A new Ad-Hoc parallel file system for HPC environments based on the Expand parallel file system

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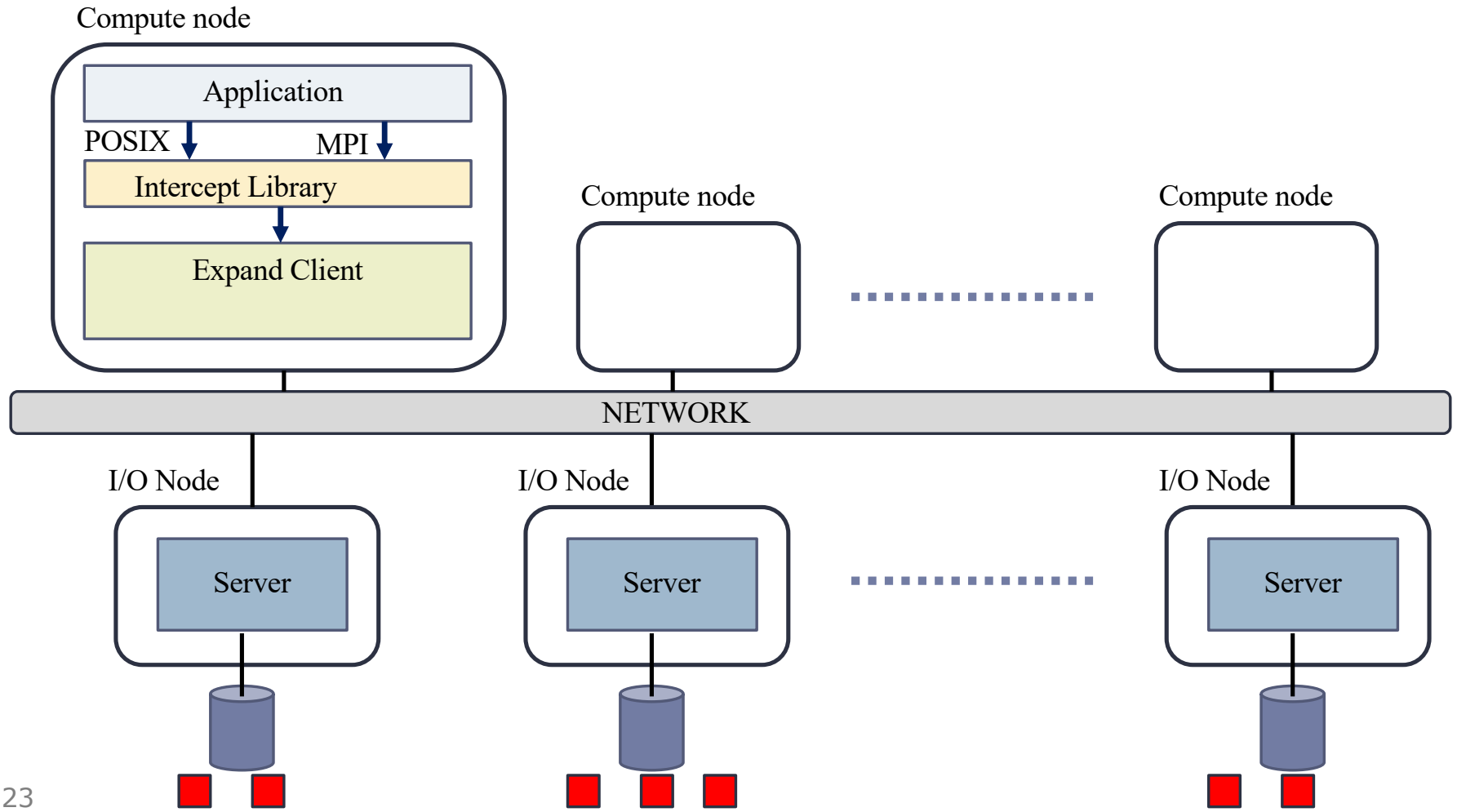
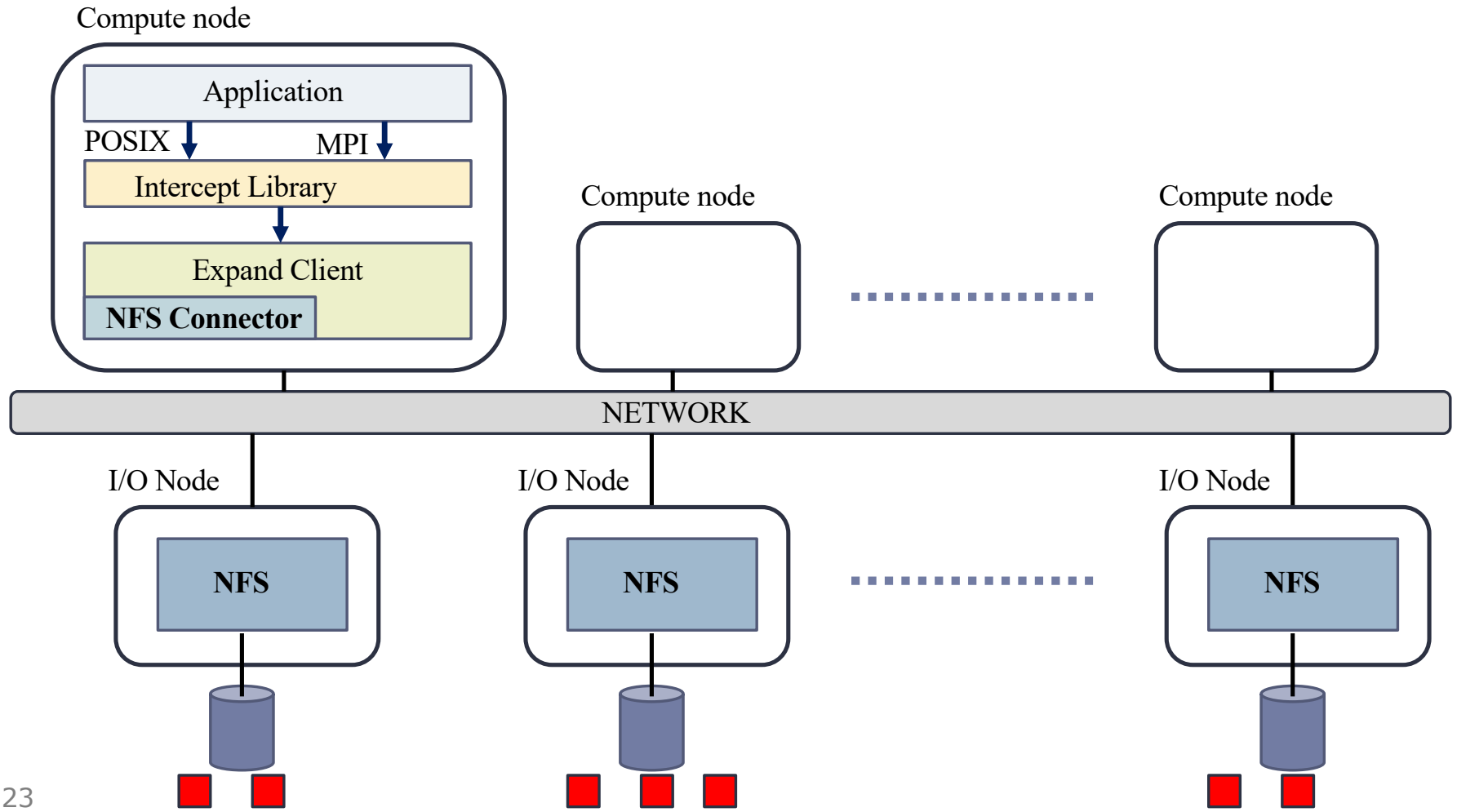
Agenda

- Introduction to Expand Parallel file system
- Expand as Ad-hoc parallel file system for large clusters and supercomputers
  - Motivation
  - Architecture
  - Data distribution
  - Metadata Management
- Performance evaluation
- Conclusions and future work

