

Ceph Storage at CERN

Pablo Llopis Sanmillan, Dan van der Ster CERN IT Department

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Outline

- I. What is Ceph and how does it work?
- II. Ceph Use-Cases at CERN
- **III.** CephFS for HPC



I. What is Ceph?

Slides credit: Sage Weil



WHAT IS CEPH?



The buzzwords

- "Software defined storage"
- "Unified storage system"
- "Scalable distributed storage"
- "The future of storage"
- "The Linux of storage"

The substance

- Ceph is open source **software**
- Runs on commodity hardware
 - Commodity servers
 - IP networks
 - HDDs, SSDs, NVMe, NV-DIMMs, ...
- A single cluster can serve **object**, **block**, and **file** workloads



• Reliable storage service out of unreliable components

- No single point of failure
- Data durability via replication or erasure coding
- No interruption of service from rolling upgrades, online expansion, etc.
- Favor consistency and correctness over performance





CEPH IS SCALABLE



- Ceph is elastic storage infrastructure
 - Storage cluster may grow or shrink
 - Add or remove hardware while system is online and under load
- Scale **up** with bigger, faster hardware
- Scale **out** within a single cluster for capacity and performance
- Federate multiple clusters across sites with asynchronous replication and disaster recovery capabilities



CEPH IS A UNIFIED STORAGE SYSTEM





THE CEPH FOUNDATION













- Reliable Autonomic Distributed Object Storage
 - Common storage layer underpinning object, block, and file services
- Provides low-level data object storage service
 - Reliable and highly available
 - Scalable (on day 1 and day 1000)
 - Manages all replication and/or erasure coding, data placement, rebalancing, repair, etc.
- Strong consistency
 - CP, not AP
- Simplifies design and implementation of higher layers (file, block, object)

RADOS SOFTWARE COMPONENTS





ceph-mon

Monitor

- Central authority for authentication, data placement, policy
- Coordination point for all other cluster components
- Protect critical cluster state with Paxos
- 3-7 per cluster

| ⊀ |
|----------|
|----------|

ceph-mgr



ceph-osd

<u>Manager</u>

- Aggregates real-time metrics (throughput, disk usage, etc.)
- Host for pluggable management functions
- 1 active, 1+ standby per cluster

OSD (Object Storage Daemon)

- Stores data on an HDD or SSD
- Services client IO requests
- Cooperatively peers, replicates, rebalances data
- 10s-1000s per cluster

LEGACY CLIENT/SERVER ARCHITECTURE



CLIENT/CLUSTER ARCHITECTURE





DATA PLACEMENT







LOOKUP VIA A METADATA SERVER?



CALCULATED PLACEMENT

- APPLICATION LIBRADOS
 - Get map of cluster layout (num OSDs etc) on startup
 - Calculate correct object location based on its name
 - Read from or write to appropriate OSD





MAP UPDATES WHEN TOPOLOGY CHANGES



- Get updated map when topology changes
 - e.g., failed device; added node
- (Re)calculate correct object location
- Read from or write to appropriate OSD





RADOS DATA OBJECTS

• Name

- 10s of characters
- e.g., "rbd_header.10171e72d03d"

• Attributes

- 0 to 10s of attributes
- \circ 0 to 100s of bytes each
- e.g., "version=12"

• Byte data

- \circ 0 to 10s of megabytes
- Key/value data ("omap")
 - 0 to 10,000s of items
 - \circ $\,$ 0 to 10,000s of bytes each
- Objects live in named "pools"





? → OBJECTS → POOLS → PGs → OSDs





WHY PLACEMENT GROUPS?



REPLICATE DISKS



- Each device is mirrored
- Device sizes must match

REPLICATE PGS



- Each PG is mirrored
- PG placement is random

REPLICATE OBJECTS



- Each object is mirrored
- Object placement is random

WHY PLACEMENT GROUPS?



