

# What's new in IBM Storage Scale (5.2.\*) and Scale System (6.2.\*)

## The Global Platform For Storage \*(GPFS) Services of unstructured data



Chris Maestas  
CTO, Data and AI Storage Solutions  
Chief Troublemaking Officer



# Disclaimer

IBM's statements regarding its plans, directions, and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice at IBM's sole discretion. Information regarding potential future products is intended to outline our general product direction and it should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision. The information mentioned regarding potential future products is not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. The development, release, and timing of any future features or functionality described for our products remains at our sole discretion.

IBM reserves the right to change product specifications and offerings at any time without notice. This publication could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. References herein to IBM products and services do not imply that IBM intends to make them available in all countries.

# The IBM Storage Scale Journey and **Support reference guide**

Accelerate  
AI & HPC

Scale System  
for HPC & AI

Data  
Acceleration  
Tier

Disaggregated  
Storage

NVIDIA AI

Storage  
Certification

Content Aware  
Storage

Accelerated  
Data Path

Commercial  
AI

Scale System  
Usability

Consumability

Enhanced  
File & Object

Foundation

API Driven  
Control Plane

Containerized  
Workloads

Scale as a  
Service



Support reference guide for Storage Scale:

<https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6252403>



Support reference guide for Storage Scale System:

<https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6252477>



Note: In a Severity 1 case, please describe your business impact.



**IBM Storage Scale Software Version**

**Recommendation Preventive Service Planning:**

<https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/ibm-storage-scale-software-version-recommendation-preventive-service-planning>

# IBM's Storage Scale System works with NVIDIA solutions!



<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/data-center/dgx-superpod/>



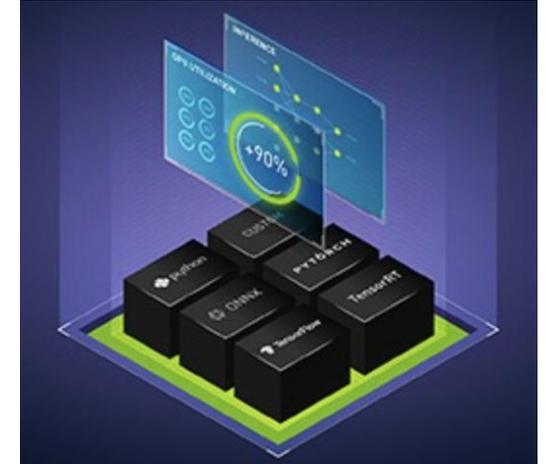
NVIDIA  
Enterprise  
Reference  
Architecture (ERA)



NVIDIA  
DGX BasePOD



NVIDIA  
DGX SuperPOD



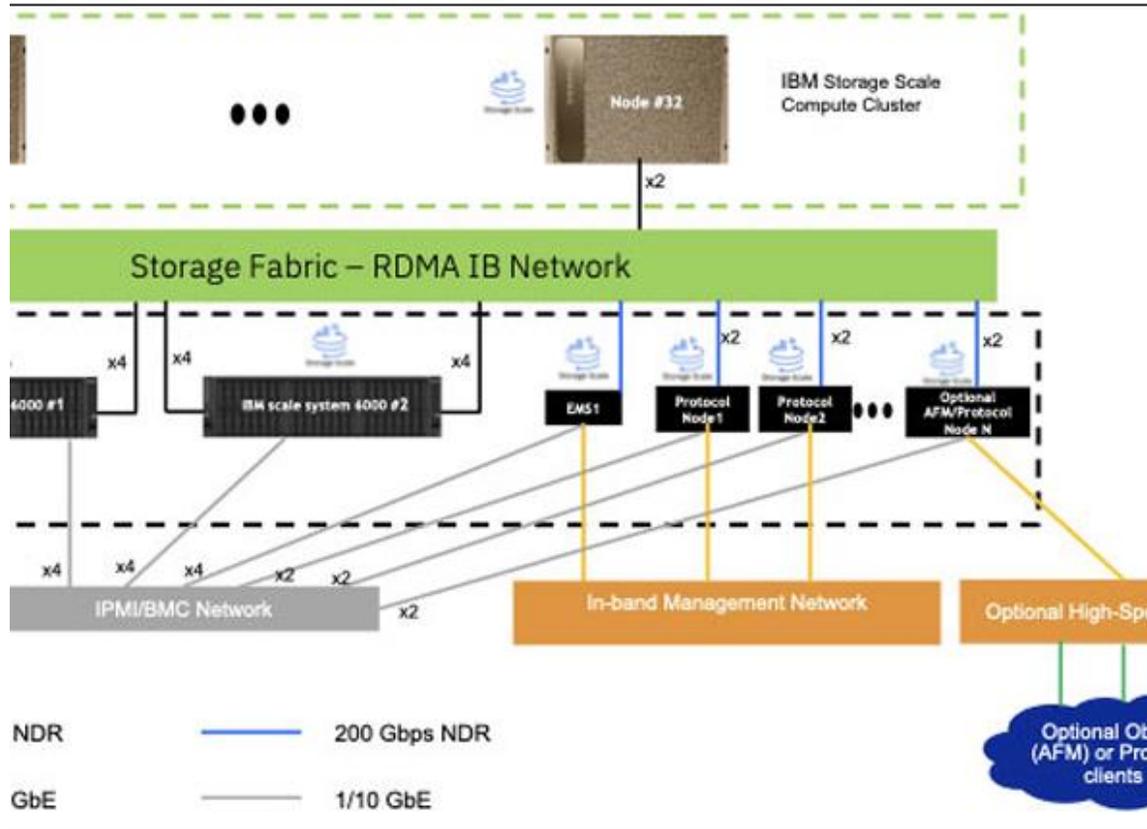
NVIDIA  
Cloud Partner  
(NCP)

**And wait there's more! NVIDIA certified system vendor based on HGX**

<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/data-center/products/certified-systems/>

# IBM and NVIDIA Redbook

<https://redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5746.html>



network diagram with optional AFM connectivity

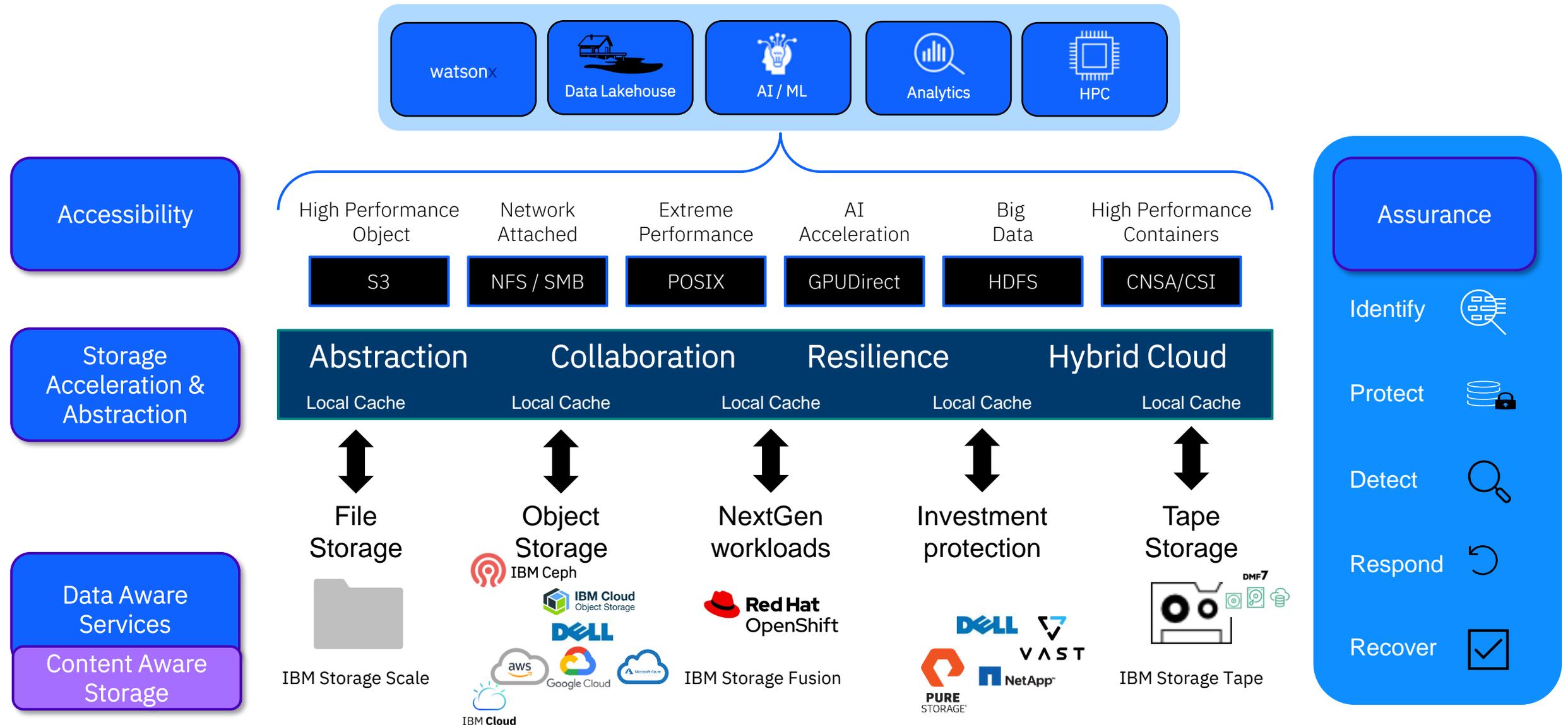
## IBM Storage Scale System 6000 with NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD Deployment Guide

Chris Maestas  
 Ana Gabriela Iturbe Desantis  
 Phillip Gemard  
 Kiran Ghag  
 Nikhil Khandewal  
 Matthew Klos  
 John Lewars  
 Jesus Daniel Munoz Lopez  
 Roger E. Sanders  
 Sanjay Sudam  
 Lindsay Todd  
 Joanna Wong



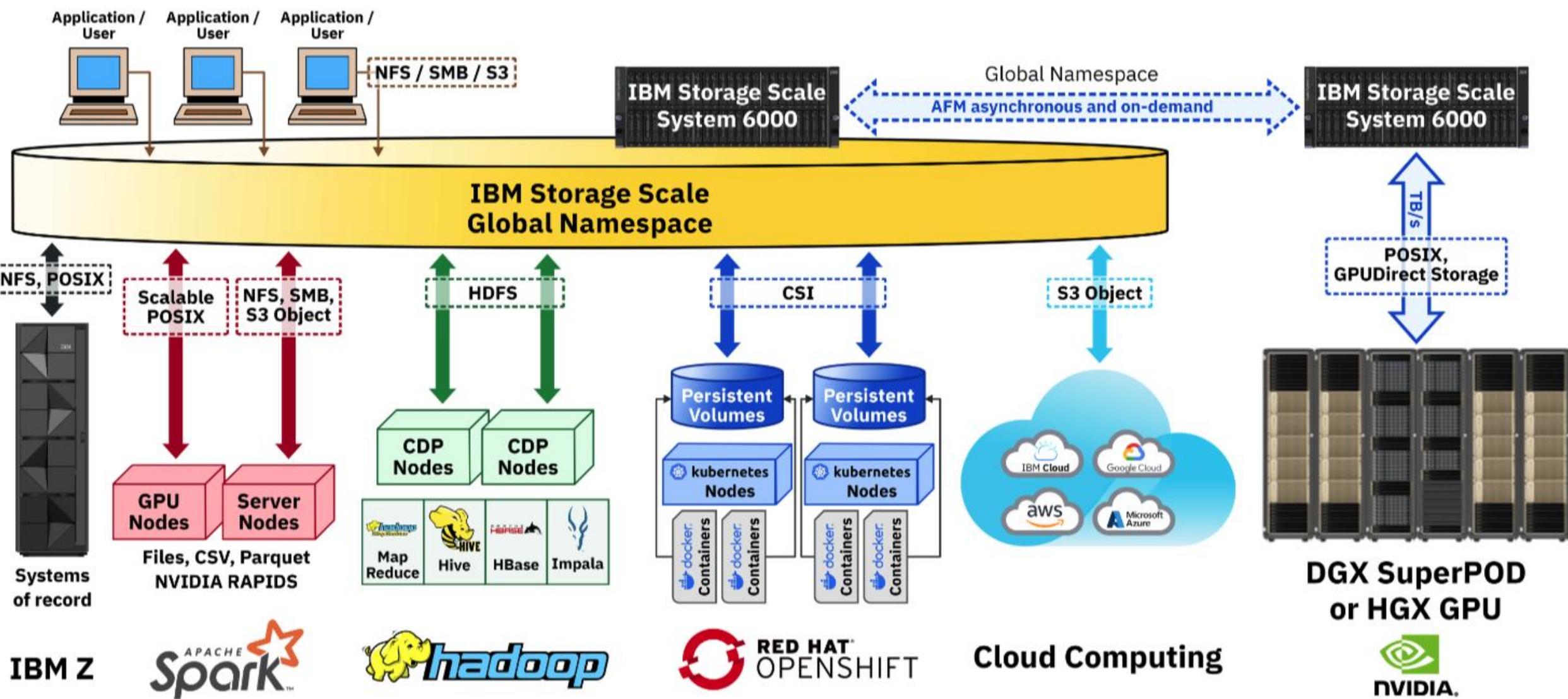
# IBM Storage Scale - global platform for storage (gdfs) services of unstructured data

