



# Optimizing storage stacks for AI

Spectrum Scale CIUK UG

December, 2018

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# DDN SFA | ALL-FLASH AND HYBRID BLOCK STORAGE PLATFORMS

200NV	400NV	7990	14KX	18K
				
23GB/s 1M IOP/s 24 NVME Slots EDR IB (4), OPA (2) FC32 (8), FC (8)	42GB/s 3M IOP/s 24 NVME Slots EDR IB (8), OPA (4)	23GB/s 1M IOP/s Up to 450 SSD/HDD EDR IB (4), OPA (2) FC16 (8)	60GB/s 4M IOP/s 48 NVMe Slots Up to 1872 SSD/HDD EDR IB (12   8) OPA (4), FC16 (24)	92GB/s 3.2M IOP/s 48 NVMe Slots Up to 1872 SSD/HDD EDR IB (16), OPA (8)
NEW 2018	COMING 2019	NEW 2018		COMING 2019

# DDN | GRIDScaler

Massively Scalable NAS & Parallel File Storage Appliance



	GS200NV	GS400NV	GS7990	GS14KX	GS18K
GRIDScaler v4	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓*
v4 upgrade to v5	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓*
GRIDScaler v5	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓*

- ▶ Easy to deploy, All-in-One Appliance for All Flash Array with HDD, archive and cloud tiering options
- ▶ Scale-out building blocks architecture
  - Configurations scale from <100 TB to PBs of storage and 10s of TBs/sec of performance
- ▶ Flash Centric Architecture - custom embedded fabric delivers optimal SSD performance
- ▶ Feature-Rich, Enterprise Grade Quality and High Availability with no single point of failure
- ▶ Simple, Intuitive but Powerful DDN Insight monitoring solution



# Optimizations for GRIDScaler V5

# Optimizations for GRIDScaler V5

- ▶ Updated device drivers, OS and Scale tuning parameters and SFA multi-queue LUN support
- ▶ Embedded systems can now achieve up to 1.2 Million random 4k read IOPS
- ▶ External SFA14KX NSD Server performance went from 1.25 Million to 2.96 Million\*
- ▶ These enhancements were used to produce the SpecSFS 2014 record publications

\* test was using external NSD Server. all numbers are measured from network attached clients with GPFS PERF using one 100 GB file per client during random 4k reads using O\_DIRECT



**Platform Optimizations help significantly**

# ES200NV | LOW LATENCY DESIGNED-IN



## IO PATHS

TRADITIONAL

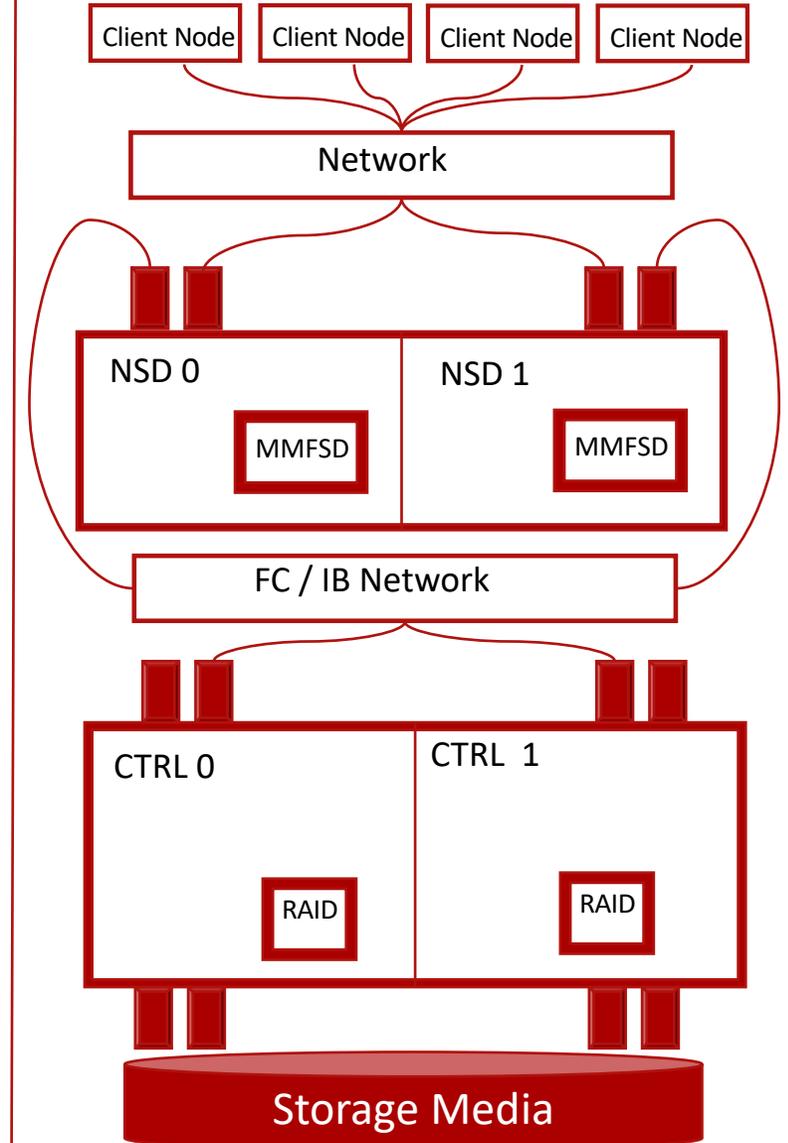
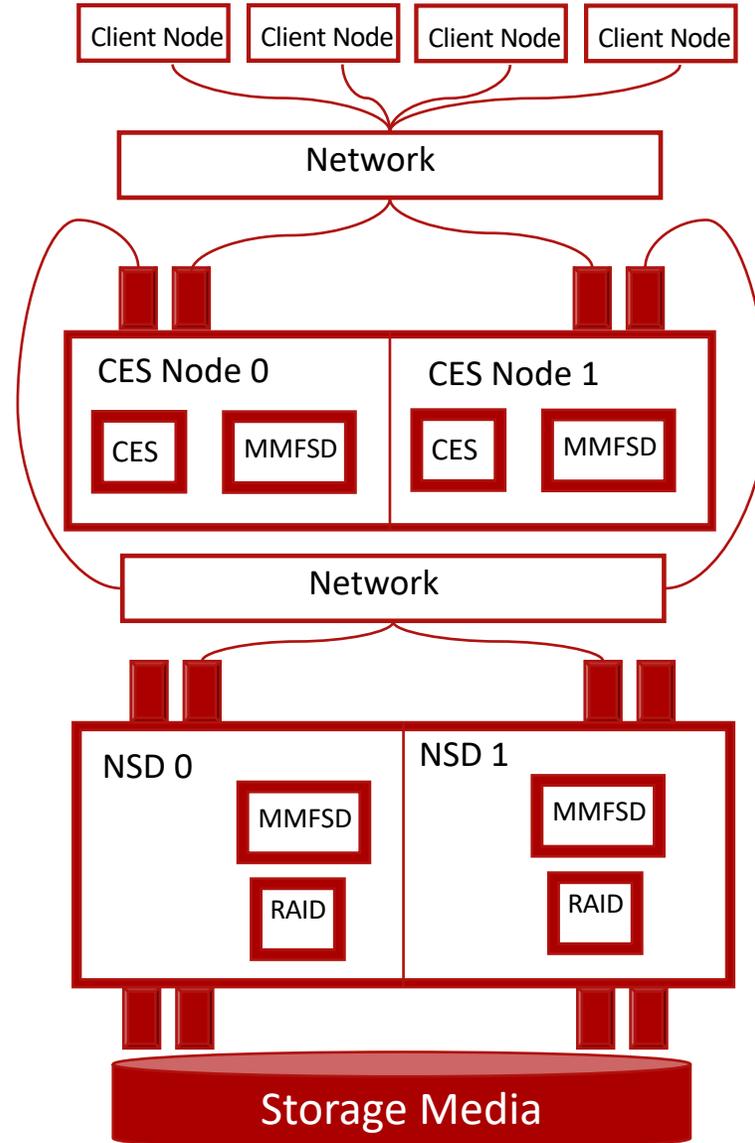
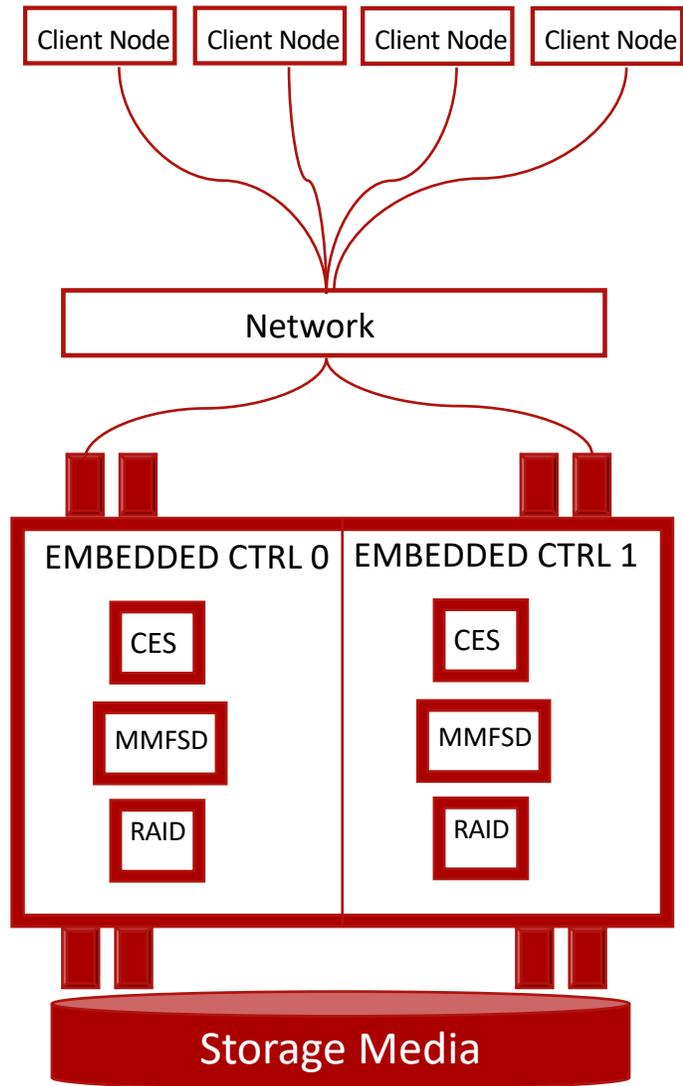
Components Simplified  
with SFA™ Embedded  
Appliances

