

Linux Instrumentation

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Outline

- 1 Overview of available Instrumentation Tools
 - Competition's Instrumentation Tools
 - Overview of Linux Instrumentation Tools
 - Interactions Between Instrumentation Tools
 - Interesting Instrumentation Tools

- 2 Demonstrations
 - Finding cache misses with perf
 - Locate sources of block I/O with tracepoints
 - Using kprobes to analyse a running kernel

Outline

- 1 Overview of available Instrumentation Tools
 - Competition's Instrumentation Tools
 - DTrace
 - Overview of Linux Instrumentation Tools
 - tracepoints
 - kprobes
 - uprobes
 - gprof
 - ptrace
 - utrace
 - ftrace
 - LTTng
 - oProfile
 - SystemTap
 - performance events
 - Interactions Between Instrumentation Tools
 - Interesting Instrumentation Tools

What major players are in this area? DTrace

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DTrace

- All purpose kernel and userspace tracing
 - “Better than Linux”
 - Originated from Solaris
 - Mainstream ports for FreeBSD, NetBSD, Mac OS X
 - Licencing Issues with Linux
 - No performance impact when probes disabled
 - Minimal probe effect

Definition

Probe Effect: The phenomena where observing a system will change the behaviour of that system

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DTrace Implementation

- Well documented probes

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Probe: A location or action which can be hooked into in order to perform some arbitrary action

- Probes placed statically in source code
- Probe location well considered
- Probes in Solaris kernel, PostgreSQL, x.org, ...
- Can create new probes dynamically
- “Dynamic tracing framework”
- DTrace D programming language

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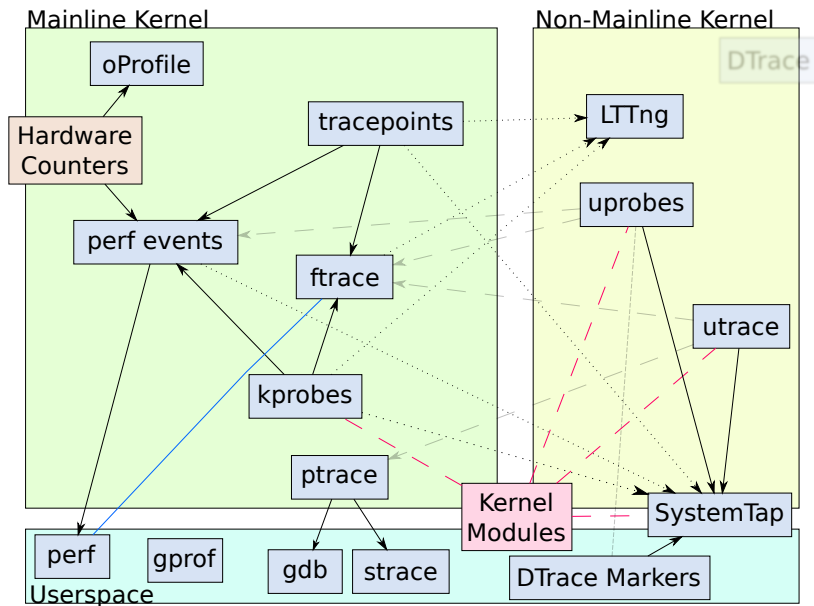
DTrace on Linux?

- DTrace approach generally unsuitable for Linux kernel
- Linux kernel evolves rapidly
- Resistance to placement of static probes
- Unofficial Linux port does exist
- SystemTap can use DTrace markers

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Enough DTrace envy, what about Linux?



Static probes? `tracepoints`

Static probes? tracepoints

Tracepoints

- Static probe points in the kernel source
- Replace old Kernel Markers
- Infrastructure mainline
- Low performance impact
- `TRACE_EVENT()` macro

Kernel dynamic probes? `kprobes`

Kernel dynamic probes? kprobes

Kprobes

- Insert a new probe into kernel at runtime
- Does not do userspace probes
- Heavily architecture specific
- Can be used by loadable kernel modules
- Used by other instrumentation tools
- Provides three types of probes
 - kprobes—Probe instruction
 - jprobes—Probe function call
 - kretprobes—Probe function return
- Mainline

Userspace dynamic probes? uprobes
Not mainline yet.

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Uprobes

- Kprobes for userspace
- Not mainline yet—predict that may soon change
- Used by SystemTap
- Handlers run in task context
- Background page replacement mechanism
- Probed instruction single stepped in XOL area
- No longer depends on utrace
- Handlers implemented as kernel module
- perf interface

Userspace profiling? `gprof`

Userspace profiling? gprof

gprof

- Legacy, but deserves a mention
- Counts and profiles calls to functions
- Function granularity
- Compile executable with -pg flag
- Produce function call graph
- Does NOT profile libraries or kernel
- Kprof provides GUI to visualise call graph

gprof Flat Profile

```

uxterm
Flat profile:

Each sample counts as 0.01 seconds.
 %   cumulative   self           calls   self   total    name
time  seconds    seconds             s/call   s/call   s/call
36.07    4.79      4.79      247575      0.00    0.00  fastscale
15.51    6.85      2.06       2034      0.00    0.00  disp3d
10.69    8.27      1.42       1418      0.00    0.00  draw_plasma
 8.81    9.44      1.17        315      0.00    0.00  do_julia
 6.85   10.35      0.91    1183665      0.00    0.00  mand_calc
 3.09   10.76      0.41       6186      0.00    0.00  move_starfield
 2.94   11.15      0.39       5072      0.00    0.00  mkrealloc_table
 1.96   11.41      0.26        359      0.00    0.00  mydraw1
 1.51   11.61      0.20        199      0.00    0.00  toblack1
 1.43   11.80      0.19    8712256      0.00    0.00  bbupdate
 1.36   11.98      0.18        378      0.00    0.00  mydraw
 1.36   12.16      0.18        176      0.00    0.00  drawfire
 1.28   12.33      0.17     51536      0.00    0.00  drawline
 0.98   12.46      0.13  17414911      0.00    0.00  tl_process_group
 0.98   12.59      0.13       2187      0.00    0.00  bbwait
 0.90   12.71      0.12       2536      0.00    0.00  do_fractal
 0.75   12.81      0.10  26164967      0.00    0.00  tl_update_time
 0.75   12.91      0.10  8650042      0.00    0.00  tl_sleep
 0.68   13.00      0.09       6178      0.00    0.00  draw_starfield
 0.45   13.06      0.06        615      0.00    0.00  fastscale
 0.45   13.12      0.06         39      0.00    0.00  morphdraw
 0.23   13.15      0.03    8752246      0.00    0.00  tl_lookup_timer
:

