

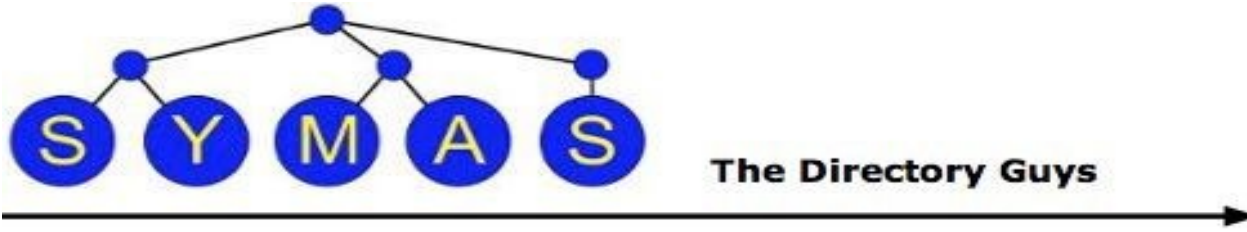
The Directory Guys

LDAP for MySQL Cluster back-ndb

Howard Chu

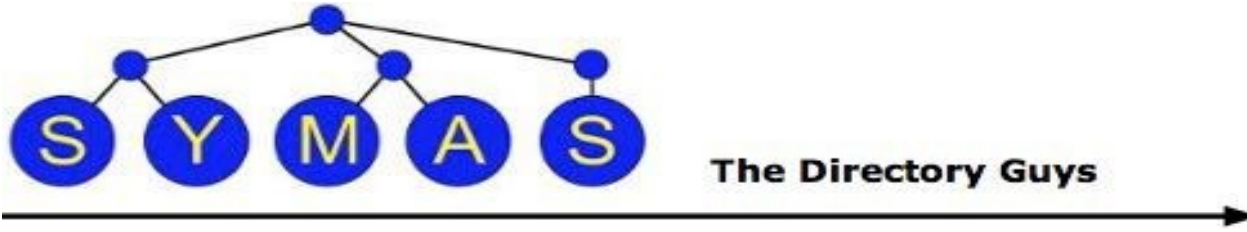
CTO, Symas Corp. hyc@symas.com

Chief Architect, OpenLDAP hyc@openldap.org



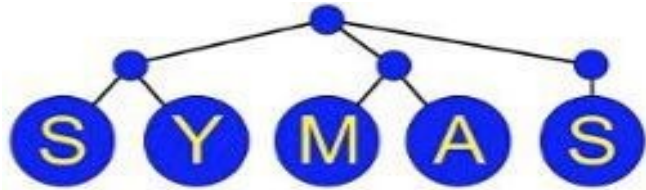
OpenLDAP Project

- Open source code project
- Founded 1998
- Three core team members
- A dozen or so contributors
- Feature releases every 12-18 months
- Maintenance releases roughly monthly



A Word About Symas

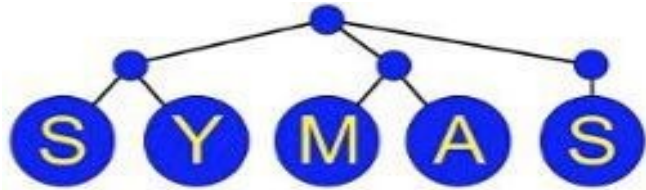
- Founded 1999
- Founders from Enterprise Software world
 - *platinum* Technology (Locus Computing)
 - IBM
- Howard joined OpenLDAP in 1999
 - One of the Core Team members
 - Appointed Chief Architect January 2007



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Topics

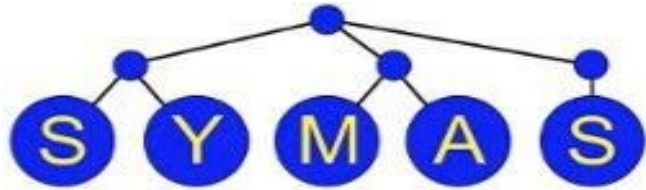
- Overview
- Relational vs Hierarchical Data models
- Accessing Relational data from LDAP
- The new Back-NDB Backend
- Early Results
- Future Directions



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Overview

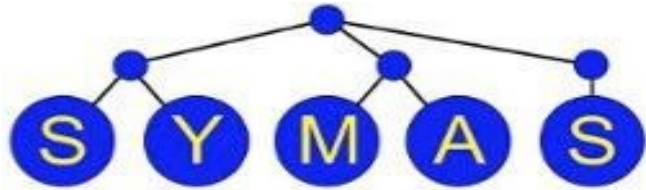
- OpenLDAP is the fastest, most efficient, most scalable, most reliable, and most standards-conformant LDAP software in the world, and has been for many years.
- Proven to scale to billions of objects and terabytes of data, with performance in excess of 100,000 queries/second at sub-millisecond latencies.
- Reliability in production deployments has been flawless, with hardware failure being the principal cause of unscheduled downtime.



