

# CERN Tape Archive

# Archiving, Reporting and DB locking (Scheduler DB)

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### Local test run setup

#### **Setup with Postgres Scheduler DB**

- dev VM 2xlarge (16 VCPU, ~28GB RAM)
- catalogue Postgres container
- scheduler Postgres DBOD (dbod-pgscheddb.cern.ch)
- CI containerised deployment (tpsrv01, tpsrv02, ctaeos, ...)

#### **CI Setup**

- CI VM xlarge (8 VCPU, ~14GB RAM)
- catalogue Oracle (devdbs2-rac16-scan.cern.ch:10121/castorint.cern.ch)
- scheduler Objectstore (cephkelly.cern.ch)
- CI containerised deployment (tpsrv01, tpsrv02, ctaeos, ...)



### Local test run comparison

#### Archive Workflow (think 1 DB table)

- updating set of rows to take ownership
  - rows locked only for write (default UPDATE lock used only)
  - when mount picks new set of jobs
  - when DiskReportRunner picks new set of jobs
- incomplete reporting
  - only successful jobs reported, crash otherwise
- 10 000 files in 1 directory each 15kB (client\_archive.s(creation\_time last\_update\_time) ~ 0.5 ± 0.3 sec/job

Starting at 1720159352 Copying files to /eos/ctaeos/preprod/4d8c60e8-7c1d-4166-9446-4a03feff43cd/0 using 100 processes... 10000/10000 archived checked within 2 seconds, current timestamp 1720159456

#### **Objectstore backend**

same test

comparable overall throughput ~ 100 ± 10 Hz

Starting at 1720138107 Copying files to /eos/ctaeos/preprod/87c2cb38-2ba7-4edc-ae01-6c1d9e01fa75/0 using 100 processes... 10000/10000 archived checked within 3 seconds, current timestamp 1720138205



### **Archiving workflow**

### ... step by step !



### Archiving workflow - insert & mount poll

archiveFileID tape VID	e Server Polling iding to mount
	<b>—</b> • • • • • •
😽 archive_job_summary	lable View
123 mount_id int8	<ul> <li>just a query s</li> </ul>
RBC status public."archive_job_status"	<ul> <li>executed even</li> </ul>
RBC tape_pool varchar(100)	
RBC mount_policy varchar(100)	<ul> <li>expensive for</li> </ul>
123 jobs_count int8	<ul> <li>optimisation c</li> </ul>
123 jobs_total_size numeric	
123 oldest_job_start_time int8	➡ PG has m
<sup>123</sup> archive_priority int2	- refresh k
123 archive_min_request_age int4	refreek k

- saved query
- very poll !
- or large tables
- options
  - materialised view
    - n by query every 30 sec
    - refresh by pg\_cron extension

CREATE VIEW ARCHIVE\_JOB\_SUMMARY( MOUNT\_ID, STATUS, TAPE\_POOL, MOUNT\_POLICY, JOBS\_COUNT, JOBS\_TOTAL\_SIZE, OLDEST\_JOB\_START\_TIME, ARCHIVE\_PRIORITY, ARCHIVE\_MIN\_REQUEST\_AGE) AS SELECT MOUNT\_ID, STATUS, TAPE\_POOL, MOUNT\_POLICY, COUNT(\*), SUM(SIZE\_IN\_BYTES), MIN(START\_TIME), MAX(PRIORITY), MIN(MIN\_ARCHIVE\_REQUEST\_AGE) FROM ARCHIVE\_JOB\_QUEUE GROUP BY MOUNT\_ID, STATUS, TAPE\_POOL, MOUNT\_POLICY;

custom counter implementation (insert - pop & xcheck)



### Archiving workflow - file transfer



std::string sql =

```
"WITH SET_SELECTION AS ( "
```

"SELECT JOB\_ID FROM ARCHIVE\_JOB\_QUEUE "

```
"WHERE TAPE_POOL = :TAPE_POOL "
```

"AND STATUS = :STATUS "

```
"AND MOUNT_ID IS NULL "
```

"ORDER BY PRIORITY DESC. JOB ID."

