



CEPHALOCON APAC 2018

THE FUTURE OF STORAGE

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Email Storage

with

Ceph

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TelekomMail platform

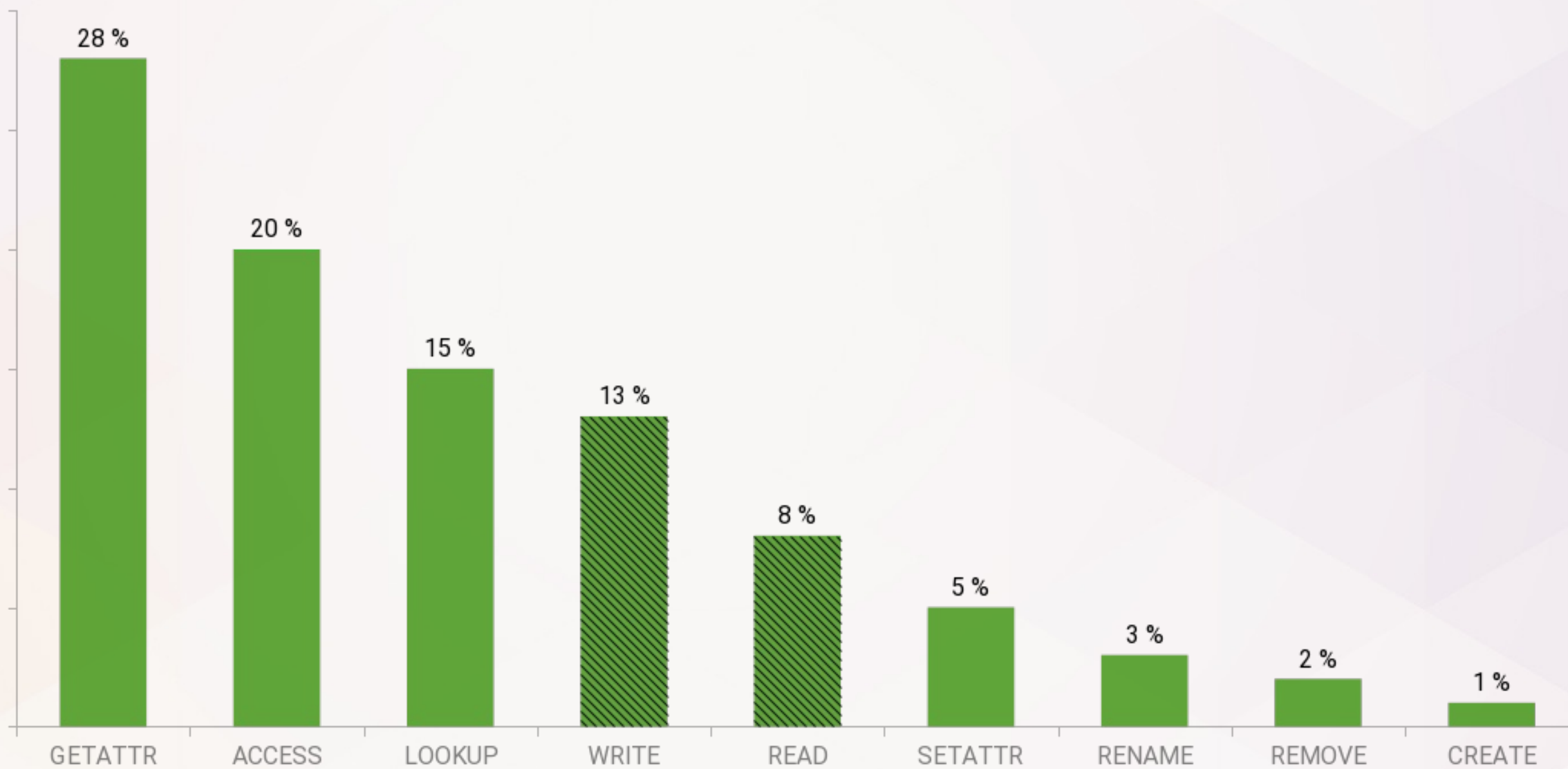


TelekomMail

- DT's mail platform for customers
- dovecot
- Network-Attached Storage (NAS)
- NFS (sharded)
- ~39 million accounts
- ~1.3 petabyte net storage
 - ~6.7 billion emails
 - ~1.2 billion index/cache/metadata files
 - ~42% usable raw space