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Overview

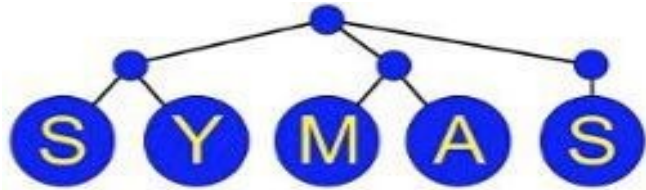
- The current design depends on having a very powerful single machine to achieve maximum scaling.
- The trend in data centers has been to scale using clusters that can be grown incrementally.
- A cluster-friendly backend design was needed.
- As luck would have it, MySQL released a cluster-based database engine while we were beginning our own cluster-oriented design effort.
- Leveraging MySQL's relational database engine in LDAP is not straightforward.



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Overview

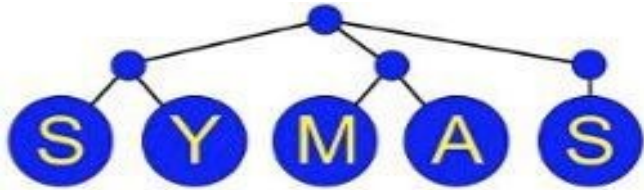
- The hierarchical data model of the directory and the tabular data model of relational databases (RDBMSs) are fundamentally different
- Both are ubiquitously useful
- Access to one from the other is frequently desired
- Solutions for providing cross-access exist but tend to be sub-optimal
- The new OpenLDAP solution developed in cooperation with MySQL leverages the strengths of both technologies



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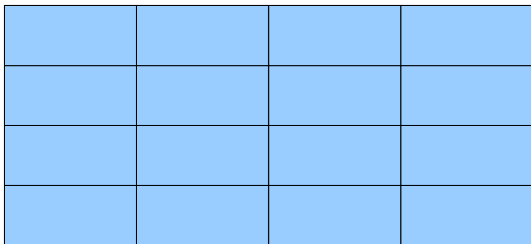
Relational vs Hierarchical

- RDBMSs are built on tables of rows and columns
 - One “record” is one row of columns
 - One value is stored per cell of the table
 - Values have predefined size
- Directories are built from trees of objects
 - One “record” is an object with arbitrarily many attributes
 - An attribute has arbitrarily many values
 - Values have arbitrary size

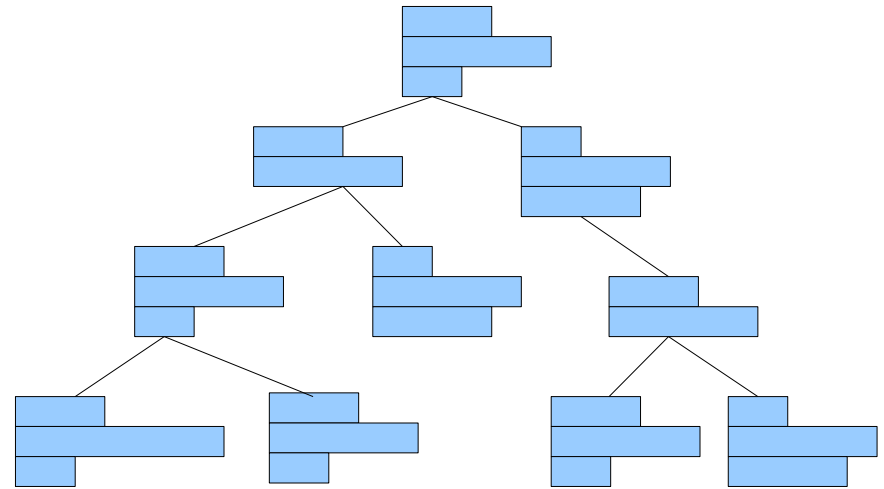


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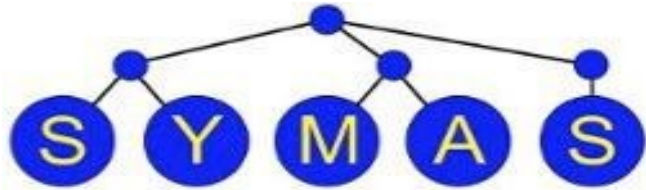
Relational vs Hierarchical



- Each record is similar to every other record
- Individual values can be directly accessed across many records



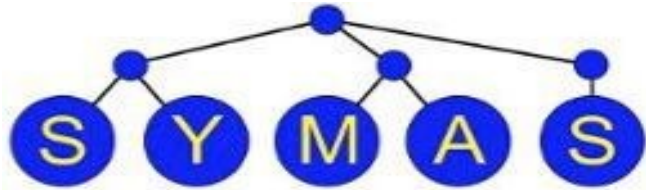
- Records can differ greatly
- Complex traversals may be required to access specific values across records



