

Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces

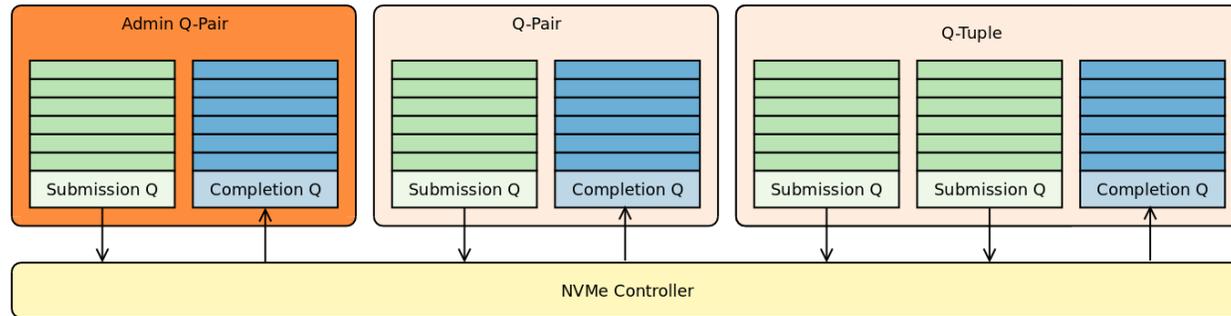
VAULT 2020 | Simon A. F. Lund | Samsung | SSDR

<simon.lund@samsung.com>

Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Why?



- The device media changed
- The device interface changed
 - Command Response Protocol
 - Queues
 - Submission Entries
 - Completions Entries



Command: 64byte Submission Queue Entry (sqe)

64 bytes to form an NVMe Command (Submission Entry)																															
Byte 3				Byte 2				Byte 1				Byte 0																			
31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Command Identifier																PSDT				Opcode											
0																															
1																															
2																															
3																															
4																															
5																															
6																															
7																															
8																															
9																															
10																															
11																															
12																															
13																															
14																															
15																															

Response: (at least) 16byte Completion Queue Entry (cqe)

At least 16 bytes forming an NVMe Command Response (completion entry)																															
Byte 3				Byte 2				Byte 1				Byte 0																			
31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Status Field																Command Identifier															
0																															
1																															
2																															
3																															



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Why?

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 - The software storage-stack becomes the bottleneck
 - Requires: **efficiency**

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- **New** devices doing **old** things in a **new** way
 - Responsibilities trickle up the stack
 - Host-awareness, the higher up, the higher the benefits
 - Device → OS Kernel → Application
 - Requires: **control**, as in, commands other than read/write

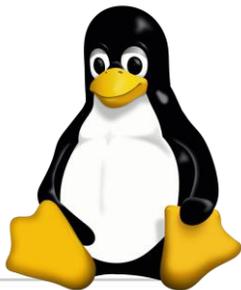
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- **New** devices doing **new** things!
 - New storage semantics such as Key-Value
 - New hybrid semantics introducing compute on and near storage
 - Requires: **flexibility / adaptability**, as in, ability to add new commands

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- ➔ **Increased requirements on the host software stack**

- **The newest Linux IO interface: io_uring**
 - A user space ↔ kernel communication channel
 - A transport mechanism for commands



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Using io_uring

- **The newest Linux IO interface: io_uring**
 - A user space ↔ kernel communication channel
 - A transport mechanism for commands
- Queue Based (ring mem. kernel ↔ user space)
 - Submission queue
 - populated by user space, consumed by Kernel
 - Completion queue
 - populated by kernel, in-response
 - consumed by user space

Command: 64byte Submission Queue Entry (**sqe**)

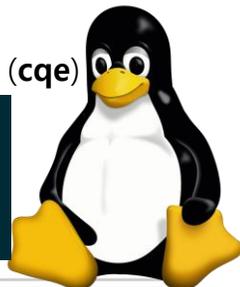
```
struct io_uring_sqe {
    >>.....uint8_t>>opcode;
    >>.....uint8_t>>flags;
    >>.....uint16_t>>.....ioprio;
    >>.....int32_t>>fd;
    >>.....union {
    >>.....>>.....uint64_t>>.....off;
    >>.....>>.....uint64_t>>.....addr2;
    >>.....};
    >>.....uint64_t>>.....addr;
    >>.....uint32_t>>.....len;
    >>.....uint32_t>>....._flags;
    >>.....uint64_t>>.....user_data;

    >>.....union {
    >>.....>>.....struct {
    >>.....>>.....>>.....uint16_t>>.....buf_index;
    >>.....>>.....>>.....uint16_t>>.....personality;
    >>.....>>.....};
    >>.....>>.....uint64_t>>....._pad2[3];
    >>.....};
};

struct io_uring_cqe {
    >>.....uint64_t>>.....user_data;
    >>.....int32_t>>res;
    >>.....uint32_t>>.....flags;
};
```

Response: 16byte Completion Queue Entry (**cqe**)

```
struct io_uring_cqe {
    >>....._u64>>user_data;
    >>....._s32>>res;
    >>....._u32>>flags;
};
```



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 - Submission queue
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- A syscall, `io_uring_enter`, for sub.+compl.
- A second for queue setup (`io_uring_setup`)
- Resource registration (`io_uring_register`)

Command: 64byte Submission Queue Entry (**sqe**)

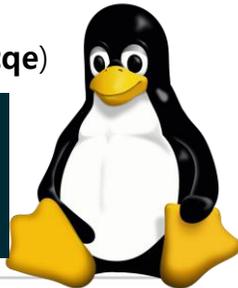
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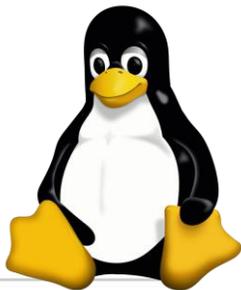


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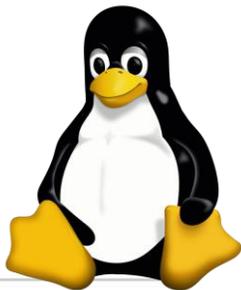
- It is **efficient*** on a single core one can get
 - 1.7M IOPS (polling) ~ 1.2M IOPS (interrupt driven)
 - The Linux aio interface was at ~ 608K IOPS (interrupt driven)
- It is quite **flexible**
 - Works with UNIX file abstraction
 - Not just when it encapsulates block devices
 - Growing command-set (opcodes)
- It is **adaptable**
 - Add a new opcode → implement handling of it in the **Kernel**

*Efficient IO with io_uring, https://kernel.dk/io_uring.pdf

Kernel Recipes 2019 - Faster IO through io_uring, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5T4Cjw46ys>



- Advanced Features
 - Register files (**RF**)
 - Fixed buffers (**FB**)
 - Polling IO (**IOP**)
 - SQ polling by Kernel Thread (**SQT**)



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Using io_uring

- Advanced Features
 - Register files (**RF**)
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- Efficiency revisited
 - Null Block instance w/o block-layer

