Why Is My App Slow?

Tools & Techniques To Identify System Performance Issues

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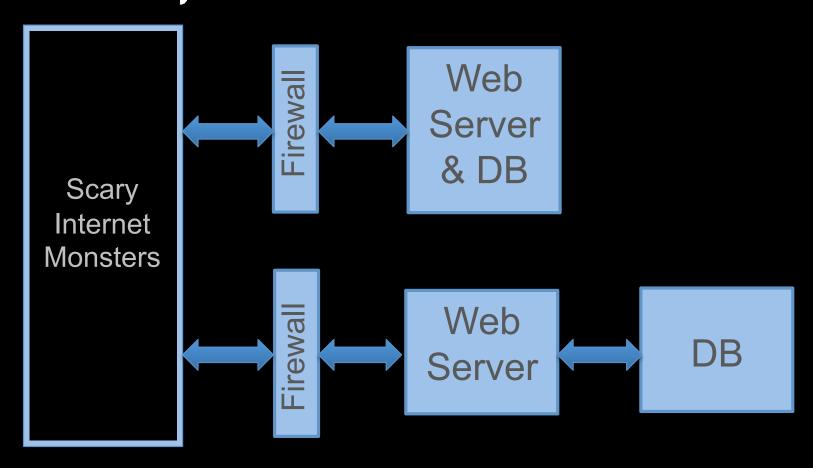
Why Is My App Slow?

- •You have a slow app!
- Network congestion
- Database load
- External services*
- Garbage collection*
- Other users & processes

Where is the problem?

- Can't fix it (easily) if we can't find it
- •Need some system knowledge (e.g. architecture)
- Need some system expertise (e.g. Linux sysadmin)
- Lucky you! I have some tools for you...

Typical Architectures



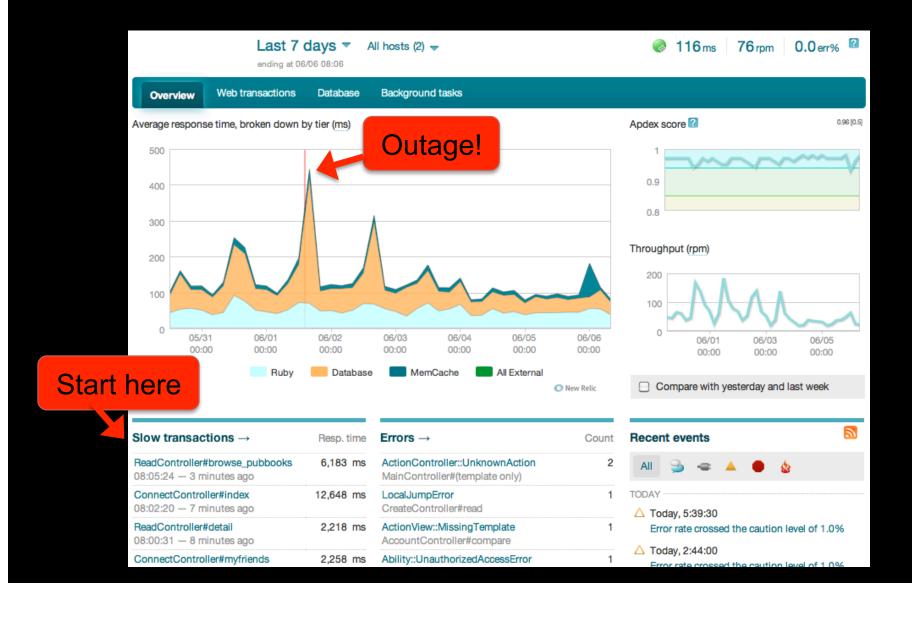
(I'm assuming we're using Apache, Passenger, MySQL)

Where to Start?

