



CSE 5449: Intermediate Studies in Scientific Data Management

Lecture 11: Tools for understanding parallel I/O performance - Darshan

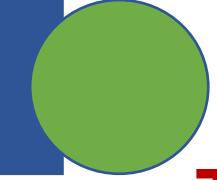
Dr. Suren Byna

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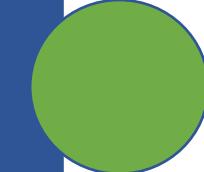
<https://sbyna.github.io>

02/14/2023



Today's class

- Any questions?
- Class presentation topic
- Today's class –
 - Tools for understanding parallel I/O performance



Class presentation topic – I/O performance analysis

- Glenn K. Lockwood, Shane Snyder, Teng Wang, Suren Byna, Philip Carns, Nicholas J. Wright. "[A Year in the Life of a Parallel File System.](#)" In *Proceedings of the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis (SC'18)*. Dallas, TX. November 2018. ([Slides](#))
- Teng Wang, Shane Snyder, Glenn K. Lockwood, Philip Carns, Nicholas J. Wright, and Suren Byna. "[IOMiner: Large-Scale Analytics Framework for Gaining Knowledge from I/O Logs.](#)" In *Proceedings of the 2018 IEEE International Conference on Cluster Computing (CLUSTER)*. Belfast, UK. September 2018.
- Glenn K. Lockwood, Shane Snyder, George Brown, Kevin Harms, Philip Carns, Nicholas J. Wright. "[TOKIO on ClusterStor: Connecting Standard Tools to Enable Holistic I/O Performance Analysis.](#)" In *Proceedings of the 2018 Cray User Group*. Stockholm, SE. May 2018. ([Slides](#))
- Glenn K. Lockwood, Wucherl Yoo, Suren Byna, Nicholas J. Wright, Shane Snyder, Kevin Harms, Zachary Nault, Philip Carns. "[UMAMI: a recipe for generating meaningful metrics through holistic I/O performance analysis.](#)" In *Proceedings of the 2nd Joint International Workshop on Parallel Data Storage & Data Intensive Scalable Computing Systems (PDSW-DISCS'17)*. Denver, CO. November 2017. ([Slides](#))



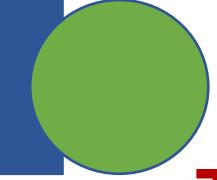
Class presentation format

- Main goal(s)
- Motivation
- Prior work
- Proposed solutions
- How were the solutions evaluated and what was achieved?
- Future work – *You may add your ideas here.*
- Gap analysis – What research gaps are still open?

Presentation on March 9th

Factors that impact parallel I/O performance

Applications	High-level I/O library	MPI-IO	File systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of MPI ranksNumber of I/O requestsSize of I/O requestsNumber of filesNumber of metadata calls<ul style="list-style-type: none">File open and close requestsNumber of seek operationsContiguous / non-contiguous requests<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of seeksAlignment of I/O request with<ul style="list-style-type: none">File blockSub-filesShared file or multiple files...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Metadata operations for self-describing propertyLocation of metadataHow many processes are participating in metadata or data operationsAlignment in file offsetsHyperslab selections<ul style="list-style-type: none">contiguous / non-contiguous?complex hyperslabs construction costChunking<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chunk sizeNumber of chunksSub-files<ul style="list-style-type: none">How many? How's the data aggregated?Compression used or not?<ul style="list-style-type: none">What's the compression / decompression cost?Where is compression / decompression executed?Does a file need to be exact size of data or can it have some gaps?Cache metadata or not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contiguous / non-contiguous accessesNumber of I/O requestsSize of I/O requestsPOSIX consistency semanticsSynchronous / Asynchronous I/O callsCollective or independentIf collective:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of aggregatorsAggregator placementAggregation buffer sizeAggregator to file system mapping – network connections and block sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of storage serversNumber of metadata serversNumber of storage targets (stripe count)Block size on storage serverPage size on storage targetAmount of contiguous data stored on a storage target (stripe size)Traffic on storage targetsFullness of storage targetsFragmentation on storage targets