```

gprof Call Graph

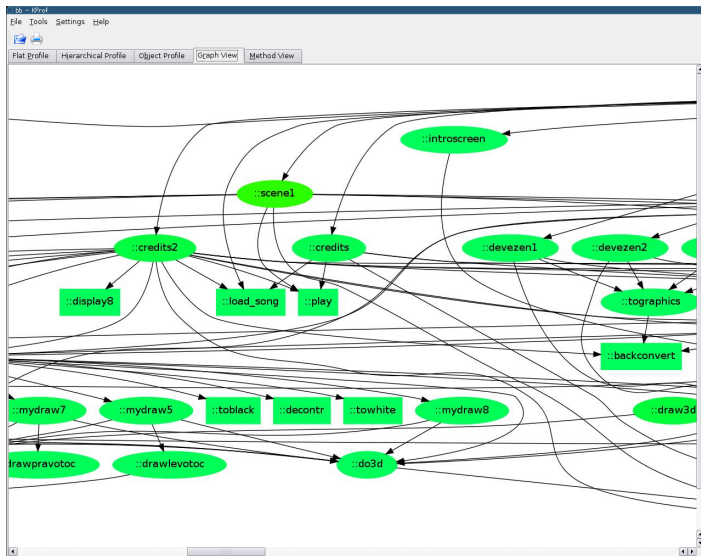
uxterm					

		0.00	0.00	2/36435	credits2 [28]
		0.00	0.00	19/36435	scene1 [8]
		0.00	0.03	198/36435	pryc [75]
		0.00	0.03	218/36435	mydraw [74]
		0.00	0.03	234/36435	drawhorotoc [71]
		0.00	0.03	234/36435	drawlevotoc [72]
		0.00	0.03	238/36435	dvojprujezd [69]
		0.00	0.05	344/36435	drawpravotoc [68]
		0.00	0.05	357/36435	drawlepic [67]
		0.00	0.07	546/36435	drawzoomer [59]
		0.00	0.08	646/36435	drawwait4 [56]
		0.00	0.11	834/36435	drawwait2 [52]
		0.00	0.12	899/36435	drawprujezd [51]
		0.00	0.26	2014/36435	message [35]
		0.02	3.90	29652/36435	drawcredits [7]
[5]	36.2	0.02	4.79	36435	print [5]
		4.79	0.00	247575/247575	fastscale [6]

		4.79	0.00	247575/247575	print [5]
[6]	36.1	4.79	0.00	247575	fastscale [6]

		0.00	3.99	5102/5102	draw [4]
[7]	30.0	0.00	3.99	5102	drawcredits [7]
		0.02	3.90	29652/36435	print [5]
		0.07	0.00	5102/6178	draw_starfield [55]
		0.00	0.00	29652/33950	centerprint [90]
:					

kprof Profile Visualisation Tool



Userspace tracing? `ptrace` ...

A bit ugly.

Userspace tracing? ptrace ...

A bit ugly.

Userspace tracing? ptrace ...
A bit ugly.

ptrace

- Means of one process observing/controlling another
- Prominently used by gdb, strace, ltrace
- Ugly, limited interface
- Processes cannot be traced by multiple processes
- Signal oriented architecture
- Large overhead

ptrace—ltrace

```

uxterm
__libc_start_main(0x80485ac, 1, 0xffd41094, 0x80486d0, 0x80486c0 <unfini
shed ...>
puts("Initialising array...")           = 22
fflush(0xf773d4e0Initialising array...
)                                         = 0
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 0, 0x80486d0) = 0x6b8b4567
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 1, 0x80486d0) = 0x327b23c6
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 2, 0x80486d0) = 0x643c9869
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 3, 0x80486d0) = 0x66334873
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 4, 0x80486d0) = 0x74b0dc51
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 5, 0x80486d0) = 0x19495cff
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 6, 0x80486d0) = 0x2ae8944a
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 7, 0x80486d0) = 0x625558ec
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 8, 0x80486d0) = 0x238e1f29
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 9, 0x80486d0) = 0x46e87ccd
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 10, 0x80486d0) = 0x3d1b58ba
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 11, 0x80486d0) = 0x507ed7ab
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 12, 0x80486d0) = 0x2eb141f2
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 13, 0x80486d0) = 0x41b71efb
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 14, 0x80486d0) = 0x79e2a9e3
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 15, 0x80486d0) = 0x7545e146
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 16, 0x80486d0) = 0x515f007c
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 17, 0x80486d0) = 0x5bd062c2
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 18, 0x80486d0) = 0x12200854
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 19, 0x80486d0) = 0x4db127f8
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 20, 0x80486d0) = 0x216231b
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 21, 0x80486d0) = 0x1f16e9e8
rand(0xf773d4e0, 0, 0xf773e360, 22, 0x80486d0) = 0x1190cde7
:

```

ptrace—strace

```

uxterm
\0"...., 512) = 512
fstat64(3, {st_mode=S_IFREG|0755, st_size=1331684, ...}) = 0
mmap2(NULL, 1337704, PROT_READ|PROT_EXEC, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_DENYWRITE, 3,
0) = 0xf7605000
mmap2(0xf7746000, 12288, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_FIXED|MAP
_DENYWRITE, 3, 0x141) = 0xf7746000
mmap2(0xf7749000, 10600, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_FIXED|MAP
_ANONYMOUS, -1, 0) = 0xf7749000
close(3) = 0
mmap2(NULL, 4096, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_ANONYMOUS, -1, 0
) = 0xf7604000
set_thread_area({entry_number:-1 -> 12, base_addr:0xf76046c0, limit:1048
575, seg_32bit:1, contents:0, read_exec_only:0, limit_in_pages:1, seg_no
t_present:0, useable:1}) = 0
mprotect(0xf7746000, 8192, PROT_READ) = 0
mprotect(0xf777d000, 4096, PROT_READ) = 0
munmap(0xf774c000, 69737) = 0
fstat64(1, {st_mode=S_IFIFO|0600, st_size=0, ...}) = 0
mmap2(NULL, 4096, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE, MAP_PRIVATE|MAP_ANONYMOUS, -1, 0
) = 0xf775d000
write(1, "Initialising array...\n", 22Initialising array...
) = 22
write(1, "Trying approach 1: ", 19Trying approach 1: ) = 19
write(1, "0x18fff7eb26fd058\nTrying approac"...., 370x18fff7eb26fd058
Trying approach 2: ) = 37
write(1, "0x18fff7eb26fd058\n", 180x18fff7eb26fd058
) = 18
exit_group(0) = ?
(END)

```

Improved userspace tracing? `utrace`

Not mainline yet.

Improved userspace tracing? utrace

Not mainline yet.

