Exadata Demystified

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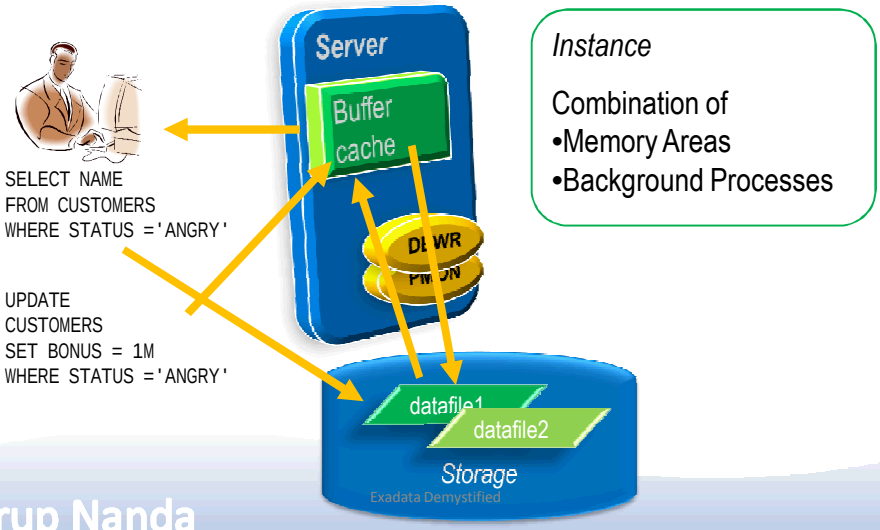
Why this Session?

- If you are
  - an Oracle DBA
    - Familiar with RAC, 11gR2 and ASM
  - about to be a Database Machine Administrator (DMA)
- How much do you have to learn?
- How much of you own prior knowledge I can apply?
- What's different in Exadata?
- What makes it special, fast, efficient?
- Do you have to go through a lot of training?

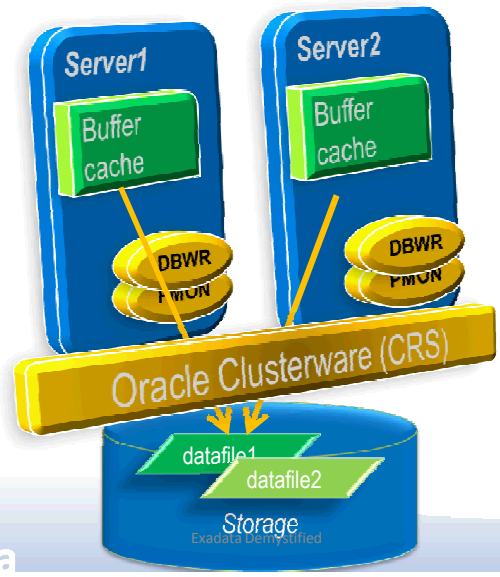
What is Exadata

- Is an *appliance* containing
  - Storage
  - Flash Disks
  - Database Servers
  - Infiniband Switches
  - Ethernet Switches
  - KVM (some models)
- But is *not* an appliance. Why?
  - additional software to make it a better database machine
  - Components are managed independently
- That's why Oracle calls it a **Database Machine** (DBM)
- And **DMA** – Database Machine Administrator