### SFA EMBEDDED FILESERVICE



**SCALER**<sup>™</sup>  
APPLIANCES

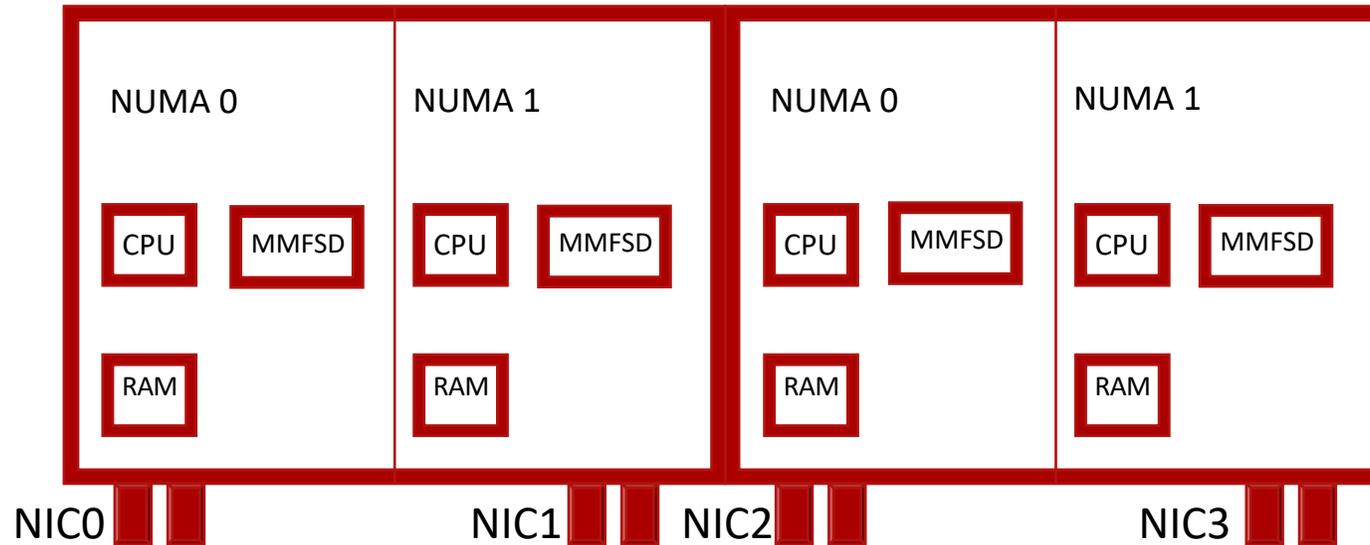
# The fastest network hop is the one you can avoid



# Why all this work, what's to gain ?

- ▶ Remote NUMA region HW access in SW is one of the biggest issue to achieve HW capable performance targets
- ▶ even just a 2 NUMA Zone system (e.g. modern Intel 2 socket system) has significant overhead as without optimization on the SW, 50% of the access is remote, as larger the number of NUMA nodes as more overhead , each IBM power or modern AMD CPU has 2 NUMA nodes. So a 2 socket Power 8 system has 4 NUMA zones and a 75% chance your data is on the wrong side.
- ▶ Databases developers have spend years to optimize their SW stack to be NUMA aware, storage stacks are trying to catch up. On databases tests have show between 2-4x improvements with proper memory placement, for Storage the benefit can be even greater as it typically interacts with HW beyond memory that is NUMA dependent (e.g. HBA's or HCA's)
- ▶ Remote HW access significant increases latency and causes very unpredictable performance
- ▶ Linear scaling with increased core counts gets eliminated by contention on interconnects or lock overhead requiring synchronization between NUMA regions

# SFA NUMA awareness



The system is perfectly balanced across numa nodes, which allows affinitizing of mmfsd threads to memory, core and network for lowest latency and consistent scaling

# DIO Random 4k writes into a 100GB files

```
/usr/lpp/mmfs/samples/perf/gpfsperf write rand /target/sven-100g  
recSize 4K nBytes 100G fileSize 100G  
nProcesses 1 nThreadsPerProcess 1  
file cache flushed before test  
using direct I/O  
offsets accessed will cycle through the same file segment  
not using shared memory buffer  
not releasing byte-range token after open  
no fsync at end of test
```

Data rate was 34659.88 Kbytes/sec, Op Rate was 8461.89 Ops/sec, Avg Latency was 0.118 milliseconds, thread utilization 1.000, bytesTransferred 1039802368

# DIO Random 4k reads from a 100GB files (exceeds all cache by 4x)

```
/usr/lpp/mmfs/samples/perf/gpfsperf read rand /target/sven-100g  
recSize 4K nBytes 100G fileSize 100G  
nProcesses 1 nThreadsPerProcess 1  
file cache flushed before test  
using direct I/O  
offsets accessed will cycle through the same file segment  
not using shared memory buffer  
not releasing byte-range token after open
```

Data rate was 21763.50 Kbytes/sec, Op Rate was 5313.36 Ops/sec, Avg Latency was 0.188 milliseconds, thread utilization 1.000, bytesTransferred 652910592

# DIO Random 4k reads from a 100GB files (exceeds all cache by 4x) ETH

```
/work/oehmes/bin/gpfsperf read rand -r 4k -n 100g -th 1 -dio -millis 5000  
/ai200g/test.sven
```

```
/work/oehmes/bin/gpfsperf read rand /ai200g/test.sven
```

```
recSize 4K nBytes 100G fileSize 100G
```

```
nProcesses 1 nThreadsPerProcess 1
```

```
file cache flushed before test
```

```
using direct I/O
```

```
offsets accessed will cycle through the same file segment
```

```
not using shared memory buffer
```

```
not releasing byte-range token after open
```

```
Data rate was 14888.68 Kbytes/sec, Op Rate was 3634.93 Ops/sec, Avg Latency  
was 0.275 milliseconds, thread utilization 1.000, bytesTransferred 74448896
```



## **World record SpecSFS 2014 with GRIDScaler\***

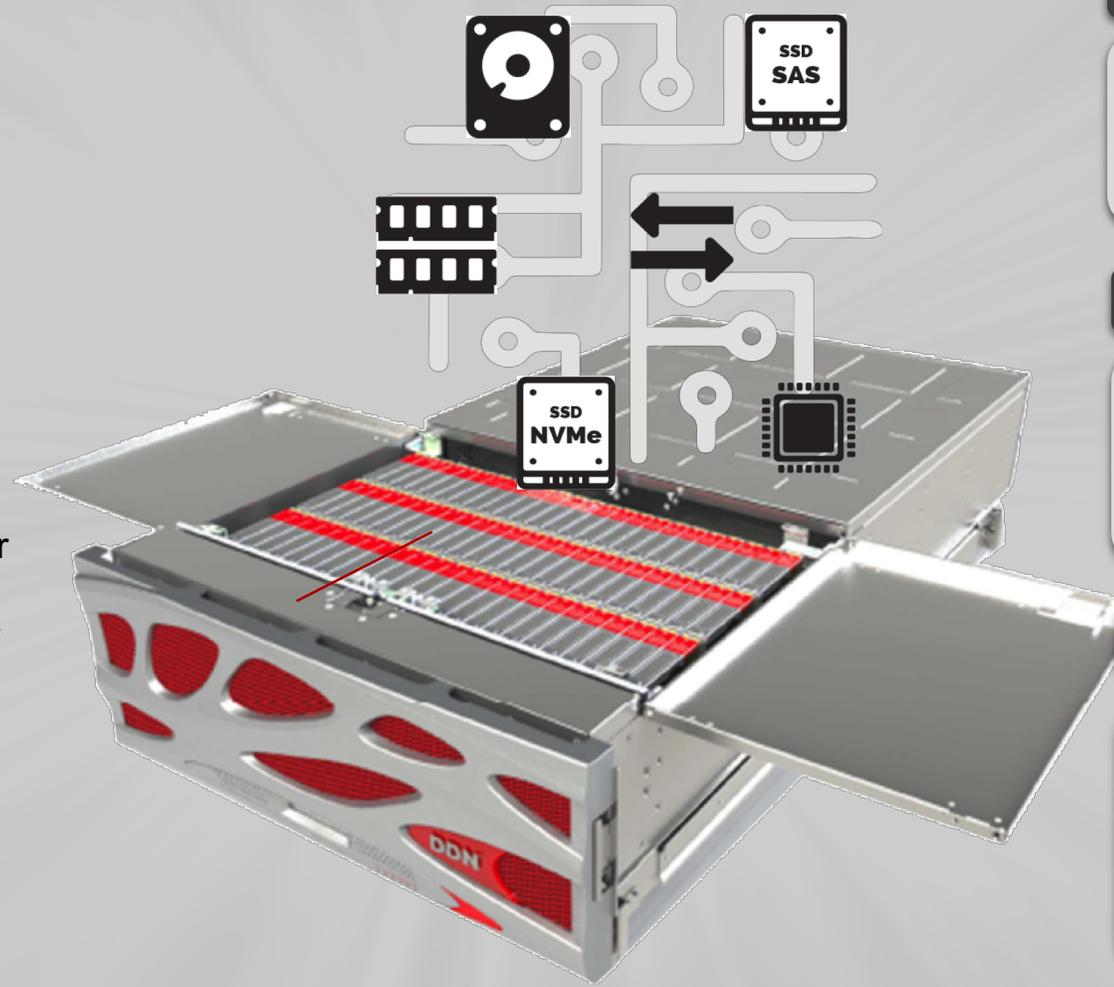
\*world record has been broken with an 8 Storage System setup - we use ONE !