Introduction to Expand

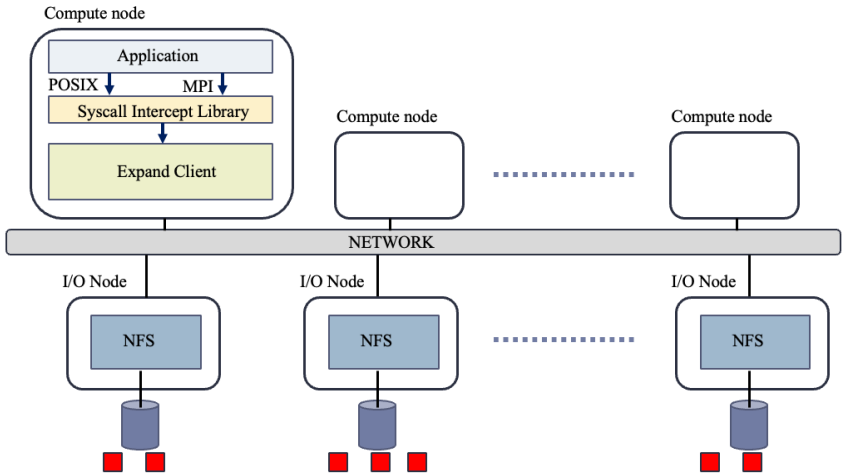


Expand: distributed systems and small clusters

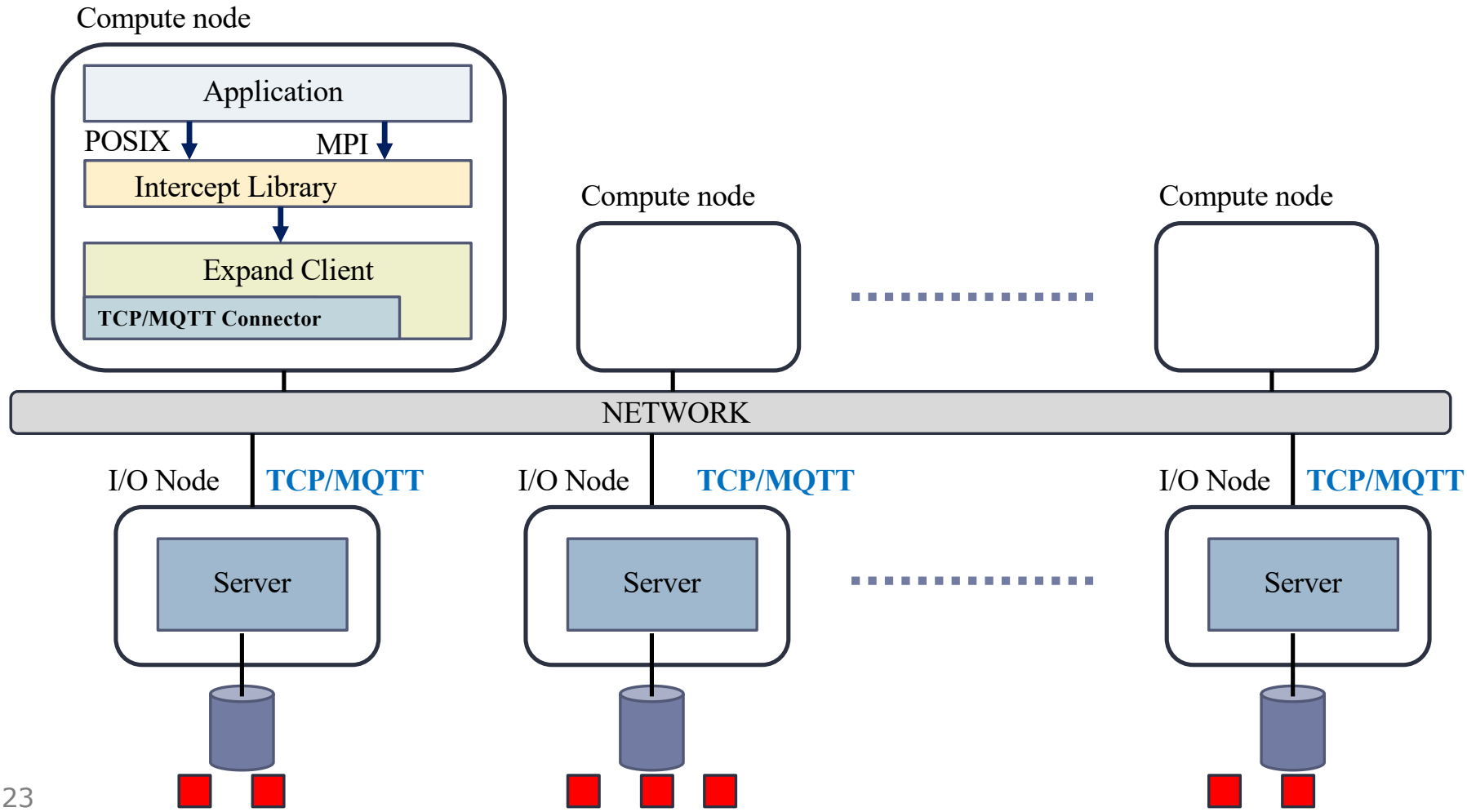


Expand: distributed systems and small clusters

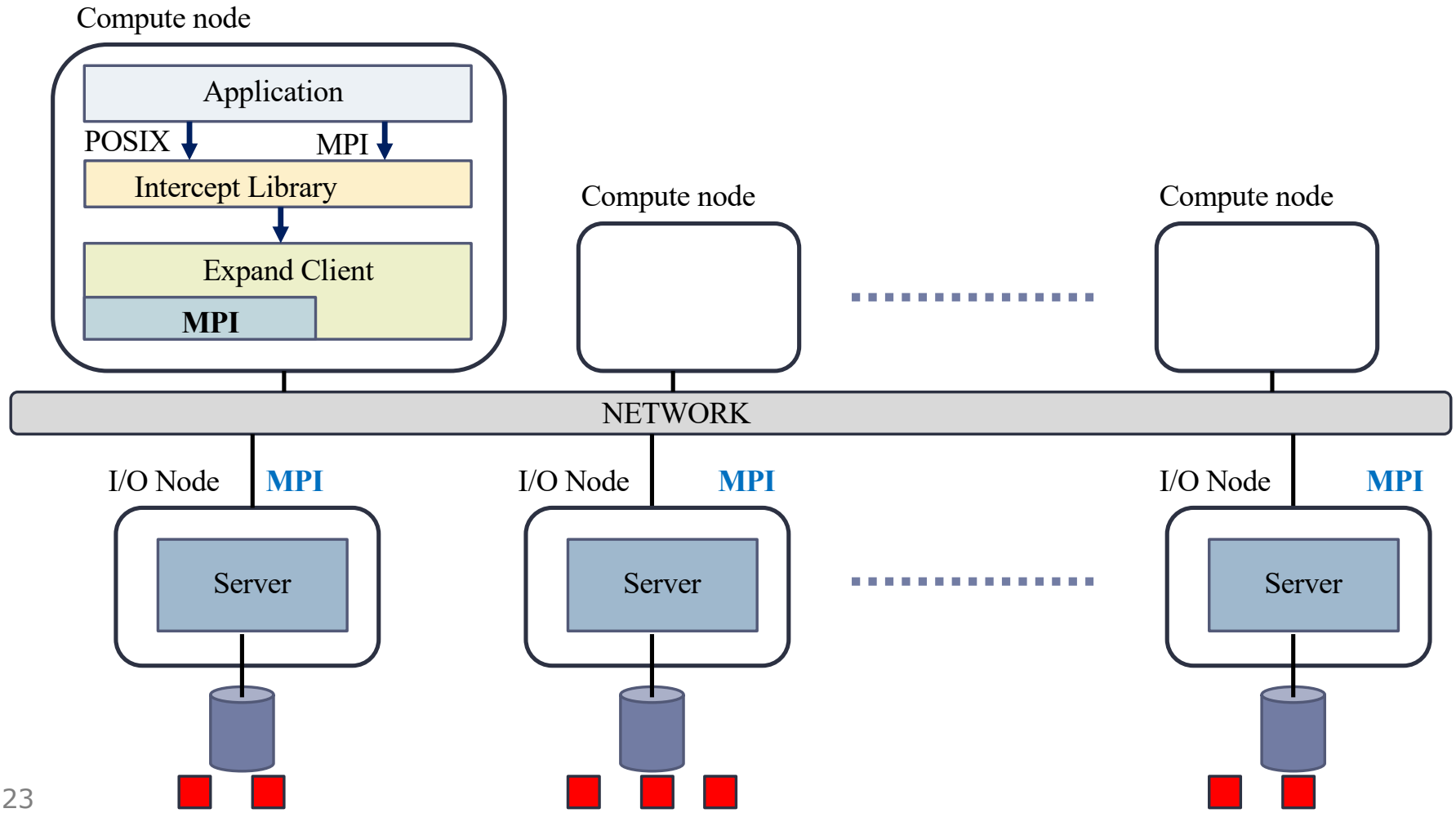
- Advantages of using NFS:
  - Standard server
  - No changes to NFS server are required
  - Independent of the operating system used in the clients
  - Allows the using of servers with different architectures and operating systems
  - The parallel file system construction is greatly simplified
  - NFS is very familiar to users: easy configuration



Expand: IoT environments

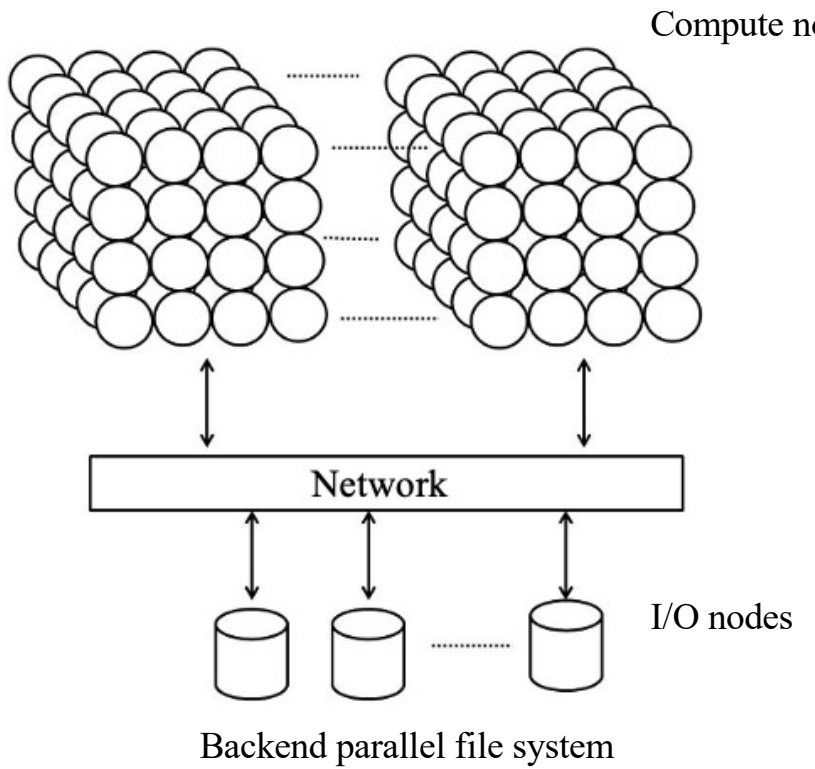


Expand: ad-hoc parallel file system for large clusters



Motivation for developing an Ad-hoc file system

- Typical supercomputer architecture:
  - The number of compute nodes is much larger than the number of I/O nodes:
    - Possible bottleneck



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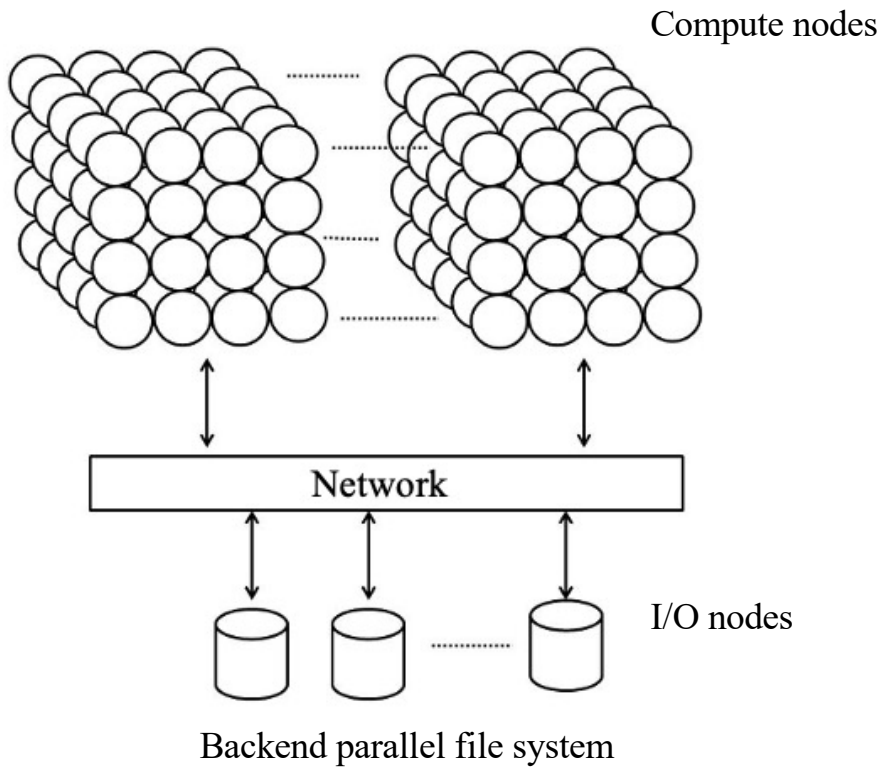
  - Data away from applications:
    - Use of network
    - Reduces data access performance