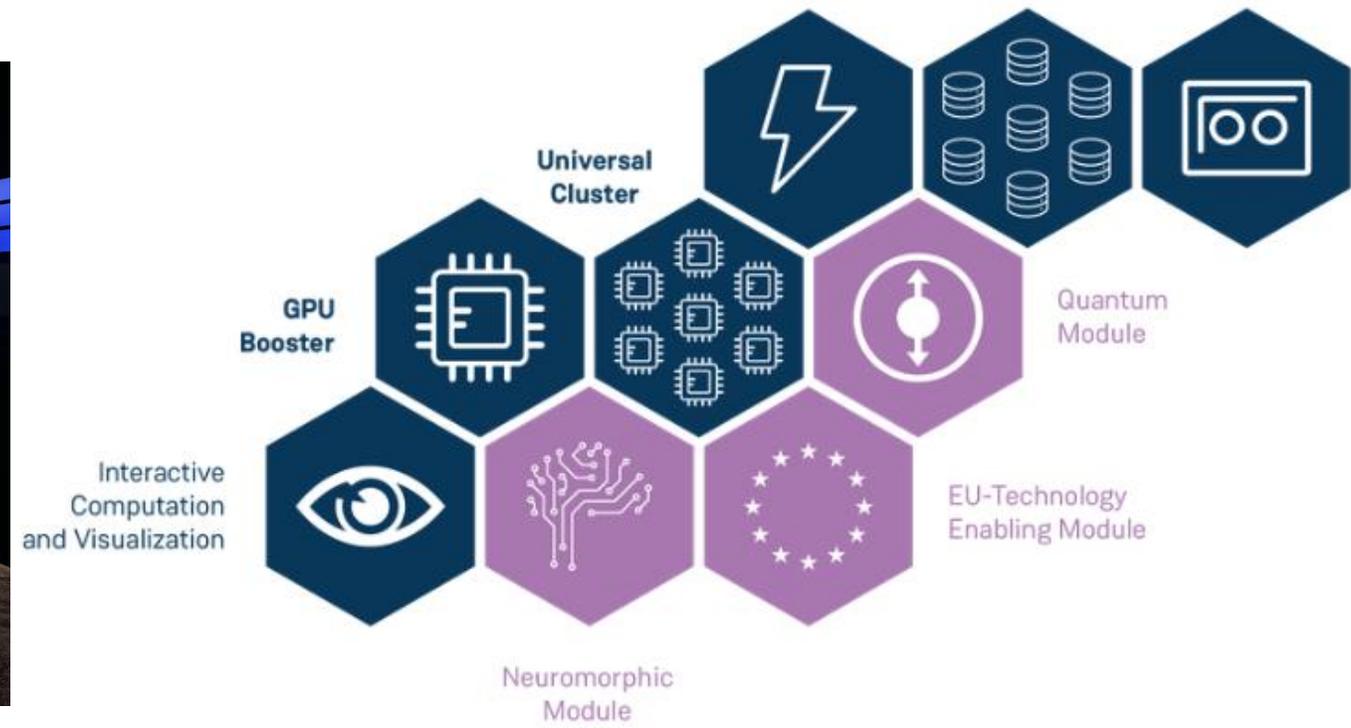
1) Accessibility, 2) Storage Acceleration and Abstraction 3) Data Aware Services, and 4) Assurance



# IBM Storage Scale - global platform for storage (gpfs) services of unstructured data

*Performance and scalability optimized*

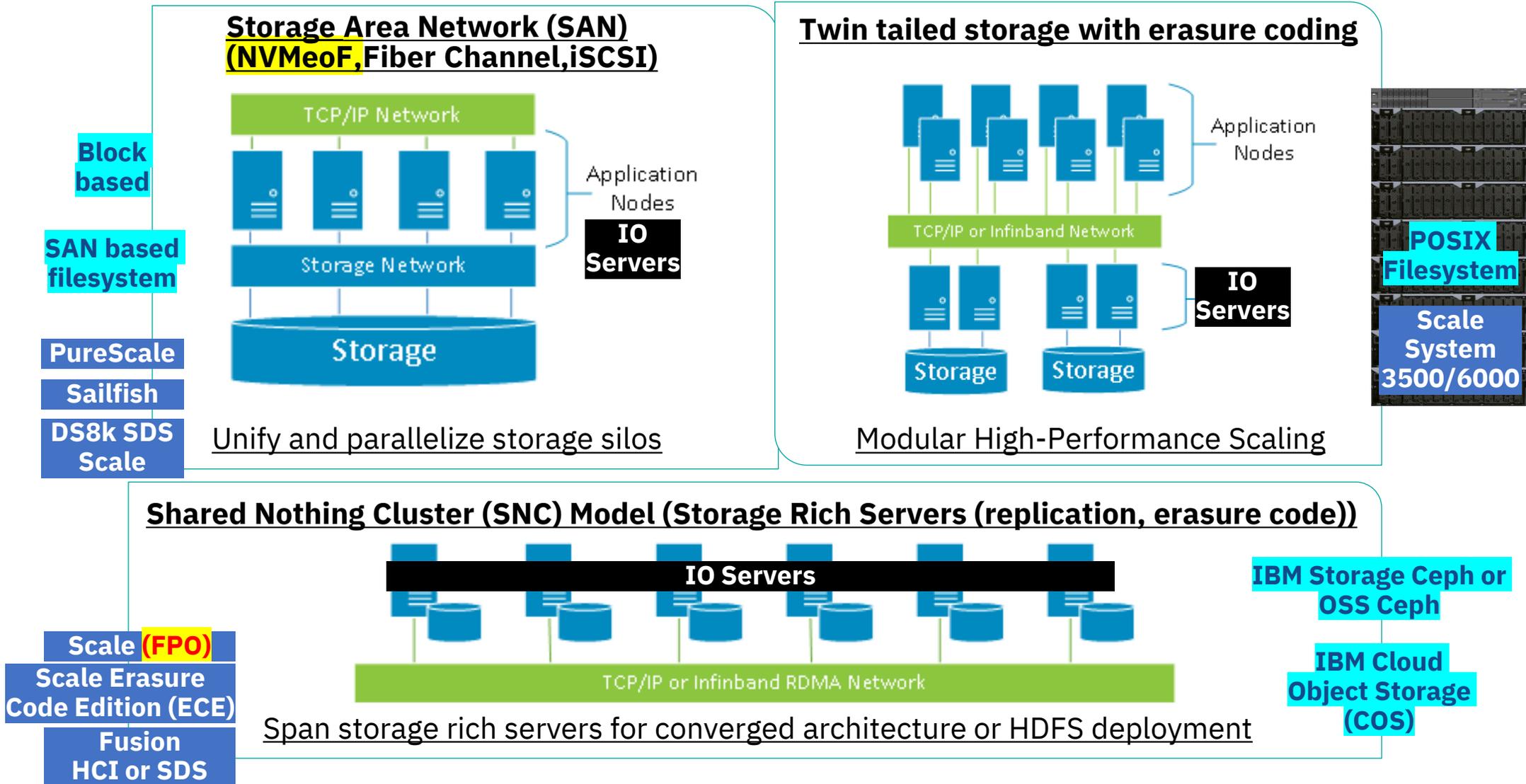




<https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/ias/jsc/jupiter/tech>

- Scratch storage is 20 IBM Storage Scale 6000 systems utilizing NVMe disk technology, based on the IBM Storage Scale solution.
  - With 29 PB of raw and 21 PB of useable capacity, it targets to provide more than 2 TB/s write and 3TB/s read performance.
- In addition, a high-capacity Storage Module with more than 300 PB of raw capacity as well as a tape infrastructure for backup and archive purposes with over 700 PB capacity will be provided.

# IBM Storage Scale deployment model comparison



# IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition

<https://www.ibm.com/products/storage-scale>

## IBM Storage Scale

Accelerate AI and unlock value from your data

★★★★☆ 17 Reviews - G2 Crowd

Try the free developer edition →

Schedule a free demo →



## Scale User Group

The Scale (GPFS) User Group is free to join and open to all using, interested in using or integrating IBM Storage Scale.

The format of the group is as a web community with events held during the year, hosted by our members or by IBM.

See our web page for upcoming events and presentations of past events. Join our conversation via mail and Slack.

[www.storagescale.org](http://www.storagescale.org)

## IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition Labs

Resources

★★★★★ (1) Rate this resource



Gold

Edit

Aug 25, 2024

**Ibmcloud 2: us-east, us-south, ca-tor, eu-gb, eu-de, jp-tok, jp-osa, eu-es**

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition - Installation Experience

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition - Installation Lab

Visibility  
IBMers, Business Partners

Reserve 

Aug 25, 2024

**Ibmcloud 2: us-south, us-east, ca-tor, eu-de, eu-gb, jp-tok, jp-osa, eu-es**

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition Experience

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition Installed on a 5 node system consisting of a GUI, 2 clients and 2 storage servers.

Visibility  
IBMers, Business Partners

Reserve 

Aug 25, 2024

**Ibmcloud 2: us-south, us-east, ca-tor, eu-de, eu-gb, jp-tok, jp-osa, eu-es**

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition Lab - Cyber Security Experience with IBM QRadar

IBM Storage Scale Developer Edition Installed on a 5 node system consisting of a GUI, 2 clients and 2 storage servers along with IBM QRadar.

Visibility  
IBMers, Business Partners

Reserve 

Aug 25, 2024

**Ibmcloud 2: us-south, us-east, ca-tor, eu-gb, eu-de, eu-es, jp-tok, jp-osa**

IBM Storage Scale High Availability Experiences

Setup clusters for:

1. Erasure Coding
2. Active File Management Disaster Recovery
3. an RPO =0 Active/Active Stretch Cluster
4. a multi-cluster remote mount with AFM-POSIX or NSD remote mount

Visibility  
IBMers, Business Partners

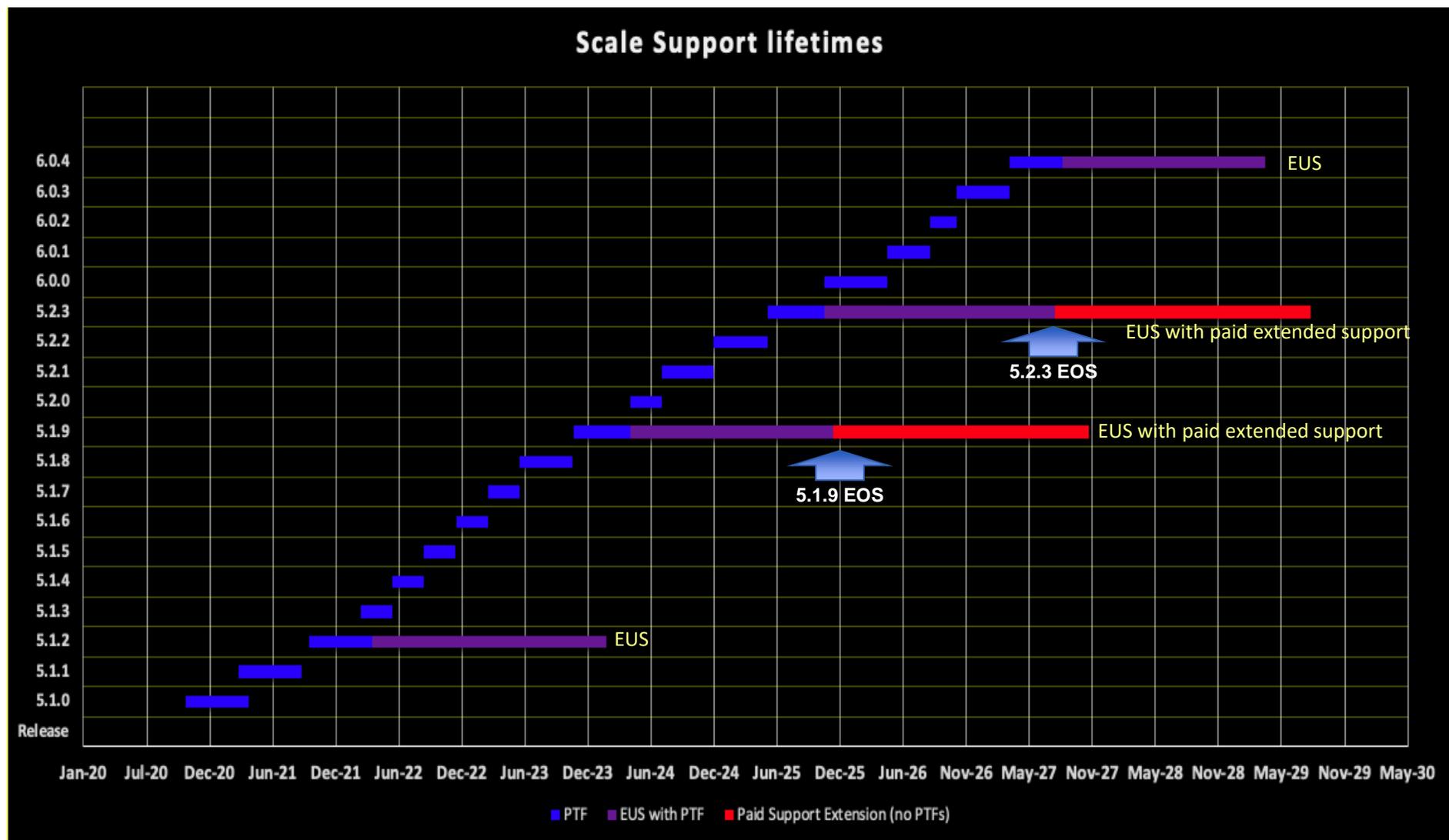
Reserve 

Platform powered by Storage Scale

# Scale Release Cadence

## Extended Update Support goals:

- EUS with PTFs every 18 months
- Extended support on last EUS within a release
- Increase the number of Modification levels with new function
- Scale's Extended Update Support (EUS) approach is outlined in product [FAQ](#)
- **EUS release approach applies to non-containerized scale**
- CNSA currently doesn't have an EUS



**Note:** Version numbers and release timing are for example purposes to demonstrate the goal of EUS ~ every 18 months and do **not** represent a commitment to deliver a specific version or on a specific timeline

# Release Cadence Goals

Can different IBM Storage Scale maintenance levels coexist?

