Virtualization and Databases: State of the Art and Research Challenges

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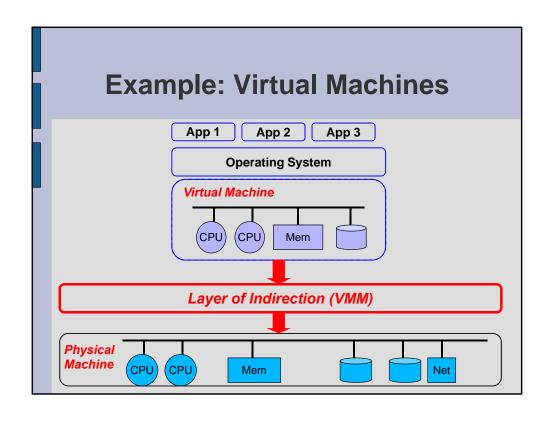
Cristiana Amza
University of Toronto

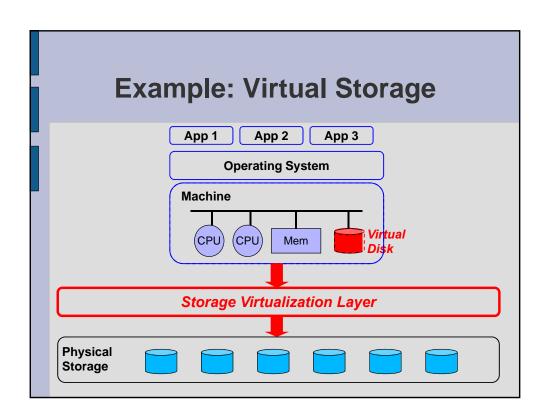
Kenneth Salem *University of Waterloo*

What is Virtualization?

- Separating the abstract view of a computing resource or service from the implementation of this resource or service
- A layer of indirection between abstract view and implementation
 - Hides implementation details
 - Controls mapping from abstract view to implementation

"any problem in computer science can be solved with another layer of indirection" — David Wheeler





Why Virtualization?

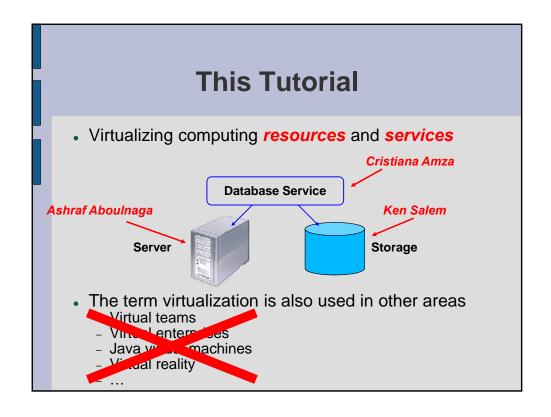
- Virtualization adds flexibility and agility to the computing infrastructure
- Can be used to solve many problems related to provisioning, manageability, security, ...
 - Pool and share computing resources
 - Simplify administration and management
 - Improve fault tolerance
- For organizations: Lower total cost of ownership for computing infrastructure
 - Fewer computing resources
 - More resilient and simpler to manage

Why Should We Care?

- Computing infrastructure is becoming more and more virtualized
- Database systems are increasingly being run in virtualized environments
- Does this introduce new opportunities or challenges for database systems?

YES!

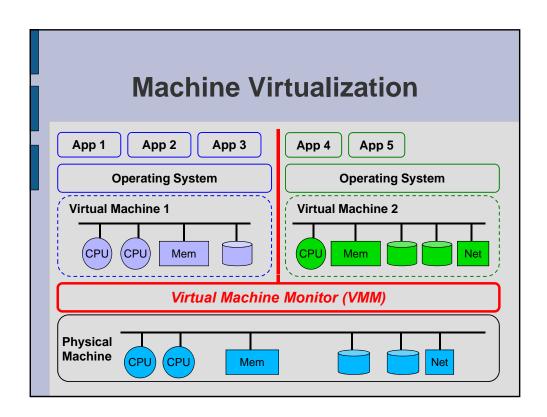
"virtualization will be a \$20 billion market by 2010" — IDC, January 2007



Introduction Machine Virtualization Overview of machine virtualization Why use virtual machines? Virtual machine technologies Some typical usage scenarios Databases and virtualization Storage Virtualization Virtualizing the Database Service Conclusion

Machine Virtualization

- A virtual machine "abstracts" the computing resources of a physical machine into virtual resources
- Introduces a level of indirection between virtual resources and physical resources
- End users only see the virtual resources
 Can install their operating systems and run their applications on the virtual machines
- A Virtual Machine Monitor (or Hypervisor) is a software layer that implements the mapping from virtual resources to physical resources



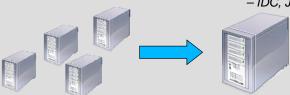
Virtual Machine Monitors

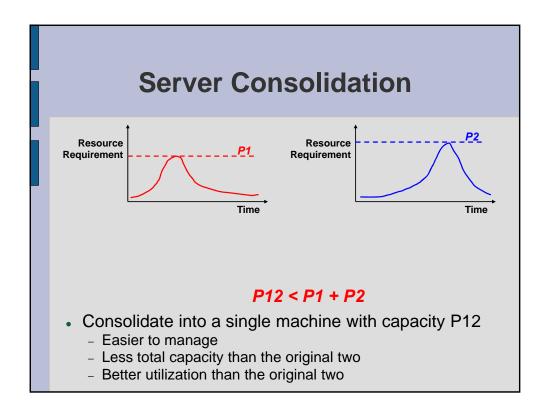
- Strong isolation between virtual machines
- Flexible mapping between virtual resources and physical resources
 - Can have more virtual resources than the corresponding physical resources
 - Can reallocate physical resources among VMs
- Pause, resume, checkpoint, and migrate virtual machines

Why Use Virtual Machines?

- Server consolidation
 - Typical setup today: one machine per application (DBMS, web server, mail server, ...)
 - Provisioned for peak load. Usually under-utilized
 - Instead, can run multiple applications on virtual machines that share the same physical machine
 - Save hardware costs and administration/operation costs

"\$140 billion worth of server assets go un-utilized every year" — IDC, January 2007



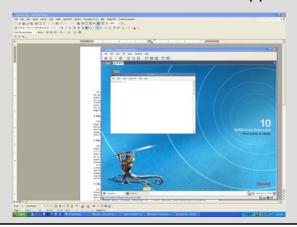


Why Use Virtual Machines?

- Improved manageability
 - Dynamic provisioning of resources to VMs
 - Migration of VMs for load balancing
 - Migration of VMs to avoid down time during upgrades
- Isolation between VMs
 - Security
 - Privacy
 - Fault tolerance

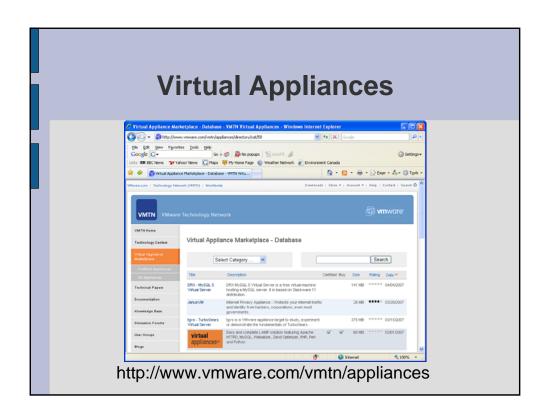
Why Use Virtual Machines?

