

Debugging and Performance Analysis of Node Using DTrace and mdb

Topic Outline



- Introduction
 - •What is DTrace?
 - How DTrace can be used with node.js
- DTrace kernel actions
- DTrace the node engine
- DTrace node applications

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What is DTrace?



- Tool that allows one to dynamically instrument code from application level and into the kernel.
- Can be used safely on production systems.
- •Uses:
 - Performance Analysis
 - Debugging
 - Code coverage
 - Find out wtf is happening in your software
- Available on illumos, smartOS, and other Solaris 10 derivatives, as well as *BSD and Mac OS X.

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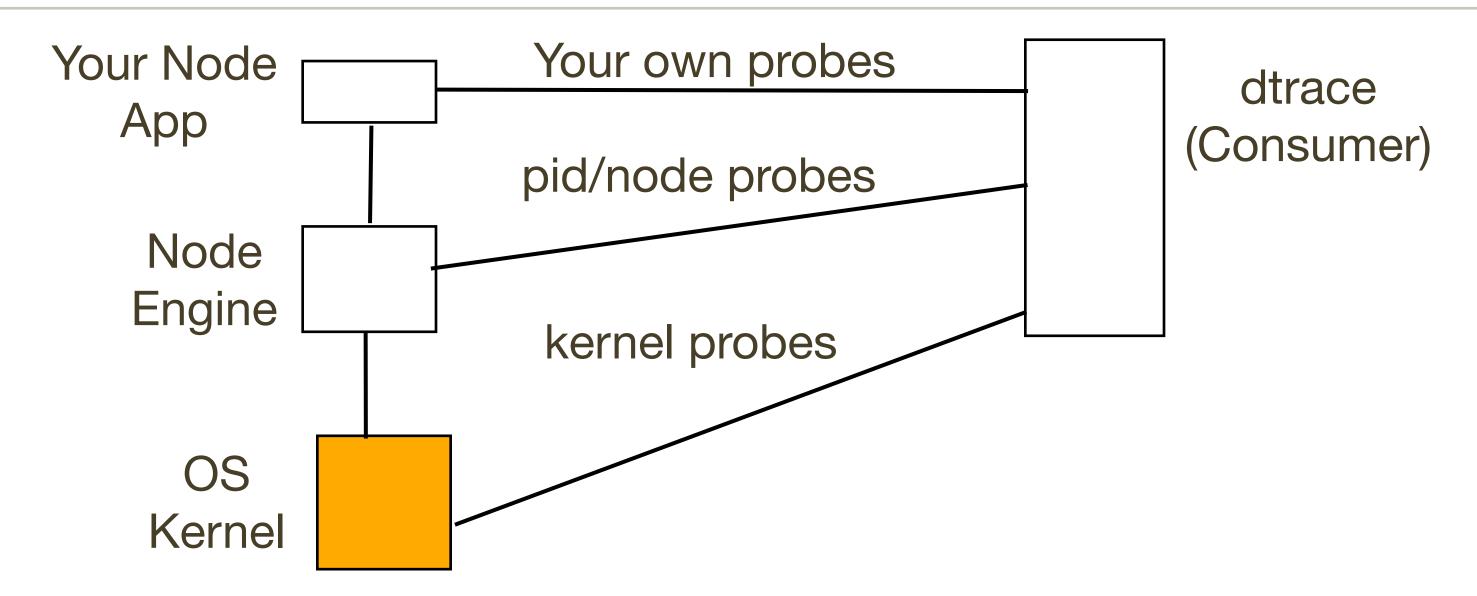
Terminology



- System Call Request for an action by the Operating System
- Probe An instrumentation point in the code
 - Dynamic and Static probes are provided, and new ones can be added
 - A probe is specified by a 4-tuple:
 - provider:module:function:probename{action}
- Action Executed when a probe fires
- Predicate Optional boolean to determine whether or not to execute the action
- Example: syscall::read:entry/pid.== 713/{trace();}

Architecture





- With DTrace, you can trace events in
 - The node Engine
 - Node.js scripts
 - •The kernel (system calls, scheduling, memory management, etc.)

