Portable Hotplugging

A Peek into NetBSD's uvm_hotplug(9) API Development

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Setting Expectations

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- Usage of `uvm_hotplug(9)`
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So what I am going to talk about...

- Using TDD and how it was applied to `uvm_hotplug(9)` API
- Design changes in `uvm_hotplug(9)` and how they were implemented
- Some interesting edge cases in `uvm_hotplug(9)` development
- How we used `atf(7)` to do performance testing

Background

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- Implementation can be seen in `uvm_page.c`

```
struct vm_physseg vm_physmem[VM_PHYSSEG_MAX];
int vm_nphysseg = 0;
#define vm_nphysmem     vm_nphysseg
```

We trace our steps into showing you how we converted this **array** implementation to a `rbtree(3)` based implementation.

Sanitising for `uvm_hotplug(9)`

...Without loosing sanity

It took more than one step...

- Creating a **reference** API

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- **Separating** out the existing API

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- **Exposing** the now separated API
- **Testing** the API in userspace

Creating the Reference API

- There were no **Tests** to use as a reference
- We created an **Idealised** API to represent how the hotplug API should look.
- **Idealised** API now acted as the baseline for the ATF tests that should have been present in `uvm(9)`
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- Chuck Silvers gave valuable feedback when we were making this **Idealised** API
  - **NOTE**: The “Idealised” API was not a part of the NetBSD build system. However the tests were buildable with `atf(7)`

Separating the Existing API

- Going through code mostly in `uvm_page.c` and some MD parts.
- Separated stuff into `uvm_physseg.c` and `uvm_physseg.h`
- Retrofitted relevant parts into various sections of **Idealised** API

Exposing the new API

- Kept structures that need not be exposed globally to the users in a `uvm_physseg.c` file
- The `uvm_physseg.h` file nicely exposes all the “valid” operations that can be done on the various opaque structures that is used in this API
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- Exposed these utility functions via header file
- This refactoring effort resulted in actual buildable and bootable code

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An example of `kmem_alloc()` being stubbed

```
void *
kmem_alloc(size_t size, km_flag_t flags)
{
        return malloc(size);
}
```

Design and Implementation

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- No worries about maintaining a sorted order. Made easier by `RB_TREE_FOREACH()`
- No more multiple strategies for maintaining the segments
- Less code clutter
- Neater and cleaner API, compared to `queue(3)` and `tree(3)`

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- Modifying a fundamental part of the operating system implies every single architecture port of NetBSD is affected. (78 at the time of writing this)
- What are the performance implications?

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for(bank = uvm_physseg_get_first();
    uvm_physseg_valid(bank);
    bank = uvm_physseg_get_next(bank)) {
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- An interesting utility function to note is `uvm_physseg_valid()`

Testing `uvm_physseg` via ATF

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- `rbtree(3)` implementation would work as long as the baseline ATF Tests passed.
- Overall this did reduce considerably the amount of time we needed to spend to make sure the old and the new implementation were working as expected
- However, there were some interesting “Edge Cases”

Case 1: `uvm_page_physload()`'s Prototype

- Function was originally designed to plug in segments of memory range during boot time.
- If any errors happened it would generally print a message and / or panic
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- But this was **NOT FINE** for the ATF Testing

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The tests became more concise, more readable and had unwanted assumptions removed from within.

Case 2: Immutable handles

- A particular test case `uvm_physseg_get_prev` kept failing for static array implementation but **not** R-B Tree implementation
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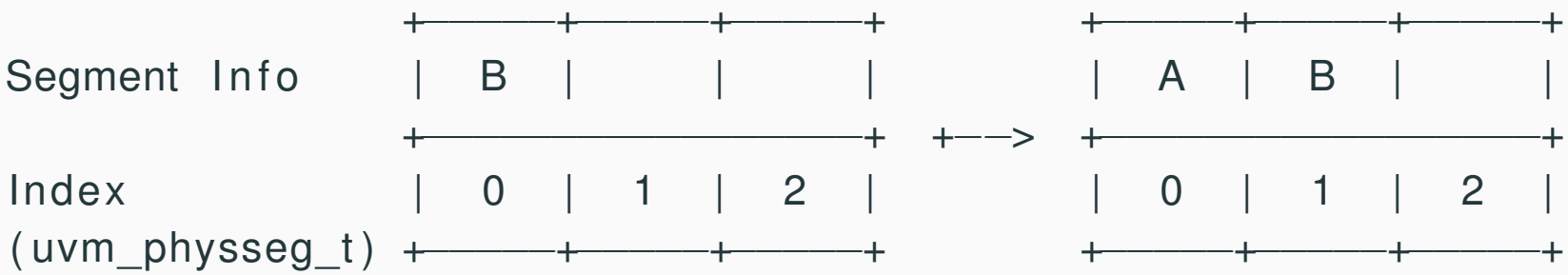
- Consequence of changing the way the **handle of segment** was being referenced

