel source may be the only docs for tracepoints
Tracepoint Format Strings

- Can also use tpoint -v for reminders:

```bash
# ./tpoint -v block:block_rq_issue
name: block_rq_issue
ID: 942
format:
  field:unsigned short common_type; offset:0; size:2; signed:0;
  field:unsigned char common_flags; offset:2; size:1; signed:0;
  field:unsigned char common_preempt_count; offset:3; size:1; signed:0;
  field:int common_pid; offset:4; size:4; signed:1;
  field:dev_t dev; offset:8; size:4; signed:0;
  field:sector_t sector; offset:16; size:8; signed:0;
  field:unsigned int nr_sector; offset:24; size:4; signed:0;
  field:unsigned int bytes; offset:28; size:4; signed:0;
  field:char rwbs[8]; offset:32; size:8; signed:1;
  field:char comm[16]; offset:40; size:16; signed:1;
  field:__data_loc char[] cmd; offset:56; size:4; signed:1;

print fmt: "%d,%d %s %u (%s) %llu + %u [%s]", ((unsigned int) ((REC->dev) >> 20)),
((unsigned int) ((REC->dev) & ((1U << 20) - 1))), REC->rwbs, REC->bytes, __get_str(cmd),
(unsigned long long)REC->sector, REC->nr_sector, REC->comm
```

- Fields can be used in filters. Eg:
  - tpoint block:block_rq_insert 'rwbs ~ "*R*"'
# Count all block I/O functions:
funccount 'bio_*'

# Count all block I/O functions, print every 1 second:
funccount -i 1 'bio_*'

# Count all vfs functions for 5 seconds:
funccount -t 5 'vfs*

# Count all "tcp_*" functions, printing the top 5 every 1 second:
funccount -i 1 -t 5 'tcp_*'

# Count all "ext4*" functions for 10 seconds, print the top 25:
funccount -t 25 -d 10 'ext4*

# Check which I/O scheduler is in use:
funccount -i 1 'deadline*'
funccount -i 1 'noop*'

# Count syscall types, summarizing every 1 second (one of):
funccount -i 1 'sys_*'
funccount -i 1 'SyS_*'
# Trace calls to do_sys_open():
kprobe p:do_sys_open

# Trace returns from do_sys_open(), and include column header:
kprobe -H r:do_sys_open

# Trace do_sys_open() return as "myopen" alias, with return value:
kprobe 'r:myopen do_sys_open $retval'

# Trace do_sys_open() calls, and print register %cx as uint16 "mode":
kprobe 'p:myopen do_sys_open mode=%cx:u16'

# Trace do_sys_open() calls, with register %si as a "filename" string:
kprobe 'p:myopen do_sys_open filename=+0(%si):string'

# Trace do_sys_open() filenames, when they match "*stat":
kprobe 'p:myopen do_sys_open filename=+0(%si):string' 'filename ~ "*stat"'

# Trace tcp_init_cwnd() with kernel call stack:
kprobe -s 'p:tcp_init_cwnd'

# Trace tcp_sendmsg() for PID 81 and for 5 seconds (buffered):
kprobe -p 81 -d 5 'p:tcp_sengmsg'
perf-tools Internals

• If you ever read the tool source code…
  – They are designed to be:
    A. As stable as possible
    B. Use fewest dependencies
    C. Short, temporary, programs
      – They may be rewritten when newer tracing features exist
    D. Mindful of overheads
      – C implementations, like perf_event's dynamic buffered approach, would be better. But see (C).
  – Many tools have:
    • SIGPIPE handling, so "| head -100" etc.
    • -d duration, which buffers output, lowering overhead

• In order of preference: bash, awk, perl5/python/…
The AWK Wars

• Tools may make use of gawk, mawk, or awk
  – Will check what is available, and pick the best option
  – mawk is faster, but (currently) less featured

• Example issues encountered:
  – gawk has strftime(), mawk doesn't
    • Test: awk 'BEGIN { print strftime("%H:%M:%S") }'
  – gawk honors fflush(), mawk doesn't
  – mawk's "-W interactive" flushes too often: every column
  – gawk and mawk have inconsistent handlings of hex numbers:
    • prints "16 0" in mawk: mawk 'BEGIN { printf "%d %d\n", "0x10", 0x10 }'
    • prints "0 16" in gawk: gawk 'BEGIN { printf "%d %d\n", "0x10", 0x10 }'
    • prints "16 16" in gawk: gawk --non-decimal-data 'BEGIN { printf "%d %d \n", "0x10", 0x10 }'
Much more to do… Porting more DTrace scripts
Some Visual Tools

• kernelshark
  – For ftrace

• Trace Compass
  – To visualize LTTng (and more) time series trace data

• Flame graphs
  – For any profiles with stack traces

• Heat maps
  – To show distributions over time
Kernelshark
Trace Compass
perf CPU Flame Graph

Broken Java stacks (missing frame pointer)

Locks

GC

Time

Idle thread

epoll

Kernel TCP/IP
perf Block I/O Latency Heat Map
Summary

1. Some one-liners
2. Background
3. Technology
4. Tools

Most important take away: Linux can serve many tracing needs today with ftrace & perf_events
Acks

• http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DTrace
• http://generalzoi.deviantart.com/art/Pony-Creator-v3-397808116 and Deirdré Straughan for the tracing pony mascots
• I Am SysAdmin (And So Can You!), Ben Rockwood, LISA14
• http://people.redhat.com/srostedt/kernelshark/HTML/ kernelshark screenshot
• https://projects.eclipse.org/projects/tools.tracecompass Trace Compass screenshot
Links

- perf-tools
  - https://github.com/brendangregg/perf-tools
  - http://lwn.net/Articles/608497/
- perf_events
  - https://perf.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Main_Page
  - http://www.brendangregg.com/perf.html
- perf, ftrace, and more: http://www.brendangregg.com/linuxperf.html
- eBPF: http://lwn.net/Articles/603983/
- ktap: http://www.ktap.org/
- SystemTap: https://sourceware.org/systemtap/
- sysdig: http://www.sysdig.org/
- Kernelshark: http://people.redhat.com/srostedt/kernelshark/HTML/
- Trace Compass: https://projects.eclipse.org/projects/tools.tracecompass
- Flame graphs: http://www.brendangregg.com/flamegraphs.html
Thanks

• Questions?
• http://slideshare.net/brendangregg
• http://www.brendangregg.com
• bgregg@netflix.com
• @brendangregg