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# File system and virtual memory tuning for a Zabbix database

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Zarejestrowany znak towarowy Linux® jest używany na podstawie umowy sublicencyjnej zawartej z Linux Foundation, wyłącznego licencjodawcy Linusa Torvaldsa, właściciela znaku na terytorium całego świata.

# Overview

- o Why and what for?
- o Data
- o Methods
- o Theoretical background
- o Results



hardware

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# The Hardware

- After an interesting customer's case (probably NUMA dependent) decided to do my own tests
- it's NUMA (*Non-uniform memory access*) so I needed at least 4 sockets
- A hosting? Really a few options for 4 sockets & quite expensive
- So decided to buy my own Server



# The Hardware

- o HP Proliant DL580 G7
- o CPU: 4 x Intel® Xeon® Processor X7542 (18M Cache, 2.67 GHz, 6.40 GT/s Intel® QPI)
- o RAM: 128 GB DDR3 (10600R)
- o Disks: 4 x 300GB SAS 10 000



# environment

Kernel name: Linux

Kernel release: 3.10.0-862.14.4.el7.x86\_64

Kernel version: #1 SMP Wed Sep 26 15:12:11 UTC 2018

Hardware name: x86\_64

Processor: x86\_64

Hardware platform: x86\_64

Red Hat release: CentOS Linux release 7.5.1804 (Core)



background



# background

- Operating system configuration check is always done during db audits
- Parameters and the „right values” were chosen from a lot of solid sources
- But never investigated in a real production environment

parameter	default value	recommended value
vm.overcommit_memory	0	2
vm.overcommit_ratio	50	80-99
vm.dirty_background_ratio	10	1-5
vm.dirty_ratio	20	2-15
vm.dirty_writeback_centisecs	500	50-200
vm.dirty_expire_centisecs	3000	500-2000
vm.swappiness	60	0-10
vm.zone_reclaim_mode	0	0
transparent_hugepage enabled	always	never
transparent_hugepage defrag	always	never
scheduler	deadline	deadline
CPU scaling governor	powersave	performance
odczyt z wyprzedzeniem	256	8192-16384

# data

- But where to get those „real data” from?
- Fortunately one of our customer agreed to use their data for these tests
- Because of this in the title of this presentation you can find Zabbix

The ZABBIX logo consists of the word "ZABBIX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

# data

Production:

- o ~4TB of data
- o A big polish public institution
- o Data from tens of thousands metrics
- o 1 PostgreSQL 10 instance with 1 hot standby



# data extraction

Preparations:

- DB logical snapshot (*pg\_dump*)
- Text logs (not WAL's) gathered for 2 days since snapshot was taken
- `log_min_duration_statement = 0`



# methods

Single test run

- o duration: 1hour
- o rc.local script that starts the test
- o a new parameter value is set
- o pgreplay starts
- o after 1 hour pgreplay process is killed
- o reboot



# Db configuration

name	current_setting
autovacuum	off
default_text_search_config	pg_catalog.english
dynamic_shared_memory_type	posix
effective_cache_size	28GB
lock_timeout	1min
log_autovacuum_min_duration	0
log_checkpoints	on
log_connections	on
log_destination	stderr
log_disconnections	on
log_error_verbosity	default
log_filename	postgresql-test.log
log_line_prefix	%t [%p]: db=%d,user=%u,app=%a,client=%h
log_lock_waits	on
log_min_duration_statement	0
log_temp_files	0
log_timezone	Poland
logging_collector	on
maintenance_work_mem	2GB
max_connections	5000
max_wal_size	10GB
shared_buffers	2GB
TimeZone	Poland
work_mem	2MB



# methods

To increase the load all the logs were replayed at once, some logs were replayed twice:

```
for i in {1..9} ; do time pgreplay10 -r -j -s 20 $I_LOGS/postgresql-0${i}.replay& 2>&1; done  
for i in {10..21} ; do time pgreplay10 -r -j -s 20 $I_LOGS/postgresql-${i}.replay& 2>&1; done  
for i in {10..16} ; do time pgreplay10 -r -j -s 20 $I_LOGS/postgresql-${i}.replay& 2>&1; done
```



# methods

Metrics:

- o PgBadger

- o Data from 2 views written every second to another db

```
#!/bin/bash
while :
do
  psql -c "copy (SELECT '$1', now(), * FROM pg_stat_database WHERE datname='zabbix') TO stdout" | psql -p 5099 -c 'copy database_zabbix FROM stdin'
  psql -c "copy (SELECT '$1', now(), * FROM pg_stat_bgwriter) TO stdout" | psql -p 5099 -c 'copy bgwriter FROM stdin'
  sleep 1
done
```



overcommit

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# Overcommit

There is a lot of programs that request huge amounts of memory "just-in-case" and don't use much of it

The Linux kernel supports the following overcommit handling modes (*overcommit\_memory*):

- 0 - Heuristic overcommit handling (default)
- 1 - Always overcommit
- 2 - "never overcommit" policy that attempts to prevent any overcommit of memory