Improved userspace tracing? utrace
Not mainline yet.

utrace

- Improved userspace tracing
- Not mainline
- Prominently used by SystemTap
- Utrace clients run in kernel, typically in module
- Ptrace reimplemented as a utrace client
- Infrastructure to monitor threads
- Establish “engine” for each monitored thread
 - Event reporting
 - Thread control
 - Thread machine state access

Kernel tracing? `ftrace`

Kernel tracing? ftrace

ftrace

- Mainline
- Kernel tracing infrastructure
- Originated from the realtime efforts
- Hijacks mcount (from gprof) for own purposes
- Low performance impact
- Tracing Plugins
 - Function
 - Function graph
 - Context switches
 - Time interrupts disabled
 - Time preemption disabled
 - Delay for high priority tasks
 - Power state transitions
 - Branch prediction
 - ...
- Exposed through debugfs—Manipulate with echo & cat
- Gained event support—perf events favoured for this

ftrace—Function Tracer

```
uxterm
delenn# mount -t debugfs debugfs /sys/kernel/debug
delenn# echo 'ext3*' > /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/set_ftrace_filter
delenn# echo function > /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/current_tracer
delenn# echo 1 > /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/tracing_on
delenn# head /sys/kernel/debug/tracing/trace
# tracer: function
#
#          TASK-PID    CPU#    TIMESTAMP    FUNCTION
#          | |         |         |         |
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725446: ext3_bmap <-bmap
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725449: ext3_get_block <-generic_block_bmap
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725450: ext3_get_blocks_handle <-ext3_get_block
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725451: ext3_block_to_path <-ext3_get_blocks_hand
le
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725452: ext3_get_branch <-ext3_get_blocks_handle
kjournald-1309 [000] 1362.725472: ext3_bmap <-bmap
delenn#
```

ftrace—Task scheduling

```

uextern
delenn# echo sched_switch > current_tracer /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
delenn# echo 1 > tracing_enabled /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
delenn# head trace /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
# tracer: sched_switch
#
#          TASK-PID    CPU#    TIMESTAMP    FUNCTION
#          |   |   |   |   |
wmii-2871 [001]  2873.477996:  2871:120:S ==> [001]  2697:120:R Xorg
Xorg-2697 [001]  2873.478012:  2697:120:S ==> [001]    0:120:R <idle>
<idle>-0  [001]  2873.479136:    0:120:R ==> [001]  2871:120:R wmii
wmii-2871 [001]  2873.479193:  2871:120:R + [001]  26077:120:R <...>
wmii-2871 [001]  2873.479211:  2871:120:S ==> [001]  26077:120:R <...>
<...>-26077 [001]  2873.479245:  26077:120:R + [001]  26078:120:R <...>
delenn# █ /sys/kernel/debug/tracing

```

ftrace—Measuring task wakeup latency

```

uxterm
delenn# echo 0 > tracing_enabled /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
delenn# echo wakeup > current_tracer /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
delenn# echo 0 > tracing_max_latency /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
delenn# echo 1 > tracing_enabled; chrt -f 5 sleep 1; echo 0 > tracing_enabled
delenn# cat trace /sys/kernel/debug/tracing
# tracer: wakeup
#
# wakeup latency trace v1.1.5 on 2.6.34-tip+
# -----
# latency: 90 us, #102/102, CPU#0 | (M:desktop VP:0, KP:0, SP:0 HP:0 #P:2)
# -----
# | task: sleep-21311 (uid:0 nice:0 policy:1 rt_prio:5)
# -----
#
# _-----=> CPU#
# / _-----=> irqsoff
# | / _-----=> need-resched
# || / _-----=> hardirq/softirq
# ||| / _-----=> preempt-depth
# |||| / _-----=> lock-depth
# ||||| / delay
# cmd      pid      | time | caller
# \      /      | \   /
<idle>-0    0d.h..    1us :      0:120:R  + [000] 21311: 94:R sleep
<idle>-0    0d.h..    2us : wake_up_process <-hrtimer_wakeup
-----
<idle>-0    0d....    90us : schedule <-cpu_idle
<idle>-0    0d....    90us :      0:120:R ==> [000] 21311: 94:R sleep

```


Kernel and Userspace tracing? LTTng

Not mainline.

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Not mainline.

Kernel and Userspace tracing? LTTng
Not mainline.

LTTng

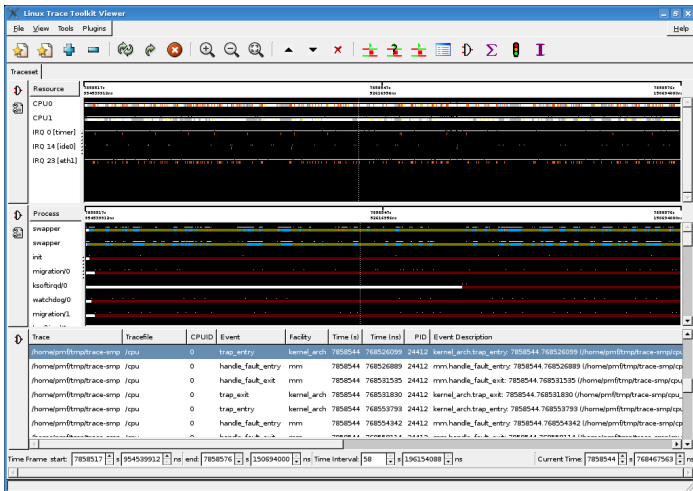
- Kernel & Userspace tracing package
- Not mainline
- Adds instrumentation points into kernel
- Uses tracepoints, ftrace, kprobes
- Can plot traces
- Completely failed to work for me in every way

LTTng

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- Not mainline
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LTTng Screenshot

LTTng did not work for me, but here's what it's supposed to do:



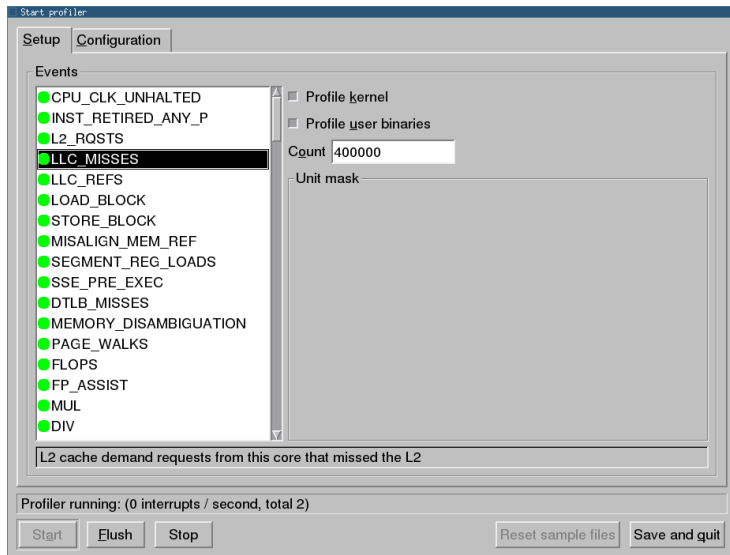
Hardware performance counters? oProfile

Hardware performance counters? oProfile

oProfile

- System wide sampling profiler
- Mainline
- Interface to Performance Measurement Unit
- GUI eases selection of performance counters
- Can generate gprof style call graph