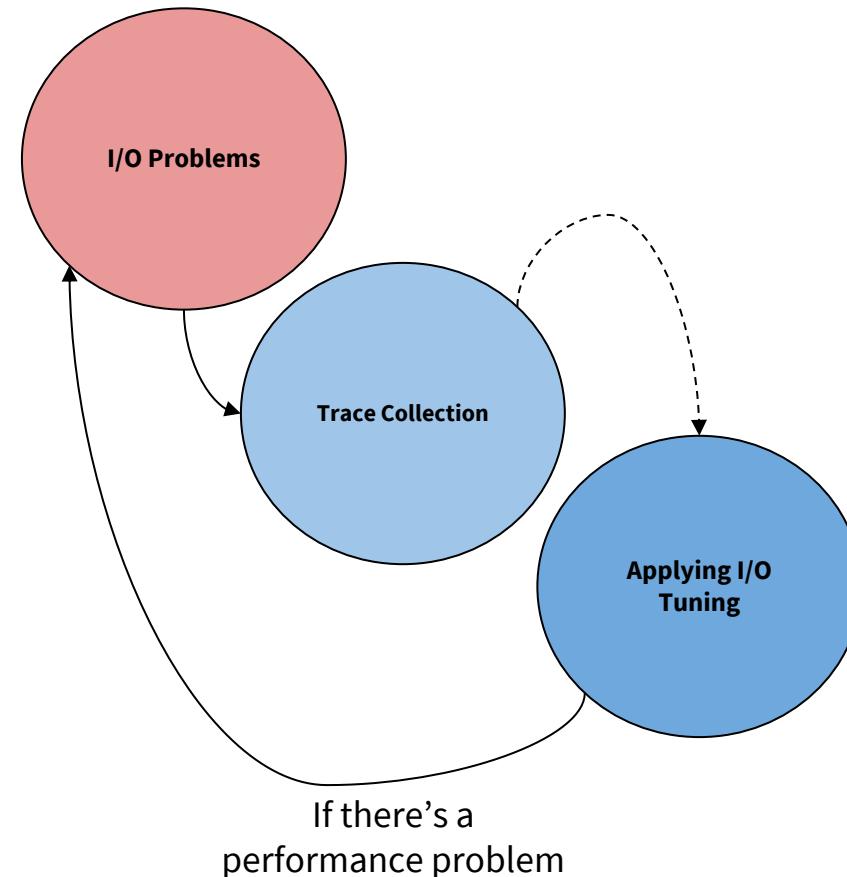


Tools for understanding parallel I/O performance

- Darshan (ANL)
- Darshan Extended Trace (DXT) -- Intel, LBNL, & ANL
- DXT Explorer -- LBNL
- Drishti -- LBNL

Path to understand I/O performance and optimize

- There are several tools available to trace I/O performance
 - Darshan
 - Recorder





Darshan I/O

- A lightweight HPC I/O characterization tool to capture application I/O behavior
 - Provides a summary of I/O calls
 - Counts, histograms, timers, and other statistics
 - Extended tracing for full I/O activity traces
- Developed at Argonne National Laboratory
- Deployed on several supercomputing facilities
- <https://www.mcs.anl.gov/research/projects/darshan/>

Darshan – How does it work?

- darshan-runtime **and** darshan-util
- Instrumentation of I/O calls
 - At link time of application OR
 - At runtime (using LD_PRELOAD)
- Collects file access statistics
 - HDF5, MPI-IO, POSIX-IO, File system layers
 - Computes statistics
 - Compresses the logs and writes

