



LINUXCON

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THE LINUX FOUNDATION
OPEN SOURCE SUMMIT
EUROPE

DAMON Recipes:

Ways to Save Memory Using a Linux Kernel Subsystem in the Real World

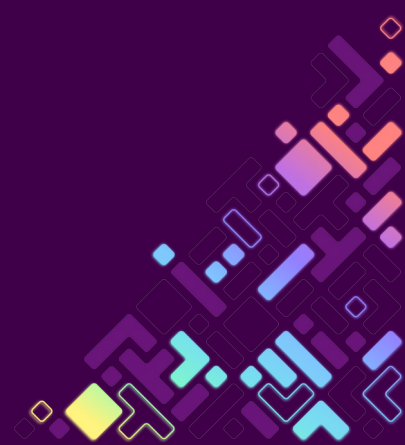
SeongJae Park <sj@kernel.org>

Honggyu Kim <honggyu.kim@sk.com>



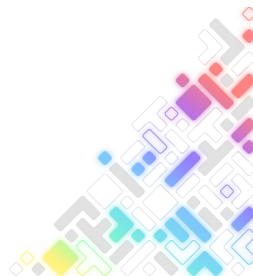
#osummit

#linux #kernel #damon



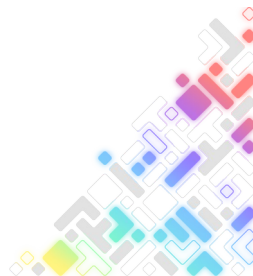
Notices

- The views expressed herein are those of the speakers;
They do not reflect the views of their employers
- This talk is for DAMON recipes (usages);
detailed internals of DAMON are out of the focus

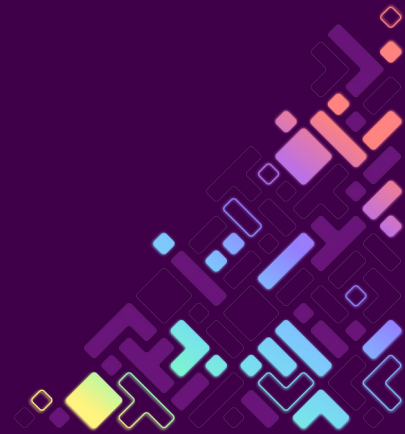


Overview

- DAMON in Nutshell (5 mins)
- DAMON Recipes
 - Profiling and profiling-guided optimizations (5 mins)
 - Memory auto-scaling in AWS Aurora Serverless v2 (7 mins)
 - Tiered memory management in SK hynix HMSDK (15 mins)
- DAMON Community (2 mins)
- Summary (1 mins)
- QnA (5 mins)



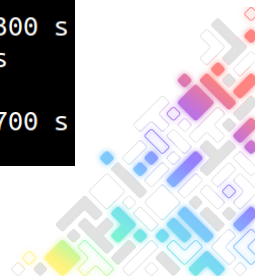
DAMON in Nutshell



DAMON: Data Access Pattern Snapshot Generator

- Informs *which* address range is *how frequently* accessed for *how long* time
- Supports virtual/physical address spaces (could be expanded)

```
|00000000000000000000000000000000| size 31.273 MiB access rate 0 % age 3 m 47.400 s
|00000000000000000000000000000000| size 31.379 MiB access rate 0 % age 3 m 34.700 s
    |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 31.449 MiB access rate 0 % age 45.800 s
        |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 31.438 MiB access rate 0 % age 27.300 s
            |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 31.391 MiB access rate 0 % age 9.300 s
                |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 6.000 MiB access rate 0 % age 2.400 s
                    |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 8.000 KiB access rate 55 % age 0 ns
                        |99999999999999999999999999999999| size 9.531 MiB access rate 100 % age 1.900 s
                            |44444444444444444444444444444444| size 8.000 KiB access rate 45 % age 300 ms
                                |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 9.660 MiB access rate 0 % age 2.300 s
                                    |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 6.949 MiB access rate 0 % age 3 m 21.300 s
                                        |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 120.000 KiB access rate 0 % age 3 m 50 s
                                            |44444444444444444444444444444444| size 8.000 KiB access rate 55 % age 300 ms
                                                |00000000000000000000000000000000| size 4.000 KiB access rate 0 % age 3 m 49.700 s
total size: 314.598 MiB
```