"LIMIT :LIMIT FOR UPDATE) "

"UPDATE ARCHIVE\_JOB\_QUEUE SET "

"MOUNT\_ID = :MOUNT\_ID,"

```
"VID = :VID "
```

"FROM SET\_SELECTION "

```
"WHERE ARCHIVE_JOB_QUEUE.JOB_ID = SET_SELECTION.JOB_ID "
```

#### "RETURNING SET\_SELECTION.JOB\_ID"

#### Job selection for processing

- update first 500 jobs
  - where MOUNT\_ID IS NULL (aka not owned)
  - status == 'AJS\_ToTransferForUser'
- updates mount\_ID and VID
- then use the JOB\_IDs returned to run
- a separate SELECT to get all the job info (query not shown here)



### **Archiving workflow - reporting**

#### . TapeWriteTask

- at successful write
- reports job to *MigrationReportPacker*
  - tape file: size, checksum, ....

#### MigrationReportPacker thread

- collects all reports
- calls ArchiveMount::reportJobsBatchTransferred()
  - validates the success
    - checks disk/tape checksum, file size etc.
    - if OK calls ArchiveMount::setJobBatchTransferred (
    - and 'SchedulerDB'::updateJobStatus()

italics = thread



### **Archiving workflow - reporting**

**MigrationReportPacker** 

'SchedulerDB'::updateJobStatus()

:STATUS = 'AJS\_TOReportToUserForTransfer'

for (const auto &piece : jobIDs) sqlpart += piece + ",";
if (!sqlpart.empty()) { sqlpart.pop\_back(); }
std::string sql =

"UPDATE ARCHIVE\_JOB\_QUEUE SET " "STATUS = :STATUS " "WHERE JOB\_ID IN (" + sqlpart + ") "; DiskReportRunner - now at any tape server

- collects all reports (failed and successful)
- for successes picks up the jobs with status
   'AJS ToReportToUserForTransfer'

italics = thread



### **Archiving workflow - reporting**



### Archive job queue schema





1/3

### Archive job queue schema

Archive job que	ue sche	ma 2/3	
RBC requester_name	varchar(100)		
RBC requester_group	varchar(100)		
RBC src_url	varchar(2000)		
RBC disk_instance	varchar(100)		
RBC disk_file_path	varchar(2000)		
RBC disk_file_id	varchar(100)		
123 disk_file_gid	int4		
123 disk_file_owner_uid	int4		
RBC archive_error_report_url	varchar(2000)		
RBC archive report url	varchar(2000)	to be understood once	
123 total_retries	int2	I start dealing with failed jobs	
123 max_total_retries	int2	and falled reports	
123 retries_within_mount	int2	is_reporting - marks reports taken	
123 max_retries_within_mount	int2	by DiskReportRunner	
123 last_mount_with_failure	int8	added since it is very useful for de	bugging
RBC is_reporting	bpchar(1)	and might be useful dealing with d	langling
Ø last_update_time	timestamp	owned jobs without active mounts	



### Archive job report - placeholder

### ARCHIVE\_JOB\_REPORTS

- contains all other fields currently not of use for the archiving workflow, but found in Objectstore implementation
- might be useful to avoid locking the ARCHIVE\_JOB\_QUEUE
  - but if we lock rows we might not need it !
    - --> see locking further



archive_job_reports				
1🉀 job_id	bigserial NOT NULL			
RBC status public."archiv	e_job_status" NOT NULL			
123 creation_time	int8			
123 mount_id	int8			
123 start_time	int8			
123 priority	int2 NOT NULL			
RBC storage_class	varchar(100)			
123 copy_nb	numeric(3)			
123 size_in_bytes	int8			
123 archive_file_id	int8			
thecksumblob	bytea			
RBC requester_name	varchar(100)			
RBC requester_group	varchar(100)			
RBC disk_instance	varchar(100)			
RBC disk_file_path	varchar(2000)			
<pre>ABC archive_error_report_url</pre>	varchar(2000)			
<pre>ABC archive_report_url</pre>	varchar(2000)			
RBC failure_report_log	text			
RBC failure_log	text			
123 total_retries	int2			
123 max_total_retries	int2			
123 retries_within_mount	int2			
123 max_retries_within_mount	t int2			
123 last_mount_with_failure	int8			
RBC tape_pool	varchar(100) NOT NULL			
RBC repack_filebuf_url	varchar(2000)			
123 repack_fseq	numeric(20)			
123 total_report_retries	int2			
123 max_report_retries	int2			

