A Look Inside FreeBSD with DTrace

Introduction and Tutorial Overview

George V. Neville-Neil Robert N. M. Watson June 8, 2016

Objectives

- Understand key kernel concepts
- Become comfortable with DTrace
 - Terminology
 - Basic Usage
 - Advanced Scripting
- Explore on your own

What is an operating system?

Whiteboarding exercise

What is an operating system?

[An OS is] low-level software that supports a computer's basic functions, such as scheduling tasks and controlling peripherals.

- Google hive mind

... are for general-purpose computers

- Servers, workstations, mobile devices
- Run 'applications' i.e., software unknown at design time
- Abstract the hardware, provide 'class libraries'
- E.g., Windows, Mac OS X, Android, iOS, Linux, FreeBSD, ...

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Userspace Local and remote shells, management tools, daemons

Run-time linker, system libraries, tracing facilities

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- - - - system-call interface - - - -

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---- system-call interface ----

Kernel System calls, hypercalls, remote procedure call (RPC)

Processes, filesystems, IPC, sockets,

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What does an operating system do?

- Key hardware-software surface (cf. compilers)
- System management: bootstrap, shutdown, watchdogs
- Low-level abstractions and services
 - Programming: processes, threads, IPC, program model
 - Resource sharing: scheduling, multiplexing, virtualisation
 - I/O: device drivers, local/distributed filesystems, network stack
 - Security: authentication, encryption, permissions, labels, audit
 - Local or remote access: console, window system, SSH
- Libraries: math, protocols, RPC, cryptography, UI, multimedia
- Other stuff: system log, debugging, profiling, tracing

Why study operating systems?

The OS plays a central role in **whole-system design** when building efficient, effective, and secure systems:

- Key interface between hardware and software
- Strong influence on whole-system performance
- Critical foundation for computer security
- Exciting programming techniques, algorithms, problems
 - Virtual memory; network stacks; filesystems; runtime linkers; ...
- Co-evolves with platforms, applications, users
- Multiple active research communities
- Reusable techniques for building complex systems
- Boatloads of fun (best text adventure ever)

FreeBSD

- Open Source
- Unix
- Posix
- Complete System
- 20 years of history

Overview

- This Morning
 - Introduction to DTrace
 - Processes and the Process Model
 - Scheduler
 - Locking
- This Afternoon
 - Networking
 - Filesystems

A Look Inside FreeBSD with DTrace

What is DTrace?

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What is DTrace?

- A dynamic tracing framework for software
- Low impact on overall system performance
- Does not incur costs when not in use

What can DTrace show me?

- When a function is being called
- A function's arguments
- The frequency of function calls
- A whole lot more...

A Simple Example

```
dtrace -n syscall:::
    dtrace: description 'syscall:::' matched 2148 probes
    CPU
             ID
                                    FUNCTION · NAME
4
         51079
                                     ioctl:return
5
         51078
                                      ioctl:entry
6
         51079
                                     ioctl:return
         51078
                                      ioctl:entry
8
                                     ioctl:return
      1 51079
9
      1 51632
                                sigprocmask: entry
10
      1 51633
                               sigprocmask: return
                                  sigaction: entry
11
         51784
```

Look at all system calls

How does DTrace Work?

- Various probes are added to the system
- The probes are activated using the dtrace program
- A small number of assembly instructions are modified at run-time to get the system to run in the probe

A more complex example

DTrace Glossary

Probe A way of specifying what to trace

Provider A DTrace defined module that provides information about something in the system

Module A software module, such as kernel

Function A function in a module, such as ether_input

Predicate A way of filtering DTrace probes

Action A set of D language statements carried out when a probe is matched

Providers

```
fbt Function Boundary Tracing (50413)
syscall System Calls (2148)
profile Timing source
  proc Process Operations
 sched Scheduler
     io I/O calls
     ip Internet Protocol
   udp UDP
   tcp TCP
    vfs Filesystem Routines
```

Dissecting a Probe

```
• syscall::write:entry
    Provider syscall
     Module None
   Function write
      Name entry
• fbt:kernel:ether_input:entry
    Provider fbt
     Module kernel
   Function ether_input
      Name entry
```

DTrace Requirements

- A kernel with DTrace support built in
 - Default on FreeBSD 10 or later
- The ability to sudo or be root
- The complete command syntax is covered in the dtrace manual page