# DDN SFA14KX

*Fastest, Densest and Simplest at Scale*

## Low Latency, Highly Efficient Architecture

- All in one integrated design with expansion capability
- Dual Redundant Controllers
- 72 Drive High-Density 2.5" Enclosure with NVMe support for 48 2.5" dual ported NVMe
- Optimized Building Block for BW or IOPs
- Support for up to 20 SS9012 12Gb/s 90 drive Enclosures



### Flexible Connectivity

- ▶ 10/40/100GbE
- ▶ IB and OmniPath
- ▶ 16/32Gb FC

### Industry Leading Performance

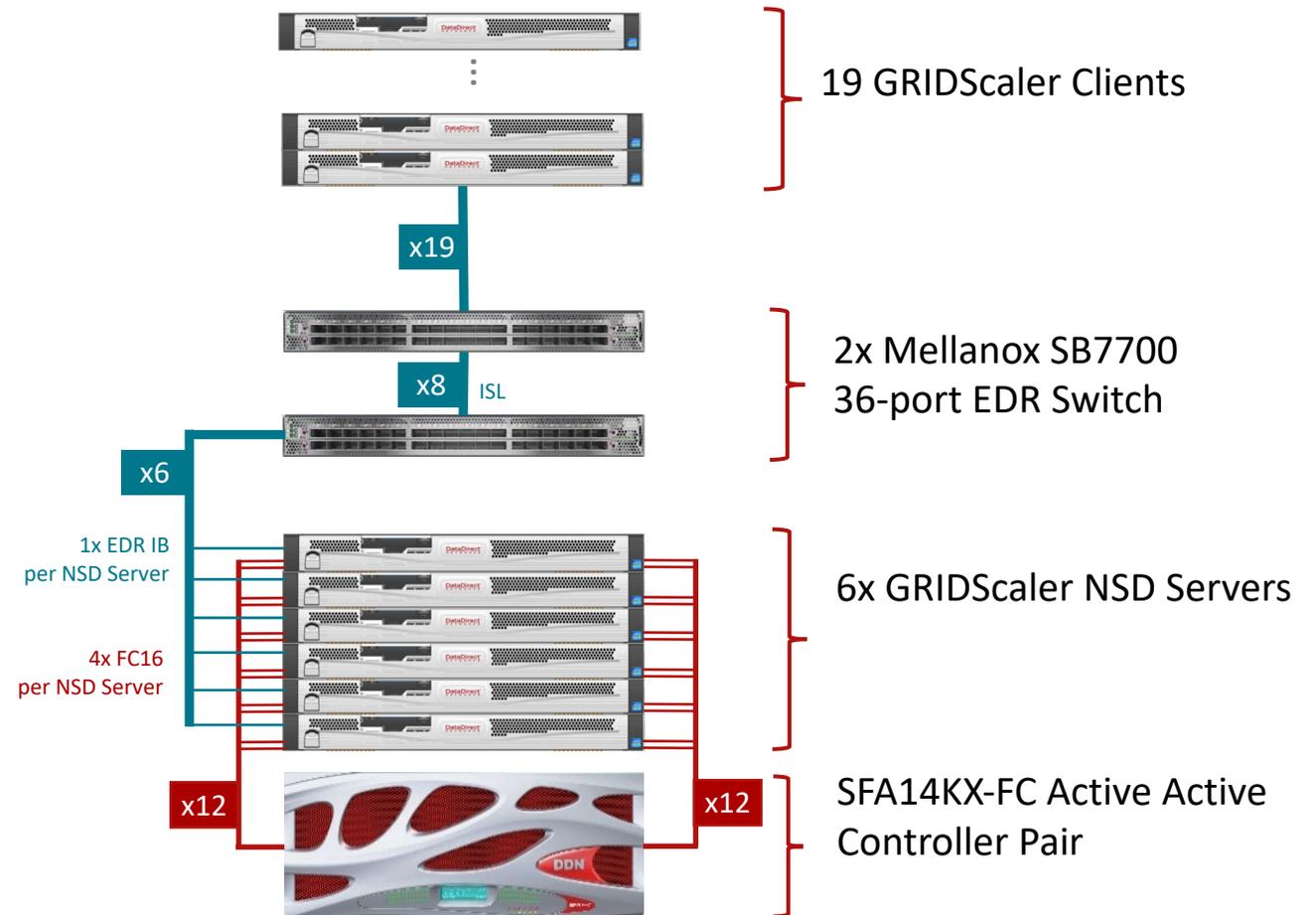
- ▶ 72 SAS SSD or 48 NVMe
- ▶ Up to 60 GB/sec throughput
- ▶ Up to 4 million IOPS

### Best Data Protection

- ▶ Fully Declustered RAID
- ▶ Higher Data Availability
- ▶ Flexible Pool Management
- ▶ Optimized for both Random and Sequential IO

# DDN SFA14KX with GRIDScaler

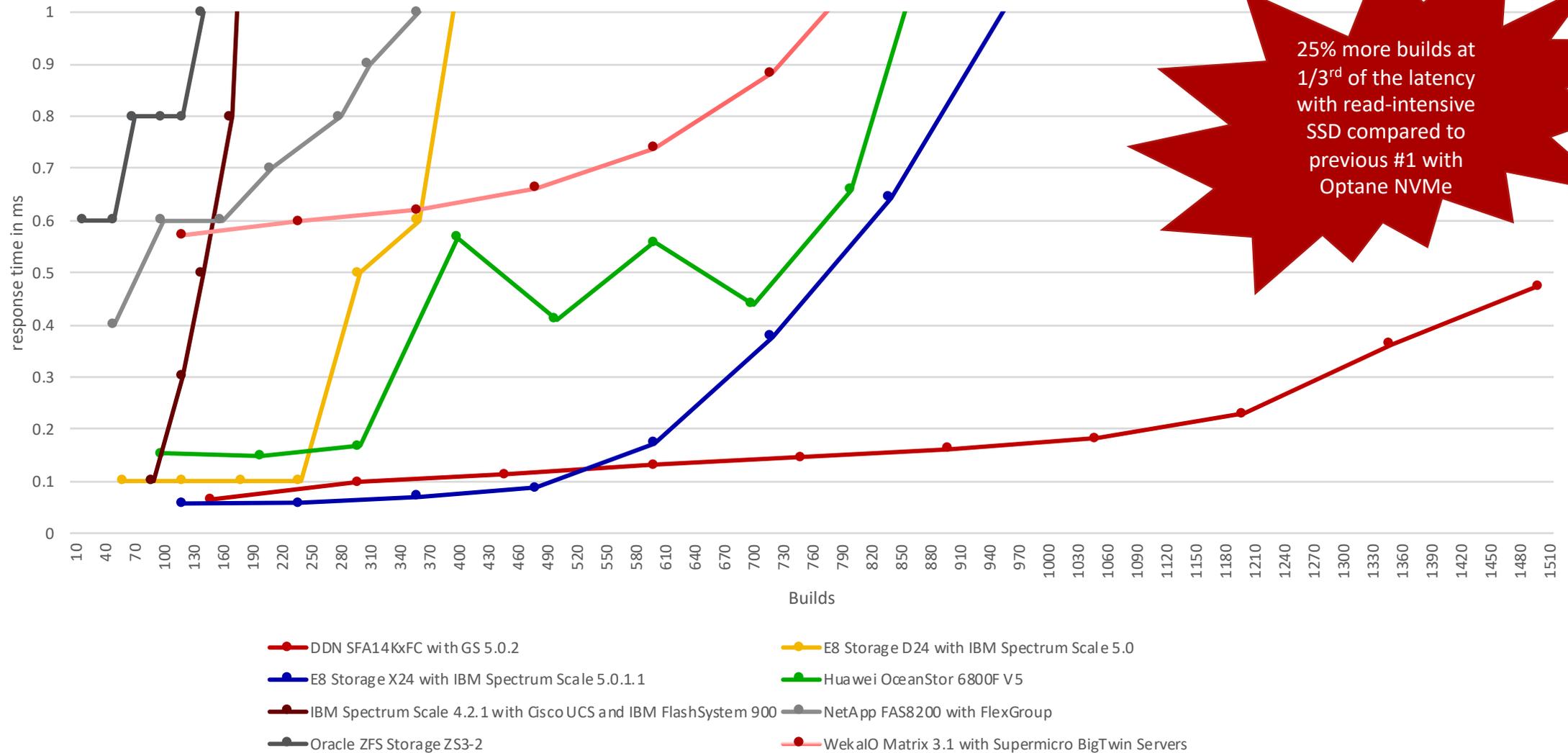
- ▶ With the SFA14KX and GRIDScaler parallel filesystem, DDN gains pole position for SPEC SFS
- ▶ DDN's SFA14KX running SFAOS with Declustered RAID and connecting to 6 GRIDScaler servers Sustains 25% more builds at 1/3rd of the Overall roundtrip latency with read-intensive SSD compared to previous #1 with Optane NVMeof - the next nearest competitor