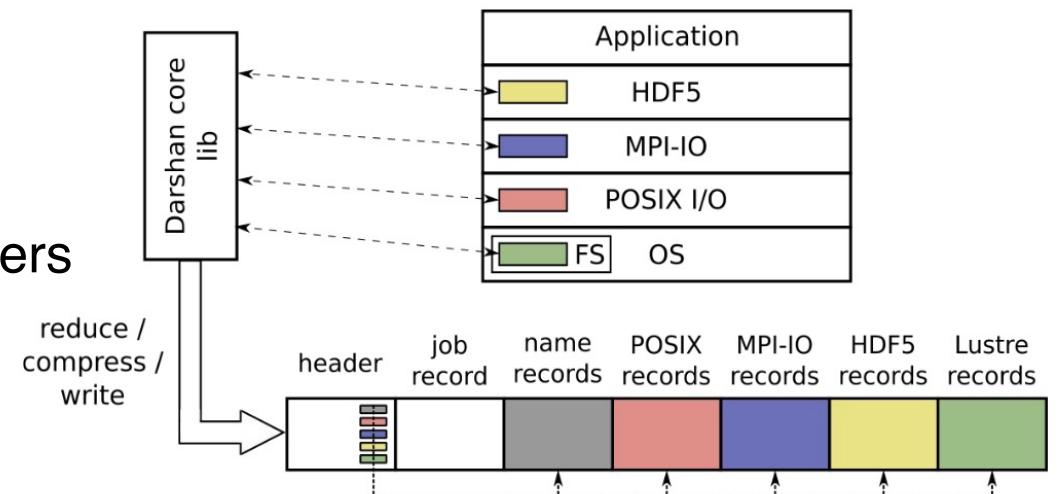


Image from Shane Snyder's Darshan tutorial

Using Darshan on NERSC systems

- Darshan module is available on NERSC systems (may be available at OSC as well)
- Run “module list” command to see if Darshan is loaded and which version
- After compiling and running your job with Darshan loaded, run “darshan-config --log-path’ to find where the logs are stored

```
ssnyder@cori01:~> darshan-config --log-path
/global/cscratch1/sd/darshanlogs
ssnyder@cori01:~> cd /global/cscratch1/sd/darshanlogs
ssnyder@cori01:/global/cscratch1/sd/darshanlogs>
ssnyder@cori01:/global/cscratch1/sd/darshanlogs> cd 2021/3/4
ssnyder@cori01:/global/cscratch1/sd/darshanlogs/2021/3/4> ls | grep snyder | cat
ssnyder_mpi-io-test_id40245367_3-4-50083-3517743081787486417_1614894884.darshan
```

Logs further indexed using
'year/month/day'
the job executed.

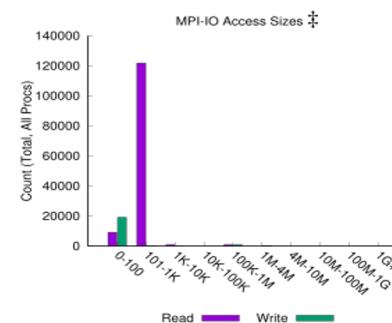
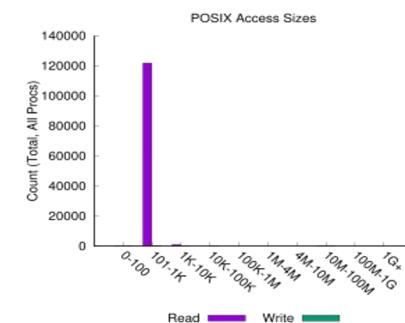
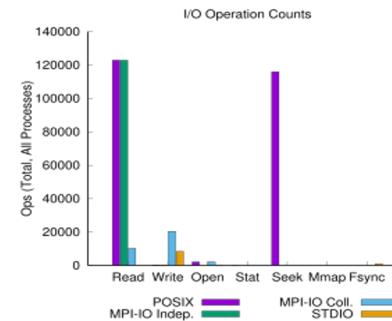
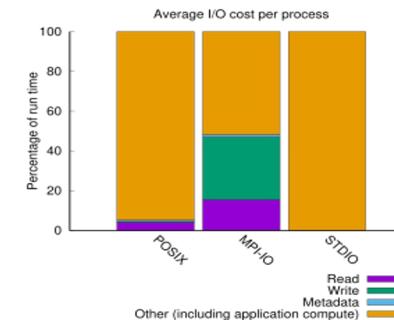
Log file name starts with the following pattern:
'username_exename_jobid...'