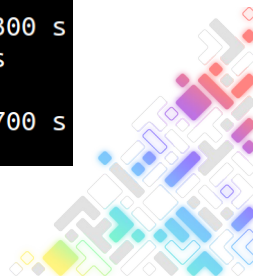
DAMON: Data Access Pattern Snapshot Generator

- Informs *which* address range is *how frequently* accessed for *how long* time
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Cold!

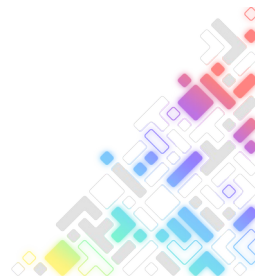
Hot!

Warm!

[illegible]

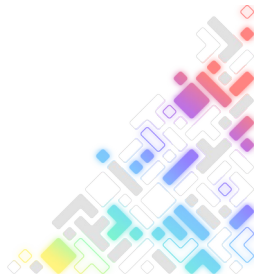
Best-effort Overhead-Accuracy Tradeoff

- Let users control upper-bound monitoring overhead limit
- Under the limit, provides its best accuracy using adaptive mechanisms
- From real world production usages, 3-4% CPU usage is commonly reported
- More details available at the design [doc](#)



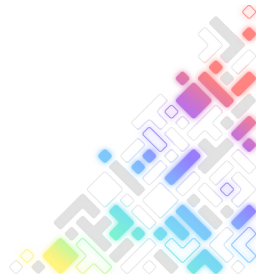
Extensible Design

- DAMON supports virtual address spaces and the physical address space
- The core logic and address space/access check-specific logic are separated
- Can be extended for different address spaces and access check primitives
- E.g., CPU (AMD IBS, Intel PEBS, ...) or devices (e.g., GPU, CXL, ...) providing access check primitives for special address spaces (e.g., CPU cache, unified memory, low-tier memory, ...)
- More details are available at design [doc](#)



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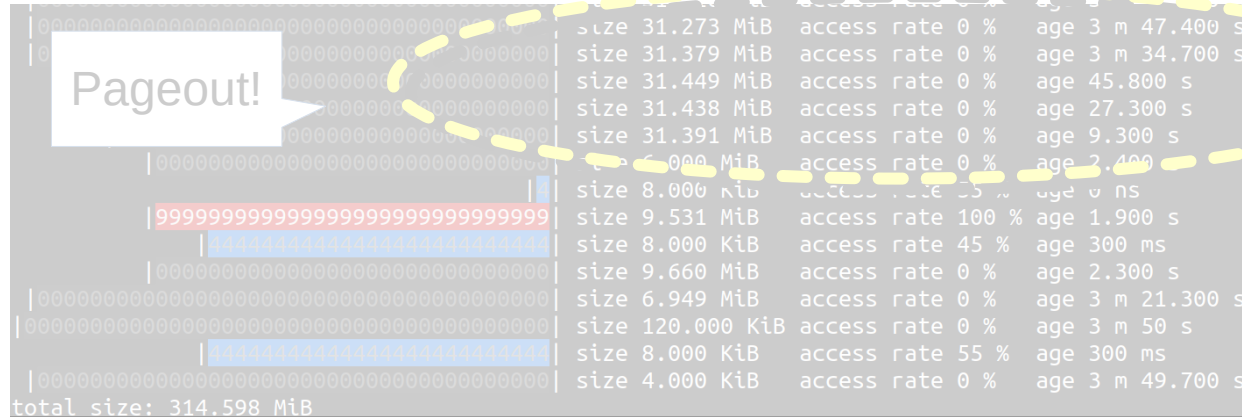