### Archive job queue schema

archiv	archive_job_queue $ _{k}^{k}$ Enter a SQL expression to filter results (use Ctrl+Space)													
	123 job_id 🕇 🔻	123 archive_	reqid 🔻	RBC status 🔍	123 creation_time	RBC mount_policy 🔹	RBC tape_pool 🔹	RBC vid 🔻	123 mount_id 🔻	123 start_time	<ul> <li>123 priority</li> </ul>	▼ RBC storag	e_class 🔻	
1	1		1	1 AJS_Complete	1,719,963,020	ctasystest	ctasystest	V00101	1	1,719,963,0	20	1 ctaStorag	eClass	Ĵ
2	2		2	2 AJS_Complete	1,719,963,020	ctasystest	ctasystest	V00101	1	1,719,963,0	20	1 ctaStorag	eClass	
3	3		3	AJS_Complete	1,719,963,020	ctasystest	ctasystest	V00101	1	1,719,963,0	20	1 ctaStorag	eClass	
4	4		4	AJS_Complete	1,719,963,020	ctasystest	ctasystest	V00101	1	1,719,963,0	20	1 ctaStorag	eClass	
5	5		5	5 AJS_Complete	1,719,963,020	ctasystest	ctasystest	V00101	1	1,719,963,0	20	1 ctaStorag	eClass	
	123 min_archive_	_request_age	e 🔻 12	<sup>23</sup> copy_nb 🛛 🔻	123 size_in_bytes 🔹	123 archive_file_id 🔹	checksumblob	▼ RBC requ	uester_name 🔻	RBC requester_grou	Ip 🔻 🔽 Src_u	ırl	•	
1			1	1	15,360	4,294,967,316	-)	user1		eosusers	root://ct	aeos.nsdev.sv	c.cluster.local	I,
2			1	1	15,360	4,294,967,298	÷«	user1		eosusers	root://ct	aeos.nsdev.sv	c.cluster.local	1
3			1	1	15,360	4,294,967,317	Τż,	user1		eosusers	root://ct	aeos.nsdev.sv	c.cluster.local	1
4			1	1	15,360	4,294,967,297	^ v	user1		eosusers	root://ct	aeos.nsdev.sv	c.cluster.local	1
5			1	1	15,360	4,294,967,296	° Bà	user1		eosusers	root://ct	aeos.nsdev.sv	c.cluster.local	1
	RBC disk_instanc	e 🔻 ABC (	disk_file_	path	RBC disk_file_id	▼ 123 disk_file_gid	123 disk_file_own	er_uid 🔻	RBC archive_error_re	port_url 🗾	archive_report	_url	•	
1	ctaeos	/eos	s/ctaeos/p	reprod/7d32e2b6	6-d438 15	1,10	0	11,001	eosQuery://ctaeos.	nsdev.svc.cluster.	eosQuery://ctaeos	.nsdev.svc.clu	ister.	
2	ctaeos	/eos	s/ctaeos/p	reprod/7d32e2b6	∂-d43{ 20	1,10	0	11,001	eosQuery://ctaeos.	nsdev.svc.cluster.	eosQuery://ctaeos	.nsdev.svc.clu	ister.	
3	ctaeos	/eos	s/ctaeos/p	reprod/7d32e2b6	6-d43{ 21	1,10	0	11,001	eosQuery://ctaeos.	nsdev.svc.cluster.	eosQuery://ctaeos	.nsdev.svc.clu	ister.	
4	ctaeos	/eos	s/ctaeos/p	reprod/7d32e2b6	6-d438 27	1,10	0	11,001	eosQuery://ctaeos.	nsdev.svc.cluster.	eosQuery://ctaeos	.nsdev.svc.clu	ister.	
5	ctaeos	/eos	s/ctaeos/p	oreprod/7d32e2b6	6-d43{ 14	1,10	0	11,001	eosQuery://ctaeos.	nsdev.svc.cluster.	eosQuery://ctaeos	.nsdev.svc.clu	ister.	
	123 total_retries	🔻 123 ma	x_total_re	etries 🔻 123 rei	tries_within_mount	<sup>123</sup> max_retries_within_	mount 🔻 123 last	_mount_with_	_failure 🔻 🕫 is_	reportdecided	🕗 last_update	_time 🔻		
1		0		2	0		2		0 [NULL	.]	2024-07-03 0	1:30:20.425		
2		0		2	0		2		0 [NULL	.]	2024-07-03 0 <sup>-</sup>	1:30:20.449		
3		0		2	0		2		0 [NULL	.]	2024-07-03 0	:30:20.449		
4		0		2	0		2		0 [NULL	.]	2024-07-03 0	1:30:20.452		
5		0		2	0		2		0 [NULL	1	2024-07-03 0	1:30:20.454		