Darshan analysis tools

- darshan-util package
- darshan-job-summary
 - provides a summary characterizing application I/O behavior in a PDF format

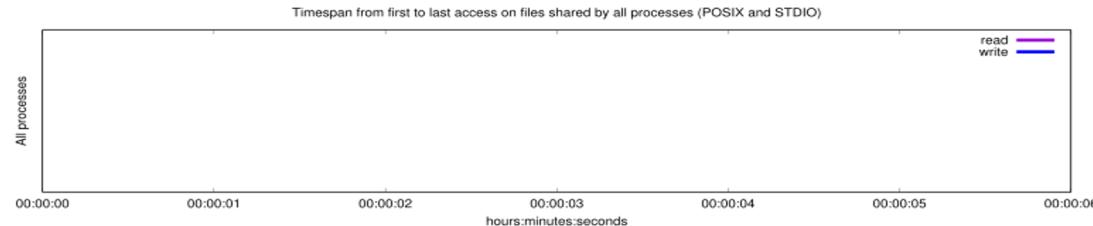
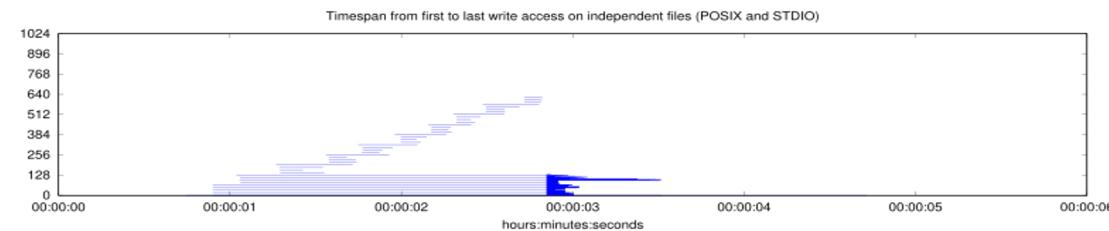
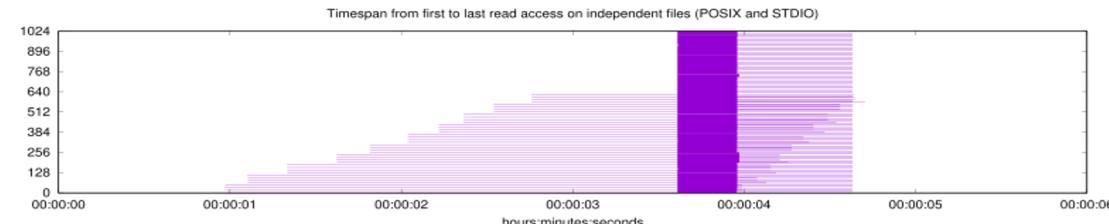
jobid: 45195555	uid: 95230	nprocs: 1024	runtime: 6 seconds
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I/O performance *estimate* (at the MPI-IO layer): transferred **5072.0 MiB** at **798.82 MiB/s**
I/O performance *estimate* (at the STDIO layer): transferred **0.1 MiB** at **37.30 MiB/s**



Darshan analysis tools

- darshan-job-summary
 - provides a summary characterizing application I/O behavior in a PDF format



Average I/O per process (POSIX and STDIO)

	Cumulative time spent in I/O functions (seconds)	Amount of I/O (MB)
Independent reads	0.243677474609375	2.4876377210021
Independent writes	0.024767330078125	2.46554678305984
Independent metadata	0.042551724609375	N/A
Shared reads	0	0
Shared writes	0	0
Shared metadata	0	N/A

Data Transfer Per Filesystem (POSIX and STDIO)

File System	Write		Read	
	MiB	Ratio	MiB	Ratio
UNKNOWN	0.07063	0.00003	0.00000	0.00000
/global/cscratch1	2524.64928	0.99997	2547.34103	1.00000