oProfile GUI



oProfile Report

```
uxterm
delenn% ./cachetest ~/tests
Initialising array...
Trying approach 1: 0x18fff7eb26fd058
Trying approach 2: 0x18fff7eb26fd058
delenn% ~/tests
delenn% opreport -l ~/tests
CPU: Core 2, speed 1200 MHz (estimated)
Counted LLC_MISSES events (L2 cache demand requests from this core that
missed the L2) with a unit mask of 0x41 (No unit mask) count 400000
samples %      app name      symbol name
55      96.4912  cachetest      sumArrayNaive
1        1.7544    vmlinux        raise_softirq
1        1.7544    vmlinux        seq_escape
delenn%  ~/tests
```

oProfile Annotate

```

[No Name] = - VIM
#include <stdlib.h>
:
:
//4 MiB of L2 cache with a 4MiB array...
#define WIDTH 1024
#define HEIGHT 1024
#define ITERATIONS 100
int bigArray[WIDTH*HEIGHT];
:
void initArray(int *array, int w, int h) {
:   for (int n = 0; n < w*h; n++)
:       array[n] = rand();
:}
:
unsigned long long sumArrayNaive(int *array, int w, int
:   unsigned long long ret = 0;
:   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
:       for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
1   1.7544 :           for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
54 94.7368 :               ret += array[y*w + x];
:           return ret;
:}
:
unsigned long long sumArrayOptimal(int *array, int w, in
:   unsigned long long ret = 0;
:   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
:       for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
:           for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
:               ret += array[y*w + x];
:   return ret;
:}
-- VISUAL LINE --                                     36.1      1%

```

oProfile Call Graph

```

uxterm
delenn% oprofile -c ~/tests
CPU: Core 2, speed 1200 MHz (estimated)
Counted LLC_MISSES events (L2 cache demand requests from this core that missed the L2) with a unit mask of 0x41 (No unit mask) count 400000

```

samples	%	app name	symbol name
55	96.4912	cachetest	sumArrayNaive
55	100.000	cachetest	sumArrayNaive [self]
1	100.000	vmlinux	run_local_timers
1	1.7544	vmlinux	raise_softirq
1	100.000	vmlinux	raise_softirq [self]
1	100.000	vmlinux	mangle
1	1.7544	vmlinux	seq_escape
1	100.000	vmlinux	seq_escape [self]
1	100.000	vmlinux	tick_sched_timer
0	0	vmlinux	__run_hrtimer
1	100.000	vmlinux	update_process_times
0	0	vmlinux	__run_hrtimer [self]
1	33.3333	vmlinux	cpuidle_idle_call
2	66.6667	vmlinux	acpi_idle_enter_bm
0	0	vmlinux	acpi_idle_enter_bm
2	66.6667	vmlinux	acpi_idle_enter_bm
1	33.3333	vmlinux	cpuidle_idle_call
0	0	vmlinux	acpi_idle_enter_bm [self]
1	100.000	vmlinux	cpuidle_idle_call
0	0	vmlinux	apic_timer_interrupt
1	100.000	vmlinux	smp_apic_timer_interrupt

Something to pull everything together? SystemTap
Not mainline.

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Not mainline.

SystemTap

- Powerful kernel & userspace analysis suite
- Scripting language
- Generates, Compiles and loads kernel modules
- Primarily uses kprobes
- Utrace for userspace tracing
- Uprobes support
- Many userspace dependencies
- Hard to use
- More of interest to enterprise distros
- Version 1.2 recently released
 - Prototypical support for perf events
 - Hardware breakpoint probe support
- Not mainline and . . .

SystemTap

Let's face it, system tap isn't going to be merged, so why even bring it up? Every kernel developer I have _ever_ seen agrees that all the new tracing is a million times superior. I'm sure there are system tap people who disagree, but quite frankly, I don't see it being merged considering how little the system tap people ever did for the kernel.

So if things like system tap and "security models that go behind the kernel by tying into utrace" are the reasons for utrace, color me utterly uninterested. In fact, color me actively hostile. I think that's the worst possible situation that we'd ever be in as kernel people (namely exactly the "do things in kernel space by hiding behind utrace without having kernel people involved")

Linus

Something else to pull everything together? perf events
The future of Linux Instrumentation.

Something else to pull everything together? perf events

The future of Linux Instrumentation.

Something else to pull everything together? perf events
The future of Linux Instrumentation.

perf events

- All in one Performance tool
- Newcomer, but already mainline
- Interface to Performance Measurement Unit
- Virtual counters
- Integrates with tracepoints
- Kprobe support
- Scripting support
- SLAB subsystem profiling
- Lock profiling
- Scheduler analyser
- Timechart

Sample perf report

```

root@Ego2: ~
Events: 70K
Report: perf.data
[.] 29.67% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] aa_renderpalette
<+> 20.35% bb ffffffff8100f948 [k] 0xfffffffff8100f948
<+> 19.81% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] X_flush
[.] 5.64% bb bb [.] fastscale
<+> 3.11% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] MyDrawString
[.] 2.61% bb bb [.] draw_plasma
<+> 2.20% bb bb [.] disp3d
<+> 2.08% bb libX11.so.6.3.0 [.] XDrawText
<+> 1.98% bb libmikmod.so.2.0.4 [.] VC1_WriteSamples
<+> 1.87% bb bb [.] mkrealloc_table
<+> 1.79% bb libc-2.10.2.so [.] memcpy
[.] 1.77% bb bb [.] lc
[.] 1.20% bb bb [.] rfield
<+> 0.60% bb bb [.] set
[.] 0.49% bb libc- [.] r
[.] 0.30% bb libc- [.] le
<+> 0.29% bb libc- [.] le
<+> 0.26% bb bb [.] drawline
[.] 0.25% bb bb [.] mydraw1
<+> 0.24% bb bb [.] do_fractal
[.] 0.21% bb bb [.] toblack1
[.] 0.17% bb bb [.] drawfire
<+> 0.17% bb bb [.] mydraw
<+> 0.16% bb bb [.] 0x000000f7731430
[.] 0.16% bb [vdso] [.] __i686.get_pc_thunk.bx
[.] 0.15% bb libc-2.10.2.so [.] __mcount_internal
<+> 0.15% bb libc-2.10.2.so [.] __mcount_internal

Annotate fastscale
Zoom into bb(22326) thread
Zoom into bb DSO
Exit

For a higher level overview, try: perf report --sort comm,dso