Finding Probes

- Listing all the probes gets you 50000 to choose from
- Judicious use of providers, modules and grep
- e.g. dtrace -l -P syscall

Probe Arguments

- Use verbose (-v) mode to find probe arguments
- sudo dtrace -lv -f syscall:freebsd:read

```
ID PROVIDER MODULE 57177 syscall freebsd
```

```
Argument Types
args[0]: int
args[1]: void *
args[2]: size_t
```

The D Language

- A powerful subset of C
- Includes features specific to DTrace, such as aggregations
- Anything beyond some simple debugging usually required a D script

DTrace One-Liners

A set of useful single line scripts

```
# Trace file opens with process and filename:
dtrace -n 'syscall::open*:entry { printf("%s %s", execname, copyinstr(arg0)); }'

# Count system calls by program name:
dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @[execname] = count(); }'

# Count system calls by syscall:
dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @[probefunc] = count(); }'
```

Count System Calls

1	<pre>dtrace -n 'syscall:::entry { @[probefunc] = count(); }'</pre>	
2	dtrace: description 'syscall:::entry ' matched 1072 probes	
3	^C	
4	fstat	1
5	setitimer	1
6	getpid	2
7	read	2
8	sigreturn	2
9	write	3
10	getsockopt	4
11	select	6
12	sigaction	6
13	_umtx_op	7
14	sysctl	8
15	munmap	18
16	mmap	19
17	sigprocmask	23
18	clock_gettime	42
19	ioctl	45

Aggregations

- syscall:::entry { @[probefunc] = count(); }
- The @[probefunc] syntax
- Aggregates data during a run for later output
- Extremely powerful feature of D language

Quantization

```
# Summarize requested write() sizes by program name, as power-of-2 distributions (bytes):
1
    dtrace -n 'syscall::write:entry { @[execname] = quantize(arg2); }'
    dtrace: description 'syscall:: write: entry ' matched 2 probes
    ^C
5
      find
6
              value ---- Distribution ---- count
8
                  2
9
                  4
                                                            17
10
                    (@)
                                                            841
11
                 16 (a)a)a(a)a(a)a(a)a(a)a(a)a(a)
                                                            6940
12
                 13666
13
                 64
                                                            59
14
                128 |
                                                            0
```

Probing the stack

- Find out how we got where we are
- The stack() routine

Who called malloc()?

```
1 1 29371 malloc:entry
2 kernel 'cloneuio+0x2c
3 kernel 'vn_io_fault1+0x3b
4 kernel 'vn_io_fault+0x18b
5 kernel 'dofileread+0x95
6 kernel 'kern_readv+0x68
7 kernel 'sys_read+0x63
8 kernel 'amd64_syscall+0x351
9 kernel '0 xffffffff80d0aa6b
```

Read upwards from the bottom

DTrace Toolkit

- An open source set of tools written to use D scripts
- Currently specific to Solaris
- Exists as a FreeBSD port (thanks to Steve)
- Currently being updated

An example script: hotkernel

```
./hotkernel
    Sampling... Hit Ctrl-C to end.
3
    ^C
    FUNCTION
                                                               COUNT
                                                                       PCNT
    kernel 'lookup
                                                                       0.1%
    kernel 'unlock mtx
                                                                       0.1%
     kernel' vm page deactivate
                                                                       0.1%
8
9
     kernel 'amd64 syscall
                                                                       0.5%
                                                                       0.5%
10
     kernel 'pmap remove pages
11
     kernel 'hpet get timecount
                                                                  13
                                                                       0.7%
12
     kernel 'pagezero
                                                                  15 0.8%
13
     kernel '0 xffffffff80
                                                                  34 1.9%
     kernel'spinlock exit
                                                                 486 27.0%
14
15
     kernel 'acpi cpu c1
                                                                 965
                                                                      53.6%
```

Predicates

- Filtering probes based on relevant data
- Useful for excluding common conditions
- /arg0 != 0/ Ignore a normal return value

Tracking a Specific Process

- pid is used to track a Process ID
- Used in predicates
- /pid == 1234/

Running a Program Under DTrace

- DTrace is most often used on running systems
- DTrace can be attached at runtime to a program
 - dtrace -p pid ...
- Run a program completely under the control of DTrace
 - dtrace -c cmd ...