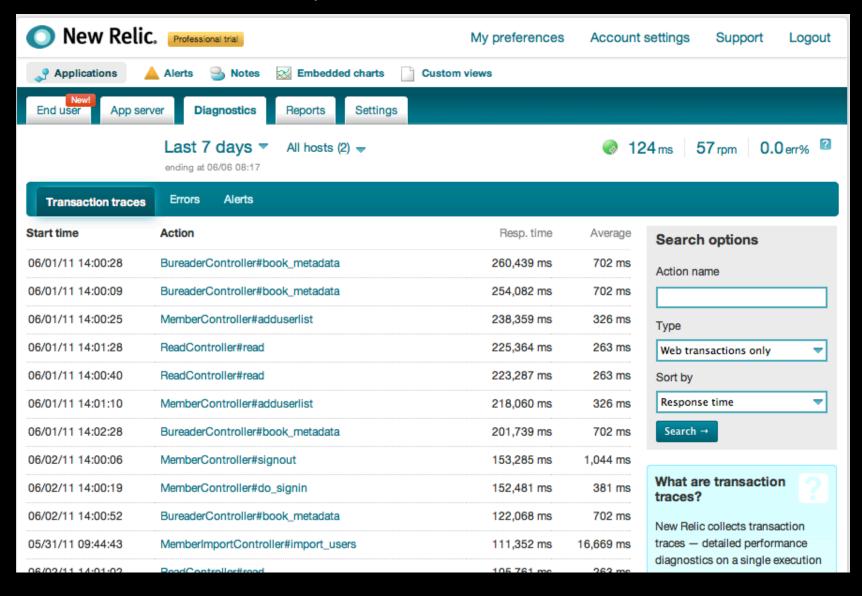
NewRelic

- Its easy
- Its great
- •Its free!*
- •Tell me more!

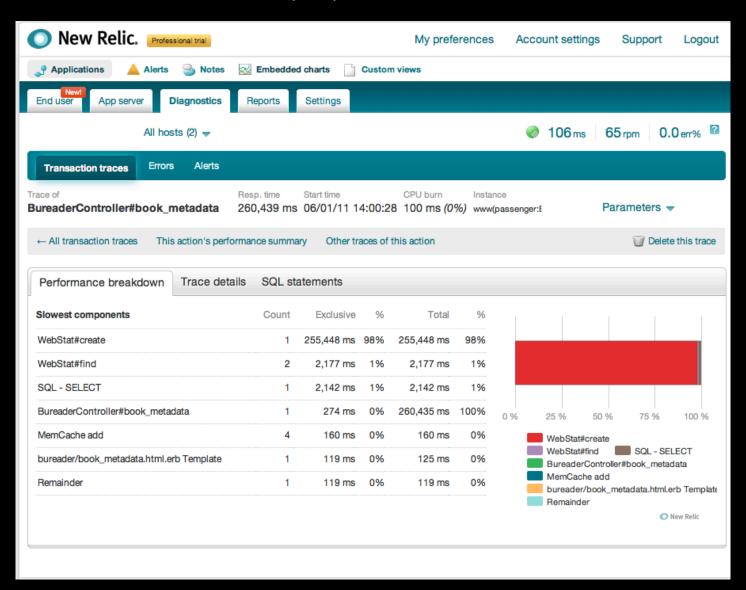
NewRelic = Awesomeness!