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Storing LDAP data in RDBMS

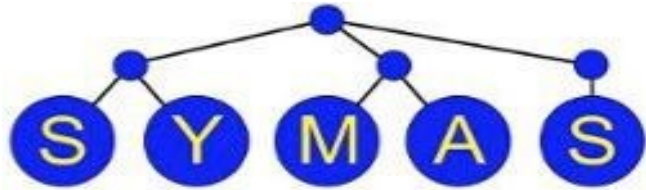
- RDBMSs generally don't support multiple values for a single field/attribute
 - Normalization requires only one value per field
 - Supporting multi-valued attributes requires dedicating a separate table per attribute
 - Combining values across multiple tables typically requires many disk seeks and thus performs poorly



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Storing LDAP data in RDBMS

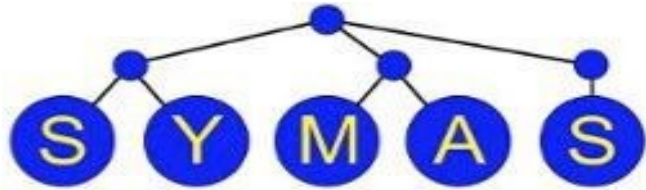
- LDAP uses Distinguished Names (DNs) as primary key
 - The directory namespace is inherently hierarchical, but the RDBMS namespace is inherently flat, so the DN cannot be used directly as an RDBMS primary key



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Cross Access

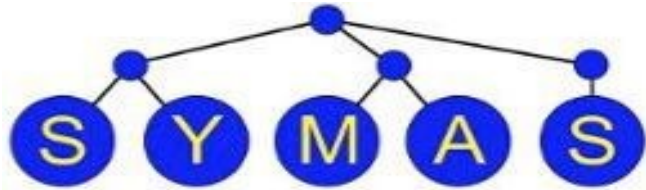
- LDAP access to RDBMS
 - OpenLDAP has provided back-sql since release 2.0
 - It requires a lot of manual setup, and performance is poor because it goes thru many translation layers
- RDBMS access to LDAP
 - Generally there's no direct access: export the LDAP data, massage it, import to RDBMS



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Open Source to the Rescue

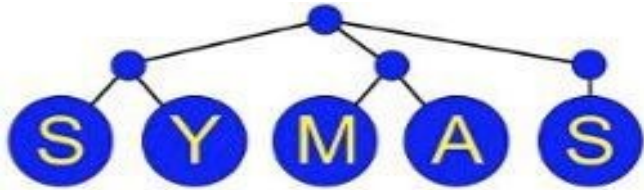
- OpenLDAP is the world's most powerful LDAP software
- MySQL is the world's most popular open source relational database
- Open development models allow seemingly intractable obstacles to be overcome



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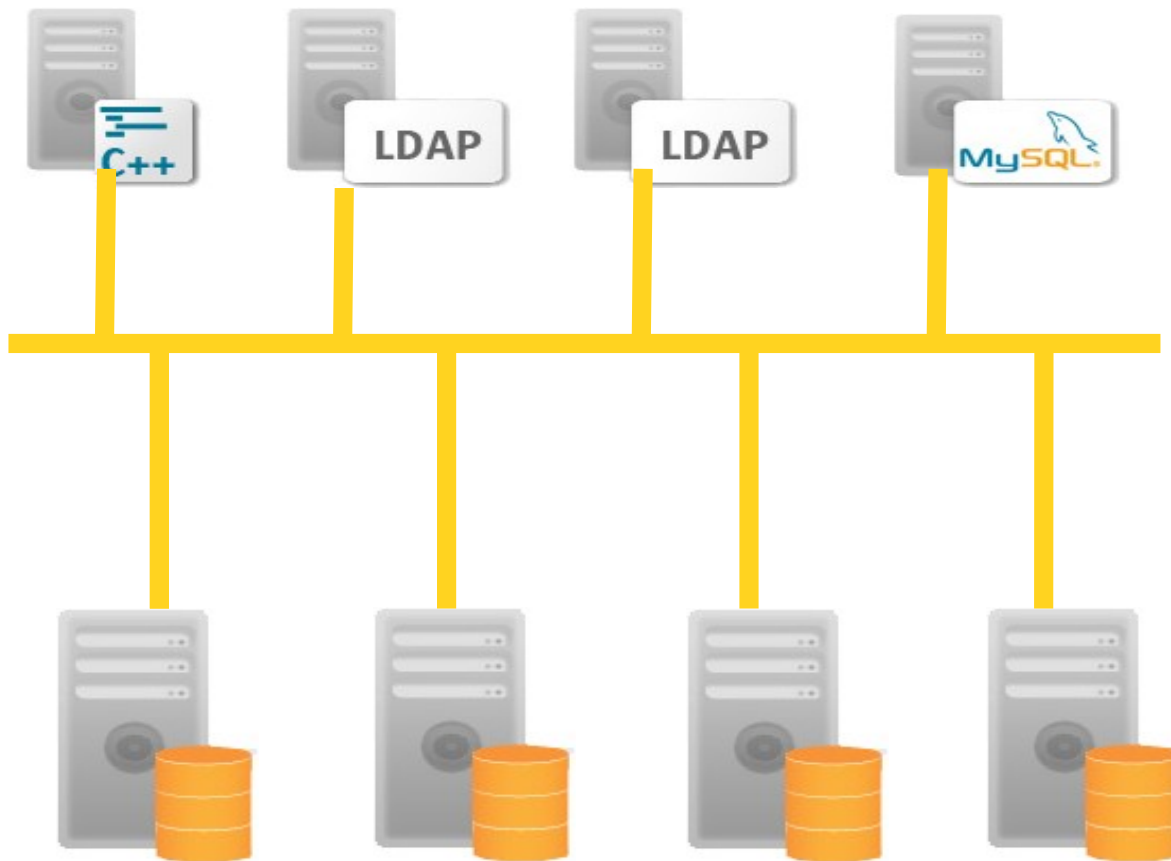
Introducing Back-NDB