```

Sample perf call graph

```

root@Ego2: ~
Events: 70K
Report: perf.data
[.] 29.67% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] aa_renderpalette
<+> 20.35% bb ffffffff8100f948 [k] 0xffffffff8100f948
<+> 19.81% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] X_flush
[.] 5.64% bb bb [.] fastscale
<+> 3.11% bb libaa.so.1.0.4 [.] MyDrawString
[.] 2.61% bb bb [.] draw_plasma
<-> 2.20% bb bb [.] disp3d
<-> disp3d
    <+> 47.38% draw3d
    <-> 21.70% draw
        [.] timestuff
        [.] pauzicka
        [.] scene5
        [.] bb
        [.] main
        [.] __libc_start_main
        [.] _start
    <+> 9.37% mydraw7
    <+> 5.04% mydraw5
    <+> 4.93% mydraw4
    <+> 4.68% mydraw6
    <+> 4.28% mydraw2
    <+> 2.37% mydraw8
<+> 2.08% bb libX11.so.6.3.0 [.] XDrawText
<+> 1.98% bb libmikmod.so.2.0.4 [.] VC1_WriteSamples
<+> 1.87% bb bb [.] mkrealloc_table
<+> 1.79% bb libc-2.10.2.so [.] memcpy

```

For a higher level overview, try: `perf report --sort comm,dso`

perf—Available events

```
root@Ego2: "
```

```
List of pre-defined events (to be used in -e):
```

cpu-cycles OR cycles	[Hardware event]
instructions	[Hardware event]
cache-references	[Hardware event]
cache-misses	[Hardware event]
branch-instructions OR branches	[Hardware event]
branch-misses	[Hardware event]
bus-cycles	[Hardware event]
cpu-clock	[Software event]
task-clock	[Software event]
page-faults OR faults	[Software event]
minor-faults	[Software event]
major-faults	[Software event]
context-switches OR cs	[Software event]
cpu-migrations OR migrations	[Software event]
alignment-faults	[Software event]
emulation-faults	[Software event]
L1-dcache-loads	[Hardware cache event]
L1-dcache-load-misses	[Hardware cache event]
L1-dcache-stores	[Hardware cache event]
L1-dcache-store-misses	[Hardware cache event]
L1-dcache-prefetches	[Hardware cache event]
L1-dcache-prefetch-misses	[Hardware cache event]
L1-icache-loads	[Hardware cache event]
L1-icache-load-misses	[Hardware cache event]

```
: |
```

perf—Available events

```

root@Ego2: ~
dTLB-prefetch-misses      [Hardware cache event]
iTLB-loads                [Hardware cache event]
iTLB-load-misses          [Hardware cache event]
branch-loads              [Hardware cache event]
branch-load-misses        [Hardware cache event]

rNNN (see 'perf list --help' on how to encode it) [Raw hardware event]

mem:<addr>[:access]       [Hardware breakpoint]

skb:skb_copy_datagram_iovec [Tracepoint event]
skb:kfree_skb             [Tracepoint event]
bkl:unlock_kernel         [Tracepoint event]
bkl:lock_kernel           [Tracepoint event]
block:block_rq_remap      [Tracepoint event]
block:block_remap         [Tracepoint event]
block:block_split         [Tracepoint event]
block:block_unplug_io     [Tracepoint event]
block:block_unplug_timer  [Tracepoint event]
block:block_plug          [Tracepoint event]
block:block_sleeprq       [Tracepoint event]
block:block_getrq         [Tracepoint event]
block:block_bio_queue     [Tracepoint event]
block:block_bio_frontmerge [Tracepoint event]
block:block_bio_backmerge [Tracepoint event]
block:block_bio_complete  [Tracepoint event]
block:block_bio_bounce    [Tracepoint event]
block:block_rq_issue      [Tracepoint event]

```

perf top

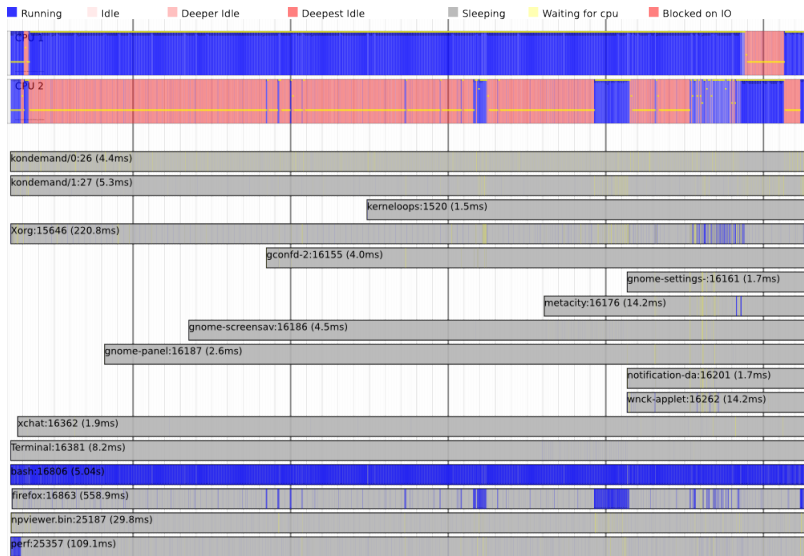
```

uxterm
-----
PerfTop:      700 irqs/sec  kernel:61.9%  exact:  0.0% [1000Hz cycles], (
all, 2 CPUs)
-----

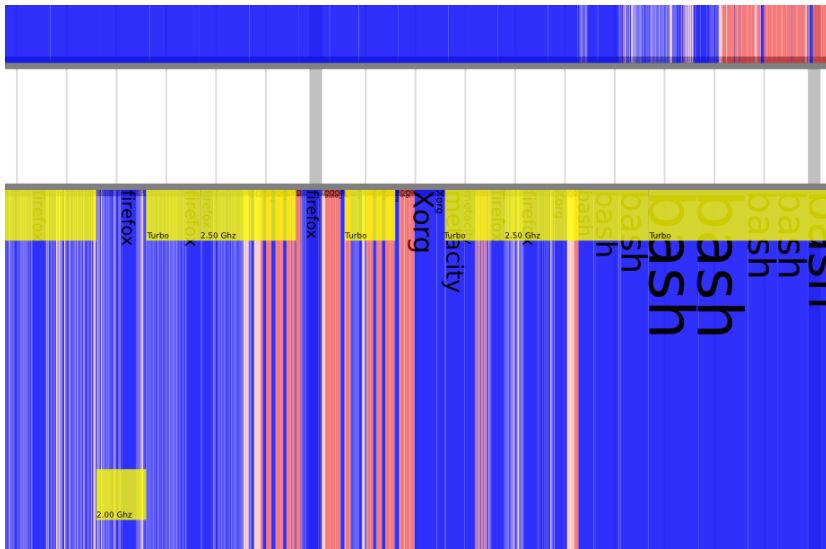
  samples  pcnt function                                DSO
-----
  705.00  26.3% read_hpet                                /boot/vmlinux
  174.00   6.5% page_fault                            /boot/vmlinux
   82.00   3.1% acpi_os_read_port                        /boot/vmlinux
   75.00   2.8% _raw_spin_lock_irqsave                  /boot/vmlinux
   40.00   1.5% trace_hardirqs_off                          /boot/vmlinux
   39.00   1.5% copy_user_highpage                          /boot/vmlinux
   39.00   1.5% _raw_spin_lock                            /boot/vmlinux
   34.00   1.3% __GI__dl_addr                                libc-2.10.2.so
   31.00   1.2% do_lookup_x                              /lib/ld-2.10.2.so
   28.00   1.0% start_critical_timing                        /boot/vmlinux
   28.00   1.0% get_page_from_freelist                        /boot/vmlinux
   26.00   1.0% __pthread_mutex_lock_int                    libpthread-2.10.2.so
   26.00   1.0% _dl_lookup_symbol_x                          /lib/ld-2.10.2.so
   24.00   0.9% kunmap_atomic                                /boot/vmlinux
   23.00   0.9% g_atomic_int_get                            libglib-2.0.so.0.2400.0
   23.00   0.9% do_page_fault                            /boot/vmlinux
   22.00   0.8% stop_critical_timing                        /boot/vmlinux