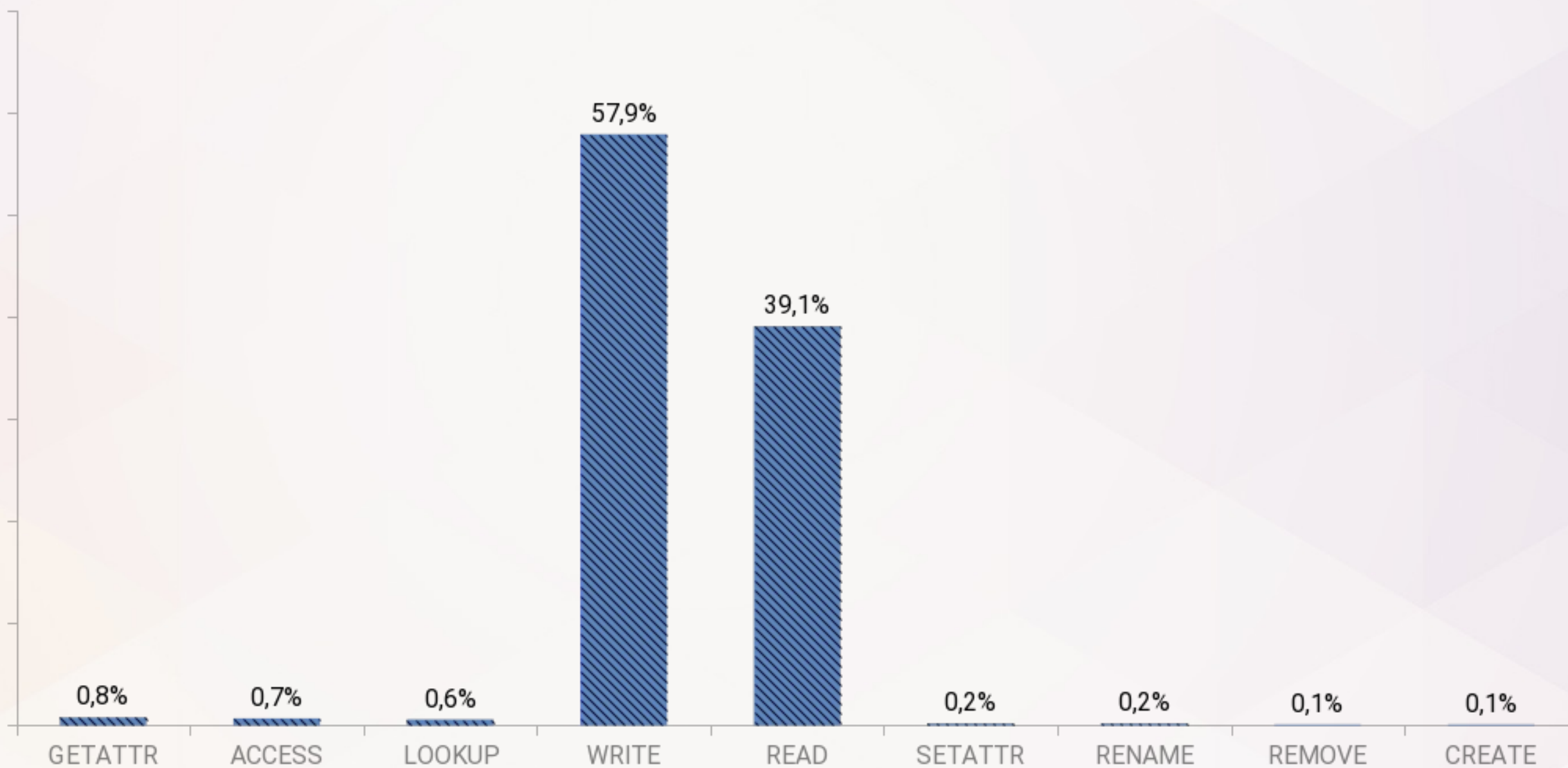


NFS Operations



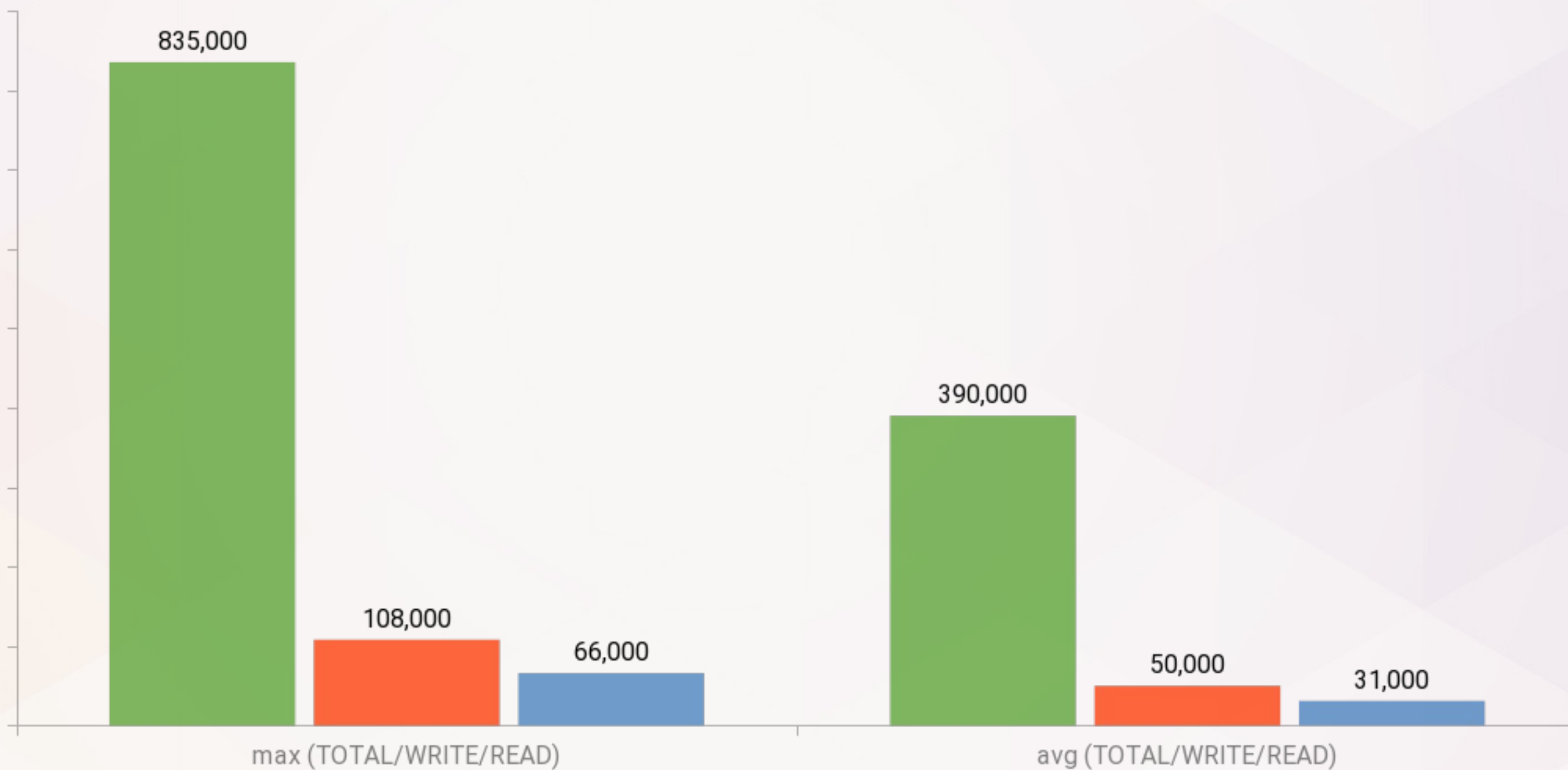


NFS Traffic

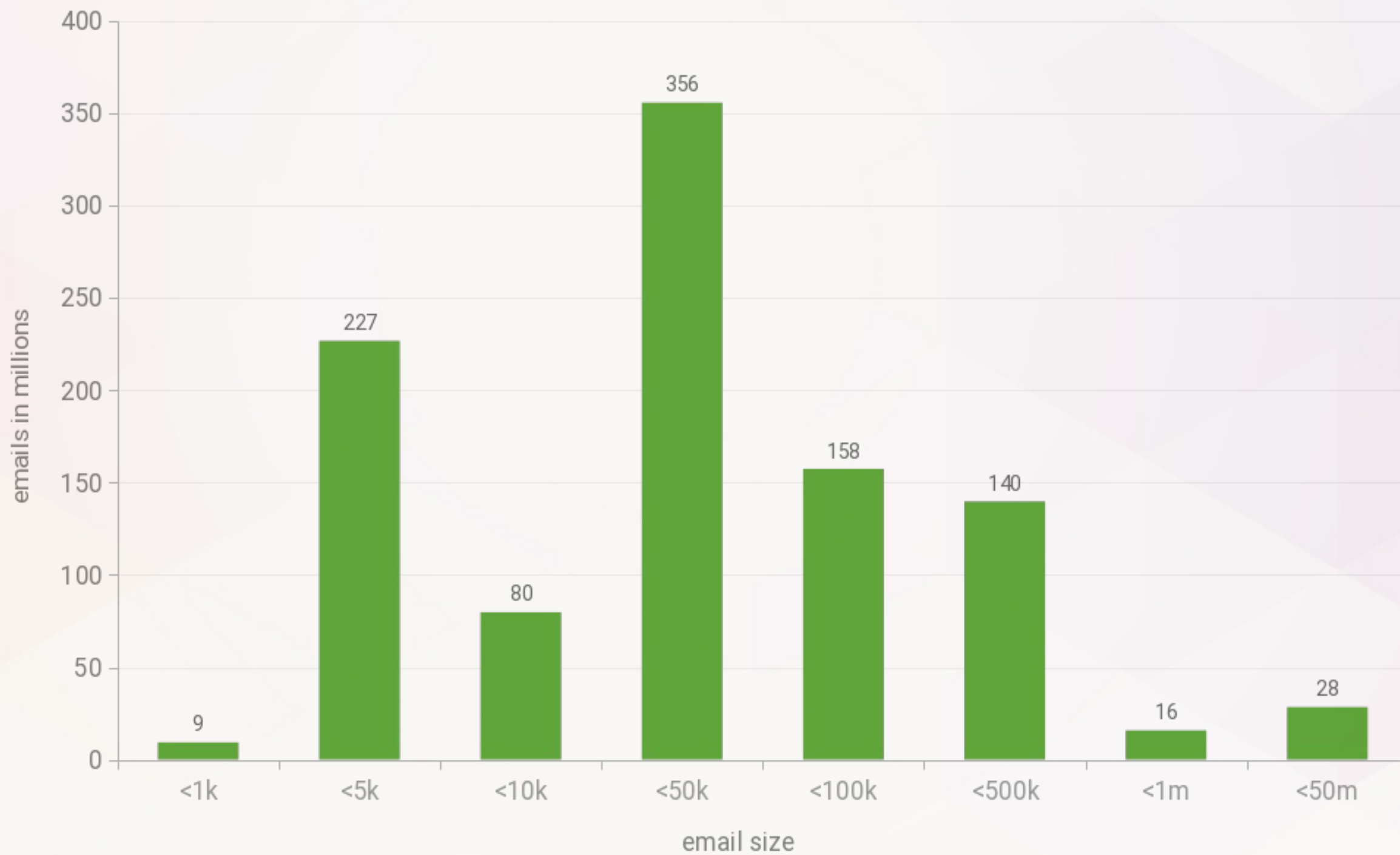




NFS relevant IOs



Email Distribution





How are emails stored?