REPLICATE DISKS



- Need an empty spare device to recover
- Recovery bottlenecked by single disk throughput

REPLICATE PGS



- New PG replicas placed on surviving devices
- Recovery proceeds in parallel, leverages many devices, and completes sooner

REPLICATE OBJECTS



• *Every* device participates in recovery

WHY PLACEMENT GROUPS?



REPLICATE DISKS



 Very few triple failures cause data loss (of an entire disk)

REPLICATE PGS



• Some triple failures cause data loss (of an entire PG)

REPLICATE OBJECTS



• Every triple failure causes data loss (of some objects)

PGs balance competing extremes

KEEPING DATA SAFE



"Declustered replica placement"

- More clusters
 - Faster recovery
 - More even data distribution
- Fewer clusters
 - Lower risk of concurrent failures affecting all replicas
- Placement groups a happy medium
 - No need for spare devices
 - Adjustable balance between durability (in the face of concurrent failures) and recovery time

Avoiding concurrent failures

- Separate replicas across failure domains
 - Host, rack, row, datacenter
- Create a hierarchy of storage devices
 - Align hierarchy to physical infrastructure
- Express placement policy in terms hierarchy



PLACING PGs WITH CRUSH

- Pseudo-random placement algorithm
 - Repeatable, deterministic, calculation
 - Similar to "consistent hashing"
- Inputs:
 - Cluster topology (i.e., the OSD hierarchy)
 - Pool parameters (e.g., replication factor)
 - PG id
- Output: ordered list of OSDs
- Rule-based policy
 - "3 replicas, different racks, only SSDs"
 - "6+2 erasure code shards, 2 per rack, different hosts, only HDDs"
- Stable mapping
 - Limited data migration on change
- Support for varying device sizes
 - OSDs get PGs proportional to their weight



pgid = hash(obj_name) % pg_num many GiB of data per PG

+

PG ID

N replicas of each PG 10s of PGs per OSD

REPLICATION AND ERASURE CODING

- Each RADOS pool must be durable
- Each PG must be durable
- Replication
 - Identical copies of each PG
 - Usually 3x (200% overhead)
 - Fast recovery--read any surviving copy
 - Can vary replication factor at any time
- Erasure coding
 - Each PG "shard" has different slice of data
 - Stripe object across **k** PG shards
 - Keep addition **m** shards with per-object parity/redundancy
 - Usually more like 1.5x (50% overhead)
 - Erasure code algorithm and k+m parameters set when pool is created
 - Better for large objects that rarely change



SPECIALIZED POOLS



- Pools usually share devices
 - Unless a pool's CRUSH placement policy specifies a specific class of device
- Elastic, scalable provisioning
 - Deploy hardware to keep up with demand
- Uniform management of devices
 - Common "day 2" workflows to add, remove, replace devices
 - Common management of storage hardware resources







PLATFORM FOR HIGH-LEVEL SERVICES





RGW: OBJECT STORAGE



RGW: RADOS GATEWAY

- S3 and Swift-compatible object storage
 - HTTPS/REST-based API
 - Often combined with load balancer to provide storage service to public internet
- Users, buckets, objects
 - Data and permissions model is based on a superset of S3 and Swift APIs
 - ACL-based permissions, enforced by RGW
- RGW objects not same as RADOS objects
 - \circ $\,$ S3 objects can be very big: GB to TB $\,$
 - RGW stripes data across RADOS objects





RGW STORES ITS DATA IN RADOS



RGW ZONE: POOLS + RGW DAEMONS



RGW FEDERATION AND GEO-REP





- Zones may be different clusters and/or sites
- Global view of users and buckets

- Each bucket placed in a ZoneGroup
- Data replicated between all Zones in a ZoneGroup