```

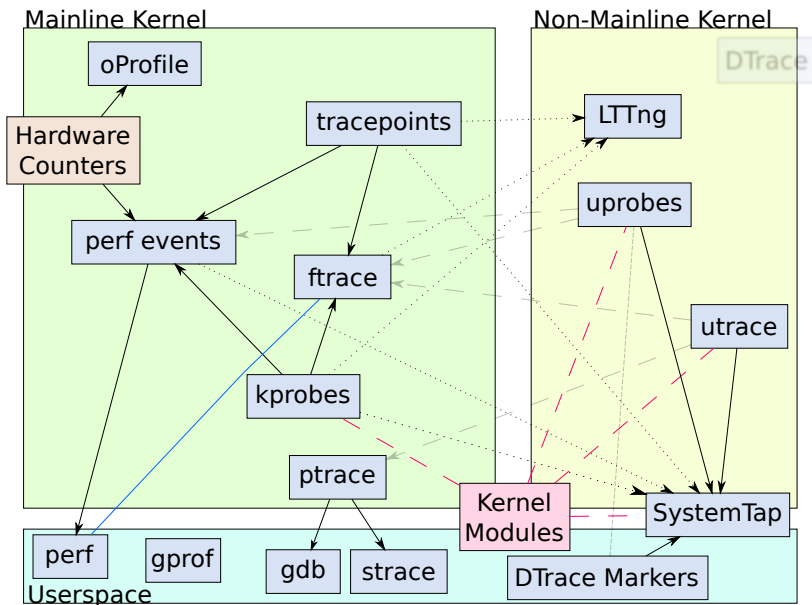
perf timechart



perf timechart



How does it all fit together?



Interesting Technologies for the Future

- DTrace
- SystemTap
- LTTng
- gprof
- ptrace
- utrace
- oProfile
- uprobes
- kprobes
- tracepoints
- ftrace
- perf events

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- tracepoints
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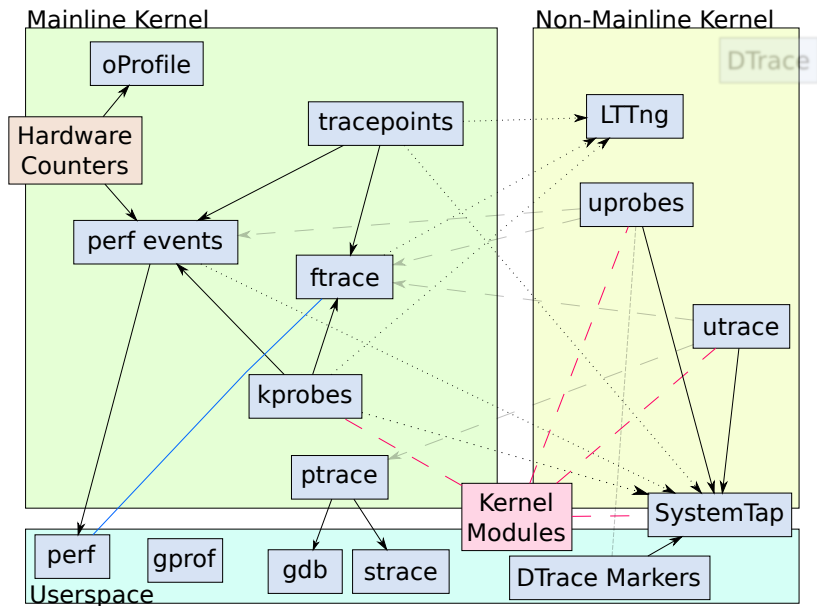
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- oProfile—Not going anywhere
- uprobes—Not mainline yet, likely soon. . .
- kprobes—Mainline, Used by others
- tracepoints—Mainline, Used by others
- ftrace—Mainline, Active
- perf events

Interesting Technologies for the Future

- DTrace—Licence issues, not suited to Linux
- SystemTap—Not mainline, enterprise focus
- LTTng—Not mainline, enterprise focus
- gprof—Limitations, not going anywhere
- ptrace—Ugly, set in stone
- utrace—Trouble going mainline
- oProfile—Not going anywhere
- uprobes—Not mainline yet, likely soon. . .
- kprobes—Mainline, Used by others
- tracepoints—Mainline, Used by others
- ftrace—Mainline, Active
- perf events—Mainline, Very active



Outline

2

Demonstrations

- Finding cache misses with perf
- Locate sources of block I/O with tracepoints
- Using kprobes to analyse a running kernel

Finding cache misses with perf

Finding cache misses with perf

- Fairly common scenario
- High cache misses is bad for performance
- Use a very simple C program as an example
 - Task: sum every element in a large array
 - Complication: array & program too big for L2 cache
 - Two approaches with different array access order
 - Use perf to observe cache misses

Finding cache misses with perf

- Fairly common scenario
- High cache misses is bad for performance
- Use a very simple C program as an example
- Task: sum every element in a large array
- Complication: array & program too big for L2 cache
- Two approaches with different array access order
- Use perf to observe cache misses

Finding cache misses with perf

```
... cachetest.c (/teeconfig/tests) - vim
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

//4 MiB of L2 cache with a 4MiB array...
#define WIDTH 1024
#define HEIGHT 1024
#define ITERATIONS 100
int bigArray[WIDTH*HEIGHT];

void initArray(int *array, int w, int h) {
    for (int n = 0; n < w*h; n++)
        array[n] = rand();
}

unsigned long long sumArrayNaive(int *array, int w, int h, int n) {
    unsigned long long ret = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
            for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
                ret += array[y*w + x];
    return ret;
}

unsigned long long sumArrayOptimal(int *array, int w, int h, int n) {
    unsigned long long ret = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
        for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
            for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
                ret += array[y*w + x];
    return ret;
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    unsigned long long ret;
    printf("Initialising array...\n"); fflush(stdout);
    initArray(bigArray, WIDTH, HEIGHT);
    printf("Trying approach 1: "); fflush(stdout);
    ret = sumArrayOptimal(bigArray, WIDTH, HEIGHT, ITERATIONS);
    printf("0x%llx\n", ret);
    printf("Trying approach 2: "); fflush(stdout);
    ret = sumArrayNaive(bigArray, WIDTH, HEIGHT, ITERATIONS);
    printf("0x%llx\n", ret);
    return 0;
}
```