**System Benchmarked for SPEC SFS**

# SpecSFS 2014 – SWBUILD compare to other vendors

SpecSFS 2014 - SWBUILD - latency capped at 1ms

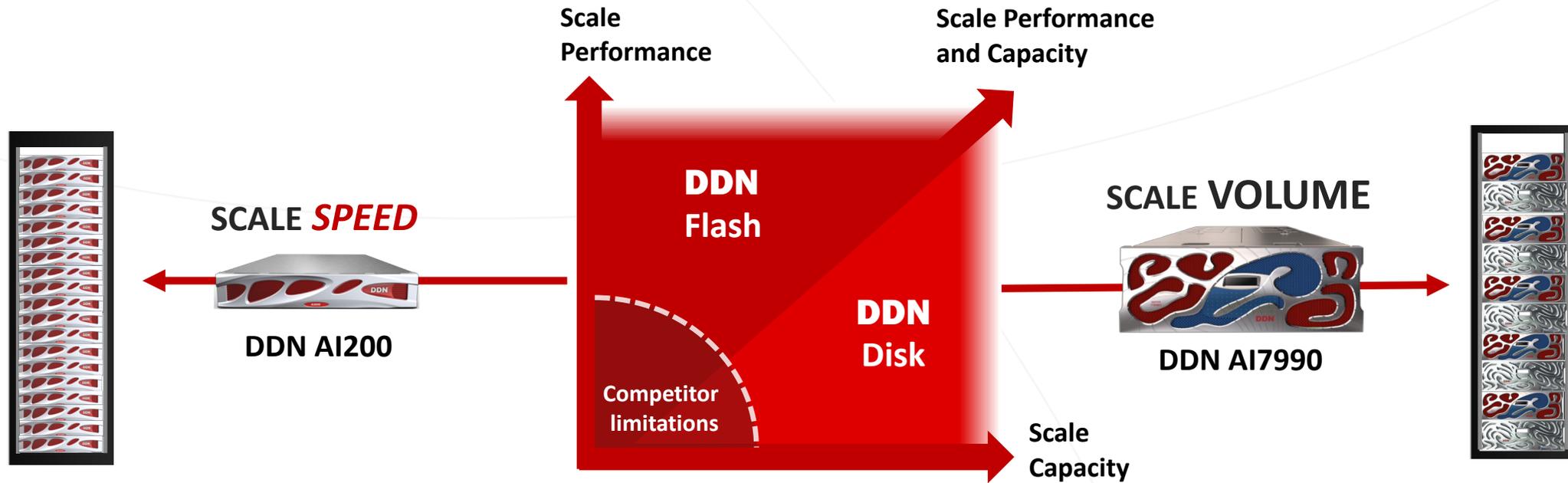


25% more builds at 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the latency with read-intensive SSD compared to previous #1 with Optane NVMe



**DDN A<sup>3</sup>I Solutions:** Turnkey, integrated and optimized  
for NVIDIA DGX-1 and HP Apollo 6500

# SCALE UP, SCALE OUT OR SCALE BOTH

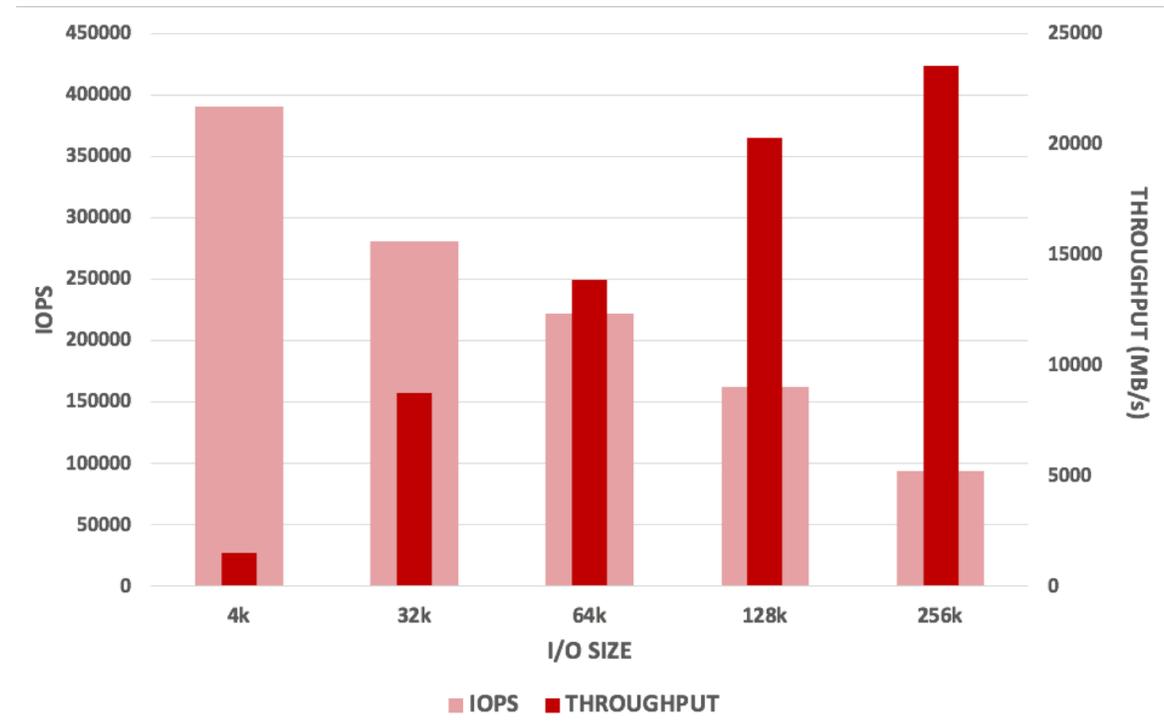


# DDN A<sup>3</sup>I SOLUTIONS TO A SINGLE CONTAINER ON DGX-1

## 23 GB/s and 395K IOPS to a single container\*

DDN A<sup>3</sup>I parallel storage client demonstrates over 23 GB per second and over 395K IOPS to a single container on DGX-1.

Typical deep learning codes perform IO using 128K size for which DDN delivers over 20 GB/s of sustained performance.



\*numbers are with a single AI200 and was limited by client side performance of single DGX client