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  - Data away from applications:
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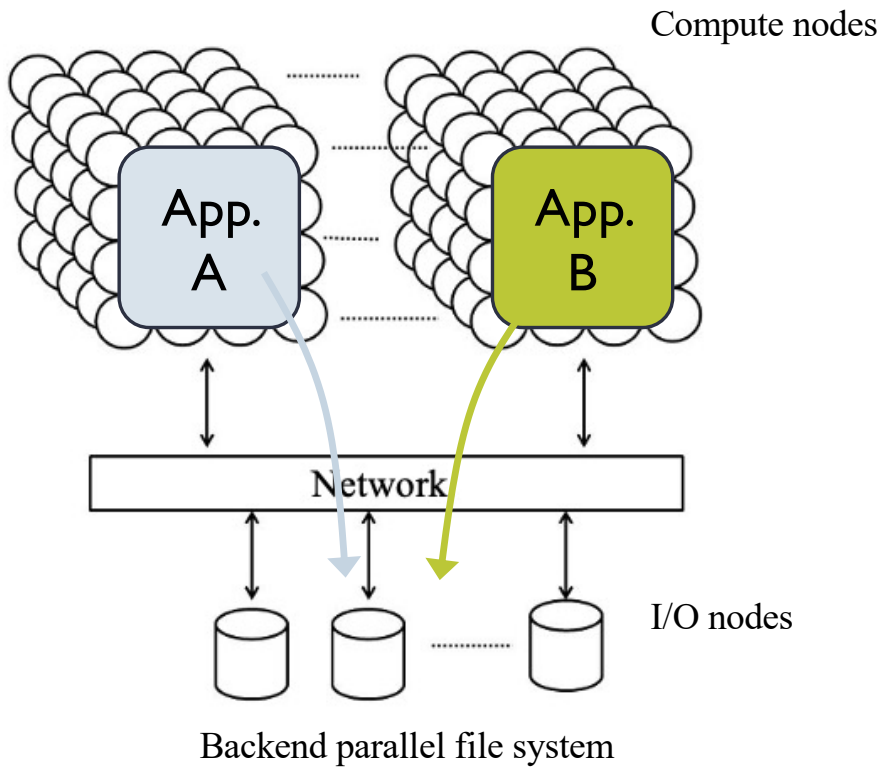
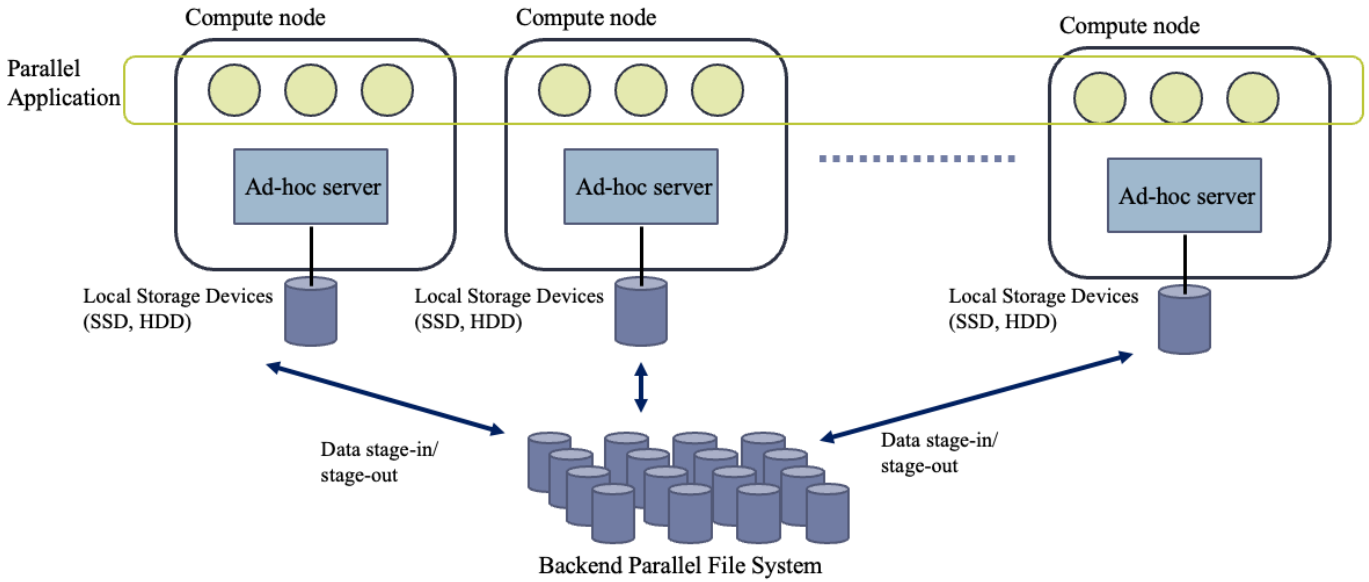
  - Different applications running at the same time:
    - File system conflicts and interferences

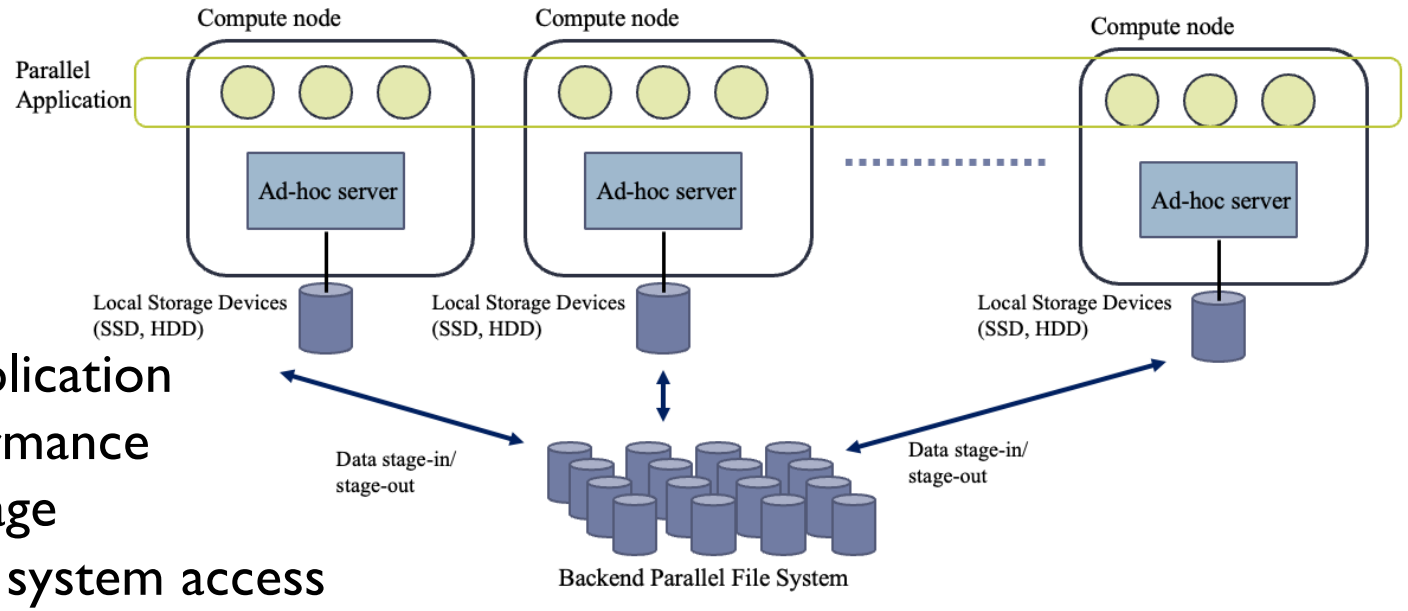


Ac-hoc file systems



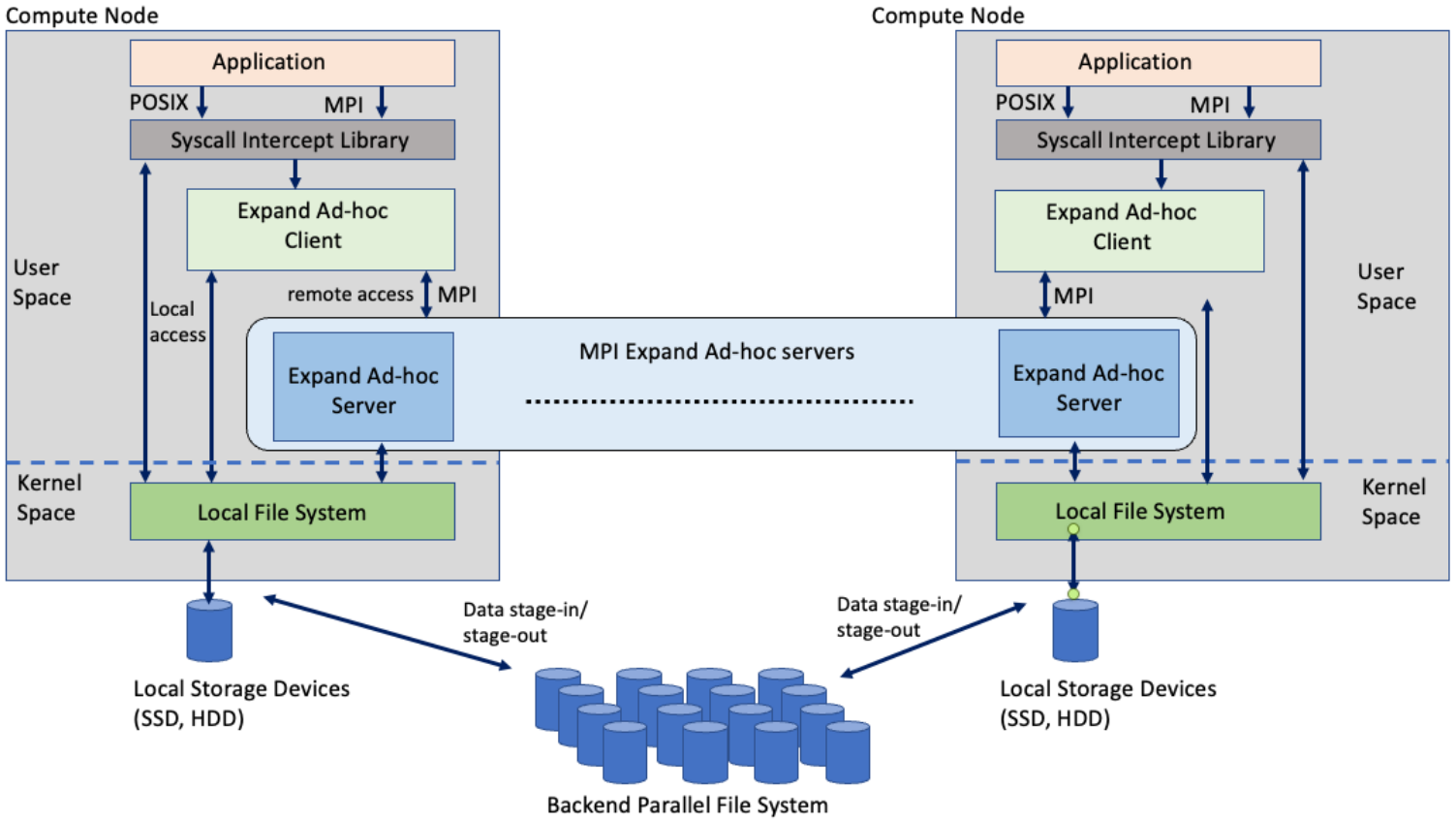
- Temporary storage system for single applications or workflows of applications that use the available storage of compute nodes (HDD, SSD or SHM)
- The servers are deployed on the application's compute nodes

Ac-hoc file systems: **advantages**



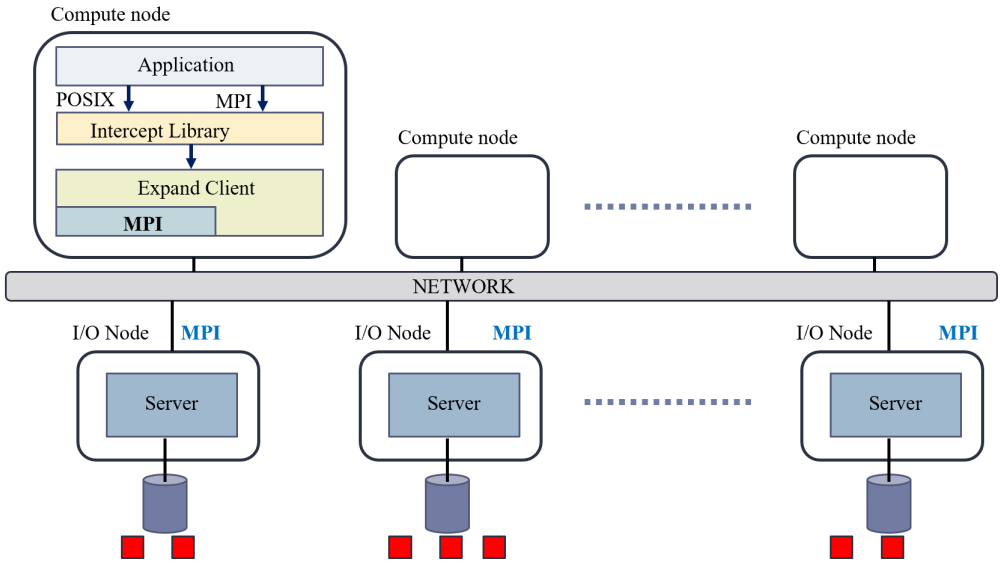
- Data close to the application
  - Increase the performance
- Reduces network usage
- Reduces backend file system access
  - Reduces bottlenecks
- Temporary data (checkpoints, intermediate data) does not need to be stored in the backend file system
- In application workflows data remains for the different workflow processes