# Overcommit

scary movie X



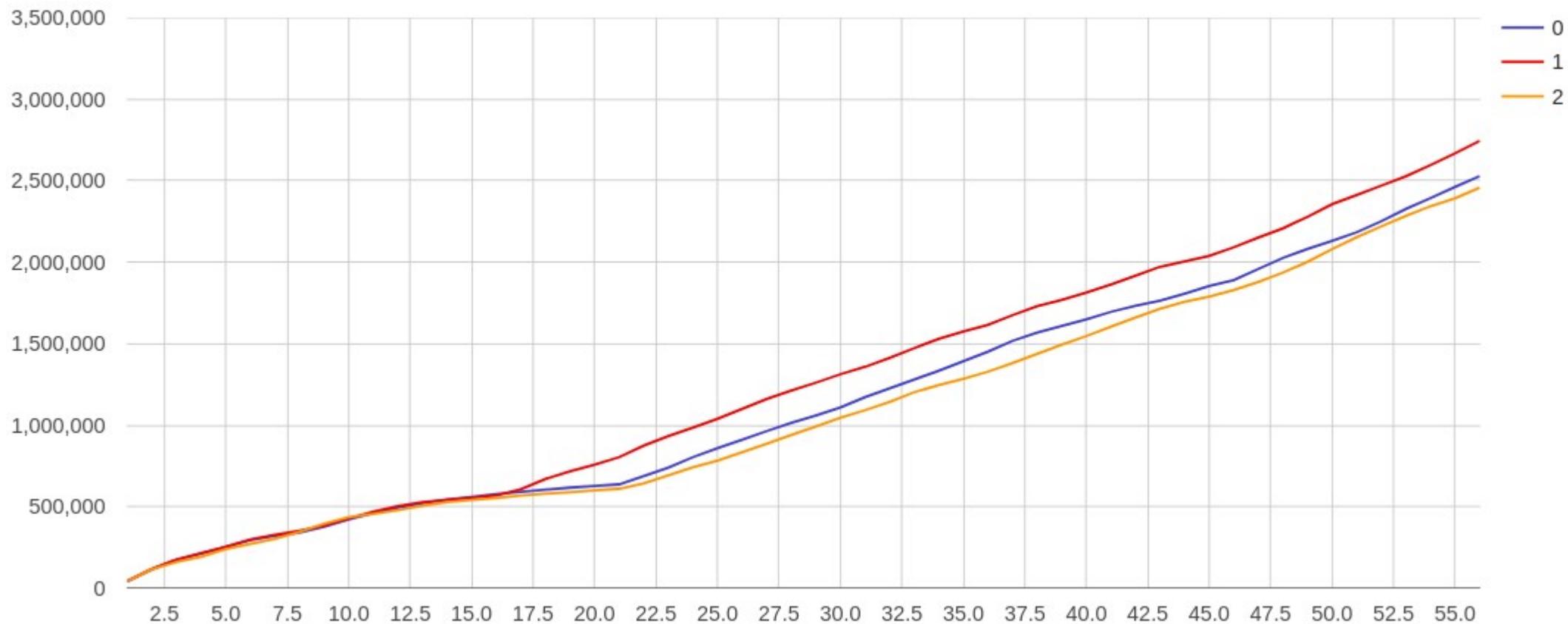
# Overcommit

- o `overcommit_memory` - flag that enables memory overcommitment
- o `overcommit_ratio` - when *overcommit\_memory* is set to 2 - the total address space commit for the system is not permitted to exceed swap + a configurable amount (default is 50%) of physical RAM



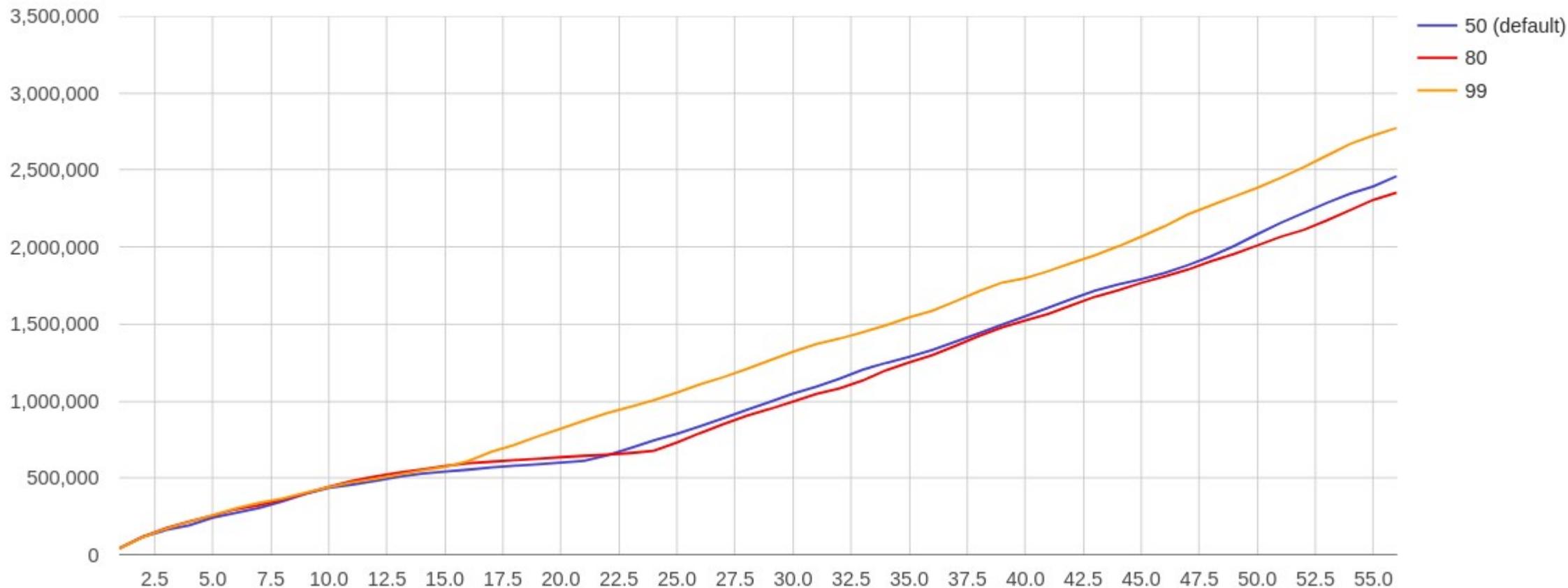
# Overcommit memory

## Overcommit memory



# Overcommit ratio

## Overcommit ratio



writeout of dirty data to disk



# writeout of dirty data to disk

Buffered writes - operating system read and write caches are used

Dirty page doesn't go directly to the disk - it gets flushed to the OS write cache which then writes it to disk



# writeout of dirty data to disk

Writeback tuning parameters:

- o dirty\_background\_ratio & dirty\_ratio (space)

- o dirty\_expire\_centisecs, dirty\_writeback\_centisecs (time)