A2.8:

Different releases of IBM Storage Scale can coexist, that is, be active in the same cluster and simultaneously access the same file system. For release co-existence, IBM Storage Scale follows the N-1 rule. According to this rule, a particular IBM Storage Scale release (N) can co-exist with the prior release of IBM Storage Scale (N-1). This allows IBM Storage Scale to support an online (rolling) upgrade, that is a node by node upgrade. As expected, any given release of IBM Storage Scale can coexist with the same release. To clarify, the term release here refers to an IBM Storage Scale release stream and the release streams are currently defined as 4.2.x > 5.0.x > 5.1.x > 5.2.x.

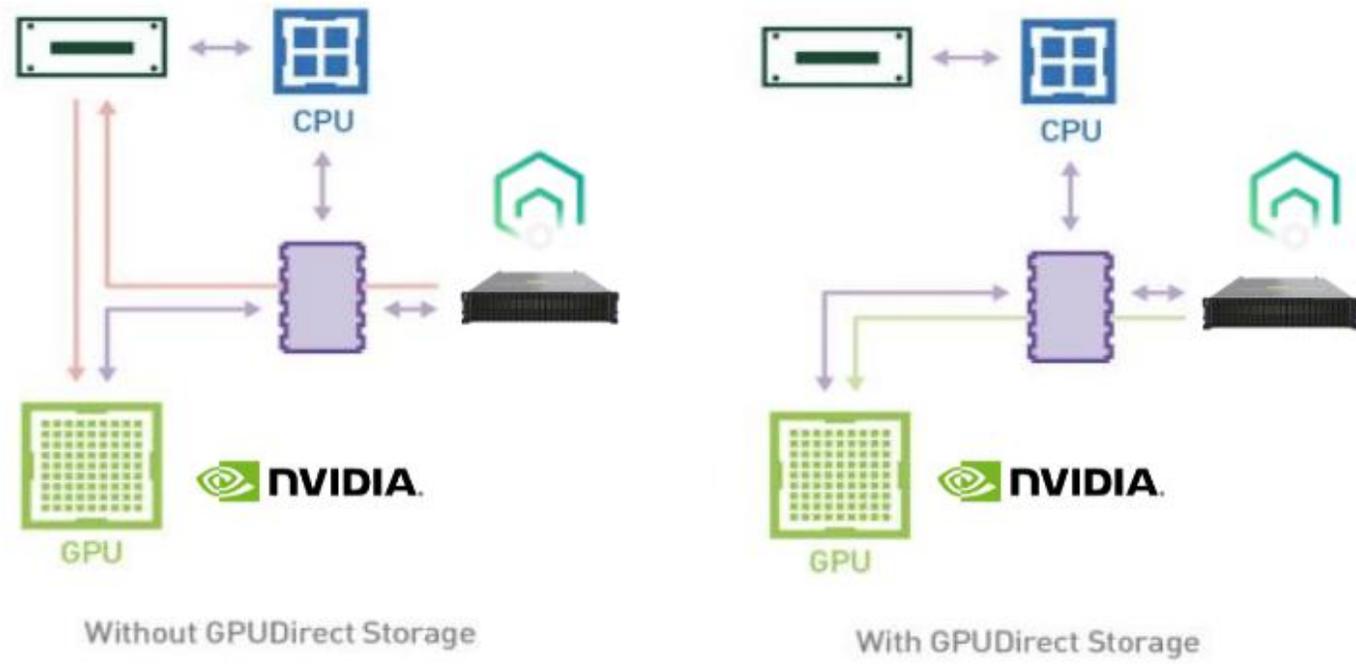


These coexistence rules also apply for remote cluster access (multi-cluster remote mount). A node running release N-2 cannot perform a remote mount from a cluster which has nodes running release N, and vice versa.

# Accessibility



GPUDirect Storage enables an explicit direct memory access (DMA) between GPU memory and storage when used in the application code



**NVIDIA Magnum IO**

Family of I/O Optimizations for GPU accelerated data centers

**GPU Direct RDMA:** Access peer node's memory without copying to host memory

**GPU Direct Storage:** Transfer data to/from GPU directly from storage without involving CPU and CPU memory

**CUDA Toolkit**

GDS will be in the CUDA toolkit  
 Development environment for GPU accelerated applications  
 Libraries, compilers, debuggers, optimizers, and tools  
 Leading GPU compute platform since 2006

**GDS for Applications**

Invoked using the CUDA Toolkit (cuFile) API  
 APIs must be explicitly called by the applications  
 Storage must be GDS enabled. If not, GDS call falls back to regular data movement.

**Why it matters**

AI, HPC, Analytics are data hungry and require a very high data throughput.  
 GPUs are starved by slow I/O (and NFS is particularly slow)

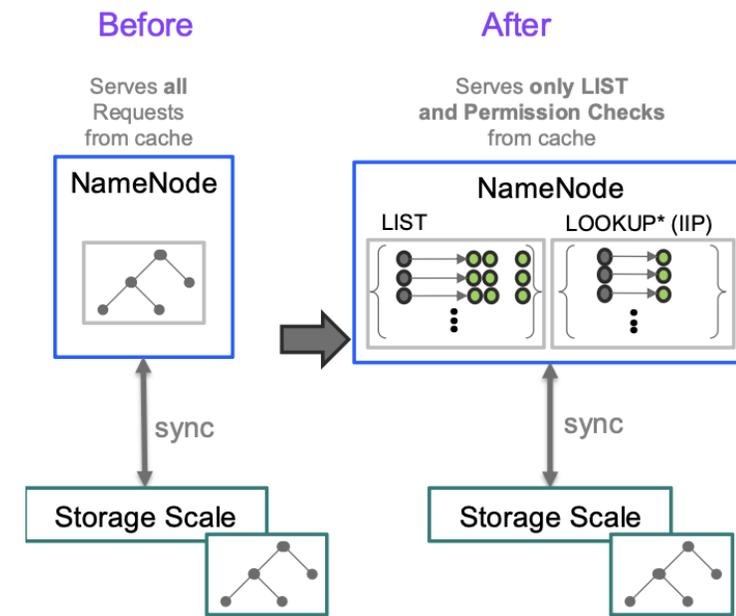
# NFS, SMB, HDFS

## Support and Currency:

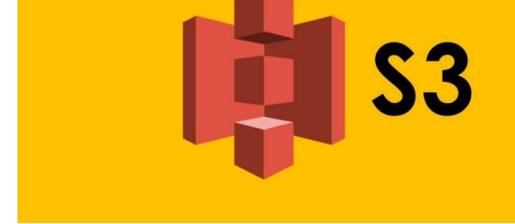
- Added mmces service restart option – (5.2.3.1)
  - For NFS will attempt to restart when nfs\_hung event occurs
    - If restart fails will move CES IPS
- Updated Samba on IBM Storage Scale to the upstream Samba 4.20 version.
  - Fix slowness of SMB sharesec (**mmsmb exportacl**) command when the number of Samba shares increases.
  - Fix issue in smbld deadlock on two locking DBs.
- **IBM Storage Scale supports the NFS 4.2**
- The **mmnfs export load** command can process configuration files without restarting NFS CES.
- Added support for CES HDFS Transparency 3.3.6-0 with Open Source Apache BigTop 3.2.1 on RHEL 8.x and RHEL 9.x

## Improved performance:

- HDFS transparency metadata design update
- **High Performance SMB - Continued partnership with Tuxera and investigating others**



# High Performance Object 2.0 (CES-S3)!



Multi-protocol data access support with POSIX, S3, NFS, SMB and CSI

## ***Support and Currency:***

- Supports S3 bucket notifications feature for events such as object creation and object removal.
  - Configure webhooks to get these notifications.
  - **Swift is discontinued - Use 5.1.8 Swift code in CES of 5.1.9 but migrate soon!**

ILM support including Tiering to Tape support via RPQ

S3 over RDMA - initial implementation - <https://github.com/noobaa/noobaa-core/pull/8817> - work to be done for CES-S3

## Client Experience:

2 billion objects in a single bucket ! - [https://github.com/ghcoelhopsa/scale\\_s3\\_benchmark](https://github.com/ghcoelhopsa/scale_s3_benchmark)

Client upgrade to 5.2.3 while uploading 20 million objects

Targeting 5 Billion Object upload test now

IBM Technology Expert Labs can provide billable migration services (Swift to CES S3 and DAS S3 (HPO 1.0) to CES S3 (HPO 2.0))

## ***Improved performance:***

- IBM Storage Scale CES S3 Performance evaluation of large and small objects using COSBench:  
<https://community.ibm.com/community/user/storage/blogs/rogerio-rivera-gutierrez/2024/04/25/ibm-storage-scale-performance-ces-s3-tech-preview>

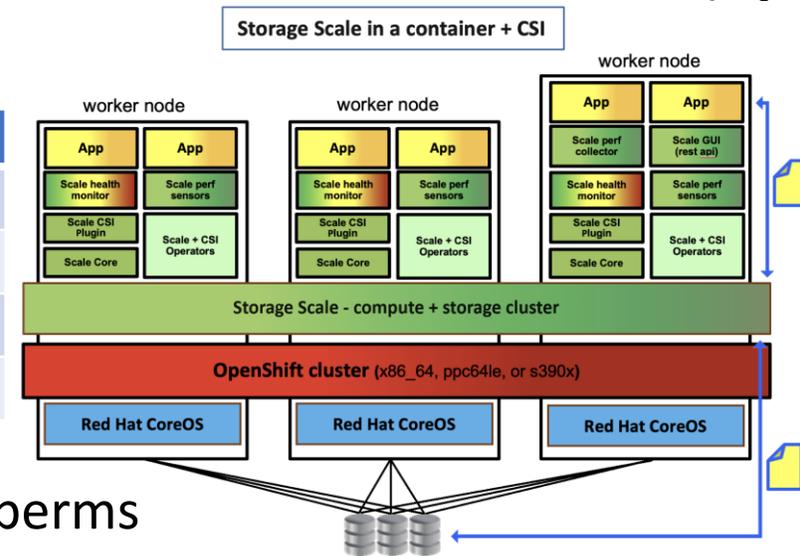
# Container Native Storage Access (CNSA)



## Improvements introduced in CNSA 5.2.3.0

**OpenShift and regular Kubernetes!**

	Supported Versions
Kubernetes	1.29, 1.30, and 1.31
Architectures	x86_64
RHEL	8.10, 9.4 and 9.5
Ubuntu	22.04 and 24.04



- 5.2.3 GUI: **ContainerOperator** user role includes **CsiAdmin** user role perms
- Support for Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) is technology preview
- AFM Cache Volumes Support
- RDMA support with IBM Storage Scale container native
  - RDMA over Converged Ethernet in Scale 5.2.3 (InfiniBand in 5.2.2)
- Shared disks can be used (have connection to at least two K8s nodes)
  - SNC disks are not supported (have connection to one K8s node)
- Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization (Fusion Access)
  - Goal is to gain VM use cases and customers
  - Uses CNSA local file system shared disk functionality: *SAN attach FC / iSCSI*
    - Announced @ Red Hat Summit

Demos are available to show!

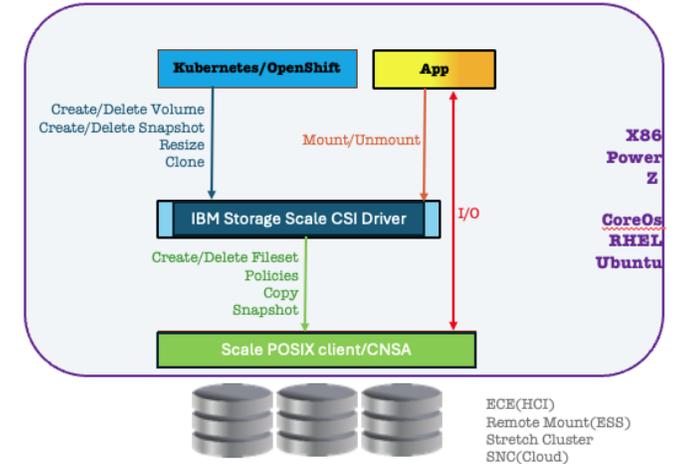
Works with OpenShift Virtualization Engine!