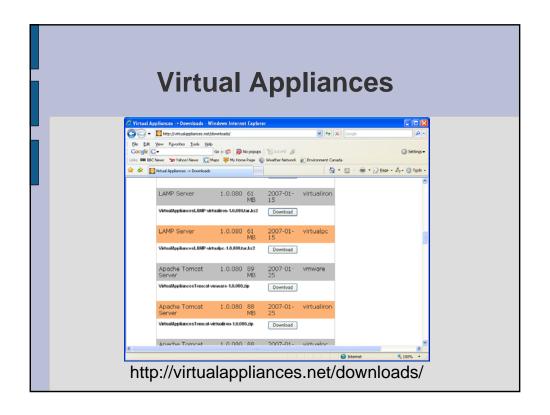
- Application compatibility
 - Different environments for different applications



Why Use Virtual Machines?

- Software development and testing
 - Multiple environments for development and testing
- Software deployment
 - Preconfigured virtual appliances
 - Repositories of virtual appliances on the web





Demonstrations

1- Virtualization for application compatibility
Linux running on Windows

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 running on Windows XP Professional using VMware Workstation 5.5.3

2- A database virtual appliance

Linux running on Windows

Downloading a fully functional ready to run PostgreSQL server

Why not Use Virtualization?

- Performance penalty
 - Indirection through VMM adds overhead
- Hiding details of physical resources
 - Some applications (e.g., DBMS!) make decisions based on assumptions about the physical resources

To Summarize ...

- · Virtualization improves flexibility, manageability, resilience, and interoperability in the computing environment
- The capabilities provided by VMMs can be implemented at other levels, but providing these capabilities at the level of complete virtual machines is simple, useful, and intuitive

Outline

- Introduction
- Machine Virtualization
 - Overview of machine virtualization
 - Why use virtual machines?
 - Virtual machine technologies
 Some typical usage scenarios

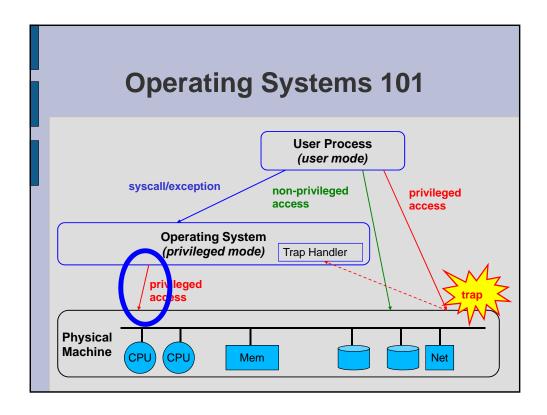
 - Databases and virtualization
- Storage Virtualization
- Virtualizing the Database Service
- Conclusion

History

- Virtualization has been around since the 1960's [gold74, fidi05]
- Prominent since IBM 370 mainframe series
 - Allowed expensive hardware to be shared by multiple applications running on different operating systems (i.e., server consolidation)
- Virtualization today
 - Larger scale
 - Commodity hardware and operating systems
 - Renewed interest in benefits of virtualization

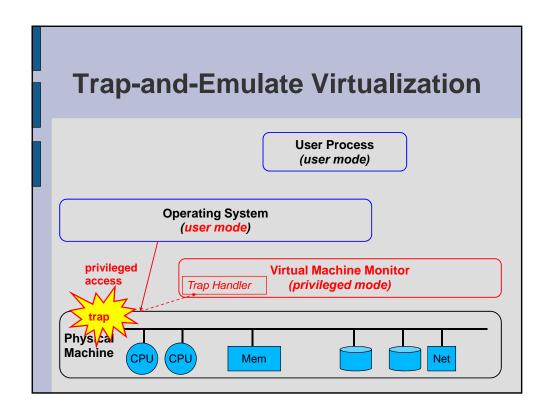
Operating Systems 101

- Hardware has privileged state and instructions
- Operating system (kernel) runs in privileged mode and has full access to hardware
- User programs run in user mode and need to go through the OS for privileged operations and access (e.g., by making a system call or through an exception handler)
- If a user-mode program tries to perform a privileged operation (e.g., disable interrupts), it *traps* (i.e., causes an exception)



Trap-and-Emulate Virtualization

- Run VMM in privileged mode
- Run OS in user mode
- · Privileged operations by the OS will trap
- Trap handler in VMM emulates these operations as if they were run on the virtual machine
- Non-privileged operations can proceed as before with no intervention from the VMM [pogo74]



Architectural Obstacles

- Some machine architectures are not easy to virtualize
 - Notable example: x86 [roir00, badr03, adag06]
- Not all privileged operations trap when run in user mode
 - Example: popf (pop stack into flags)
 Privileged mode: change user and system flags
 User mode: change user flags only, no trap
- Some privileged state is visible in user mode Example: Machine status word
- For an architecture like x86, trap-and-emulate alone will not work

Virtualization Approaches

Binary rewriting

- Operating system running in VM is unmodified
- VMM scans Guest OS memory for problematic instructions and rewrites them
- Example: VMware Workstation [suve01, roga05]

Paravirtualization

- Software interface to VMM is not identical to hardware
- Operating systems need to be **ported** to run on VMM
- Simpler VMM and faster virtual machines than with trap-and-emulate
- Examples: Denali [whsh02, whco05], Xen [badr03]

Hardware Virtualization for x86

- Intel and AMD have both introduced processor extensions to help virtualization (Intel VT, AMD-V)
- Processor is aware of multiple virtual machine contexts (like process control blocks, but for entire operating system)
- New instructions to start/resume a VM
- New privilege level for VMM
- VMM selects which events should trap (vmexit)
 - Manipulating interrupt state, interacting with TLB, accessing control registers, ...

Other Architectures

- Other architectures support virtualization and have done so before x86
- IBM POWER
 - IBM System p servers and AIX operating system
- Sun UltraSparc T1

Example Technologies

- Not a comprehensive list!
- VMware Workstation



- Native virtualization of x86
- Installs as an application on Host Operating System
- Runs unmodified Guest Operating Systems
- VMware ESX Server
 - Similar to VMware workstation
 - Installs directly on machine
 - Better performance
 - More control and security



Example Technologies

- Xen
 - Paravirtualization of Linux on x86
 - VMM could work with other operating systems, but they need to be ported to the Xen VMM
- Virtual Iron
 - Based on Xen
 - Can combine multiple physical machines into one virtual machine
- Microsoft Virtual Server

Microsoft*
Virtual Server 2005

Virtualiron[®]

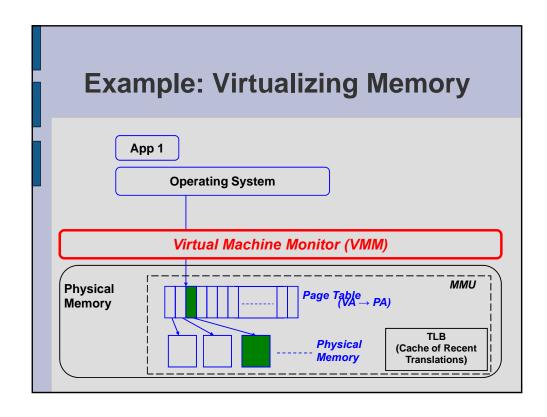
 VMs running unmodified guest operating systems (Windows, Linux) on Windows host