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Some Simple Examples



Show system calls made by a running node process

Count system calls made by a running node process

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An Example Measuring System Call Latency



systime.d

```
#!/usr/sbin/dtrace -s
#pragma D option quiet
syscall:::entry
/execname == "node"/
     self->ts = timestamp;
syscall:::return
/self->ts/
     @[probefunc] = quantize(timestamp - self->ts);
     self->ts = 0;
END
                                                                  # OF OCCURANCES\n%s%@lx\n", @);
     printa("SYSCALL
                        NSECS
```

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An Example Measuring System Call Latency (Continued)

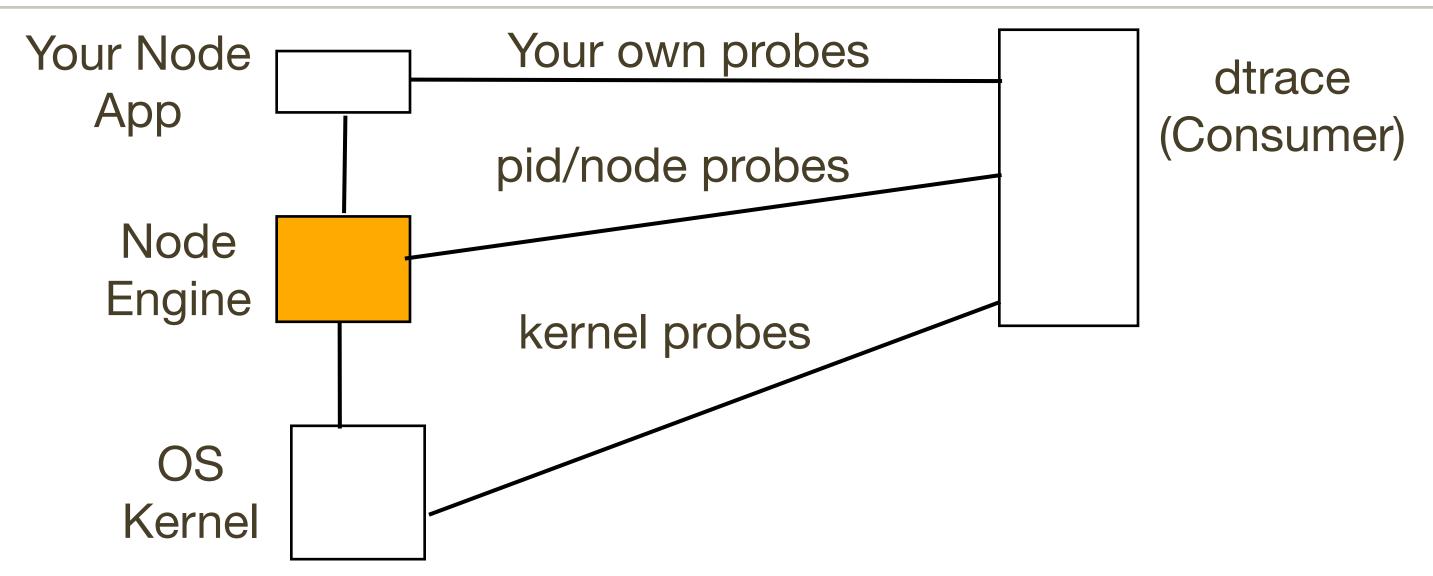


```
# ./systime.d
SYSCALL
          NSECS
                                                  # OF OCCURANCES
 read
                          ---- Distribution -----
          value
                                                         count
           1024
           2048
                 99999999
           4096
                 99999999
           8192
          16384
                 9999
          32768
          65536
         131072
         262144
         524288
        1048576
        2097152
        4194304
        8388608
       16777216
       33554432
       67108864
      134217728
                 9999
      268435456
```

• • •

Architecture





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The Node DTrace Provider



Set of USDT probes built into node

```
# dtrace -1 -n 'node*:::{}'
       PROVIDER
                                                            FUNCTION NAME
                            MODULE
57166 node11665
                              node
_ZN4nodeL14dtrace_gc_doneEN2v86GCTypeENS0_15GCCallbackFlagsE_gc-done
57167 node11665
                              node
_ZN4nodeL15dtrace_gc_startEN2v86GCTypeENS0_15GCCallbackFlagsE_gc-start
57168 node11665
                              node _ZN4node26DTRACE_HTTP_CLIENT_REQUESTERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-client-request
57169 node11665
                              node ZN4node27DTRACE HTTP CLIENT RESPONSEERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-client-response
57170 node11665
                              node ZN4node26DTRACE HTTP SERVER REQUESTERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-server-request
57171 node11665
                              node _ZN4node27DTRACE_HTTP_SERVER_RESPONSEERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-server-response
57172 node11665
                              node ZN4node28DTRACE NET SERVER CONNECTIONERKN2v89ArgumentsE
net-server-connection
57173 node11665
                              node _ZN4node22DTRACE_NET_SOCKET_READERKN2v89ArgumentsE net-
socket-read
57174 node11665
                              node ZN4node23DTRACE NET SOCKET WRITEERKN2v89ArgumentsE net-
socket-write
57175 node11665
                              node ZN4node21DTRACE NET STREAM ENDERKN2v89ArgumentsE net-
stream-end
```