# writeout of dirty data to disk

*dirty\_background\_ratio* - defines the percentage of memory that can become dirty before a background flushing of the pages to disk starts. Until this percentage is reached no pages are flushed to disk. However when the flushing starts, then **it's done in the background without disrupting any of the running processes in the foreground.** (or *dirty\_background\_bytes*)

default: 10%



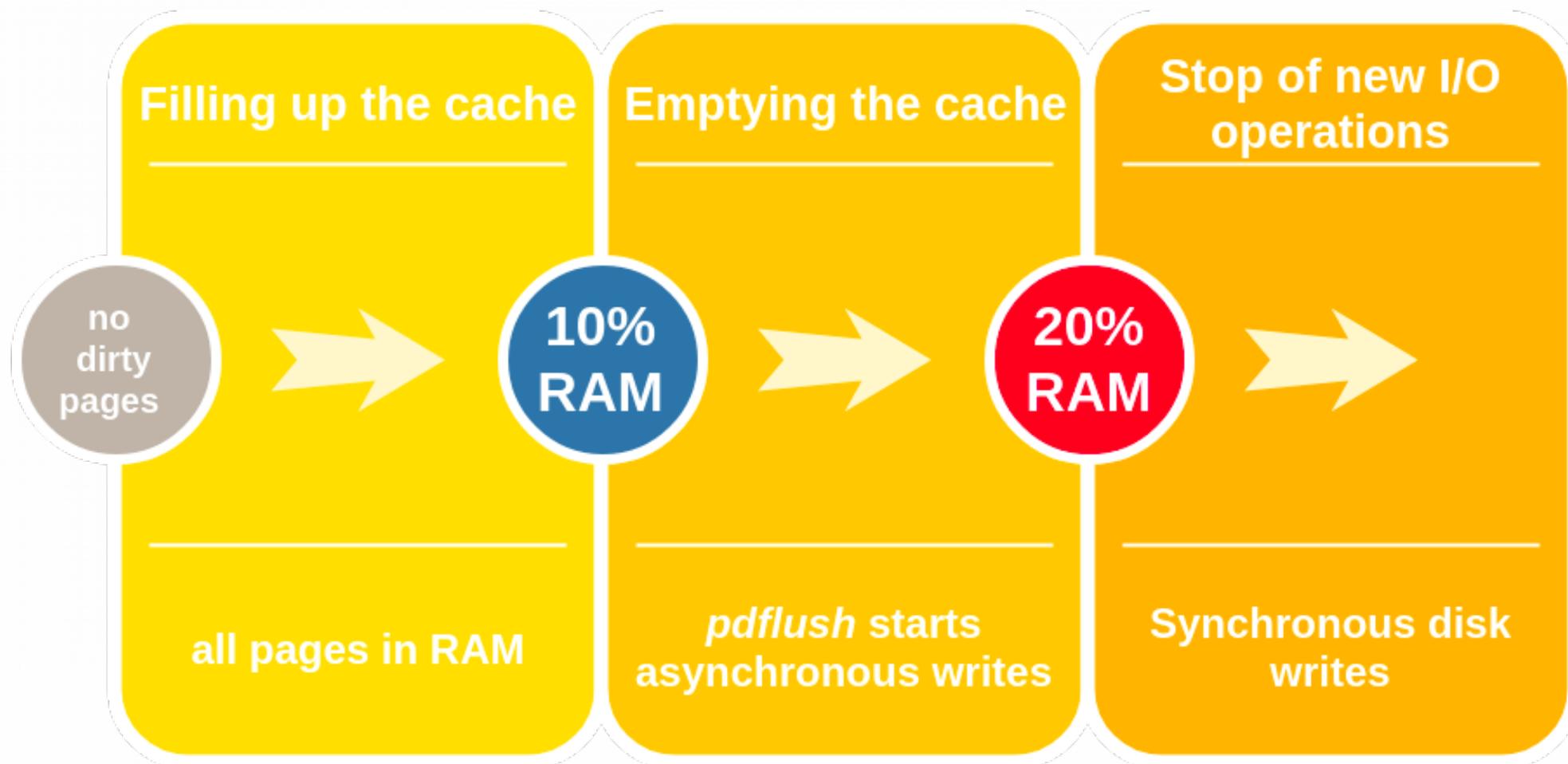
# Overcommit

*dirty\_ratio* - defines the percentage of memory which can be occupied by dirty pages before a forced flush starts. If the percentage of dirty pages reaches this number, then **all processes become synchronous**, they are not allowed to continue until the io operation they have requested is actually performed and the data is on disk (or *dirty\_bytes*)