Related Terminology

- Emulation
 - Simulate complete hardware, allowing unmodified OS for different CPU to be run
 - Must simulate each instruction so slow
 - Example: Bochs
- Operating system virtualization
 - Isolated virtual servers within a server
 - Guest and host OS use the same kernel
 - Example: Solaris Containers, Virtuozzo
- What we are discussing is often termed native virtualization or full virtualization [smna05]

Example: Virtualizing Memory

- Virtual address translation
- Applications (and typically operating system) use virtual addresses
- Operating system and memory management unit (MMU) translate virtual addresses to physical addresses with every memory access

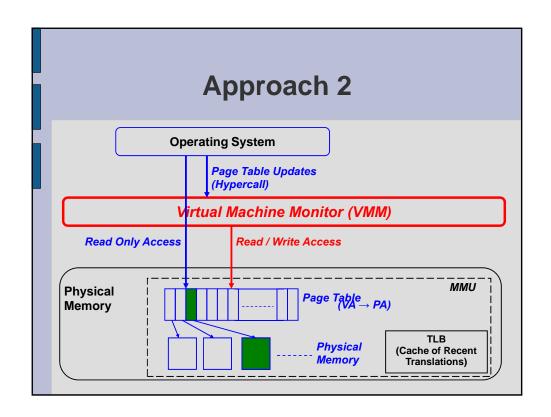


Example: Virtualizing Memory

- Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB) misses?
- Handled by software
 - Easy: VMM handles TLB miss [engu95]
- Handled by hardware MMU
 - This is the case for x86
 - Difficult: VMM must set up page table so that MMU can use it for address translation
 - How will Guest OS in VM access this page table?

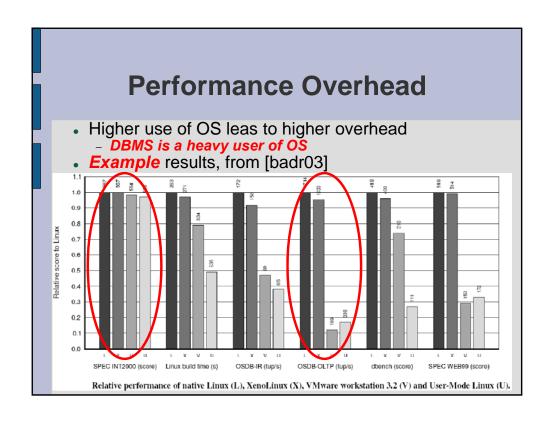
Example: Virtualizing Memory

- How will Guest OS in VM access this page table?
- <u>Approach 1:</u> Two page tables, one for the OS to see and a **shadow page table** for the MMU to use
 - Used, for example, by VMware
- <u>Approach 2:</u> OS has unrestricted read access to page table and <u>VMM controls updates</u> to page table
 - Requires OS modification (i.e., *paravirtualization*)
 - Used, for example, by Xen



Some Other Issues

- How to give Guest OS illusion of physical memory starting at address 0x00?
- How to deal with reallocating memory, and overcommitting memory? [wal02]

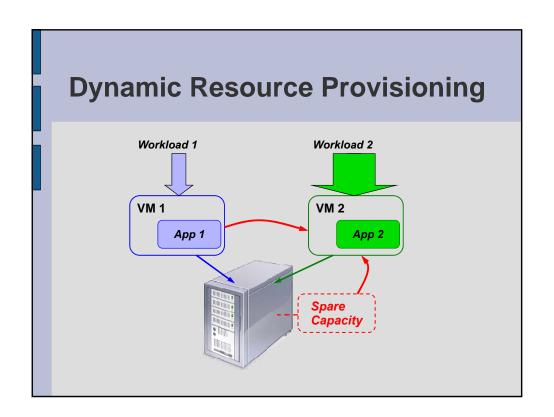


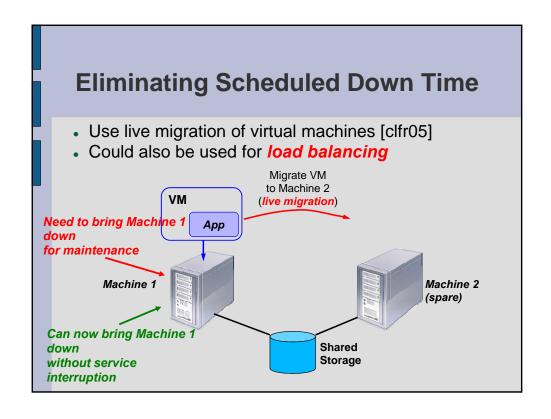
Outline

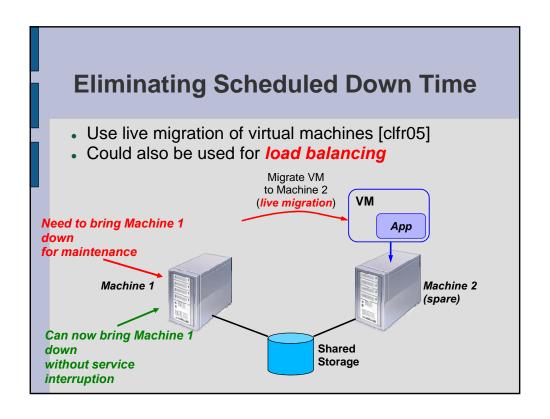
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- Virtualizing the Database Service
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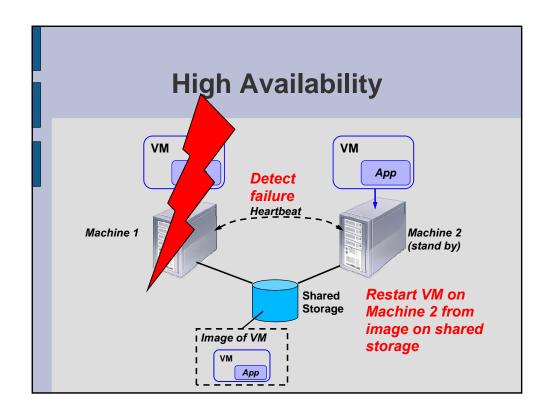
Dynamic Resource Provisioning

- Several applications providing services to their clients
- Each application runs in its own VM, and the VMs all share the same physical resources
- As workloads fluctuate, we can dynamically adjust resource allocation levels to get optimal performance









High Availability

- No need for dedicated standby (Can use any machine from "free pool")
 - No need for a-priori setup of failover pair
- Dynamic resource provisioning can be used to improve overall utilization
 - Schedule workloads on all machines while maintaining a free pool of standby machines
- Can combine live migration with restart on failure
 - Less need for planned outages
 - Protection against unplanned outages
 - Very high availability

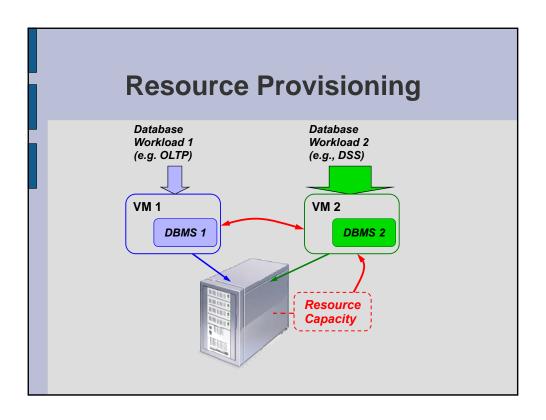
Virtualization and Databases?