- Back-NDB is a new OpenLDAP backend that uses native MySQL APIs for direct access to a MySQL NDB data store
- Released in OpenLDAP 2.4.12
- NDB is MySQL's carrier-grade cluster database engine
 - Fully transactional, scales across multiple data nodes
 - Memory-based for high performance
 - Provides automatic replication/failover



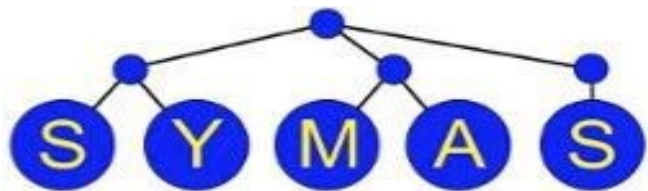
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Introducing Back-NDB



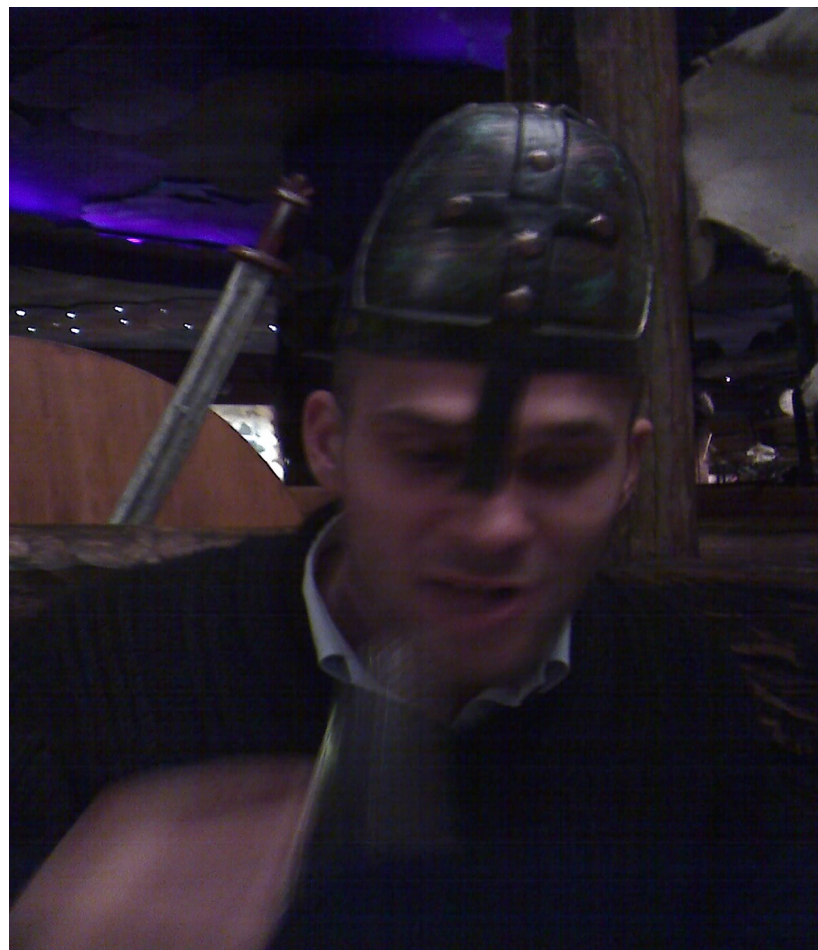
Application Layer:
Simultaneous access to Data
using LDAP, SQL, NDBAPI,
etc

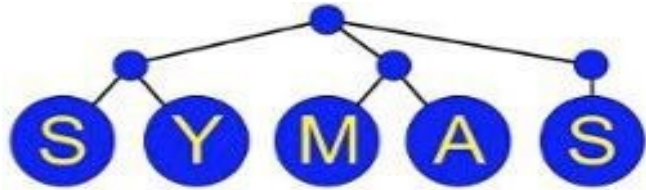
Data Layer (MySQL Cluster):
HA and Dynamically Scalable
(online add node) Data Store.