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The Node DTrace Provider Probe Arguments



```
# dtrace -l -v -n 'node*:::http-server-request, node*:::http-server-response{}'
                            MODULE
                                                            FUNCTION NAME
        PROVIDER
   ID
57170 node11665
                              node _ZN4node26DTRACE_HTTP_SERVER_REQUESTERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-server-request
  Probe Description Attributes
            Identifier Names: Private
               Data Semantics: Private
               Dependency Class: Unknown
       Argument Attributes
             Identifier Names: Evolving
              Data Semantics:
                                Evolving
              Dependency Class: ISA
   Argument Types
          args[0]: node http request t *
          args[1]: node_connection_t *
57171 node11665
                              node ZN4node27DTRACE_HTTP_SERVER_RESPONSEERKN2v89ArgumentsE
http-server-response
          args[0]: node connection t *
```

The Node DTrace Provider: Example 1



```
/* echo-server.d */
#pragma D option quiet
BEGIN
     printf("%-22s %-20s %-8s %-16s %-16s %-16s\n",
       "DIRECTION", "URL", "METHOD", "REMOTEADDRESS", "REMOTEPORT", "FD");
node*:::http-server-request
     printf("%-22s %-20s %-8s %-16s %-16d %-16d\n",
       probename, args[0]->url, args[0]->method, args[1]->remoteAddress,
       args[1]->remotePort, args[1]->fd);
node*::http-server-response
     printf("%-22s %-20s %-8s %-16s %-16d %-16d\n",
       probename, " ", " ", args[0]->remoteAddress,
       args[0]->remotePort, args[0]->fd);
```

The Node DTrace Provider: Example 1 (Continued)



Client

```
# curl <a href="http://165.225.154.78:8080/echofile-server.js">http://165.225.154.78:8080/echofile-server.js</a> > /dev/null % Total % Received % Xferd Average Speed Time Time Current Dload Upload Total Spent Left Speed 100 1377 100 1377 0 0 382k 0 --:--:- --:-- 672k
```

• Server

# dtrace -s echo-server.d						
DIRECTION	URL	METHOD	REMOTEADDRESS	REMOTEPORT	FD	
http-server-request	/echofile-server.js	GET	62.203.55.164	58027	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58027	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58030	12	
http-server-request	/echofile-server.js	GET	62.203.55.164	58030	12	
http-server-request	/echofile-server.js	GET	62.203.55.164	58036	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58036	12	
http-server-request	/echofile-server.js	GET	62.203.55.164	58037	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58037	12	
http-server-request	/echofile-server.js	GET	62.203.55.164	58038	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58038	12	
http-server-request	/systime.d	GET	62.203.55.164	58363	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58363	12	
http-server-request	/favicon.ico	GET	62.203.55.164	58364	12	
http-server-response			62.203.55.164	58364	12	

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Request/Response Latency



```
/* server-latency.d */
#pragma D option quiet
node*:::http-server-request
     ts[args[1]->remoteAddress, args[1]->remotePort] = timestamp;
     url[ts[args[1]->remoteAddress, args[1]->remotePort]] = args[0]->url;
node*:::http-server-response
/ts[args[0]->remoteAddress, args[0]->remotePort]/
     this->t = ts[args[0]->remoteAddress, args[0]->remotePort];
     @[url[this->t], args[0]->remoteAddress] = quantize((timestamp-this->t)/1000);
     ts[args[0]->remoteAddress, args[0]->remotePort] = 0;
END
     printf("%-20s: %-16s\n", "URL", "REMOTEADDRESS");
     printa("%-20s: %-16s\nMICROSECONDS\n%@d\n", @);
```

Request/Response Latency (Continued)



```
# dtrace -L /usr/local/lib/dtrace -s server-latency.d
```