DAMOS: DAMon-based Operation Schemes

- A feature of DAMON
- Apply memory operation actions to regions of interesting access pattern
- More details are available at design [doc](#)

pageout memory regions that not accessed for >=5 seconds

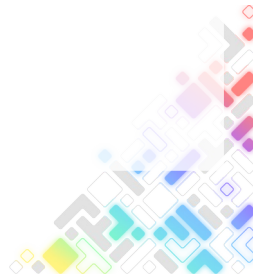
damo start --damos_action pageout --damos_access_rate 0% 0% --damos_age 5s max



The screenshot shows the output of the `damo` command. A yellow dashed line highlights a specific memory region, and a white callout box with the text "Pageout!" points to it. The output is a table with columns for size, access rate, and age.

size 31.273 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 3 m 47.400 s
size 31.379 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 3 m 34.700 s
size 31.449 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 45.800 s
size 31.438 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 27.300 s
size 31.391 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 9.300 s
size 8.000 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 2.400 s
size 8.000 KiB	access rate 55 %	age 0 ns
size 9.531 MiB	access rate 100 %	age 1.900 s
size 8.000 KiB	access rate 45 %	age 300 ms
size 9.660 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 2.300 s
size 6.949 MiB	access rate 0 %	age 3 m 21.300 s
size 120.000 KiB	access rate 0 %	age 3 m 50 s
size 8.000 KiB	access rate 55 %	age 300 ms
size 4.000 KiB	access rate 0 %	age 3 m 49.700 s

total size: 314.598 MiB

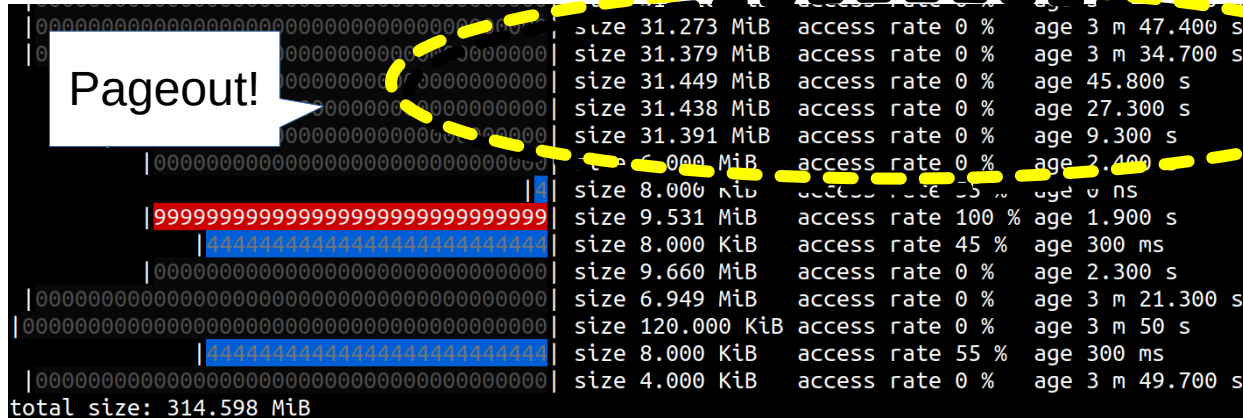


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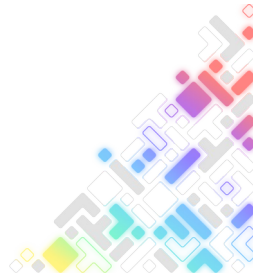
damo start --damos_action pageout --damos_access_rate 0% 0% --damos_age 5s max



The screenshot displays the output of the DAMON tool, showing a list of memory regions with their sizes, access rates, and ages. A yellow dashed line highlights a specific region, and a white callout box with the text 'Pageout!' points to it. The output is as follows:

size	access rate	age
31.273 MiB	0 %	3 m 47.400 s
31.379 MiB	0 %	3 m 34.700 s
31.449 MiB	0 %	45.800 s
31.438 MiB	0 %	27.300 s
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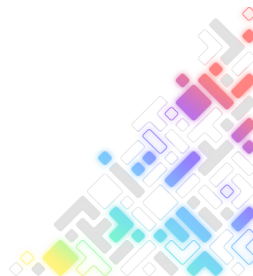