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Introducing Back-NDB

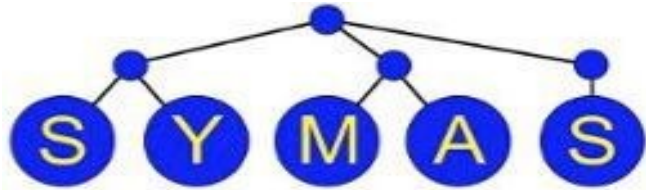




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Back-NDB

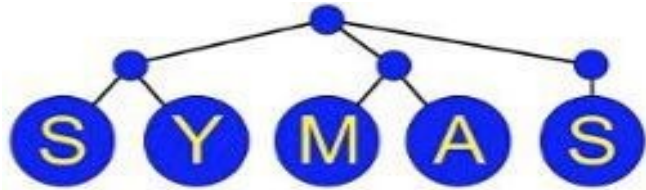
- Uses NDB APIs, bypasses ODBC and SQL layers
- Allows multiple slapd processes to operate on the same NDB databases concurrently
- Also allows multiple concurrent SQL clients
- Automatically maps LDAP schema to RDBMS schema
- Automatically detects RDBMS schema changes and maps to LDAP



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Back-NDB Design

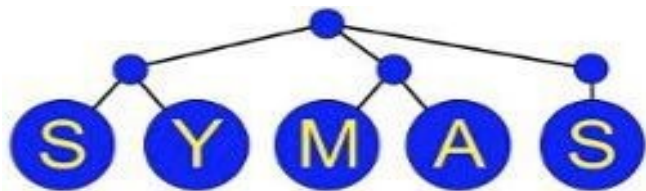
- Uses a DN to ID table to map DNs to numeric IDs
- Numeric IDs are used as the primary key of the main data tables
- Generally uses a separate table per objectclass
- LDAP entries that have multiple objectclasses may have their data split across many tables
- The list of objectclasses for an entry must be known, to identify which tables hold the entry's data



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DN Mapping

- DN2ID table
 - 16 column primary key, one column per RDN of a DN (thus, the directory tree is limited to 16 levels deep)
 - 1 column numeric ID (generated by autoincrement)
 - 1 column objectclass (contains multiple class names, delimited by spaces)

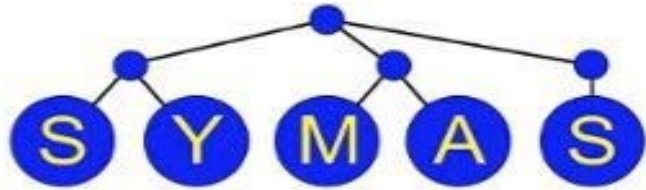


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DN Mapping

- DN2ID table example

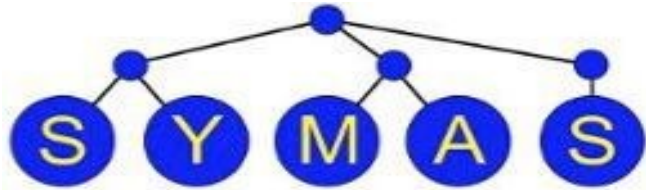
a0 ... a15					eid	objectclasses
dc=com	dc=example	(null)	(null)	(null)	1	dcObject organization
dc=com	dc=example	ou=users	(null)	(null)	2	organizationalUnit
dc=com	dc=example	ou=groups	(null)	(null)	3	organizationalUnit
dc=com	dc=example	ou=groups	cn=staff	(null)	4	groupOfNames
dc=com	dc=example	ou=users	cn=Joe M	(null)	5	person inetOrgPerson



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ObjectClass Mapping

- Data is distributed in a separate table per objectclass
 - Since NDB is memory-resident, disk seeks are not an issue
- But, attributes may only appear in one table
 - Inherited attributes only appear in the parent class's table
 - "Attribute Sets" are used to collect attributes that have multiple unrelated references
 - Attribute Sets are defined in slapd config



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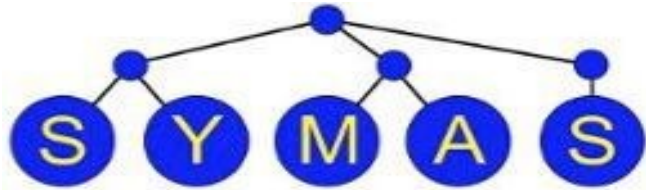
ObjectClass Mapping