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### **Locking Optimisations**



### Update use-cases for Locking

#### Archive queue ingestion:

mount ownership: mount\_id, vid updates

#### MigrationReportPacker:

• finished transfer, ready for report

#### DiskReportRunner:

- tape server report ownership (could be replaced by new insert)
- completed report update

#### **Options for avoiding interference by:**

- new inserts to another table
- ensure deterministic select statements
- all access table locks
- row write lock
  - could work fine if we do not mind duplicate state updates second tape server updates still all initially selected rows !
  - or + set stricter transaction isolation preventing read
  - but then we have error thrown (often) on any conflict & retry foreseen !
- advisory lock + smart logic on the side of the code



### **PostgreSQL** Locking

**MVCC Transaction Isolation Levels:** 

- Read committed (default)
  - e.g. SELECTs within same txn can see different data from different commits (but only committed)
- Repeatable read
  - e.g. SELECTs within same txn see only the same data (freeze at txn start)
- Serialisable
  - emulates serial transaction execution for all committed transactions
- in case of conflict  $\rightarrow \text{ERROR}$ 
  - txn must be retried

Explicit Locking: (where MVCC is not enough)

- session or transaction level
- Advisory locks
  - our software controls the concurrency
- Table/Row level locks
- Deadlocks
  - automatically resolved by aborting one of the transactions



### **PostgreSQL MVCC**

txn can read<br/>uncommitted<br/>datatxn re-reads<br/>row data with<br/>different resulttxn re-executes<br/>row search<br/>with different resultresult of set of txn<br/>commits inconsistent<br/>with different result

Isolation Level	Dirty Read	Nonrepeatable Read	Phantom Read	Serialization Anomaly
Read uncommitted	Allowed, but not in PG	Possible	Possible	Possible
Read committed	Not possible	Possible	Possible	Possible
Repeatable read	Not possible	Not possible	Allowed, but not in PG	Possible
Serializable	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible

default - no reason to change for the moment possible in PG



## **PostgreSQL Explicit Advisory Locks**

#### **Advisory Locks**

- Transaction or Session level
  - we control the concurrency from the code by the assigned/requested lock ID

```
Session 1:
admin=> -- Acquires a lock ID 321
admin=> SELECT pg_advisory_lock(321);
pg advisory lock
(1 \text{ row})
admin=> INSERT INTO TAPE MOUNTS (MOUNT ID)
VALUES (1);
INSERT 0 1
admin=> SELECT pg advisory unlock(321);
pg_advisory_unlock
 t.
(1 \text{ row})
```

```
Session 2:
admin=> -- Attempt to acquire lock ID 321
(will block until Session 1 releases it)
admin=> SELECT pg advisory lock(321);
SELECT * FROM TAPE MOUNTS;
[-- waiting for Session 1 to release it --]
[-- Session 1 released the lock 321 --]
pg advisory lock
(1 \text{ row})
admin=> SELECT * FROM TAPE MOUNTS;
mount_id | creation_time
        1 | 2024-06-18 10:25:47.448468+02
(1 \text{ row})
```



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### **PostgreSQL Explicit Table Locks**

#### Table Locks

- each query will have automatic lock with minimal protection provided
- we can explicitly acquire locks in addition
- throw error in case of conflict

```
• Session 1:
admin=> BEGIN;
BEGIN
admin=*> LOCK TABLE TAPE_MOUNTS
IN ACCESS EXCLUSIVE MODE;
LOCK TABLE
[.. WORK BEING DONE ... ]
admin=*> COMMIT;
COMMIT
admin=>
```

- other modes:
  - ACCESS SHARE = SELECT lock, only reads allowed

#### 



. . .