OTHER RGW FEATURES

- Very strong S3 API compatibility
 - https://github.com/ceph/s3-tests functional test suite
- STS: Security Token Service
 - Framework for interoperating with other authentication/authorization systems
- Encryption (various flavors of API)
- Compression
- CORS and static website hosting
- Metadata search with ElasticSearch
- Pub/sub event stream
 - Integration with knative serverless
 - o Kafka

- Multiple storage classes
 - Map classes to RADOS pools
 - Choose storage for individual objects or set a bucket policy
- Lifecycle management
 - Bucket policy to automatically move objects between storage tiers and/or expire
 - Time-based
- Archive zone
 - Archive and preserve full storage history





RBD: BLOCK STORAGE
RBD: RADOS BLOCK DEVICE

 \bigcirc

- Virtual block device
 - Store disk images in RADOS
 - Stripe data across many objects in a pool
- Storage decoupled from host, hypervisor
 - Analogous to AWS's EBS
- Client implemented in KVM and Linux
- Integrated with
 - Libvirt
 - OpenStack (Cinder, Nova, Glace)
 - Kubernetes
 - Proxmox, CloudStack, Nebula, ...



SNAPSHOTS AND CLONES

- Snapshots
 - $\circ \quad \text{Read-only} \quad$
 - Associated with individual RBD image
 - Point-in-time consistency
- Clones
 - New, first-class image
 - Writeable overlay over an existing snapshot
 - Can be snapshotted, resized, renamed, etc.
- Efficient
 - O(1) creation time
 - Leverage copy-on-write support in RADOS
 - Only consume space when data is changed





RBD: DATA LAYOUT





HEADER

- Image name
- Image size
- Striping parameters
- Snapshot metadata (names etc.)
- Options
- Lock owner

• ...

DATA OBJECTS

- Chunk of block device content
- 4 MB by default, but striping is configurable
- Sparse: objects only created if/when data is written
- Replicated or erasure coded, depending on the pool

RBD: JOURNALING MODE





- Metadata changes

RBD MIRRORING





- Asynchronous replication by mirroring journal
- Point-in-time/crash consistent copy of image in remote cluster
- Mirrors live data and snapshots
- Full lifecycle (fail-over, fail-back, re-sync, etc.)
- Configurable per-image

DATA POOL

CLUSTER B

• Scale-out, HA for rbd-mirror

OTHER RBD FEATURES

- 'rbd top'
 - Real-time view of IO activity
- Quotas
 - Enforced at provisioning time
- Namespace isolation
 - Restrict access to a private namespace of RBD images
- Import and export
 - Full image import/export
 - Incremental diff (between snapshots)
- Trash
 - Keep deleted images around for a bit before purging

- Linux kernel client
 - $\circ \hspace{0.5cm} \text{'rbd map myimage'} \rightarrow /\text{dev/rbd*}$
- NBD
 - $\circ \quad \ \ \, \text{`rbd map -t nbd myimage'} \rightarrow /\text{dev/nbd*}$
 - Run latest userspace library
- iSCSI gateway
 - LIO stack + userspace tools to manage gateway configuration
- librbd
 - Dynamically link with application



CEPHFS: FILE STORAGE

<u>?</u>

CEPHFS: CEPH FILE SYSTEM

- Distributed network file system
 - Files, directories, rename, hard links, etc.
 - Concurrent shared access from many clients
- Strong consistency and coherent caching
 - Updates from one node visible elsewhere, immediately
- Scale metadata and data independently
 - Storage capacity and IO throughput scale with the number of OSDs
 - Namespace (e.g., number of files) scales with the number of MDS daemons





CEPH-MDS: METADATA SERVER





ceph-mds

MDS (Metadata Server)

- Manage file system namespace
- Store file system metadata in RADOS objects
 - File and directory metadata (names, inodes)
- Coordinate file access between clients
- Manage client cache consistency, locks, leases
- Not part of the data path
- 1s 10s active, plus standbys



ceph-mon



ceph-mgr



ceph-osd

METADATA IS STORED IN RADOS





SCALABLE NAMESPACE





- Partition hierarchy across MDSs based on workload
- Fragment huge directories across MDSs
- Clients learn overall partition as they navigate the namespace