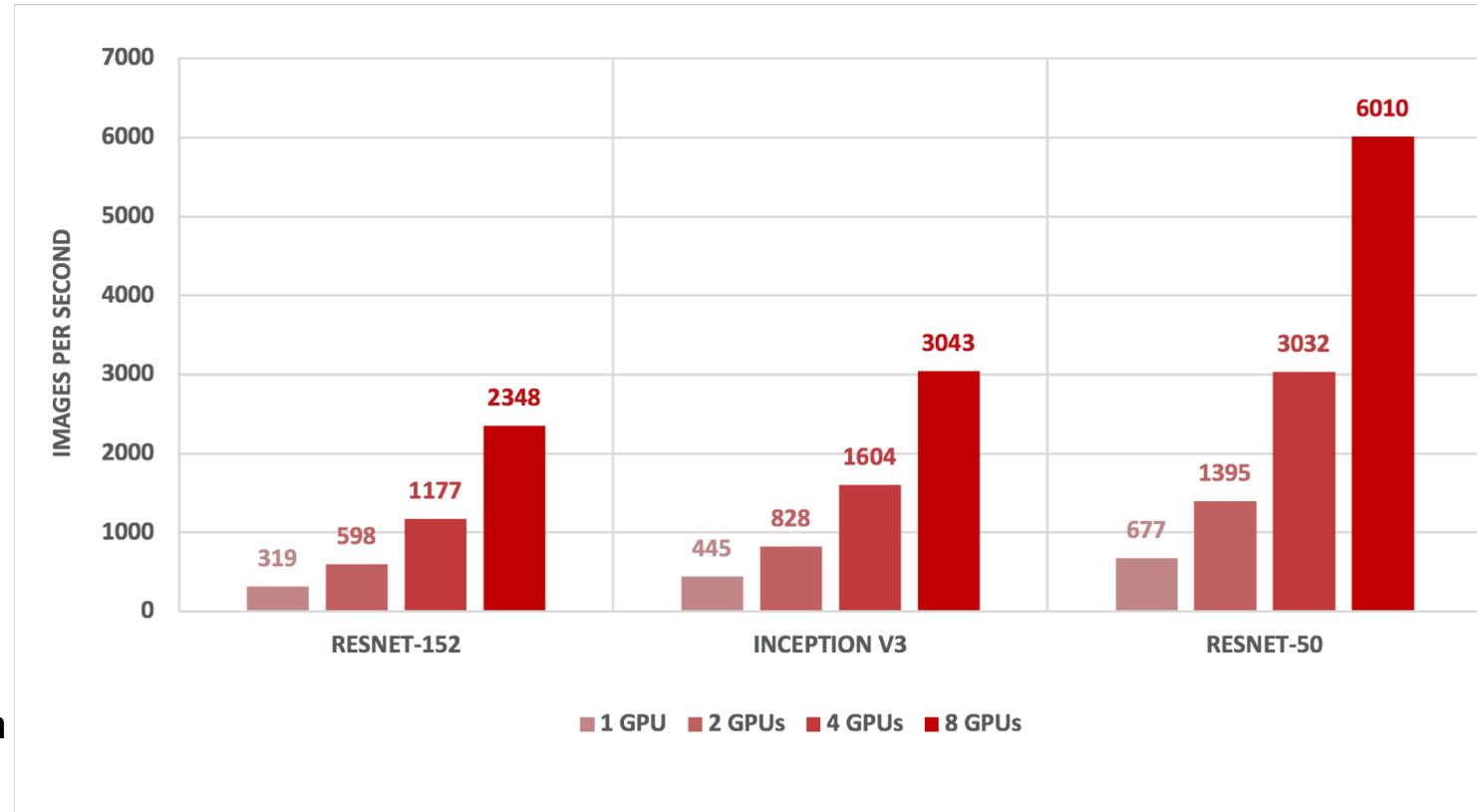
# DDN A<sup>3</sup>I SOLUTIONS TENSORFLOW TRAINING PERFORMANCE

## Fast, Consistent, Linear AI and DL Performance

DL Training application performance scales linearly using multiple GPUs on DGX-1 with DDN parallel storage.

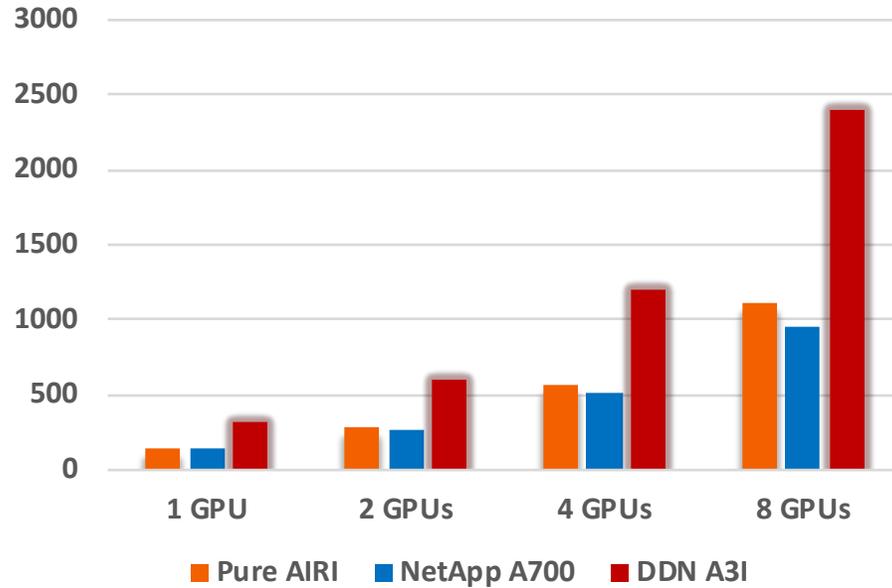
Parallel storage performance and shared architecture magnify end-to-end DL workflow acceleration.

Extensive application interoperability and performance testing has been engaged by DDN in close collaboration with NVIDIA and customers.

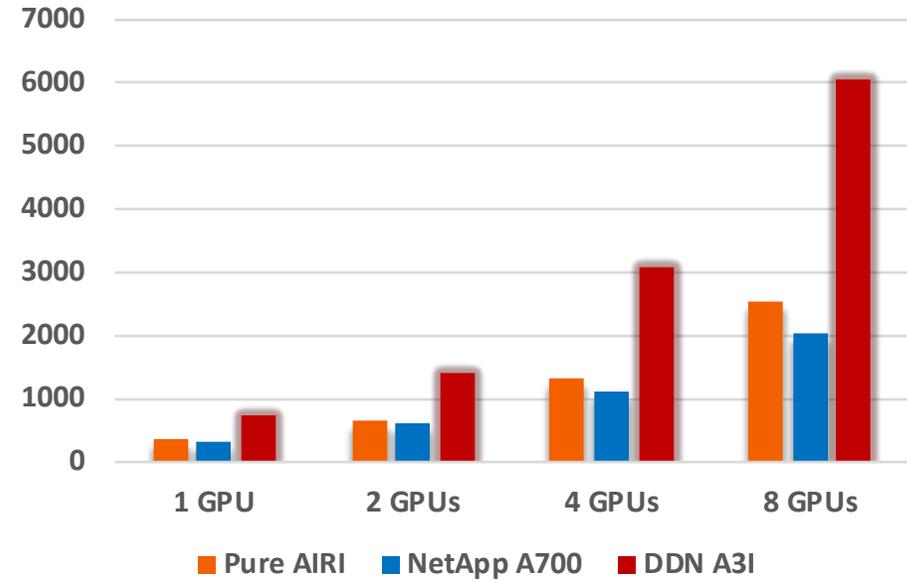


# DDN A<sup>3</sup>I SOLUTIONS LEADS PERFORMANCE FOR AI AND DL

## ResNet-152



## ResNet-50

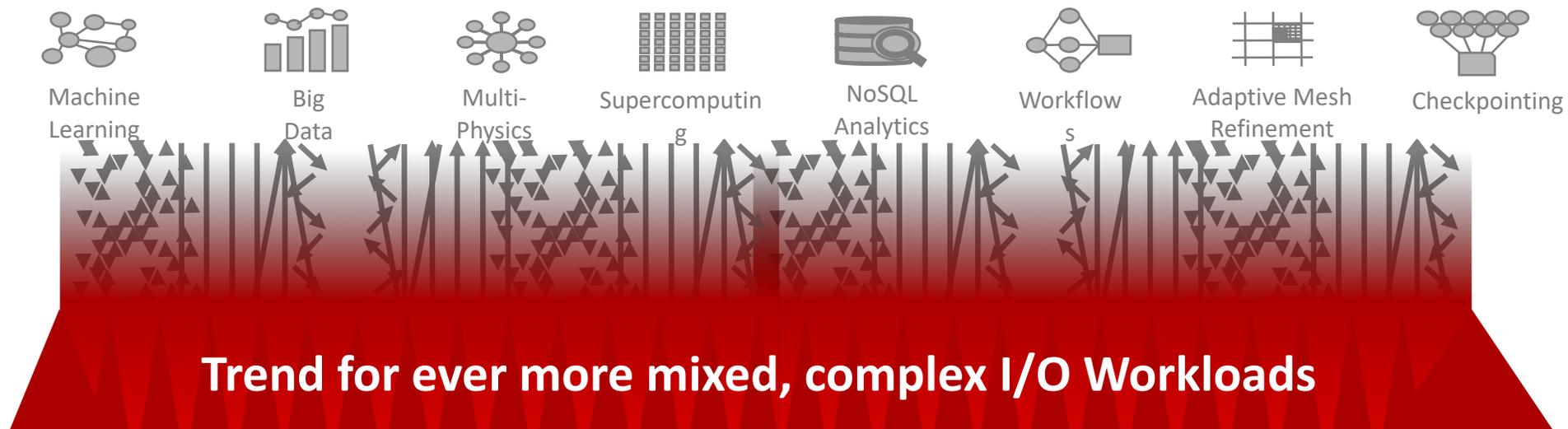


**The Register**<sup>®</sup>  
Biting the hand that feeds IT

*“In the Resnet-152 and Resnet-50 tests, the AI200 tested faster than competing Pure, NetApp and Dell EMC systems.”*