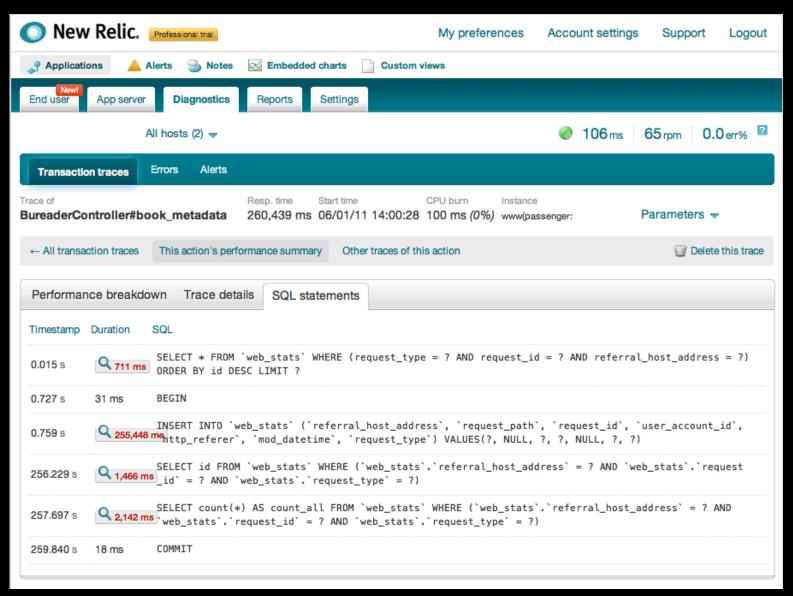
More \$ = More Love



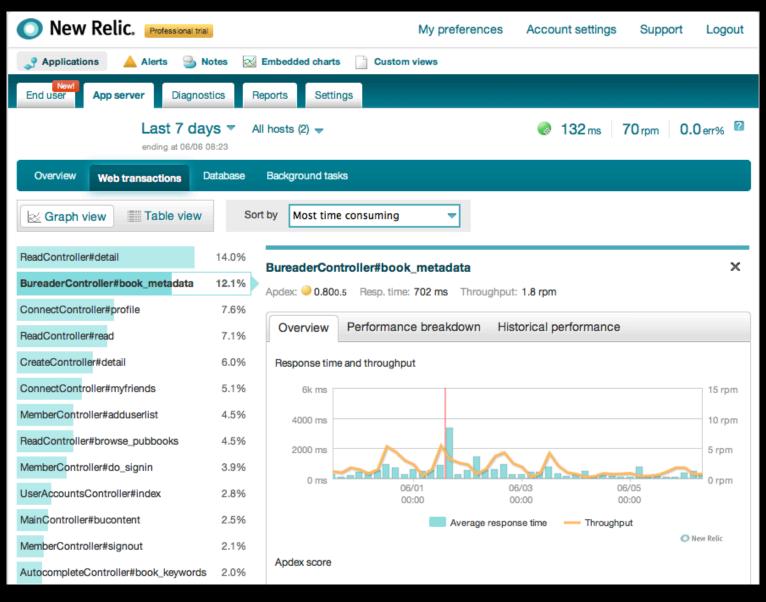
More \$\$ = Love^2



You Had Me At "Trace".



...and "Web Transactions"



But Why Was It Slow?

NewRelic can tell you where time was spent...

NewRelic can tell you how it was spent...

NewRelic can't tell you why it was spent

To The Bat-Cave!

Need to investigate at the system & architecture level.

Is the problem...

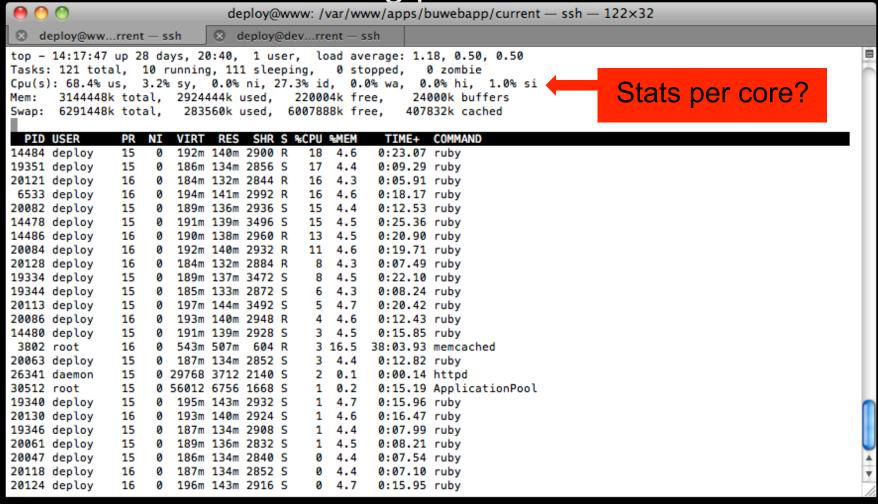
- •cpu maxed out?
- •network bandwidth?
- •server needs more memory?
- •external (web services, file system)?
- •all of the above?