Case 2: Immutable handles

Static array implementation



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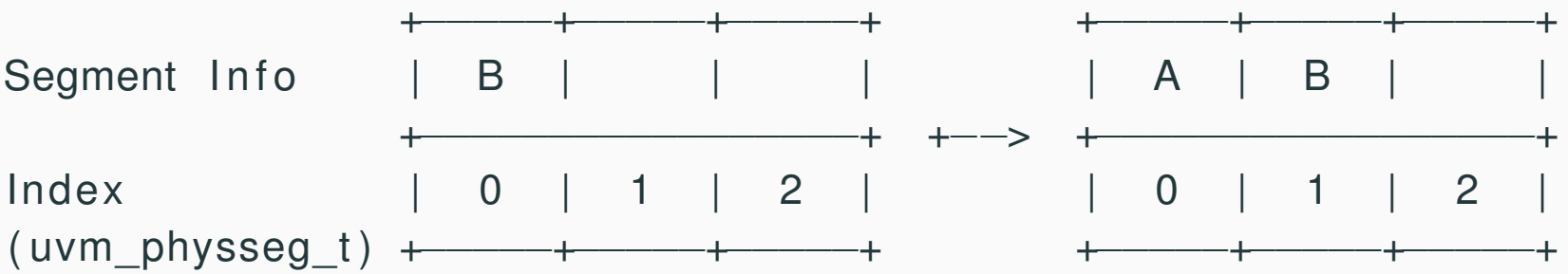
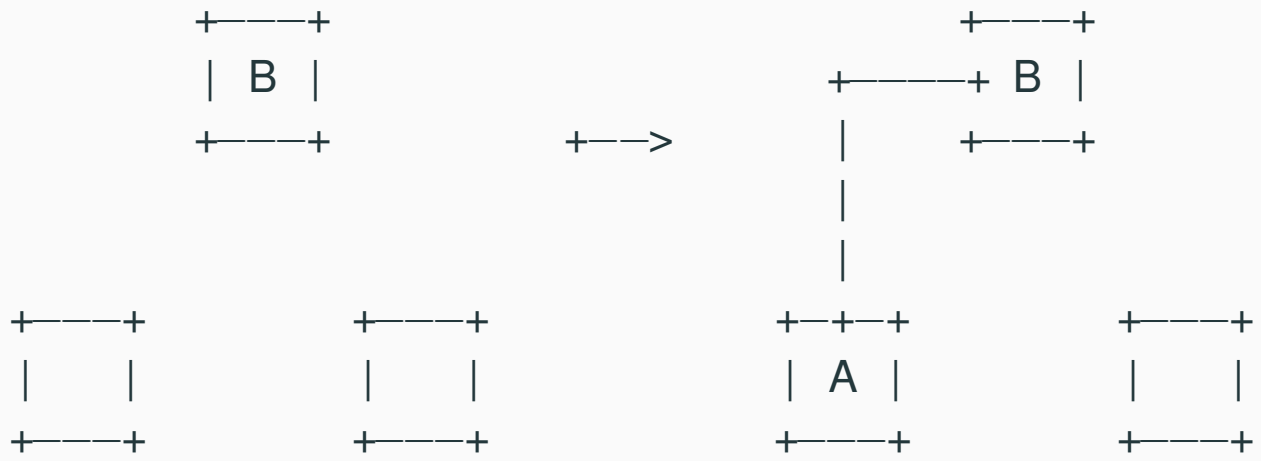


R-B Tree implementation



Note: The pointer to the nodes are the handles (`uvm_physseg_t`)

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  `uvm_physseg_handle_immutable`
- This test is expected to **fail** for static array implementation
- This test is expected to **pass** for R-B tree implementation
- This is important to notify the users of the old API and new API about the potential pitfall of assuming the integrity of the handle when writing new code.