Darshan analysis tools

- `darshan-parser` – prints all counters in a log file to a text format file



The screenshot shows a terminal window with three colored tabs at the top (red, yellow, green). The main area displays the contents of a file named `nc5_sml.txt`. The file contains configuration parameters for a Darshan log file, including details about the executable, compression method, job ID, start and end times, number of processes, run time, and metadata settings. It also lists various log file regions and their compressed sizes for different modules.

```
# darshan log version: 3.10
# compression method: ZLIB
# exe: /global/homes/t/tonglin/e2e-hpdc2011/3d//write_3d_nc5 /global/cscratch1/sd/tonglin/data_e2e/3d_28_16_16_32_32_32-36747741-1-nodes 28 16 16 32 32 32
# uid: 77441
# jobid: 36747741
# start_time: 1606859889
# start_time_asci: Tue Dec 1 13:58:09 2020
# end_time: 1606859895
# end_time_asci: Tue Dec 1 13:58:15 2020
# nprocs: 32
# run_time: 7
# metadata: lib_ver = 3.1.7
# metadata: h = romio_no_indep_rw=true;cb_nodes=4

# log file regions
#
# header: 360 bytes (uncompressed)
# job data: 595 bytes (compressed)
# record table: 137 bytes (compressed)
# POSIX module: 4727 bytes (compressed), ver=4
# MPI-IO module: 3341 bytes (compressed), ver=3
# PNETCDF module: 1398 bytes (compressed), ver=2
# LUSTRE module: 14188 bytes (compressed), ver=1
# STDIO module: 51 bytes (compressed), ver=2
# DXT_POSIX module: 2928986 bytes (compressed), ver=1
# DXT_MPIIO module: 6014 bytes (compressed), ver=1
```

Darshan analysis tools

- `darshan-parser` – prints all counters in a log file to a text format file

```
# description of POSIX counters:  
# POSIX_*: posix operation counts.  
# READS,WRITES,OPENS,SEEKS,STATS,MMAPS,SYNCs,FILENOS,DUPS are types of operations.  
# POSIX_RENAME_SOURCES/TARGETS: total count file was source or target of a rename operation  
# POSIX_RENAMED_FROM: Darshan record ID of the first rename source, if file was a rename target  
# POSIX_MODE: mode that file was opened in.  
# POSIX_BYTES_*: total bytes read and written.  
# POSIX_MAX_BYTE_*: highest offset byte read and written.  
# POSIX_CONSEC_*: number of exactly adjacent reads and writes.  
# POSIX_SEQ_*: number of reads and writes from increasing offsets.  
# POSIX_RW_SWITCHES: number of times access alternated between read and write.  
# POSIX_*_ALIGNMENT: memory and file alignment.  
# POSIX_*_NOT_ALIGNED: number of reads and writes that were not aligned.  
# POSIX_MAX_*_TIME_SIZE: size of the slowest read and write operations.  
# POSIX_SIZE_*_*: histogram of read and write access sizes.  
# POSIX_STRIDE*_STRIDE: the four most common strides detected.  
# POSIX_STRIDE*_COUNT: count of the four most common strides.  
# POSIX_ACCESS*_ACCESS: the four most common access sizes.  
# POSIX_ACCESS*_COUNT: count of the four most common access sizes.  
# POSIX_*_RANK: rank of the processes that were the fastest and slowest at I/O (for shared files).  
# POSIX_*_RANK_BYTES: bytes transferred by the fastest and slowest ranks (for shared files).  
# POSIX_F_*_START_TIMESTAMP: timestamp of first open/read/write/close.  
# POSIX_F_*_END_TIMESTAMP: timestamp of last open/read/write/close.  
# POSIX_F_READ/WRITE/META_TIME: cumulative time spent in read, write, or metadata operations.  
# POSIX_F_MAX_*_TIME: duration of the slowest read and write operations.  
# POSIX_F_*_RANK_TIME: fastest and slowest I/O time for a single rank (for shared files).  
# POSIX_F_VARIANCE_RANK_*: variance of total I/O time and bytes moved for all ranks (for shared files).
```