Tools In Our Bat-Utility Belt

- CPU top, htop, mpstat*
- •Disk iostat, nfsiostat*
- Network iftop, ntop*, etherape*
- Memory vmstat, free
- Passenger passenger-status, passenger-memory-stats
- •"Resources" Isof, sar*
- MySQL slow query log

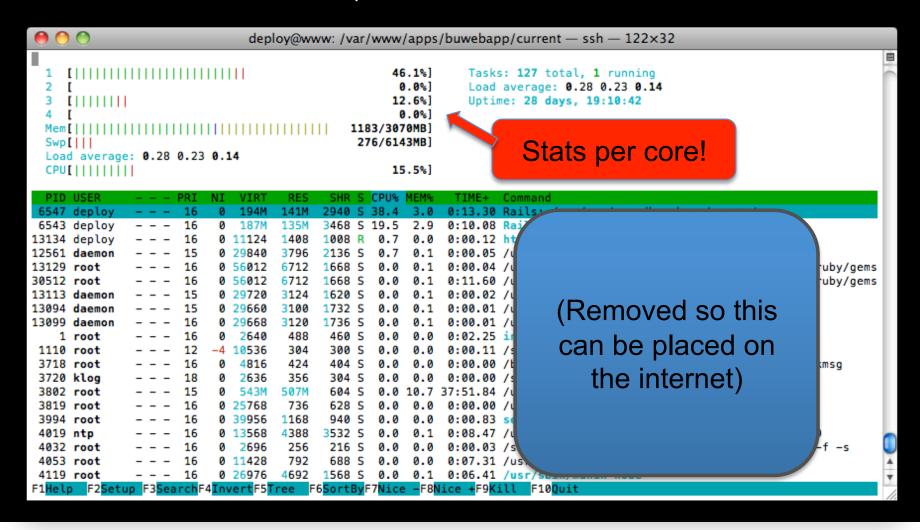
CPU - Old-School

TOP - List of all running processes



CPU - New Generation

TOP with more info, abilities



CPU+Disk

IOSTAT - cpu & device utilization

000			dep	loy@w	ww: /var/	www/apps/	buwebapp/current — ssh — 122×32		
deploy	@wwrre	nt — ssh	ı ⊗ de	ploy@d	evrrent -	– ssh			
deploy@www:/var/www/apps/buwebapp/current\$ iostat 4 Linux 2.6.16.29-xen (www) 06/06/11									
avg-cpu:	%user 1.93	%nice 9 0.00	%system %io 0.37	wait 0.68	%steal 0.34	%idle 96.67			
Device: sda1 sda2		tps 3.12 0.03	Blk_read/s 5.85 0.36	5	k_wrtn/s 55.60 0.36	Blk_read 14583414 895396			
-	%user 18.17	%nice 9 0.00	%system %io 1.13	wait 0.00	%steal 19.95	%idle 60.75		Test Started	
Device: sda1 sda2		tps 3.67 0.00	Blk_read/s 0.00 0.00)	k_wrtn/s 70.42 0.00	Blk_read 0 0	Blk_wrtn 288 0		
-	%user 43.54	%nice 9	%system %io 2.19	wait 0.19	%steal 45.78	%idle 8.31			
Device: sda1 sda2		tps 0.00 0.00	Blk_read/s 0.00 0.00)	k_wrtn/s 0.00 0.00	Blk_read 0 0	Blk_wrtn 0 0		
-	%user 23.96	%nice 9 0.00	%system %io 2.49	wait 0.13	%steal 31.55	%idle 41.87			
Device: sda1 sda2		tps 2.48 0.00	Blk_read/s 0.00 0.00)	k_wrtn/s 51.49 0.00	Blk_read 0 0	Blk_wrtn 208 0		A V