Emails are written once, read many (WORM)

mailbox, maildir

Usage depends on:

- protocol (IMAP vs POP3)
- user frontend (mailer vs webmailer)

usually separated metadata, caches and indexes

- lost of metadata/indexes is critical

without attachments easy to compress

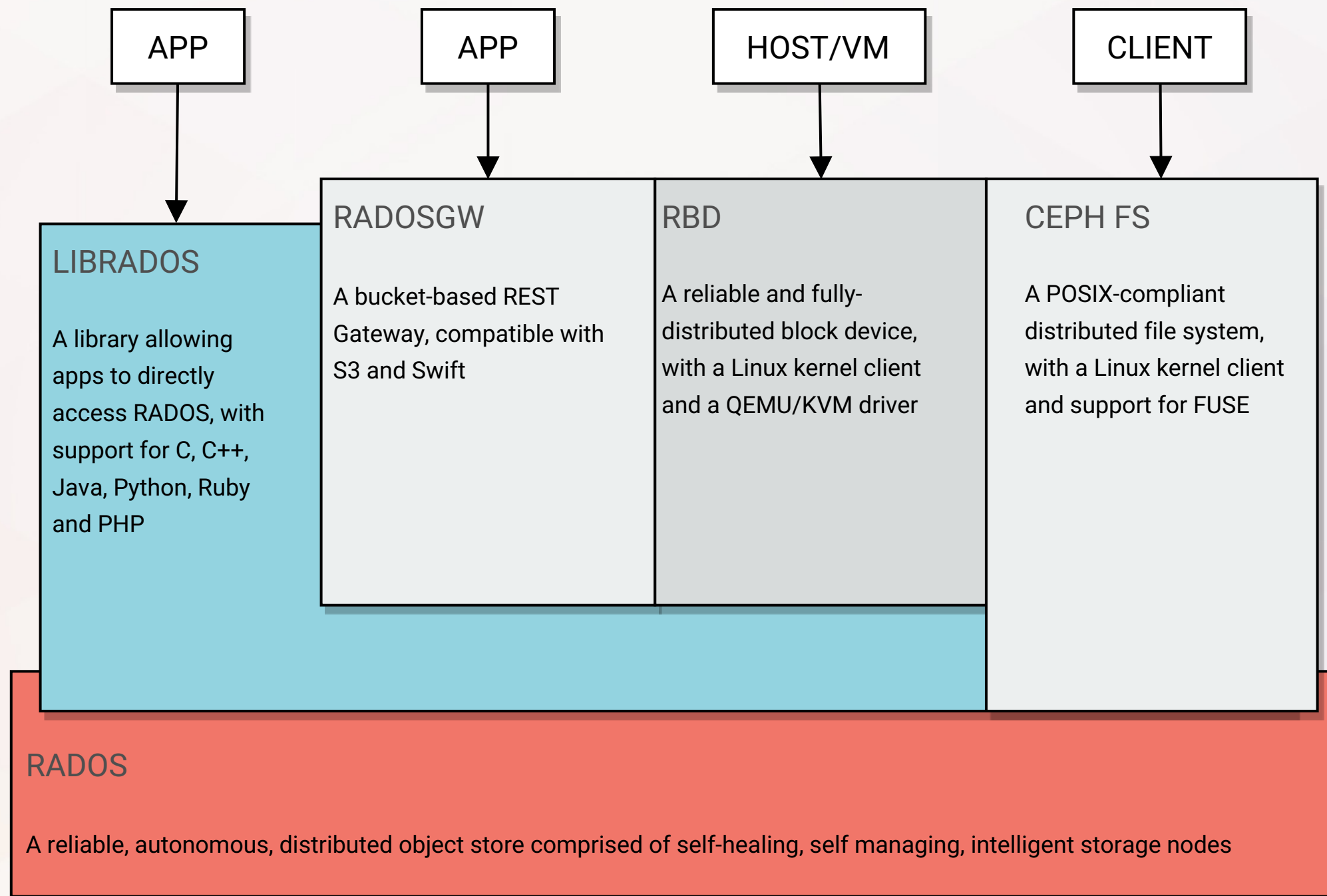


Motivation

- faster and automatic self healing
- less IO overhead
- prevent vendor lock-in
- commodity hardware
- open source where feasible
- reduce Total Cost of Ownership



Ceph





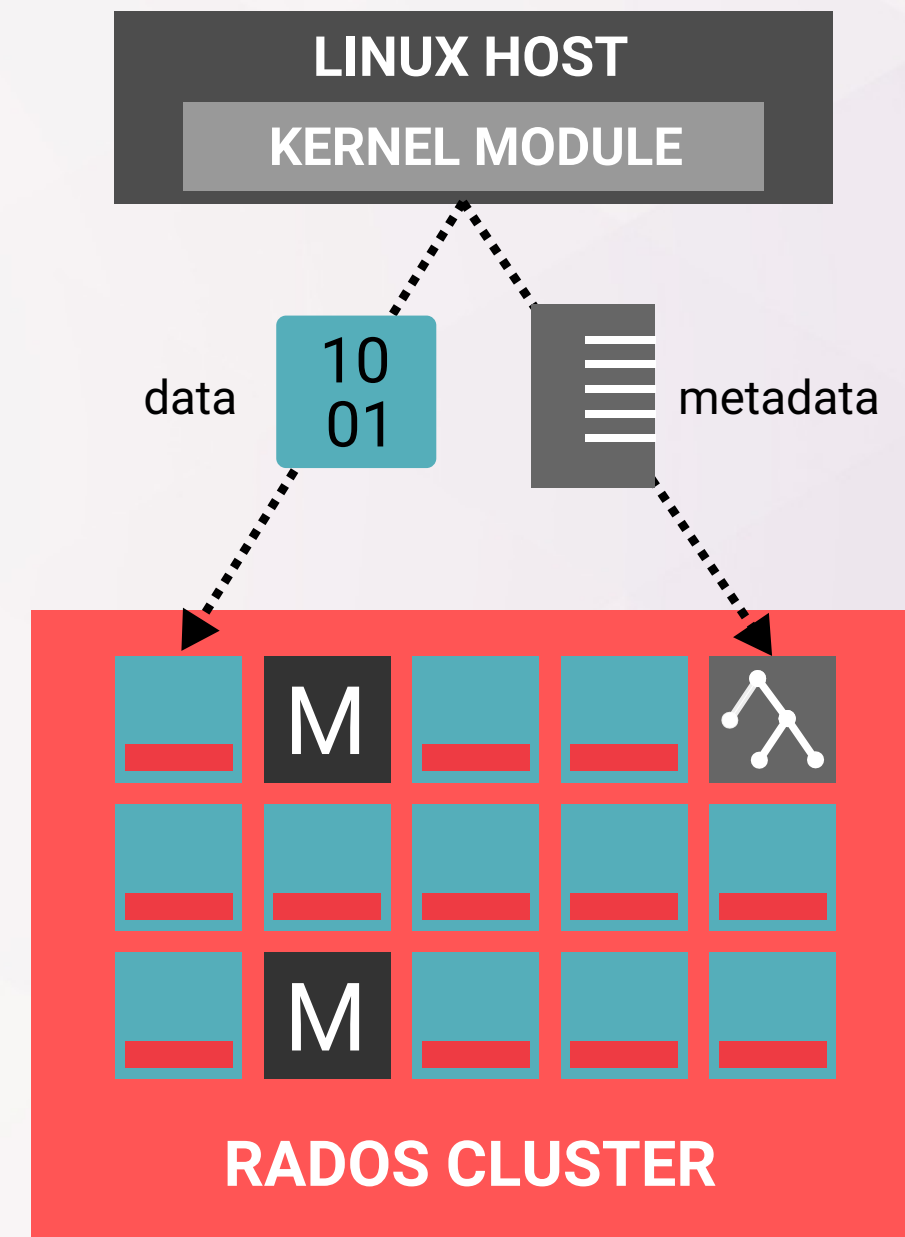
Where to store in Ceph?

