LLNL Lustre Centre of Excellence

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LLNL is home to a Lustre Centre of Excellence (LCE)

- We enjoy a close working partnership with CFS
- The Lustre Centre of Excellence (LCE) is written into our ongoing CFS support contract.
- I consider almost everything we do with Lustre, contractual or not, to be an LCE effort item.
- LCE activities at LLNL are many…
Selected CFS/LLNL efforts

- At-scale testing, bug fixing, performance issue analysis
- fsck:
  - Debugging/fixing
  - Acceleration
- Metadata speed up
- Adaptive timeouts
- Lustre free space management

LLNL development efforts

- ZFS prototype
- Failover implementation
- Lustre Monitoring Tool 2 (LMT2)

Tri-Lab PathForward efforts
At-scale testing, bug fixing and analysis

We operate a very large test environment for use by ourselves and CFS.

- We run around-the-clock at-scale testing of all of our releases
- Scheduled dedicated testing by CFS benefits the entire community
- As in other areas, our scale regularly reveals bugs and performance issues that don’t show up in small-scale tests:
  - We are constantly working with CFS on issues revealed at-scale
  - LLNL’s top-10 bugs prioritized each week
  - Weekly meeting with CFS to review progress and plans
At-scale Lustre test resource

ALC-ltest

Quadrics Elan3 interconnect

16 GW nodes

430 compute nodes (dual 2.4GHz Xeons)

GigE

23 OSS nodes (dual 2.8GHz Xeons)

Fibre Channel

DDN

143TB

IGS (storage cluster)
Fsck improvements

Improvements include
- Fixing segfault due to corrupt extent headers
- Fixing segfault on extended attribute corruption
- Improving e2fsck heuristics for detecting corrupted inodes
- Shared block resolution - implement alternative to cloning
- Coverity-detected bugs, fixes

Speed-up milestone
- Halve the time for fscks
- Based on looking at only active inodes (keeping track of inode allocation high-water mark).
Goal is to:

- Cut `ls -l` time by 50%
- Cut `rm -r` time by 75%
- Improve performance (LRU create test) by 70%

Achieved by client-side read ahead for MDS (for directory contents and parallel fetching of attributes)

Dynamic sizing and automatic tuning (client-based lock timeout) of the client LRU (lock) list
Adaptive timeouts

Static timeouts used by callers of Lustre RPCs cause difficulties in unusual-load scenarios

CFS is modifying calls to RPCs and other Lustre components to dynamically respond to RPC delays

Make all Lustre timeouts sensitive to recent completion times, and feedback.
Free space management

- Automate and enhance Lustre free space management:
  - Detect full OSTs and adapt
  - Automatic space-balancing and migration
  - Administrator-initiated space balancing
  - Administrator-initiated full migration of OSTs
  - Administrator-initiated on-line defragmentation of OSTs
The 2nd generation of Lustre Monitoring Tools (LMT) uses a MySQL database backend for storing and retrieving Lustre information related to OSTs, the metadata servers, and the routers. As a result, LMT applications can analyze Lustre performance either in real-time or over specified historical periods.

There are currently three LMT2 apps in development:

- **lstat**: simple text display that operates like Unix “netstat” (v1.0 complete)
- **ltop**: curses-based tool that operates like Unix “top” (v1.0 complete)
- **jwatch** (working title): new GUI with extensive charting capabilities (v1.0 beta)
LMT2 “top” – ltop

- Multiple “views” – router, router group, filesystem, OST, OSS, MDS, ...
- Low overhead
- Curses-based
The LMT2 GUI

Start with xwatch-lustre functionality, then add:
- New views (OSS, Filesystem, Router Group, …)
- Plotting capability (historical trends, heart-beat, …)
- Customization features
- Full-system health “at a glance”
- Client display

New graphical chart control in development.
LMT2 Plans

- LMT 2.0 release [internal]
- LMT 2.0 release [external]
- Extend database access class
- Add more views to GUI and ltop
- Extend new GUI to support historical and trending plots.
- Release version LMT 2.1
- Collect OSS-specific data
- Add views for OSS-specific data in LMT utilities
- Extend new xwatch-lustre to include a global health view of Lustre
- Release version LMT 2.2
- Add support for viewing client data
- Release version LMT 2.3
Failover implementation

- Linux-ha based
- Initial implementation currently undergoing test
- Priority on fencing and prevention of data loss requirements
- Based upon Release 2 of Linux-HA software (active development, testing, fixing)
Failover
LLNL is launching a prototyping effort to investigate the viability of running OSTs atop Sun’s ZFS file system.

Our prototyping effort only goes as far as porting a portion of ZFS into the Linux kernel.

Our goal is to learn the viability of the partial port and let the results guide any future work.
Lustre/ZFS motivation

**EXT3 Problems**
- Max OST FS Size of 16-32TB
- Offline fsck recovery time
- Data corruption goes unnoticed
- Crashes, corruption, fsck challenges and complexity

**ZFS**
- Max OST FS size unlimited by file system
- Consistency checking is online
- Every block is checksummed (metadata and data)

**Other ZFS benefits**
- Copy-on-write may result in more streaming I/O
- More redundancy options (RAIDZ2, metadata “ditto blocks”, …)
- Administrative flexibility
- JBOD & other hdwr options
Lustre/ZFS Integration Strategy

- Replace EXT3 on OSTs with ZFS
- Port ZFS Data Management Unit (DMU) and Storage Pool Allocator (SPA) only
- Requires fsfilt to DMU integration
Tri-Lab PathForward Efforts

- Tri-Lab (LANL, SNL, LLNL)/HP/CFS efforts
  - Infiniband
    - Compute nodes speak only IB
    - I/O nodes translate to IP for 10GigE
    - Lustre storage exists on 10GigE LAN
  - Clustered MDS
  - Security
Conclusion

The LLNL/CFS relationship is active and varied:
- At-scale testing, bug fixing, performance issues
- fsck improvements
- Metadata speed up
- Adaptive timeouts
- Lustre free space management

LLNL is pursuing a number of development efforts
- ZFS prototype
- Lustre Monitoring Tool 2 (LMT2)
- Failover implementation

Tri-Labs, HP and CFS are working other areas

The LCE is working and benefiting the entire Lustre community