Home Movies!

```
deploy@www: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current - ssh - 129×19

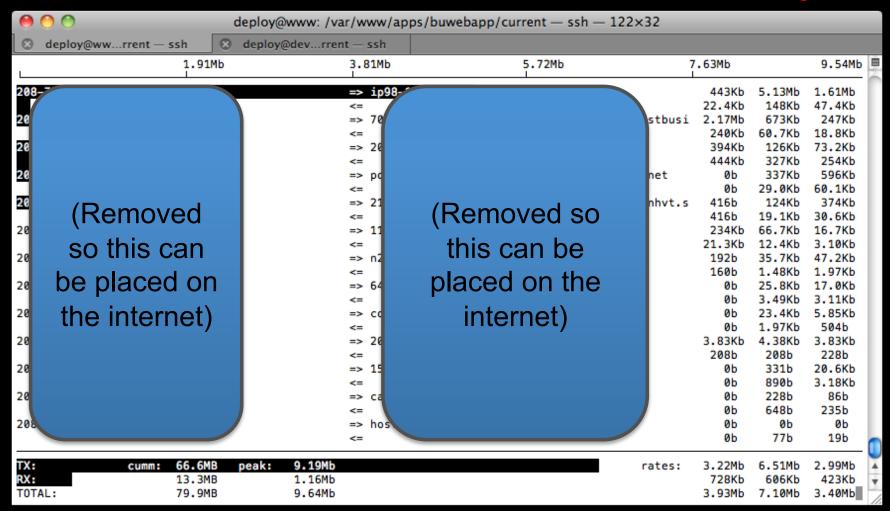
    deploy@dev...rrent − ssh

deploy@ww...rrent — ssh
   5.1%]
                                                               Tasks: 435 total, 1 running
                                                      0.8%1
    [ ]
                                                               Load average: 2.52 0.93 0.52
                                                      6.9%1
                                                               Uptime: 28 days, 21:09:35
   [1111]
                                                      2.1%]
    Swp[]]
                                                276/6143MB]
  Load average: 2.52 0.93 0.52
                                                      3.9%]
 CPU[]]
 PID USER
                   PRI NI VIRT
                                   RES
                                        SHR S CPU% MEM%
                                                         TIME+ Command
30438 deploy --- 16 0 11388
                                  1620
                                        1008 R 2.7 0.0 0:02.83 http
20086 deploy
              - - - 16
                         0 193M
                                  140M
                                        2952 S 2.0 1.3 0:14.25 Rails: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current
20063 deploy
              - - - 16
                        0 187M 134M
                                        2852 S 1.4 1.2 0:14.07 Rails: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current
                        0 189M
                                  136M
                                        2936 S 1.4 1.3 0:14.08 Rails: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current
20082 deploy
              - - - 15
                                        2980 S 0.0 1.3 0:24.74 Rails: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current
26507 deploy
              - - - 16
                         0 192M
                                  139M
31230 daemon
              - - - 15
                          0 29924
                                  3360
                                        1732 S 0.0 0.0 0:00.03 /usr/local/apache2/bin/httpd -k start
                          0 186M
                                  134M
                                        2840 S 0.0 1.2 0:08.29 Rails: /var/www/apps/buwebapp/current
20047 deploy
            - - - 16
F1Help F2Setup F3SearchF4InvertF5Tree F6SortByF7Nice -F8Nice +F9Kill F10Quit
Request size [B]: 109.0
Reply rate [replies/s]: min 0.0 avg 7.8 max 18.0 stddev 6.6 (5 samples)
Reply time [ms]: response 14680.3 transfer 1089.1
Reply size [B]: header 553.0 content 63940.0 footer 0.0 (total 64493.0)
Reply status: 1xx=0 2xx=200 3xx=0 4xx=0 5xx=0
CPU time [s]: user 1.94 system 27.28 (user 6.5% system 91.4% total 97.9%)
Net I/0: 422.6 KB/s (3.5*10^6 bps)
Errors: total 0 client-timo 0 socket-timo 0 connrefused 0 connreset 0
Errors: fd-unavail 0 addrunavail 0 ftab-full 0 other 0
Screencast Ow Matte Come/currents
```

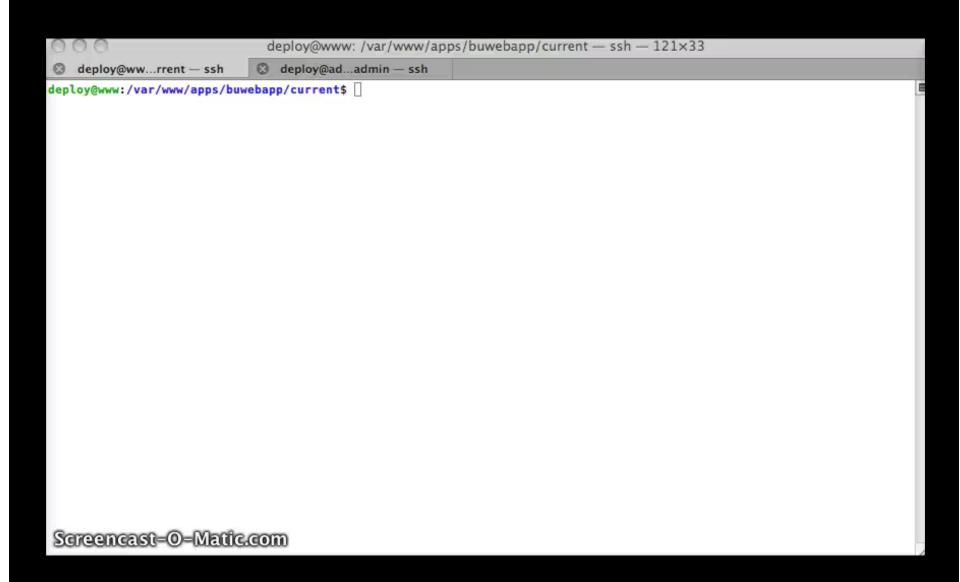
Network - Look Ma, Bandwidth!