- attrset Common cn,sn,uid

eid	cn	sn	uid
4	staff	(null)	(null)
5	Joe M	Mudd	joem

- objectClass person

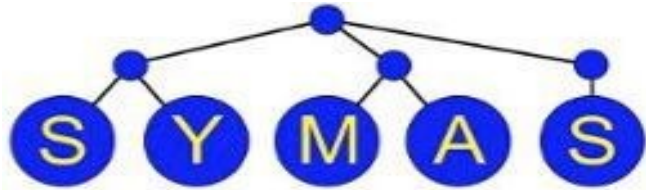
eid	userPassword	telephoneNumber
5	MyGoodSecret	+1-818-555-1212



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Attribute Mapping

- LDAP schema imposes no size limits on schema elements, but RDBMS table columns must be of explicitly configured size
- LDAP schema allows for advisory lengths
- Back-NDB uses advisory lengths as column size, if present
- Sizes may be explicitly configured
- Otherwise a default size of 1024 is used for DNs, 128 for everything else
- Widths of any existing columns are used as-is

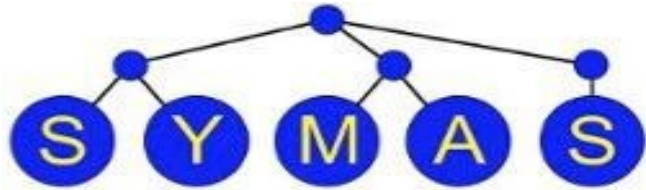


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Attribute Mapping

- Multi-valued attributes require a compound primary key (eid,vid)

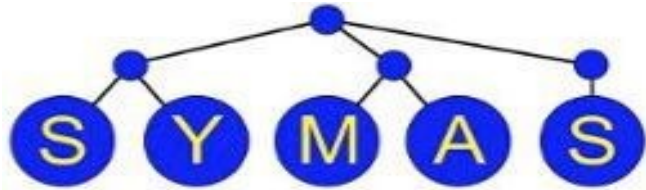
eid	vid	cn	sn	uid
4	0	staff	(null)	(null)
5	0	Joe M	Mudd	joem
5	1	Joseph	(null)	(null)



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Attributes, Misc...

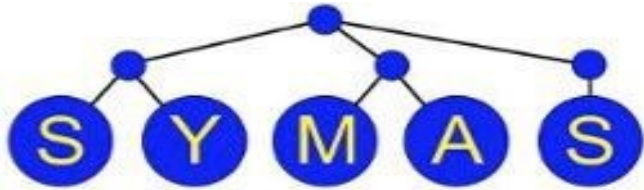
- Currently Attributes are stored either as VARCHARs or as BLOBs; BLOBs must be explicitly chosen in the slapd config
- NDB indexing only supports equality and inequality matching, no substring matching



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Design Wrap-Up

- The table design is minimally constrained; while Back-NDB cannot be dropped in place on an existing database the database can be adapted with minimal changes
- SQL apps are able to use the new tables as easily as before, so data can be shared directly with no duplication/waste
- Hard limits are imposed where LDAP has no limits, but most LDAP apps won't notice