- Subtree partition maintains directory locality
- Arbitrarily scalable by adding more MDSs

CEPHFS SNAPSHOTS

- Snapshot any directory
 - Applies to all nested files and directories
 - Granular: avoid "volume" and "subvolume" restrictions in other file systems
- Point-in-time consistent
 - from perspective of POSIX API at *client*
 - not client/server boundary
- Easy user interface via file system
- Efficient
 - Fast creation/deletion
 - Snapshots only consume space when changes are made

```
$ cd any/cephfs/directory
<u>$ 1s</u>
foo bar baz/
<u>$ ls .snap</u>
$ mkdir .snap/my_snapshot
$ ls .snap/
my_snapshot/
 rm foo
Ś
Ś.
 ls
bar baz/
$ ls .snap/my_snapshot
foo bar baz/
$ rmdir .snap/my_snapshot
  ls .snap
$
Ś
```



CEPHFS RECURSIVE ACCOUNTING



- MDS maintains recursive stats across the file hierarchy
 - File and directory counts
 - File size (summation)
 - Latest ctime
- Visible via virtual xattrs
- Recursive bytes as directory size
 - If mounted with 'rbytes' option
 - Unfortunately this confuses rsync; off by default
 - Similar to 'du', but free

\$ sudo mount -t ceph 10.1.2.10:/ /mnt/ceph \ -o name=admin.secretfile=secret.rbytes \$ cd /mnt/ceph/some/random/dir \$ getfattr -d -m - . # file: . ceph.dir.entries="3" ceph.dir.files="2" ceph.dir.subdirs="1" ceph.dir.rbytes="512000" ceph.dir.rctime="1474909482.0924860388" ceph.dir.rentries="17" ceph.dir.rfiles="16" ceph.dir.rsubdirs="1" \$ 1s -alh total 12 drwxr-xr-x 3 sage sage 4.5M Jun 25 11:38 ./ drwxr-xr-x 47 sage sage 12G Jun 25 11:38 .../ 1 sage sage **2M** Jun 25 11:38 bar -rw-r--r-drwxr-xr-x 2 sage sage 500K Jun 25 11:38 baz/ -rw-r--r-- 1 sage sage 2M Jun 25 11:38 foo

OTHER CEPHFS FEATURES

- Multiple file systems (volumes) per cluster
 - Separate ceph-mds daemons
- xattrs
- File locking (flock and fcntl)
- Quotas
 - On any directory
- Subdirectory mounts + access restrictions
- Multiple storage tiers
 - Directory subtree-based policy
 - Place files in different RADOS pools
 - Adjust file striping strategy
- Lazy IO
 - Optionally relax CephFS-enforced consistency on per-file basis for HPC applications

- Linux kernel client
 - e.g., mount -t ceph \$monip:/ /ceph
- ceph-fuse
 - For use on non-Linux hosts (e.g., OS X) or when kernel is out of date
- NFS
 - CephFS plugin for nfs-ganesha FSAL
- CIFS
 - CephFS plugin for Samba VFS
- libcephfs
 - Dynamically link with your application



COMPLETE STORAGE PLATFORM





II. Ceph Use-Cases at CERN



CERN Computing Infrastructure

- High throughput scientific computing platform:
 - HTCondor batch system: ~250k CPU cores
 - EOS storage system: ~500 petabytes of raw storage
 - CTA tape system for long term archival: ~500 petabytes of tape
- IT infrastructure brings several storage needs:
 - Block Storage and NAS Filers for VMs and Databases
 - Object Storage for web or cloud native applications
 - HPC Scratch areas for MPI clusters
 - "Open Infrastructure"





Our Ceph History

- March 2013: 300TB proof of concept
- Dec 2013: 3 petabytes for OpenStack
- 2014-15: Erasure coding and striping
- 2016: Upgraded from 3PB to 6PB
- 2017: 8 production clusters
- 2018-19: CephFS and S3
- 2020+: scale out...