default: 20%

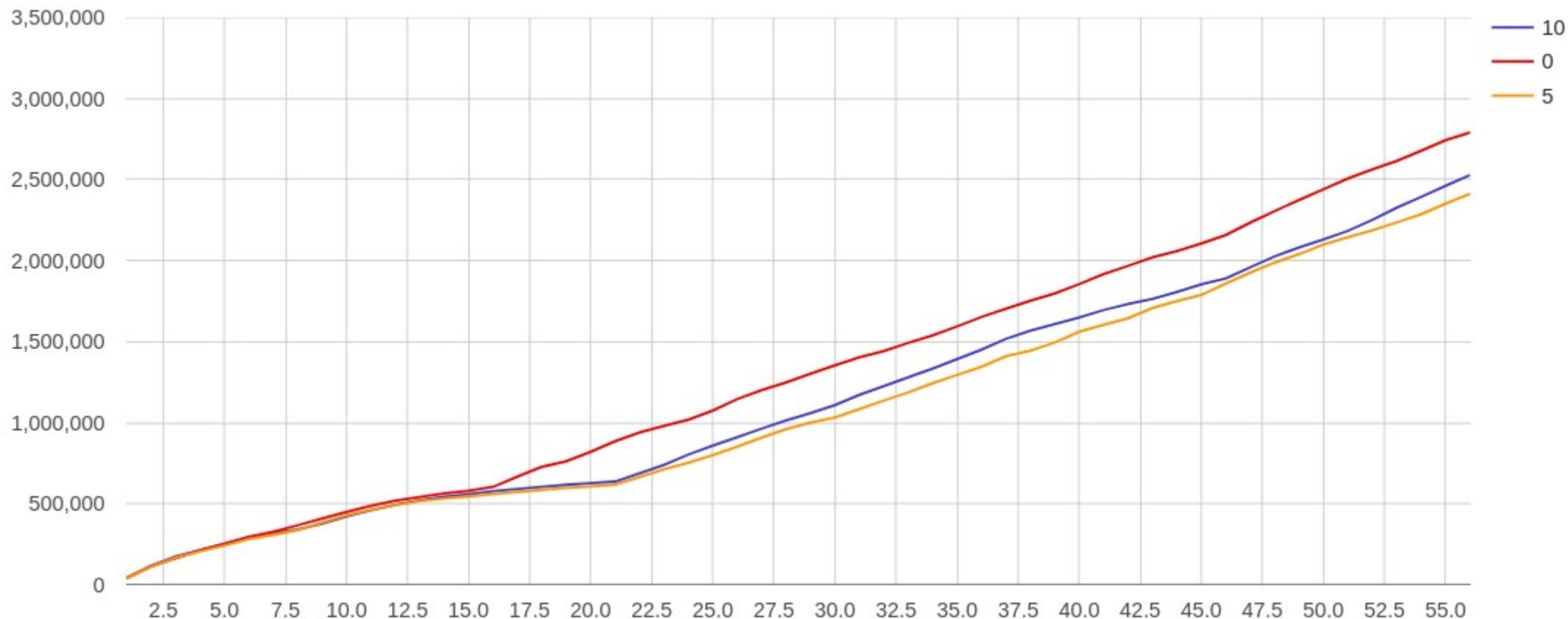


# writeout of dirty data to disk



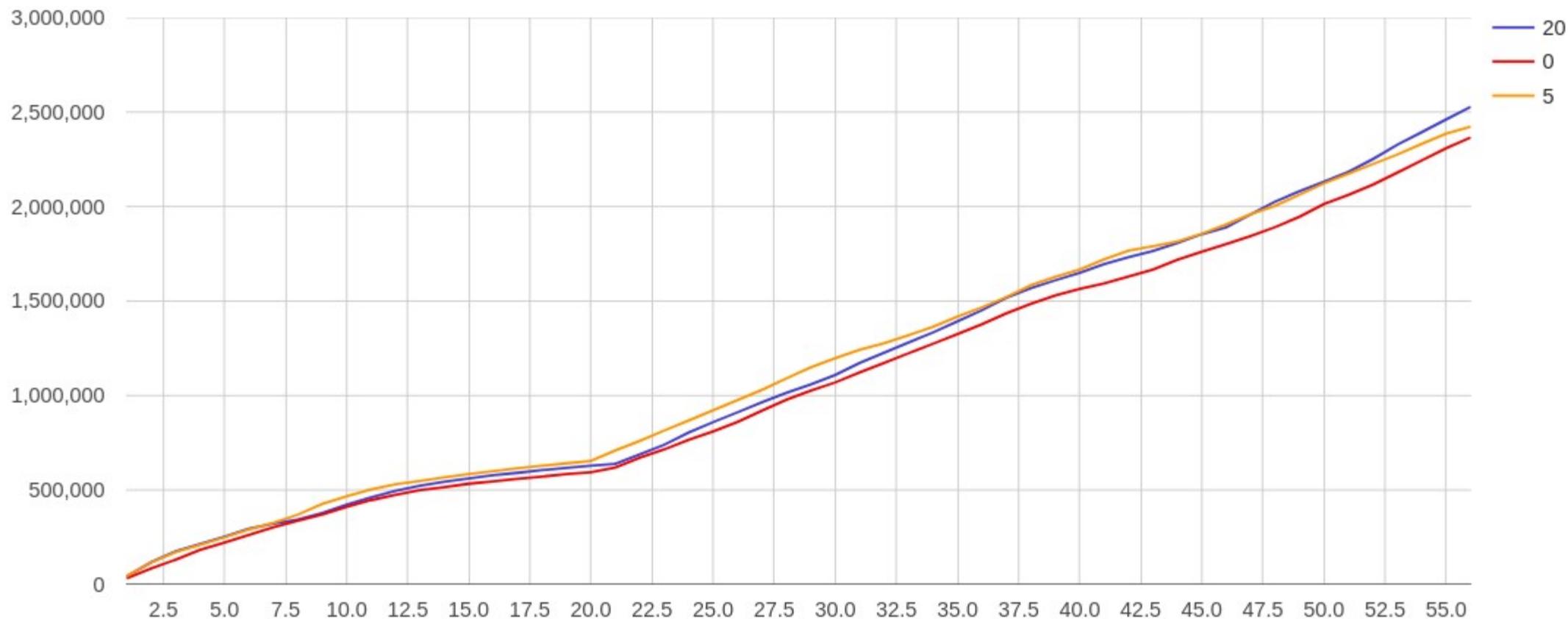
# dirty background ratio

Dirty background ratio



# dirty ratio

Dirty ratio



# HugePages



# HugePages

x86 CPUs usually address memory in 4kB pages, but they are capable of using larger 2 MB or 1 GB pages known as huge pages.

Two kinds of huge pages:

- o pre-allocated at startup
- o allocated dynamically during runtime



# Transparent HugePages

- enabled by default with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7, SUSE 11, Oracle Linux 6, and Oracle Linux 7



# Transparent HugePages

„Oracle recommends that you disable Transparent HugePages before you start installation.”