# Container Storage Interface (CSI)

Improvements introduced in CSI 2.14.0

*Upgrades for OpenShift, Kubernetes and Ansible as well as improved functionality that support simpler administration and configuration.*

- RedHat OpenShift 4.[16-18] (x86\_64 architecture)
- Vanilla Kubernetes 1.[29,30-32]
  - (x86\_64 and ppc64le)
- Ubuntu 22.04/24.04 (x86\_64 architecture) with Vanilla Kubernetes.
- Support for linking fileset at customized path
- Support for enabling dynamic provisioning workflow for pre-created volumes by using a custom storage class parameter



- Dynamic Provisioning - Create/Delete Volume
- Static Provisioning
- Volume Snapshot
- Volume Expansion
- Shallow Copy
- Volume Cloning
- Compression
- Tiering
- ConsistencyG
- Remote Moun
- Multiple Filesys
- FsGroup
- GUI HA
- Lightweight Volume/Fileset Based Volume

Works with NVIDIA Grace systems running RedHat or Ubuntu!

# Acceleration and Abstraction



# Default configuration changes with 5.2.N

Provide better out-of-the-box performance for a wide variety of workloads.

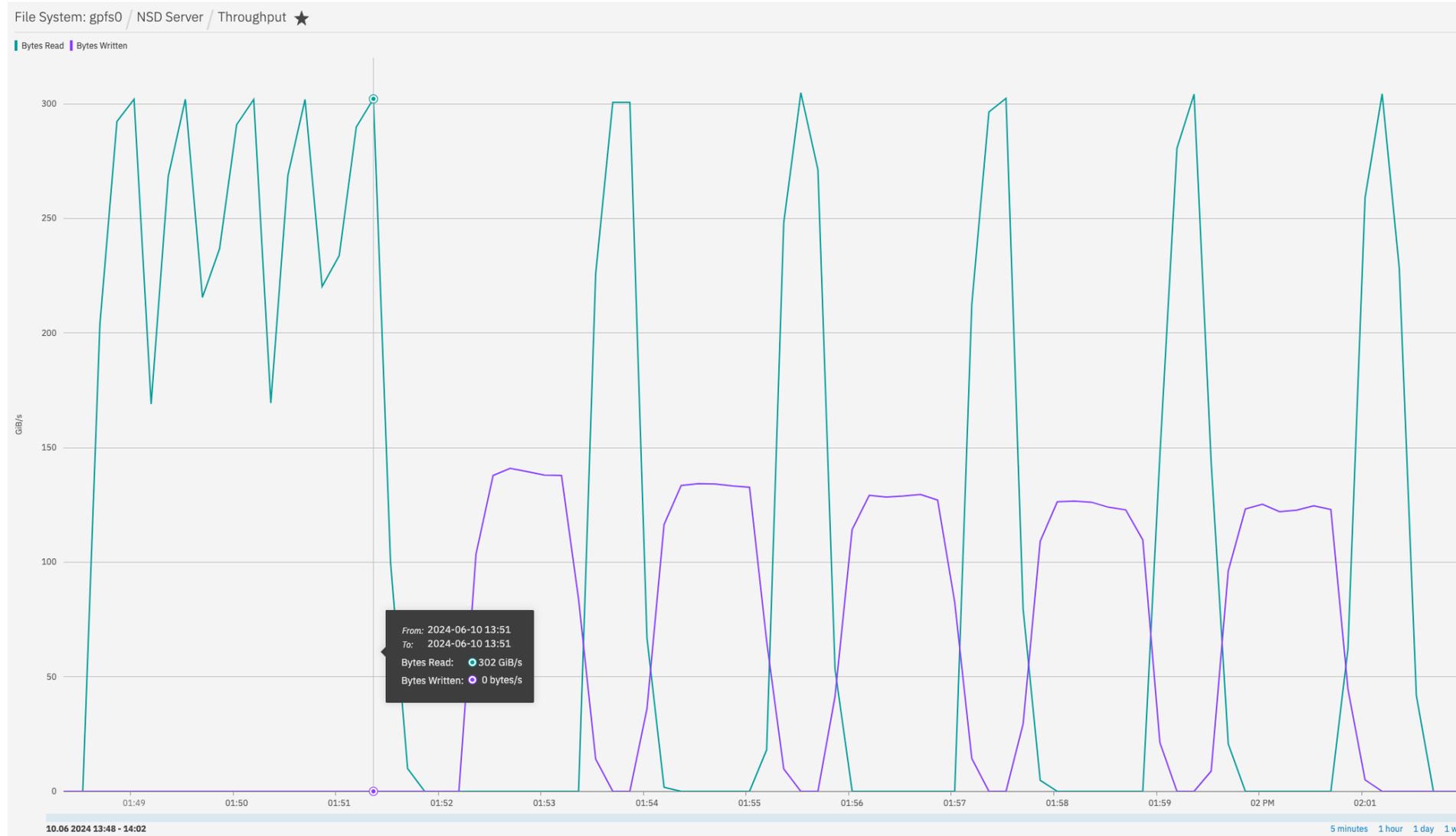
Apply only for new 5.2.0 clusters. Do not apply for existing clusters, even with a 5.2.0 upgrade.

The new defaults are described in the `mmchconfig` man page!

config option	old default	new default
<code>numaMemoryInterleave</code>	no	yes
<code>workerThreads</code>	48	256
<code>page pool</code>	min(1G, 1/3 system mem)	min(4G, 1/3 system mem)
<code>ignorePrefetchLUNCount</code>	no	yes
<code>dioRentryThreshold</code> (undocumented)	0	1

# Performance update from 6000

- **SED ENABLED!**
- **5x iterations:**
- **Mean Write:**
  - 156.35 GB/s
- **Mean Read:**
  - 320.49 GB/s

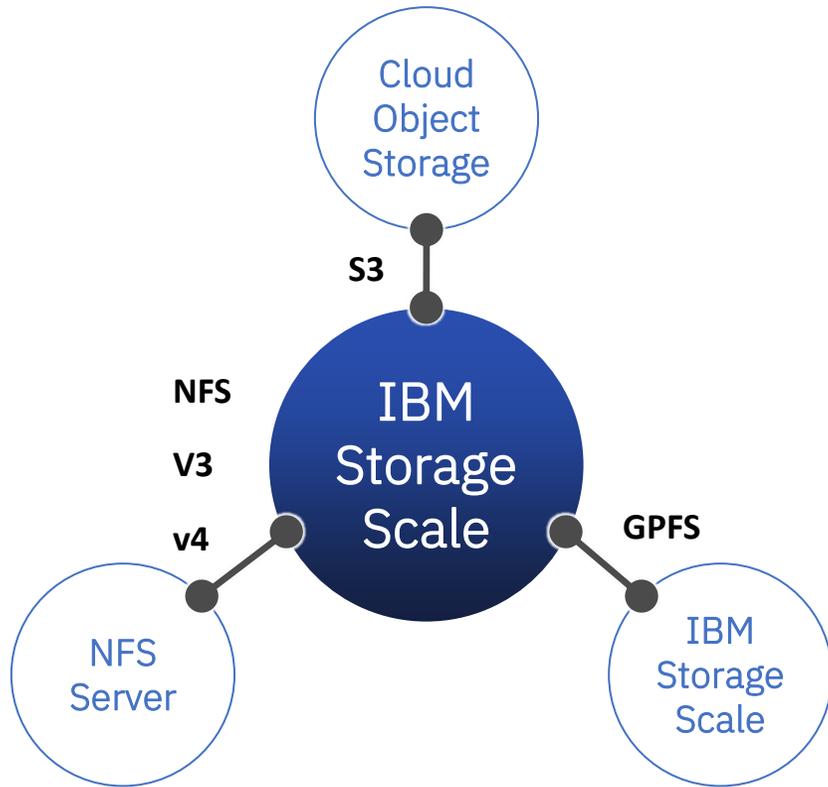


# Filesystem Core improvements

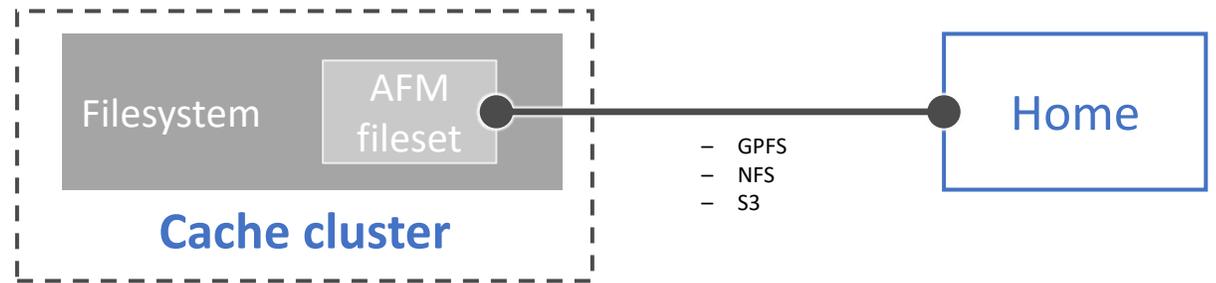
- The dynamic pagepool feature is now supported on NSD server nodes.
  - **Note that this does not imply Scale System I/O nodes**
- static pagepool stays STATIC when RDMA is enabled.
  - Use a dynamic pagepool when the size needs to change while running.
- The **mmcrfileset** command supports the **-J** parameter.
  - No longer needing 2 commands to create and then link a fileset!
- Use the LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH wisely! - <https://access.redhat.com/solutions/49292>
  - Observation that shared paths (e.g. /ibm/fs1/dir/) usually grant permissions to everyone.
    - Run: **chmod a+x** on shared directories as much as possible.
    - New feature to check directory ACL
      - this is cached with an in-memory flag to shortcut permission check
  - No other config changes or file system format changes necessary, this is a node-local optimization!

# Active File Management (AFM) overview

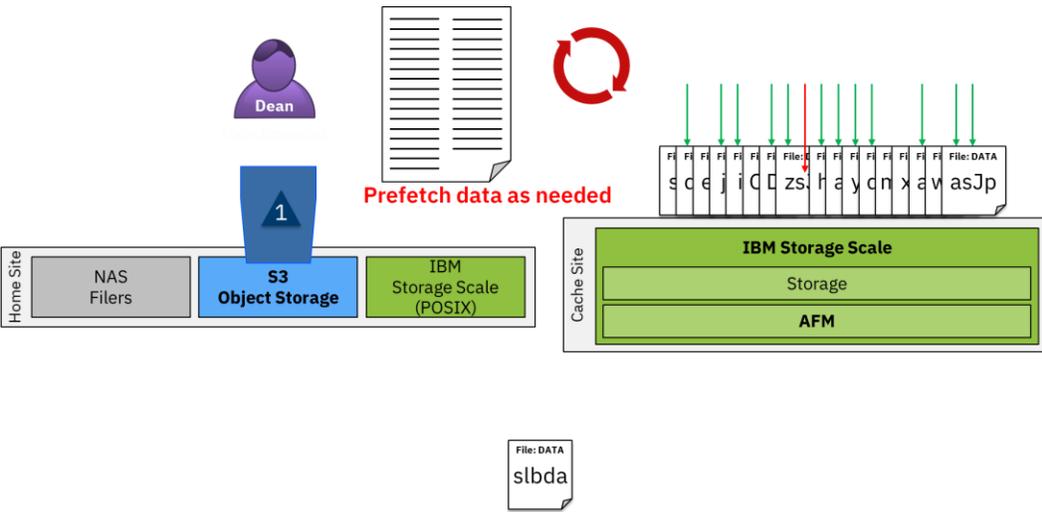
Active File Management enables caching data across other data sources.



- Each AFM fileset has a distinct set of AFM attributes.
- An IBM Storage Scale cluster that contains AFM filesets is called a cache cluster.
- A cache cluster has a relationship with another remote site called the home, where either the cache or the home can be the data source or destination.
- A cache cluster must be an IBM Storage Scale Cluster.
- A home can be an IBM Storage Scale, NFS server and Object Storage.