Current Clusters in Prod (I)

• Block Storage for OpenStack

- Three hdd (w/ssd rocksdb) clusters: 24 petabytes raw (3x replication)
- Three all-flash clusters: 1.2 petabytes raw (2+2 erasure coding)
- Integrated to OpenStack as multiple QoS types (IOPS throttles) and availability zones

• S3 Object Storage

- Two clusters in different data centres: 12.5 petabytes raw
- Data stored in 4+2 erasure coding on HDDs, bucket indices on SSDs
- Currently independent realms; Working on zonegroup replication now.



Current Clusters in Prod (II)

• CephFS

- Two general purpose hdd (w/ ssd rocksdb) clusters: 6.3 petabytes raw (3x replication)
- One general purpose all-flash cluster: 500TB raw (3x replication)
- Several targeted all-flash clusters: hyperconverged DB tests, groupware, HPC, ...
- General experience is that Ceph is robust and performant
 - Data remains consistent after infrastructure outages; failure recovery is basically transparent
 - Hardware replacement and flexibility demonstrated across three procurement cycles



CERN IT OpenStack Cloud

Since 2013, hosting 90% of CERN's computing resources for scientific and IT needs

| Available |
|-----------------|
| 13.1 PiB disk |
| |
| Baremetal nodes |
| 5229 |
| |
| |
| E |





EOS on CephFS

- EOS storage **developed at CERN for physics** and regular users: **350PB**
- Is it feasible / useful to layer EOS on top of a Ceph backend?
 - Best of both worlds: feature-rich EOS for scientific users + flexible object storage on Ceph
- EOS is clustered storage built upon Xrootd:
 - Files can be replicated or erasure-coded; metadata in "QuarkDB"
 - FST (analogous to the Ceph OSD) normally stores files in a local XFS
 - Files stored using a simple inode hash naming convention
- It's therefore straightforward to use CephFS in the FST
 - Durability is delegated to CephFS
 - EOS configured to store data with a single replica



CLI

FST

/cephfs

ceph

MGM

PoC: CephFS Scalability Measurements



client nodes running



Streaming WRITE



CephFS+EOS Write Performance Impact?





III. CephFS for HPC



Why use CephFS for HPC?

- At CERN we're already running many network filesystems
 - No desire to introduce yet another (e.g. Lustre)





Why use CephFS for HPC?

- HPC cluster procurement process optimization
 - We aren't ordering an HPC cluster from a vendor, it's 100% DIY HPC + Open Source tech.
 - HW procured as a large order (meant for HTC, HPC, Storage..)
 - Low-latency interconnect added on top





Why use CephFS for HPC?

- Desire to evaluate CephFS as a multi-purpose filesystem
 - Today: ~ 4 years of experience running CephFS on production for CERN IT's HPC service









Evolution of CephFS as HPC scratch space

- Shared CephFS cluster for IT services
 - BUT... Contention. I/O-intensive applications affecting other IT services and vice-versa
 - CephFS cluster "far" in the network
 - Less resilient to **network issues**
 - Greater I/O latency

ceph-fuse mounts

BUT...

- Ceph-fuse not very performant
- Ceph-fuse issues with stuck mounts and stale data after/during network issues



Evolution of CephFS as HPC scratch space

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ceph-fuse mounts

BUT...

- Ceph-fuse not very performant
- Ceph-fuse issues with stuck mounts and stale data after/during network issues

Transitioned to **kernel** mounts for greater **performance**, greater **stability**, and much improved **resiliency** to network issues.

Transitioned to **dedicated** CephFS cluster for increased network failure **resiliency** and **performance**







CephFS performance tuning

Network-locality: Client/MDS/Disk locality has more than 10x impact on performance

Replication factor: Tuning replica count had an impact on write latency.

