Venti

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Overview

Abstract Background Venti

Organization

Organizatio

Exampl

Phy Ba

Implemen

Performanc

Conclusio

End

# Venti: a new approach to archival storage<sup>1</sup>

Presented By: 陈子旸

Fudan University

13307130148@fudan.edu.cn

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¹powered by X∃LATEX

# Outline

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#### Overview

Abstract Backgrour Venti

Organizatio

Olganizatio

Applicati

Vac Phy Ba

Plan 9

Implemen

Performano

Conclusio

OLA

- Overview
  - Abstract
  - Background
  - Venti
- 2 Data Organization
- 3 Application Example
- 4 Implementation
- 5 Performance
- 6 Conclusion

### **Abstract**

#### Venti

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Overviev
Abstract
Background
Venti

Organizatior

Vac Phy Bak

Implemer

Performance

Conclusio

**Q**...

- Venti: A network storage system intended for archival data
- A building block for a variety of storage applications
  - logical backup
  - physical backup
  - snapshot file systems
- A block is identified by a unique hash of it's contents
- Enforce a write-once policy
- Duplicate copies of a block can be coalesced

# Archival Storage

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Overview

Abstract

Background

Venti

Organizatio

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Vac Phy Bak

Implemen

Performand

Conclusio

### Purpose

- Store data for long periods of time (forever)
- Data may not be needed frequently, but when it is needed it is often crucial

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Overview
Abstract
Background
Venti

Organizatio

Organizatio

Vac Phy Ba

Implemen<sup>a</sup>

Performance

Conclusio

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### Tape backup

- Backup data to magnetic tape
- (tar, ufsdump...)
- Full backup vs Incremental backup
- To provide backup as a central service for a number of client machines

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Overview
Abstract
Background
Venti

Organization

Vac Phy Bak

Implemen

Performance

Conclusio

End

### Snapshot

- A snapshot is a consistent read-only view of the file system at some point in the past.
- Each snapshot is a complete file system tree, much like a full backup.
- A snapshot only requires additional storage for the blocks that have changed, like a incremental backup.
- Always available and easy to access
- Plan 9, WAFL, AFS...

# Venti Archival Storage

#### Venti

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Overview Abstract Background Venti

Organizatior

Organization

Vac Phy Bak

Implemen

Performance

Conclusio

Q&A

- Goal: To provide a write-once archival reponsitory than can be shared by mutiple client machines and applications.
- Block level network storage system
  - Actually a backend storage for client apps
- Blocks addressed by hash of their contents
  - Use SHA-1 algorithm
  - Use hash value as its unique 'fingerprint'
- Write-Once policy
  - Block once written, never modified
  - Modified blocks will have new address

# Why SHA-1?

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Overview Abstract Background Venti

Organizatio

Vac Phy Bak

Implemen

Performance

Concius

- SHA-1 hash function is developed by NIST
- Output 160 bit hash values(20 bytes)
- Probability that there will be one or more collisions:

$$p \le \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \times \frac{1}{2^b}$$

- Consider a large storage system contains  $10^{18}$  byte of data stored as 8 Kbyte blocks( $\sim 10^{14}$  blocks), the probability is less then  $10^{-20}$ .
- Variants of SHA-1 can produce 256, 384 and 512 bit results for future use.

# Venti Archival Storage

#### Venti

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Overview
Abstract
Background
Venti

Organizatior

Vac Phy Bak

Implemen

Performance

Conclusio

Q&A

- Multiple clients can Share a Venti server
  - Hash function gives an unversal namespace
  - Duplication increases the utility rate of space
- Inherent integrity checking for data
- Caching is simplified
- Uses magnetic disk as storage technology
  - Access time comparable to non-archival data

### Outline

#### Venti

#### Organization

- 2 Data Organization
- Application Example

#### Venti

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Abstract

Background

Venti

#### Organization

Application

Vac Phy Bak Plan 9

Implemer

Performanc

Conclusio

End

• Data is divided into blocks and written to the server

- Pack the fingerprints into additional blocks, called pointer blocks, that are also written to the server
- Until a single fingerprint is obtained
- Applications can use such a structure to store a single file or to mimic the behavior of a physical device such as a tape or a disk drive

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Overview
Abstract
Background

Organization

Organization

Vac

Phy Ba

Implemen

Performanc

Conclusion

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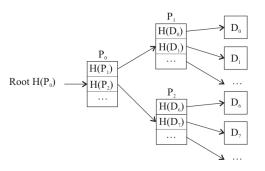


Figure 1. A tree structure for storing a linear sequence of blocks

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Organization

Application

Vac Phy Bak Plan 9

Implemen

Performance

Conclusio

End

Venti does not allow such a tree to be modified

- But new versions of the tree can be generated efficiently by storing the new or modified data blocks and reusing the unchanged sections
- By mixing data and fingerprints in a block, more complex data structures can be constructed.
- For example, a structure for storing a file system may include three types of blocks:
  - Directory
  - Pointer
  - Data.

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Overview Abstract Background Venti

Organization

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Vac

Phy Ba Plan 9

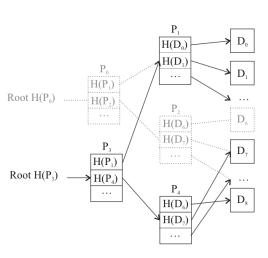
Implemer

Performan

Conclusio

- .

Figure 2. Build a new version of the tree.