Booting the Kernel

Case 1: The init dance

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- We wrote wrappers for the `kmem(9)` allocators.
- `uvm_physseg_alloc()` and `uvm_physseg_free()`
- Wrote up the test cases for these first, allowing for a smooth implementation

Case 2: Fragmentation of segments

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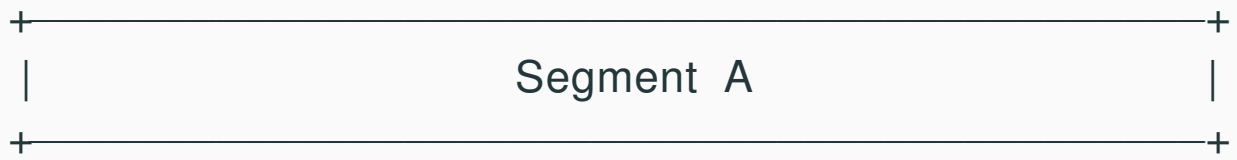

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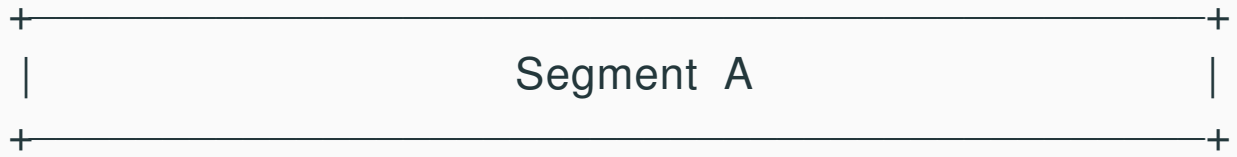

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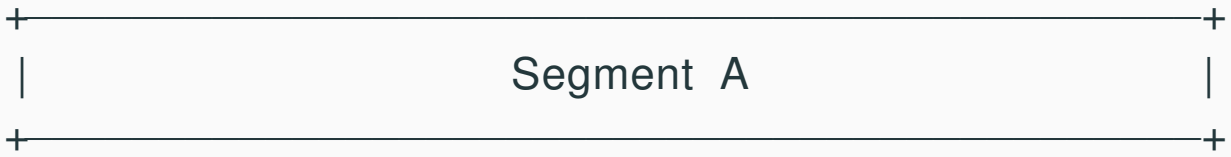

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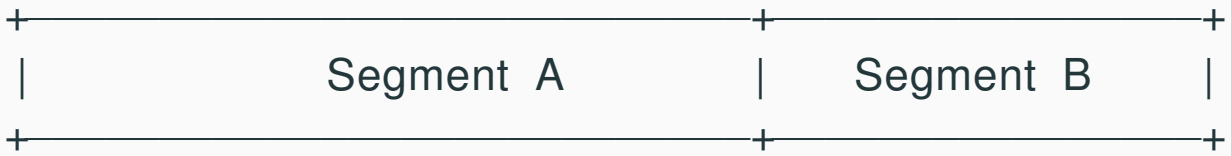
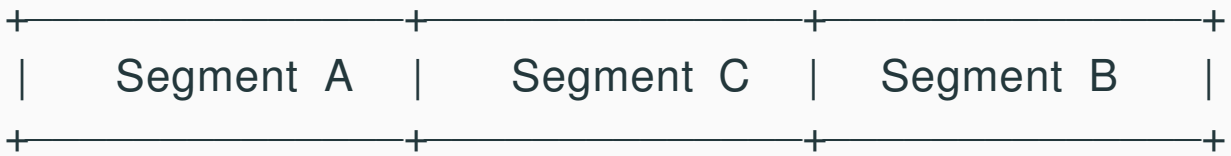


What happens to `pgs[]` if we “unplug” from the middle?



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- Use the `extent(9)` memory manager to manage the `pgs[]` array
- We applied the “init dance” technique to solve Boot time vs non-Boot time allocation of slabs
- Once again extensive ATF tests that helped us out in minimising the downtime from debugging the code