- Are database systems just another application running in the virtualized environment?
- Is there anything that needs to be done for database systems to run well in virtualized environments?
- Virtualization poses several interesting research questions for database systems
 - Revisit the previous three scenarios in the context of database systems

Database System Agility

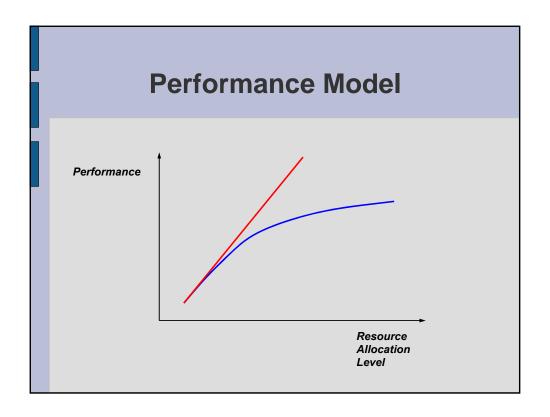
- Environment in which database system is running can change rapidly and dramatically

 - CPU power Number of CPUs?
 - Available memory
 - Available I/O and network bandwidth
- Database system needs to be able to effectively adapt to such changes while it is running
- This is also needed for non-virtualized environments
- However, with virtualization, the potential for changes in the environment is higher



Resource Provisioning

- What level of resources to give to each DBMS?
 Configuring VM parameters
- How to tune the DBMS for a given level of resources?
 - Configuring the DBMS parameters
- A resource allocation problem
- Need a model of how resource allocation affects database performance
- Need optimization or control algorithms to decide on the optimal resource allocation [pazh07]

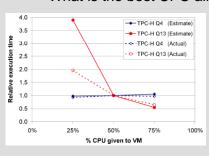


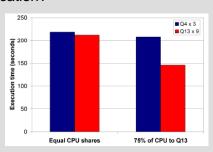
Static Version

- Static version of the resource provisioning problem:
 Workloads and resources known in advance
- Database appliance configuration
 - Necessary if we want to use virtualization as an effective tool for software deployment
- A more constrained version of the capacity planning problem
 - Instead of "How big does my machine need to be?" we ask "How much of the available resources to give to each machine?"

Example Approach

- Use query optimizer as the cost model [soab07]
 - Calibrate it to reflect virtual machine resource levels
- Example (from [soab07]): Xen VMs running TPC-H queries on PostgreSQL and sharing the same physical machine
 - What is the best CPU allocation?

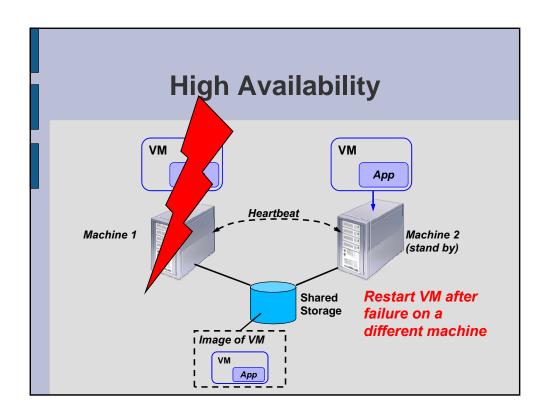




Resource Provisioning Issues

- Accurate modeling of performance
 - Concurrent queries within a VM

 - Time varying workloads Non-database workloads
- Performance objectives
 - Service Level Agreements
 - Deadlines / time outs / target response times
 - Resource utilization levels
- Determining the optimal resource allocation
 - Combinatorial search
 - Automatic control
- Database system agility



High Availability

- Problem: Need to protect large amounts of state
 - Database
 - DBMS processes
- · Also a problem for live migration of DBMS
- Can we restart from the original VM image?
- Can we do better by having more recent images?
- Can we speed up database recovery after restart?
- Can we avoid losing connections and buffer pool?
- Can we leverage work on persistent DBMS sessions [lowe98, balo00, balo04]?
- Can we do this without shared storage?

Special APIs

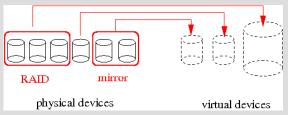
- Can we benefit from special APIs between DBMS and VMM?
 - These APIs may be useful for other applications as well
- Hints between DBMS and VMM
 - Performance objectives
 - Resource allocation constraints
 - Consistency points
 - ...
- Special APIs for dealing with large amounts of state
 - Checkpointing

Outline

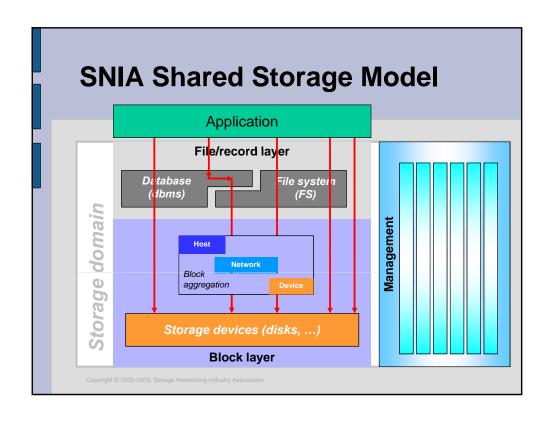
- Introduction
- Machine Virtualization
- Storage Virtualization
 - What is storage virtualization?
 - Why use it?
 - Implementations of storage virtualization
 - Challenges and opportunities for DBMS
- Virtualizing the Database Service
- Conclusion

What is Storage Virtualization?

 storage virtualization is a layer of indirection that allows the definition of virtual storage devices



 virtualization isolates storage clients from the physical reality of the storage system

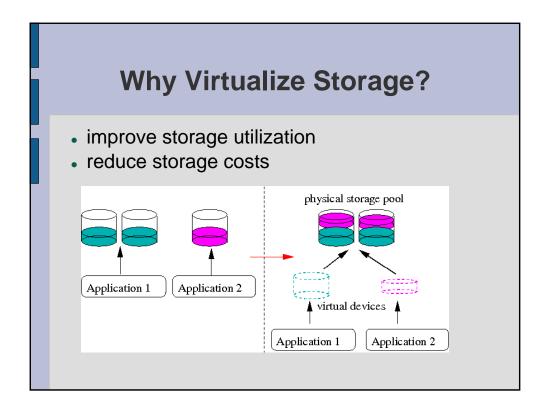


Basic Capabilities of Virtual Storage

- create, destroy virtual devices using available pool of physical storage
- grow, shrink virtual devices
- control properties of virtual devices
 - size
 - performance
 - reliability
- dynamic provisioning of physical storage

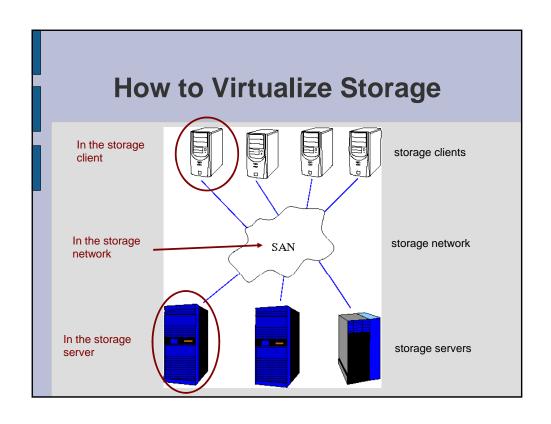
Additional Capabilities of Virtual Storage

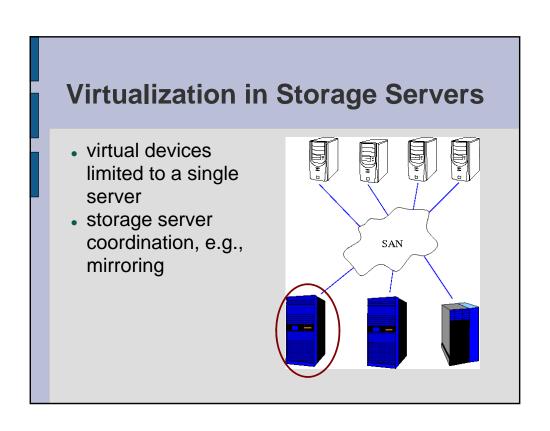
- · versioning, snapshots, point-in-time copies
- local and remote mirroring
- migration of virtual devices
 - supports provisioning, hierarchical storage management
- auto-administration
 - policy-based management
- storage QoS and performance isolation
 - active research area: [kaka05, utyi05, hape04,wech04, goja03, lume03, brbr99]



Why Virtualize Storage?