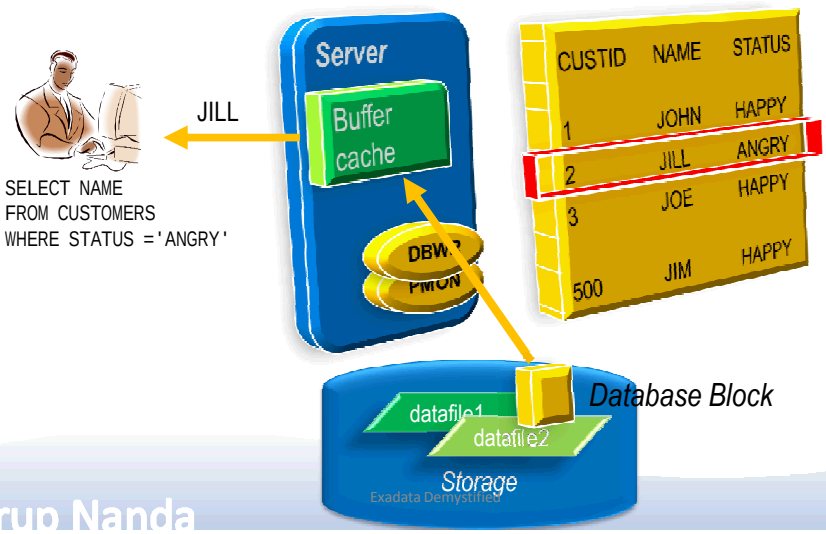
Anatomy of an Oracle Database



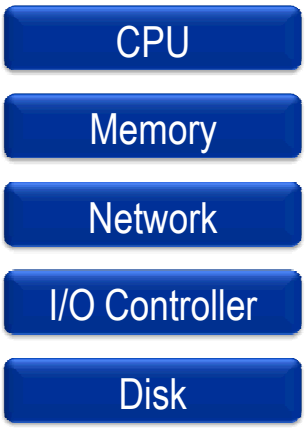
RAC Database



Query Processing



Components for Performance



Storage has been and will continue to be the bane of all databases. Simply put, less I/O = better performance

What about SAN Caches?

- Success of SAN caches is built upon predictive analytics
- They work well, if a small percentage of *disk* is accessed most often
  - The emphasis is on *disk*; not *data*
- Most database systems
  - are way bigger than caches
  - need to get the data to the memory to process
    --> I/O at the disk level is still high
- Caches are excellent for filesystems
  - ? or very small databases

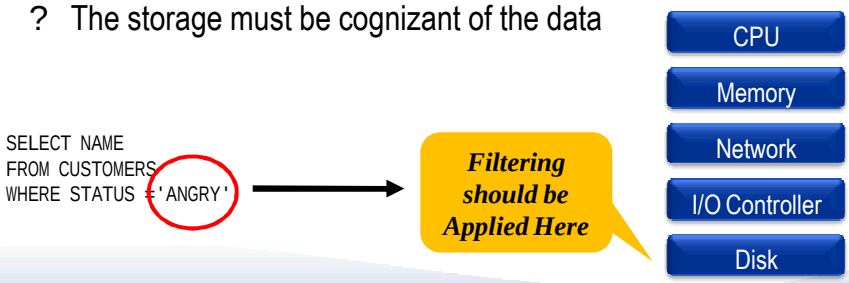
What about In-Memory DBs

- Memory is still more expensive
- How much memory is enough?
- You have a 100 MB database and 100 MB buffer cache
- The whole database will fit in the memory, right?
- NO!
- Oracle database fills up to 7x DB size buffer cache

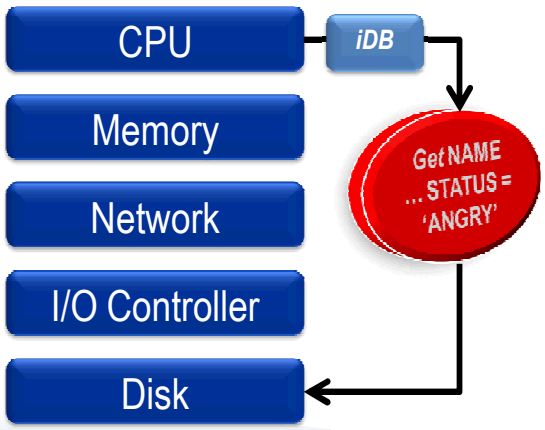
http://arup.blogspot.com/2011/04/can-i-fit-80mb-database-completely-in.html