IFTOP - TOP for interfaces

2s, 10s, 40s averages

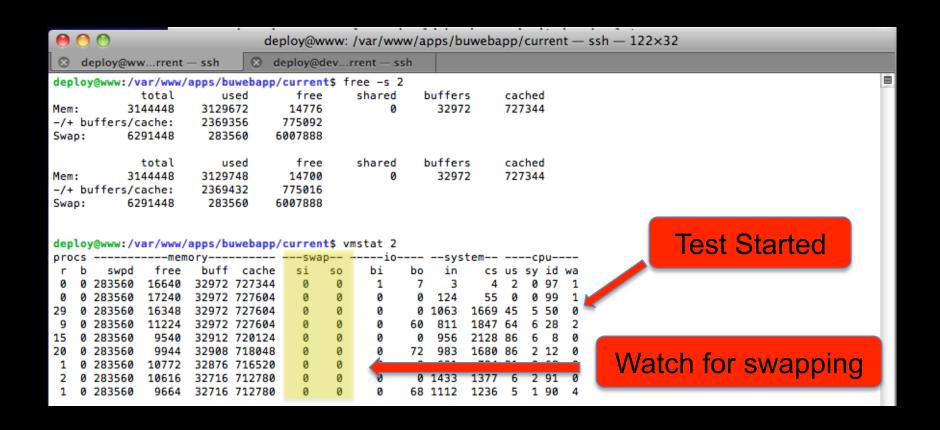


Home Movies!



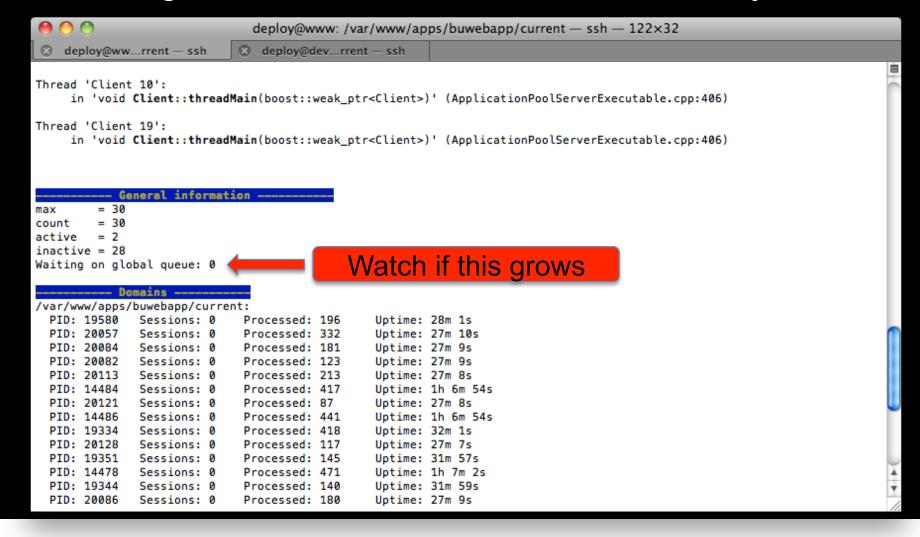
Memories...

