

Glass: A New Media for a New Era

Austin Donnelly Microsoft Data volume is growing.....



Data volume is growing.....but storage is \$\$\$



What we are trying to do....lower \$/GB



What we are trying to do....lower \$/GB



Existing technologies...



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Cool storage "latency gap"
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The journey from 2007 to a new media.....



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The journey from 2007 to a new media.....
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The journey from 2007 to a new media.....
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The journey from 2007 to a new media.....











Today's talk

Glass: A New Media for a New Era





Pelican

Low-cost HDD-based active archive

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Cool storage "latency gap"
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Pelican

- 2 Servers, PCIe rack wide
- 1152 SATA 3.5"HDDs
- Vertical Cooling
- Resource constraints
 - 1 disk/column
 - 2 disks/tray
- Manage in software



Pelican: Interesting design choices

- HDDs spun down
 - How do the drives cope?
 - How does this impact latency?
- Disaggregated rack-scale design
 - Disks can migrate between servers



Archive drives

- New class of HDDs
- Optimised for minimum \$/GB
- Targeting cold workloads:



"The WD Ae hard drive is best suited for cold storage, backup and data archiving where data is stored on disk but rarely if almost never read again" -- WD6001F4PZ1 datasheet

- Workload is quantified as TB/year
- Lifetime affected by:

POH TB transferred Spindown cycles

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Drive line-up

Name	Technology	Spin up (s)	Capacity (TB)
A1	Auto SMR	10.1	8.0
A2	HA SMR	10.2	8.0
B 1	PMR	7.9	4.6
B2	PMR	7.8	4.5
B3v1	PMR	9	4.9
B3v2	PMR	6	4.9
B4	PMR	6.4	6.1
C1	Auto SMR (?)	8.6	8.0

SMR = Shingled Magnetic Recording PMR = Perpendicular Magnetic Recording

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Spinup latency



Power draw



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Cool storage "latency gap"
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Pelican summary

- Archive drives are effective, provided workload is managed
- Spindowns do **not** seem to affect drive reliability
- And they are probably the cheapest \$/GB HDDbased storage...
- We've tuned everything to minimize \$/GB
 - We've built highly efficient HDD storage for cold data.
 - We've worked with the HDD vendors to drive costs down.
- Let's go back to basics...



Long-term storage media



Today's storage technologies

No storage technology deployed today in the cloud has been designed from the media up to support just the cloud

- HDD
- Tape
- Optical Disks (Blu-ray)
- Flash

Are there better media?



New media for a new era...





Silica

Long-term active archive

Glass (fused silica/quartz)

- Storing data changes the structure of the glass
 - Write Once Read Many (WORM) technology
 - Archival
 - Persistent (think millions of years)
 - EMF-proof
 - No bit rot / disc rot (no scrubbing)
 - Cheap media
 - Seekable
 - Leave data in-place



Cuneiform tablet recording the allocation of beer, 3100-3000 BC. © Trustees of the British Museum.

• Opportunity to really design from the ground up: think differently

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Disaggregating write, media storage, read



Optical storage using femtosecond lasers

Picosecond (10 x10⁻¹² s) laser induces voids *with external stress*





Three-dimensional optical storage inside transparent materials. E. N. Glezer, M. Milosavljevic, L. Huang, R. J. Finlay, T.-H. Her, J. P. Callan, and E. Mazur. Optics Letters Vol. 21 Issue 24 (1996)

Writing in Silica glass

- Uses an ultra-short pulsed laser
- The beam is focused onto the glass



Writing in Silica glass

- The material is modified at the focus
- A voxel is formed
- Repeat, to form a sector of voxels



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Writing in Silica glass

• Sectors are written in bulk of material, protecting the voxels



Nano-grating structure and control

• Multi-level encoding using shape and orientation of structure



Self-Organized Nanogratings in Glass Irradiated by Ultrashort Light Pulses Yasuhiko Shimotsuma, Peter G. Kazansky, Jiarong Qiu, and Kazuoki Hirao Phys. Rev. Lett. **91** (2003)

100's of layers



Writing voxels



Reading voxels



Decoding voxels



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Summary

- Glass is:
 - Archive-grade
 - WORM-like
 - Seekable
 - Cheap
- Excellent lifetime



ThankYou

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1