CephFS

- same issues as NFS
- mail storage on POSIX layer adds complexity
- no option for emails
- usable for metadata/caches/indexes

Security

- requires direct access to storage network
- only for dedicated platform





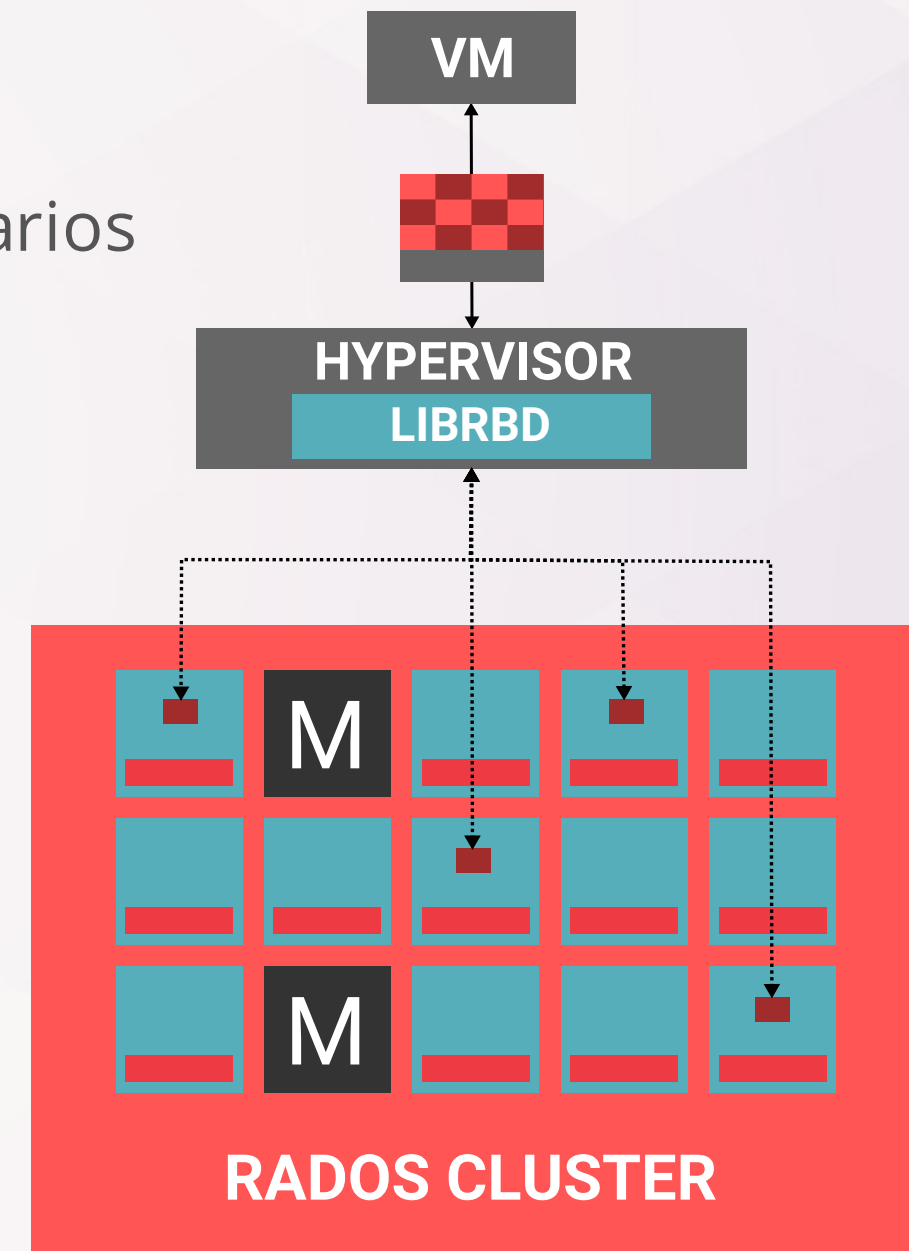
Where to store in Ceph?

RBD

- needs sharding and large RBDs
- needs account migration and RBD/fs extend scenarios
- still includes POSIX layer as NFS
- no sharing between clients
- impracticable

Security

- no direct access to storage network required
- secure through hypervisor abstraction (libvirt)





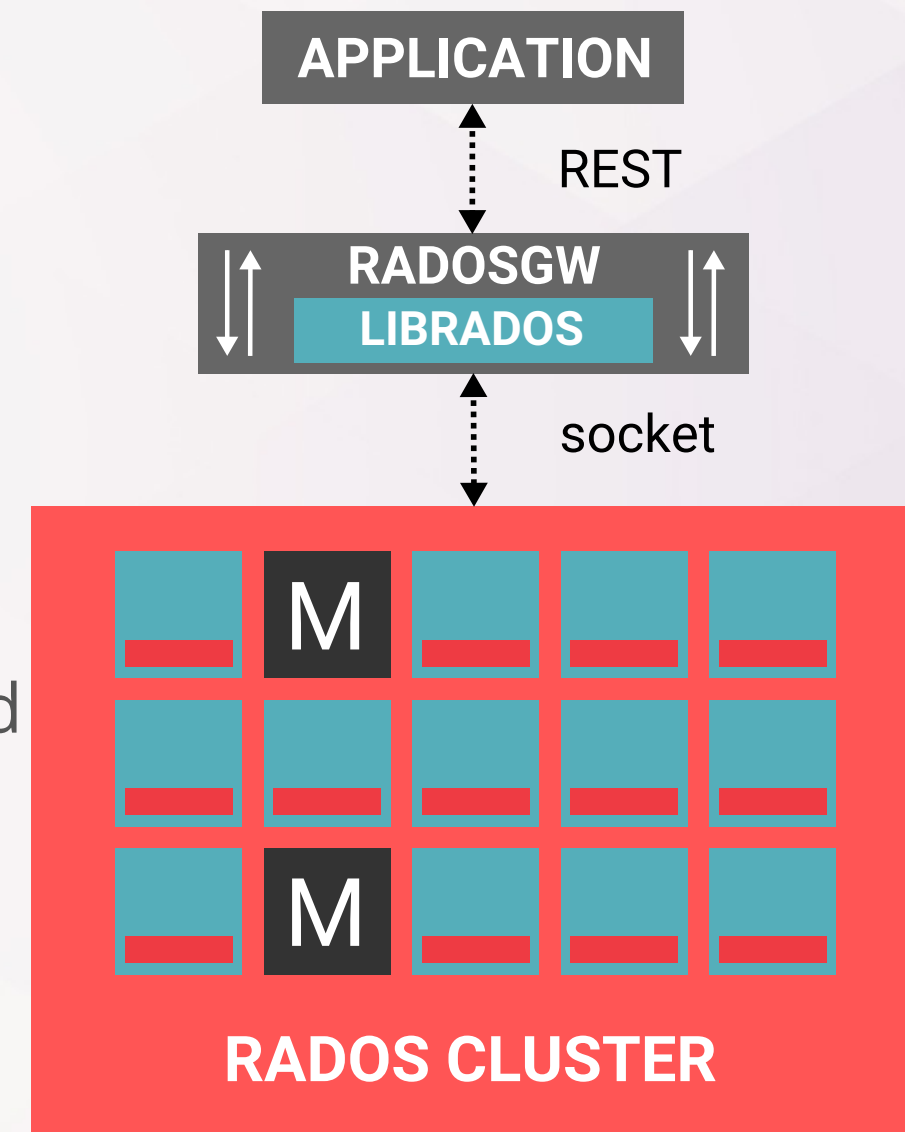
Where to store in Ceph?