4K Random Read (Interrupt)	Latency (nsec)	IOPS QD1	IOPS QD16
aio	1200	741 K	749 K
io_uring	926	922 K	927 K
io_uring +RF +FB	807	1.05 M	1.02 M

4K Random Read (SQT Polling)	Latency (nsec)	IOPS QD1	IOPS QD16
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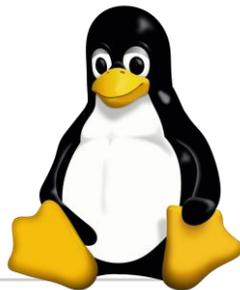


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 - Null Block instance w/o block-layer
- Efficiency vs Ease of Use
 - Opcode restrictions when using **FB**
 - Do **not** use **IOP** + **SQT**
 - Know that register files is required for **SQT**
 - Use buffer and file registration indexes instead of *iov and handles

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Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Using io_uring

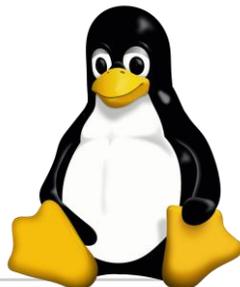
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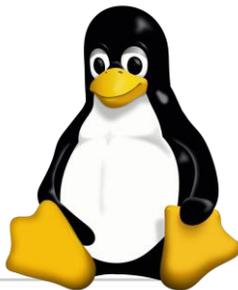
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- Efficiency vs Ease of Use
 - Opcode restrictions when using **FB**
 - Do **not** use **IOP** + **SQT**
 - Know that register files is required for **SQT**
 - Use buffer and file registration indexes instead of *iov and handles
 - **rtfm**, man pages, pdf, mailing-lists, github, and talks document it well
 - **liburing** makes it, if not easy, then *easier*



- **The oldest? Linux IO interface: IOCTL**
 - A kernel ↔ user space communication channel
- The interface is
 - **Not** efficient
 - Adaptable but **not** flexible
 - Never break user space!
 - **Control** oriented



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: Using Linux IOCTLs

- **The oldest? Linux IO interface: IOCTL**
 - A kernel ↔ user space communication channel
- The interface is
 - **Not** efficient
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 - Never break user space!
 - **Control** oriented
- However, the NVMe driver IOCTLs are
 - A transport mechanism for commands
 - Very **flexible** – pass commands without changing the Kernel
 - Rich **control**, but not *full* control, of the NVMe command / **sqe**
 - Can even be used for non-admin IO, however, **not** efficiently

```
Command: 80byte Submission + Completion
struct nvme_passthru_cmd64 {
    uint8_t      opcode;
    uint8_t      flags;
    uint16_t     rsvd1;
    uint32_t     nsid;
    uint32_t     cdw2;
    uint32_t     cdw3;
    uint64_t     metadata;
    uint64_t     addr;
    uint32_t     metadata_len;
    uint32_t     data_len;
    uint32_t     cdw10;
    uint32_t     cdw11;
    uint32_t     cdw12;
    uint32_t     cdw13;
    uint32_t     cdw14;
    uint32_t     cdw15;
    /* --- cacheline 1 boundary (64 bytes) --- */
    uint32_t     timeout_ms;
    uint32_t     rsvd2;
    uint64_t     result;

    /* size: 80, cachelines: 2, members: 19 */
    /* last cacheline: 16 bytes */
};
```



- **The convenient Linux IO interface: sysfs**
 - A kernel ↔ user space communication channel
 - File system semantics to retrieve system, device, and driver information
 - Great for retrieving device properties

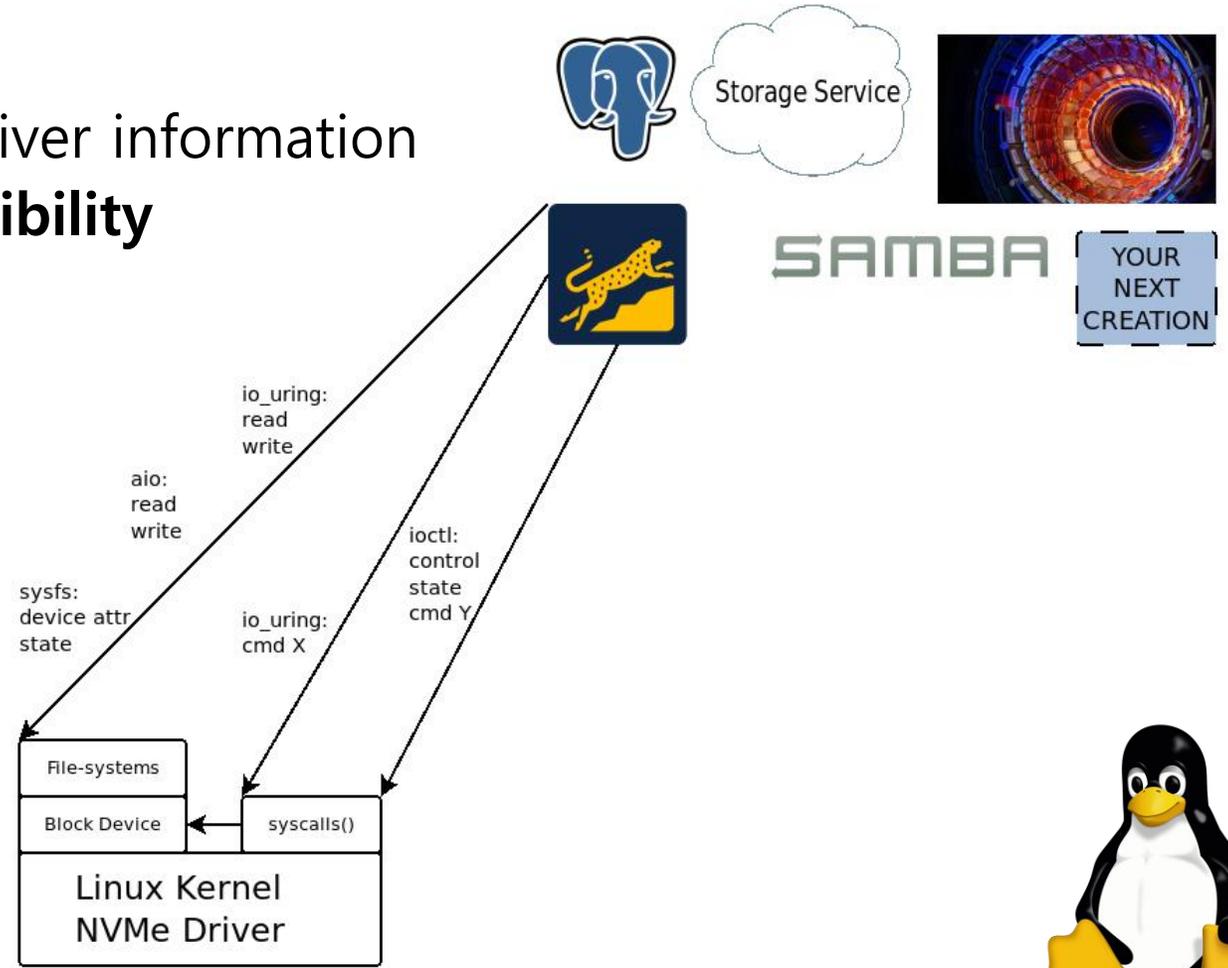
```
root@bullseye:/sys/block/nvme0n1# ls
alignment_offset  hidden      ro
bdi               holders    size
capability        inflight   slaves
dev              integrity  stat
device           mq         subsystem
discard_alignment nsid       trace
events           power     uevent
events_async     queue     wwid
events_poll_msecs range
ext_range        removable
root@bullseye:/sys/block/nvme0n1# cat size
28131328
root@bullseye:/sys/block/nvme0n1#
```