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#### Venti

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Overview

Abstract

Background

Organization

Application Example

Phy Ba Plan 9

Implemer

Performanc

Conclusio

00 4

End

Overview

2 Data Organization

- Application Example
  - Vac
  - Physical Backup
  - Plan 9 File System
- 4 Implementation
- 6 Performance
- 6 Conclusion

#### Venti

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Overviev Abstract Background Venti

 $\mathsf{Organizatior}$ 

Application

Phy Bak Plan 9

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Performanc

Conclusio

- Vac is an application similar to tar and zip
  - With vac, Selected files will be stored as a tree of blocks on Venti server.
  - The output is always 45 bytes long, included a 20 byte root fingerprint.
  - 'unvac' enables user to estore files from a vac archive.
- Vac writes each file as a seperated collection of Venti blocks, which can coalesce duplicate copies of a file
- Incremental backups options can improve performance

# Physical Backup

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Organization

Organization

Vac Phy Bak

Plan 9

Performanc

Conclusio

- Vac archive data at the file or logical level
- Alternative approach: block-level or physical backup
- Copy the raw contents of disk drives to Venti
- Coalescing duplicate blocks is the main advantage
- Can even mount a backup file system image from Venti
- Full restore can be done in a lazy fashing

## Plan 9 File System

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Overviev Abstract Background Venti

Organization

Vac Phy Bal Plan 9

Implemen

Performanc

Conclusio

- When combined with a small amount of read/write storage, Venti can be used as the primary location for data
- Plan 9 file system store snapshot on optical jukebox
- magnetic disks act as a cache for the jukebox
- New version of the Plan 9 file system uses Venti instead of an optical jukebox as its storage device

### Outline

#### Venti

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### Overvie

Abstract Backgrour Venti

#### Organization

0.84...24..0.

Vac Phy Bal

### Implement

Performand

Conc.u.

. . .

End

### Overview

- 2 Data Organization
- Application Example
- 4 Implementation
- 6 Performance
- 6 Conclusion

# Implementation

Venti

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Overview

Abstract Backgroun

Organization

Organization

Vac

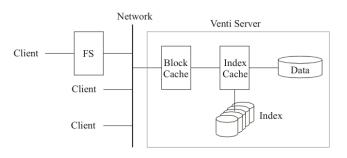
Phy Bal Plan 9

Implement

Performanc

Conclusio

Q&A



# Implementation

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Overviev Abstract Background Venti

Organization

Vac Phy Bal

Implement

Performanc

Conclusio

End

### For data block

- Use Append-only log
- ullet Blocks store on a RAID 5 array of IDE disk drives
- For Index
  - Using a disk-resident hash table
  - Index is diveided into fixed-size buckets
  - Index store on 8 SCSI drives
- Additional work
  - caching, striping, write buffering

# Format of Data Log

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Abstract

Background

Venti

Organizatio

Vac Phy Ba

Phy Bal Plan 9

Implement

Performance

Conclusion

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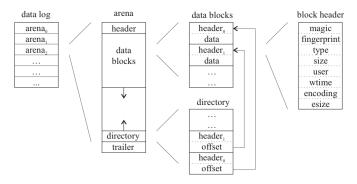


Figure 4. The format of the data log.

### Format of Index

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Overview

Abstract

Background

Venti

Organizatio

Examp

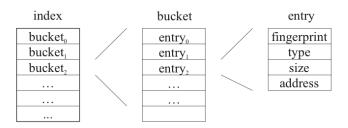
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Implement

Performance

Conclusior

- .



**Figure 5.** Format of the index.

### Outline

#### Venti

#### Performance

Application Example

Performance

### Performance

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Overview Abstract Background Venti

Organization

Vac
Phy Bak

Implemen

Performance

Conclusio

End

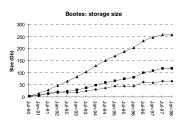
### The performance of read and write in Mbytes/s:

	sequential	random	virgin	duplicate
	reads	reads	writes	writes
uncached	0.9	0.4	3.7	5.6
index cache	4.2	0.7	-	6.2
block cache	6.8	-	-	6.5
raw raid	14.8	1.0	12.4	12.4

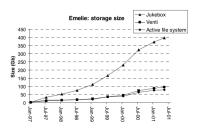
### Performance

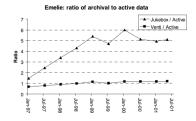
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Performance









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Overview Abstract Background Venti

Organization

Vac

Phy Bak Plan 9

Implemer

Performance

Conclusio

End

The percentage reduction in the size of data stored on Venti :

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Elimination of duplicates	27.8%	31.3%
Elimination of fragments	10.2%	25.4%
Data Compression	33.8%	54.1%
Total Reduction	59.7%	76.5%

### Outline

#### Venti

Conclusion

Application Example

6 Conclusion

### Conclusion

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Overviev Abstract Background Venti

 $\mathsf{Organizatior}$ 

Vac Phy Bak Plan 9

Implemen

Performance

Conclusion

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End

- Approach of identifying a block by SHA-1 hash is a well suited to archival storage
- Write-once policy of a block and ability to coalesce duplicate copies of a block makes Venti a useful building block for many interesting storage application
- By rapid groth in capacity of magnetic disks, it seems unlikely that archival data will be deleted to reclaim space



Venti provides an attractive approach to archive data

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#### Overview

Backgroun

Organization

Examp

Phy Ra

Plan 0

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Performand

Q&A

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# Any Questions?

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Overview

Backgroui

Organizatio

V/ac

Phy Ba

Implemen

Performan

Conclusio

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End

# Thanks For Attention!