# Abstraction: Active File Management (AFM)



## Support for Content Aware Storage (CAS)

- Watch folder support for AFM COS filesets
- Async Auto Prefetch
  - `afmAsyncPrefetchInterval=Xs`
- Fast ReadDir2
  - `'afmObjectFastReaddir2=yes|no`
    - Sync deletion of data from S3

1. Support of adding failed file list under AFM Cloud Object Fileset
2. Allow numeric uid/gid for `mmafmcosctl` and `mmafmcosconfig`
3. Support for downloading object and directory with single list with COS backend

# Data Aware Services

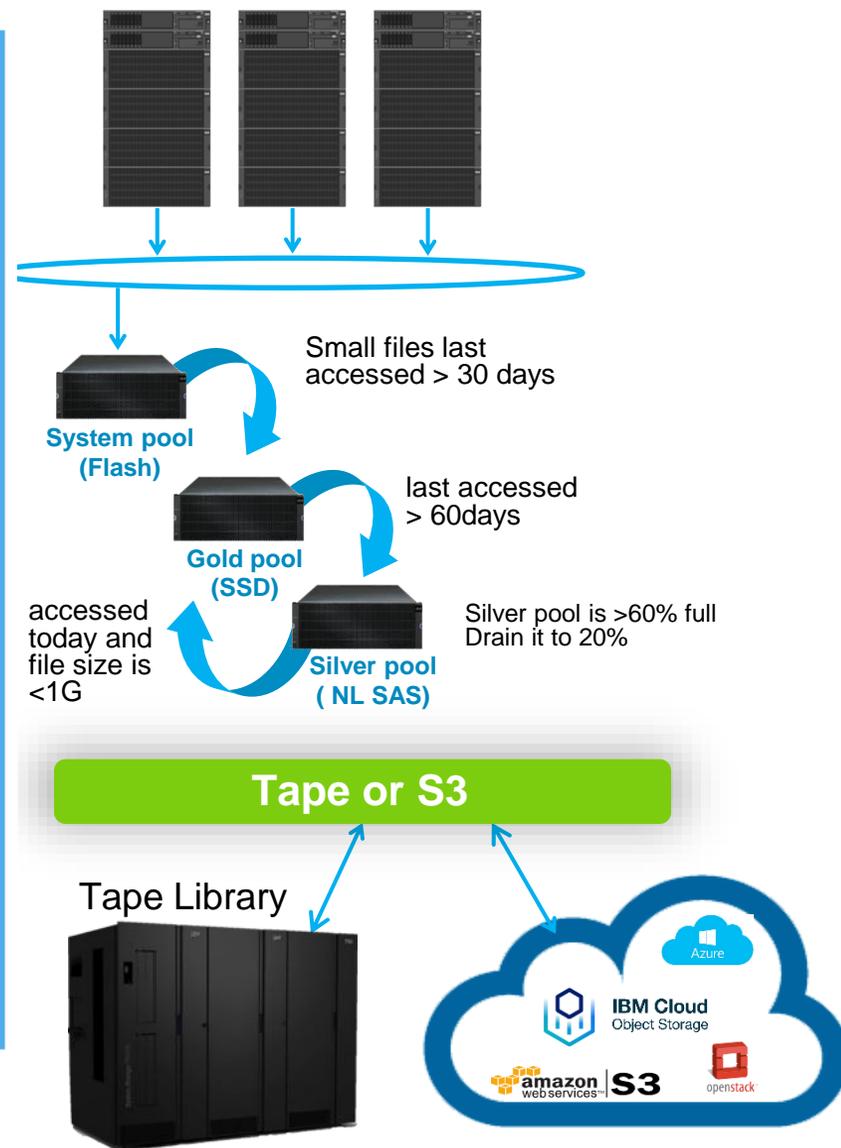
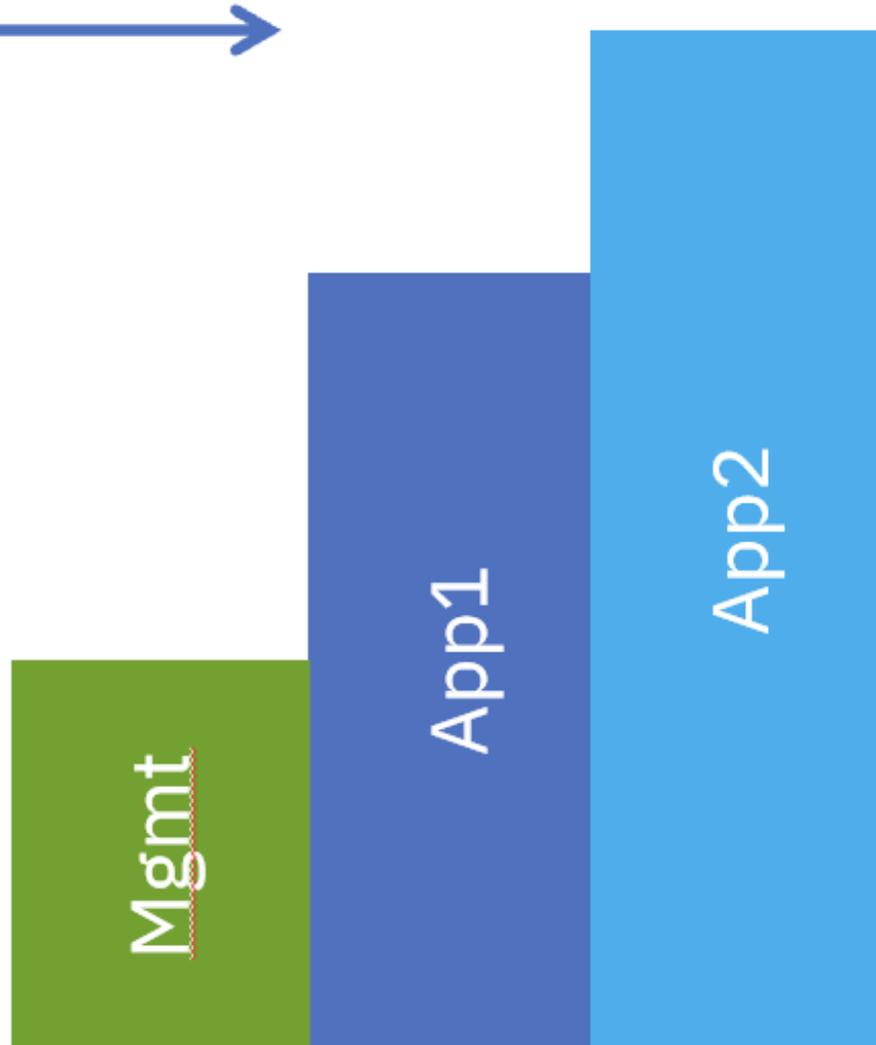


# Data aware performance optimization and Quality of Service (QOS)

Total IO Capability  
B/W or IOPS



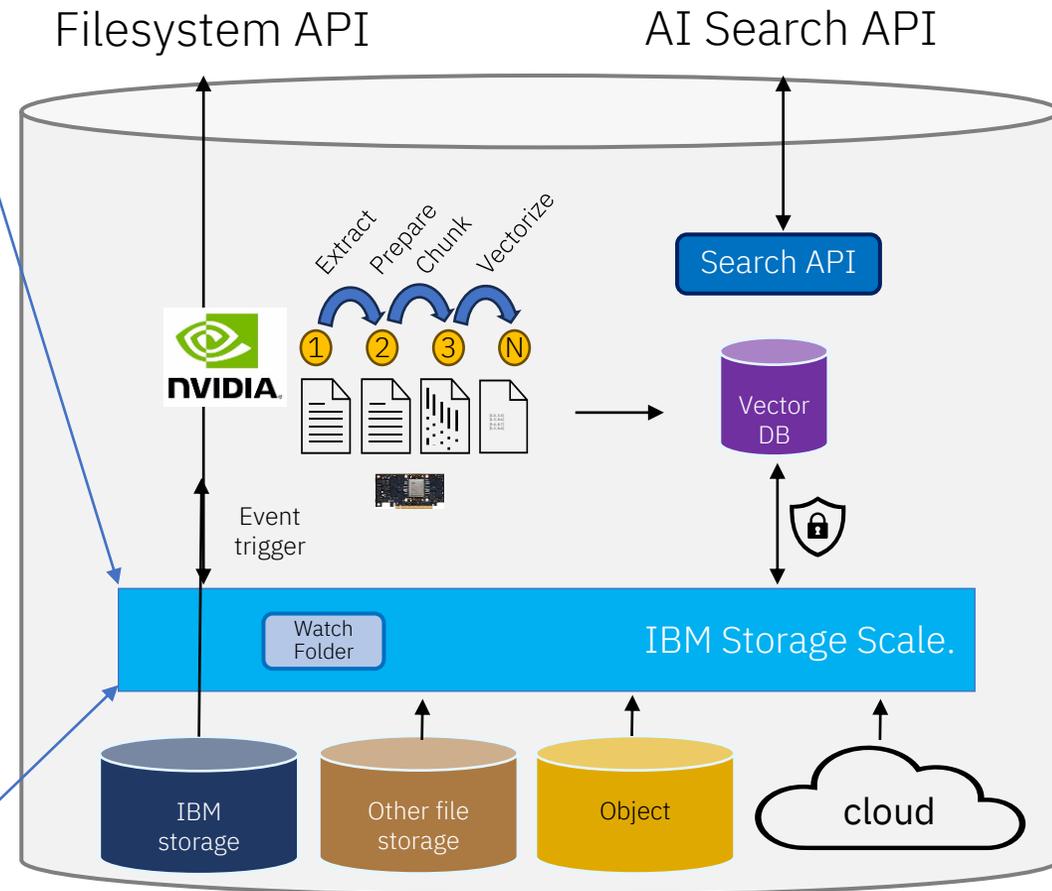
Management  
Capped at 20%  
(example)



# Content Aware Storage (CAS) optimized storage provides differentiation

## IBM AI optimized storage and AI runtime

- **Enterprise grade secure:** Consistent ACL and encryptions
- **Efficient:** Detect data change for incremental data processing
- **Support your legacy storage:** Connect to heterogeneous storage systems, including legacy unstructured data storage
- **Accelerate and scale:** GPU-optimized storage solution



# Monitoring and Health

## Health monitoring changes

- Added monitoring of **mmauth** certificate expiration.
- Added swap usage monitoring.
- Added SCALEMGMT monitoring through **apihealth**.

## Performance monitoring changes

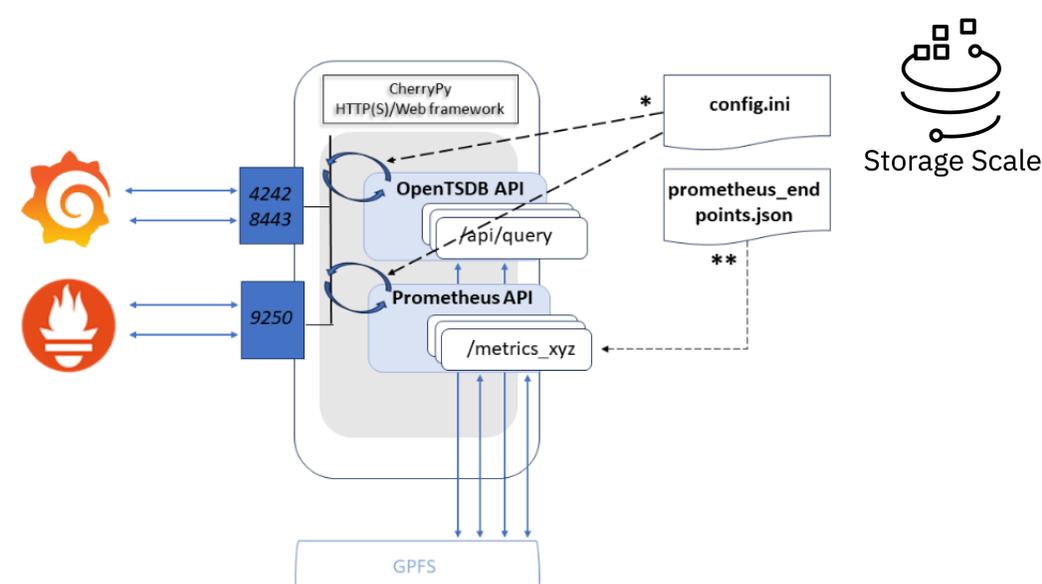
The following flags added to the **mmp~~er~~fmon** command:

- **--interactive** | **-i** for colored and scrollable interactive mode, especially useful for inspecting multiple rows of output.
- **--statistics** to show statistics for the specified sensor.
- **--hour**, **--day**, **--week**, **--month**, **--group-by GROUP**, **--sort** for quality of life.

New sensor GPFSTSCOM: **mmf~~s~~d** socket statistics from **mmp~~mon~~ tscom**

**mmptop/mmpstat**: Added **-N** option to support node classes and daemon or admin names.

Removed dependency on libboost-regex.



# Support `mmbackup` for remoteFS with ILM



## RFE 307622

- By supporting backup on remotely mounted file system, `mmbackup` will use a backup network.
- Customer prefers to use dedicated networks to perform backups of data
- Added a new option: **`--allow-backup-on-remote`**
  - When specified, this parameter enables a backup on a remotely mounted file system. This option requires the IBM Storage Scale cluster level to be 5.1.8.0 or higher.
- This function relies on `mmapplypolicy --allow-scan-on-remote`
  - this option is not externalized yet, used internally (by `mmbackup`, `mmxcp`), but plan to externalize this in 6.0.0.
  - If this option is specified for the local file system, this option will be simply ignored.

# # expelnode mechanisms



1. Explicit calls to mmexpelnode
2. Failure to respond to checks for disk leases
3. "RPC-related expels" happen when a cluster member detects that a partner node is not responsive to a comms check RPC (commMsgCheckMessages).
  - \*any\* member of a cluster (local or remote) can send a message to the cluster manager asking to expel its unresponsive partner.
  - The cluster to manager decides what to do! (complainer, complaine, nothing)
  - A non-cluster manager node does not EVER actually expel some other node.

Added a short "reason" in the mmfs.log entry that already gets made for RPC node expels

# Storage Scale Deployment Toolkit

[ CES S3 ] CES S3 Online upgrade support with noobaa changes

[ CES S3 ] CES S3 offline upgrade support with noobaa changes

IBM Storage Scale native REST API Installation, Deployment and upgrade support.