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: On Linux

- Everything you need encapsulated in the file abstraction

- io_uring / liburing for **efficiency**
- **sysfs** for convenient device and driver information
- NVMe IOCTLS for **control** and **flexibility**



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using Intel SPDK

- **The Storage Platform Development Kit**

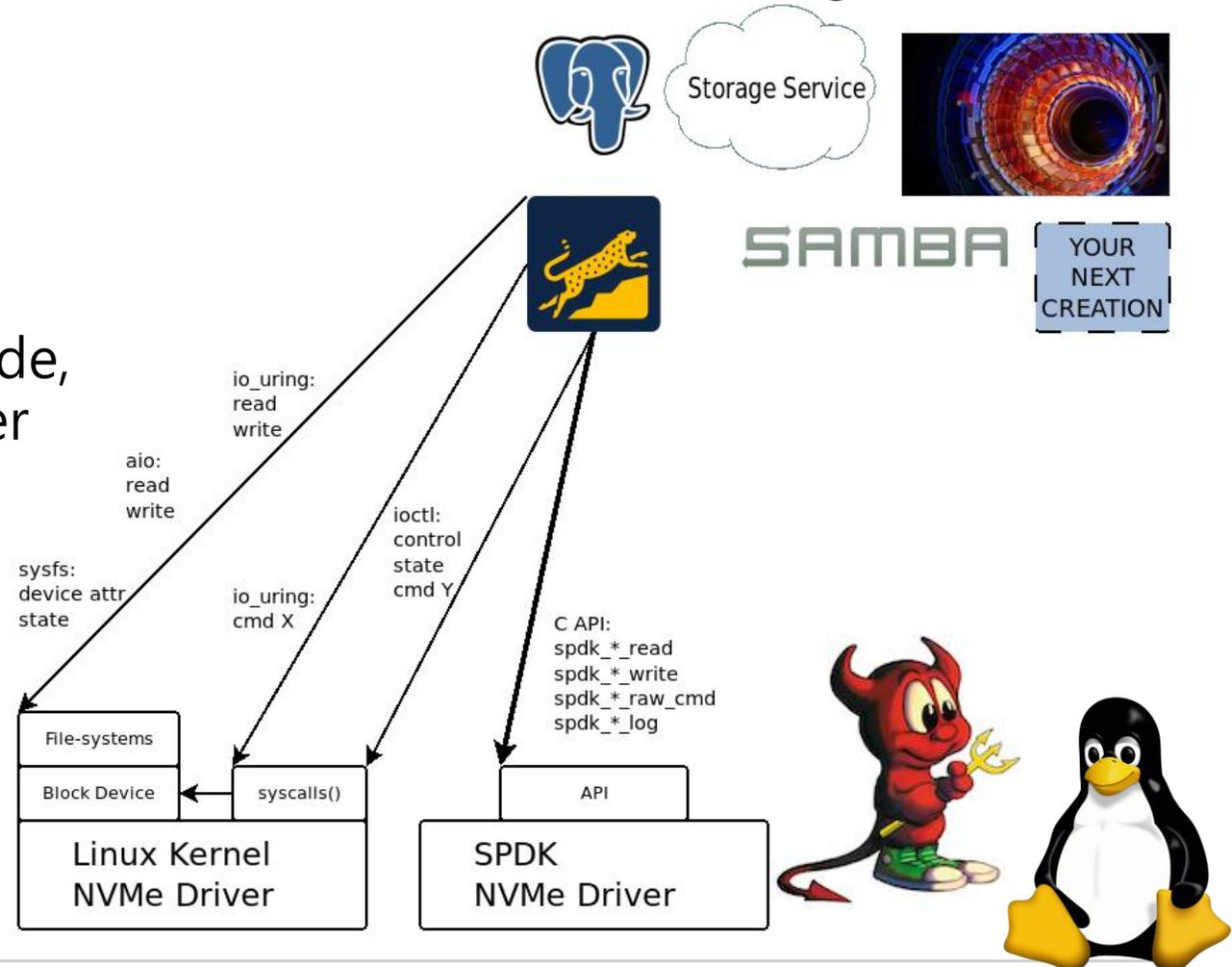
- Tools and libraries for high performance, scalable, user-mode storage applications

- It is **efficient***

- 10M IOPS from one thread
- Thanks to a user space, polled-mode, asynchronous, lockless NVMe driver
- **zero-copy** command payloads

- It is **flexible**

- Storage stack as an API
- It is extremely **adaptable**
 - Full **control** over SQE construction



*10.39M Storage I/O Per Second From One Thread, <https://spdk.io/news/2019/05/06/nvme/>