Performance evaluation

Designing the test framework

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- Copied over the `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()` macro and the related code from `uvm_page.c`
- Plug in segments and then do multiple calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

```
for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
    pa = (paddr_t) random() % (addr_t) ctob(VALID_END_PFN_1);
    PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE(pa);
}
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- After some tweaking around we managed to write up the tests varying from 100 calls to 100 Million calls

Things to Note

- This methodology is not a perfect load test since there is a call to `random()`
- This will cumulatively add up to the runtime of the function we are trying to load test.

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- This will cumulatively add up to the runtime of the function we are trying to load test.
- All of the ATF tests have `ATF_CHECK_EQ(true, true)` at the bottom of the test indicating the test will never fail
- This is done because the test is **NOT** a check of correctness

Designing the test framework

We implemented two types of test strategies

- **Fixed size segment**: Here we plug in a “fixed” size segment. And pick a random address to do the `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`. The variable here was the amount of calls done to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

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- **Fragmented segment**: Here we plug in a known size segment. After which we start unplugging areas of the memory. Then we pick a random address to do `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`. Here the variable was the memory size meaning, the bigger memory segment the more fragmented it was.

Designing the test framework

An example run of these tests with the standard `atf-run` piped through `atf-report` will have a similar output.

Note: In the results 100 consecutive runs were done and then the average, minimum and maximum runtimes were calculated.

```
t_uvm_physseg_load (1/1): 11 test cases
    uvm_physseg_100: [0.003286s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_100K: [0.010982s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_100M: [8.842482s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_10K: [0.004398s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_10M: [0.954270s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_128MB: [2.176629s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_1K: [0.002702s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_1M: [0.094821s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_1MB: [0.984185s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_256MB: [2.485398s] Passed.
    uvm_physseg_64MB: [0.914363s] Passed.
[16.478686s]