RadosGW

- can store emails as objects
- extra network hops
- potential bottleneck
- very likely not fast enough

Security

- no direct access to Ceph storage network required
- connection to RadosGW can be secured (WAF)





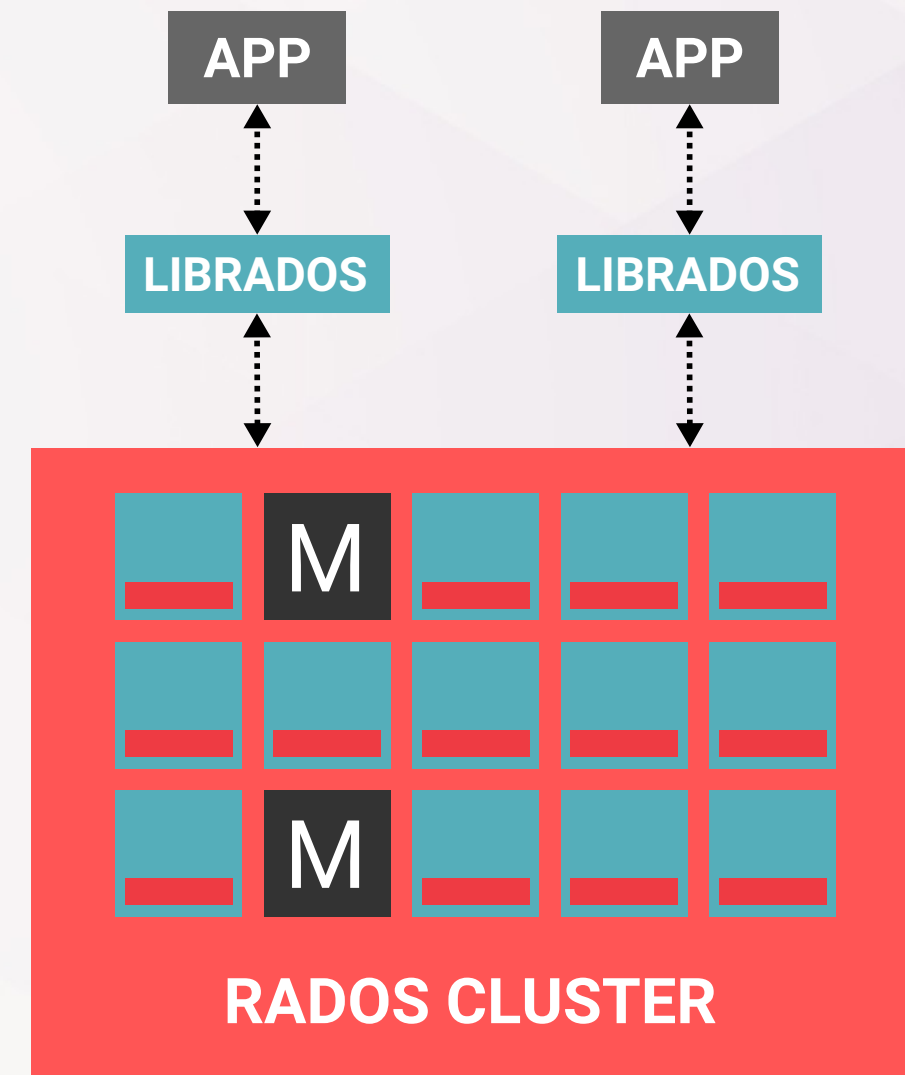
Where to store in Ceph?

Librados

- direct access to RADOS
- parallel I/O
- not optimized for emails
- how to handle metadata/caches/indexes?

Security

- requires direct access to storage network
- only for dedicated platform





Dovecot and Ceph



Dovecot

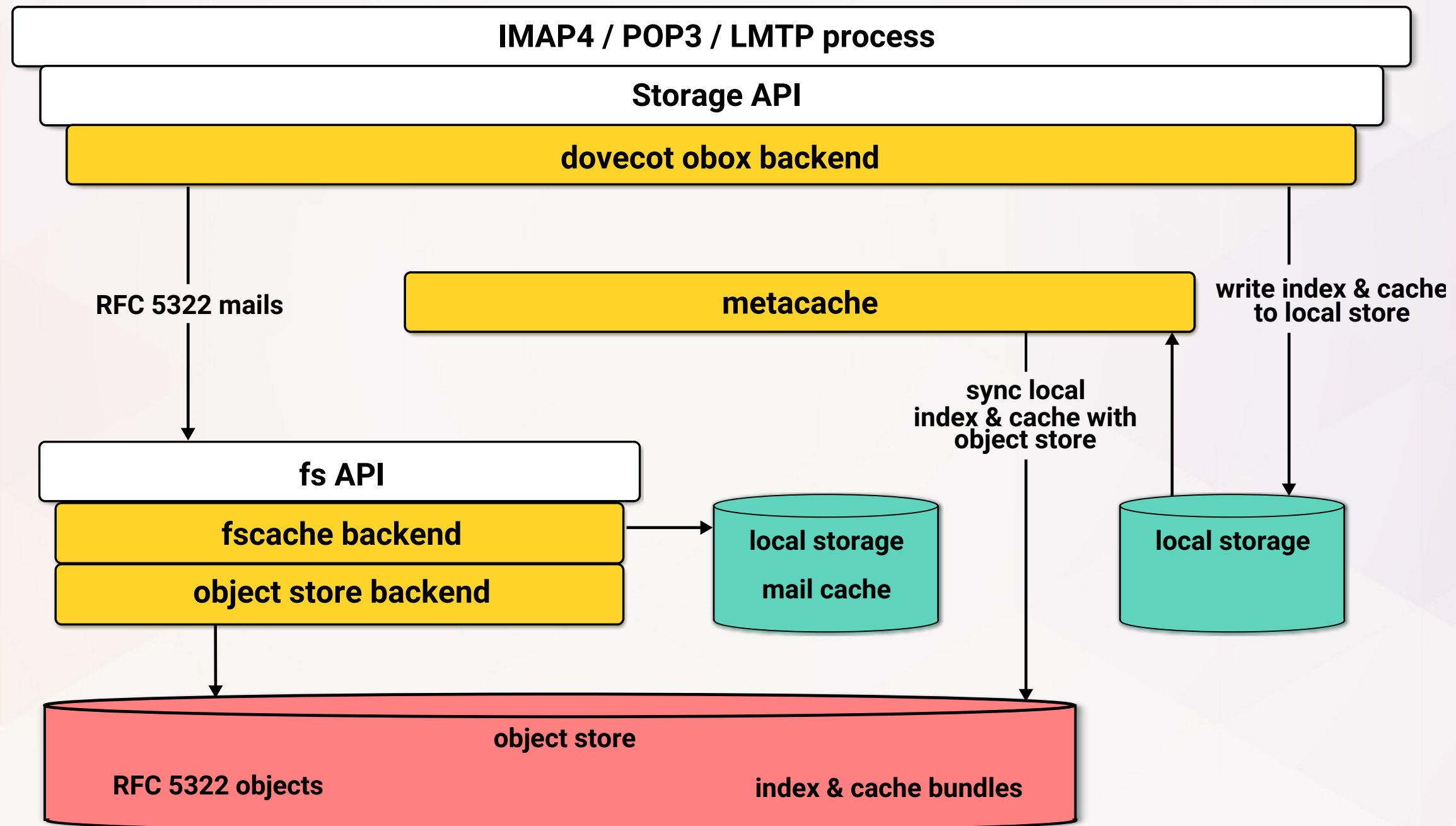
Open source project (LGPL 2.1, MIT)