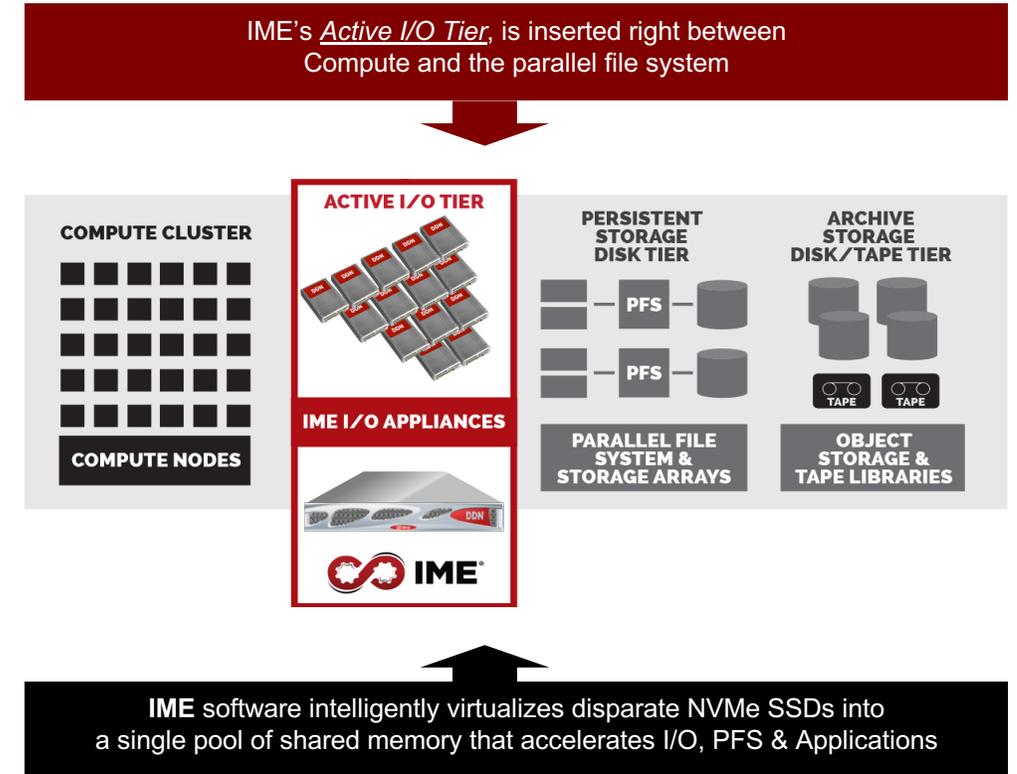
# Challenges in I/O Performance and Behavior

- ▶ Newer applications need to operate on byte addressable data
- ▶ Significant shift from sequential to random I/O
- ▶ Multifold increase of metadata to data ratio
- ▶ Average data sizes are less homogeneous and are now fractions or multiples of previous workloads. gap between small and large data seems to wide (bytes on one end , GB's on the other end of the spectrum)
- ▶ Interactive, outcome and event driven analytics are driven by latency rather than bandwidth



# WHAT IS IME?

- ▶ Scale-Out Flash Cache Layer using NVMe SSDs inserted between compute cluster and Parallel File System (PFS)
  - IME is configured as CLUSTER with multiple NVMe servers
  - All compute nodes can access cache data on IME
- ▶ Accelerates difficult IO patterns: small/random/shared file/high concurrency due to thin SW IO management layer
- ▶ configured as scale-out massive cache layer with huge IO bandwidth and IOPs

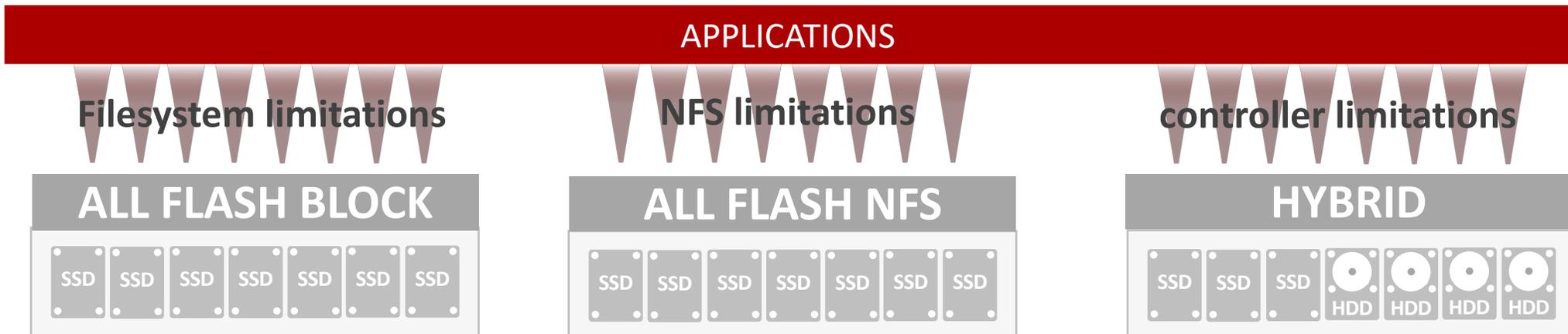


# Expansion in Active Data Volumes requires a new economics for fast data at scale

**All-Flash block**  
doesn't solve the problem.  
**Block IOPs  $\neq$  File IOPs**

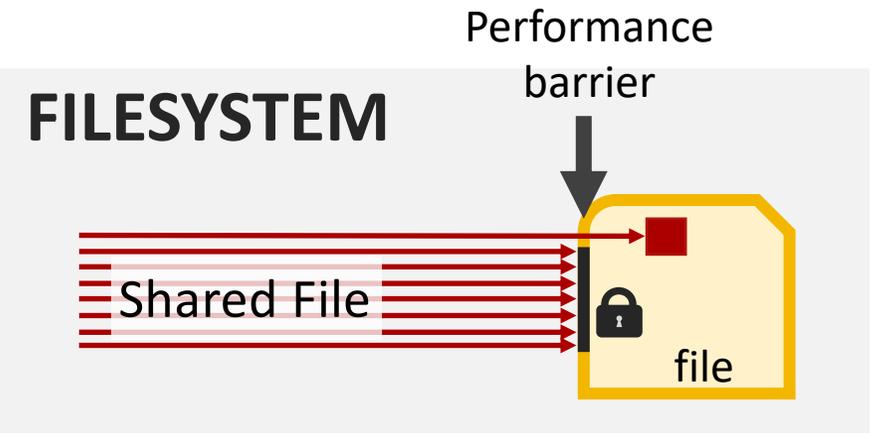
**All-Flash NFS** too slow and  
**too expensive** for real at-  
scale data problems

Traditional **Hybrid Approach**  
**doesn't enable flash at scale**  
– still limited by the storage controller

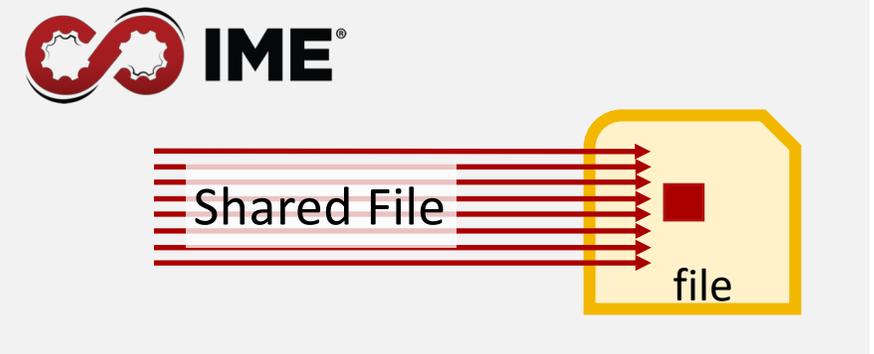


# IME enables new levels of filesystem performance

- ▶ Parallel File systems can exhibit extremely poor performance for shared file IO due to internal lock management as a result of managing files in large lock units

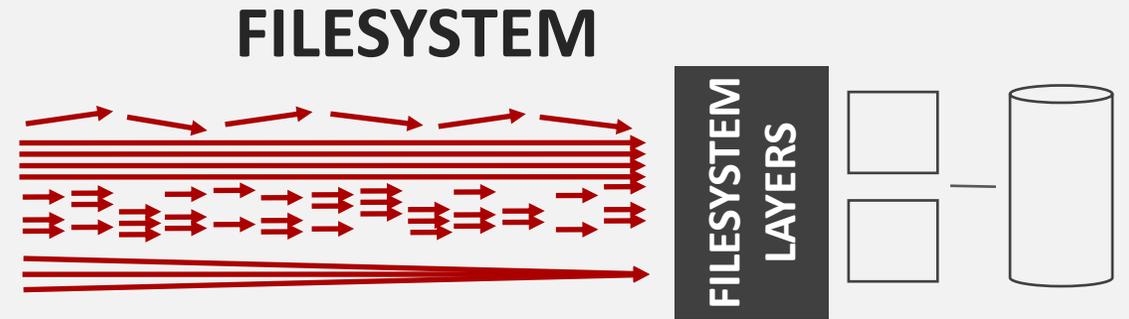


- ▶ IME eliminates contention by managing IO fragments directly, and coalescing IO's prior to flushing to the parallel file system