Going too far

- Overly broad probes slow down the system
 - Watching everything in the kernel
 - Registering a probe on a module

The Probe Effect

- Each probe point has a cost
- Every action has a reaction
- Any action code requires time to run
- Impacts system performance

DTrace Lab Exercises

- Bring up OSCourse Virtual Machine
- Find the current list of providers
- Count the probes available
- Trace all the system calls used by sshd
- Summarize requested write() sizes by program name
- Summarize return values from write() by program name
- Find and modify three (3) of the DTrace one-liners

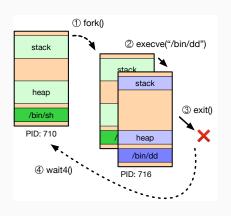
A Look Inside FreeBSD with DTrace

Processes

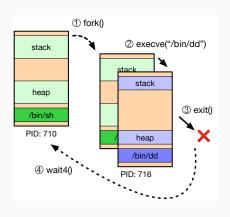
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The Process Model

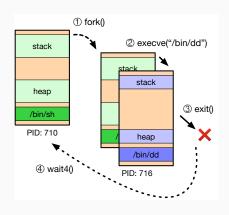
- The most basic container
- All of a program's resources
- The entity that is scheduled and executed



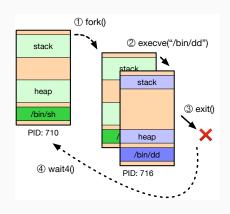
- fork()
 - Child inherits address space and other properties
 - Program prepares process for new binary (e.g., stdio)
 - Copy-on-Write (COW)



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 - Process can terminate self (or be terminated)



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 - Process can terminate self (or be terminated)
- wait4 (et al)

Tracing the Process Lifecycle

fork() Count forks per secondexecve() What is being executed?exit() What programs generate errors?

Who is forking?

Fork Discussion

- Why do we use a wild card?
 - syscall::*fork:entry

What's starting on the system?

- 1	./execsnoop		
2	UID	PID	PPID ARGS
3	0	4661	4398 -csh
4	0	4661	4398 ls
5	0	4662	4398 -csh
6	0	4662	4398 ls

A look inside execsnoop

Proc Provider

exec Program execution attempt
exec-failure Program start failed
exec-success Program successfully started
exit Program terminated
signal-send Send a signal
signal-clear Cleared a signal
signal-discard Signal ignored

Process Thrashing

- Process creation is expensive
- Programs that start and fail cause the system to thrash

Tracking Processes

- newproc.d track new processes
- \bullet pidspersec.d processes created per second

Process Termination

- All processes exit
- Return an error status
- May exit due to a fault

Programs that exit with errors

```
1 \quad dtrace \ -n \ 'syscall::exit:entry \ /arg0 \ != \ 0/\{ \ printf("\%s \ \%d\ n" \ , \ execname \ , \ arg0); \ \} \ '
```

Signals

- Early form of inter-process communication
- Modeled on hardware interrupts
- Processes can send and receive signals
- Signals can be caught
- Uncaught signals often result in program termination
- Kill signal (9) cannot be avoided

Tracking Signals

 $\bullet \ \ \texttt{kill.d}$ displays signals sent and received

Process Lab Exercises

- What happens for each signal sent to yes
- Extend newproc script to show program arguments
- Write a script to show the entire process life cycle from creation to exit

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The Scheduler

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The Scheduler

- Decides which thread gets to run
- The thread is the scheduable entity
- Chooses a processor/core
- Can be overridden by cpuset

Process States

NEW Being created

RUNNABLE Can run

SLEEPING Awaiting some event

STOPPED Debugging

ZOMBIE Process of dying

Scheduling Classes

ITHD interrupt thread

REALTIME real-time user

KERN kernel threads

TIMESHARE normal user programs

IDLE run when nothing else does

Scheduler Framework

- Schedulers have kernel API
- SCHED_4BSD and SCHED_ULE
- High level scheduler picks the CPU via the runq
- Low level scheduler picks the thread to run
- sched_pickcpu selects the CPU
- mi_switch Entry to a forced context switch
- sched_switch scheduler API

Sched Provider

on-cpu Thread moves on core
off-cpu Thread moves off core
remain-cpu Thread remains on core
change-pri Priority changed
fbt:kernel:cpu_idle:entry Thread went idle

Dummy Probes (Do Not Use)

- Probes purely for D script compatibility
- These never fire
- cpucaps-sleep
- cpucaps-wakeup
- schedctl-nopreempt
- schedctl-preempt
- schedctl-yield

Idle vs. Running

• cpudists

Who's sleeping?