URL : REMOTEADDRESS
/tmp/words : 165.225.154.77

MICROSECONDS

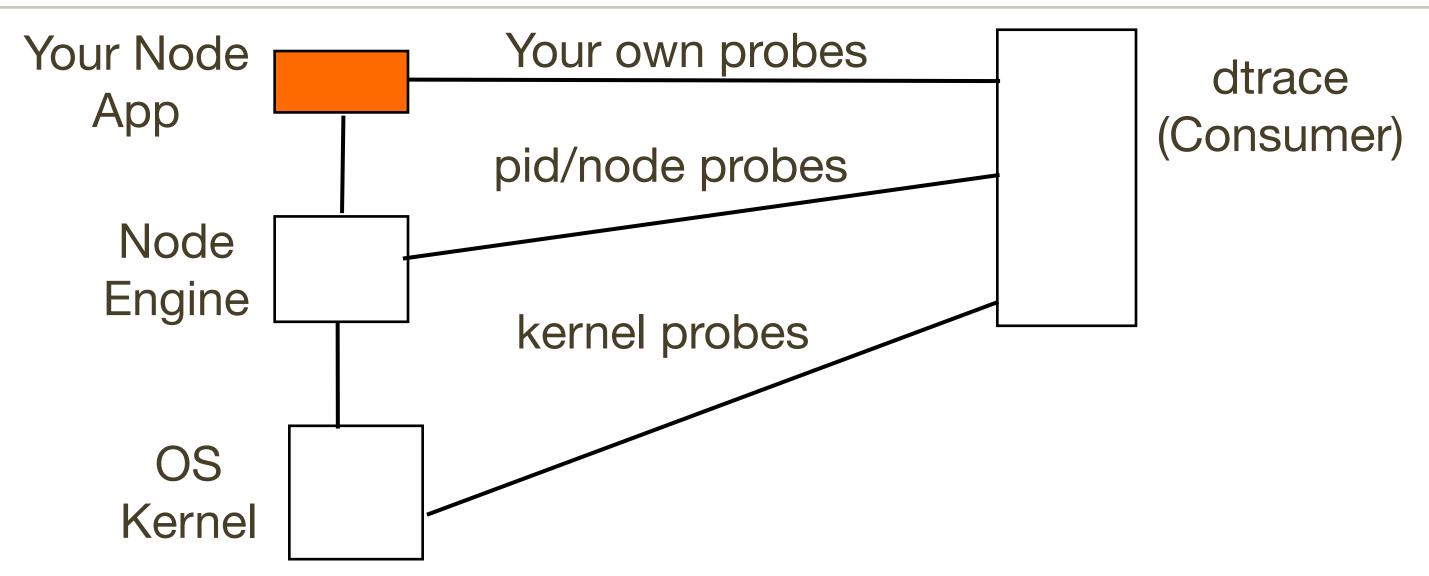
value	Distribution	count
1024		0
2048	0 0 0 0	11
4096	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	43
8192	0 0 0 0 0 0	14
16384	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31
32768		1
65536		0

/tmp/words : 83.79.36.187
MICROSECONDS

value	Distribution	count
524288		0
1048576	@	3
2097152	@ @	4
4194304	@ @	4
8388608	0 0 0 0	11
16777216	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	74
33554432	@ @	4
67108864		0

Architecture





- With DTrace, you can trace events in
 - The node Engine
 - Node.js scripts
 - The kernel (system calls, scheduling, memory management, etc.)

DTrace Your node.js Application



- •The dtrace-provider for Node.js allows you to create statically defined probes (USDT) in your application.
- •Effectively, a way to add print statements to your scripts which only have effect when/if the probes are enabled.
- But better than print... You decide what to enable and what to print at runtime.
- Install
 - •npm install dtrace-provider

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Add Probes to Your Node App



```
/* echofile-server.js */
var dtp = require('dtrace-provider').createDTraceProvider('echofile-
server');

    Define probes

dtp.addProbe('echo-start', 'char *');
                                                   and arguments
dtp.addProbe('echo-done', 'char *', 'int');
dtp.addProbe('echo-error', 'char *', 'char *')
    dtp.fire('echo-start', function() {
                                                  Add probes to
        return [req.params[0]];
                                                   your code
    });
        dtp.fire('echo-error', function() {
            return [req.params[0], JSON.stringify(e)];
        });
    dtp.fire('echo-done', function() {
        return [req.params[0], len];
                            Proprietary & Confidential Information of Joyent, Inc.
```

DTrace The Added Probes



```
#!/usr/sbin/dtrace -s

    Use dtrace to enable the

#pragma D option quiet
                                    probes you've added
echofile-server*:::echo-start
   printf("%s: %s\n", probename, copyinstr(arg0));
echofile-server*:::echo-done
   printf("%s: %s %d bytes\n", probename, copyinstr(arg0), arg1);
echofile-server*:::echo-error
   printf("%s\n", copyinstr(arg1));
```