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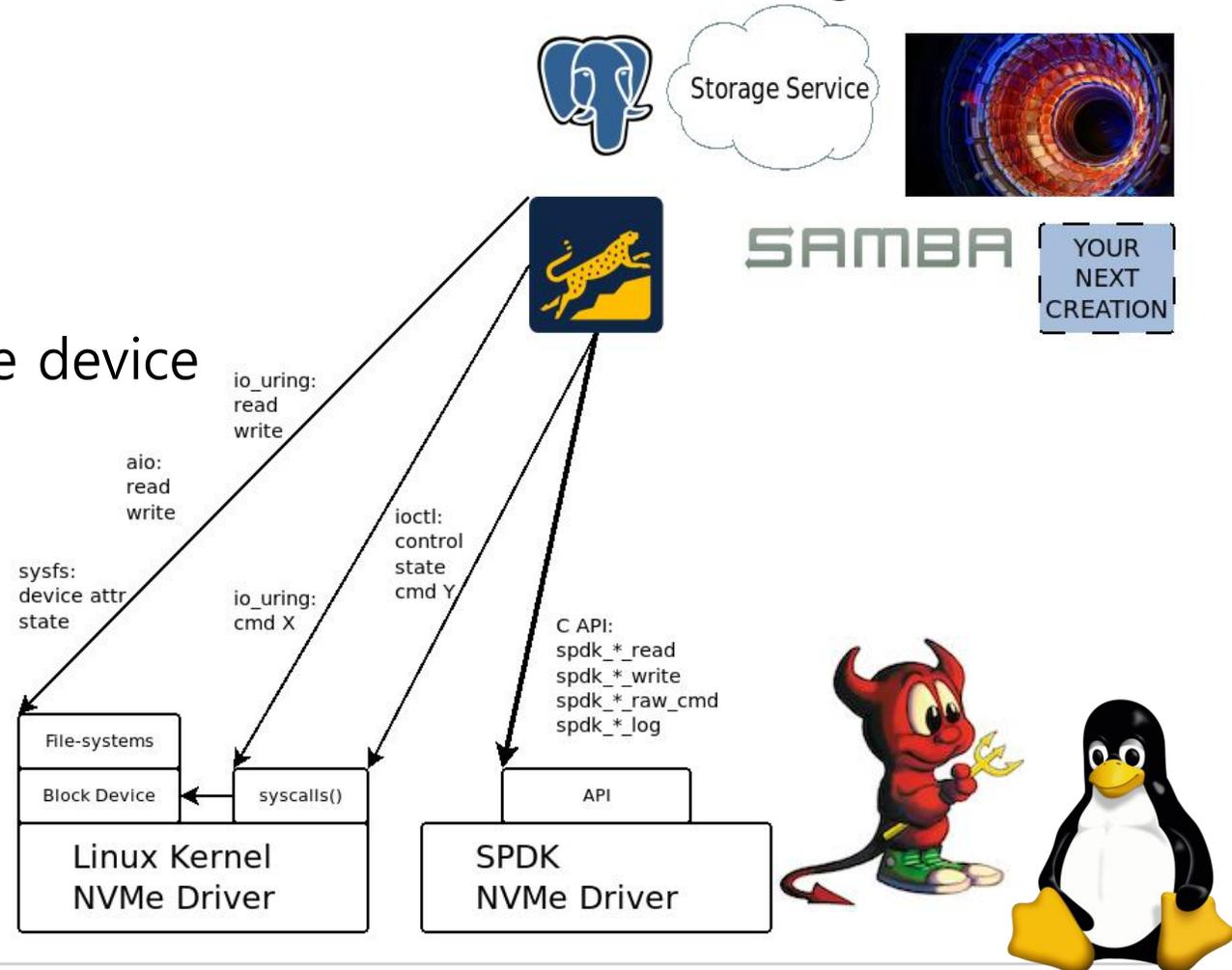
- Tools and libraries for high performance, scalable, user-mode storage applications

- It is **efficient*** revisited

- 4K Random Read at QD1
- On **physical** locally attached NVMe device

QD1: io_uring vs SPDK	IOPS	BW
io_uring +SQT +RF	117 K	479 MB/s
SPDK	150 K	587 MB/s