Toolkit certification to work with the latest Ansible library.

[ Python ] Toolkit support with Python 3.12

[ Currency ] Extended OS currency

[ ESS Protocol Node ] Scale System (ESS) Protocol node certification with 5.2.3 Toolkit.

[ ESS Protocol Node ] CES S3 Protocol Deployment certification with 5.2.3 Toolkit.

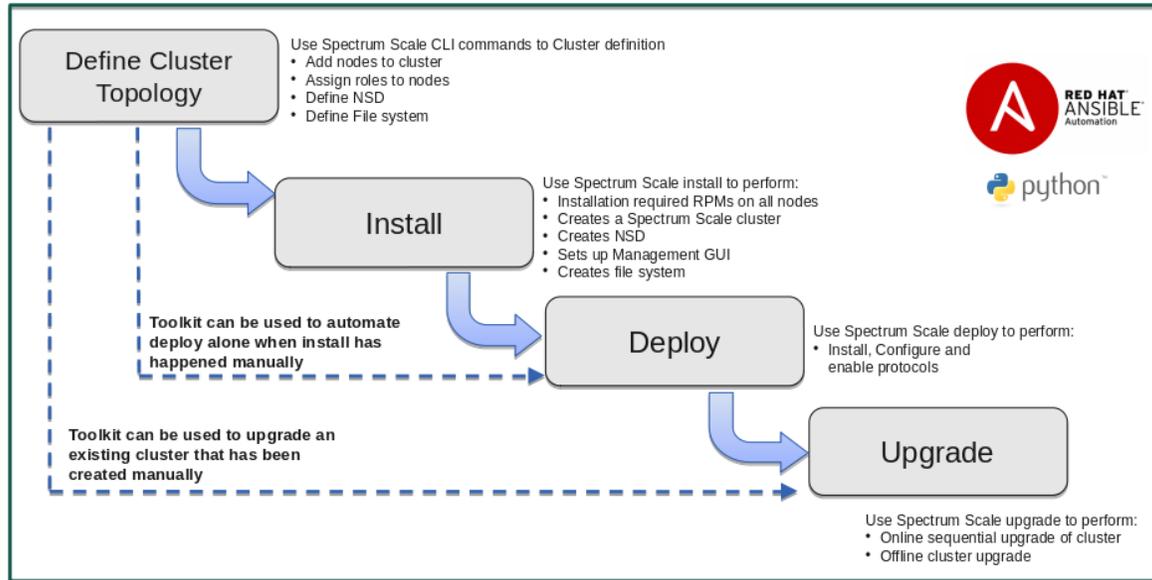
[ Open Source ] Open Source Ansible Role certification with 5.2.3.

[ CloudKit ] Continued support and enhancements for toolkit integration.

[ CloudKit ] Ansible playbook to work with CES group for protocol deployment.

[ Toolkit ] [ BDA ]: Supporting HDFS Transparency 3.3.6 in Install Toolkit

[ Toolkit ]: Enabling FIPS environment certification support for Spectrum Scale deployments except GPFS GUI component.



# Abstracting Cloud Service Deployment – Cloudkit!



## What is Storage Scale Cloudkit?

Create Storage Scale clusters on the cloud with

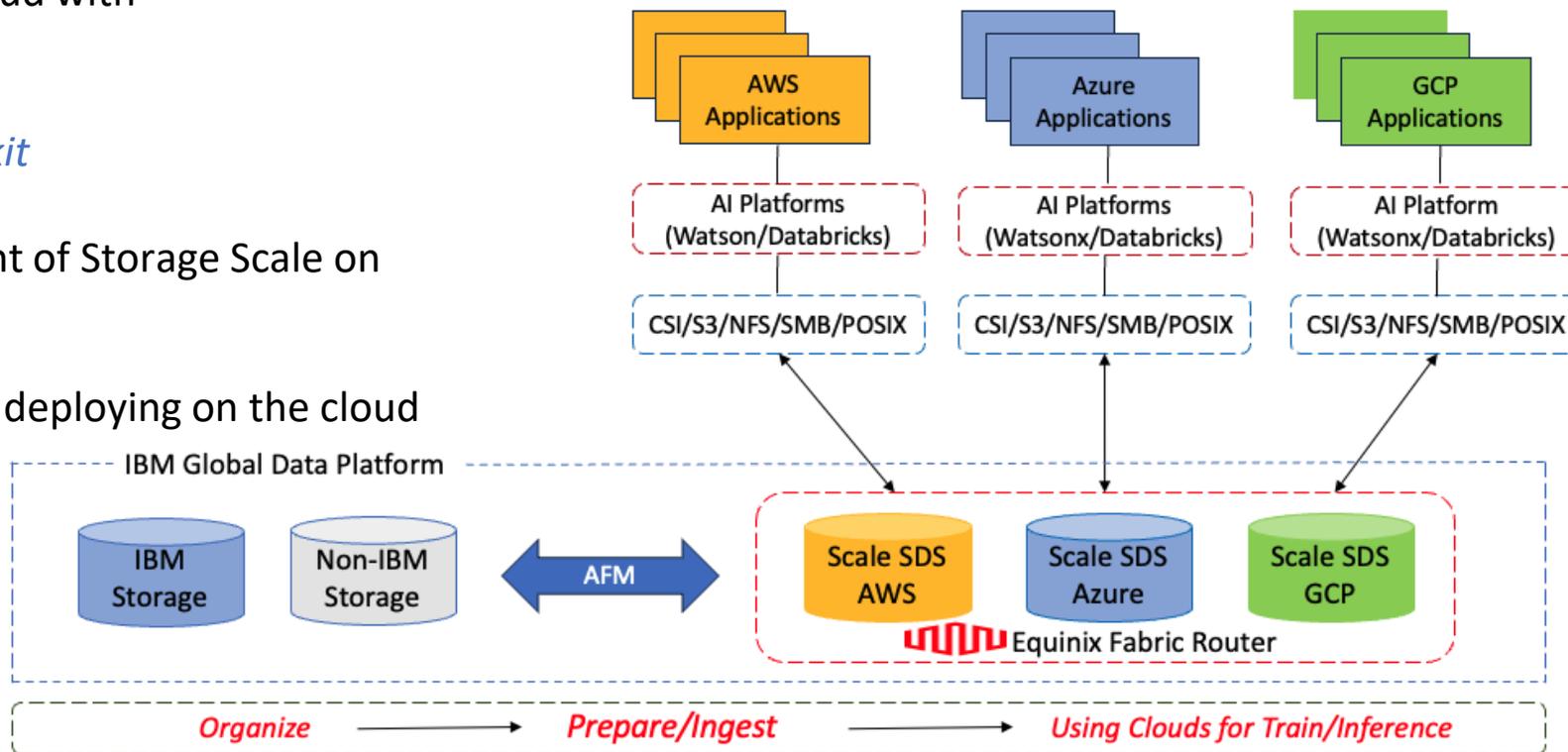
Bring Your Own License (BYOL) Model

Look in `/usr/lpp/mmfs/VERSION/cloudkit`

Automates provisioning and deployment of Storage Scale on the cloud

Applies Storage Scale best practices for deploying on the cloud

Scale's Global Data Platform (Borderless Data Transfer)



## Updates

- On Microsoft Azure cloud, upgrade IBM Storage Scale clusters.
- On Microsoft Azure cloud, AFM to cloud object storage.
- On AWS, automated deployment and configuration of CES or protocols nodes.
- On GCP, the following disk types: pd-extreme, hyperdisk-extreme, hyperdisk-balanced.

# Assurance Services





# IBM Storage Scale native REST API

Eliminates dependency on SSH, requirement for privileged users, and the need to issue commands locally on the node.

CLI and REST API of this feature are new interfaces to perform administrative operations. **GUI is coming!**

## Architecture and OS

x86\_64 - RHEL 8/9, Ubuntu 22/24, SLES 15 SP6

Power LE - RHEL 8/9, SLES 15 SP6

Linux on Z - RHEL 8/9, SLES 15 SP6

ARM, Windows, AIX not supported.

- Do not intermix unsupported nodes

gpfs.scaleapi rpm/deb included

New user:group created scaleapiadm:scaleapiadm as part of package install

New systemd service

**scaleadm.service**

Migrate existing cluster: **scalectl cluster migrate**

Logs are located in: */var/mmfs/scaleadm/log/scaleadm.log*

**Installtoolkit supported**

**Ansible still requires ssh setup first**

<b>scalectl</b>	
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>apihealth</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>authorization</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>cluster</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>config</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>diagnostics</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>fileset</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>filesystem</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>node</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>nodeclass</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>operations</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>policy</b>
<b>scalectl</b>	<b>troubleshooting</b>

# IBM Storage Scale native REST API

Setting up a remote cluster –

[https://ibmdocs-test.dcs.ibm.com/docs/en/IBM\\_Spectrum\\_Scale\\_test?topic=administering-remote-cluster-support-storage-scale-native-rest-api](https://ibmdocs-test.dcs.ibm.com/docs/en/IBM_Spectrum_Scale_test?topic=administering-remote-cluster-support-storage-scale-native-rest-api)

Key exchange protocol - No need to explicitly provide public key file for remote cluster setup

Communication between clusters uses mutual TLS (mTLS) for secure authentication and data integrity.

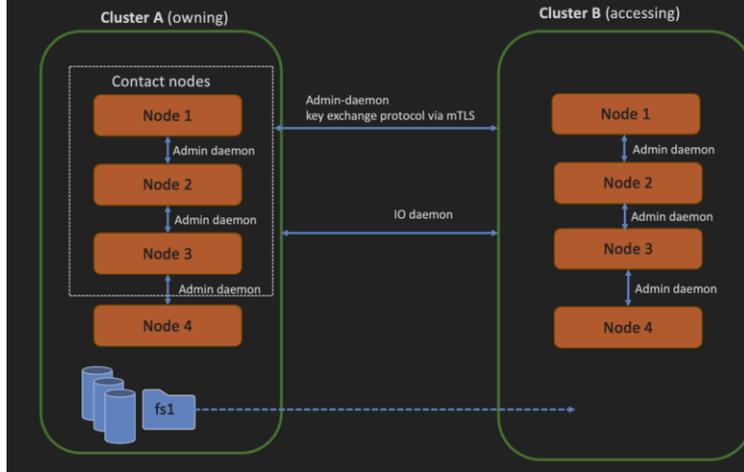
Both clusters must trust each other's certificate authority.  
Each node must have an X.509 certificate for communication across scalecmd services.

Node identities are managed on a per node basis through scalectl node config command.

For example, if *Cluster A* owns the *fs1* file system and *Cluster B* mounts *fs1* file system, then:

- *Cluster A* is the owning cluster. *Cluster A* authorizes *Cluster B* to mount the *fs1* file system.
- *Cluster B* is the accessing cluster. *Cluster B* requests access to the *fs1* file system from *Cluster A*.

Figure 1. High-level architecture of remote cluster setup



```
scalectl cluster create -N <NodeName> --cluster-name "<ClusterName>" -A
```

```
scalectl cluster remote authorize --name <AccessingClusterName> \  
--cluster-id <3793952426292428382> --file resourcefile.json
```

```
scalectl cluster remote add --name <OwningClusterName> --contact-nodes node1
```

```
scalectl filesystem mount <FilesystemName> -T <MountPoint>
```

# What's new in IBM Storage Scale System 6.2.\*



Chris Maestas  
IBM CTO, IBM Data and AI Storage Solutions  
Chief Troublemaking Officer



# IBM Storage Scale System

Integrated scale-out data management for file and object

## Optimal building block for high-performance, scalable, reliable enterprise Storage Scale storage

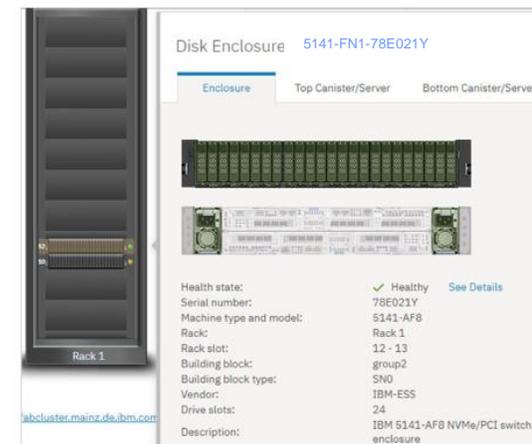
- Faster data access with the choice to scale-up or scale-out
- Easy to deploy clusters with unified system GUI
- Simplified storage administration with IBM Storage Control integration

## One solution for all Storage Scale data needs

- Single repository of data with unified file and object support
- Anywhere access with multi-protocol support using protocol nodes: NFS 3/4.[0-2], SMB, Object, and HDFS
- Ideal for big data analytics including full Hadoop transparency

## Ready for business-critical data

- Disaster recovery with synchronous or asynchronous replication
- Ensure reliability and fast rebuild times using Storage Scale RAID's dispersed data and erasure code
- Six 9s (99.9999%) of availability and online scalability and upgrades