Release 12.2 Oracle Documentation

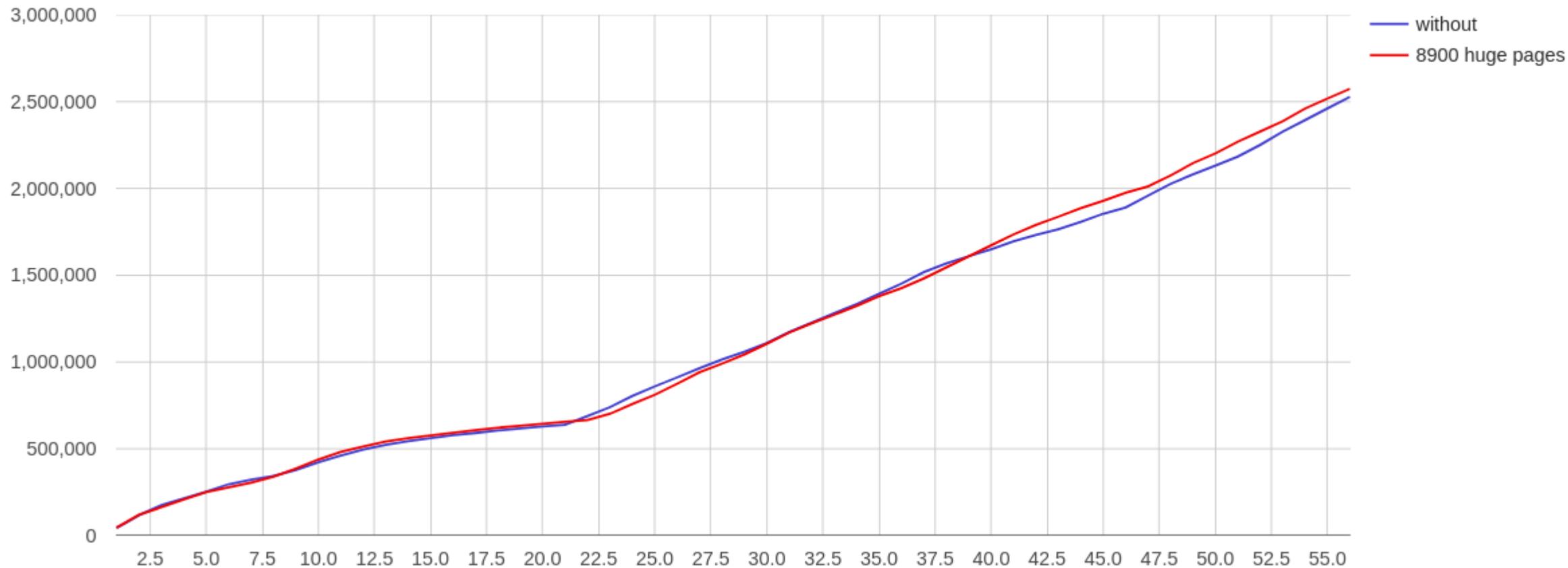
„Disable Transparent Huge Pages (THP)”

MongoDB Documentation



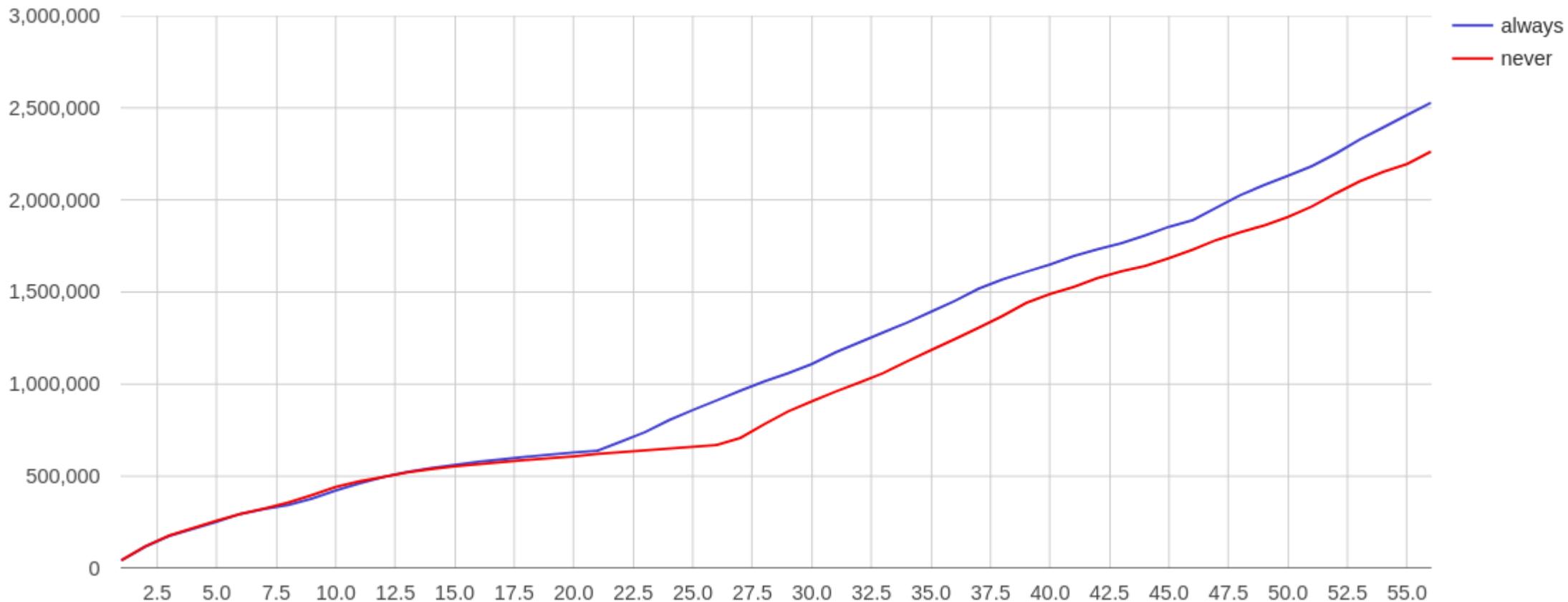
# HugePages

## Huge Pages



# Transparent HugePages

## Transparent HugePages



read-ahead



# read-ahead

„The first parameter you should tune on any Linux install  
is the device read-ahead.”