Darshan analysis tools

- darshan-parser – prints all counters in a log file to a text format file

```
# *****
# MPI-IO module data
# *****

# description of MPIIO counters:
#   MPIIO_INDEP_*: MPI independent operation counts.
#   MPIIO_COLL_*: MPI collective operation counts.
#   MPIIO_SPLIT_*: MPI split collective operation counts.
#   MPIIO_NB_*: MPI non blocking operation counts.
#   READS,WRITES, and OPENS are types of operations.
#   MPIIO_SYNCS: MPI file sync operation counts.
#   MPIIO_HINTS: number of times MPI hints were used.
#   MPIIO_VIEWS: number of times MPI file views were used.
#   MPIIO_MODE: MPI-IO access mode that file was opened with.
#   MPIIO_BYTES_*: total bytes read and written at MPI-IO layer.
#   MPIIO_RW_SWITCHES: number of times access alternated between read and write.
#   MPIIO_MAX_*_TIME_SIZE: size of the slowest read and write operations.
#   MPIIO_SIZE_*_AGG_*: histogram of MPI datatype total sizes for read and write operations.
#   MPIIO_ACCESS*_ACCESS: the four most common total access sizes.
#   MPIIO_ACCESS*_COUNT: count of the four most common total access sizes.
#   MPIIO_*_RANK: rank of the processes that were the fastest and slowest at I/O (for shared files).
#   MPIIO_*_RANK_BYTGES: total bytes transferred at MPI-IO layer by the fastest and slowest ranks (for shared files).
#   MPIIO_F_*_START_TIMESTAMP: timestamp of first MPI-IO open/read/write/close.
#   MPIIO_F_*_END_TIMESTAMP: timestamp of last MPI-IO open/read/write/close.
#   MPIIO_F_READ/WRITE/META_TIME: cumulative time spent in MPI-IO read, write, or metadata operations.
#   MPIIO_F_MAX_*_TIME: duration of the slowest MPI-IO read and write operations.
#   MPIIO_F_*_RANK_TIME: fastest and slowest I/O time for a single rank (for shared files).
#   MPIIO_F_VARIANCE_RANK_*: variance of total I/O time and bytes moved for all ranks (for shared files).
```




Darshan Extended Tracing - DXT

- Enhance Darshan to (optionally) report every intercepted call
- Traces appear as a time series and can be post-processed offline
- Provide tools for applying different types of analyses to the logs
- Aggregate statistics and/or drill down to any level of granularity



DXT components

- Logging
 - Records each intercepted I/O call
 - Request offset, length, start time, end time, MPI rank and the hostname
 - Can be switched on or off at runtime using an environment variable
 - Log buffer starts small and expands gradually as needed
 - Uses compression to limit the size of the output log file
- Analysis
 - Correlates traces with Lustre striping information
 - Group/filter requests by rank, host or Lustre OST