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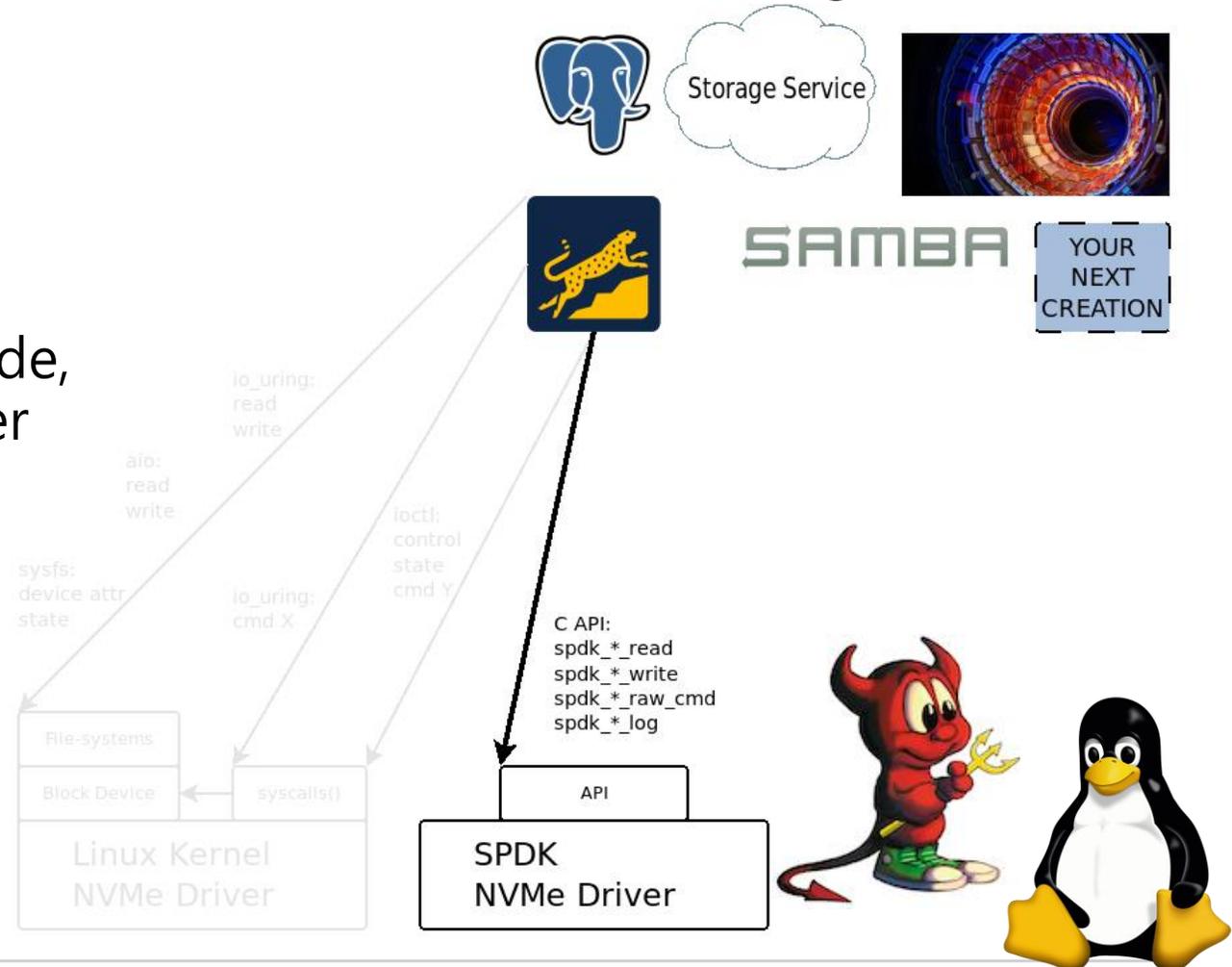
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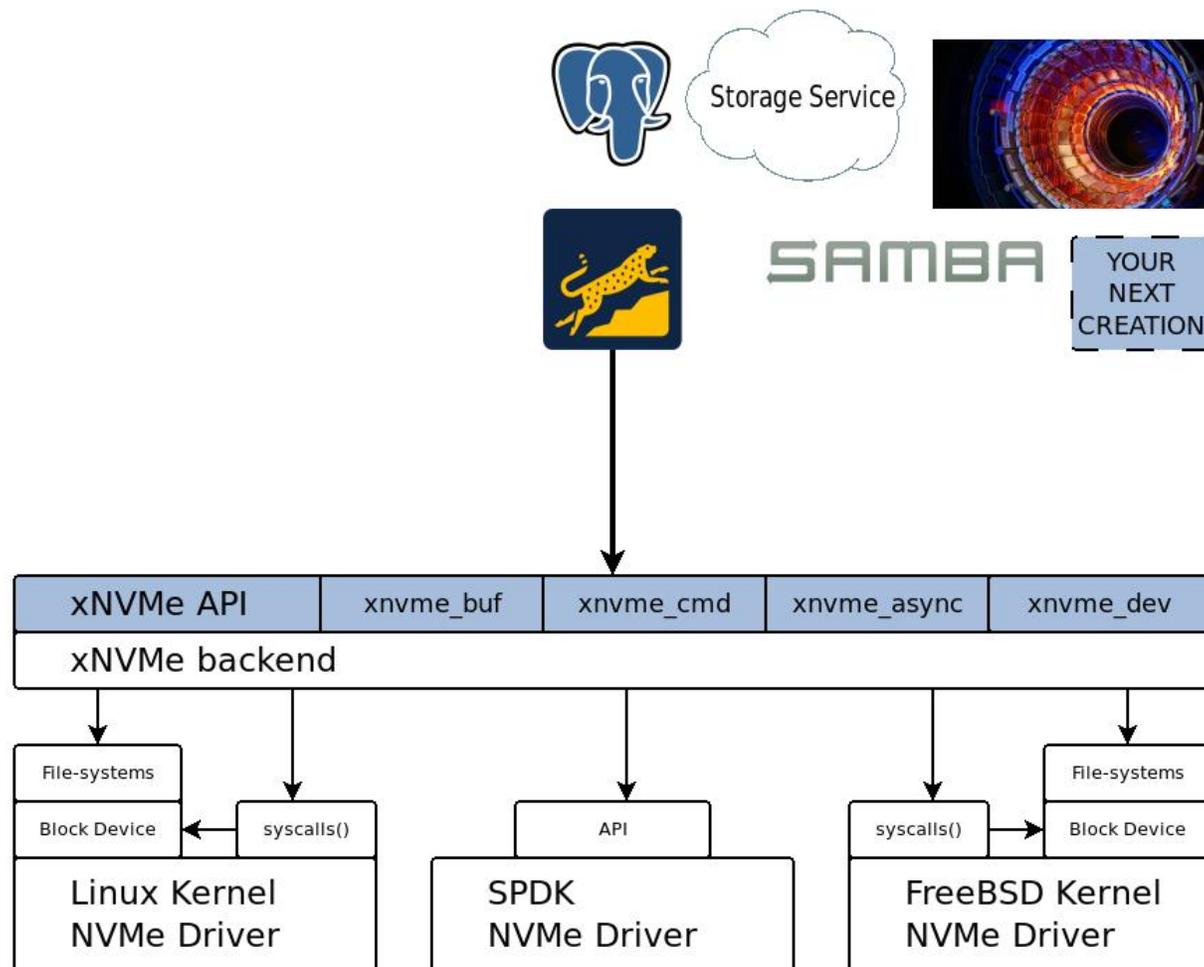
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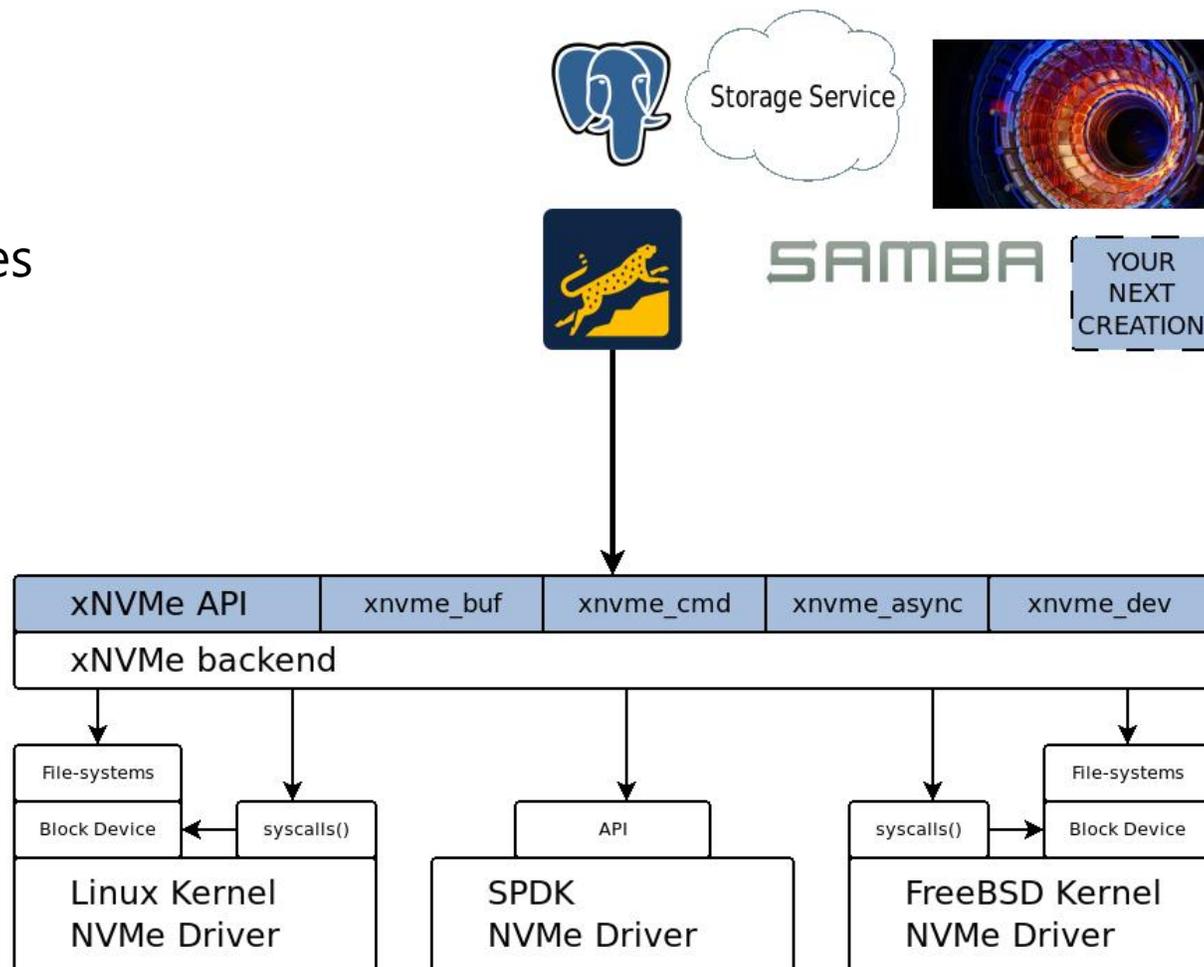
Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using xNVMe