Ibrar Ahmed, Greg Smith

PostgreSQL 9.6 High Performance



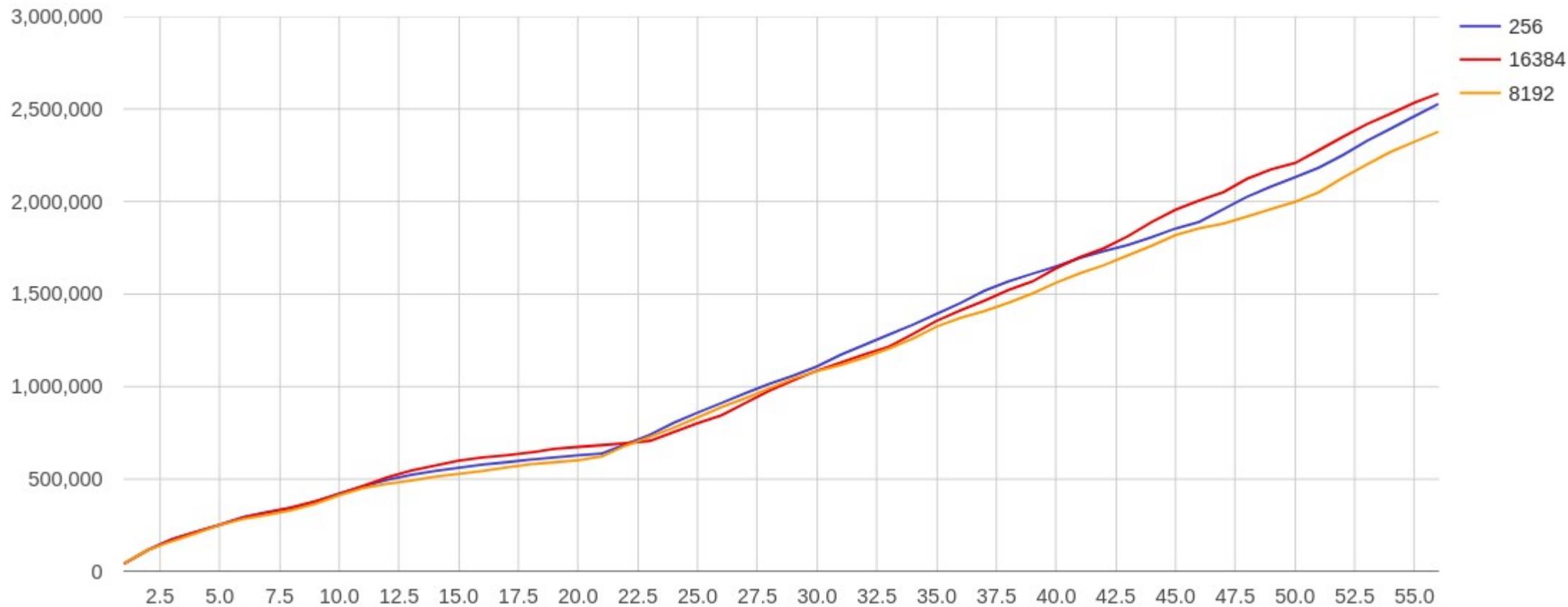
# read-ahead

Readahead is a system call of the Linux kernel that loads a file's contents into the page cache. This prefetches the file so that when it is subsequently accessed, its contents are read from the main memory (RAM) rather than from a hard disk drive (HDD), resulting in much lower file access latencies.



# read-ahead

## Read-Ahead



swappiness



# swappiness

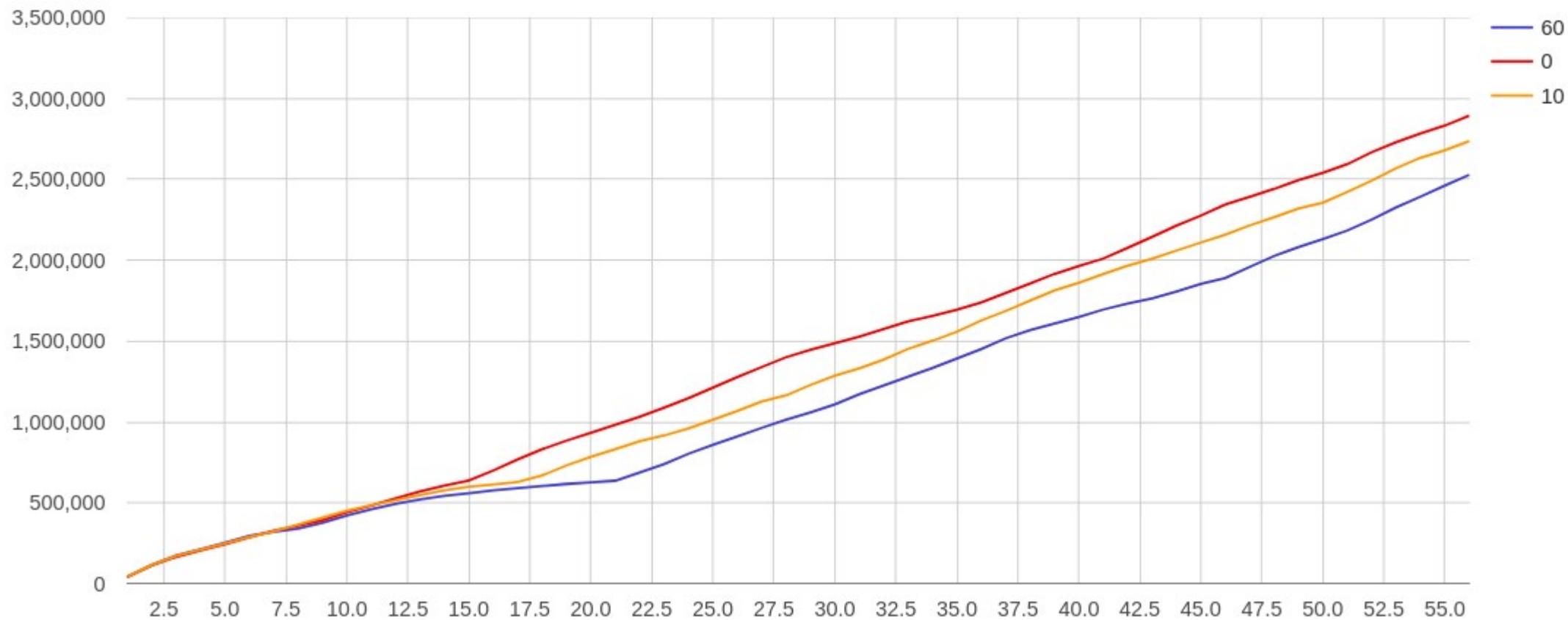
- controls how much the kernel favors swap over RAM
- higher values will increase aggressiveness
- lower values decrease the amount of swap

default: 60



# swappiness

## Swappiness



# mount options



# noatime

- Do not update access times on this filesystem

`/dev/mapper/centos-azot on /azot type xfs (rw,noatime,seclabel,attr2,inode64,noquota)`