Summary for 1 test programs:
    11 passed test cases.
    0 failed test cases.
    0 expected failed test cases.
    0 skipped test cases.
```

Benchmark results

Calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

Test Name	Average	Minimum	Maximum
uvm_physseg_100	0.004599	0.003286	0.010213
uvm_physseg_1K	0.002740	0.001991	0.005747
uvm_physseg_10K	0.003491	0.002836	0.007941
uvm_physseg_100K	0.011424	0.009388	0.017161
uvm_physseg_1M	0.093359	0.079128	0.138379
uvm_physseg_10M	0.892827	0.813503	1.172205
uvm_physseg_100M	8.932540	8.434525	11.616543

Table 1: R-B tree implementation

Test Name	Average	Minimum	Maximum
uvm_physseg_100	0.004714	0.003511	0.013895
uvm_physseg_1K	0.002754	0.002088	0.005318
uvm_physseg_10K	0.003585	0.002666	0.005271
uvm_physseg_100K	0.011007	0.009199	0.016627
uvm_physseg_1M	0.086208	0.076989	0.116637
uvm_physseg_10M	0.843048	0.782676	0.980598
uvm_physseg_100M	8.434760	8.128623	9.132065

Table 2: Static array implementation

Calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

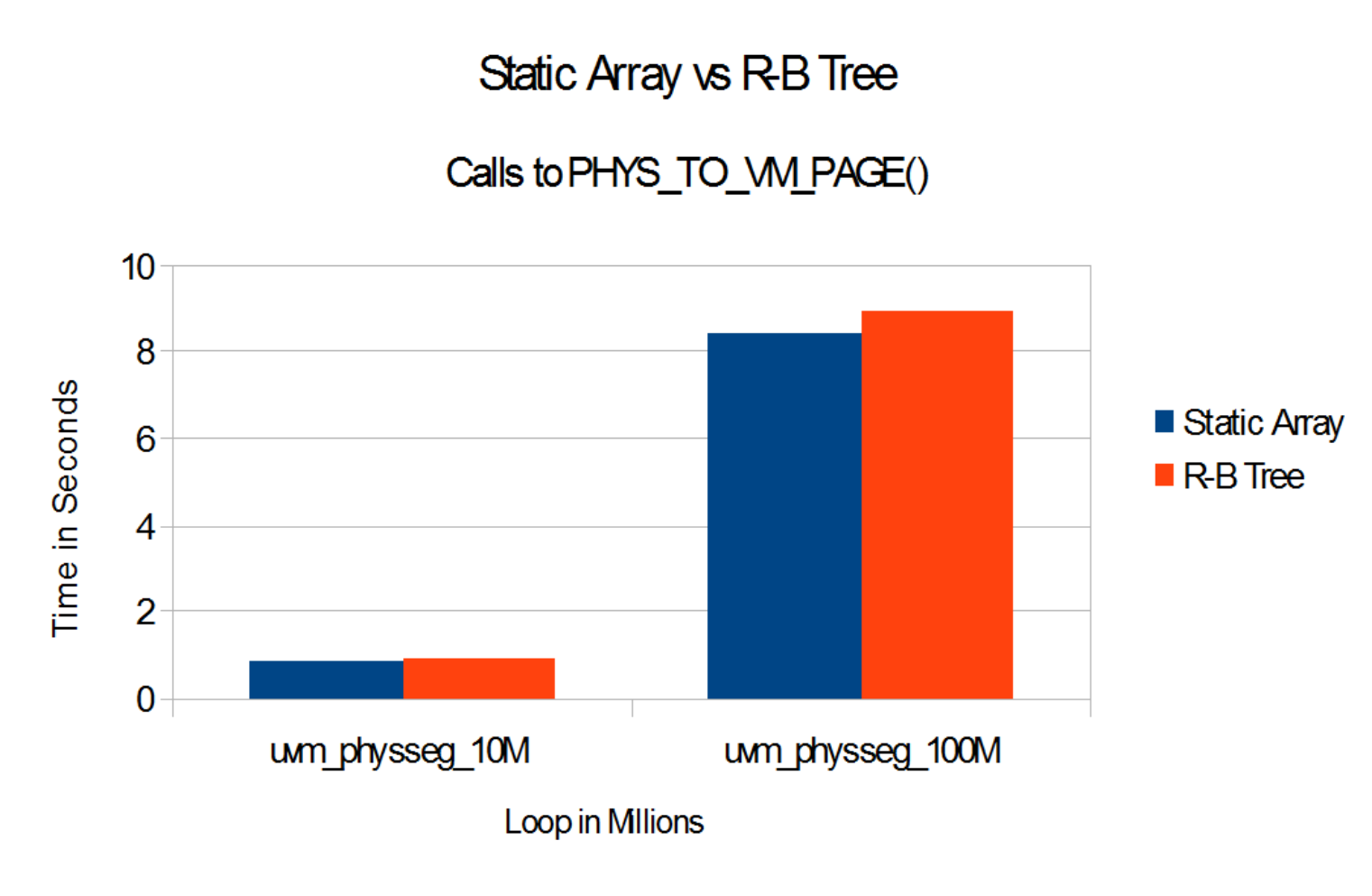

Figure 1: A closer look at the 10M and 100M calls side-by-side

Calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

Since the 100M calls, took the most amount of time, we did some very specific analysis on this.

We calculated the **Average**, **Standard Deviation (Population)** and **Margin of Error** with a 95% confidence interval.