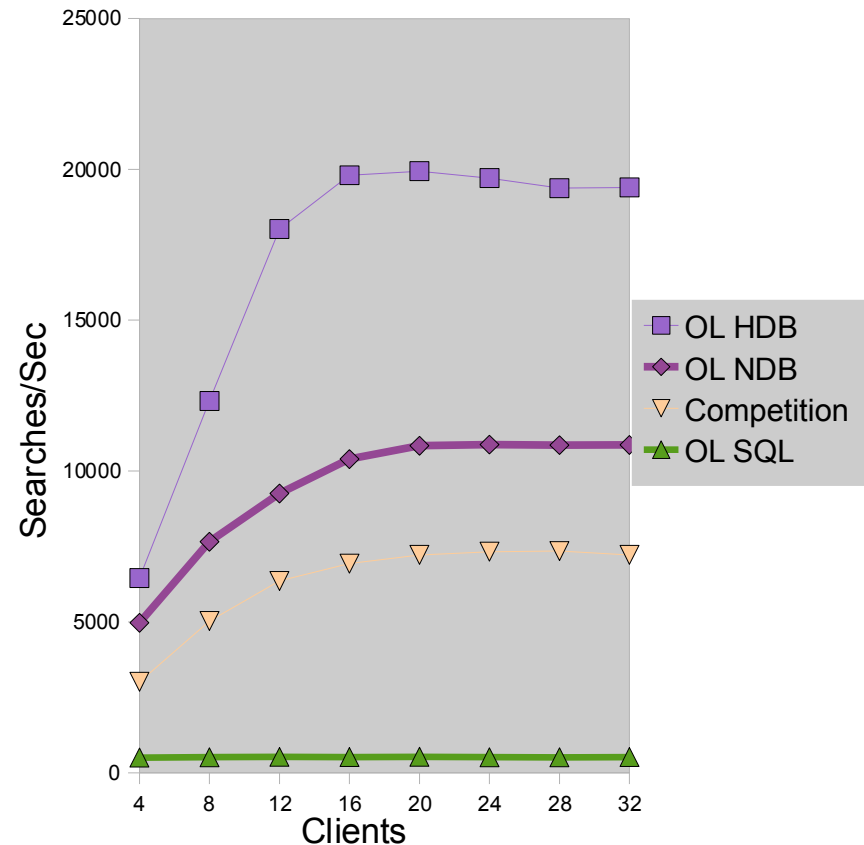


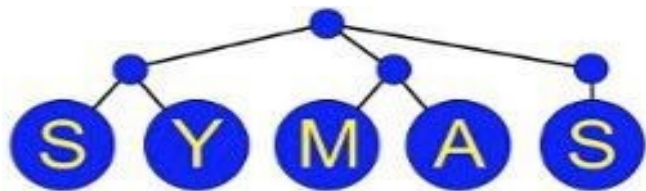
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Early Results

- Orders of magnitude faster than Back-SQL
- Not as fast as BerkeleyDB on a single node, but that's not the point...

Search Rate



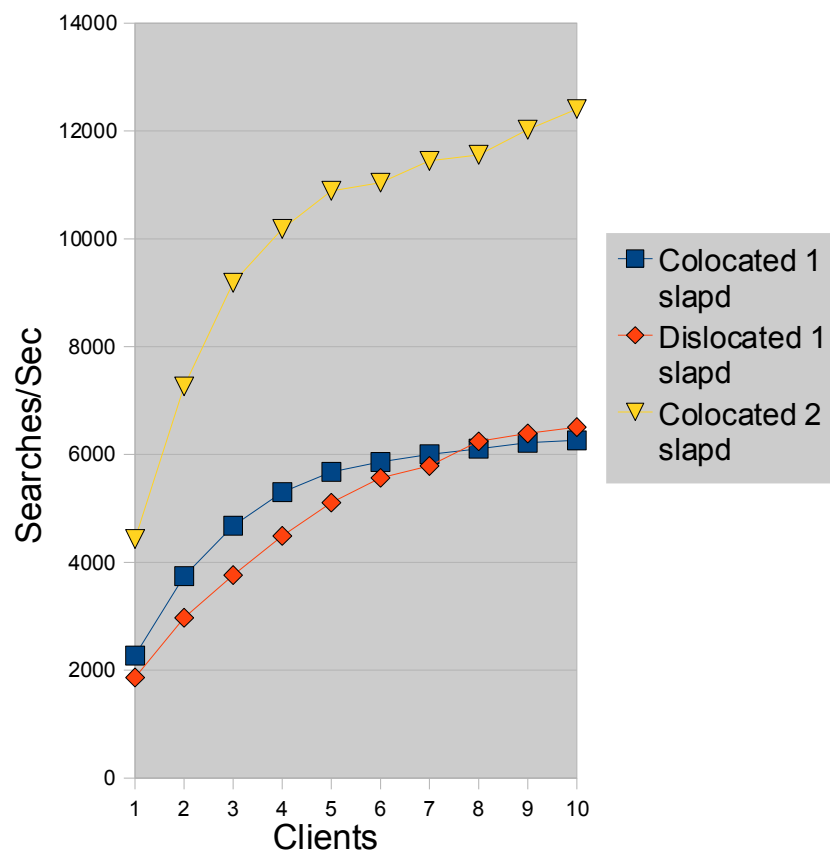


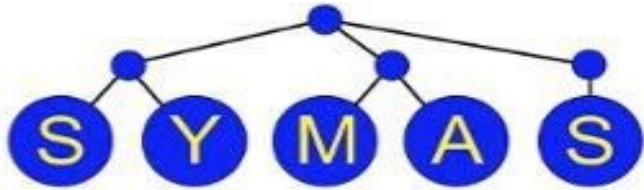
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Scaling Horizontally...

- Cluster engine allows DB to be spread across multiple data nodes
- Multiple slapds can access the same DB simultaneously
- Performance scales linearly with number of nodes