[default value: relatime; recommended: noatime]



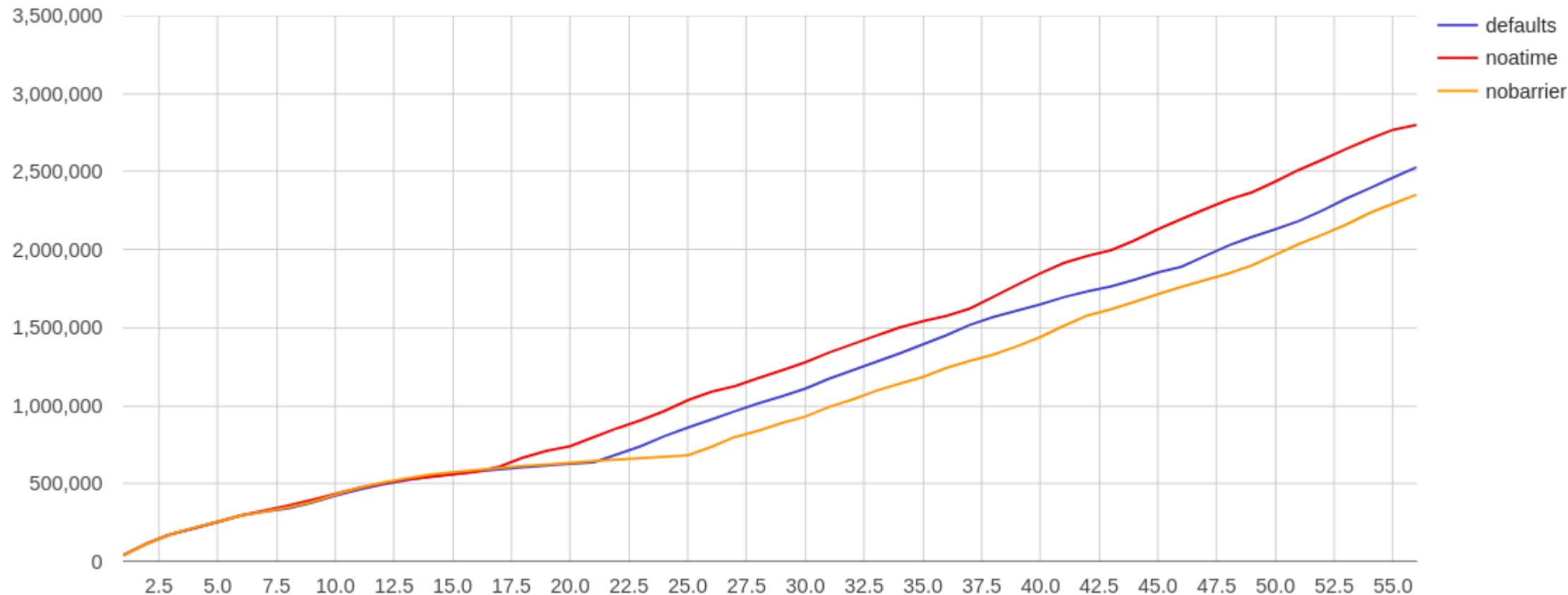
# noatime

- I/O barriers ensure that requests actually get written to non-volatile medium in order
- filesystem integrity protection when power failure or some other events stop the drive from operating and possibly make the drive lose data in its cache
- nobarrier option disables this feature



# noatime

## Mount Options



# I/O schedulers



# I/O schedulers

„People seem drawn to this area, hoping that it will have a real impact on the performance of their system, based on the descriptions. The reality is that these are being covered last because this is the least-effective tunable mentioned in this section.”

Ibrar Ahmed, Greg Smith

PostgreSQL 9.6 High Performance



# I/O schedulers

- decide in which order the block I/O operations will be submitted to storage volumes
- reorders the incoming randomly ordered requests so the associated data would be accessed with minimal arm/head movement
- noop [deadline] cfq



# I/O schedulers

„Anyone who tells you that either CFQ or deadline is always the right choice doesn't know what they're talking about”