Architecture of the Expand Ad-Hoc



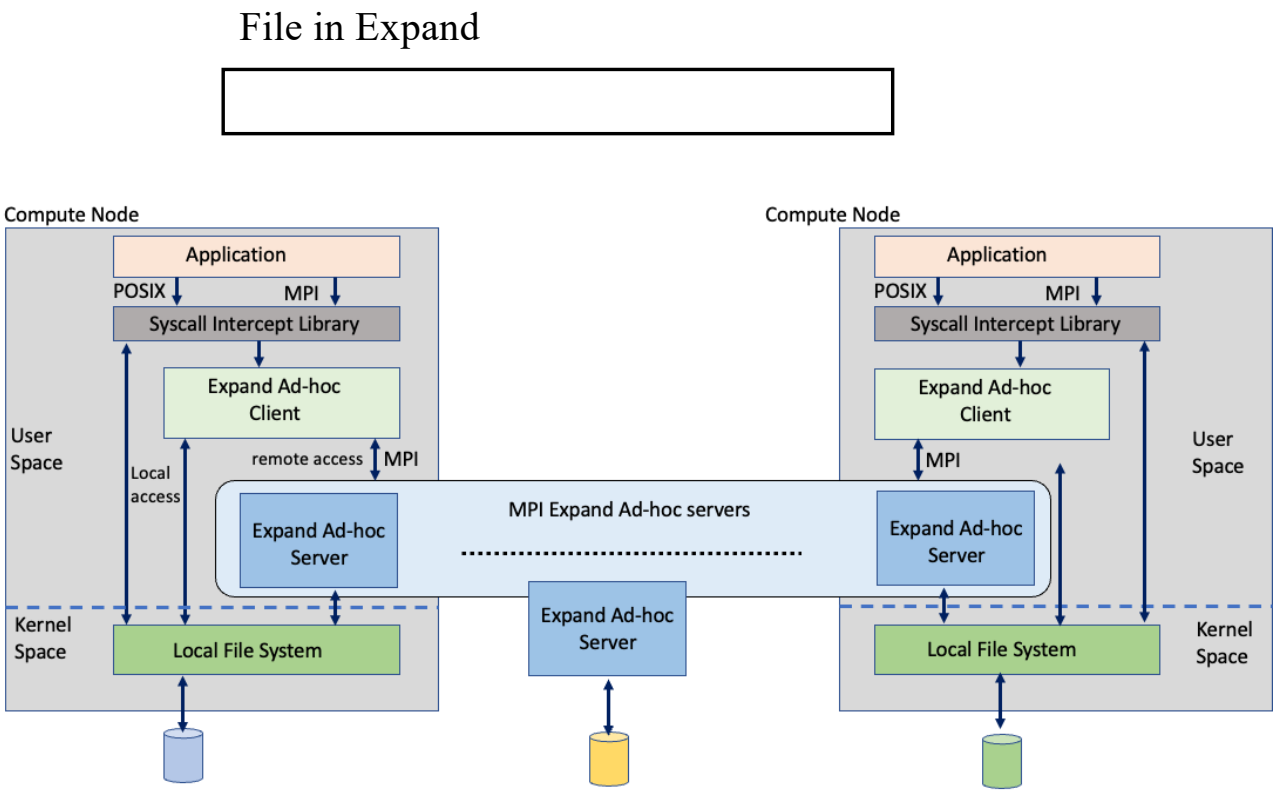
Architecture of the Expand Ad-Hoc

- Advantages of using MPI:
  - Standard interface and portable to different platforms
  - Offers good performance in clusters



Data distribution

- File in Expand:
  - Metadata subfile
  - Several data subfiles
- Data distributed on different servers



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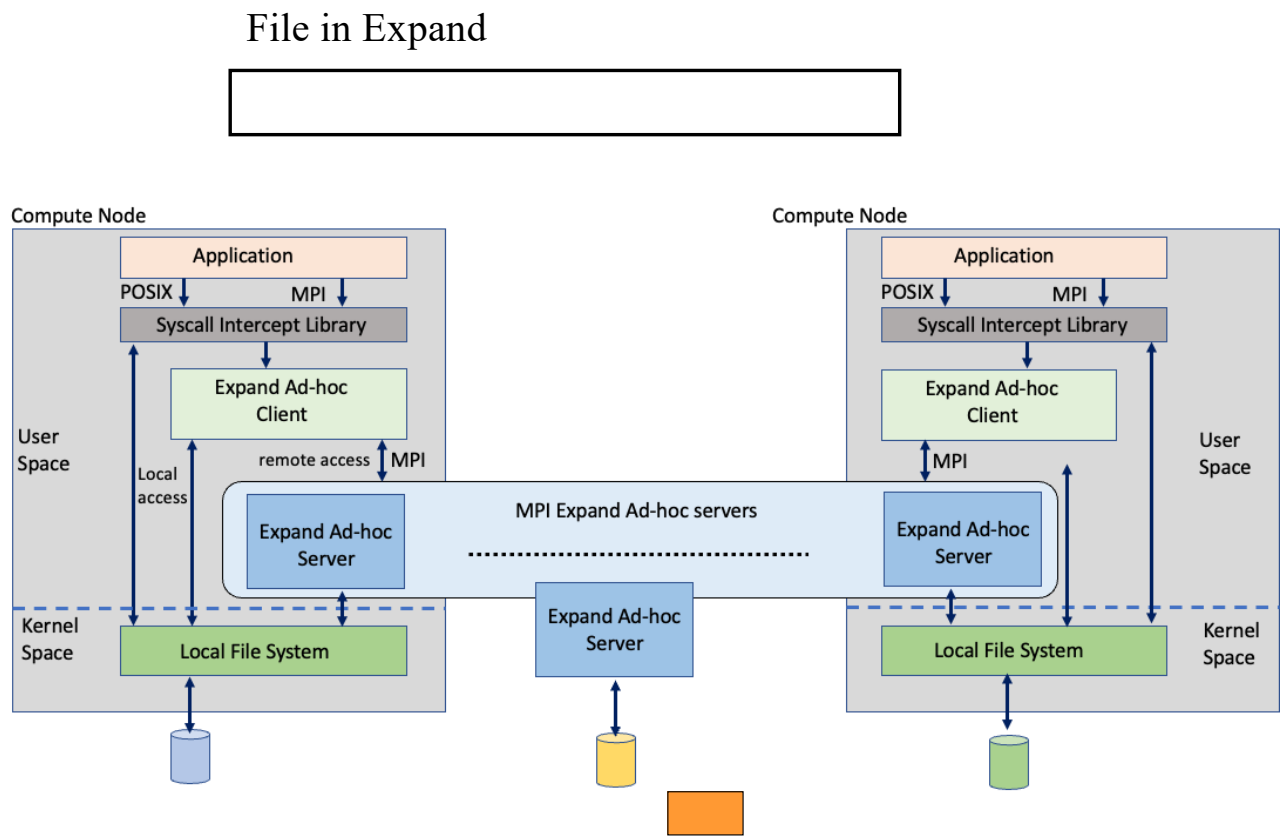

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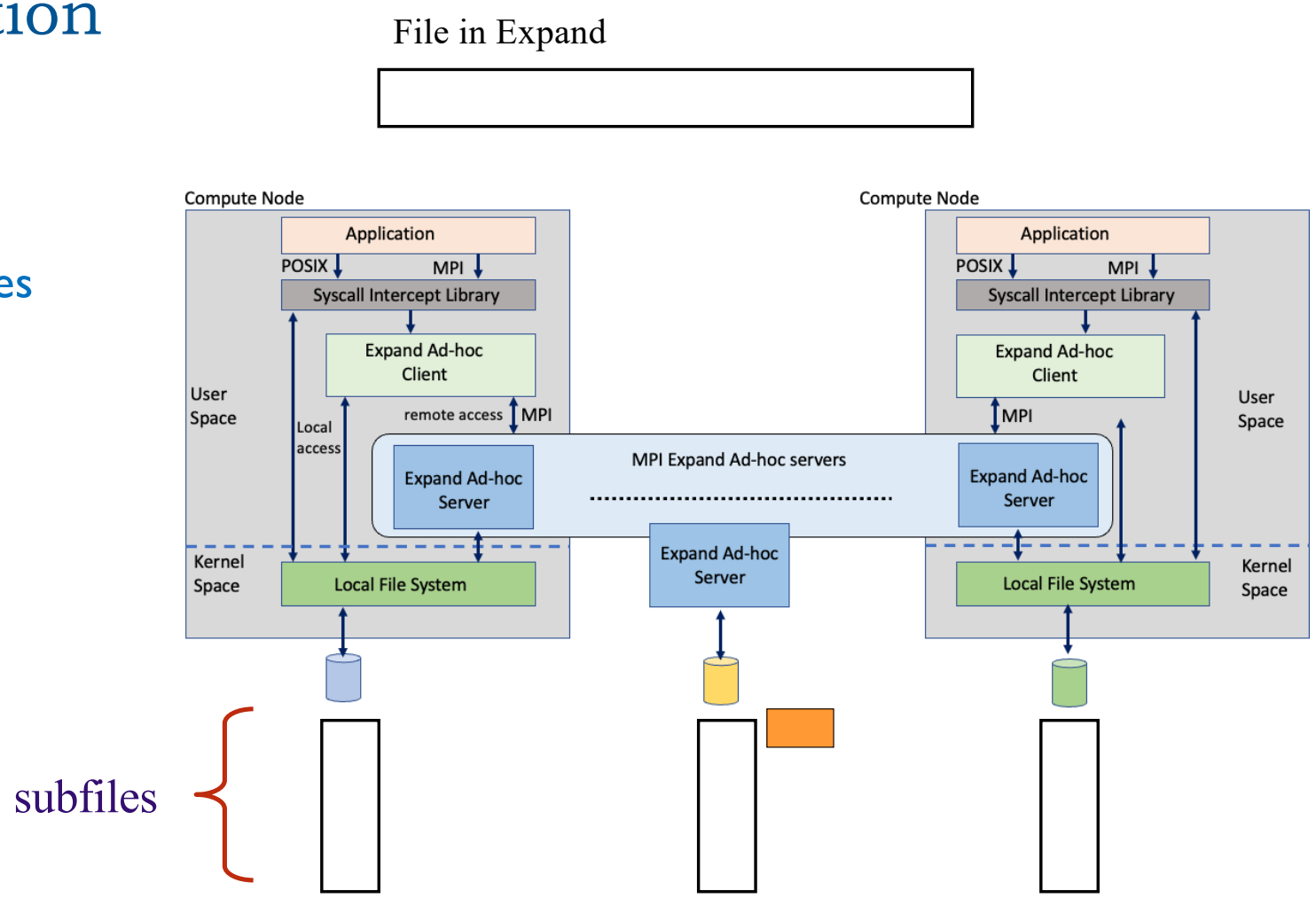