72% market share (openemailsurvey.org, 02/2017)

Objectstore plugin available (obox)

- supports only REST APIs like S3/Swift
- not open source
- requires Dovecot Pro licence
 - large impact on TCO

Dovecot Pro obox Plugin





DT's approach

- no open source solution on the market
- closed source is no option
- develop / sponsor a solution
- open source it
- partner with:
 - Wido den Hollander (42on.com)
 - Talence AG for development
 - SUSE for Ceph





Ceph plugin for Dovecot

First Step: hybrid approach

Emails

- RADOS Cluster

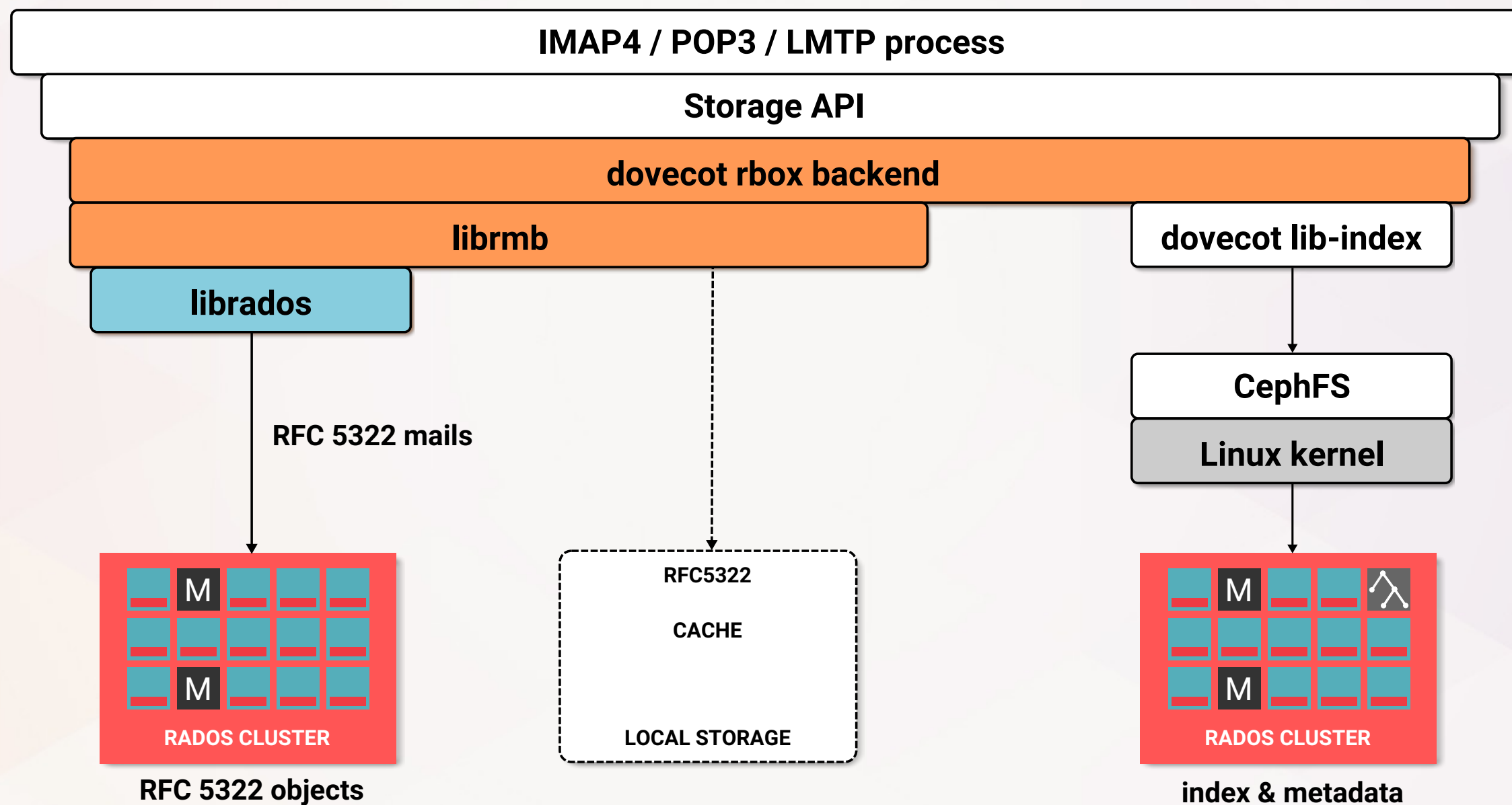
Metadata and indexes

- CephFS

Generic email abstraction on top of librados

- Split code into libraries
- Integrate into corresponding upstream projects

Librados mailbox (librmb)





librmb - Mail Object Format

Mails are immutable regarding the RFC-5322 content

RFC-5322 content stored in RADOS directly

Immutable attributes used by Dovecot stored in RADOS xattr

- rbox format version
- GUID
- Received and save date
- POP3 UIDL and POP3 order
- Mailbox GUID
- Physical and virtual size
- Mail UID

writable attributes are stored in Dovecot index files



Dump email details from RADOS

```
$> rmb -p mail_storage -N t1 ls M=ad54230e65b49a59381100009c60b9f7
```

```
mailbox_count: 1
```

```
MAILBOX: M(mailbox_guid)=ad54230e65b49a59381100009c60b9f7  
mail_total=2, mails_displayed=2  
mailbox_size=5539 bytes
```

```
MAIL: U(uid)=4  
oid = a2d69f2868b49a596a1d00009c60b9f7  
R(receive_time)=Tue Jan 14 00:18:11 2003  
S(save_time)=Mon Aug 21 12:22:32 2017  
Z(phy_size)=2919 V(v_size) = 2919 stat_size=2919  
M(mailbox_guid)=ad54230e65b49a59381100009c60b9f7  
G(mail_guid)=a3d69f2868b49a596a1d00009c60b9f7  
I(rbox_version): 0.1
```

```
[..]
```



RADOS Dictionary Plugin

make use of Ceph omap key/value store

RADOS namespaces

- shared/<key>
- priv/<key>

used by Dovecot to store metadata, quota, ...



It's open source!

License: LGPLv2.1

Language: C++

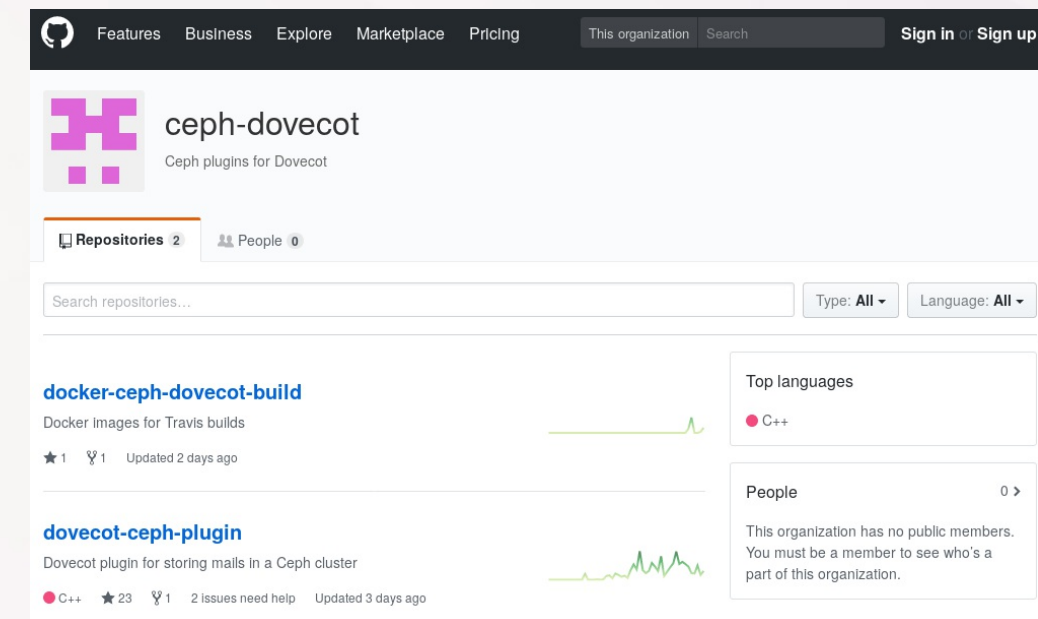
Location: github.com/ceph-dovecot/

Supported Dovecot versions:

- 2.2 \geq 2.2.21
- 2.3

still under development

initial SLES12-SP3 and openSUSE RPMs: <https://goo.gl/FymRhu>





Which Ceph Release?