40.1

Bot

Finding cache misses with perf

```
cachetest.c ("teeconfig/tests) - VIM
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

//4 MiB of L2 cache with a 4MiB array...
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        array[n] = rand();
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    unsigned long long ret = 0;
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            for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
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        for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
            for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
                ret += array[y*w + x];
    return ret;
}
```

Finding cache misses with perf

```
$ perf record -e cache-misses ./cachetest
```

```
$ perf report
```

The screenshot shows the output of the `perf report` command. The top section displays a list of events with their percentages, names, and symbols. The bottom section shows a detailed view of the `sumArrayNaive` function, including annotations and a zoomed-in view of the cachetest thread.

99.32%	cachetest	cachetest	[.]	sumArrayNaive
0.24%	cachetest	cachetest	[.]	sumArrayOptimal
0.10%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	perf_disable
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	__irq_complete_move
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	apic_timer_interrupt
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	__run_hrtimer
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	hw_perf_disable
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	stop_critical_timing
0.05%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	get_page_from_freelist
0.01%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	elf_map
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	tty_insert_flip_string_fixed_f
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	ieee80211_invoke_rx_handlers
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	probe_workqueue_insertion
0.00%	cachetest	libc-2.10.2.so	[.]	__random
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	kunmap_atomic
0.00%	cachetest			k_timer_fn
0.00%	cachetest			ck
0.00%	cachetest			task_sched_out
0.00%	cachetest			ftirq
0.00%	cachetest			_bit
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	__rcu_process_callbacks
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	account_group_user_time
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	task_rq_lock
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	try_to_wake_up
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	__free_one_page
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	__raw_spin_lock_irqsave
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	select_task_rq_fair
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	intel_finish_page_flip
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	cpuacct_update_stats
0.00%	cachetest	libc-2.10.2.so	[.]	__IO_file_overflow_internal
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	acct_update_integrals
0.00%	cachetest	libc-2.10.2.so	[.]	__IO_new_file_xspun
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	get_mm_rss
0.00%	cachetest	[kernel.kallsyms]	[k]	ioread32

For a higher level overview, try: `perf report --sort comm,ds0`

Finding cache misses with perf

```
$ perf record -e cache-misses ./cachetest
```

```
$ perf report
```

```

uxtern
Events: 2K
sumArrayNaive
Disassembly of section .text:
080484bc <sumArrayNaive>:
void initArray(int *array, int w, int h) {
    for (int n = 0; n < w*h; n++)
        array[n] = rand();
}
unsigned long long sumArrayNaive(int *array, int w, int h, int n)
0.00 : 80484bc: 55                push    %ebp
0.00 : 80484bd: 89 e5             mov     %esp,%ebp
0.00 : 80484bf: 83 ec 20          sub     $0x20,%esp
    unsigned long long ret = 0;
0.00 : 80484c2: c7 45 e8 00 00 00 movl    $0x0,-0x18(%ebp)
0.00 : 80484c9: c7 45 ec 00 00 00 movl    $0x0,-0x14(%ebp)
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
0.00 : 80484d0: c7 45 f4 00 00 00 movl    $0x0,-0xc(%ebp)
0.00 : 80484d7: eb 4b             jmp     8048524 <sumArrayNaive+0x68>
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++)
0.00 : 80484d9: c7 45 f8 00 00 00 movl    $0x0,-0x8(%ebp)
0.00 : 80484e0: eb 36             jmp     8048518 <sumArrayNaive+0x5c>
    for (int y = 0; y < h; y++)
0.00 : 80484e2: c7 45 fc 00 00 00 movl    $0x0,-0x4(%ebp)
0.00 : 80484e9: eb 21             jmp     804850c <sumArrayNaive+0x48>
    ret += array[y*w + x];
0.57 : 80484eb: 8b 45 fc          mov     -0x4(%ebp),%eax
0.00 : 80484ee: 0f af 45 0c       imul    0xc(%ebp),%eax
0.00 : 80484f2: 03 45 f8          add     -0x8(%ebp),%eax
0.00 : 80484f5: c1 e0 02          shl     $0x2,%eax
0.62 : 80484f8: 03 45 08          add     0x8(%ebp),%eax
0.00 : 80484fb: 8b 00             mov     (%eax),%eax
95.14 : 80484fd: 89 c2             mov     %eax,%edx
0.31 : 80484ff: c1 fa 1f          sar     $0x1f,%edx
0.67 : 8048502: 01 45 e8          add     %eax,-0x18(%ebp)
0.15 : 8048505: 11 55 ec          adc     %edx,-0x14(%ebp)
    }

```

Press <- or ESC to exit

Locate sources of block I/O with perf and tracepoints

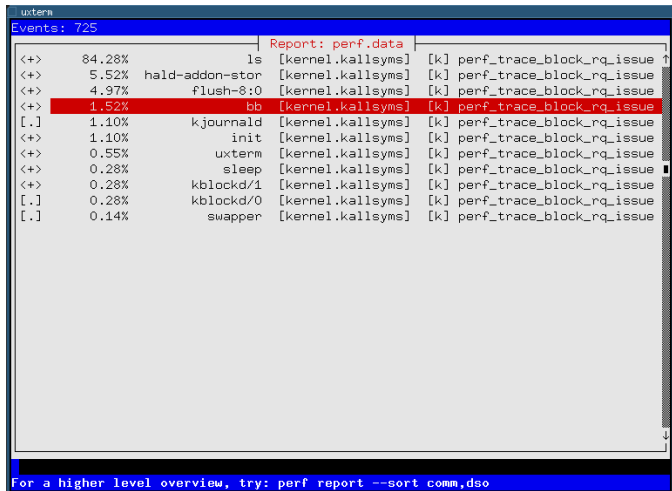
perf—Locate sources of block I/O

- System is under heavy disk I/O causing slowdowns
- Traditional top does not reveal offending processes
- Even atop only shows I/O at process granularity
- block:block_rq_issue tracepoint available
- Kernel must be compiled with block I/O tracing
- perf can produce call graphs to track exact origin

perf—Locate sources of block I/O

```
# perf record -g -a -e block:block_rq_issue sleep 10
```