Enabling the Added Probes



```
# ./echofile-server.d
echo-start: tmp/bigwords
echo-done: tmp/bigwords 20667400 bytes
echo-start: tmp
echo-done: tmp 116 bytes
{"errno":28,"code":"EISDIR"}
echo-start: blah
{"errno":34,"code":"ENOENT","path":"blah"}
```

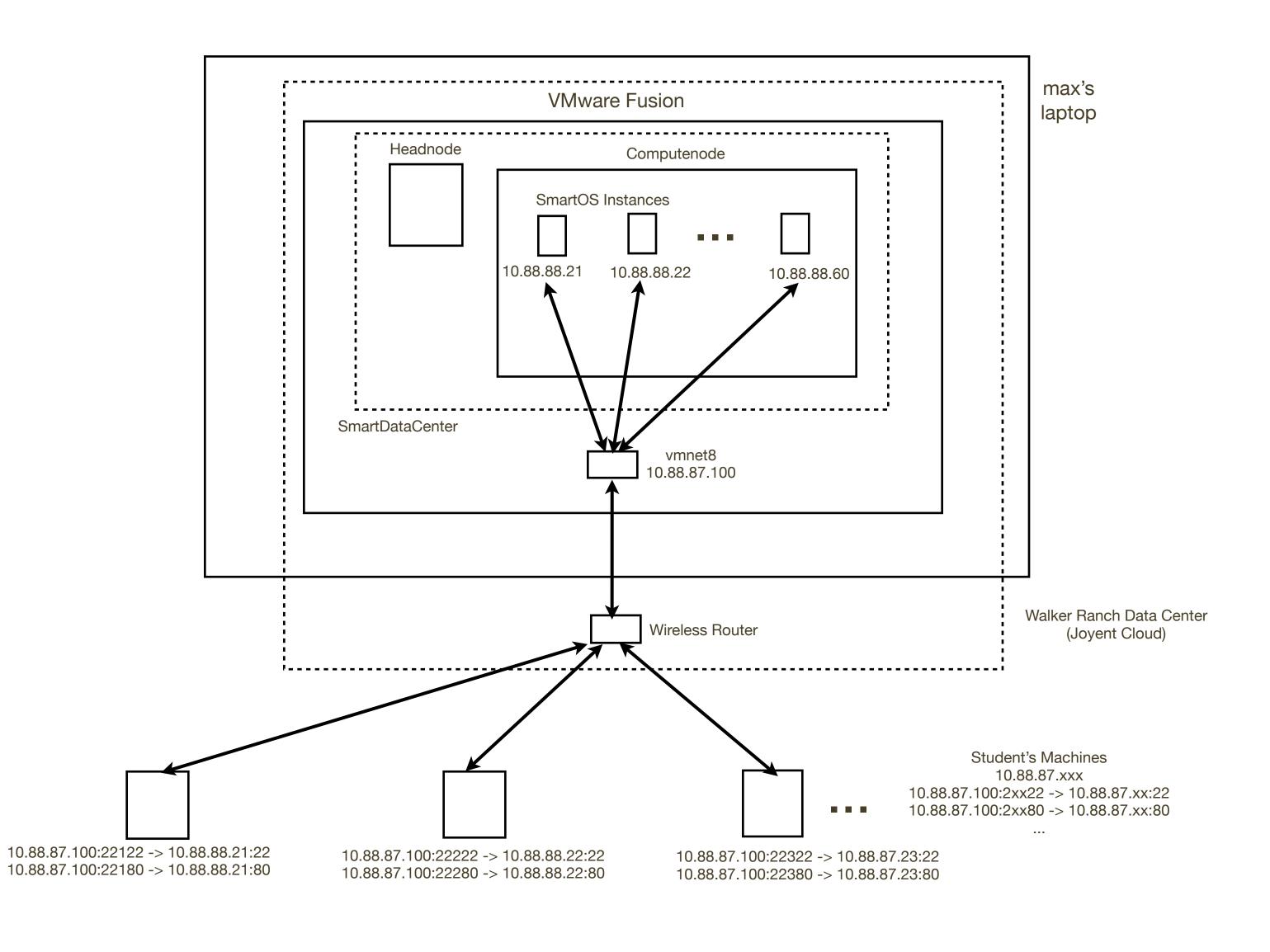
List Probes Built-in for Restify



<pre># dtrace -l -P 'myapp*'</pre>			
ID PROVIDER	MODULE	FUNCTION	NAME
57309 myapp13446	module	func	get100-start
57310 myapp13446	module	func	get100-done
57311 myapp13446	module	func	get100-
parseAccept-start			
57312 myapp13446	module	func	get100-
parseAccept-done			
57313 myapp13446	module	func	get100-
parseQueryString-start			
57314 myapp13446	module	func	get100-
parseQueryString-done			
57315 myapp13446	module	func	get100-parseBody-
start			
57316 myapp13446	module	func	get100-parseBody-
done			
57317 myapp13446	module	func	get100-sget-start
57318 myapp13446	module	func	get100-sget-done

Lab Setup





Lab 1 - Find a bug



- Use DTrace to help find a bug
 - Login to your virtual machine (or run on a machine that supports DTrace)
 - file.js copies a file to a tmp directory, calculating checksum as it goes
 - Checksum is correct, but file is wrong size
 - Run the following to see the bug:



DTrace system calls made by node for the file app

```
$ sudo dtrace -q -x temporal -n 'syscall:::entry/pid ==
$target/{printf("%s\n", probefunc);}' -c "node file.js"
tmp/words.save md5sum = 8e0c0289eb2a5ea9aa66d3cfe78dadaf
mmap
setcontext
getrlimit
getpid
setcontext
sysconfig
sysconfig
sigpending
sysi86
open64
ioctl
close
open64
```

24



- Showing all of the system calls yields too much output
- Closer look at program show it removes old files, then pipes input to output file, calculating checksum as it goes
- Use DTrace to only look at "interesting" system calls

```
$ sudo dtrace -q -x temporal -n
'syscall::read:entry,syscall::write:entry,syscall::unlink*:entry/
pid == $target/{printf("%s\n", probefunc);}' -c "node file.js"
tmp/words.save md5sum = 8e0c0289eb2a5ea9aa66d3cfe78dadaf
write
read
write
read
read
read
read
read
unlink