In a total of 100 runs, the `random()` *function contributed to roughly 2.03 seconds for the average runtime, for a 100 Million calls to* `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`.

	Static Array	**R-B Tree**
Average	8.43476	8.93254
Standard Deviation	0.19331	0.41553
Margin of Error	±0.03789	±0.08144

Table 3: Comparison of the average, standard deviation and margin of error for the 100M calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

Calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()`

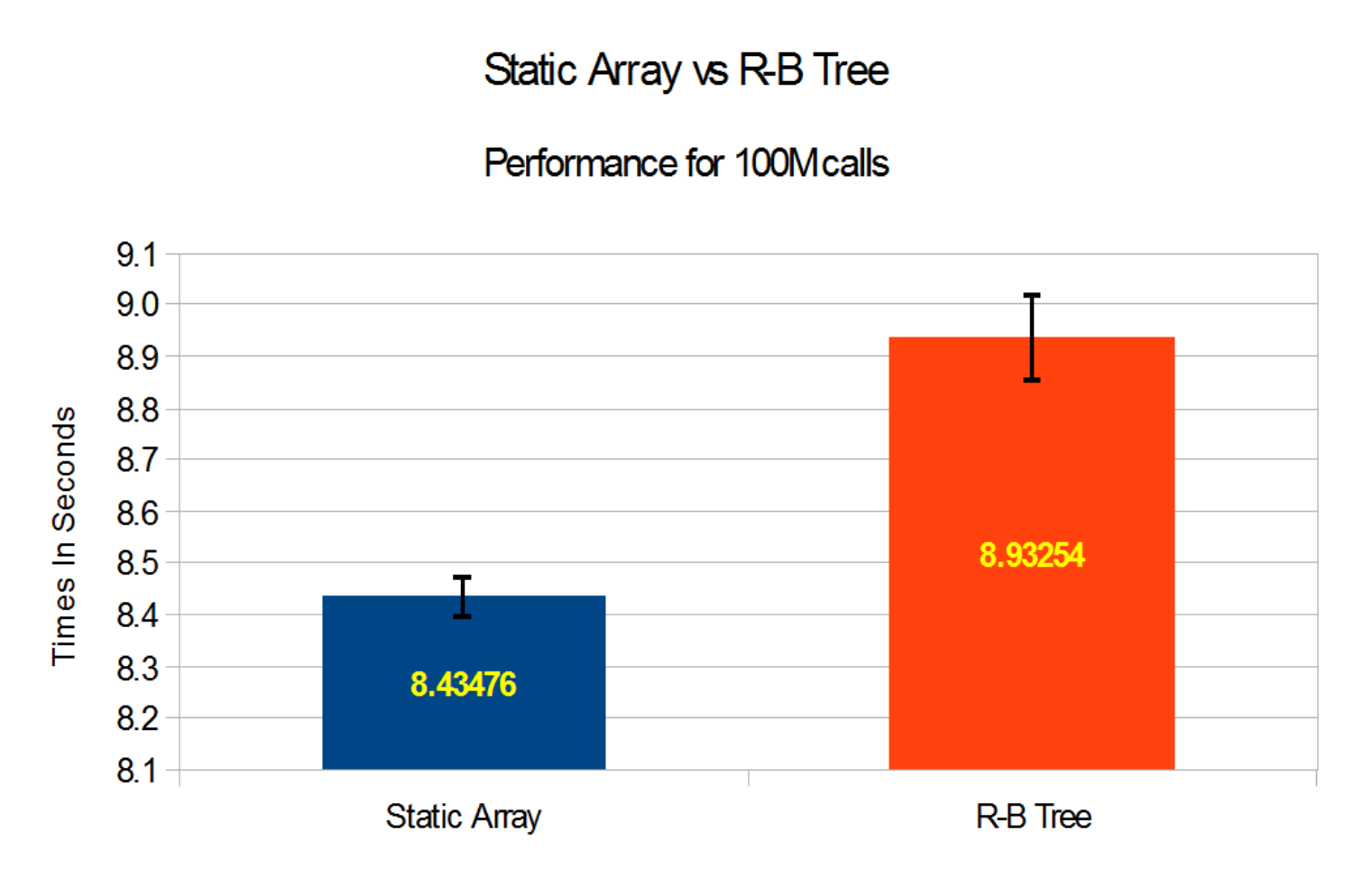

Figure 2: Clearly there is a 5.59% degradation in performance with the R-B tree implementation

Calls to `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()` after fragmentation

- Number after test name indicates the amount of memory on which fragmentation was done
- Fragmentation was done by `uvm_physseg_unplug()`
- After unplug was completed `PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE()` was called 10M (million) times for every test.

Test Name	Average	Minimum	Maximum
uvm_physseg_1MB	1.015810	0.941942	1.361913
uvm_physseg_64MB	0.958675	0.877151	1.279663
uvm_physseg_128MB	2.155270	2.024838	2.866540
uvm_physseg_256MB	2.550920	2.360252	3.736369

Table 4: Comparison of average, minimum and maximum execution times of various load tests with `uvm_hotplug(9)` enabled on fragmented memory segments.

Calls to PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE() after fragmentation