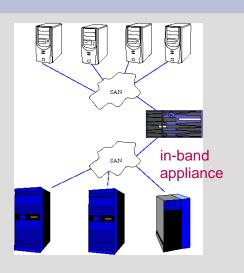
- minimize/avoid downtime
 - simplify maintenance tasks
 - transparent redundancy
- improve performance
 - distribute and balance storage loads
 - dynamic storage provisioning
 - control placement
- reduce cost of storage administration
 - single point of administrative control
 - simplified operations
 - automation, e.g., policy-based management





Virtualization Appliances

- integrate heterogeneous servers
- centralized administration
- potential performance bottleneck

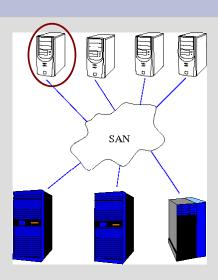


Example: HP StorageWorks SVS200

- · in-band appliance
- pooling of heterogeneous storage servers
- transparent data migration
- local and remote mirroring
 - 1-safe and 2-safe mirroring
 - split mirrors

Virtualization in Storage Clients

- via logical volume management (LVM) in the storage client
- e.g., Linux LVM2
 - create, destroy, resize, snapshot, migrate logical volumes



Limitations of Logical Volume Management

- administrative scalability
 - separate LVM in each storage client
 - no single point of administrative control
- heterogeneity
 - different LVMs in different clients
- inter-client allocation
 - additional volume management is required to reallocate resources among storage clients

The DBMS Perspective: So What?

- Virtual storage devices are dynamic
 - affects DBMS storage management, e.g., resizable tablespaces
- Virtual storage devices are opaque
 - affects DBMS configuration and tuning
- Virtual storage devices are based on shared physical resources
 - separate administration, distinct goals
- Virtual storage devices more capable than physical devices
 - CPU/memory, functionality

DBMS Configuration and Tuning

- characteristics of physical storage hidden from the DBMS (and DBA)
- how to:
 - layout DB objects?
 - set DBMS parameters?
 - page/extent sizes
 - prefetching
 - costs

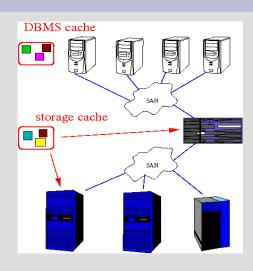
CREATE TABLESPACE ts
MANAGED BY DATABASE
USING (
DEVICE '/dev/rlv1' 10000,
DEVICE '/dev/rlv2' 10000)
OVERHEAD 6.0
TRANSFERRATE 0.05
PAGESIZE 8192

Exploiting Storage Capabilities

- storage snapshots and versioning
 - backup and recovery
 - concurrent applications
- storage replication and mirroring
 - dynamic DBMS provisioning
- dynamic storage resource allocation
 - accommodate workload fluctuations
- CPU and memory in the storage system
 - caching
 - offload DBMS functions

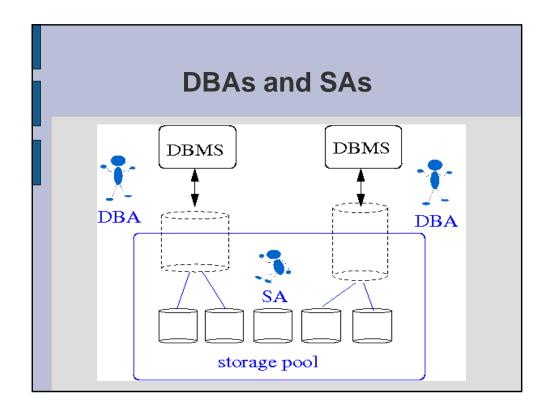
Multi-Tier Caching

- exploit memory in the storage system
- DBMS can improve 2nd tier cache performance
- example: hinting [liab05]



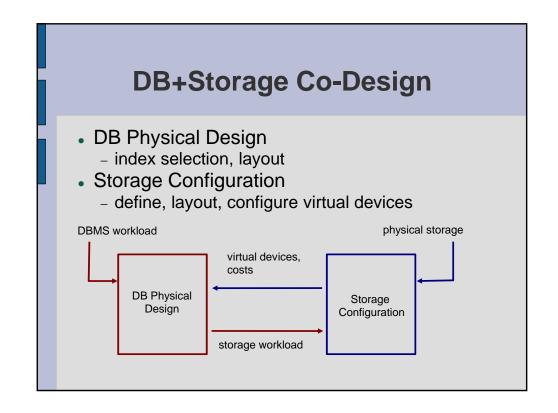
DBMS and Storage Administration

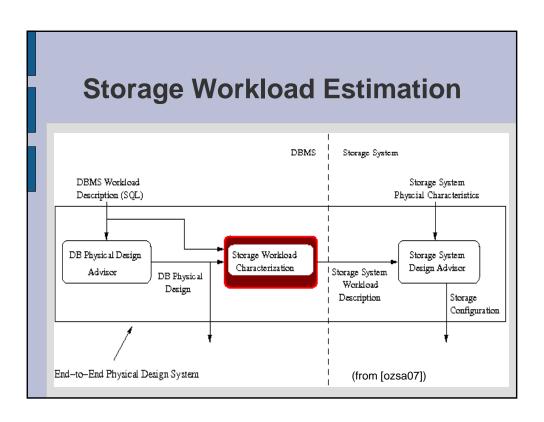
- Textbook:
 - DBA understands and controls dedicated physical devices
- Reality:
 - storage is virtual
 - virtual storage is separately administered
 - DBA and storage administrator (SA) must coordinate



Tasks of DBAs and SAs

- database administration
 - DB physical design [brch05, coba05, vazu00, agch00]
 - layout [agch03]
- storage administration:
 - define and configure virtual devices
 - storage allocation, capacity planning
 - tools [anho02, waos02, anka01, albo01, dech03]



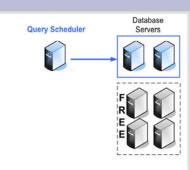


Outline

- Introduction
- Machine Virtualization
- Storage Virtualization
- Virtualizing the Database Service
 - What is Database Service virtualization?
 - Why use it?
 - Technical challenges and Case studies
 - Opportunities for DBMS researchers
- Conclusion

What is DB Service Virtualization?

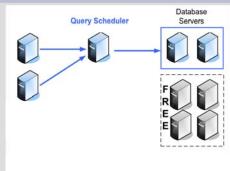
- A scheduling (indirection) tier which makes the DB service look like a single, scalable and available DBMS to clients
- Enables transparent changes to the mapping of application resource allocations to physical servers



Scheduling tier virtualizes database cluster

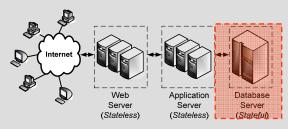
Why Virtualize the DB Service?