Availability

- DAMON is enabled on kernels of major Linux [distros](#)
- including Amazon Linux, Android, [Debian](#), Fedora, Oracle Linux
- DAMON user-space tool is packaged for multiple packaging [systems](#) including Arch, Debian, Fedora, PyPi, Raspbian

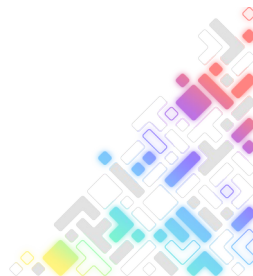
Distribution	DAMON [x]	UTS_RELEASE [x]
Android 12 (5.10) aarch64	y	5.10.218
Android 13 (5.10) aarch64	y	5.10.218
Android 13 (5.15) aarch64	y	5.15.151
Android 14 (5.15) aarch64	y	5.15.158
Android 14 (6.1) aarch64	y	6.1.90
Arch x86_64	y	6.10.9-arch1
CentOS 9 Stream aarch64	y	5.14.0-505.el9.aarch64
CentOS 9 Stream x86_64	y	5.14.0-505.el9.x86_64
CentOS Hyperscale 9 aarch64	y	6.10.9-0.hs1.hsx.el9.aarch64
CentOS Hyperscale 9 x86_64	y	6.10.9-0.hs1.hsx.el9.x86_64

Packaging status	
AOSC	2.4.7
AUR	2.4.0
Debian 13	2.4.9
Debian Unstable	2.4.9
Devuan Unstable	2.4.9
EPEL 9	2.4.8
EPEL 10	2.4.9
Fedora 37	1.9.8
Fedora 38	2.3.3
Fedora 39	2.4.8
Fedora 40	2.4.8
Fedora Rawhide	2.4.9
Kali Linux Rolling	2.4.9
PureOS landing	2.4.2
PyPi	2.4.9
Raspbian Testing	2.4.9
Ubuntu 23.10	1.8.7
Ubuntu 24.04	2.2.4
Ubuntu 24.10	2.4.6

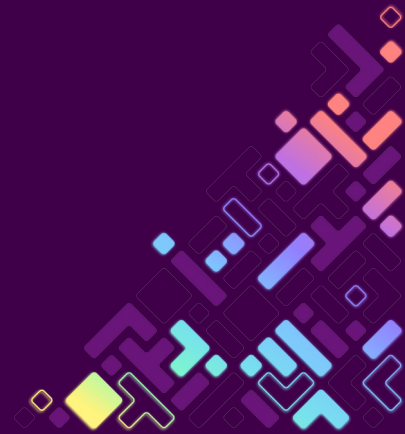


That's It About DAMON Itself

- Internal mechanism of DAMON is out of the scope of this talk
- This talk is for how {others are using,you can use} DAMON for fun and profit
- For more details of the internal mechanism, refer to the design [doc](#)

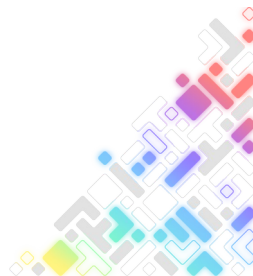


Three DAMON Recipes

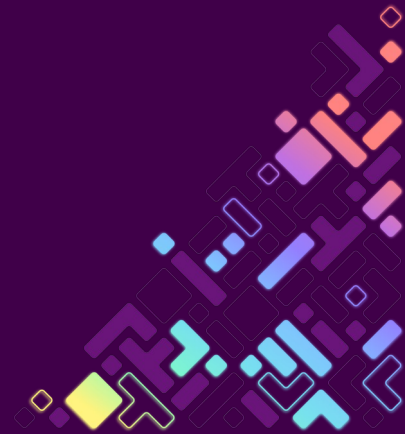


Introducing (Only) Three DAMON Recipes

- No one knows entire and optimum DAMON usages
- Following three recipes are only speakers' best knowledge
- We are waiting to learn more recipes from you