The Solution

- A typical query may:
  - Select 10% of the entire storage
  - Use only 1% of the data it gets
- To gain performance, the DB needs to shed weight
- It has to get less from the storage
  - ? Filtering at the storage level
  - ? The storage must be cognizant of the data

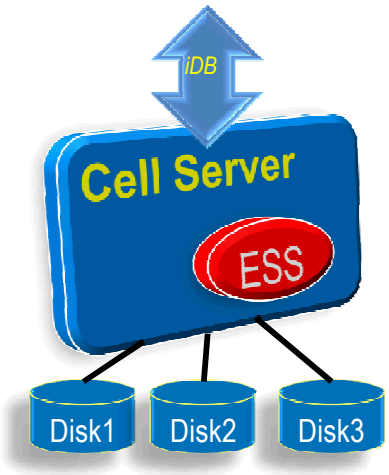


The Magic #1



The communication between CPU and Disk carries the information on the query – columns and predicates. This occurs as a result of a special protocol called iDB.

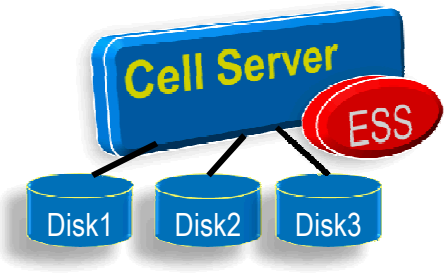
Magic #2 Storage Cell Server



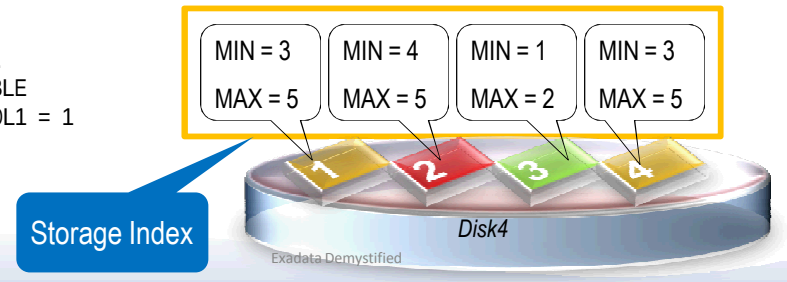
- Cells are Sun Blades
- Run Oracle Enterprise Linux
- Software called Exadata Storage Server (ESS) which understands iDB

Magic #3 Storage Indexes

Storage Indexes store in memory of the Cell Server the areas on the disk and the MIN/MAX value of the column and whether NULL exists. They eliminate disk I/O.




```
SELECT …
FROM TABLE
WHERE COL1 = 1
```



Checking Storage Index Use

```
select decode(name,
 'cell physical IO bytes saved by storage index',
    'SI Savings',
 'cell physical IO interconnect bytes returned by smart scan',
    'Smart Scan'
  ) as stat_name, value/1024/1024 as stat_value
from v$mystat s, v$statname n
where s.statistic# = n.statistic#
and n.name in (
  'cell physical IO bytes saved by storage index',
  'cell physical IO interconnect bytes returned by smart scan')
```

Smart Scan Savings

- Output

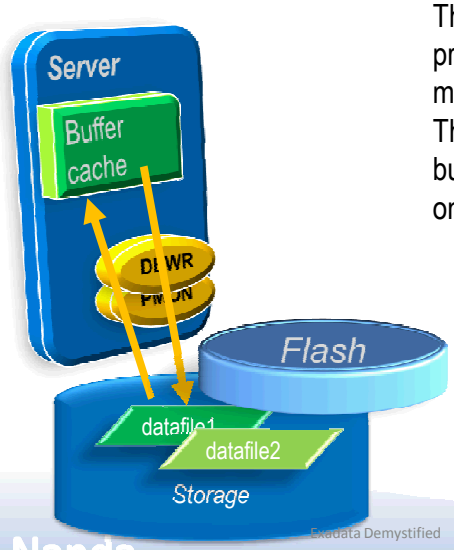
```
STAT_NAME  STAT_VALUE
---------- ----------
SI Savings    0.000
Smart Scan    0.000
```

- Smart Scan did not yield any savings
- Why not?
- Disable Smart Scans, if needed
  - `cell_offload_processing = true;`
  - `_kcfis_storageidx_disabled = true;`

Why Not?