Required Features:

- Bluestore
 - write performance is critical
 - should be at least 2x faster than filestore
- CephFS
 - Stable release
 - Multi-MDS
- Erasure coding
 - Cost reduction
- Resiliency, reliability and fault tolerance

Enterprise products used:

- SES 5, SLES 12-SP3





Hardware



Commodity x86_64 server

- HPE ProLiant DL380 Gen9/10
- Dual Socket
 - Intel Xeon® E5 V4
- 2x Intel® X710-DA2 Dual-port 10G
 - 40G in total
- 2x boot SATA SSDs
- HBA, no seprate RAID controller



Commodity x86_64 server

CephFS Nodes (MDS, OSDs)

- **CPU:** 2x E5-2643v4 @ 3.4 GHz, 6 Cores, turbo 3.7GHz
- **RAM:** 256 GByte, DDR4, ECC
- **OSDs:** 8x 1.6 TB SSD, 3 DWPD, SAS, RR/RW 125k/92k iops

Rados Nodes (OSDs)

- **CPU:** 2x E5-2640v4 @ 2.4 GHz, 10 Cores, turbo 3.4GHz
- **RAM:** 128 GByte, DDR4, ECC
- **SSD:** 2x 400 GByte, 3 DWPD, SAS, RR/RW 108k/49k iops (for BlueStore database)
- **HDD:** 10x 4 TByte, 7.2K, 128 MB cache, SAS





Why this specific HW?

Community recommendations?

- OSD: 1x 64-bit AMD-64, 1GB RAM/1TB of storage, 2x 1Gbit NICs
- MDS: 1x 64-bit AMD-64 quad-core, 1 GB RAM minimum per MDS, 2x 1Gbit NICs

NUMA, high clocked CPUs and large RAM overkill?

- It's PoC hardware! Better save than sorry!
- Vendor did not offer single CPU nodes for number of drives
- MDS performance is mostly CPU clock bound and partly single threaded
 - High clocked CPUs for fast single thread performance
- Large RAM: better caching!