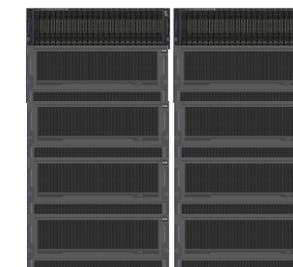
Simple GUI and wizards



6000

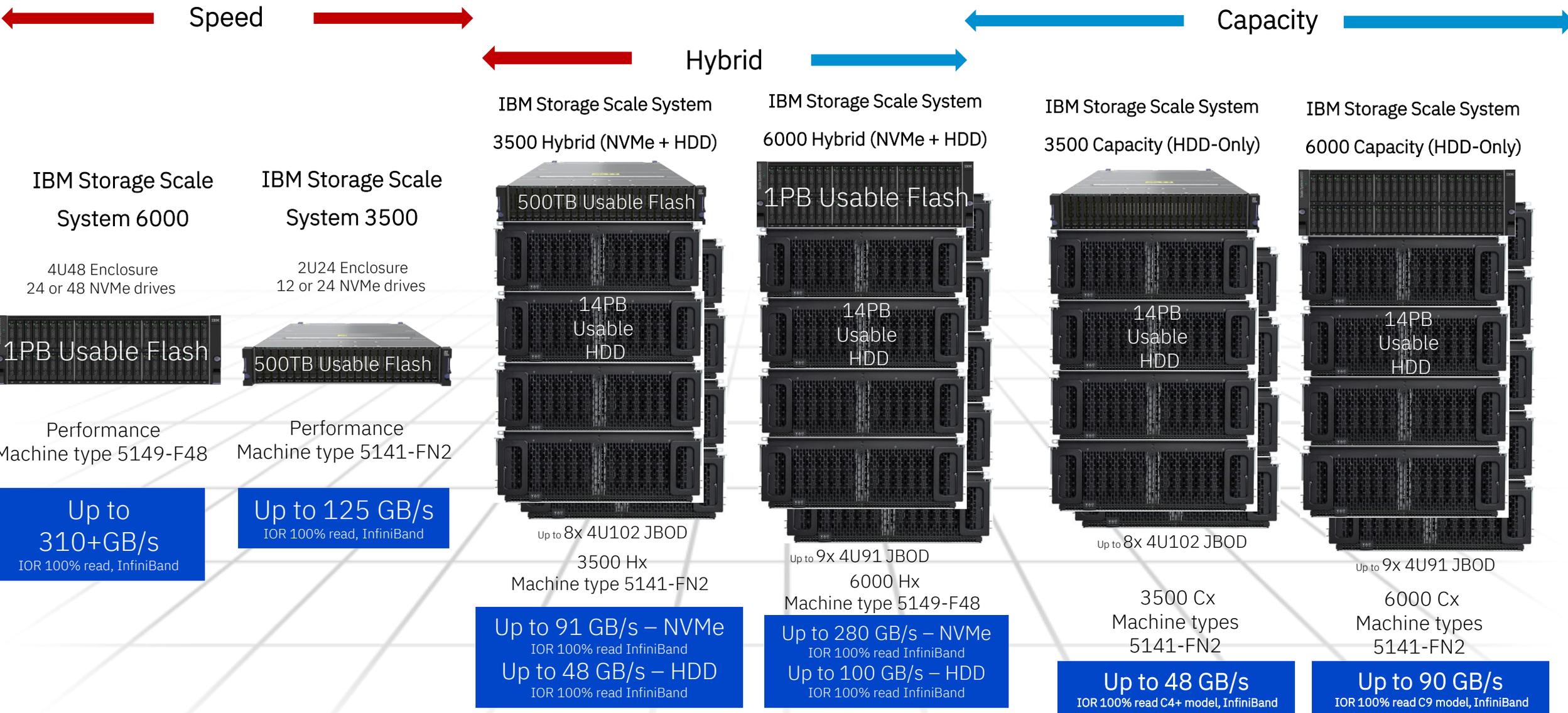


3500



3500 or 6000  
Hybrid/Capacity

# Scale System models are built for speed and capacity



# SED Support with GKLM : Overview

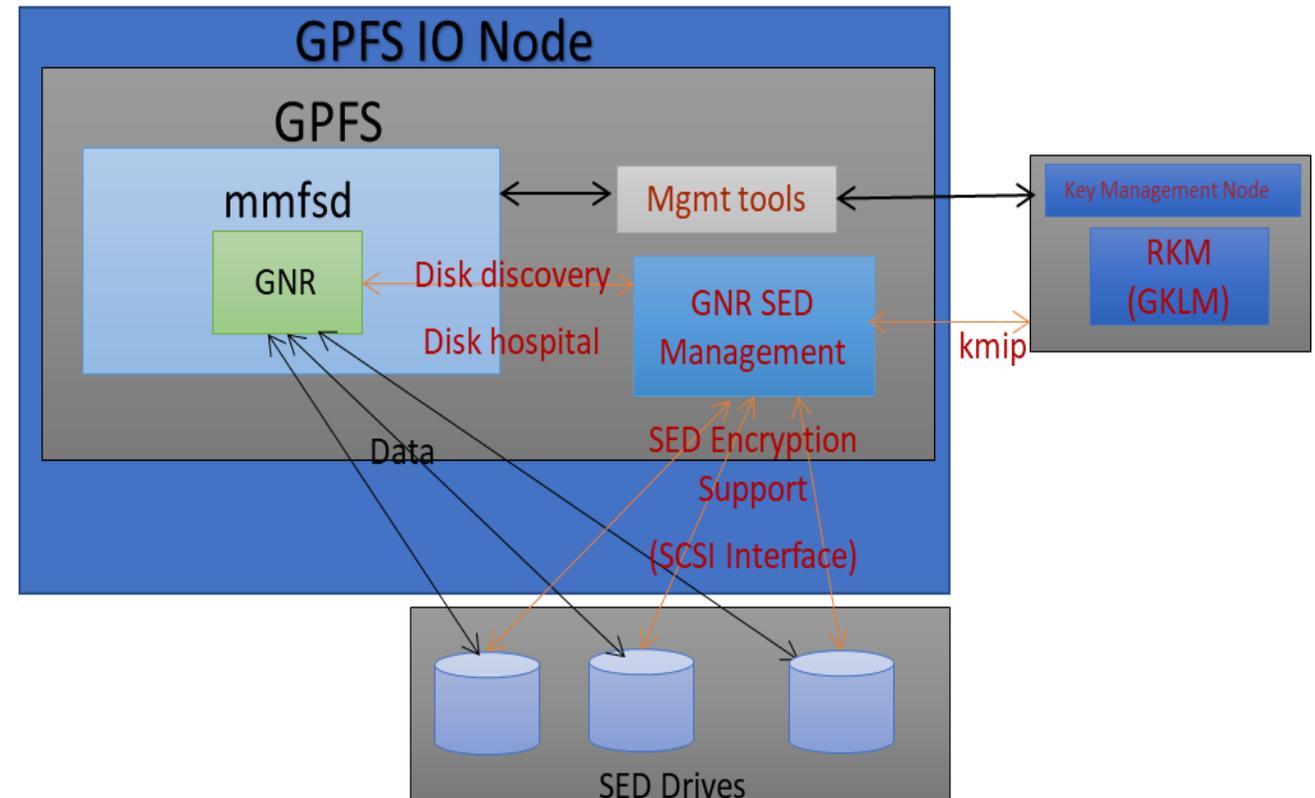
GA in Dec 2022 for ESS 6.1.5.0 (ESS 3500)

## Background:

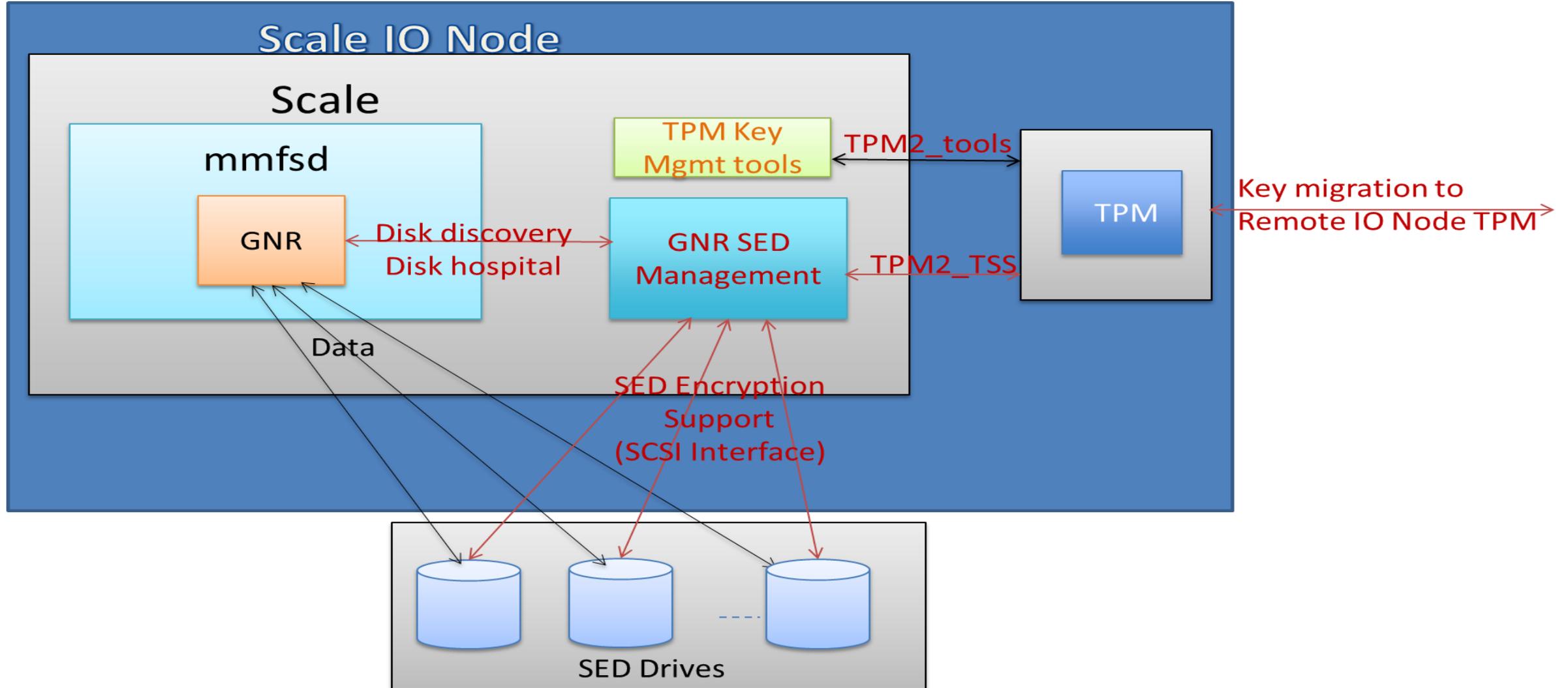
- ❑ SED enabled by enrolling with MEK
- ❑ Auto lock on power off
- ❑ Data Security at Rest
- ❑ Need to unlock at Power ON using MEK
- ❑ Crypto erase by changing DEK

## Challenges:

- ❑ External Key Managers are expensive
- ❑ Different Key Managers



# SED Support using TPM : Overview



# IBM Storage Scale 6000 with TLC, FCM4, and now QLC!



<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/announcements/storage-scale-system-introduces-support-crypto-enabled-cx-7-adapter-second-source-hdd-drives>

## IBM Storage Scale System unveils next generation High-Capacity QLC-based NVMe SSDs for AI Applications

Published: 27 May 2025 AD25-0122 Hardware

### Overview

IBM Storage Scale System announces availability of the next generation high-capacity quad-level cell (QLC) based NVMe SSDs optimized for AI workloads, with support for 30 TB and 60 TB drive options. The QLC flash tier is combined with TLC flash to achieve high endurance and high performance, enabling up to 2.2 PB of more cost-effective flash capacity within the Storage Scale System.