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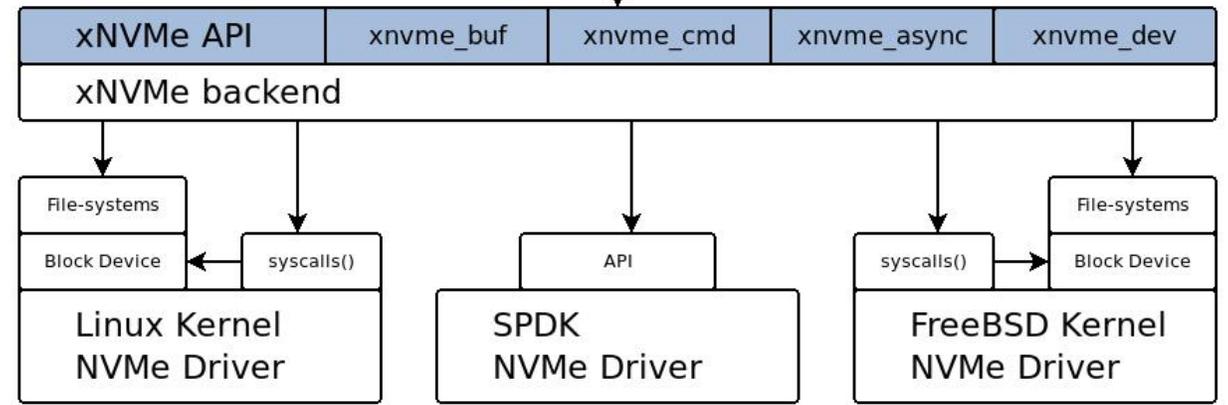
- A unified API **primarily** for **NVMe** devices



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using xNVMe



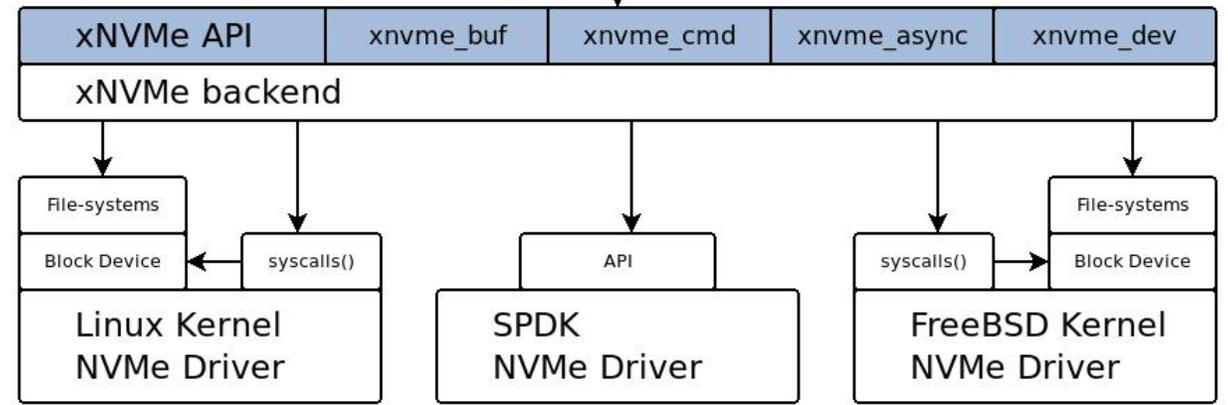
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 - A user space \leftrightarrow device communication channel



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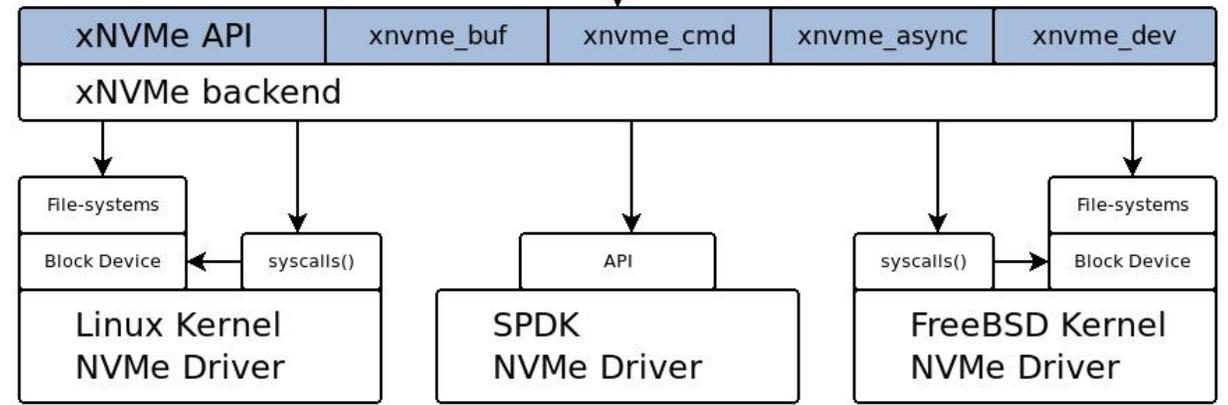
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 - Reaping the benefits of the lower layers
 - **Without** sacrificing efficiency!
 - ➔ High performance **and** high productivity