NDB With 2 Data Nodes



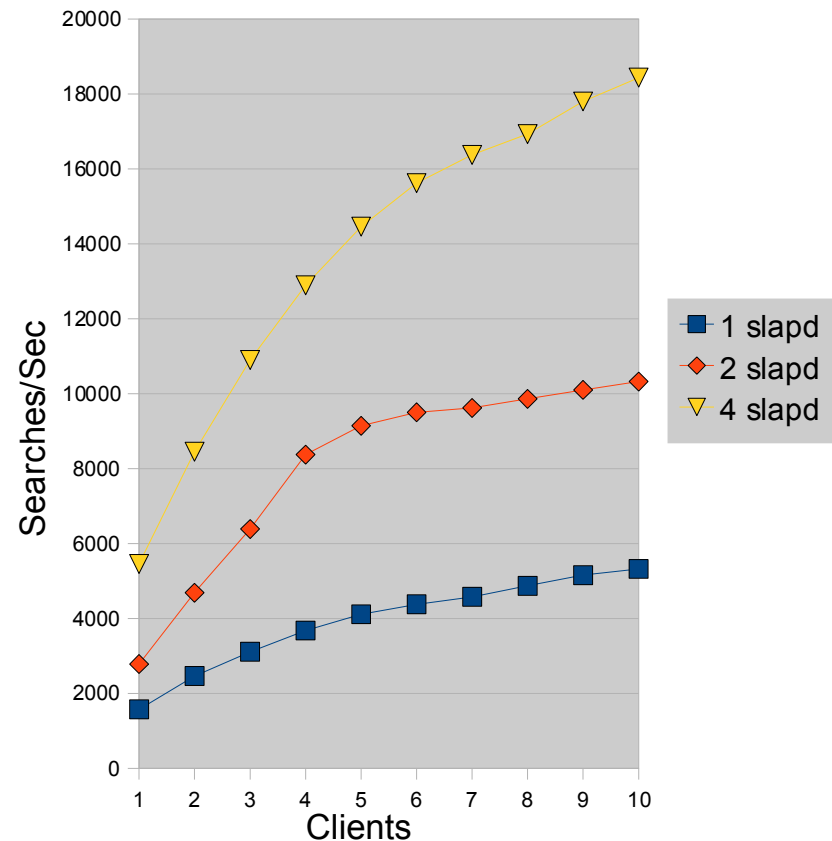


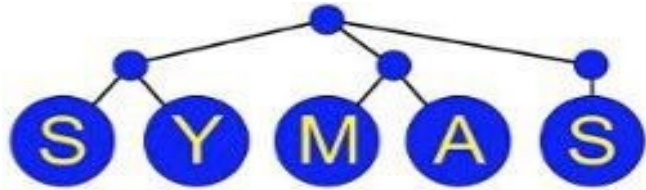
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Scaling Horizontally...

- Ideal for cluster and blade deployments
- Whenever more capacity or throughput are needed, just add more data nodes or slapd frontends

NDB With 4 Data Nodes

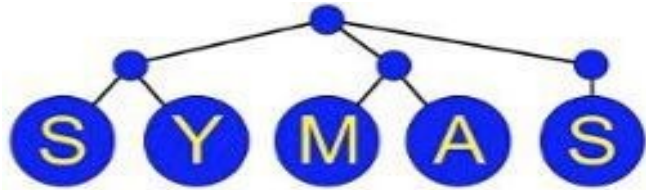




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Future Directions

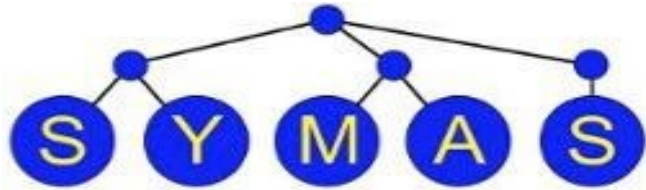
- Cache DN2ID table
 - Currently no local caching is done
 - Every reference to an entry requires two network roundtrips - one to the DN2ID table, and one to all of the relevant data tables
 - Reduce network roundtrips in half, double throughput



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Future Directions

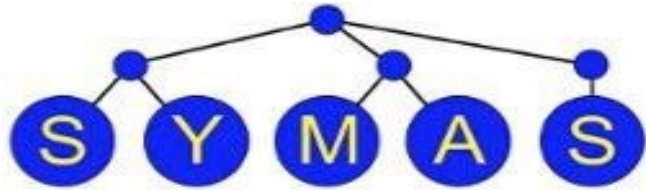
- Redesign DN2ID table to use HDB-style hierarchical layout
 - Increase storage efficiency - current approach wastes significant space on redundant copies of RDNs
 - Support subtree renames - current approach requires $O(n)$ time to rename a subtree; HDB style is $O(1)$



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Future Directions

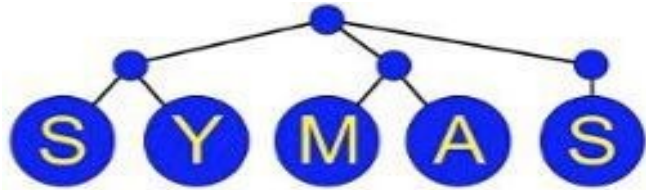
- Investigate possible future enhancements to MySQL
 - Support for substring indexing - currently no support at all
 - Support for consolidated filter/index processing - currently the NDB filter engine is separate from the index mechanism



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Conclusion

- Growth of databases is inevitable; they never shrink
- The importance of data management and data sharing continues to increase as distributed applications proliferate
- Per-app databases are untenable as the cost of maintaining duplicate data and guaranteeing its consistency grows



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Conclusion

- Admins shouldn't be forced into an either-or situation for LDAP vs RDBMS
- With Back-NDB both approaches will work equally well
- OpenLDAP and MySQL give you the best of both worlds
- Getting started material:
<http://www.severalnines.com/blog/openldap.php>