```



 Let's only look at read/write on the files of interest, and print the name of the file(s) being unlinked

```
$ cat rwu.d
#!/usr/sbin/dtrace -qs
#pragma D option temporal
syscall::read:entry
/pid == $target && fds[arg0].fi_pathname == "/home/student/nodeconf/words"/
       printf("read request %d bytes\n", arg2);
syscall::write:entry
/pid == $target && fds[arg0].fi pathname == "/home/student/nodeconf/tmp/words.save"/
      printf("write request %d bytes\n", arg2);
syscall::unlink*:entry
/pid == $target/
       printf("unlinking %s\n", copyinstr(arg0));
```



And run the D script

```
$ sudo ./rwu.d -c "node file.js"
Password:
tmp/words.save md5sum =
8e0c0289eb2a5ea9aa66d3cfe78dadaf
unlinking tmp
read request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
unlinking tmp/words.save
read request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
write request 65536 bytes
read request 65536 bytes
write request 65536 bytes
```

Note that reads are done before the unlink of tmp/words.save



Add probes to the application, using the following:

```
var d = require('dtrace-provider');

var dtp = d.createDTraceProvider('fileapp');
dtp.addProbe('rimraf', 'char *');
dtp.addProbe('srcstream', 'char *');
dtp.addProbe('chksum', 'char *', 'int');
```



```
Before: rimraf("tmp", function (err2) {
     dtp.fire('rimraf', function(p) {
           return ['calling rimraf', 'now'];
            } );

    Before: srcstream.pipe(toStream);

    dtp.fire('srcstream', function(p) {
               return [ 'srcstream.pipe(toStream);' ]
           });

    Before: md5sum.update(chunk);

     dtp.fire('chksum', function(p) {
             return ['md5sum.update(chunk)', i];
         });
 •Before: copyFile("words", "words.save");
      dtp.enable();
```



 A DTrace script to enable the new probes (file_probes.d): #!/usr/sbin/dtrace -s #pragma D option temporal fileapp\$target:::rimraf printf("%s\n", copyinstr(arg0)); fileapp\$target:::srcstream printf("%s\n", copyinstr(arg0)); fileapp\$target:::chksum printf("%s\n", copyinstr(arg0)); /* printf("%d\n", arg1); */