Accesses Profiling (-guided Optimization)



DAMON for Profiling (and Optimizations)

- Record, or snapshot data access pattern of workloads using DAMON
- Record/snapshot additional information together
- Visualize the data points (e.g., heatmap, flamegraphs, workingset size)
- Get insights from data for better understanding workloads and systems
- Make profiling-guided optimizations

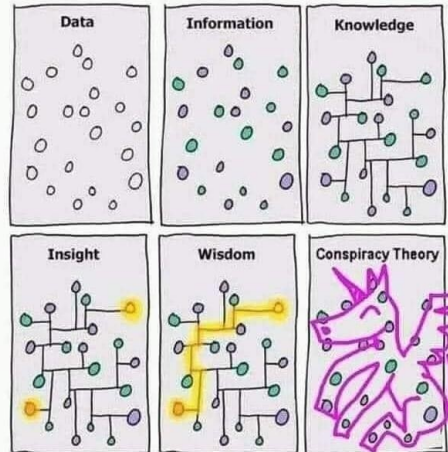
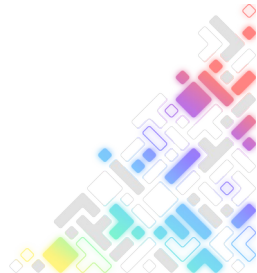
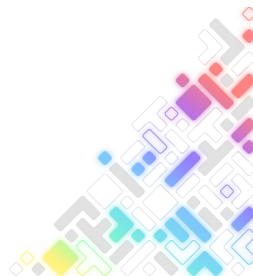


Image is retrieved from [internet](#)



General DAMON-based Profiling-Guided Optimization

- Find hot/cold regions and matching data/variables in the code
- Protect/promote hot data using `mlock()` or `madvise(MADV_HUGEPAGES)`
- Evict/demote cold data using `madvise(PAGEOUT, NOHUGEPAGES)`
- Any creative optimizations would be possible
- Hot page protection [achieves](#) 2.3x speedup under memory pressure
- More detailed blog [article](#)



DAMON user-space tool supports for PGO

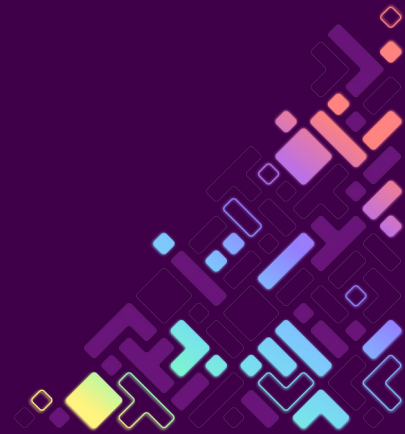
- DAMON user-space tool, `damo`, is for easy usages of DAMON
- We are adding features for easy DAMON-based PGO to `damo`
- As of this talk, some profiling parts are added, more works to go
- Quick start: `damo monitor --report_type holistic` ➡



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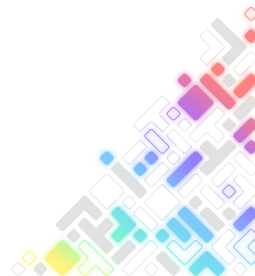


Proactive Reclamation



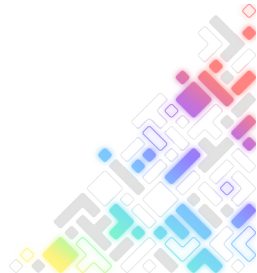
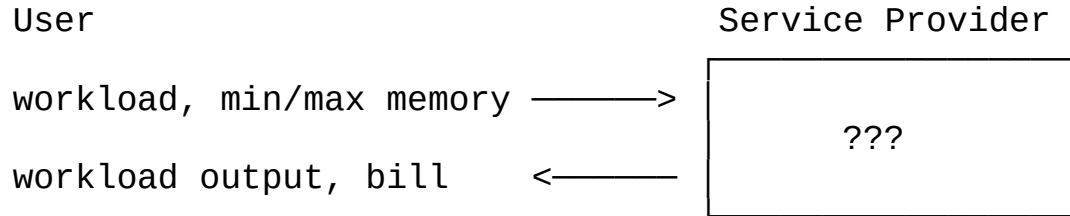
Proactive Reclamation