- Transparently adapt to
 - changing load, by dynamic server provisioning
 - failures, by service migration
- Meet application Service Level Agreements
 - E.g., latency, throughput requirements

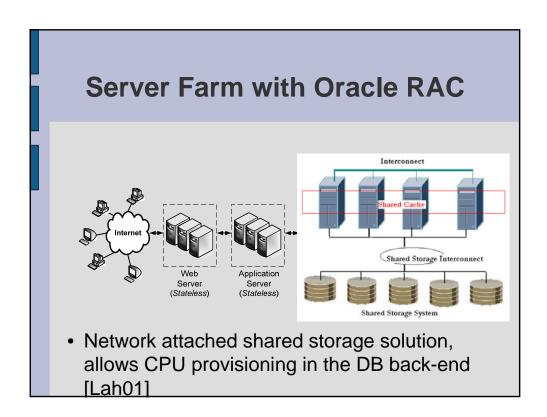


Transparent scaling and fail-over for DB backend

Useful in Data Centers

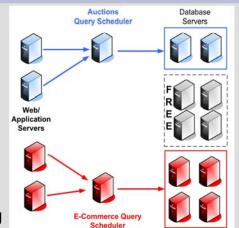


- Virtualization of front-end already present
 - through dynamic server provisioning e.g., IBM's Tivoli, WebSphereXD, [Benn05], [Urga05], [Kar06]
- Database tier: typically, single over-provisioned node or Oracle RAC cluster.





- Resource consolidation in complex server farms
 - Data centers running multiple applications
 - Resource multiplexing if different peak times
- Reduce costs
 - Management and cooling

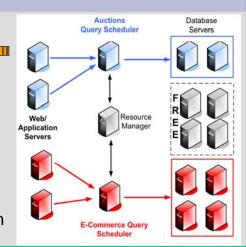


Virtualization allows resource consolidation for commodity servers

Virtualized DB Tier Architecture

Technical challenges

- State management
- Replica allocation
 - Decide how many instances of each application should run
- Replica mapping
 - Decide on which node each instance should run

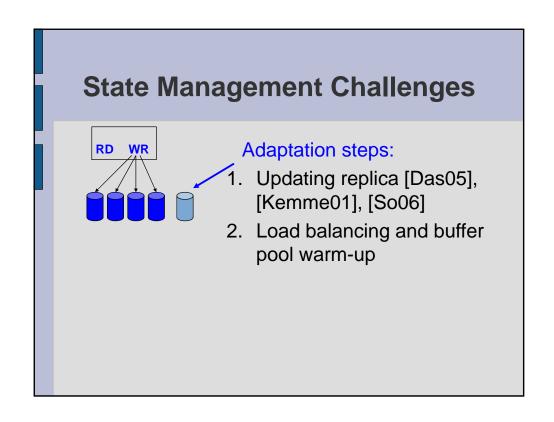


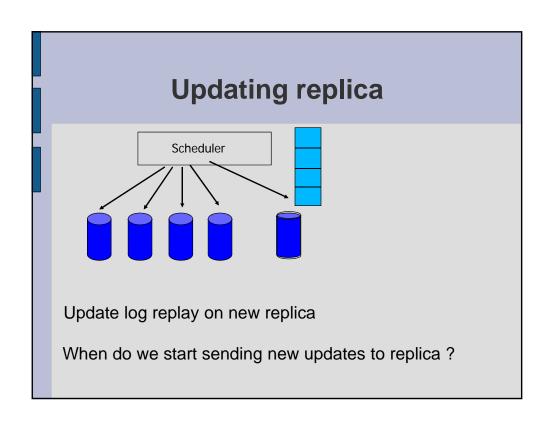
Resource manager controls allocations and mapping

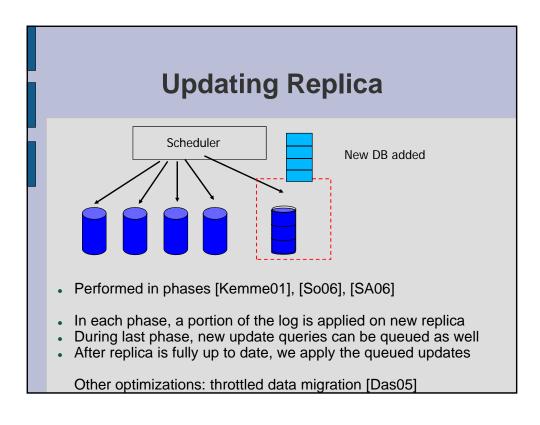
State Management Approaches

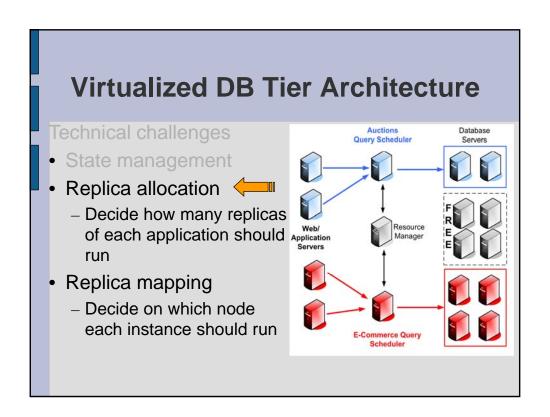
- Use full database replication
- Asynchronous replication with consistency guarantees [Platt04], [Lin05], [Amza05], [Da06]
- Read-one write-all workload scheduling
 - within each application's allocation

Why Database Replication? Shown to scale well 400 - [Platt04] MW'04 Throughput (WIPS) 300 - **[Lin05]** SIGMOD'05 200 - **[Amza05]** ICDE'05 100 - [Da06] VLDB'06 Number of Database Replicas Unified approach to load Scaling for E-Commerce (TPC-W) peaks and fault handling [Amza03]



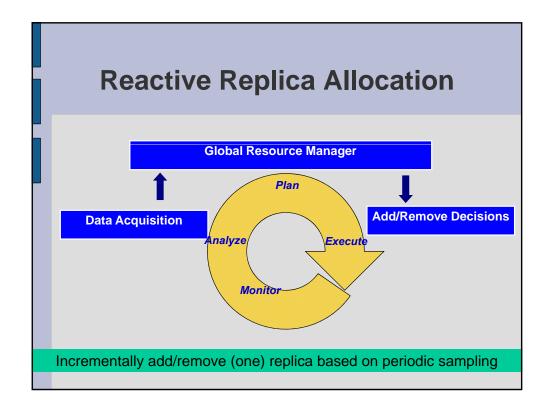






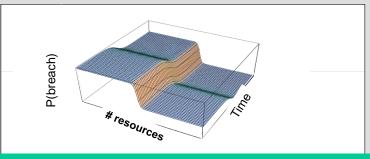
Replica Allocation Approaches

- Reactive database allocation
 - Based on feedback loop [So06,SA06]
- Proactive database allocation
 - Based on system modeling
 - Analytical Models [Urga05], [Benn05], [Wood06]
 - Utility-based approaches [Wal04], [Tes05]
 - Machine learning approaches [Tes06], [Chen06], [Ghan07]