•Run the D script with the version with probes:

```
$ sudo ./file probes.d -q -Z -c "node file probes.js"
Password:
tmp/words.save md5sum = 8e0c0289eb2a5ea9aa66d3cfe78dadaf
calling rimraf
md5sum.update(chunk)
md5sum.update(chunk)
md5sum.update(chunk)
md5sum.update(chunk)
md5sum.update(chunk)
srcstream.pipe(toStream);
md5sum.update(chunk)
md5sum.update(chunk)
```



- •The bug:
 - The program starts doing the checksum **before** it starts the pipe from source stream to destination stream
- Solution
 - Add pause/resume calls on the source stream
 - See file_good.js
- Examine the code then execute file_probes.good.js with file_probes.d script

- Example along with node-restify comes from https://github.com/mcavage/node-restifygithub.com
- Restify comes with automatic DTrace support for all of your app's handlers
 - New DTrace probe automatically created whenever you add a new route/handler
 - •Example using DTrace is in node-restify/examples/dtrace
- Read demo.js and run the demo
 - \$ node demo.js & <-- leave this running in background</pre>
 - \$ sudo ./handler-timing.d
 - \$ curl localhost:3000/foo/bar <-- from another window or browser
 - Control-c in handler-timing.d window to see output
- While demo is running, type: \$ sudo dtrace -v -l -n 'restify*:::{}'
 - This will show restify probes and arguments



- rest.d (see node-restify/docs/index.restdown for description of arguments)
- Contains print of args for all fired restify probes

```
#!/usr/sbin/dtrace -s
#pragma D option quiet
restify*:::route-start
   printf("route-start at %lx nsecs:\n", timestamp);
   printf(" args[0] = %s\n", copyinstr(arg0));
   printf(" args[1] = %s\n", copyinstr(arg1));
   printf(" args[2] = %d\n", arg2);
   printf(" args[3] = %s\n", copyinstr(arg3));
   printf(" args[4] = %s\n", copyinstr(arg4));
             args[5] = %s\n", copyinstr(arg5));
   printf("
```



•While node demo.js is running, run:

\$ sudo ./rest.d

In another window:

\$ curl localhost:9080/foo/bar

Type control-c in rest.d window

Explain the output from rest.d

Lab 3 - Flamegraphs



file:///Users/max/stacks.svg



- Graphical representation of where system is spending its time
- Useful for finding "hot" spots in code, and finding out about work you did not know was being done
- Width is frequency (x axis is not time ascending)
- Height is function call depth
- Colors are arbitrary
- See http://github.com/brendangregg/FlameGraph/
- Also http://blog.nodejs.org/2012/04/25/profiling-node-js/

In one window, run your node app. While node app is running, in second window run:

```
$ dtrace -n 'profile-97/execname == "node" && arg1/{
    @[jstack(150, 8000)] = count(); } tick-60s { exit(0); }' >
stacks.out
```

Instead of execname == "node", you can use pid == process_id_of_node_process.



```
$ npm install -g stackvis <-- not needed for class (already installed)
...
$ stackvis dtrace flamegraph-svg < stacks.out > stacks.svg
$
```

Display stacks.svg in browser

Lab 4 - Memory Leak



A simple program that leaks memory

```
$ node leak2.js &
[1] 86625
$ STARTING
```

• To see the leak, run the following and watch size field for node process

```
$ prstat -c -s size Text Please wait...
```

PID USERNAME **SIZE** RSS STATE PRI NICE TIME CPU PROCESS/NLWP 86625 student **23M** 14M sleep 59 0 0:00:00 0.5% node/2 81726 root 40M 25M sleep 59 0 0:00:01 0.0% dtrace/1 59916 root 9688K 4896K sleep 59 0 0:00:12 0.0% svc.configd/19 77763 student 7776K 3028K sleep 59 0 0:00:01 0.0% sshd/1 4112 root 7728K 2864K sleep 59 0 0:00:00 0.0% sshd/1

. . .

Total: 34 processes, 109 lwps, load averages: 0.11, 0.06, 0.02

- - -

86625 student **25M** 16M sleep 1 0 0:00:00 0.6% node/3



Look at address space for node

<-- wait 5 seconds or so...

```
$ pmap -x `pgrep node` | egrep 'heap|total|Kbytes'
Address Kbytes RSS Anon Locked Mode Mapped File
0882C000 2596 2032 2032 - rwx-- [ heap ]
total Kb 39664 33780 23436 -
```

• Heap is not growing, but address space is. Typically, programs either grow heap via brk/sbrk(2) system calls, or via mmap(2) with MAP_ANON flag