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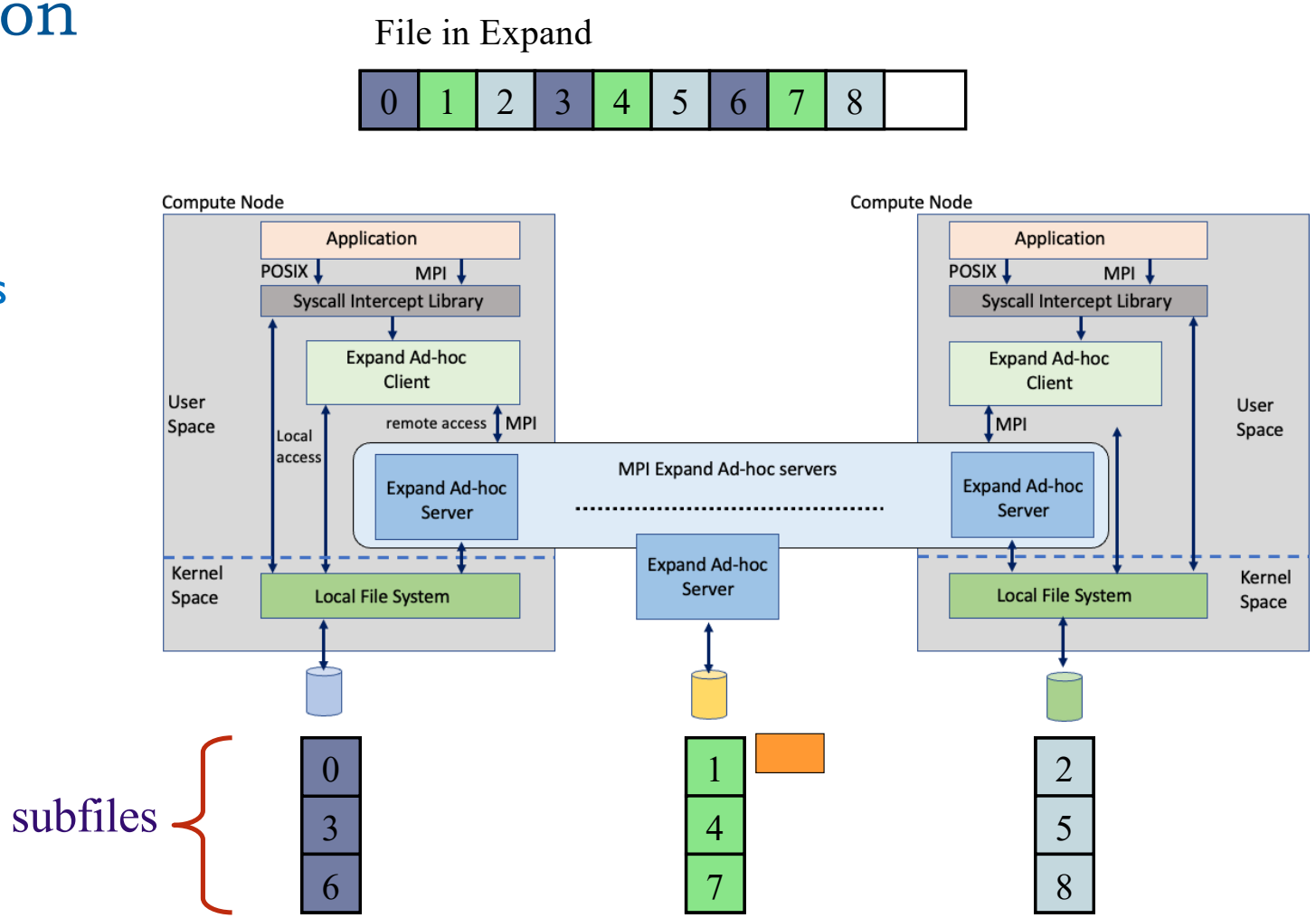
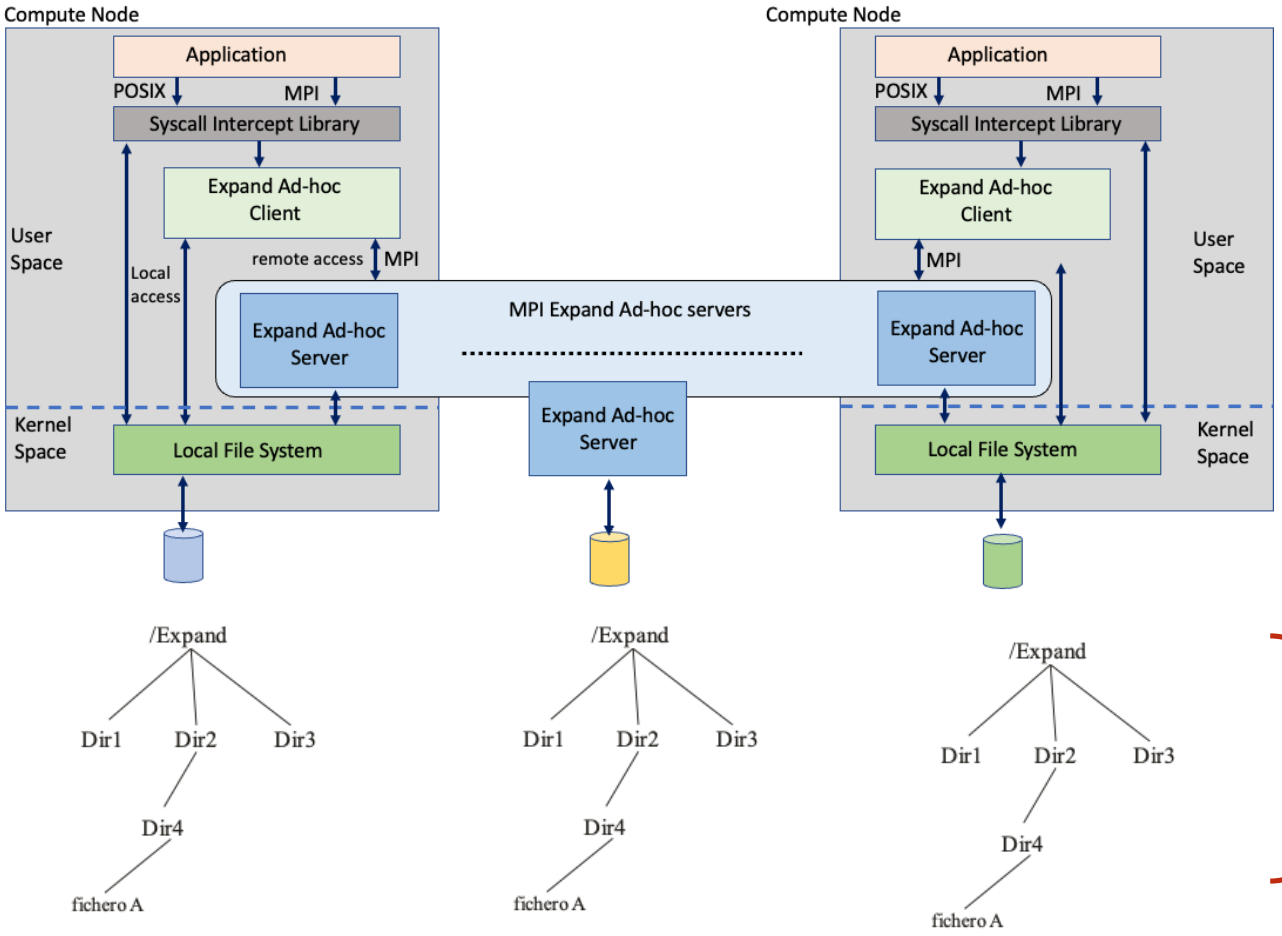
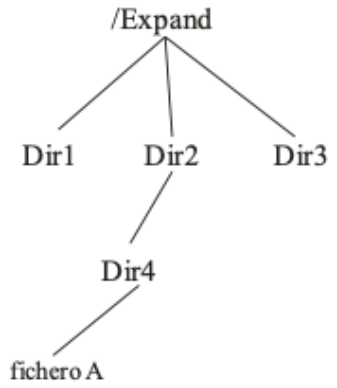


Directory structure





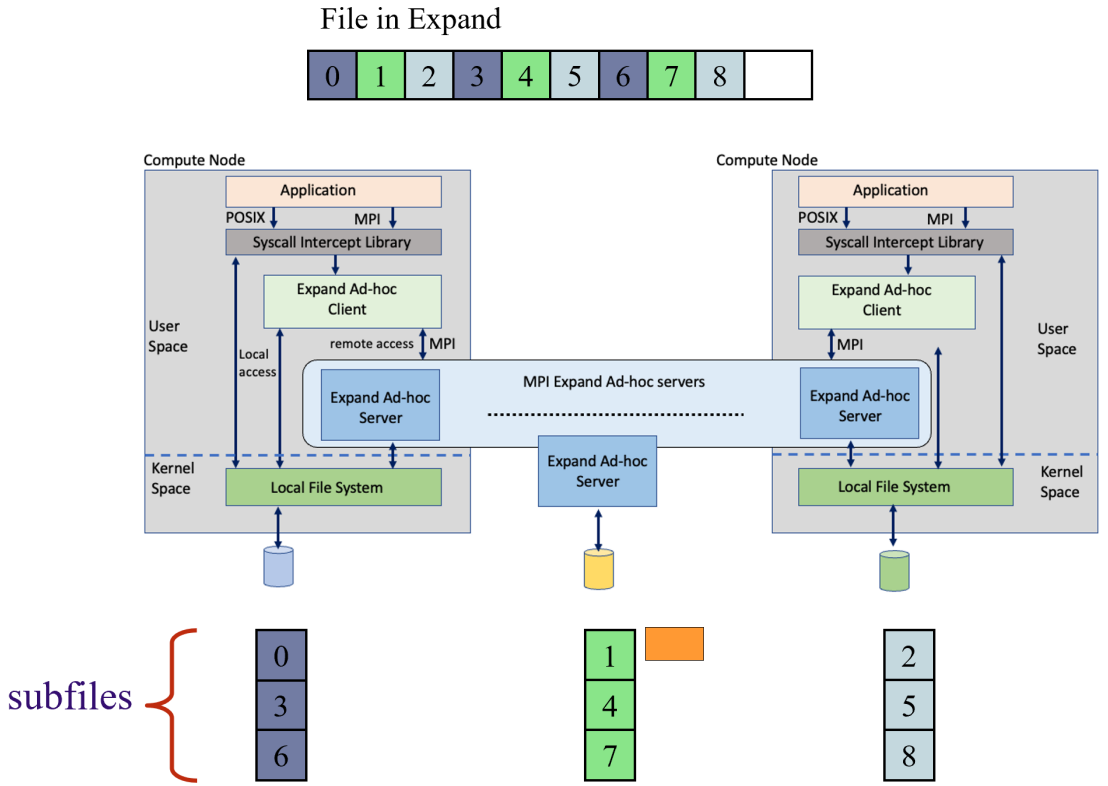
Logical View

Mapping

Physical View

Metadata management

- Distributed metadata management:
  - Two levels
  - No locks
  - No metadata manager
- Metadata distributed among servers:
  - Master node
  - Hash function(name)
  - Load balancing