## **PostgreSQL Row Explicit Locks**

#### **Row Locks**

- FOR UPDATE blocks other writers, not readers = default for UPDATE operation !
- to block readers we may add SERIALIZABLE or REPEATABLE READ transaction isolation

```
Session 2:
Session 1:
                                                  admin=> BEGIN;
admin=> BEGIN;
BEGIN
                                                  BEGIN
                                                  admin=*> SELECT * from tape mounts
admin=*> SELECT * from tape mounts where
                                                  where mount id=2 FOR UPDATE;
mount id=1 FOR UPDATE;
 mount id | owner
                                                   mount id | owner
                                                           2 | you
        1 | me
                                                  (1 \text{ row})
(1 row)
                                                  admin=*> SELECT * from tape mounts
                                                  where mount id=1 FOR UPDATE;
admin=*> UPDATE tape mounts set mount id=2
where mount id=1;
                                                  [-- waiting for Session 1 to commit --]
UPDATE 1
admin=*> COMMIT;
                                                   mount id | owner
COMMIT
                                                  (0 rows)
                                                  admin=>
     Jaroslav Guenther | CERN Tape Scheduling Systems
                                                             04 July 2024
                                                                                          20
```

### **Backup**



### **Postgres DB Management Challenges**

#### **MVCC (Multi-Version Concurrency Control)**

- consistent "snapshot" views
- keeps all row versions until the oldest active transaction or next automatic vacuuming

#### **Power cut & Recovery**

- Incomplete transactions and vacuuming may cause long lockdowns (~1 hour) to replay WAL
- risk of data inconsistency or corruption, prevention

#### DBOD

- ideal for performance testing, realistic latency (RTT)
- ensure SSDs are used to avoid random access issues
- & beware of implicit transactions without auto-commit keeping all history !





### **Management of Completed Job Records**

#### Vacuuming

- table scan + version replay + row deletion + reindexing
- gradually reclaims disk space
- **slower**, can lock large tables (especially: VACUUM FULL)

#### **Double Buffering + Truncate Table**

- use two identical tables, switch between them
- avoids extended lock periods during maintenance
- consistent data access
- <u>Truncate</u> obsolete table:
  - no table scan or history replay checks
  - fast row removal
  - immediately reclaims disk space



**TO BE MEASURED !** 

### **CTA Receiving a Request**





### **CTA Tape Server polling 1/2**



DataTransferSession forked for a free drive (UP)

- tries to get new (/its own) Mount
- **Mount** = drive assignment to tape for set of jobs
- calls Scheduler 
   → getNextMount[-DryRun]()
  - SchedulerDatabase → fetchMountInfo()

#### improve perf if needed

- look up only TD relevant info
- lock only what needs to be locked

Each taped looks at all jobs for all drives for all drives to get all (existing/hypothetical) Mounts + iterates through → match drive with tape and job set (1st w/o global lock [-DryRun] + 2nd time with)

job = one file transfer



### **CTA Tape Server polling 2/2**

#### **DataTransferSession**

- getting Mounts by polling Scheduler DB and Catalogue
  - Scheduler  $\rightarrow$  getNextMount[-DryRun]()



Scheduler.

### **CTA Tape Drive with Mount**

**DataTransferSession** 

- calls executeWrite/Read(TapeMount)
  - several threads are spawned taking care of:
    - mounting the tape
    - polling Scheduler DB for job/queue batches
    - inserting the jobs to for the execution
    - the R/W from/to memory/tape/disk buffer
    - MigrationReportPacker thread reporting back to CTA disk buffer (EOS) (TBD for PGSCHED)

### Consistency & Error Handling (TBD for PGSCHED)

- Scheduler DB "view" on active [VID + mountID]  $\rightarrow$  DriveState check (in the Catalogue) ?





aka object ownership concept in ObjectStore



### **CTA Scheduler Relational DB**

Implementation

- workflow oriented tables, views, sequences
  - file transfer jobs (Archive/Retrieve/Report/...)
- inherently uses DB features
  - facilitates any job ordering (FIFO/non-FIFO) locking & MVCC, indexing (+sync), B trees, etc.
- connection pools from our rdbms wrapper layer
- currently single threaded interface to DB

#### Intentional straightforward code development

- ensures high performance IF DB features exploited smartly (e.g. do not ask to count rows, write pop/delete counters)
- requires optimisation efforts per use-case
  - relies on the dev diligence with DB queries and DB admin tuning



👼 archive_job_summary						
123 mount_id	int8					
RBC status	public.archive_job_status					
RBC tape_pool	varchar(100)					
RBC mount_policy	varchar(100)					
123 jobs_count	int8					
123 jobs_total_size	numeric					
123 oldest_job_start_time	int8					
123 archive_priority	int2					
123 archive_min_request_age	int4					