- Pre-requisite for Smart Scan
  - Direct Path
  - Full Table or Full Index Scan
  - > 0 Predicates
  - Simple Comparison Operators
- Other Reasons
  - Cell is not offload capable
    - The diskgroup attribute cell.smart_scan_capable set to FALSE;
  - Not on clustered tables, IOTs, etc.

Magic #4 Flash Cache

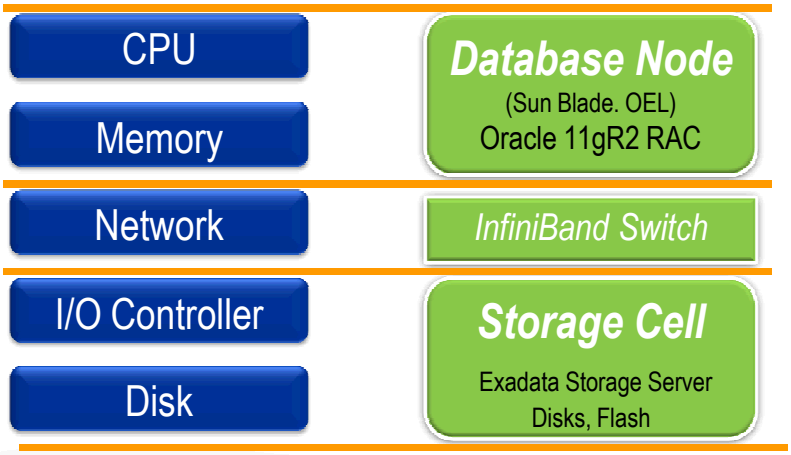


These are flash cards presented as disks; not memory to the Storage Cells. They are similar to SAN cache; but Oracle controls what goes on there and how long it stays.

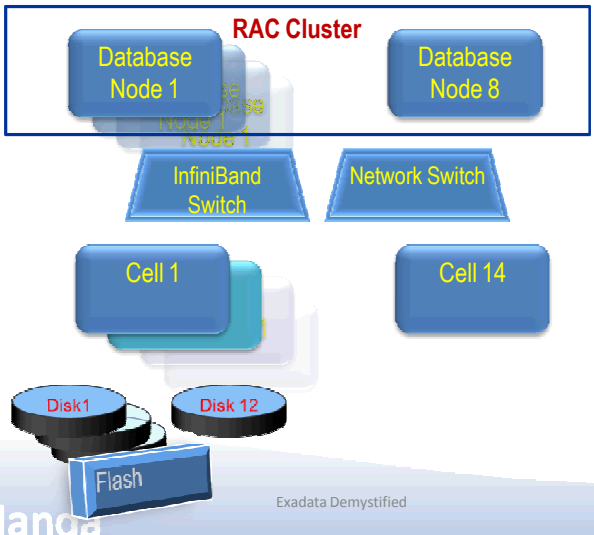
Magic #5 Process Offloading

- Bloom Filters
- Functions Offloading
  - Get the functions that can be offloaded
    - V$SQLFN_METADATA
- Decompression
  - (Compression handled by Compute Nodes)
- Virtual Columns