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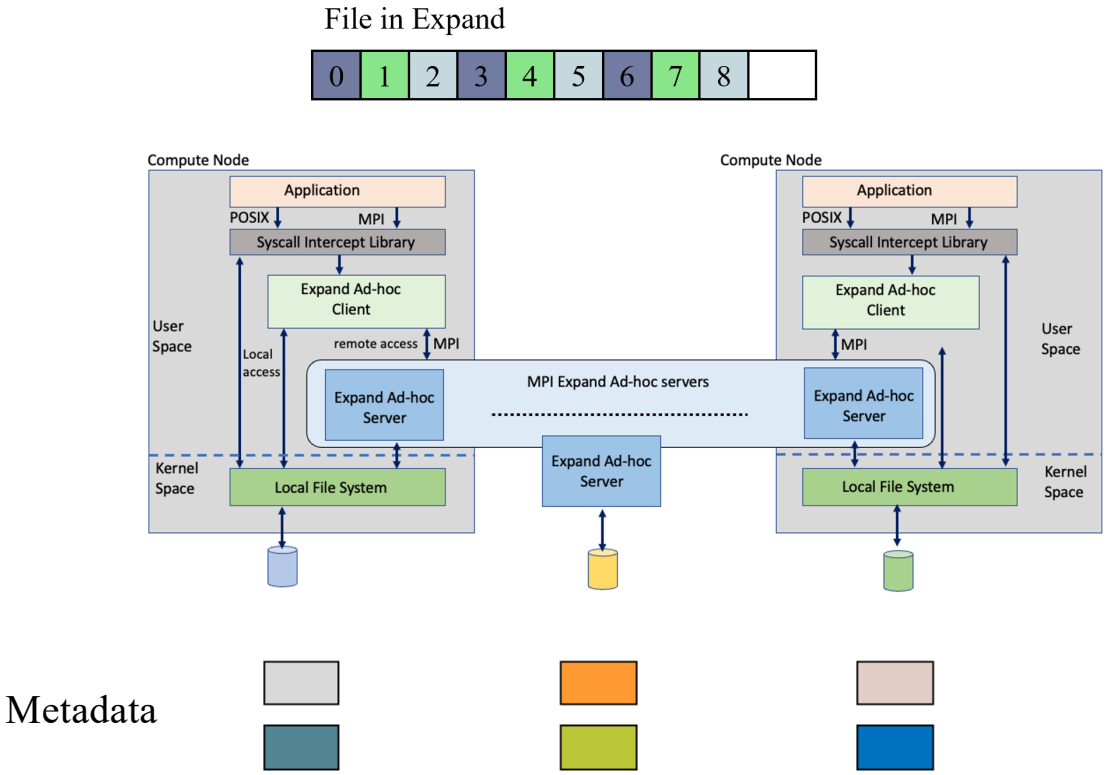


Evaluation

- **Benchmark used: IOR**
  - Open-source benchmark
  - A popular and effective way to evaluate the performance of distributed and parallel file systems is by using a variety of input/output (I/O) loads
- IOR access pattern: file sharing
  - All processes share the same file
  - Challenge for most parallel file systems

Evaluation

- Platform:
  - MareNostrum 4. Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
- Main properties:
  - *Nodes*: 3,456
  - *Total cores*: 165,888
  - *Main memory*: 384.75 TB
  - *SSD:* 240 GB
  - *Interconnection networks*: 100Gb Intel Omni-Path (Full-Fat Tree)
  - *Peak Performance*: 11.15 Petaflops
  - *Parallel file system*: GPFS

Evaluation

- File systems evaluated:
  - **Expand Ad-Hoc** (512 KB of block size)
  - **GekkoFS** (512 KB of block size)

> M.-A. Vef, N. Moti, T. Süß, T. Tocci, R. Nou, A. Miranda, T. Cortes, and A. Brinkmann, "GekkoFS: a temporary distributed file system for HPC applications," in *2018 IEEE International Conference on Cluster Computing (CLUSTER)*. IEEE, 2018, pp. 319–324.

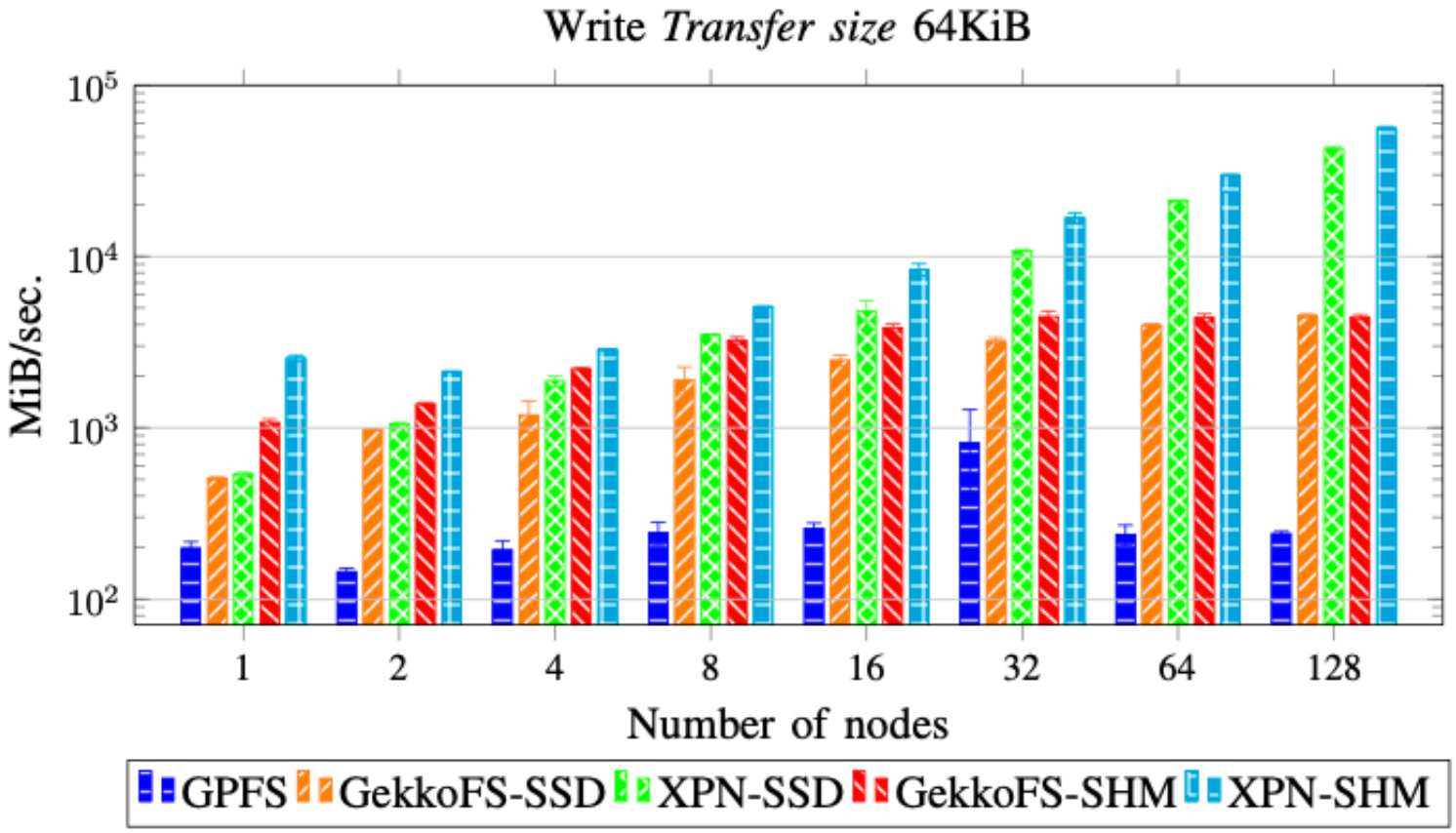
  - **GPFS**: parallel file system used in MareNostrum 4

Evaluation

- Configuration:
  - Compute nodes: 1, 2, 4, ... up to 128 compute nodes
  - Local storage: SSD and Shared Memory (SHM) for GekkoFS and Expand
  - Transfer size used in IOR: 64 KiB, 512 KiB, and 1 MiB.
  - Client processes per compute node: 8
  - Operations: read and write in parallel on a shared file
  - Size written by each client: 4 GiB (resulting in a 4 TiB)
  - Number of processes: 8 up to 1024 processes

- All results in logarithmic scale
- All tests have been executed 10 times and the average results and standard deviation are shown in all figures.