- Reactive reclamation: Reclaim cold memory when memory pressure happens
- Proactively reclamation: Reclaim cold memory before memory pressure
- Benefit 1: Reduce memory footprint without performance degradation
- Benefit 2: Minimize degradation from direct reclamation
- Known usages: [Google](#), [Meta](#), and [Amazon](#)
- Each company uses its own implementation for its usage
- Amazon uses DAMON-based implementation for memory auto-scaling



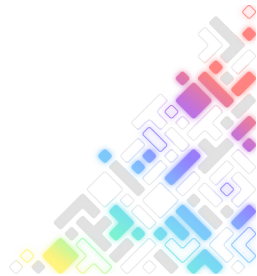
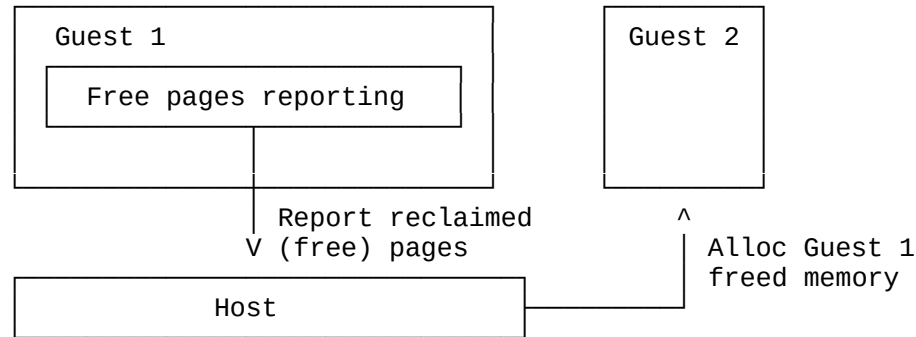
Memory Auto-scaling Business Model

- User: Specify workload and min/max memory requirements
- Service provider: Run it somewhere, charge as they go
- Achieving high performance and low price is the provider's duty



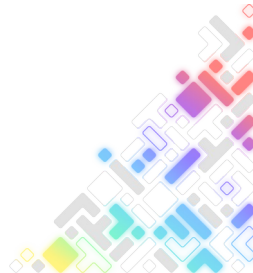
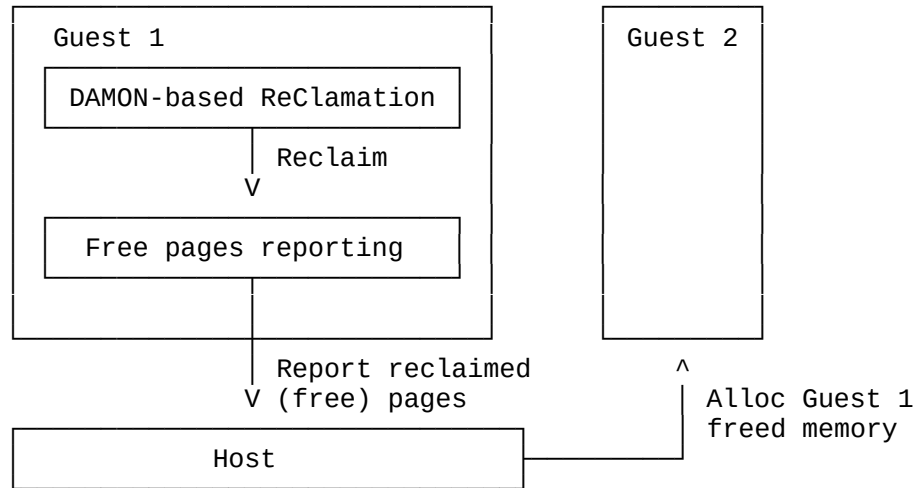
Designs of Collaborative Memory Auto-scaling

- Non-collab approach: Host reclaims/reallocs guests' memory
- Collab approach: Host reallocs guests-reported free pages
- Minimize perf degradation from host's mistakes
- Question: What if guests are not memory frugal?