### Planned availability date

13 June 2025

## Description

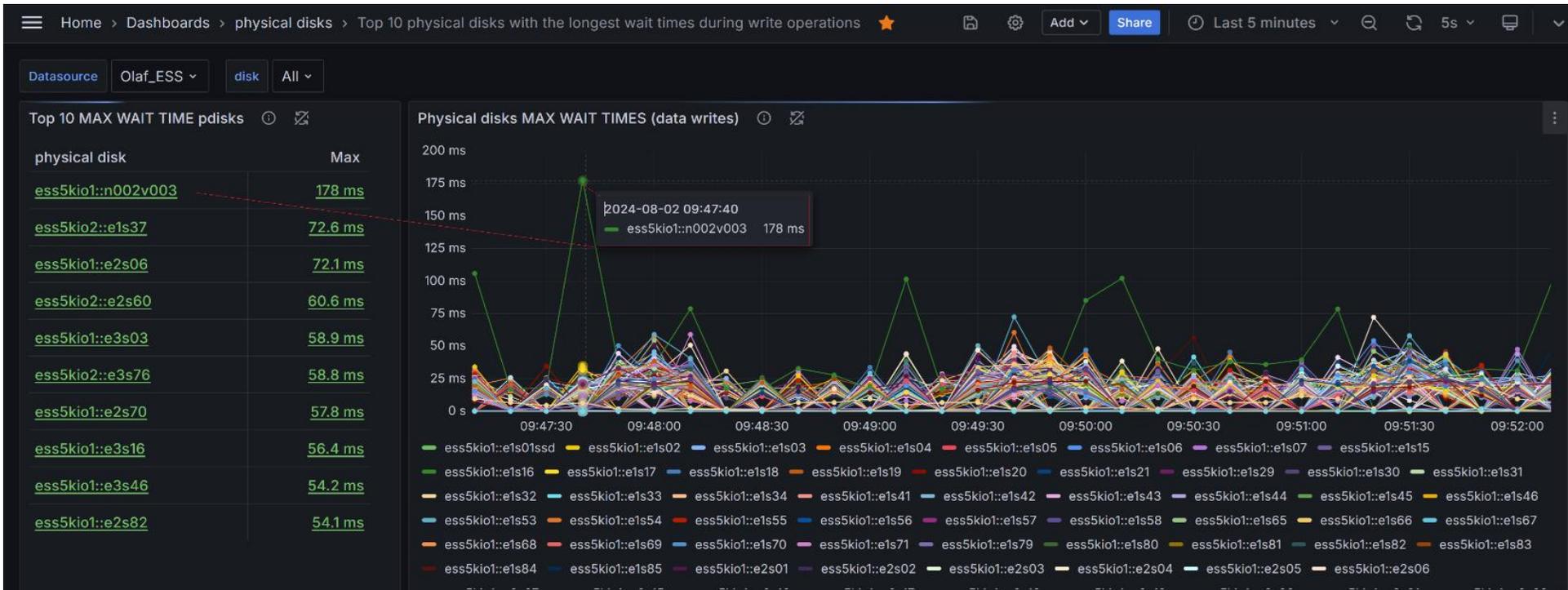
The Storage Scale System QLC SSD is a 2.5" dual-ported U.2/U.3 PCIe Gen5 drive that offers incredible density, and performance and reliability, especially optimized for read-intensive workloads. The QLC also supports SED (Self-Encrypting Drive) providing enhanced data protection and security. SED leverages hardware-based encryption to transparently encrypt and decrypt the data written and read from the drives. IBM Storage Scale system 6000 offers both 30.72 TB and 61.44 TB drive options, delivering more than 2.2 PB of high-performance flash storage within a single building block.

Exactly 24 QLC drives of the same capacity (30.72 TB or 61.44 TB) are supported within a Storage Scale System 6000.

QLC support in the Storage Scale System 6000 requires 24x TLC NVMe drives of the same capacity (3.84 TB, 7.68 TB, 15.36 TB or 30.72 TB).

The ConnectX-7 400GbE/NDR Single-Port OSFP Adapter (NVIDIA PN MCX75310AAC-NEAT) is a crypto-enabled half-height, half length x16 PCIe Gen5 high-speed adapter, supporting both ethernet and Infiniband 400GbE speeds in a single port.

# Grafana pdisks dashboard (example)



One of the most important measures of physical disk performance is the wait time for a disk write operation.

The **new** bundle of sample dashboards [physical disks](#) allows you to identify ***the top 10 physical disks with the longest wait time*** for a write operation for the selected time period.

For more details on a particular disk, you can ***drill down*** from the table to the individual disk view.

**Watch DEMO video** on the IBM Storage Scale bridge for Grafana [Wiki](#) >>>

# New Scale System Software Features



---

Scale 5.2.3.X

---

RH9.4 3500/6000 RH8.10 5000/3000/3200

---

DOCA 25.01

---

Deploy from the GUI

---

FCM space monitoring

---

CX7 400G VPI card

---

Firmware updates FCM4/4u102/4u91/6000

---

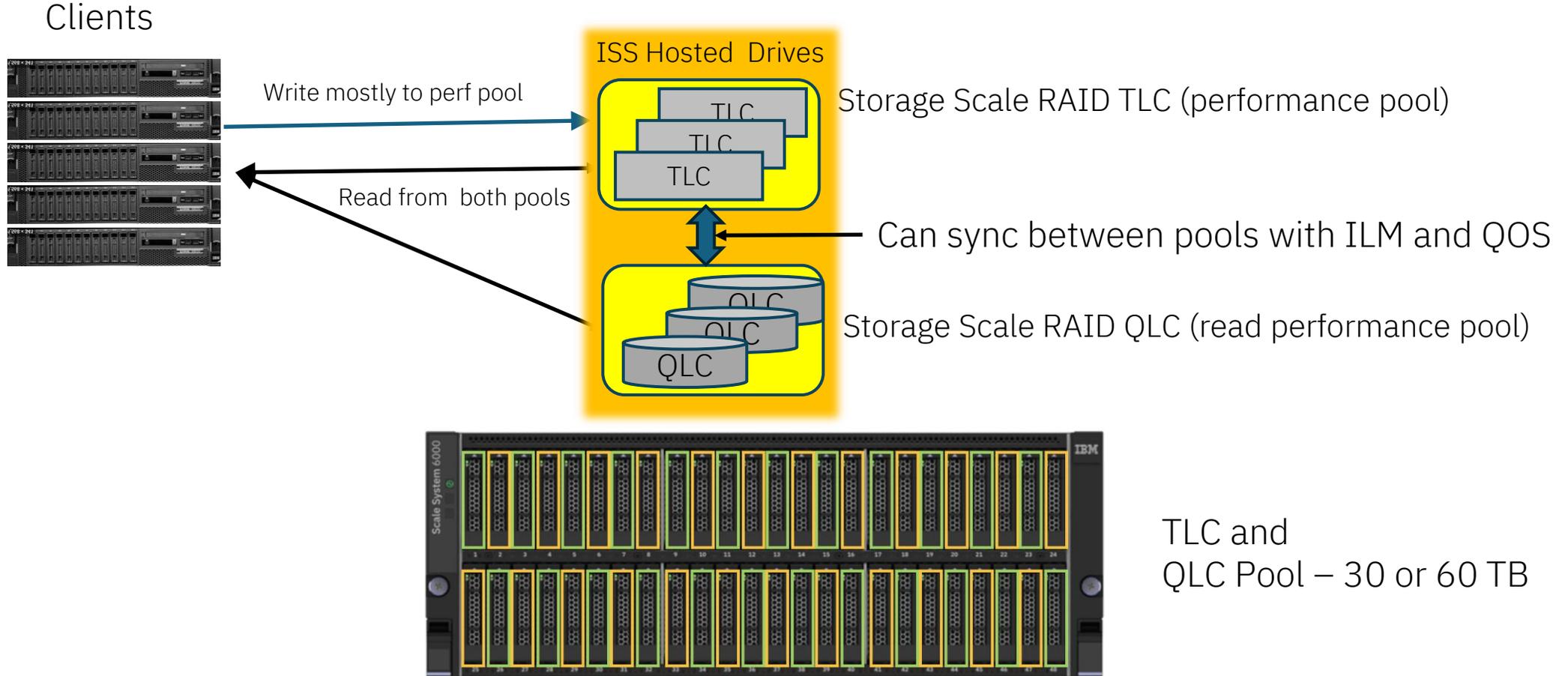
MES for Falcon/HBA (1-9 enclosures) ESS 6000 4u91

---

QLC support with TLC tier

# IBM Storage Scale System 6000

## *mixed QLC Tier*



- Recommend data written to TLC pool first – use placement policies!
- Provides very high read to either pool (QLC read performance is like TLC)

# IBM FlashCore™ Module 4

## *Capacity and Performance*

2.5" dual ported U.2 NVMe Gen 4 PCIe  
Industry leading density at 38.4 TB per drive  
Inline hardware FIPS 140-3 encryption  
Inline hardware 3:1 compression = 116 TB!

Internally tiered storage  
-> MRAM -> SLC -> 3D QLC

Industry leading QLC endurance  
15K Program/Erase cycles  
Compared to 1500 for enterprise QLC

IBM Unique QLC management (100+ patents)  
read calibration, heat binning, heat binning,  
error correcting codes, optimized voltage

Continuous health monitoring  
keeps wear across all cells within 5%

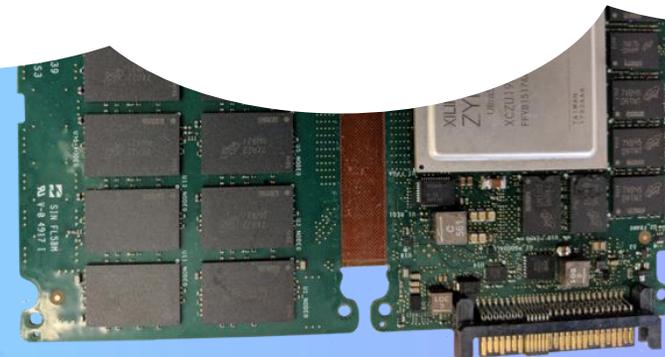


### FCM Space Management Best Practices in IBM Storage System 6000

**Does your data avoid encryption or compression?**

On average data if we achieve 1.2-1.3 it's about 45-50 TB per drive

Estimate your data via gzip/zip/lz4 or scale software compression and get the best idea of actual compression.



# Thank you for using

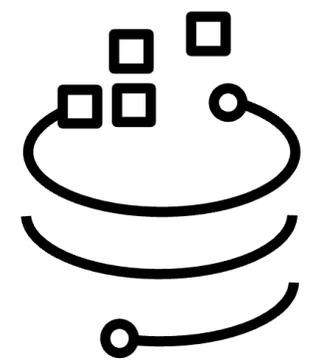


Applied Data Systems

725 followers

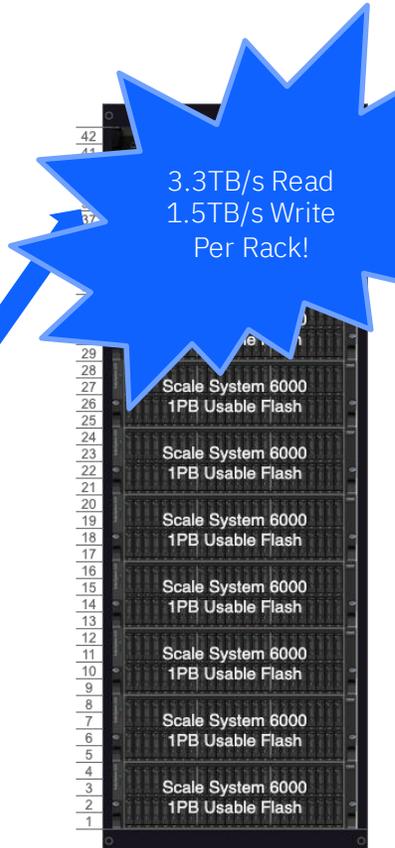
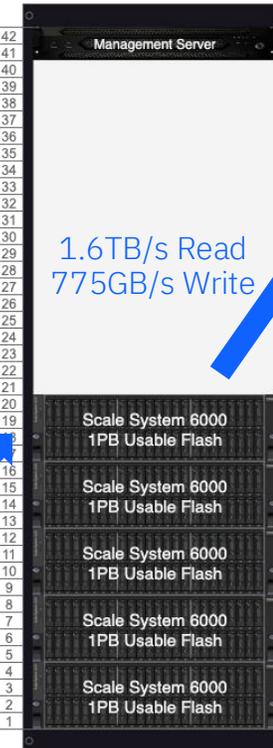
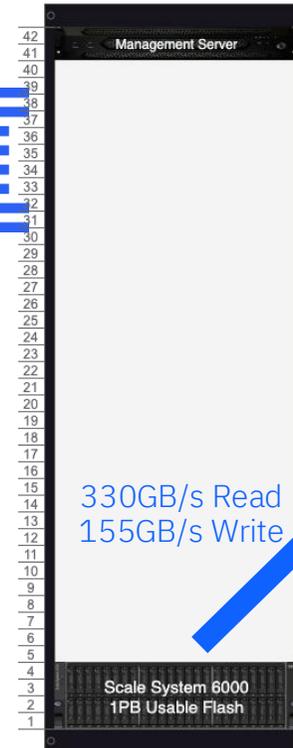
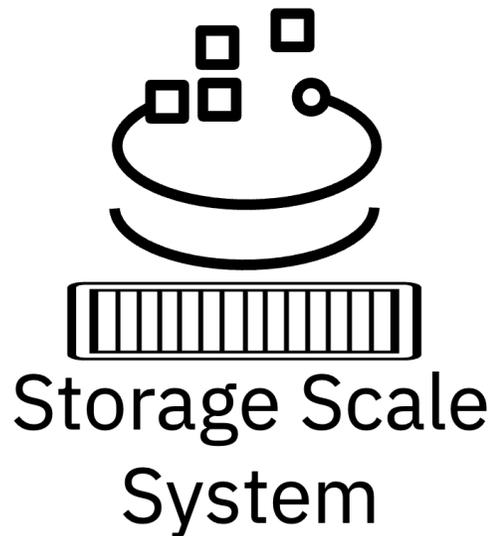
1mo · 🌐

...



## Storage Scale

Applied Data Systems is excited to offer a fully integrated AI infrastructure solution that combines NVIDIA HGX BasePOD (H200 and B200 servers), DDC water-cooled cabinets, and the IBM Storage Scale System 6000 to address the most demanding AI cooling and data challenges.



\*Performance based on tuned network for RDMA with TLC drives