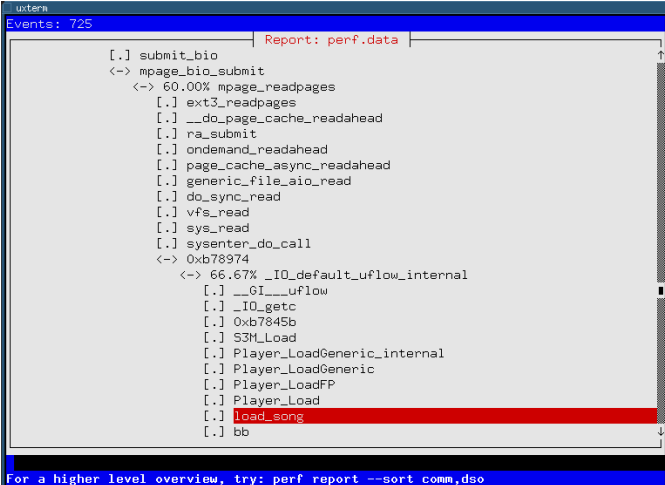
```
# perf report
```



perf—Locate sources of block I/O

```
# perf record -g -a -e block:block_rq_issue sleep 10
```

```
# perf report
```



```
uxtern
Events: 725
Report: perf.data

[.] submit_bio
<-> mpage_bio_submit
  <-> 60.00% mpage_readpages
    [.] ext3_readpages
    [.] __do_page_cache_readahead
    [.] ra_submit
    [.] ondemand_readahead
    [.] page_cache_async_readahead
    [.] generic_file_aio_read
    [.] do_sync_read
    [.] vfs_read
    [.] sys_read
    [.] sysenter_do_call
    <-> 0xb78974
      <-> 66.67% _IO_default_uflow_internal
        [.] __GI___uflow
        [.] _IO_getc
        [.] 0xb7845b
        [.] S3M_Load
        [.] Player_LoadGeneric_internal
        [.] Player_LoadGeneric
        [.] Player_LoadFP
        [.] Player_Load
        [.] load_song
        [.] bb
```

For a higher level overview, try: `perf report --sort comm,dso`

Analyse a running kernel with perf and kprobes

Analyse a running kernel with perf and kprobes

- Want to pull information out of a running kernel
- Information is not already revealed to userspace
- No tracepoints provide the information
- Live system—cannot afford downtime
- Kernel debugging information and source is available
- Let's probe the scheduler as an example. . .

Analysing a running kernel with perf and kprobes

perf probe -line schedule

```
root@Ego2: ~#  
<schedule:0>  
0  asmmlinkage void __sched schedule(void)  
1  {  
    struct task_struct *prev, *next;  
    unsigned long *switch_count;  
    struct rq *rq;  
    int cpu;  
  
    need_resched:  
    preempt_disable();  
    9    cpu = smp_processor_id();  
    10    rq = cpu_rq(cpu);  
    11    rcu_sched_qs(cpu);  
    12    prev = rq->curr;  
    13    switch_count = &prev->nivcsw;  
  
    15    release_kernel_lock(prev);  
    need_resched_nonpreemptible:  
  
    schedule_debug(prev);  
  
    if (sched_feat(HRTICK))  
        hrtick_clear(rq);  
  
    23    raw_spin_lock_irq(&rq->lock);  
    clear_tsk_need_resched(prev);  
  
    26    if (prev->state && !(preempt_count() & PREEMPT_ACTIVE)) {  
    27        if (unlikely(signal_pending_state(prev->state, prev)))  
    28            prev->state = TASK_RUNNING;  
    }  
    else
```

Analysing a running kernel with perf and kprobes

```

delenn% sudo perf probe --add "schedule:27 prev prev->state rq rq->lock"
Add new event:
  probe:schedule      (on schedule:27 with prev state=prev->state rq lock=rq->lock)

You can now use it on all perf tools, such as:

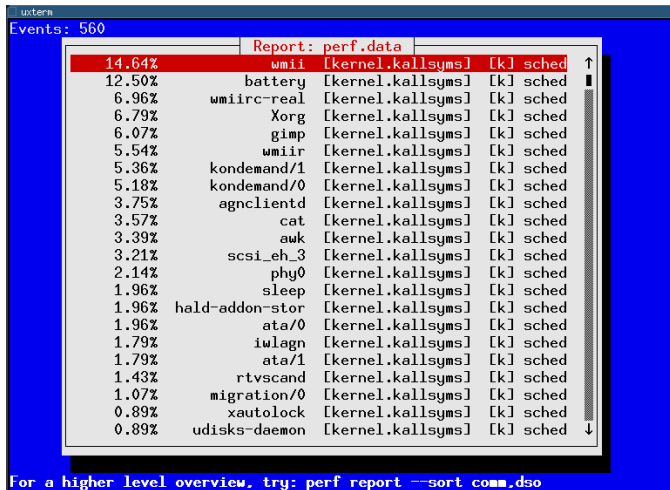
    perf record -e probe:schedule -aR sleep 1

delenn% perf list|grep probe
  probe:schedule      [Tracepoint event]
delenn% sudo perf record -e probe:schedule -a sleep 1
[ perf record: Woken up 1 times to write data ]
[ perf record: Captured and wrote 0.179 MB perf.data (~7804 samples) ]
delenn% sudo perf trace|head
  kblockd/0-268 [000] 5001.528119: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f714dec0 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=9d9c
  kblockd/0-268 [000] 5001.528320: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f714dec0 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=a3a2
  kondemand/1-21741 [001] 5001.530282: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f62d4520 state=
1 rq=c2e08220 lock=6362
  kondemand/0-925 [000] 5001.531062: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f72ed9a0 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=acab
  gimp-16868 [000] 5001.535137: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f5b74520 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=b9b8
  rtvscand-2738 [000] 5001.535158: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f618f860 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=bab9
  ksoftirqd/1-21740 [001] 5001.535307: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f62d4000 state=
1 rq=c2e08220 lock=6e6d
  rtvscand-2771 [000] 5001.538041: schedule: (c14b041e) prev=f70a3860 state=
1 rq=c2c08220 lock=c1c0

```

Analysing a running kernel with perf and kprobes

perf report



Thankyou all for listening

- perf can be found in the Linux kernel sources under `/tools/perf`
- perf is being actively developed in the “tip” kernel tree
- Linux Weekly News has some good further reading on `ftrace`—google *site:lwn.net ftrace*
- perf articles not as easy to find yet, here are some:
 - <http://lwn.net/Articles/339361>—“Perfcounters added to the mainline”
 - <http://lwn.net/Articles/373842>—“Scripting support for perf”
 - <http://lwn.net/Articles/382554>—“A “live mode” for perf”
 - <http://lwn.net/Articles/346470>—“Fun with tracepoints”
 - <http://lkml.org/lkml/2010/3/17/91>—Ingo Molnar on database I/O latency