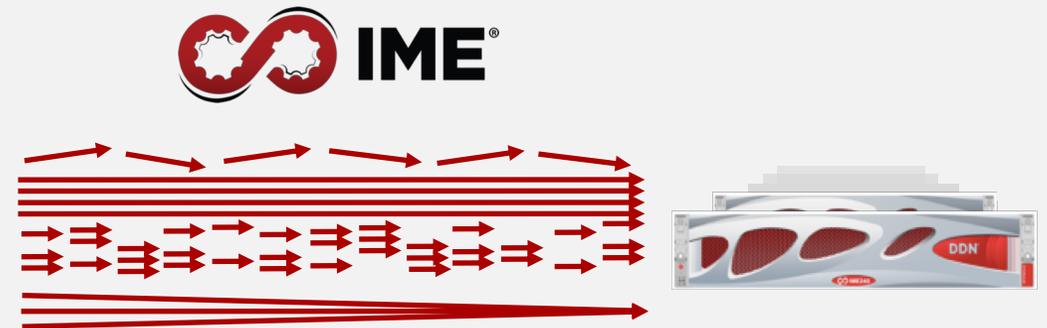


# IME enables new levels of filesystem performance

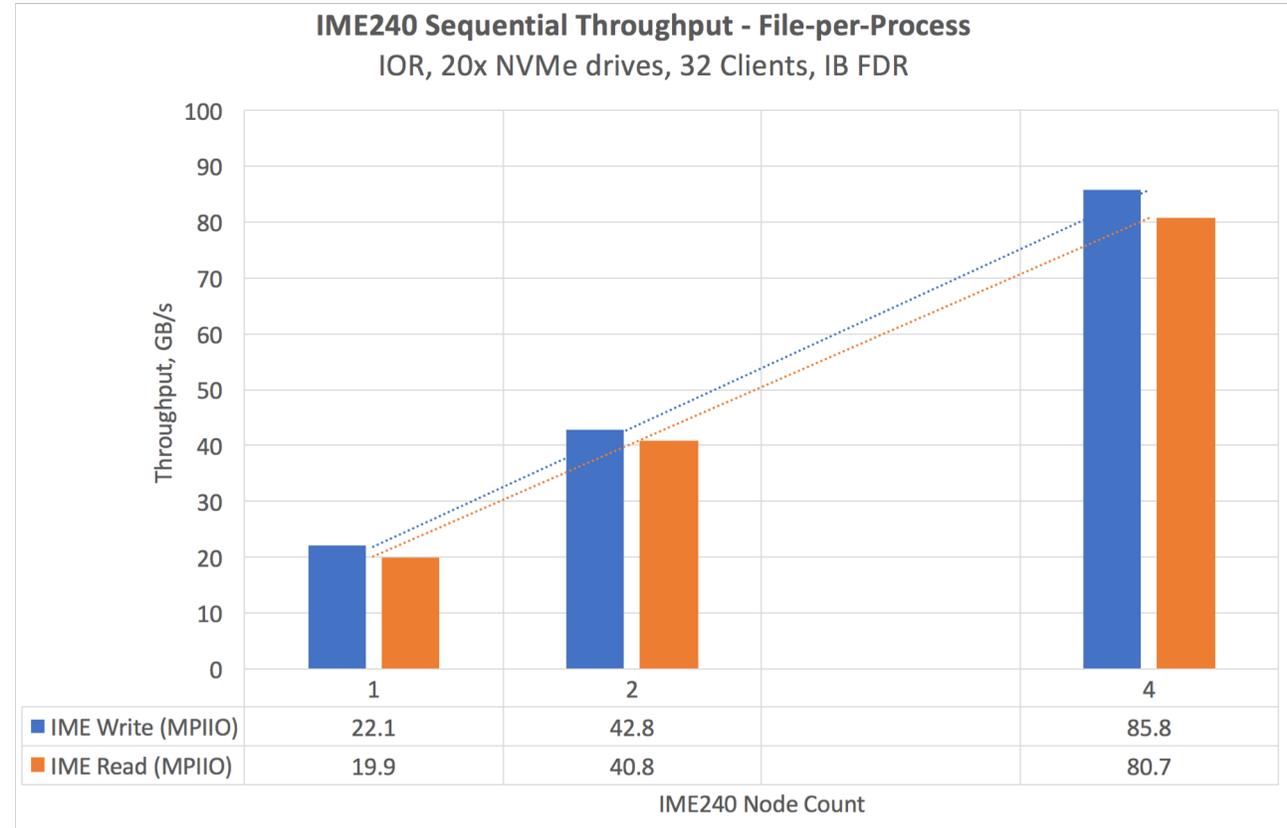
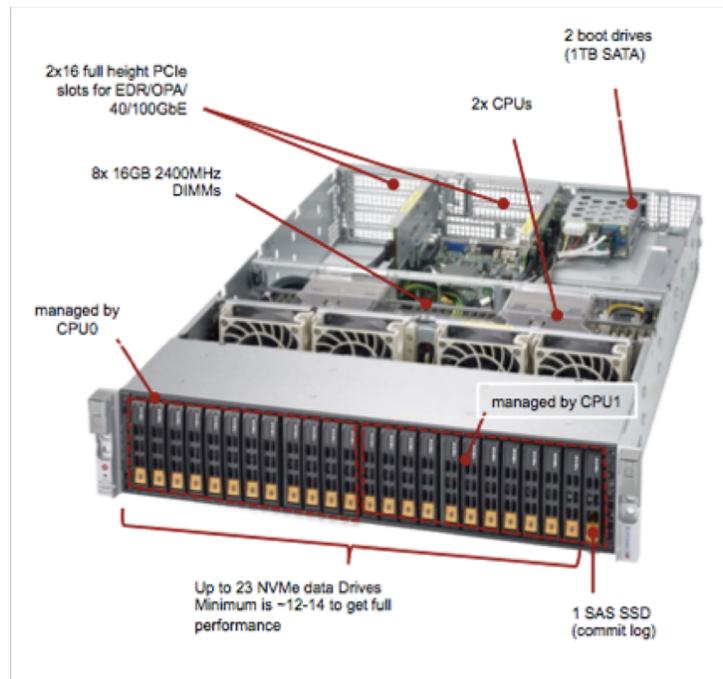
- ▶ Thick File system SW layers and traditional data layout severely restricts performance for tough workloads



- ▶ IME's lean write anywhere, fully parallel IO completely removes the barriers that prevent your application seeing full performance