Proactive Replica Allocation

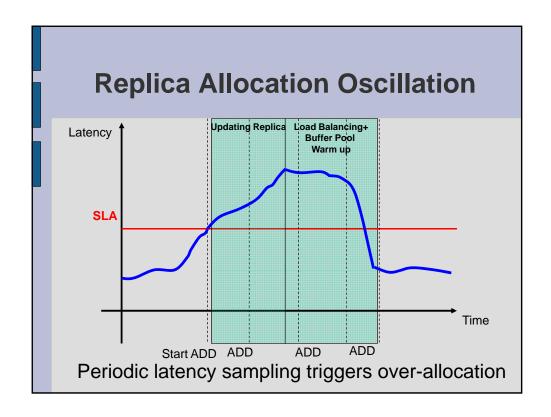
- Build model from system states (on/off-line)
- Predict load, determine configuration to accommodate predicted load

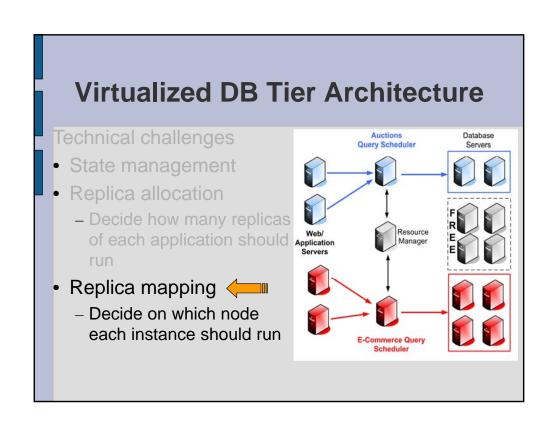


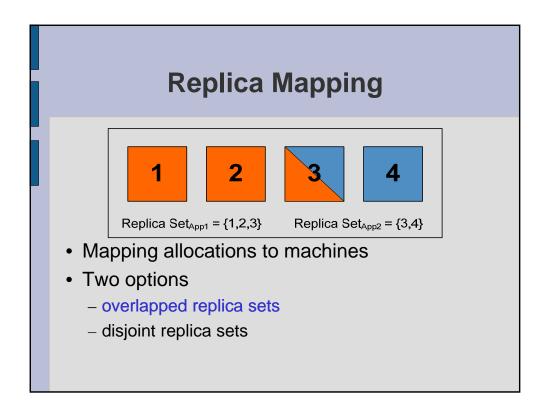
Add or remove several database replicas at once

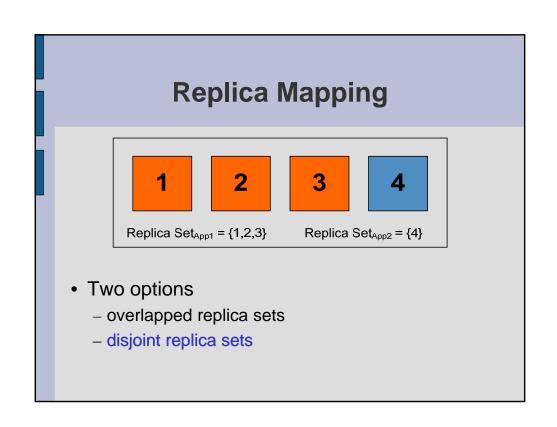
Replica Allocation Challenges

- Potentially high adaptation delay
- Reactive approaches may over-allocate, hence oscillate
 - due to feedback delay
- Proactive approaches may be imprecise
 - due to need for long term prediction
 - also subject to allocation oscillations









Replica Mapping Challenges

Disjoint SLOW Adaptation Full Overlap NO Adaptation

- Disjoint: Adding a replica can take a long time
 - Bring replica up-to-date
 - Warm-up memory

Replica Mapping Challenges

Disjoint NO Interference Full Overlap HIGH Interference

- However, overlapping applications compete for resources causing interference for
 - CPU, memory, L1/L2 cache, storage cache hierarchy

Replica Mapping Challenges

Disjoint

NO Interference Full Overlap HIGH Interference

Tradeoff between adaptation delay and interference

Option: overlap, but control the interference by informed query co-scheduling and quota enforcement e.g., using VMM

How to Address Challenges?

- Prevent Oscillations
 - Take adaptation instability into account
- Reduce adaptation delay
 - Proactively allocate several replicas at once
 - Update additional replicas
 - Pre-warm buffer pool
- Avoid Interference
 - Co-schedule queries and enforce quotas

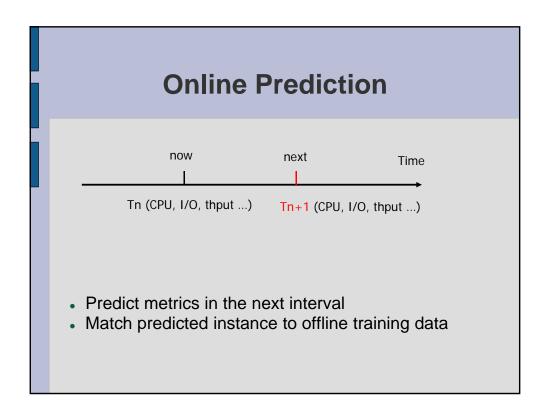
How to Prevent Oscillations by Instability Detection

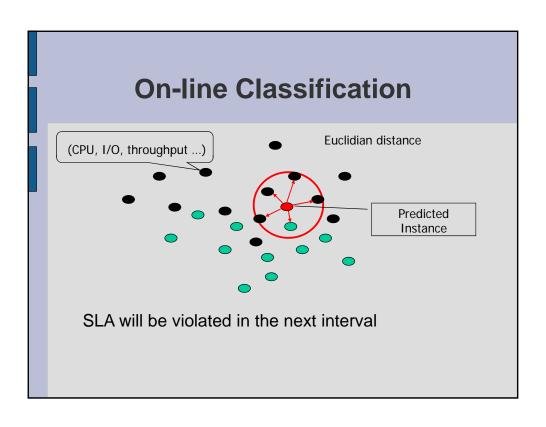
- Learn normal range of metrics and their correlations
 - e.g., load imbalance range, query throughput vs. active connections, or throughput variation vs. latency variation
- Online detection
 - Suppress actions during instability
 - [So06], [Chen06], [Ghan06]

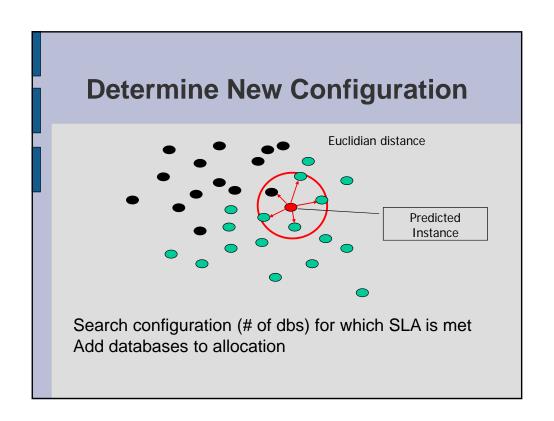
How to Reduce Adaptation Delay by Proactive Allocation

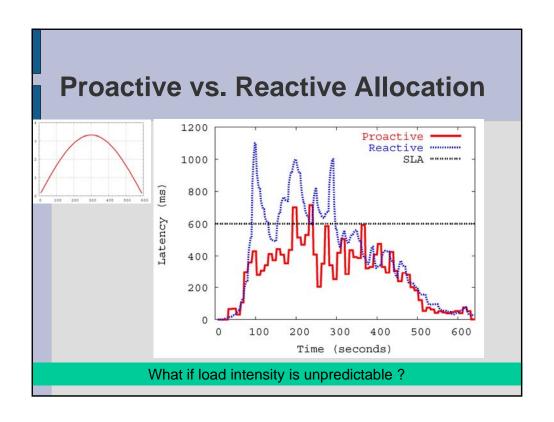
- Add database replicas to application
 - Proactive with off-line learning [Chen06]
 - Proactive with on-line learning [Ghan06]