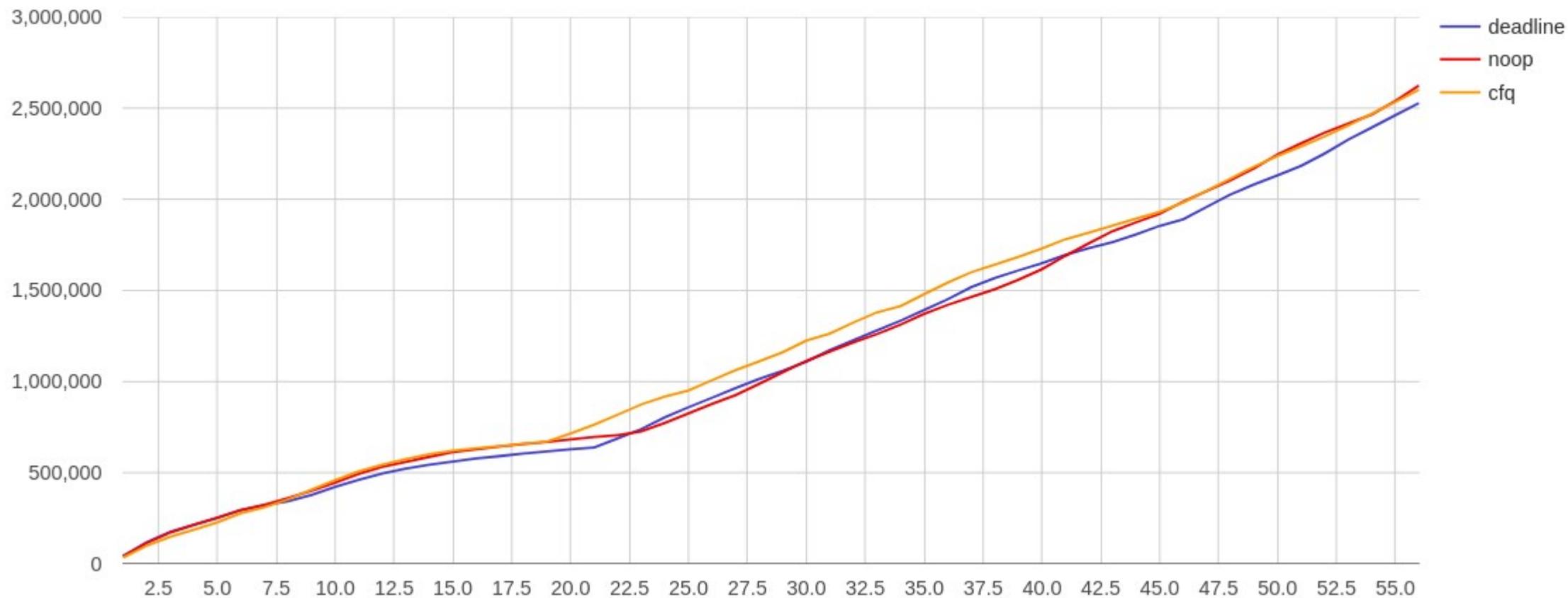
Ibrar Ahmed, Greg Smith

PostgreSQL 9.6 High Performance



# I/O schedulers

I/O schedulers



separated volumes



# separated volumes

„It is advantageous if the log is located on a different disk from the main database files”

PostgreSQL Documentation



# separated volumes

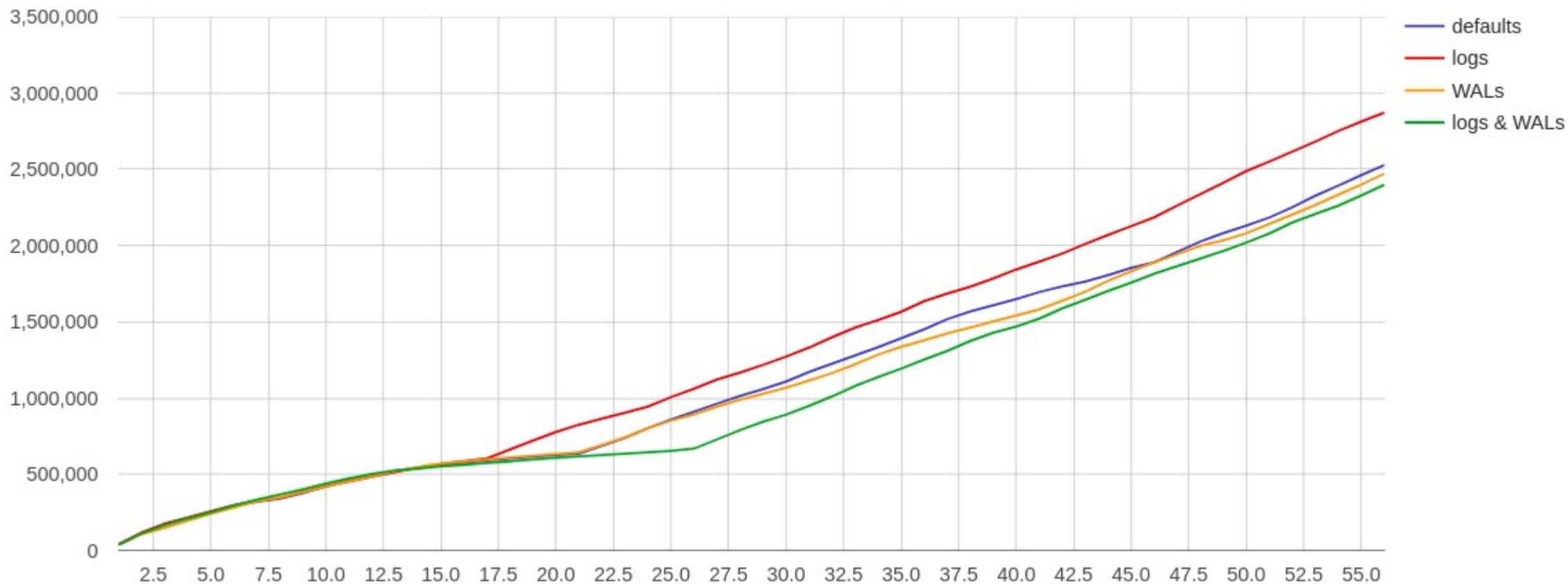
What to separate?

- WALs
- indexes
- temporary files
- temporary statistics data (stats\_temp\_directory)
- error logs
- highly read or written tables
- [...]



# separated volumes

## Separated Volumes



# References

- o <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/sysctl/vm.txt>
- o <https://www.kernel.org/doc/html/latest/vm/overcommit-accounting.html?highlight=overcommit>
- o [https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red\\_hat\\_enterprise\\_linux/6/html/performance\\_tuning\\_guide/s-memory-tunables](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/6/html/performance_tuning_guide/s-memory-tunables)
- o <https://hep.kbfi.ee/index.php/IT/KernelTuning>
- o <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Readahead>
- o <https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/12.2/cwlin/disabling-transparent-hugepages.html#GUID-02E9147D-D565-4AF8-B12A-8E6E9F74BEEA>
- o <https://docs.mongodb.com/manual/tutorial/transparent-huge-pages/>
- o [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I/O\\_scheduling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I/O_scheduling)
- o <https://patchwork.kernel.org/patch/134161/>
- o <https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/index.html>

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**Thank You!**

please leave your feedback on:  
<https://2018.pgconf.eu/f>

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