Idle vs. Active

```
sudo ./cpudist
    Ctrl-C
3
     KERNEL
      value ---- Distribution ---- count
      256
                                            0
6
      512
                                            3
     1024 | @@@@@@@@@
                                            58
8
     93
9
     4096 | @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
                                            120
10
    8192 (@@
                                            17
    16384
11
12
    32768 |@
13
    65536
    131072
14
```

A look inside cpudist

Changing Priorities

A Multi-core World

- All large systems are multi-core
- Scheduling on multi-core is difficult
- Some systems resort to static allocation

Are threads migrating?

• Watching threads with cpuwalk.d

Context Switching

- Processes all believe they own the computer
- Context switching maintains this fiction
- Requires saving and restoring state
- Common measure of operating system performance
- cswstat.d measures overall context switching

A look inside cswstat.d

Scheduler Lab Exercises

- Write a one-liner to show processes waking up
- Extend wake up one-liner to include stack tracing
- Extend priority one-liner to include stack tracing
- Add periodic output to cpuwalk.d
- Track context switching for a single process

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Extending DTrace

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Death to printf

- Over 10,000 calls to device_printf()
- 75 Separate version of DEBUG macro
- WITNESS for lock ordering
- LOCKSTAT locking statistics
- KTR for Kernel Trace
- Enabled at compile time

Statically Defined Tracepoints

- Can appear anywhere in code
 - Not just at entry or return
- Useful for replacing printf() and logging and DEBUG
- USDT VS. SDT

The Extension Process

Provider Add or extend?

Declare tracepoints in a header

Define tracepoints in compiled code

Translate the arguments and structures

Arguments and Types

Debugger Syntax Translators

Translators

- Rationalize structures across platforms
- Give convenient names for complex data types
- Do not have a zero cost

Stability

What makes a provider or probe stable or unstable?

TCP Stable

UDP Stable

IP Stable

mbuf Unstable

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Kernel SDTs

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Converting Logging Code

- Most code littered with printf
- Many different DEBUG options
- Most can be converted

TCPDEBUG Case Study

- TCBDEBUG added in the original BSD releases
- Rarely enabled kernel option that shows:
 - direction
 - state
 - sequence space
 - rcv_nxt, rcv_wnd, rcv_up
 - snd_una, snd_nxt, snx_max
 - snd_wl1, snd_wl2, snd_wnd

TCPDEBUG Before

- 127 lines of code
- 14 calls to printf
- Statically defined ring buffer of 100 entries
- Static log format

TCPDEBUG After

- Four (4) new tracepoints
 - debug-input
 - · debug-output
 - debug-user
 - debug-drop
- Access to TCP and socket structures
- Flexible log format

Convenient Macros

- SDT_PROVIDER_DECLARE Declare a provider in an include file
- SDT_PROVIDER_DEFINE Instantiate a provider in C code
- SDT_PROBE_DECLARE Declare a probe in a n include file
- SDT_PROBE_DEFINEN Define a probe of X arguments (0-6)
- SDT_PROBE_DEFINEN_XLATE Define a probe of N arguments with translation
- Only available for kernel code

TCP Debug Desclarations

```
1 SDT_PROBE_DECLARE(tcp, , , debug_input);
2 SDT_PROBE_DECLARE(tcp, , , debug_output);
3 SDT_PROBE_DECLARE(tcp, , , debug_user);
4 SDT_PROBE_DECLARE(tcp, , , debug_drop);
```

TCP Debug Call Sites

```
#ifdef TCPDEBUG
if (tp == NULL || (tp->t_inpcb->inp_socket->so_options & SO_DEBUG))

tcp_trace(TA_DROP, ostate, tp, (void *)tcp_saveipgen,

tcp_savetcp, 0);

#endif

TCP PROBE3(debug input, tp, th, mtod(m, const char *));
```