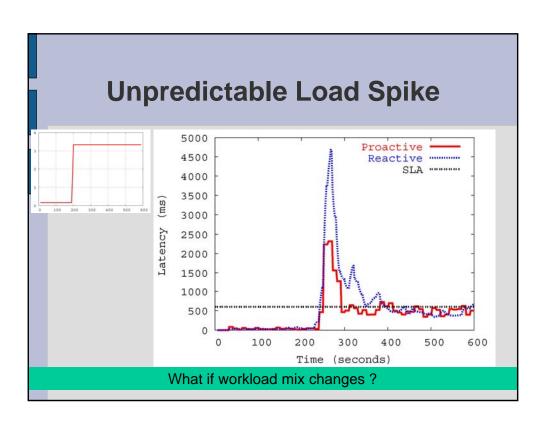
Case Study 1: Proactive with Off-line Training System configuration (CPU, I/O, throughput ...) Measure system and application metrics Under stable system configurations (# of dbs) [Chen06]









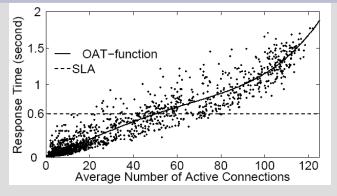


Case Study 2: Proactive with Online Training

- Collect sample set of states on-line
- Learn correlation function between metrics
 Latency = f(m1,m2, ... #dbs) [Ghan07]
- Solve constrained optimization problem to get #dbs
- Allocate database replicas proactively

Adapt to workload mix change by dynamically evolving sample set

Case Study 2: Proactive with Online Training

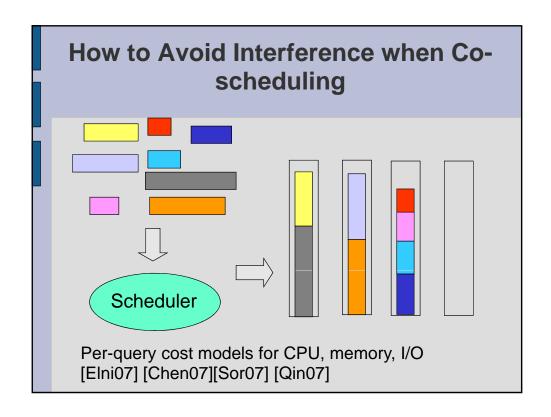


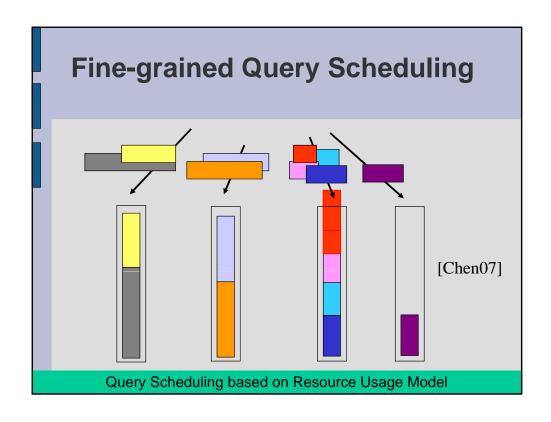
Example correlation function [Ghan07]

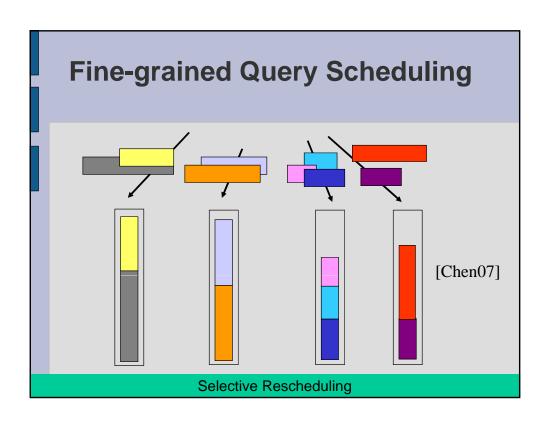
How to Avoid Interference Using Informed Co-scheduling

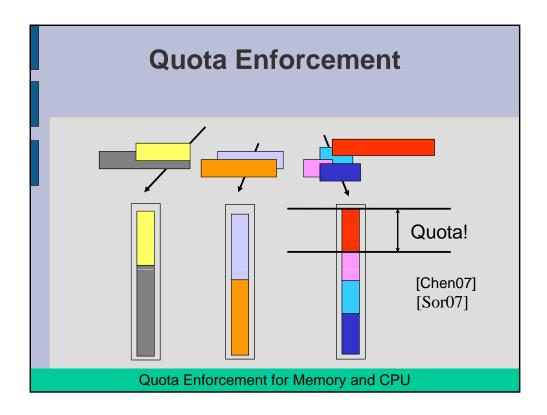
Fine grained resource allocation

- Use cost models per query to estimate resource consumption (CPU, memory)
- Bin-pack and selectively schedule queries









Conclusions: DB Service Virtualization Benefits

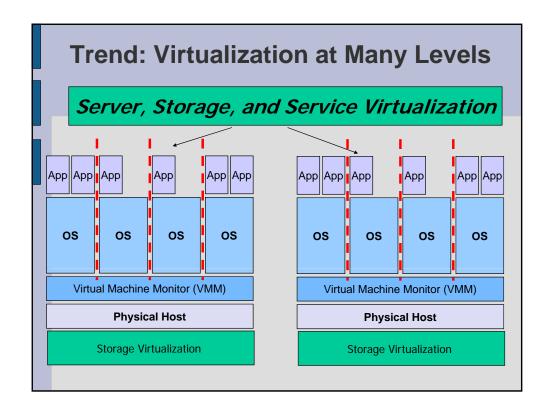
- Automatically meet SLA for each application
 - Performance
 - Data availability
- Good resource usage
 - Resource multiplexing for applications and tiers
 - Reduced operational costs

Opportunities for DB Researchers

- High impact practical problem
- Classic DB techniques applicable to problem
- Data mining techniques
 - mine stream of monitored metrics for correlations
- Co-scheduling for interference avoidance
 - e.g., dynamic buffer pool management [Brown93],[Brown96],[Mart06],[Storm06],[Bowm07]
 - How do we define quotas based on SLA?

Outline

- Introduction
- Machine Virtualization
- Storage Virtualization
- Virtualizing the Database Service
- Conclusion



Database Research Challenges

- Database-aware virtual resource configuration
- Modeling database performance in virtualized environments
- Using virtualization to improve availability and fault tolerance
- Database administration in virtualized environment
- Exploiting computational and memory resources of virtualized storage
- Exploiting other capabilities of virtualized storage (snapshots, mirroring, replication, ...)
- Special APIs between DBMS and virtualized environment
- Dealing with variations in the type and intensity of the database workload

Conclusion

- Virtualization
 - Provides powerful mechanisms for solving many current problems in the computing infrastructure
 - Increasingly being supported and adopted by a wide range of organizations
- Virtualization and database systems
 - Significantly changes the operating environment
 - But at the same time can be very useful
- Many opportunities for database researchers

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