Placement



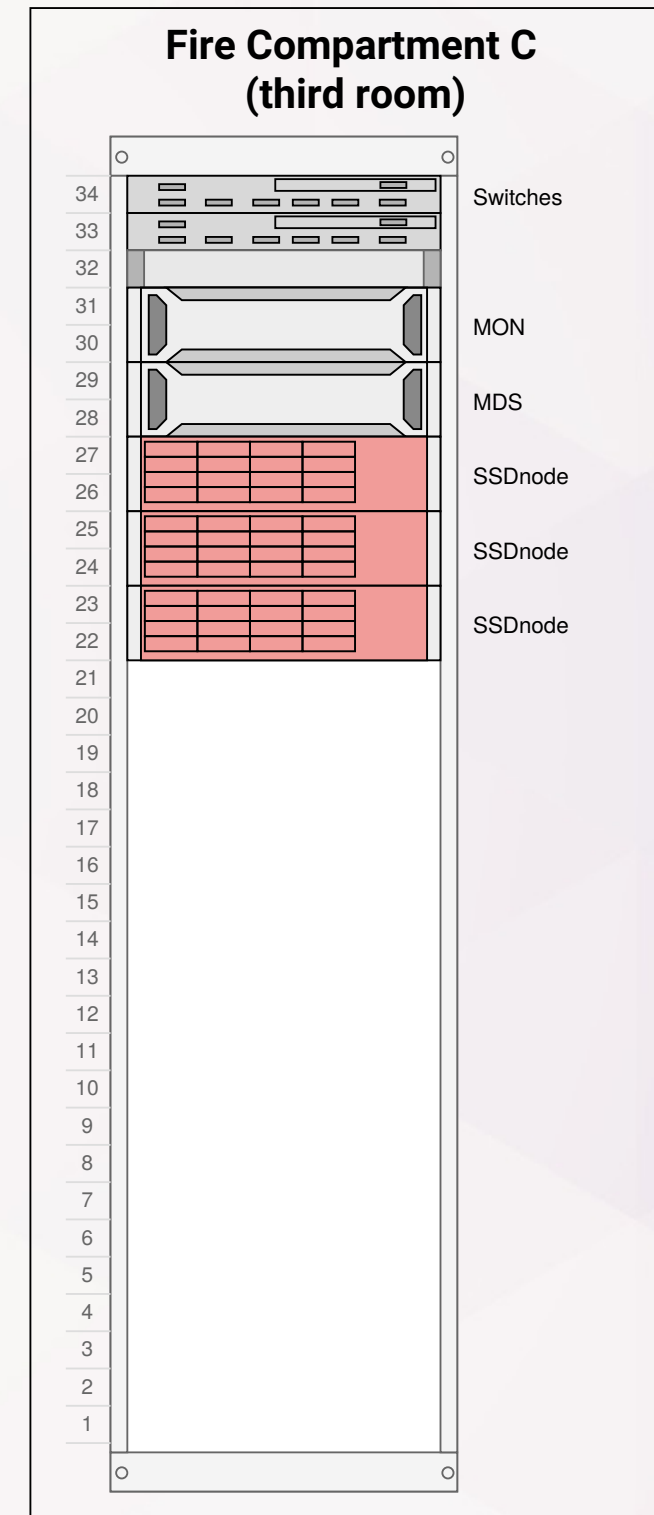
Issues

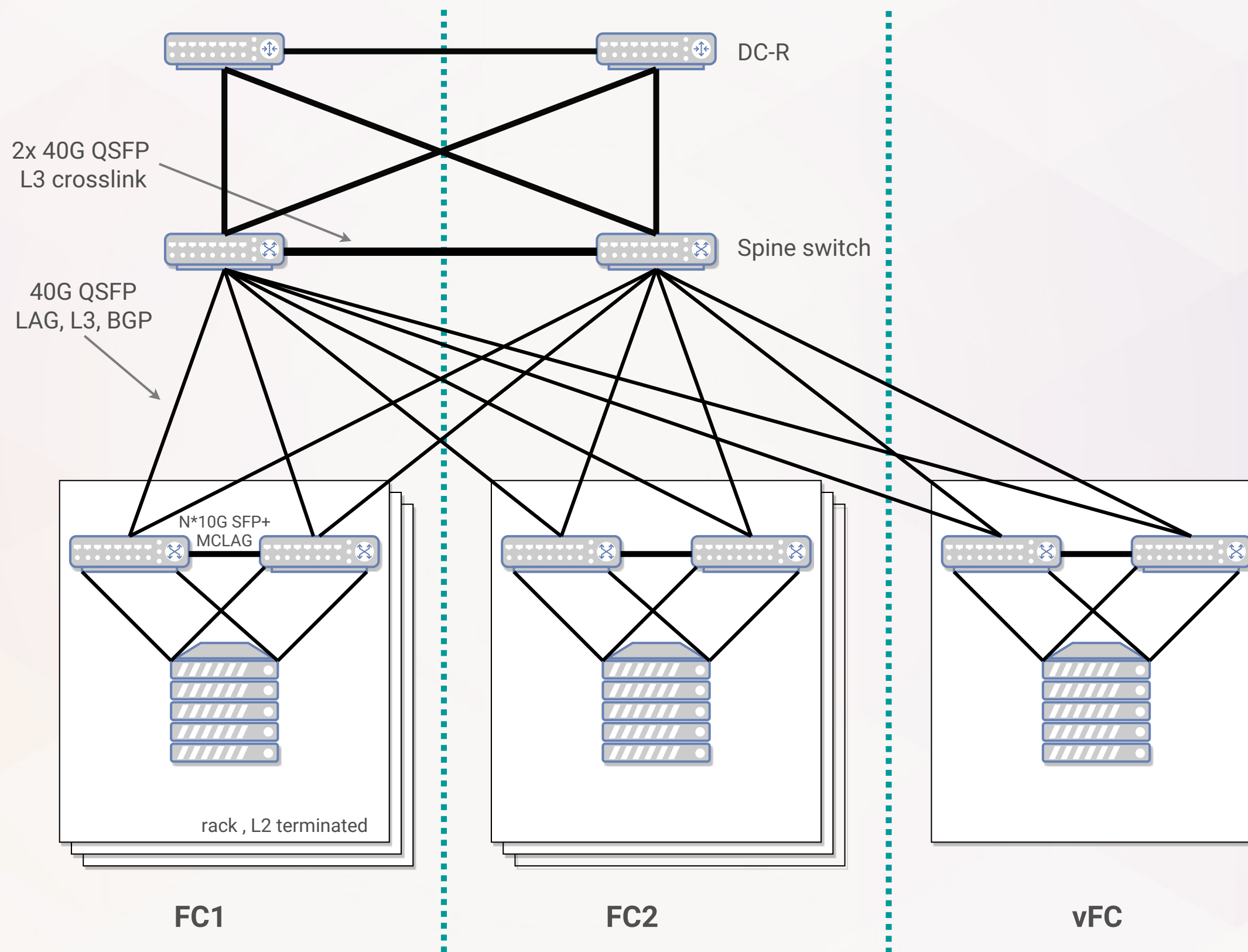
Datacenter

- Usually two independent fire compartments (FCs)
- May additional virtual FCs
- How to place 3 copies?

Requirements

- Lost of customer data MUST be prevented
- Data replication at least 3 times (or equivalent)
- Any server, switch or rack can fail
- One FC can fail







Status and Next Steps



Testing

5-node clusters (SUSE and DT's labs)

- Functional IMAP testing against upstream dovecot
 - successful!
 - fixed issues on the way
- Functional testing against DT's installation
 - in progress



Proof-of-Concept

Hardware

- 9 SSD nodes for CephFS
- 12 HDD nodes
- 3 MDS / 3 MON

2 FCs + 1 vFC

Testing

- run load tests
- run failure scenarios against Ceph
- improve and tune Ceph setup
- verify and optimize hardware



Topics to solve

Erasure Coding

- select plugin and profile
- EC performance with small writes

Compression

- BlueStore inline compression
- implement support in librmb

OMAP performance

Cluster network bandwidth



Move to Production

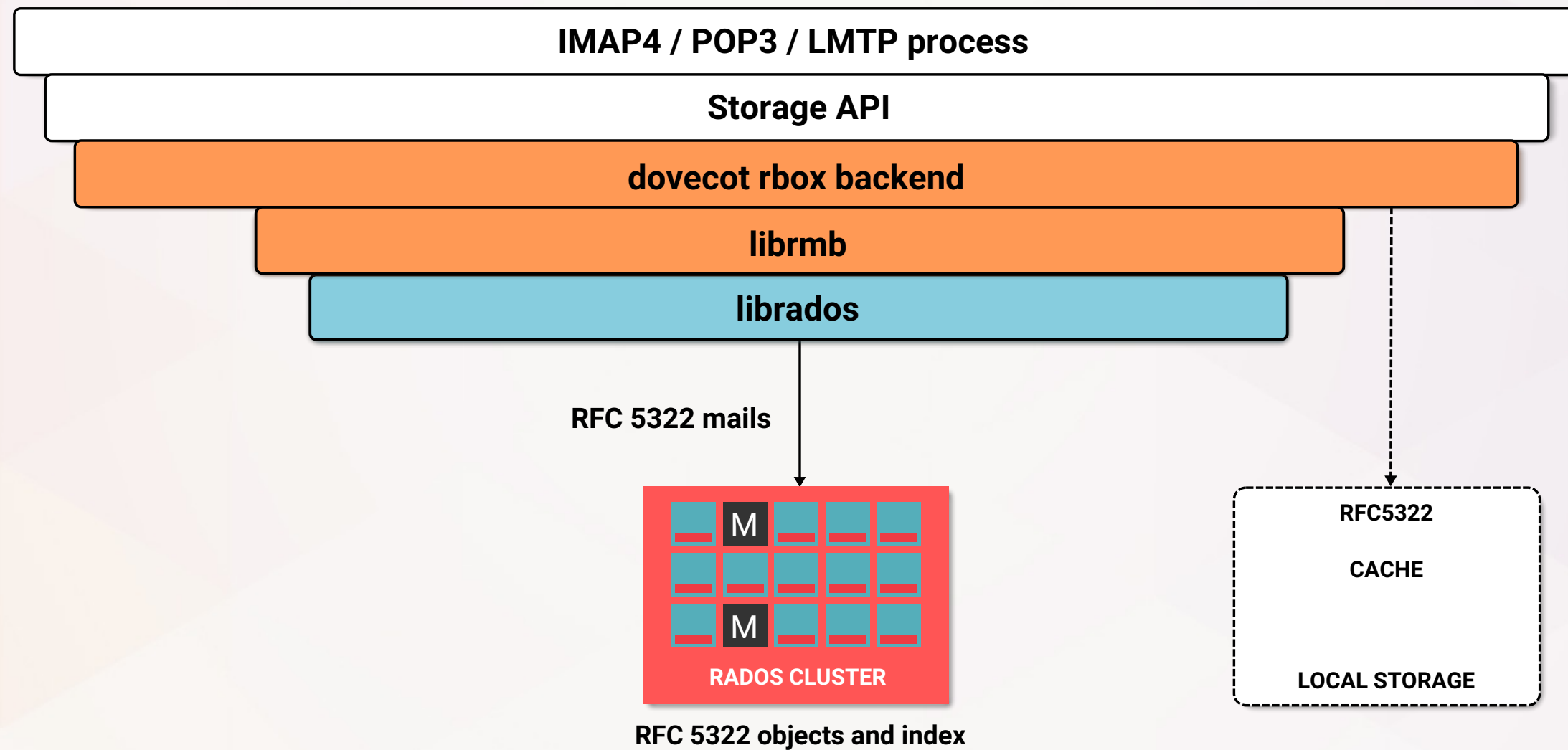
Production

- verify if all requirements are fulfilled
- integrate in production
- migrate users step-by-step
- extend to final size
 - 128 HDD nodes, 1200 OSDs, 4,7 PiB
 - 15 SSD nodes, 120 OSDs, 175 TiB



Further Development

Goal: Pure RADOS backend, store metadata/index in Ceph omap





Conclusion



Summary and conclusions

Ceph can replace NFS

- mails in RADOS
- metadata/indexes in CephFS
- BlueStore, EC

librmb and dovecot rbox

- Open Source, LGPLv2.1
- librmb can be used in non-dovecot systems
- still under development

PoC in progress



Be invited to: Participate!

**Try it, test it, feedback and report bugs!
Contribute!**

github.com/ceph-dovecot/

Thank you.



Questions?