Results


Write *Transfer size* 64KiB
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Number of nodes
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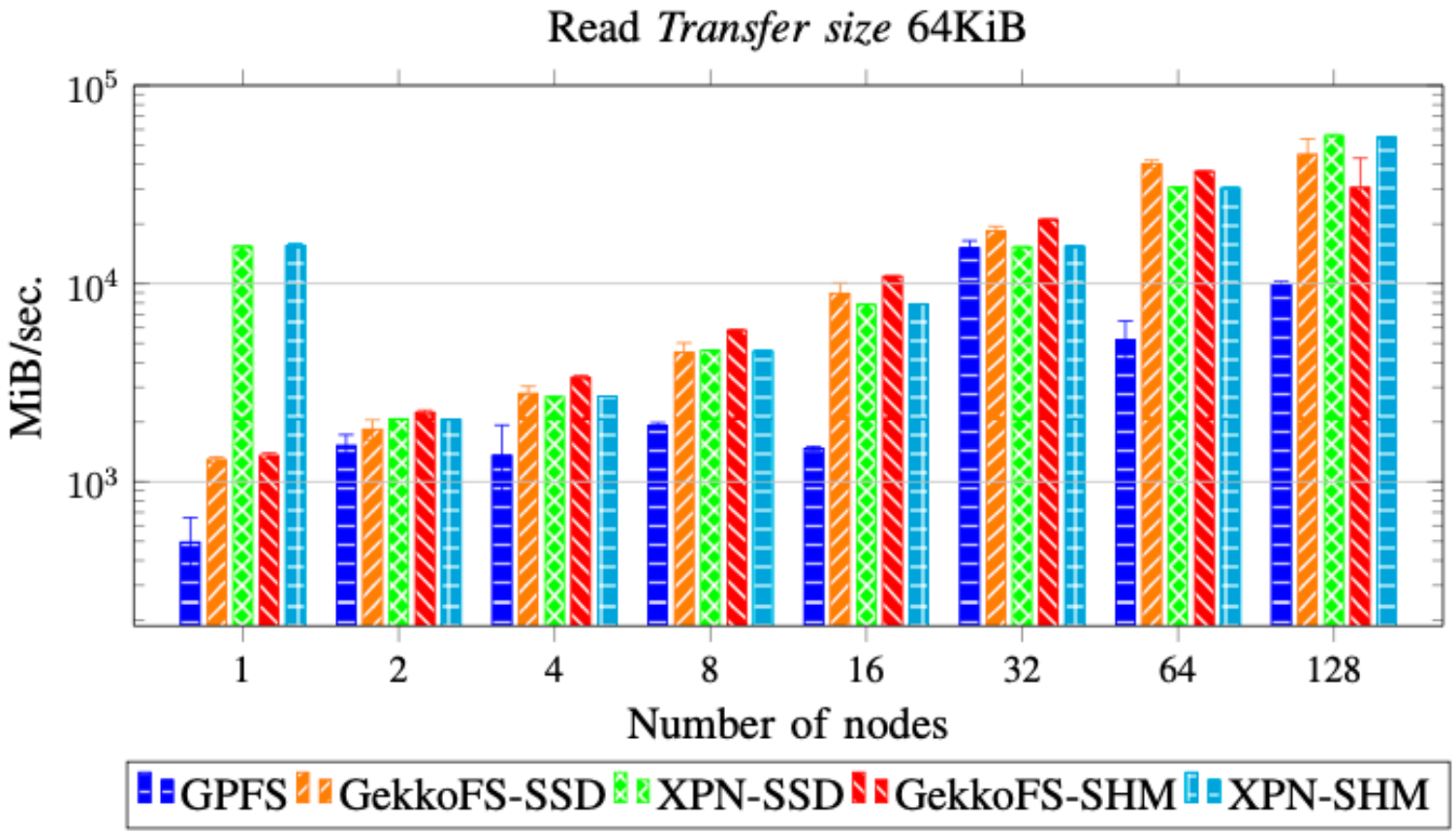
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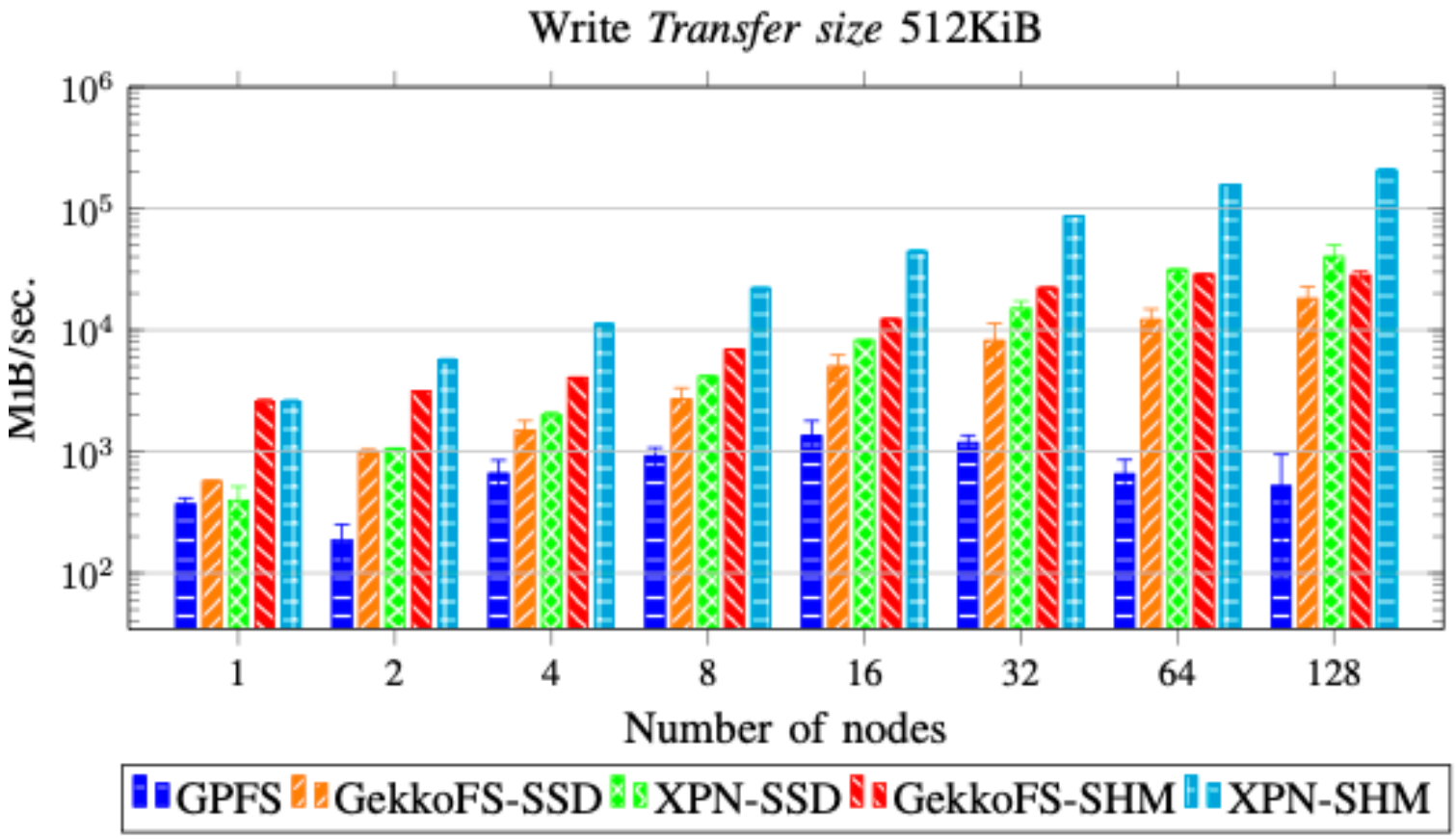
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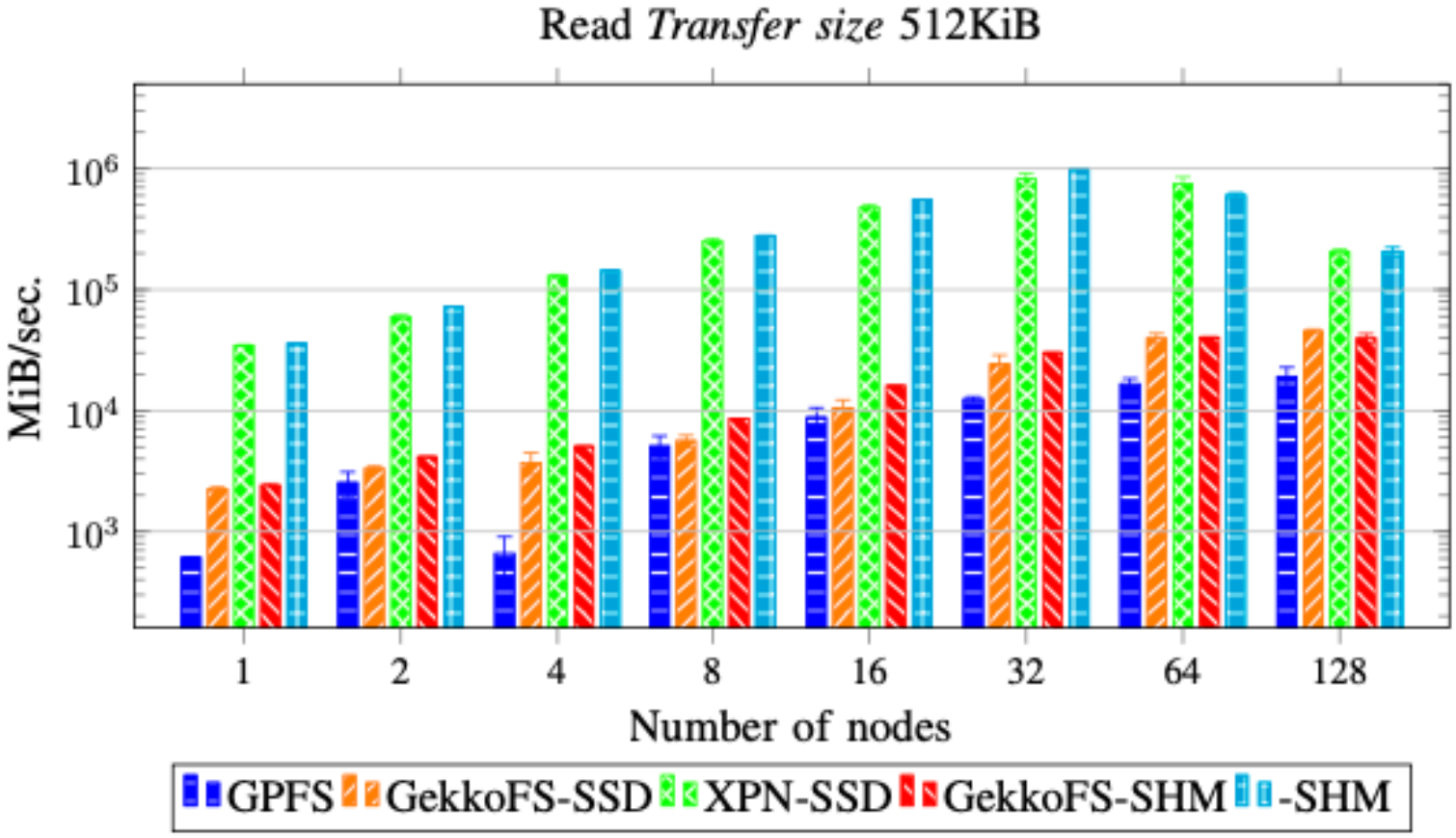
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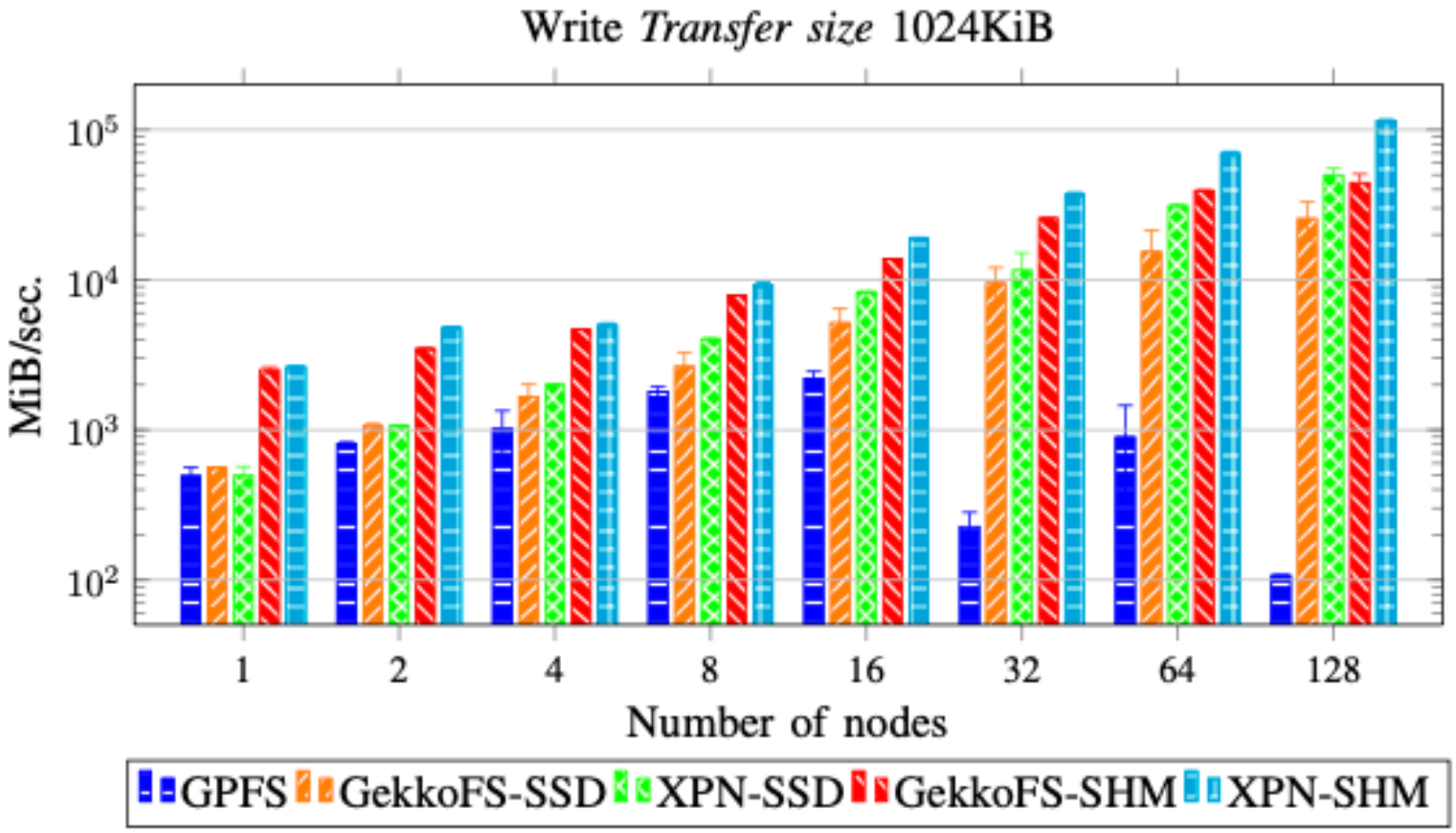
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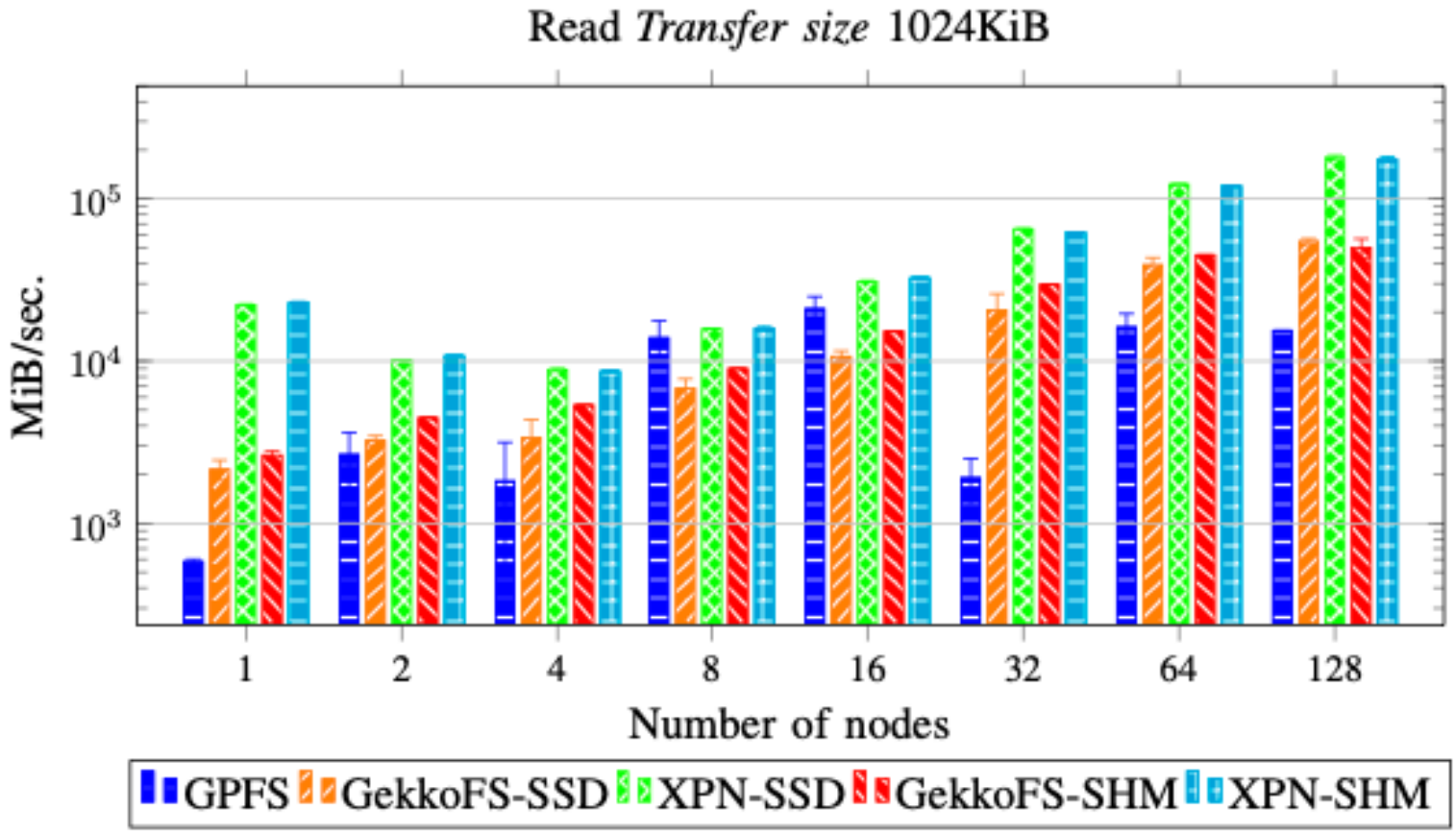
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Conclusions and Future Works