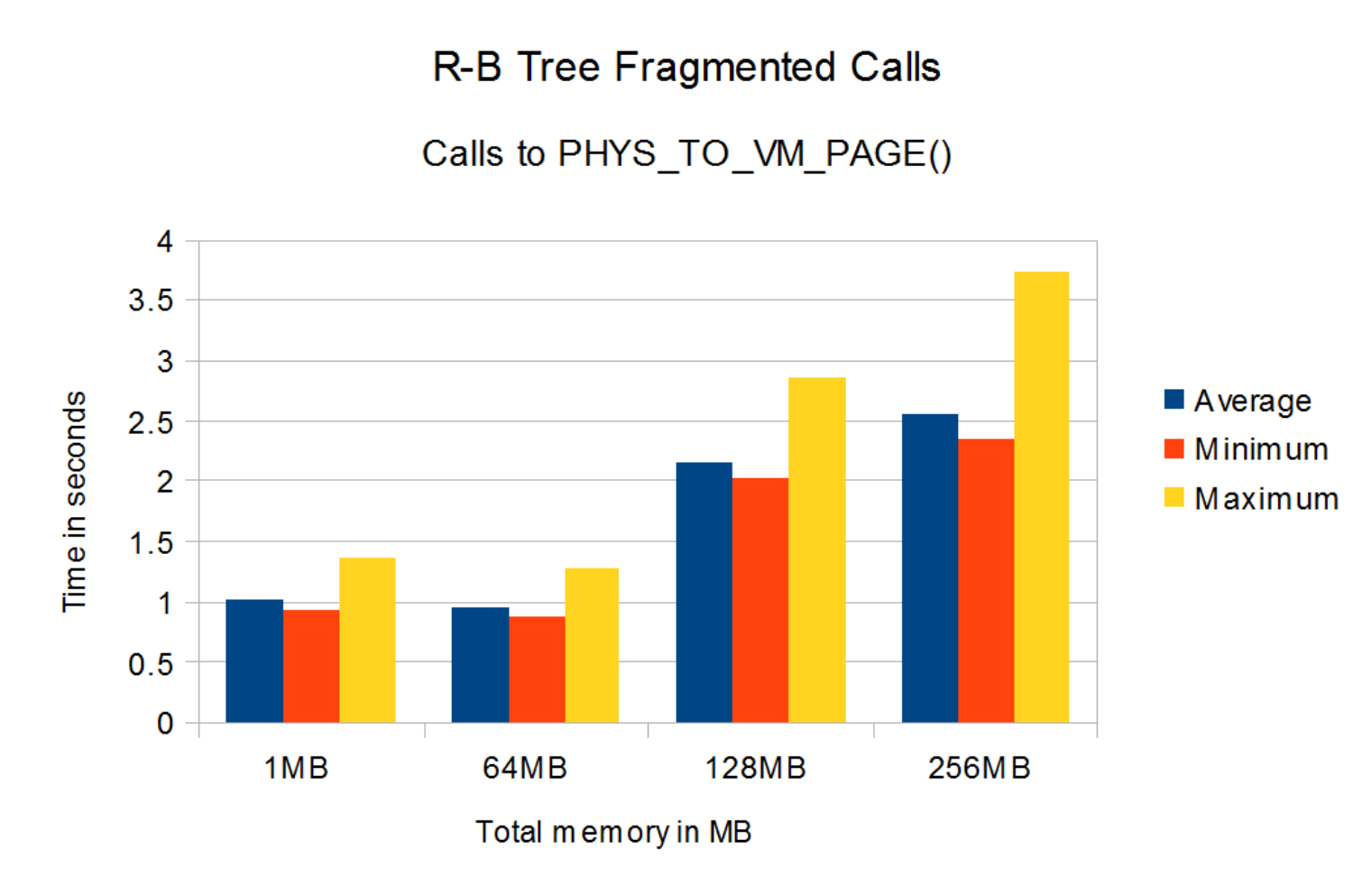

Figure 3: R-B tree performance for 10M Calls to PHYS_TO_VM_PAGE() after fragmentation at every 8 PFN

Conclusion and future work

Retrospective

Looking back...

- `rumpkernel(7)` based testing?
- Code coverage, maybe?
- Performance testing in an actual live kernel implementation with `dtrace(1)`

Conclusion

- Systems Programming can be made much less stressful by using existing Software Engineering techniques.

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- Systems Programming can be made much less stressful by using existing Software Engineering techniques.
- The availability of general purpose APIs such as `rbtree(3)` and `extent(9)` in the NetBSD kernel, which makes implementation much less headache.

Future work

- We would like to encourage other NetBSD developers to use this API to write hotplug/ unplug drivers for their favourite platforms with suitable hardware.

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- We would like to encourage other NetBSD developers to use this API to write hotplug/ unplug drivers for their favourite platforms with suitable hardware.
- We also encourage other BSDs to pick up our work - since this will clean up the current legacy implementations which are pretty much identical.

Credits and References

Thank you

- **The NetBSD Foundation** <http://www.NetBSD.org/foundation> generously funded this work.