Components

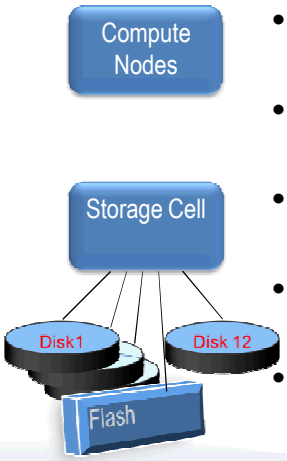


Put Together: One Full Rack



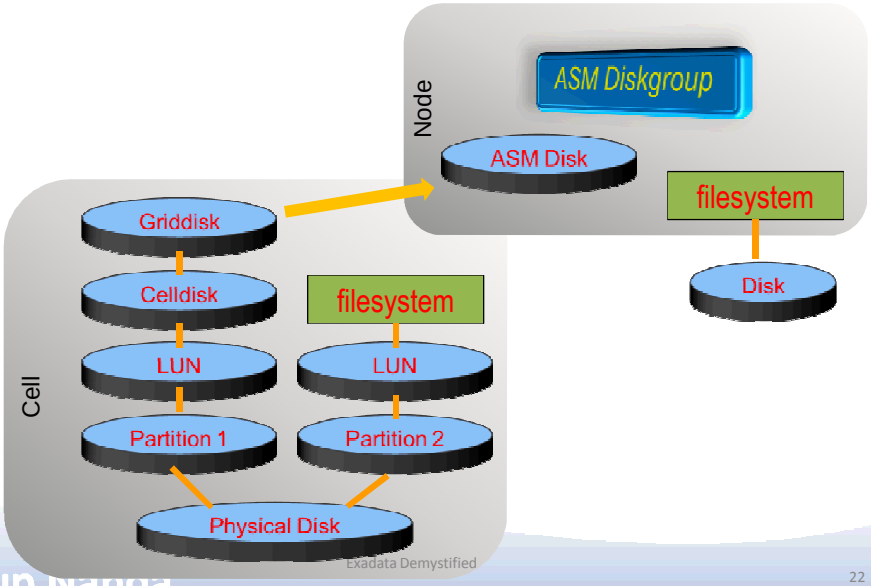
Clients connect to the database nodes.

Disk Layout

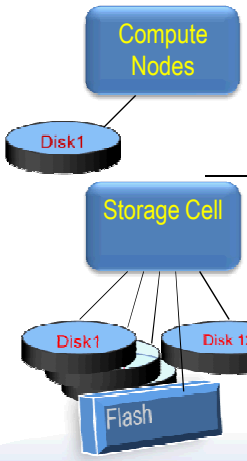


- Disks (hard and flash) are connected to the cells.
- The disks are partitioned at the cell
- Some partitions are presented as filesystems
- The rest are used for ASM diskgroups
- All these disks/partitions are presented to the compute nodes

Disk Presentation



Command Components



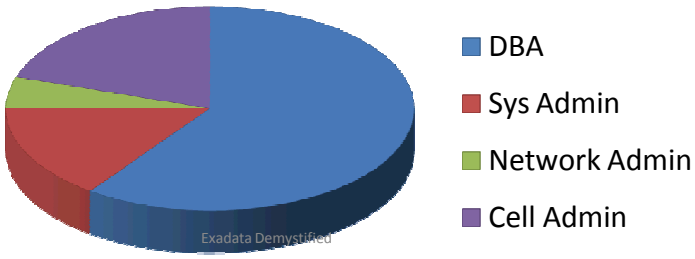
Linux Commands – vmstat, mpstat, fdisk, etc.
*ASM Commands – SQL*Plus, ASMCMD, ASMCA*
Database Commands – startup, alter database, etc.
Clusterware Commands – CRSCTL, SRVCTL, etc.

Linux Commands – vmstat, mpstat, fdisk, etc.
CellCLI – command line tool to manage the Cell