== arcl	nive_job_queue	archive_job_reports			
14 job_id	bigserial NOT NULL	1% job_id	bigserial NOT NUL		
123 archive_regid	bigserial NOT NULL	RBC status	public.archive_job_status NOT NUL		
ADC status	public.archive_job_status NOT NULL	123 creation_time	int		
123 creation_time	int8	123 mount_id	int		
RBC mount policy	varchar(100) NOT NULL	123 start_time	int		
ABC vid	varchar(20)	123 priority	int2 NOT NUL		
123 mount_id	int8	RBC storage_class	varchar(100		
123 start_time	int8	123 copy_nb	numeric(3		
123 priority	int2 NOT NULL	123 size_in_bytes	int		
RBC storage_class	varchar(100)	123 archive_file_id	int		
123 min_archive_request_age	int4 NOT NULL	iii checksumblob	byte		
123 copy_nb	numeric(3)	RBC requester_name	varchar(100		
123 size_in_bytes	int8	RBC requester_group	varchar(100		
123 archive_file_id	int8	RBC disk_instance	varchar(100		
iii checksumblob	bytea	RBC disk_file_path	varchar(2000		
RBC requester_name	varchar(100)	RBC archive_error_report_url	varchar(2000		
RBC requester_group	varchar(100)	RBC archive_report_url	varchar(2000		
RBC src_url	varchar(2000)	RBC failure_report_log	tex		
RBC disk_instance	varchar(100)	RBC failure_log	tex		
RBC disk_file_path	varchar(2000)	RBC is_reportdecided	bpchar(1		
RBC disk_file_id	varchar(100)	123 total_retries	int		
123 disk_file_gid	int4	123 max_total_retries	int		
123 disk_file_owner_uid	int4	123 retries_within_mount	int		
RBC archive_error_report_url	varchar(2000)	123 max_retries_within_mount	int		
RBC archive_report_url	varchar(2000)	123 last_mount_with_failure	int		
RBC failure_report_log	text	123 total_report_retries	int		
RBC failure_log	text	123 max_report_retries	int		
RBC is_reportdecided	bpchar(1)	RBC tape_pool	varchar(100) NOT NUL		
123 total_retries	int2	RBC repack_filebuf_url	varchar(2000		
123 max_total_retries	int2	123 repack_fseq	numeric(20		
123 retries_within_mount	int2				
123 max_retries_within_mount	int2				
123 last_mount_with_failure	int8				
123 total_report_retries	int2				
123 max_report_retries	int2				
ABC tane, nool	varchar(100) NOT NULL				



### **CTA Scheduling Operations last year**

#### **ObjectStore Experience**

- fire-fighting
  - 5 high priority dev tickets created in the last year
    - object deletion <u>#309</u>
    - empty shard handling <u>#500</u>
    - infinite loops <u>#602</u>
    - locking issues <u>#460</u>
    - **repack** exhausting OStore **resources** <u>#573</u>
- challenges
  - non-FIFO priority queues
  - object structure ("schema") updates
  - CTA Scheduler code logic not easy to extend/modify tailored to ObjectStore backend structure (handling object dependencies)



**Relational DB** 

### **CTA Request Ingestion**

#### Each taped looks at all jobs for all drives to get all (existing/hypothetical) Mounts (+ 1st w/o global lock (DryRun) 2nd time with)

#### **ObjectStore**

- summary objects including regularly updated counters
- **locking** + multi-threaded access



• EOS MGM  $\rightarrow$  cta-frontend **ingestion** one by one

#### **Relational DB**

- table views and counters (counters to be implemented if needed, we can avoid counting rows in queries)
- MVCC, explicit table/row locks, advisory locks (more about this later ...)

#### smart locking might save us the DryRun

• idea of bulk inserts if needed (hold set of WFE requests until all in DB)



### **Tape Drive Efficiency and Data Integrity**

#### **Tape Free Space**

- vendor tape raw capacity understated
  - by 1-5%, ~450 GB (?), stable over time or decreasing ?
- tape drive writes until hitting tape end !
  - flush tape writes in bunches of 200 files / ~32 GB (hard-coded)
  - last incomplete batch  $\rightarrow$  failure; *time spent writing today* ?
- **cost-effective** (tape is cheap and drives fast today)
  - "waste" max space and time writing 32 GB per tape << extra free space</li>

#### **Tape Head Position Check**

- there is a SCSI command to query tape drive position
  - avoids unnecessary flushes (Eric's idea)
  - IBM's approval needed to confirm read head position is indicative of what the write head wrote !

Fine-tuning not worth the effort today !

summer student study ?





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