Design of AWS' Collaborative Memory Auto-scaling

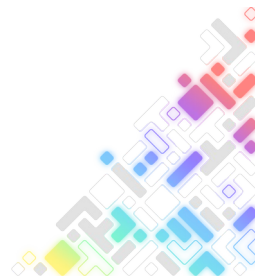
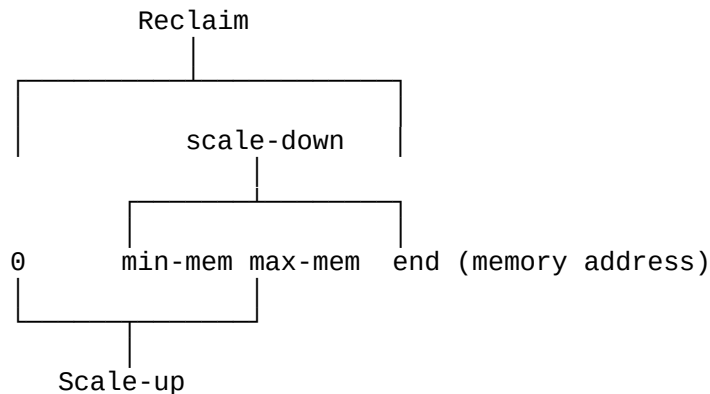
- Guests report free pages to host; the host re-alloc reported pages
- Guests run DAMOS-based proactive reclamation for increasing free pages



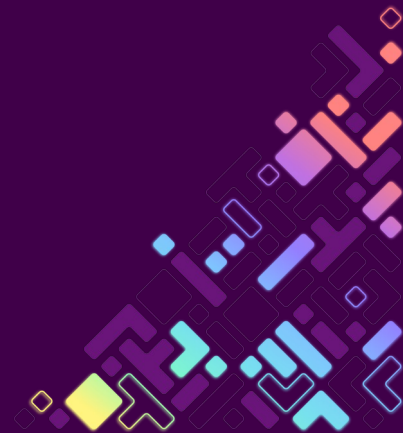
AWS' DAMON-based Proactive Reclamation

- AWS Aurora Serverless v2 is an officially [known](#) user of the memory scaling
- Holistic [re:Invent](#) of the entire memory auto-scaling with DAMON is ongoing

[RFC IDEA v2 0/6] mm/damon: introduce Access/Contiguity-aware Memory Auto-scaling (ACMA)

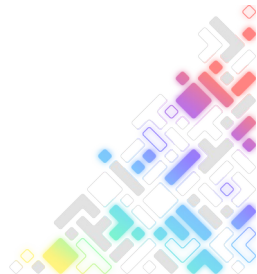


CXL Memory Tiering

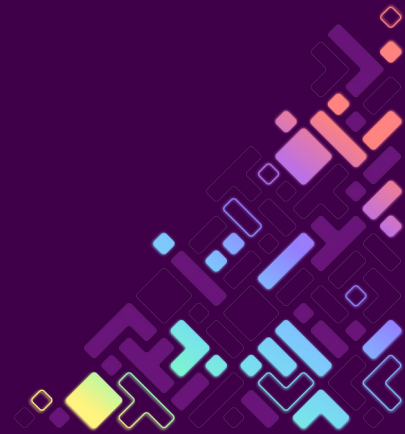


Moving Mic to Honggyu Kim

- Honggyu Kim from SK hynix will introduce this recipe
- If you are reading these slides after the talk, refer to Honggyu's slides ([damon_recipes_osseu_hmsdk.pdf](#))