- **KeK** <hello@kek.org.in> provided a cozy space right next to **Kovalam Beach** for us to hammer out the implementation.
- **Chuck Silvers** <chs@NetBSD.org> reviewed and helped refine the APIs. He also provided deep insight into the challenges of architecting such low level code.
- **Matthew Green** <mrg@NetBSD.org> made many helpful suggestions and critical feedback during the development and integration timeframe.
- **Maya Rashish** <maya@NetBSD.org> helped expose the API to multiple usecase situations (including header breakage in pkgsrc).
- **Nick Hudson** <skrll@NetBSD.org> contributed bugfixes, testing and integration on a wide range of hardware ports.
- **Philip Paeps** <philip@FreeBSD.org> helped guide creation, review and correction of the content of abstract and paper for `uvm_hotplug(9)`
- **Thomas Klausner** <wiz@NetBSD.org> helped make corrections to man page of `uvm_hotplug(9)`
- **Tom Flavel** <tom@printf.net> coerced cherry@NetBSD.org towards TDD, who was able to interest Santhosh Raju in applying the method to kernel programming. This allegedly turned out to be a good thing eventually.

Thank you

... And to all others who helped us along the way and we may have accidentally missed out or forgot to mention.

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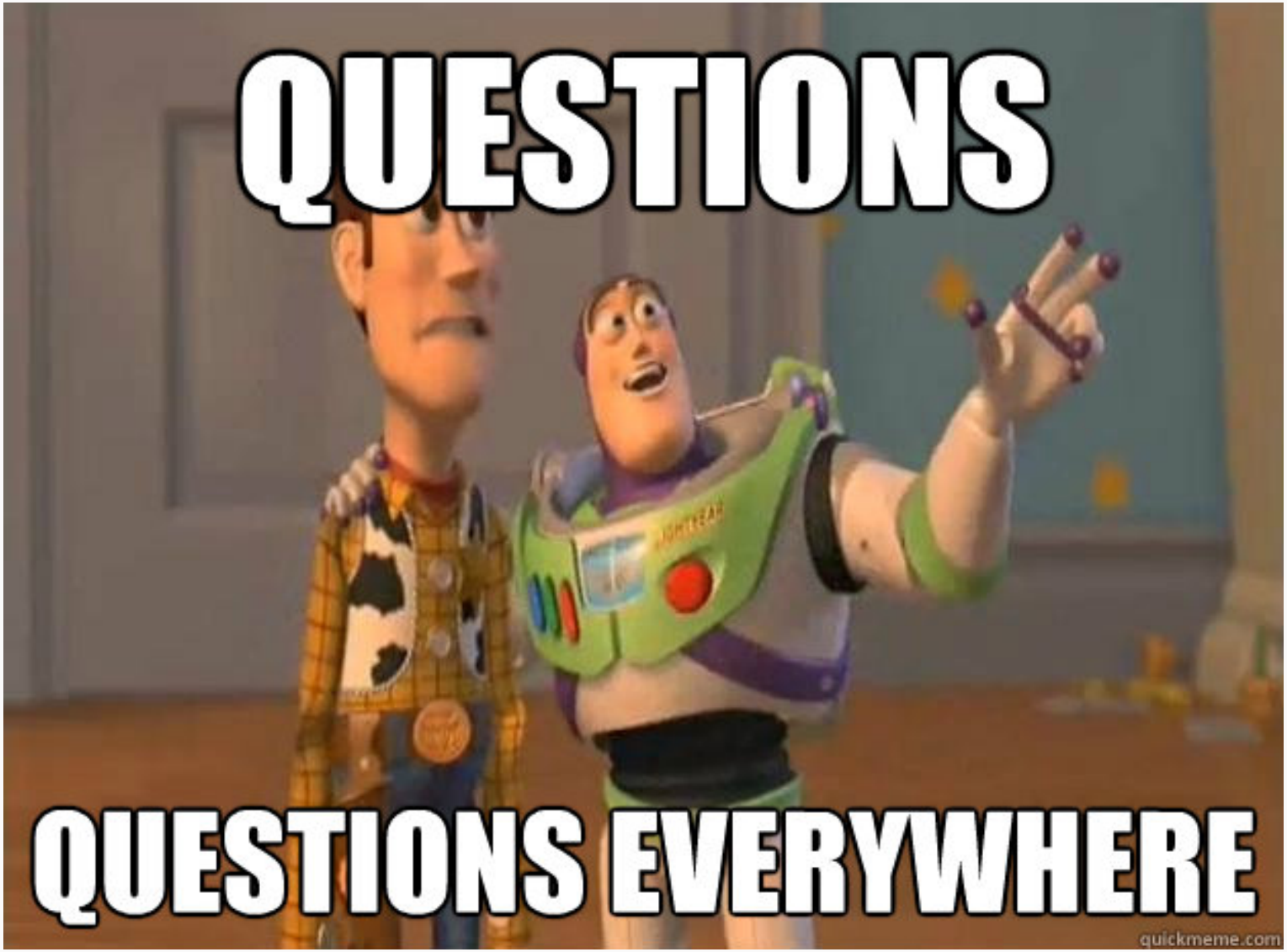
And of course the **audience** for being here and patient while listening to the talk.

Questions



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The End