Automatic MDS balancing: Works, but manual pinning can do better if you know the workload

Lazy I/O: Much improved performance for single-shared-file collective I/O



CephFS performance tuning: Lazy I/O

- Lazy I/O refers to a mode in which POSIX semantics are relaxed
- For shared file collective I/O, coherency is delegated to the application
- Allows lock-free parallel writes
- CephFS mode with lazy I/O support added to IOR [https://github.com/hpc/ior]





Limitations and future plans

- Impact of the Hyperconverged architecture on MPI collectives
 - <u>openQCD</u> is a very tightly coupled HPC application with excellent scalability.
 - Very sensitive to OS noise
 - **20%** performance impact from system noise (e.g. Hyperconverged)
- Burst Buffers
 - To significantly **reduce** or remove the **impact** of independent workloads on each other.
- How does a Hyperconverged solution affect day-to-day IT operations?


Impact on automation and IT operations

Hyperconverged increases complexity for transparent operations

(e.g. kernel reboot campaigns)





Impact on automation and IT operations

- Brainslug is an automation tool written at CERN
- Lightweight daemon running on every node
 - Machine **state manager** (Slurm & HTCondor) 0
 - Deployed on HPC & HTC clusters (250K cores) 0
- Capable of managing **concurrency** strategies





Impact on automation and IT operations

- Brainslug is capable of orchestration based on user-defined concurrency strategies
 - Limit number of nodes draining/offline at a time (e.g. drain+reboot 10% at a time)
- Reboot machines by network topology (e.g. only machines from the same row may go offline at a time)
 Two at most

Datacentre Row: SX



Datacentre Row: SW





IIII. Final Words



ceph cephalocon

July 11-13, 2022 • Portland, OR + Virtual







Thank you! Any Questions?

Feel free to get in touch: <u>daniel.vanderster@cern.ch</u> <u>pablo.llopis@{gmail.com,cern.ch}</u>

https://ceph.io





Extra Slides



Structure





CephFS Performance

- In previous years we invested in profiling and tuning CephFS for HPC
 - Automatic MDS balancing: works, but manual pinning can do better if you know the workload
 - **Keep things local**: Client/MDS/Disk locality has more than 10x impact on performance
 - **LazyIO for parallel IO**: relaxed consistency hints managed by the application
- Tuning for the **IO-500 benchmark** as published at SuperComputing
 - ior: throughput tests for single or multi-file parallel IO
 - mdtest/find: metadata performance tests



CephFS Scale-Out MDS in Practice



From 3 to 10 active MDS's

CephFS and IO-500



| # | information | | | | | | | io500 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|------|--------|--------|---------|--|
| | institution | system | storage vendor | filesystem | client | client total | data | score | bw | md | |
| | | | | type | nodes | procs | | | GiB/s | kIOP/s | |
| 1 | University of Cambridge | Data Accelerator | Dell EMC | Lustre | 512 | 8192 | zip | 620.69 | 162.05 | 2377.44 | |
| 2 | Oak Ridge National Laboratory | Summit | IBM | Spectrum Scale | 504 | 1008 | zip | 330.56 | 88.20 | 1238.93 | |
| 3 | JCAHPC | Oakforest- PACS | DDN | IME | 2048 | 2048 | zip | 275.65 | 492.06 | 154.41 | |

. . .

| 34 | SUSE | TigerShark | SUSE, Intel, Lenovo | CephFS | 14 | 98 | zip | 8.38 | 3.58 | 19.60 |
|----|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------|----|----|-----|------|------|-------|
| 35 | Clemson University | Palmetto | Dell | BeeGFS | 48 | 48 | zip | 7.64 | 2.93 | 19.88 |
| 36 | CERN | Bytecollider | | CephFS | 64 | 64 | zip | 7.56 | 2.83 | 20.16 |