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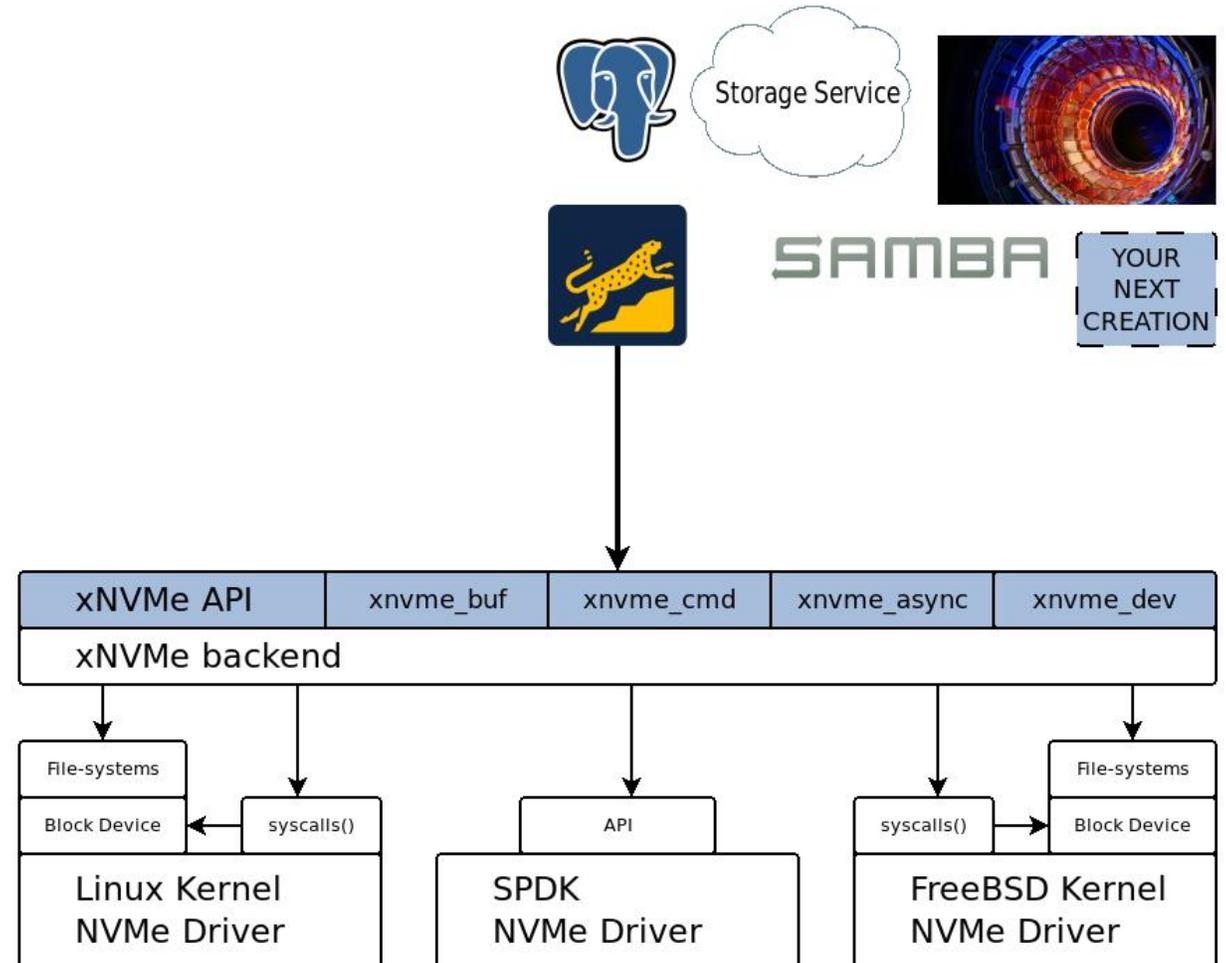


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 - **Without** sacrificing efficiency!
 - ➔ High performance **and** high productivity
- Tools and utilities
 - Including tools to build tools



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using the xNVMe API

- **xNVMe Base API**
 - Lowest level interface
- Device
 - Handles
 - Identifiers
 - Enumeration
 - Geometry
- Memory Management
 - Command payloads
 - Virtual memory
- Command Interface
 - Synchronous
 - Asynchronous
 - Requests and callbacks



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using the xNVMe API

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Two devices in the system

One is attached to the user space NVMe driver (**SPDK**)
The other is attached to the **Linux Kernel** NVMe Driver



```
root@bullseye:~# xnvme enum
# xnvme_enumerate()
xnvme_enumeration:
  entries:
  - {trgt: '0000:01:00.0', schm: 'pci', opts: '?nsid=1', uri: 'pci:0000:01:00.0?nsid=1'}
  - {trgt: '/dev/nvme1n1', schm: 'liou', opts: '', uri: 'liou:/dev/nvme1n1'}
root@bullseye:~#
```

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```
root@bullseye:~# xnvme info pci:0000:01:00.0?nsid=1
xnvme_dev:
  xnvme_ident:
    trgt: '0000:01:00.0'
    schm: 'pci'
    opts: '?nsid=1'
    uri: 'pci:0000:01:00.0?nsid=1'
  xnvme_cmd_opts:
    mask: '000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000001'
    iomd: 'SYNC'
    payload_data: 'DRV'
    payload_meta: 'DRV'
    ssw: 9
  xnvme_geo:
    type: XNVME_GEO_CONVENTIONAL
    npugrp: 1
    npunit: 1
    nzone: 1
    nsect: 28131328
    nbytes: 512
    nbytes_oob: 0
    tbytes: 14403239936
    mdts_nbytes: 131072
root@bullseye:~#
```



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```
#include <libxnvme.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    >>.....struct xnvme_dev *dev;
    >>.....dev = xnvme_dev_open("liou:/dev/nvme1n1");
    >>.....if (!dev) {
    >>.....>>.....return 1;
    >>.....}

    >>.....xnvme_dev_pr(dev, XNVME_PR_DEF);
    >>.....xnvme_dev_close(dev);

    >>.....return 0;
}
```

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```
void *  
xnvme_buf_alloc(const struct xnvme_dev *dev, size_t nbytes, uint64_t *phys);  
int  
xnvme_buf_vtophys(const struct xnvme_dev *dev, void *buf, uint64_t *phys);  
void  
xnvme_buf_free(const struct xnvme_dev *dev, void *buf);
```

When possible: the buffer-allocators will allocate physical / DMA transferable memory to achieve **zero-copy** payloads

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The virtual memory allocators will by default use libc but are mappable to other allocators such as TCMalloc

```
void *  
xnvme_buf_virt_alloc(size_t alignment, size_t nbytes);  
void  
xnvme_buf_virt_free(void *buf);
```

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- Virtual memory

- **Command Interface**

- Synchronous

- Asynchronous

- Context and callback

Command Passthrough

The user constructs the command

```
int  
xnvme_cmd_pass(struct xnvme_dev *dev, struct xnvme_spec_cmd *cmd, void *dbuf,  
»..... size_t dbuf_nbytes, void *mbuf, size_t mbuf_nbytes, int opts,  
»..... struct xnvme_req *req);
```

Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using the xNVMe API

- **xNVMe Base API**

- Lowest level interface

- Device

- **Handles**
- Identifiers
- Enumeration
- Geometry

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Command Passthrough

The user constructs the command

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xnvme_cmd_pass(struct xnvme_dev *dev, struct xnvme_spec_cmd *cmd, void *dbuf,
>>..... size_t dbuf_nbytes, void *mbuf, size_t mbuf_nbytes, int opts,
>>..... struct xnvme_req *req);
```

```
int
xnvme_cmd_read(struct xnvme_dev *dev, uint32_t nsid, uint64_t slba,
>>..... uint16_t nlb, void *dbuf, void *mbuf, int opts,
>>..... struct xnvme_req *req);
```

Command Encapsulation

The library constructs the command

Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using the xNVMe API

- **xNVMe Base API**

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```
err = xnvme_cmd_read(dev, nsid, slba, nlb, dbuf, mbuf, XNVME_CMD_SYNC, &req);  
if (err || xnvme_req_cpl_status(&req)) {  
>>.....xnvme_perr("xnvme_cmd_read()", err);  
>>.....xnvme_req_pr(&req, XNVME_PR_DEF);  
>>.....return err;  
}
```

- Memory Management

- **Command payloads**
- Virtual memory

- **Command Interface**

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Synchronous Command Execution

Set command-option **XNVME_CMD_SYNC**
Check **err** for submission status
Check **req** for completion status



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- **Asynchronous**
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```
err = xnvme_cmd_read(dev, nsid, slba, nlb, dbuf, mbuf, XNVME_CMD_ASYNC, &req);  
if (err) {  
>>.....xnvme_err_perr("xnvme_cmd_read()", err);  
>>.....return err;  
}
```

Asynchronous Command Execution

Set command-option **XNVME_CMD_ASYNC**
Check **err** for submission status
What about **completions**?

Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces using the xNVMe API

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- **Asynchronous**
 - **Context** and **callback**

Callback function; called upon command **completion**

```
typedef void (*xnvme_async_cb)(struct xnvme_req *req, void *opaque);  
  
int  
xnvme_async_poke(struct xnvme_dev *dev, struct xnvme_async_ctx *ctx,  
».....»..... uint32_t max);  
  
int  
xnvme_async_wait(struct xnvme_dev *dev, struct xnvme_async_ctx *ctx);
```

Wait, blocking, until there are no more commands outstanding on the given asynchronous context

Reap / process, at most **max**, completions, non-blocking

- **xNVMe Asynchronous API Example**

User-defined **callback** argument and callback **function**

```
struct cb_args {
>>.....uint32_t ecount;
};

static void
cb_pool(struct xnvme_req *req, void *cb_arg)
{
>>.....struct cb_args *cb_args = cb_arg;

>>.....if (xnvme_req_cpl_status(req)) {
>>.....>>.....xnvme_req_pr(req, XNVME_PR_DEF);
>>.....>>.....cb_args->ecount += 1;
>>.....}

>>.....SLIST_INSERT_HEAD(&req->pool->head, req, link);
}
```

- **xNVMe Asynchronous API Example**

User-defined **callback** argument and callback **function**

```
struct cb_args {
>>.....uint32_t ecount;
};

static void
cb_pool(struct xnvme_req *req, void *cb_arg)
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>>.....>>.....cb_args->ecount += 1;
>>.....}

>>.....SLIST_INSERT_HEAD(&req->pool->head, req, link);
}
```

Asynchronous **context** and **request-pool** initialization

```
err = xnvme_async_init(dev, &ctx, qd, 0);
if (err) {
>>.....xnvme_perr("xnvme_async_init()", err);
>>.....goto teardown;
}

err = xnvme_req_pool_alloc(&reqs, qd + 1);
if (err) {
>>.....xnvme_perr("xnvme_req_pool_alloc()", err);
>>.....goto teardown;
}

err = xnvme_req_pool_init(reqs, ctx, cb_pool, &cb_args);
if (err) {
>>.....xnvme_perr("xnvme_req_pool_init()", err);
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}
```

• xNVMe Asynchronous API Example

Writing a payload to device

```
for (uint64_t sect = 0; (sect < nsect) && !cb_args.ecount; ++sect) {
    .....struct xnvme_req *req = SLIST_FIRST(&reqs->head);

    .....SLIST_REMOVE_HEAD(&reqs->head, link);

submit:
    .....err = xnvme_cmd_write(dev, nsid, slba + sect, 0, payload, NULL,
    .....».....XNVME_CMD_ASYNC, req);
    .....switch (err) {
    .....case 0:
    .....».....goto next;

    .....case -EBUSY:
    .....case -EAGAIN:
    .....».....xnvme_async_poke(dev, ctx, 0);
    .....».....goto submit;

    .....default:
    .....».....xnvme_perr("exceptional error", err);
    .....».....goto done;
    .....}

next:
    .....payload += geo->nbytes;
}

done: xnvme_async_wait(dev, ctx);
```

User-defined **callback** argument and callback **function**

```
struct cb_args {
    .....uint32_t ecount;
};

static void
cb_pool(struct xnvme_req *req, void *cb_arg)
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Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: What does it cost?

*NOTE: System hardware, Linux Kernel, Software, NVMe Device Specs. and Null Block Device configuration in the last slide

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- Evaluating potential **efficiency*** cost of using **xNVMe**
 - Cost in terms of nanoseconds per command **aka** layer-overhead
 - Benchmark using fio **4K** Random Read at **QD1**
 - Compare the regular (**REGLR**) interface to **xNVMe**
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Comparing 🍏 to 🍏	Latency (nsec)
REGLR /io_uring +SQT +RF	8336
xNVMe /io_uring +SQT +RF	8373
Overhead	~36

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REGLR /SPDK	6471
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Overhead	~39

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➔ Overhead about 36-39 **nsec**

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Comparing 🥕 to 🥕	Latency (nsec)
REGLR /io_uring +SQT +RF	644
xNVMe /io_uring +SQT +RF	730
Overhead	86

→ Overhead about **86 nsec**

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 - Function wrapping and pointer indirection
 - Popping + pushing requests from pool
 - Callback invocation
 - Pseudo io_vec is filled and consumes space (io_uring)
 - Suboptimal request-struct layout

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Things an application is likely to require when doing more than synthetically re-submitting upon completion



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Things that need fixing

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Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: What does it cost?

- **It is free, as in, APACHE 2.0**
- **Current cost, about 40~90 nanoseconds per command**
 - About the same cost as a DRAM load
 - Cost less than **not** enabling `IORING_REGISTER_BUFFERS` (~100nsec)
 - Cost less than going through a PCIe switch (~150nsec)
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Re-target your application without changes	IOPS	MB/s
<code>./your_app pci:0000:01.00?nsid=1</code>	150 K	613
<code>./your_app /dev/nvme0n1</code>	116 K	456

- **What do you get?**

- An even *easier* API
 - High-level abstractions when you need them
 - Peel of the layers and get low-level **control** when you do not
- Your applications, tools, and libraries will run on Linux, FreeBSD, and SPDK



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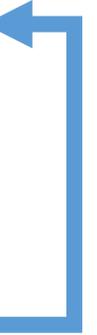
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- First release: <https://xnvmc.io> Q1 2020



THE NEXT CREATION STARTS HERE

Placing **memory** at the forefront of future innovation and creative IT life



Programming Emerging Storage Interfaces: test rig

- Slides, logs and numbers will be made available on: <https://xnvmc.io>

- **System Spec**

- Supermicro X11SSH-F
- Intel Xeon E3-1240 v6 @ 3.7Ghz
- 2x 16GB DDR4 2667 Mhz

- **Software**

- **Debian Linux 5.4.13-1 / fio 3.17 / liburing Feb. 14. 2020**
- **xNVMc 0.0.14 / SPDK v19.10.x / fio 3.3 (SPDK plugin)**

- **NVMe Device Specs.**

	Latency	IOPS	BW
Random Read	8 u sec	190 K	900 MB/sec
Random Write	30 u sec	35 K	150 MB/sec

- **Null Block Device Config (bio-based)**

```
queue_mode=0 irqmode=0 nr_devices=1 completion_nsec=10 home_node=0 gb=100 bs=512 submit_queues=1  
hw_queue_depth=64 use_per_node_hctx=0 no_sched=0 blocking=0 shared_tags=0 zoned=0 zone_size=256 zone_nr_conv=0
```

- **Null Block Device Config (mq)**

```
queue_mode=1 irqmode=0 nr_devices=1 completion_nsec=10 home_node=0 gb=100 bs=512 submit_queues=1  
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