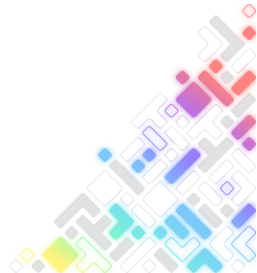


DAMON Community



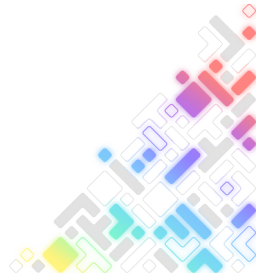
DAMON Owner: Community

- DAMON is a community-driven development project
- Not owned by individual or companies (e.g., SJ, Amazon, Meta)
- Owned by the community
- A number of DAMON features are results of community discussions



Mailing List

- Primary and official place for the community
- For any question, discussion, reports, and patches
- A tool (hkml) for mailing list-unfamiliar people is supported:
<https://github.com/sjp38/hackermail>
- Mailing address: damon@lists.linuxdev
- Archive: <https://lore.kernel.org/damon>
- Don't hesitate sending personal mails/DMs to the maintainer (SJ)

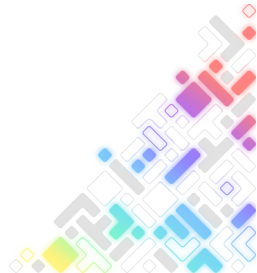


Community Meetups: Beer/Coffee/Tea Chats

- For *any* informal chats
- Regular bi-weekly open/registration-based discussions
- Occasional/regular private meetings on demand
- Feel free to join existing meeting series, or ask one for yours
- Multiple individuals and companies are using these
- Google [doc](#) and [calendar](#) for schedules are available



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Project Website

- <https://damonitor.github.io>
- Provides all information for DAMON starters including news, demo, usage guides

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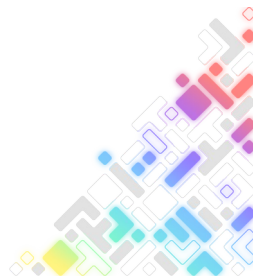


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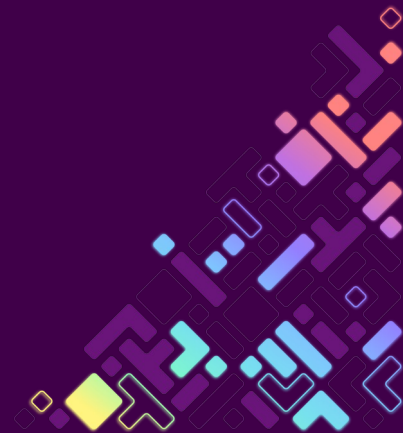


Call For Your Voices

- We prefer random evolution over intellectual design
- Put your voice on the evolution path for *your* purposes
- Report your use case, test results, and challenges you gone through
- Ask questions and request features/documents
- Show your interest to known TODO items
- Send patches
- The maintainer is committed to help the community, you



Summary

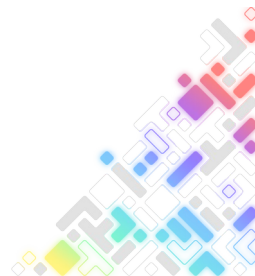


Summary

- DAMON is an efficient data access pattern snapshot generator
- People can optimize system memory usage using DAMON
- AWS Aurora Serverless v2 and SK hynix HMSDK are using DAMON for memory auto-scalaing and CXL memory tiering, respectively
- DAMON community is waiting for your voices
- If you want to start, visit the project site: <https://damonitor.github.io>



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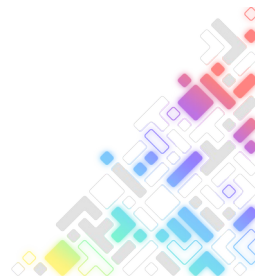


Questions?

- If your question is not answered by the session, use below
- The maintainer: sj@kernel.org
- Project webpage: <https://damonitor.github.io> →
- Kernel docs for [admin](#) and [kernel programmers](#)
- DAMON mailing list: damon@lists.linux.dev
- DAMON Beer/Coffee/Tea Chat
- Today's in-person DAMON meetup (4:55 pm, room 444)



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