TCP Debug Translators

```
SDT PROBE DEFINE3 XLATE(tcp. . . debug input.
        "struct tcpcb *", "tcpsinfo t *",
 3
        "struct tcphdr *", "tcpinfo t *",
        "uint8 t *", "ipinfo t *");
 5
 6
    SDT PROBE DEFINE3 XLATE(tcp., , debug output,
        "struct tcpcb *", "tcpsinfo t *",
        "struct tcphdr *", "tcpinfo t *",
 8
9
        "uint8 t *". "ipinfo t *"):
10
11
    SDT PROBE DEFINE2 XLATE(tcp, , , debug user,
12
        "struct tcpcb *", "tcpsinfo t *",
13
        "int", "int"):
14
15
    SDT PROBE DEFINE3 XLATE(tcp, , , debug drop,
        "struct tcpcb *", "tcpsinfo t *",
16
17
        "struct tcphdr *", "tcpinfo t *",
18
        "uint8 t *". "ipinfo t *"):
```

TCP Debug Example Script

```
tcp:kernel::debug-input
2
    /args[0]->tcps debug/
3
            seg = args[1]->tcp seg;
5
            ack = args[1]->tcp ack;
6
            len = args[2]->ip plength - sizeof(struct tcphdr);
             flags = args[1]->tcp flags;
8
9
             printf("%p %s: input [%xu..%xu]", arg0,
                    tcp state string[args[0]->tcps state], seq, seq + len);
10
11
12
             printf("@%x, urp=%x", ack, args[1]->tcp urgent);
```

TCP DEbug Example Script Part 2

```
printf("%s", flags != 0 ? "<" : "");
             printf("%s", flags & TH SYN ? "SYN," :"");
 3
             printf("%s", flags & TH ACK ? "ACK," :"");
             printf("%s", flags & TH FIN ? "FIN," :"");
 5
             printf("%s", flags & TH RST ? "RST," :"");
 6
             printf("%s", flags & TH PUSH ? "PUSH," :""):
7
             printf("%s", flags & TH URG ? "URG," :""):
8
             printf("%s", flags & TH ECE ? "ECE," :"");
9
             printf("%s", flags & TH CWR ? "CWR" : "");
10
             printf("%s", flags != 0 ? ">" : ""):
11
12
             printf("\n"):
13
             printf("\trcv (nxt.wnd.up) (%x.%x.%x) snd (una.nxt.max) (%x.%x.%x)\n".
14
                    args[0]->tcps rnxt, args[0]->tcps_rwnd, args[0]->tcps_rup,
15
                    args[0]->tcps suna, args[0]->tcps snxt, args[0]->tcps smax);
             printf("\tsnd (wl1, wl2, wnd) (%x, %x, %x)\n",
16
17
                    args[0]->tcps swl1, args[0]->tcps swl2, args[0]->tcps swnd);
```

How Much Work is That?

- 200 line code change
- 167 lines of example code
- A few hours to code
- A day or two to test
- Now we have always on TCP debugging

Lab Exercise: Adding Kernel Tracepoints

Networking and FreeBSD

- Everyone's TCP/IP Stack
- IPv4, IPv6, UDP, TCP, SCTP
- Various drivers
- Multiple firewalls

The User Program View

- User programs use sockets
- Network programs follow UNIX model
- Flexible interfaces for different protocols

Sockets

- Main programmer interface to networking
- Generic API
- Attempts to support read/write semantics

Looking Directly at Sockets

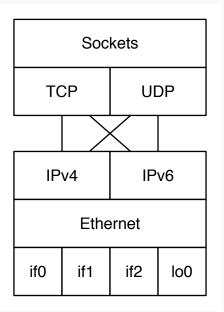
- # Count sockets by family
- # Count sockets by type
- # Count sockets by protocol

Network Lab (Sockets Exercises)

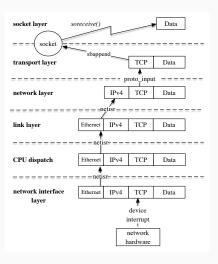
- Count socket calls by domain, type and protocol
- Show programs accepting connections
- Show programs initiating connections
- Write a D script to trace a single socket with the test program

Network Stack

Network Stack Overview



Inbound Layer Transitions



UDP

- Simplest transport protocol
- No states to maintain
- Data is sent immediately
- Supports multicast
- Only probes are send and receive

UDP Send and Receive

• udptrack

TCP

- Transmission Control Protocol
- Stream based
- In order delivery
- Maintains the illusion of a byte stream