- Main conclusions:
  - Expand Ad-Hoc is available as an open-source project in the following GitHub repository:
    - https://github.com/xpn-arcos/xpn
  - Expand Ad-Hoc uses user-space MPI-based data servers on the same compute nodes on which applications are running
  - Expand Ad-Hoc provides a good performance compared to other solutions
- Future work:
  - Fault tolerant support

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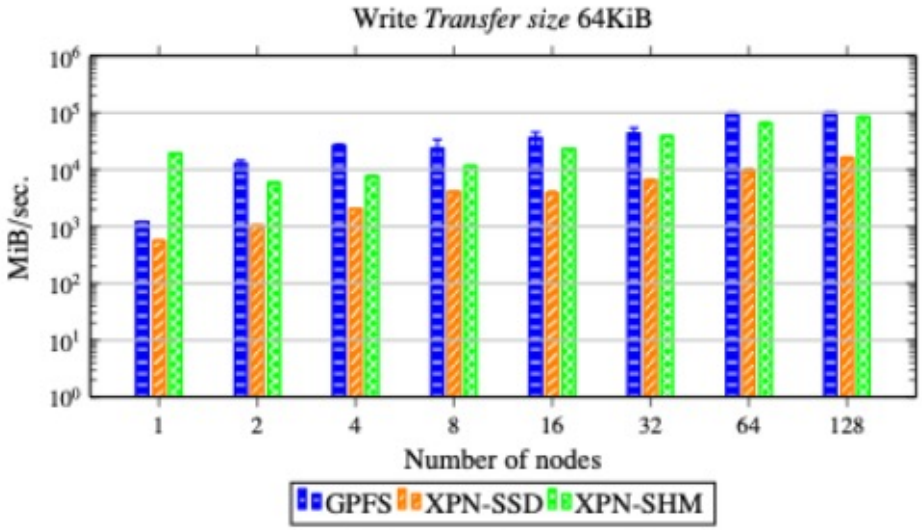
Evaluation

- Other results not included in the article:
  - A file per process. Each process accesses an individual file

Results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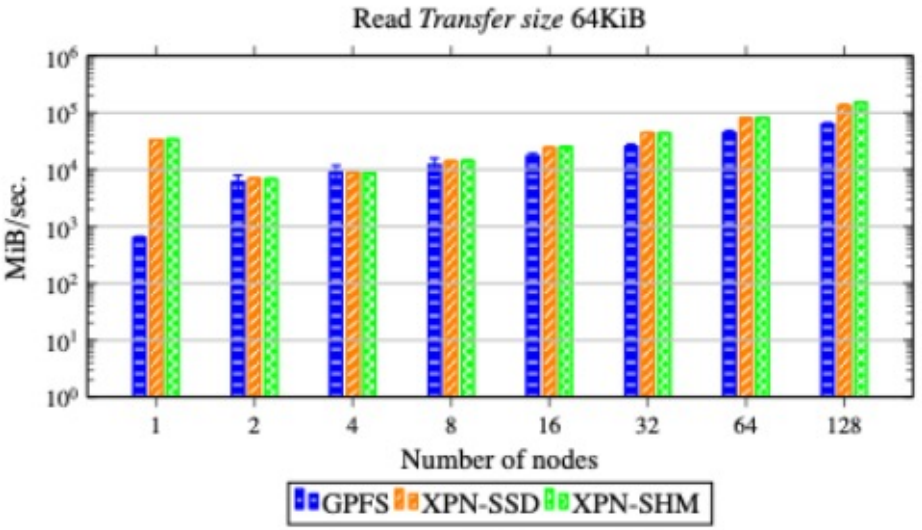
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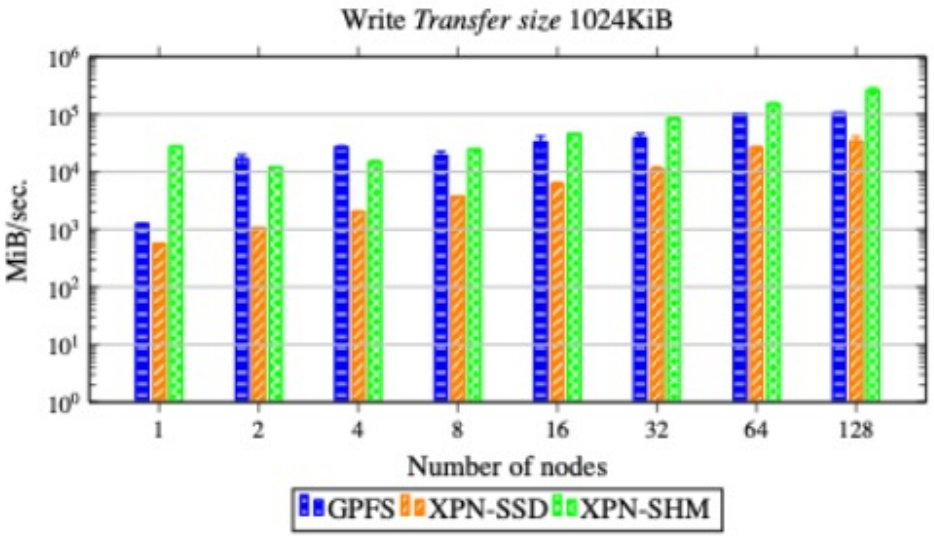
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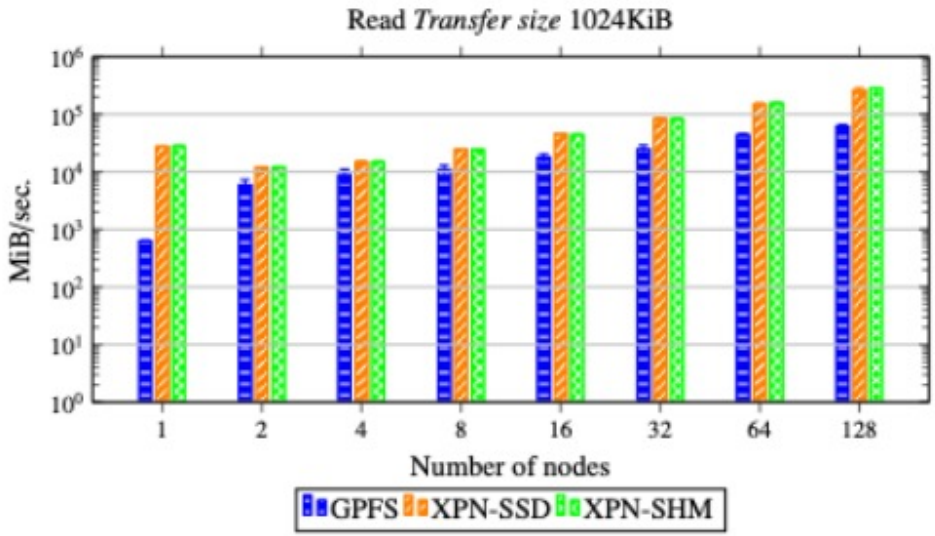
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