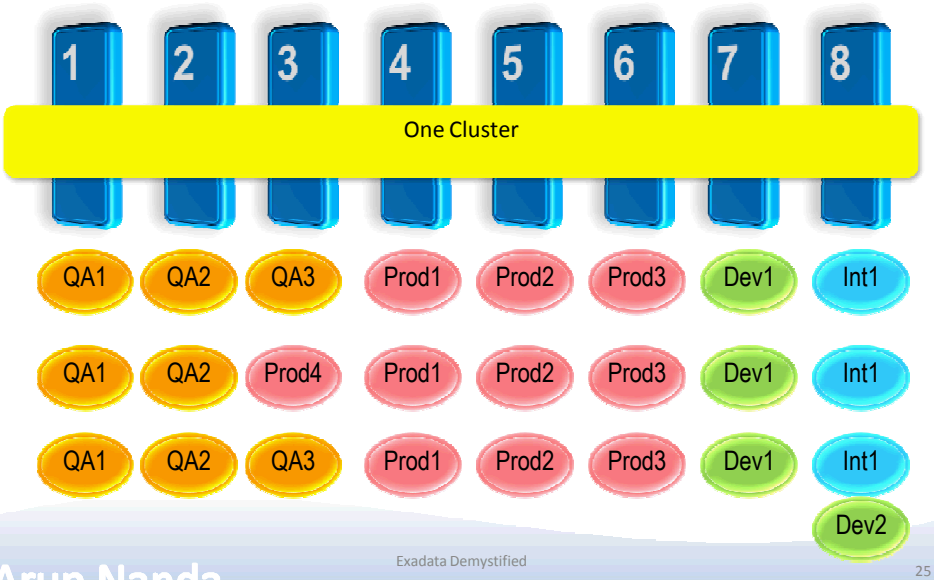
5-part Linux Commands article series
http://bit.ly/k4mKQS
4-part Exadata Command Reference article series
http://bit.ly/lljFl0

Administration Skills

Skill	Needed
System Administrator	15%
Storage Administrator	0%
Network Administrator	5%
Database Administrator	60%
Cell Administration	20%

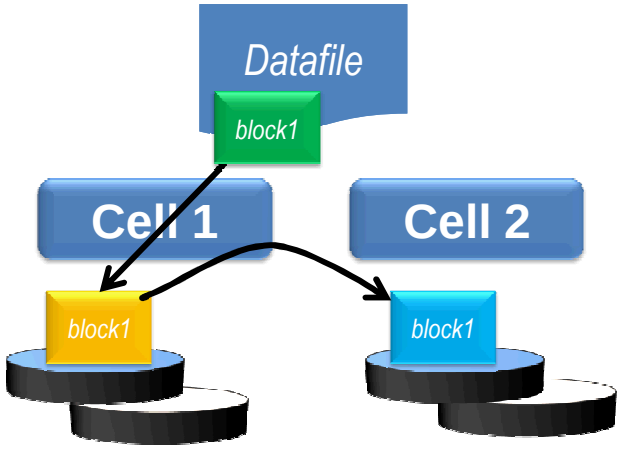


One Cluster?



Many Clusters?

Disk Failures



Other Questions

Q: Do clients have to connect using Infiniband?
A: No; Ethernet is also available
Q: How do you back it up?
A: Normal RMAN Backup, just like an Oracle Database
Q: How do you create DR?
A: Data Guard is the only solution
Q: Can I install any other software?
A: Nothing on Cells. On nodes – yes
Q: How do I monitor it?
A: Enterprise Manager, CellCLI, SQL Commands

Summary

- Exadata is an Oracle Database running 11.2
- The storage cells have added intelligence about data placement
- The compute nodes run Oracle DB and Grid Infra
- Nodes communicate with Cells using iDB which can send more information on the query
- Smart Scan, when possible, reduces I/O at cells even for full table scans
- Cell is controlled by CellCLI commands
- DMA skills = 60% RAC DBA + 15% Linux + 20% CellCLI + 5% miscellaneous

Resources

- My Articles
  - 5-part Linux Commands article series http://bit.ly/k4mKQS
  - 4-part Exadata Reference article series http://bit.ly/lljFl0
- OTN Page on Exadata
  - http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/exadata/index.html
- Tutorials
  - http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/tutorials/index.html
- OTN Exadata Forum
  - https://forums.oracle.com/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=829
- Exadata SIG
  - http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=918317

Thank You!

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