FREE - free & used memory VMSTAT - processes, memory, paging, cpu



Passenger Status

Passenger-status - threads, status, memory



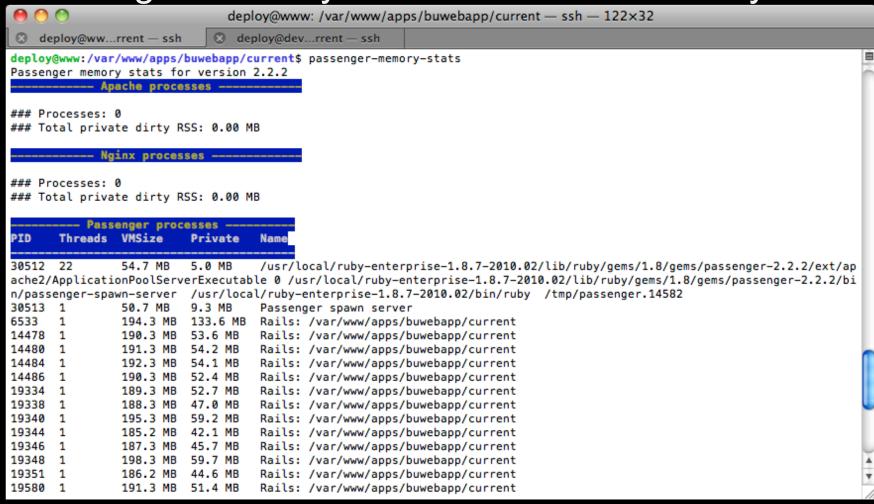
Home Movies!

```
deploy@ww...rrent — ssh
                              deploy@dev...rrent — ssh
Thread 'Client 217':
     in 'void Client::threadMain(boost::weak ptr<Client>)' (ApplicationPoolServerExecutable.cpp:406)
          - General information ----
max
         = 29
count
active = 1
inactive = 28
Waiting on global queue: 0
          - Domains ---
/var/www/apps/buwebapp/current:
  PID: 31468 Sessions: 0
                               Processed: 55
                                                  Uptime: 3m 14s
  PID: 20113 Sessions: 0
                              Processed: 394
                                                  Uptime: 1h 13m 42s
  PID: 26473 Sessions: 0
                               Processed: 51
                                                  Uptime: 31m 25s
  PID: 14486
               Sessions: 0
                               Processed: 497
                                                  Uptime: 1h 53m 28s
               Sessions: 0
  PID: 20128
                               Processed: 172
                                                  Uptime: 1h 13m 41s
  PID: 14478
               Sessions: 0
                               Processed: 499
                                                  Uptime: 1h 53m 36s
                            deploy@devx.biguinverse.com, /vai/www/apps/buwebsite/current
Total: connections 200 requests 200 replies 200 test-duration 9.867 s
Connection rate: 20.3 conn/s (49.3 ms/conn, <=175 concurrent connections)
Connection time [ms]: min 46.3 avg 4627.5 max 8936.6 median 4680.5 stddev 2422.5
Connection time [ms]: connect 18.4
Connection length [replies/conn]: 1.000
Request rate: 20.3 reg/s (49.3 ms/reg)
Request size [B]: 109.0
Reply rate [replies/s]: min 17.2 avg 17.2 max 17.2 stddev 0.0 (1 samples)
Reply time [ms]: response 4284.9 transfer 324.1

RECEDENCES - On Mail GOOMent 63940.0 footer 0.0 (total 64493.0)
```

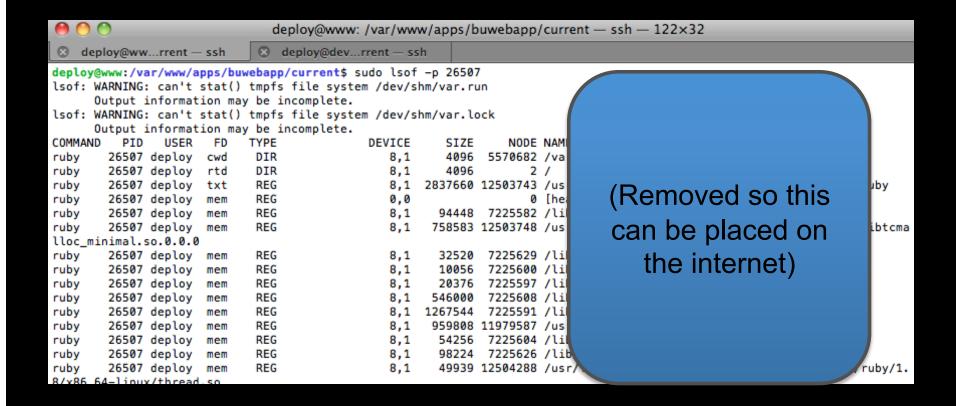
Passenger Memory Stats

Passenger-memory-stats - check for memory leaks



Whats In Your Process?