TCP Connections

• tcpconn

TCP State Machine

• tcpstate

Tracking More of TCP

 \bullet tcptrack

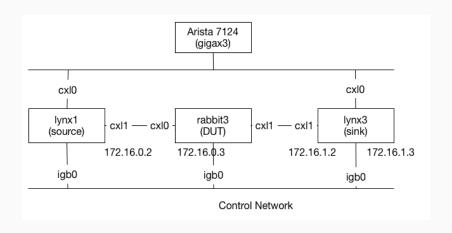
Network Protocol Lab Exercises

- Add IP source and destination information to tcpstate
- Add support for send and receive calls to tcptrack
- Show the congestion window for a single connection over time

Packet Forwarding

- System as a router, switch or firewall
- Network Layer Packets only

A Worked Example



Forward vs. Fast Forward

- What difference does this make?
 - net.inet.ip.fastforward
- Where do we look?
- What can be known?

Normal vs. Fast

value Distribution		cou
512	0	
1024 @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@ 1414505		
2048 @	3	547
4096	4	81
8192	0	
value Distribution		CO
512	0	
1024 @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@ 1721837		
2048 @	4	128
4096	4	90
8192	0	

108

Network Lab (Protocols)

- Show inbound connections to sshd
- What routines are called when a ping packet arrives?
- What routines are called before tcp_output()?

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Network Memory (mbufs)

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What is an mbuf?

- Memory for network data
- · Contains meta-data
- Compact and flexible
- Clusters vs. mbufs

mbuf structures

mbuf lifecycle

- Allocation
- Adjustment
- References
- Recycling

mbuf API

- m_init Initialize an mbuf
- m_get Allocate an mbuf
- m_gethdr Allocate a packet header mbuf
- m_getcl Allocate an mbuf with a cluster
- m_free Free a single mbuf
- m_freem Free a chain of mbufs

mbuf tracepoints

```
• sdt:::m-init
• sdt:::m-gethdr
• sdt:::m-get
• sdt:::m-getcl
• sdt:::m-clget
• sdt:::m-cljget
• sdt:::m-cljset
• sdt:::m-free
• sdt:::m-freem
```

mbuf translator

mbuf one liners

- Where are clusters allocated?
- sdt:::m-getcl { @[stack()] = count();}
- Where do we wait?
- m-getcl/arg0 == 2/{@[stack()] = count();}
- Where do we not wait?
- m-getcl/arg0 == 1/{ @[stack()] = count(); }

Network Lab (mbufs)

- Write an mbuf one liner to track mbuf frees.
- Write a short script that tracks m_get vs. m_free

File Systems Overview

naming Translating human names to usable objectsstorage Store and retrieve blocks of data

Naming

- Translate a human name to something
- namei is the main interface
- All names reside in the name cache

Name Lookup

What names are being looked up?

```
        1
        dtrace -n 'vfs:namei:lookup:entry { printf("%s", stringof(arg1));}'

        2
        CPU ID FUNCTION:NAME

        3
        2
        27847 lookup:entry /bin/ls

        4
        2
        27847 lookup:entry /etc

        5
        2
        27847 lookup:entry /etc

        6
        2
        27847 lookup:entry /etc/libmap.conf

        7
        2
        27847 lookup:entry /etc/libmap.conf
```

Name Cache

- Speeds up searching
- Maintains positive and negative results
- Invalidation on changes in directories

Who is missing the cache?

```
1 \quad dtrace \ -n \ 'vfs: namecache: lookup: miss \ \{ \ printf("\%s", \ stringof(arg1)); \} \ '
```

Name Cache Module

enter Add a positive entry **enter negative** Add a negative entry **lookup:hit** Name found in positive cache **lookup:hit-negative** Name found in negative cache lookup:miss Name not found in cache **purge** Remove positive entry **purge negative** Remove negative entry **zap** Remove positive entry with or without vnode **zap negative** Remove negative entry with or without vnode

Adding negative entries

```
1 \qquad dtrace \ -n \ 'vfs: namecache: enter\_negative: \ \{ \ printf("\%s" \, , \ stringof(arg1)); \ \}'
```

Name Caching Lab Exercises

- Create a one-liner to count zaps vs. purges
- Write a script to track all namecaching statistics

VNODE Operations

- After a path or name is looked up
- Do something with a vnode
- open, close, read, write

VFS Lab Exercises

- Compare VFS reads with the read system call
- Compare VFS writes with the write system call
- Track all VOP operations and count their frequency