



# The Checkpoint Blues

Baron Schwartz  
MySQL UC 2011



**Consulting  
Support  
Training  
Development**

**For MySQL**

# Percona Server



- Replaces MySQL
- Faster Queries
- More Consistent
- More Measurable
- More Features

# Percona XtraBackup



PERCONA  
XTRABACKUP

- Backs Up InnoDB
- Non-Blocking

# InnoDB in 2007

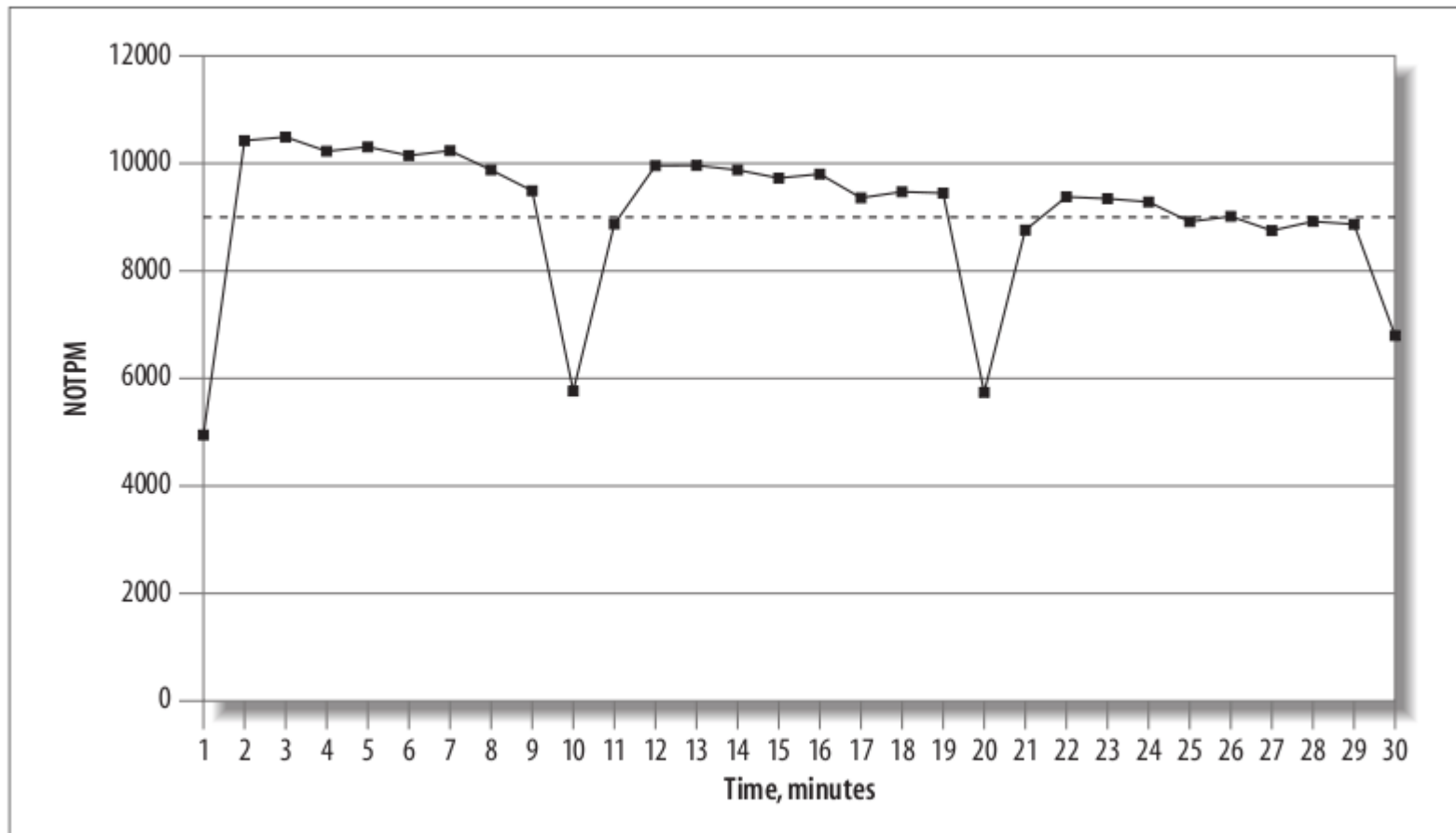
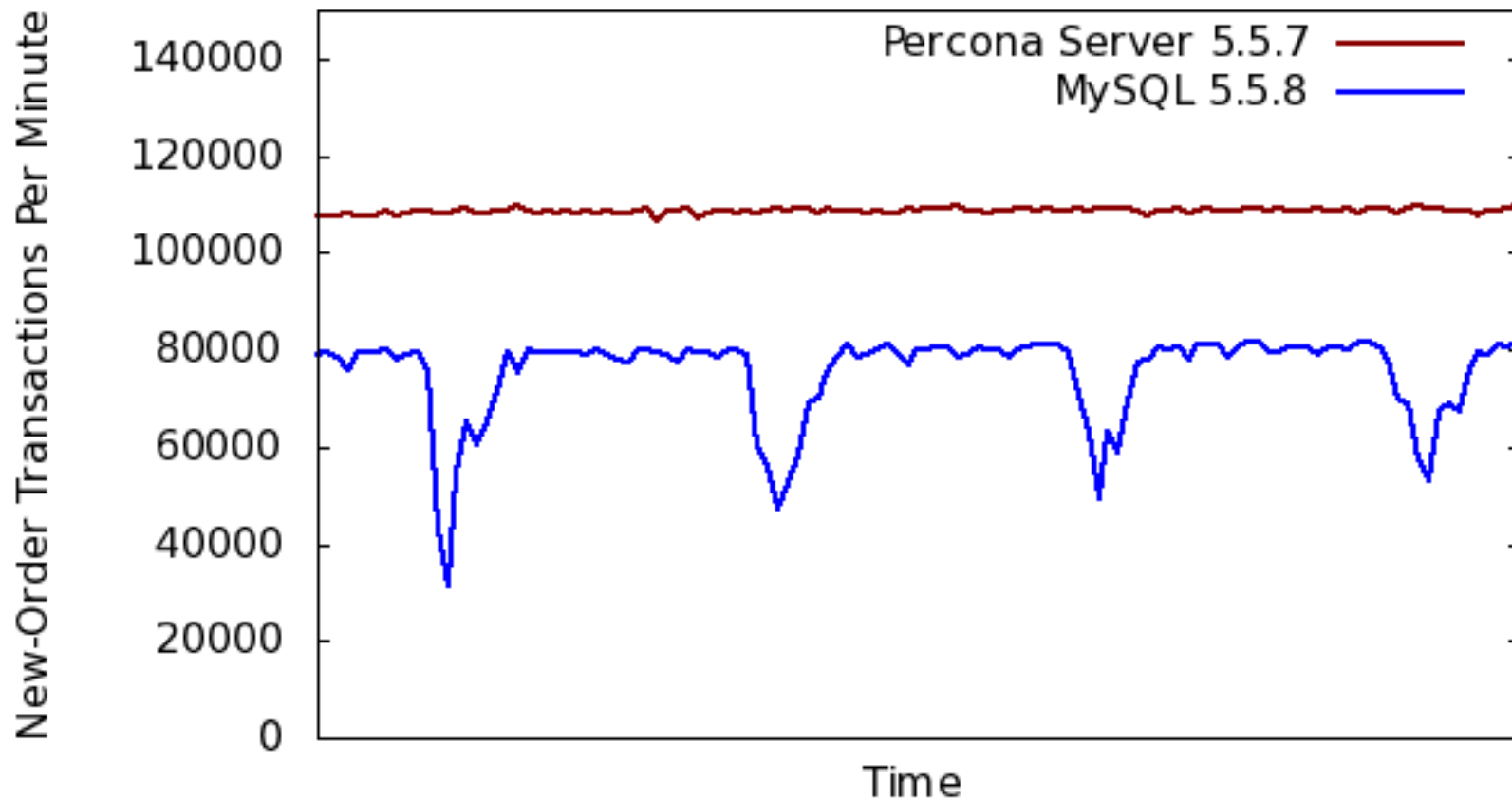