dxt-parser

- Enable DXT
 - `setenv DXT_ENABLE_IO_TRACE 1`
- Copy the Darshan file to your directory
- Run DXT parser
 - `darshan-dxt-parser some-darshan-log-file.darshan > ~/trace.txt`

```

# ****
# DXT_POSIX module data
# ****

# DXT, file_id: 5076057741753365924, file_name: /global/cscratch1/sd/tonglin/data_e2e/3d_28_16_16_32_32_32-36745115-1-nodes.nc4
# DXT, rank: 0, hostname: nid00604
# DXT, write_count: 10249, read_count: 0
# DXT, mnt_pt: /global/cscratch1, fs_type: lustre
# DXT, Lustre stripe_size: 16777216, Lustre stripe_count: 244
# DXT, Lustre OST obdidx: 132 52 146 214 86 200 176 24 16 6 224 76 90 198 190 112 114 58 78 102 74 32 68 36 48 208 30 194 238 182 126 96
28 142 188 34 44 22 164 54 140 92 110 20 156 62 72 150 84 144 94 128 38 202 8 148 134 158 186 98 46 138 154 168 108 82 106 80 0 136 210
118 4 10 40 14 184 196 172 18 12 174 116 162 64 120 50 166 56 26 192 180 178 104 170 124 42 122 152 130 70 100 160 88 247 243 227 219 215
177 233 221 223 207 89 229 91 213 237 199 205 245 209 193 155 189 123 149 211 169 235 145 201 81 157 21 97 165 175 179 143 161 31 53 41
181 231 225 183 67 129 119 85 71 77 5 29 107 61 9 113 11 147 103 13 111 133 33 63 121 127 141 35 93 101 109 75 23 99 117 167 49 185 115 7
135 3 57 95 43 27 191 1 163 51 15 153 187 55 151 239 79 25 137 47 217 17 39 59 171 69 173 37 203 125 131 87 19 195 65 45 139 105 241 83
159 73 197 2 216 234 218 222 246 220 226 232 244 206 212 236 228 240 242
# Module Rank Wt/Rd Segment Offset Length Start(s) End(s) [OST]
X_POSIX 0 write 0 0 1955 0.1331 0.1359 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 1 3758106112 2038 0.1360 0.1372 [ 83]
X_POSIX 0 write 2 11274300928 1978 0.1372 0.1384 [ 7]
X_POSIX 0 write 3 18790497792 4096 0.1384 0.1391 [ 41]
X_POSIX 0 write 4 18790501888 366 0.1391 0.1391 [ 41]
X_POSIX 0 write 5 18790502254 366 0.1391 0.1392 [ 41]
X_POSIX 0 write 6 18790502922 150 0.1392 0.1392 [ 41]
X_POSIX 0 write 7 18790503072 366 0.1392 0.1392 [ 41]
X_POSIX 0 write 8 9728 256 0.6889 0.6894 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 9 13824 256 0.6894 0.6922 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 10 17920 256 0.6922 0.6926 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 11 22016 256 0.6926 0.6930 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 12 26112 256 0.6930 0.6937 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 13 30208 256 0.6937 0.6942 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 14 34304 256 0.6943 0.6946 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 15 38400 256 0.6946 0.6951 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 16 42496 256 0.6951 0.6956 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 17 46592 256 0.6956 0.6961 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 18 50688 256 0.6961 0.6966 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 19 54784 256 0.6966 0.6970 [132]
X_POSIX 0 write 20 59000 256 0.6970 0.6974 [132]

```

```

# ****
# DXT_MPIIO module data
# ****

# DXT, file_id: 5076057741753365924, file_name: /global/cscratch1/sd/tonglin/data_e2e/3d_28_16_16_32_32_32-36745115-1-nodes.nc4
# DXT, rank: 0, hostname: nid00604
# DXT, write_count: 12, read_count: 0
# DXT, mnt_pt: /global/cscratch1, fs_type: lustre
# Module Rank Wt/Rd Segment Length Start(s) End(s)
X_MPIIO 0 write 0 331 0.1315 0.1392
X_MPIIO 0 write 1 262144 0.6802 1.1448
X_MPIIO 0 write 2 262144 1.1451 1.7255
X_MPIIO 0 write 3 262144 1.7257 2.3791
X_MPIIO 0 write 4 262144 2.3794 3.0459
X_MPIIO 0 write 5 262144 3.0462 4.2975
X_MPIIO 0 write 6 262144 4.2978 5.4152
X_MPIIO 0 write 7 262144 5.4154 6.3356
X_MPIIO 0 write 8 262144 6.3358 7.0600
X_MPIIO 0 write 9 262144 7.0602 7.8717
X_MPIIO 0 write 10 262144 7.8719 8.7132
X_MPIIO 0 write 11 96 9.5743 9.5746

```

More details on Darshan Utilities:

<https://www.mcs.anl.gov/research/projects/darshan/docs/darshan-util.html>



Darshan - Homework

- On NERSC's Cori system, perform Darshan analysis
 - For the h5bench write pattern, collect Darshan log
 - Run
 - darshan-parser
 - darshan-job-summary
 - darshan-dxt-parser

Due on: Feb 20th



Summary of today's class

- Parallel I/O performance factors and some application tuning examples
- Next Class – Tracing parallel I/O performance, visualizing
- Class presentation on March 9th
- Homework: Darshan analysis
 - Due on: Feb 20th