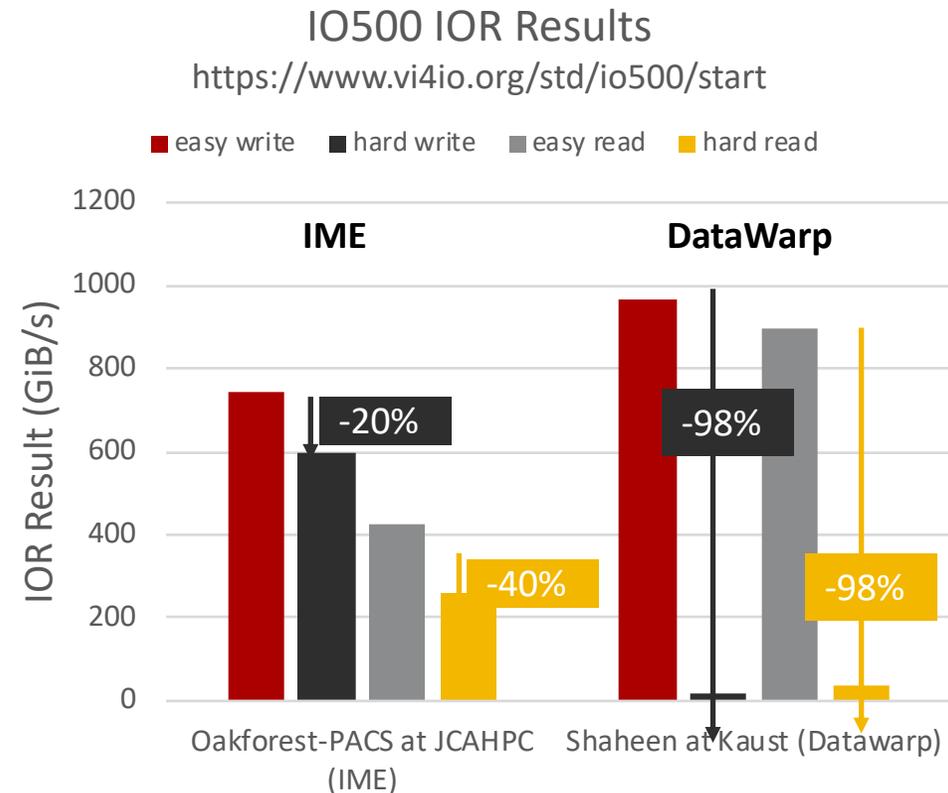


# IME Performance Scalability & R/W Parity



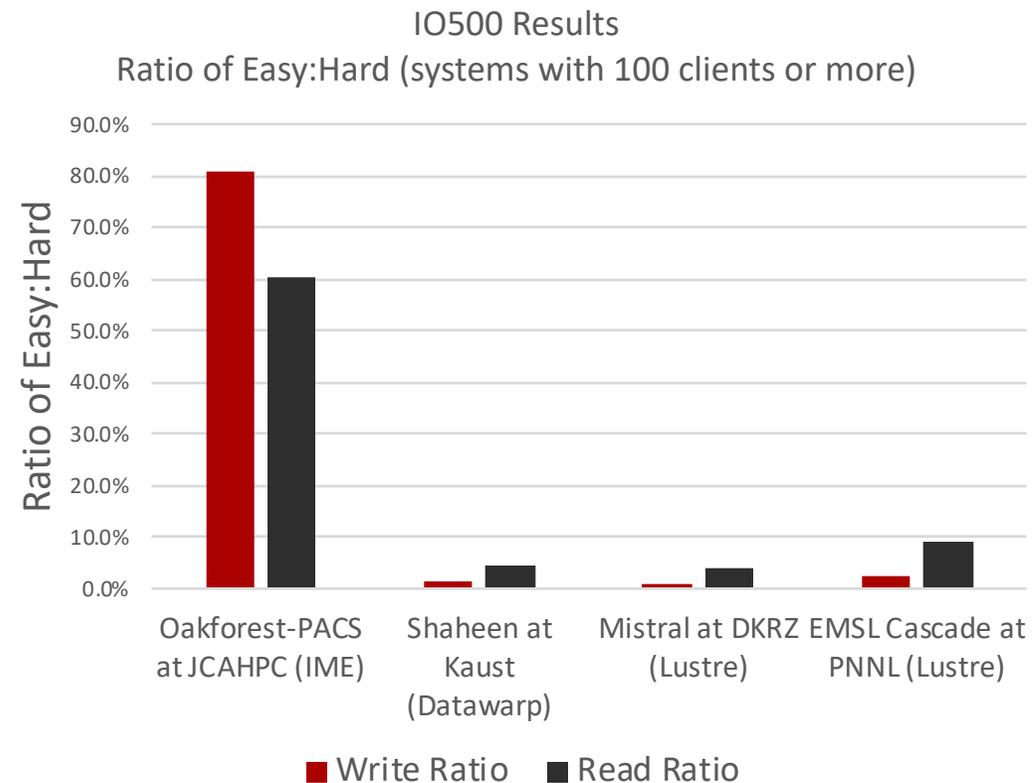
# APPLICATION EFFICIENCY FOR THE REAL WORLD

- ▶ IME's datapath is designed to deliver the potential of flash to the application
- ▶ Other Burst Buffers use a conventional filesystem which severely limits the ability to deliver flash performance
- ▶ The IO500 uses "Easy" and "Hard" IOR benchmarks
  - IOR easy. You can set the parameters to be whatever you would like. You can use any of the modules such as HDF5 or MPI-IO. Typically people maximize performance by doing file-per-process and large aligned IO.
  - IOR hard. We enforce a particular set of parameters. Specifically, the IOs are 47008 bytes each interspersed in a single shared file. Your only control is to specify how many writes each thread does.
- ▶ ***Anyone can get good performance with enough equipment with the easy benchmark. Good Performance with the Hard Benchmark requires a new approach***



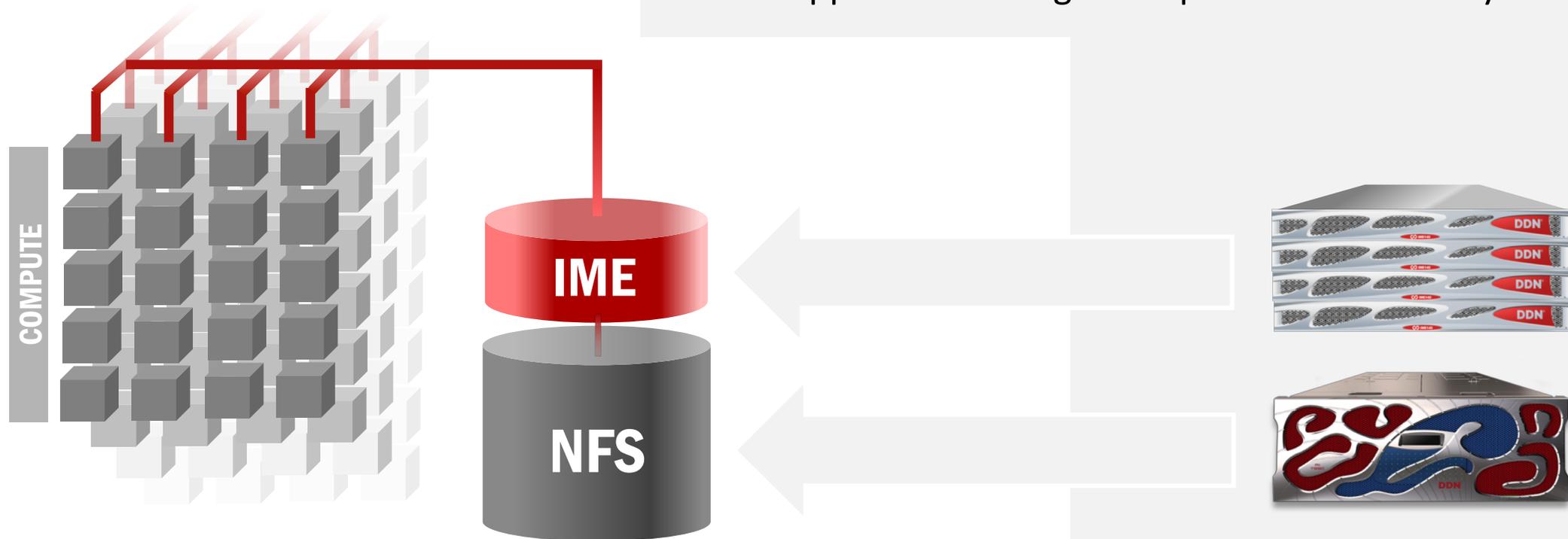
# APPLICATION EFFICIENCY FOR THE REAL WORLD

- ▶ Extracting results from IO500 where the client count is 100 nodes or more
- ▶ Filesystem options show huge degradation when the IO patterns is tough.
- ▶ Only IME is able to present Flash to the applications efficiently



# IME – Burst buffer for NFS

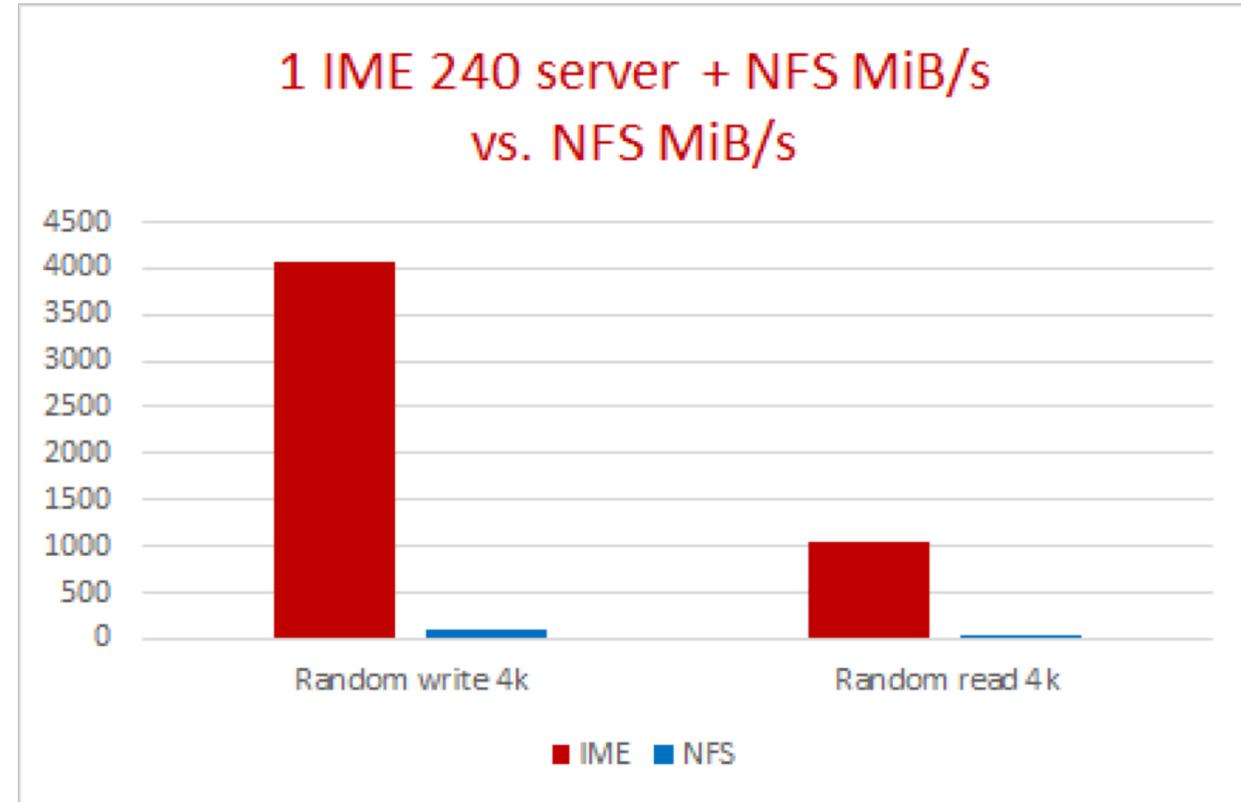
- ▶ Brings scale-out Flash native performance to NFS access
- ▶ Shield NFS server from "tough" IO
- ▶ Increase IO throughput from NFS hardware
- ▶ Zero application changes - replace NFS mount by IME mount



# IME – Burst buffer for NFS

## IME with NFS

- ▶ Brings scale out Flash native performance to NFS Systems
- ▶ Removes complexity associated with Parallel Filesystems
- ▶ Shield NFS server for "bad" IO
- ▶ Increase IO throughput on top of NFS hardware
- ▶ No application changes - replace NFS mount by IME mount





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# Thank You!

Keep in touch with us.



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