See if anonymous segments are being added by node

```
pmap -x `pgrep node` > first
$
<-- wait for ~5 seconds
$ pmap -x `pgrep node` > second
$ diff first second
9c9
< 82F00000
               1024
                        352
                                 352
                                                        [ anon ]
> 82F00000
               1024
                       1024
                                1024
                                            - rw---
                                                          anon ]
19a20
> 90B00000
                         328
                                 328
               1024
                                                          anon ]
                                            - rw---
22c23
> 97300000
                       620
                                620
               1024
                                                         [ anon ]
> 98400000
               2048
                       1176
                                1176
                                                          anon ]
              55008
< total Kb
                      42372
                               32028
> total Kb
              56032
                      44980
                               34636
```

41



• DTrace mmap(2) calls by node

```
$ sudo dtrace -n 'syscall::mmap:entry/execname == "node"/
{@[jstack()] = count();}'
Password:
dtrace: description 'syscall::mmap:entry' matched 1 probe
<-- wait some seconds and then type (ctrl-c)
               libc.so.1 mmap+0x15
node ZN2v88internal15MemoryAllocator20ReserveAlignedMemoryEjjP
NSO 13VirtualMemoryE+0x2a
               run at /home/student/nodeconf/leak2.js line 15
               (anon) as (anon) at /home/student/nodeconf/
leak2.js line 25

    Examine leak2. js at indicated lines to try to find the bug
```

42

Lab 5 - mdb



- mdb (1) is the modular debugger that comes with SmartOS, illumos, and Solaris
- Node-specific commands have been added
- See http://illumos.org/books/mdb// preface.html for details
- On your machine, run a node app and, while it is running, do the following:

```
$ gcore `pgrep node`
gcore: core.8314 dumped
$ mdb core.8314
Loading modules: [ libumem.so.1 libc.so.1 ld.so.1 ]
> ::load /home/student/v8 32.so
V8 version: 3.14.5.8
Autoconfigured V8 support from target
C++ symbol demangling enabled
> ::dcmds !grep js
findjsobjects
                         - find JavaScript objects
                           summarize a JavaScript stack frame
jsframe
jsprint
                         - print a JavaScript object
                         - print a JavaScript stacktrace
jsstack
```



help exists for the dcmds

```
> ::help findjsobjects
NAME
  findjsobjects - find JavaScript objects
SYNOPSIS
  [ addr ] ::findjsobjects [-vb] [-r | -c cons | -p prop]
DESCRIPTION
  Finds all JavaScript objects in the V8 heap via brute
force iteration over
  all mapped anonymous memory. (This can take up to several
minutes on large
  dumps.) The output consists of representative objects,
the number of
```



> ::dcmds !grep v8 v8array v8classes v8code object v8field v8frametypes v8function v8load version v8print v8str v8type v8types

- print elements of a V8 FixedArray
- list known V8 heap object C++ classes
- print information about a V8 Code
- manually add a field to a given class
- list known V8 frame types
- print JSFunction object details
- load canned config for a specific V8
- print a V8 heap object
- print the contents of a V8 string
- print the type of a V8 heap object
- list known V8 heap object types



```
> ::findjsobjects
  OBJECT #OBJECTS
                     #PROPS CONSTRUCTOR: PROPS
8ff2d40d
                            Module
8ff33439
                            ReadableState
8ff39a01
                          0 WriteStream
8ff34499
                          0 WritableState
854cf9ad
                          0 <anonymous> (as <anon>)
8ff254d5
                            Buffer
854d6579
               20
                          4 NativeModule: filename, id, exports,
loaded
                          1 Object: setInterval
854cf955
              144
                            Object: O NOFOLLOW, EOVERFLOW,
854cad65
EWOULDBLOCK,
854bc345
              306
                          1 Array
```



```
> 854d6579::findjsobjects ::jsprint
    filename: "tty.js",
    id: "tty",
    exports: {},
    loaded: true,
mdb: 99c08525: unknown JavaScript object type "Map"
    filename: 33564671,
    id: ,
    exports: 36,
    loaded: 209715541,
    filename: "vm.js",
    id: "vm",
    exports: function Script,
    loaded: true,
```

References



- https://github.com/mcavage/node-restify
- http://mcavage.github.com/presentations/
 dtrace conf 2012-04-03/
- https://github.com/chrisa/node-dtrace-provider
- http://dtrace.org/blogs/blog/category/node-js/
- http://dtrace.org/blogs/dap/files/2012/05/fluent.pdf
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