LSOF - list of open "files" (actually resources) - see what the process is using



MySQL

- Use system tools to look at CPU & memory usage
- Turn on the slow-query log
 - •Set slow_query_log & slow query log file in my.cnf
 - •Specify long_query_time minimum time threshold (default = 10s)

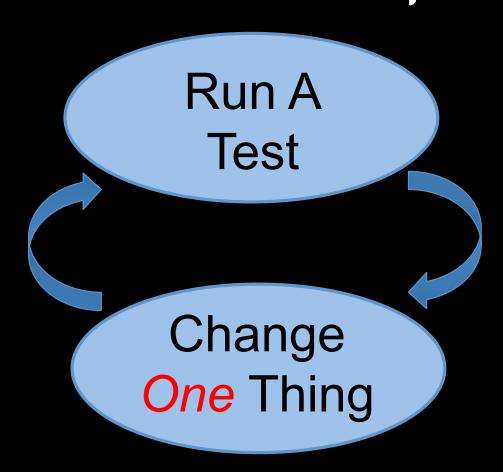
Testing

- Now that you have the tools, you need to use them correctly
- •Goal is to methodically determine how your system behaves and how you can change this behavior (for good or evil)
- •So how do we successfully test our system?

Testing Is Complicated

Run A Test

Testing Isn't Complicated



Testing Isn't Complicated

- Be methodical & precise
- Change one thing at a time to verify cause & effect
- •Make sure you can reproduce previous results (otherwise something else has changed!)
- •Add focused methods to your app to isolate & test just one thing (e.g. rendering, db...)
- Bracket performance min / max effect

"The site seems slow."

Before:

Boss: "The site seems slow today."

You: "We haven't made any changes. Maybe its your connection?"

Boss: "Google is fast, the site is slow. Fix it!"

You: #\$@#())!~

"The site seems slow."

After:

Boss: "The site seems slow today."

You: "We haven't made any changes.

The NewRelic APDEX score hasn't changed either."

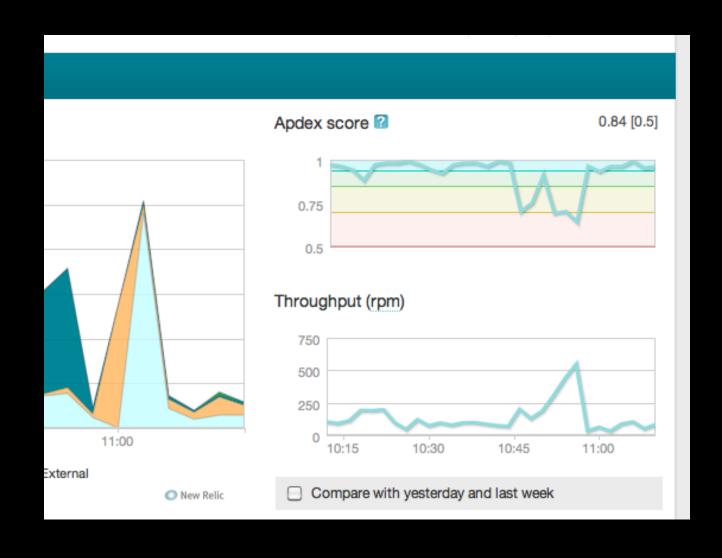
Boss: "Ah, hmm, ok, maybe it is my DSL line. Dang AOL!"

You: :-)

APDEX = You.happy!

- •APDEX is a 'user-experience metric', i.e. a way of measuring user satisfaction
- •"This is the one-number metric that senior management can easily understand and use to manage IT across many applications." http://apdex.org/index.php/about/apdex-faq/
- •Shows how all of your users are experiencing the site

NewRelic To The Rescue



Remember This Stuff

- Use NewRelic to find sad-paths
- Use these Linux tools to see why the paths are so sad
- Use focused tests to isolate & tune parts of the system
- •Change one thing, retest, & make sure you can reproduce earlier results

Why Was My App Slow?

Thanks to Dave Bock @codesherpas for help with the tools & tuning.

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