Figure 2-1. Results from a 30-minute dbt2 benchmark run

# InnoDB in 2011



From <http://www.mysqlperformanceblog.com/2010/12/20/mysql-5-5-8-and-percona-server-being-adaptive/>

# How InnoDB Does a Checkpoint

- Continuously moving “fuzzy” checkpoint
  - c.f. Gray & Reuter, or Weikum & Vossen
  - Or <http://www.xaprb.com/blog/2011/01/29/how-innodb-performs-a-checkpoint/>

# InnoDB Flushing

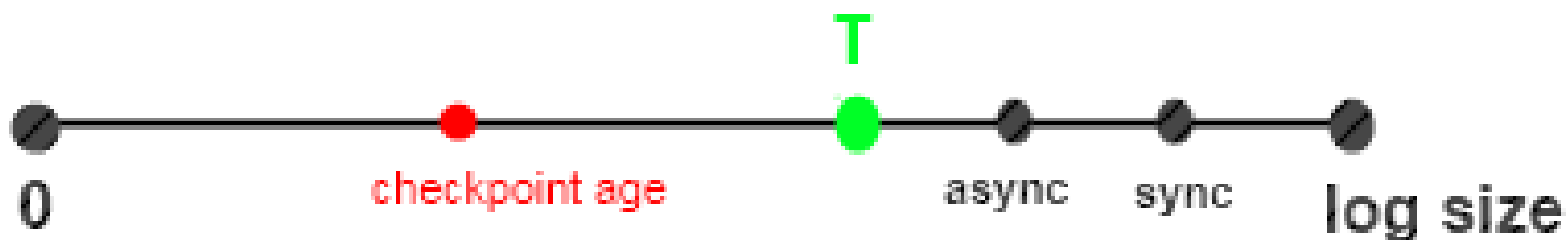
- There are two lists for flushing in InnoDB
  - LRU list, when a page read forces out a dirty page
  - Flush list, when checkpointing is needed
  - See <http://www.mysqlperformanceblog.com/2011/01/13/different-flavors-of-innodb-flushing/>

# Why is Flushing Important?

- Don't flush dirty data immediately
- This is an optimization
- I call it *write combining*
- See  
<http://www.mysqlperformanceblog.com/2009/12/09/why-delayed-flushing-can-result-in-less-work/>

# InnoDB's Constraints

- Don't run out of space in the logs
- Don't let the buffer pool get more than X% dirty



- See <http://www.mysqlperformanceblog.com/2011/04/04/innodb-flushing-theory-and-solutions/>

# InnoDB Adaptive Flushing

- Flush routinely as background work
- How much to flush at a time?
  - How many dirty blocks there are
  - How fast the log sequence number increases
  - How large the logs are
  - But respect `innodb_io_capacity` configuration option

# XtraDB Adaptive Flushing

- There are several algorithms, improving over time
- The current stable algorithm in our GA release:
- Defer flushing, then estimate, then flush storm
- How much to flush?
  - How many dirty blocks there are
  - How fast the LSN increases
  - Average of modified age of dirty blocks

# What Causes Flushing Storms?

- Running into one of the limits
  - Too many dirty blocks
  - Running out of space in the logs (oldest dirty block is too old)

# What Makes Life Hard?

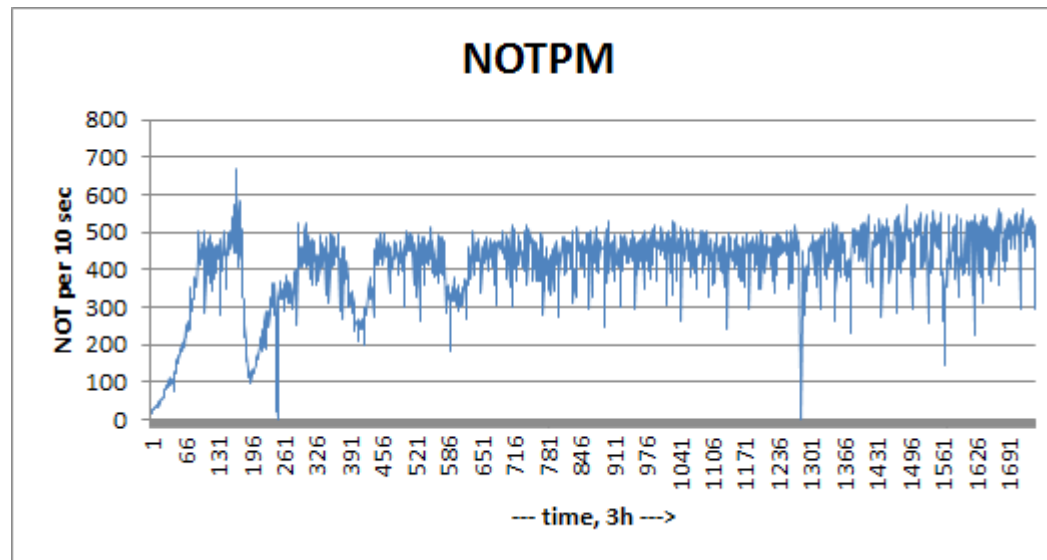
- Dirty block age is not uniformly distributed
- LRU flushing can be counter productive
- Neighbor block flushing doesn't really work
- Disks and SSDs need different optimizations
- Some blocks are very hot

# Ongoing Research

- XtraDB flushing is very stable, in most cases
- But even XtraDB can get into trouble when...
  - Slow disks, so they can't keep up
  - Workload fits in memory, so even fast disks can't keep up (or XtraDB can't use all available capacity)

# Ongoing Research

- Vary the flushing speed, based on how fast pages are being dirtied
- We hope to release this algorithm very soon



# Percona Live, May 26, New York



[www.percona.com/live](http://www.percona.com/live)



**baron@percona.com**

**We're Hiring! [www.percona.com/about-us/careers/](http://www.percona.com/about-us/careers/)**