Overcoming the Top Four Challenges to Real-Time Performance in Large-Scale, Data-Centric Applications

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- Disclaimers
- I am not Mike Lee
- No Mariachi hat
- No Facial hair
- A LOT more boring
- My other computer is a Mac
- However, we have “shipped” …

Select SL RTView Customers

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E-Commerce/Retail

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P&G
Pepsi
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Harris
Healthways
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About SL Corporation

- Software Product company since 1983
- Headquarters in Marin County, CA
- Worldwide presence in Americas, APAC, EMEA
- Over 100,000 licenses sold
- Core expertise in application performance monitoring – special focus on middleware

- Here to talk about Scalability and Performance
- Problem Space:

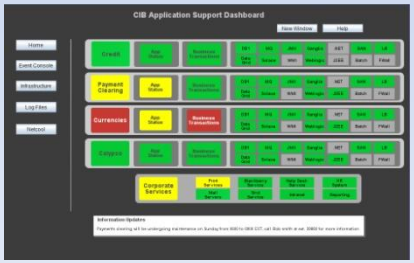
  Collection, Analysis, and Visualization in Real-Time of large volumes of monitoring data from large-scale, complex, distributed applications

  Keywords: Real-Time, Large Volumes of Data

RTView: The Solution Offering

Application Performance Monitoring

- Collect all necessary application-centric and middleware-centric performance data
- Configure data aggregation and persistence, filters, analytics, alerts and displays to deliver information tailored for app support teams

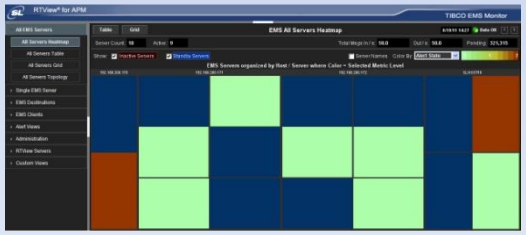


Oracle Coherence Monitoring

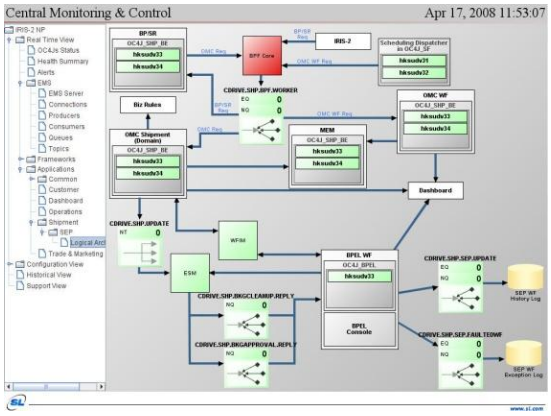
- Understand the behavior of Coherence
- Debug and validate functionality after configuration changes
- Integrate OCM with existing monitoring tools
- Enable quick notification of problems

Middleware Monitoring

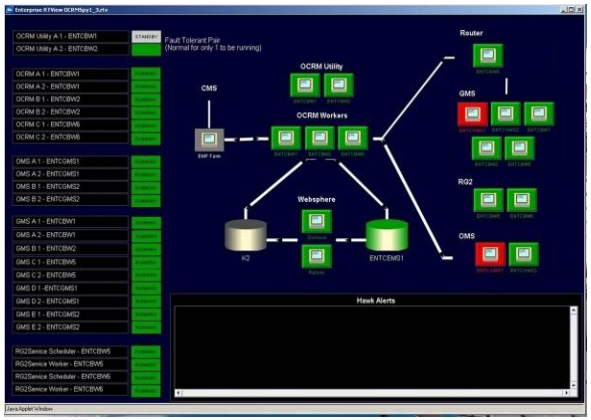
- Determine how applications are interacting with middleware systems
- Assess whether applications are running efficiently and reliably
- Ensure the maximum benefit from an ESB investment



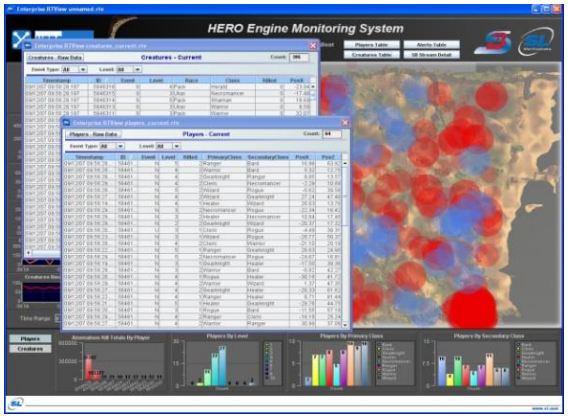
RTView – Sample Applications



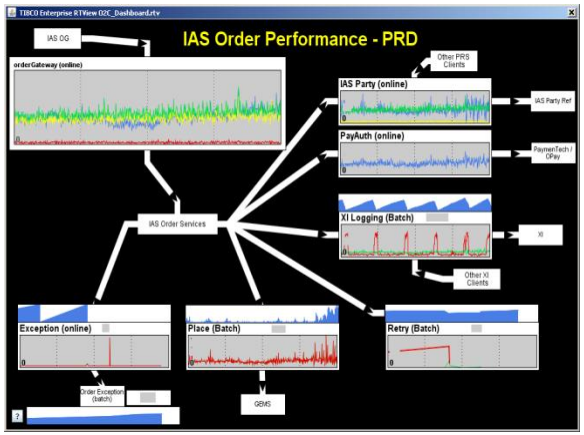
OOCL World WideShipment Tracking



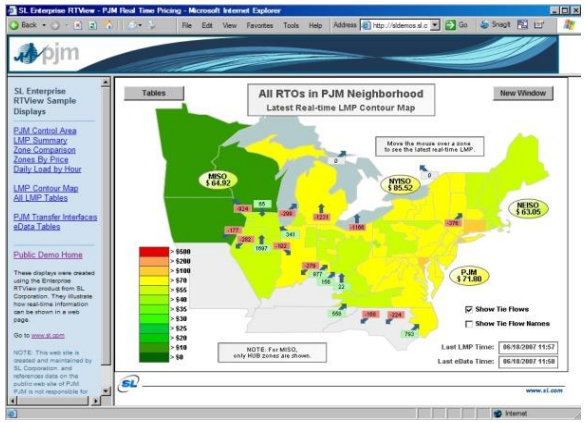
Hospitality Card application at Harrah's casino gaming tables



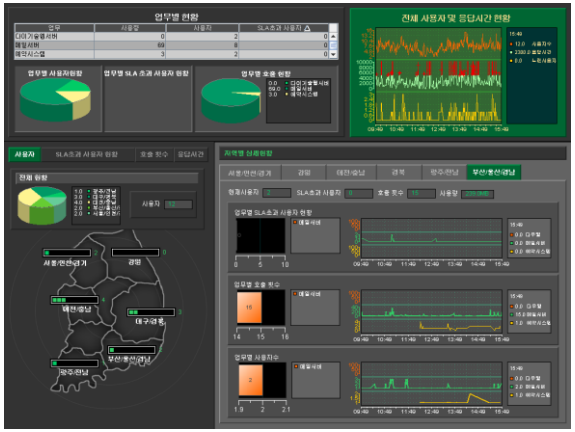
Online Gaming Systems



Tax Season at Intuit

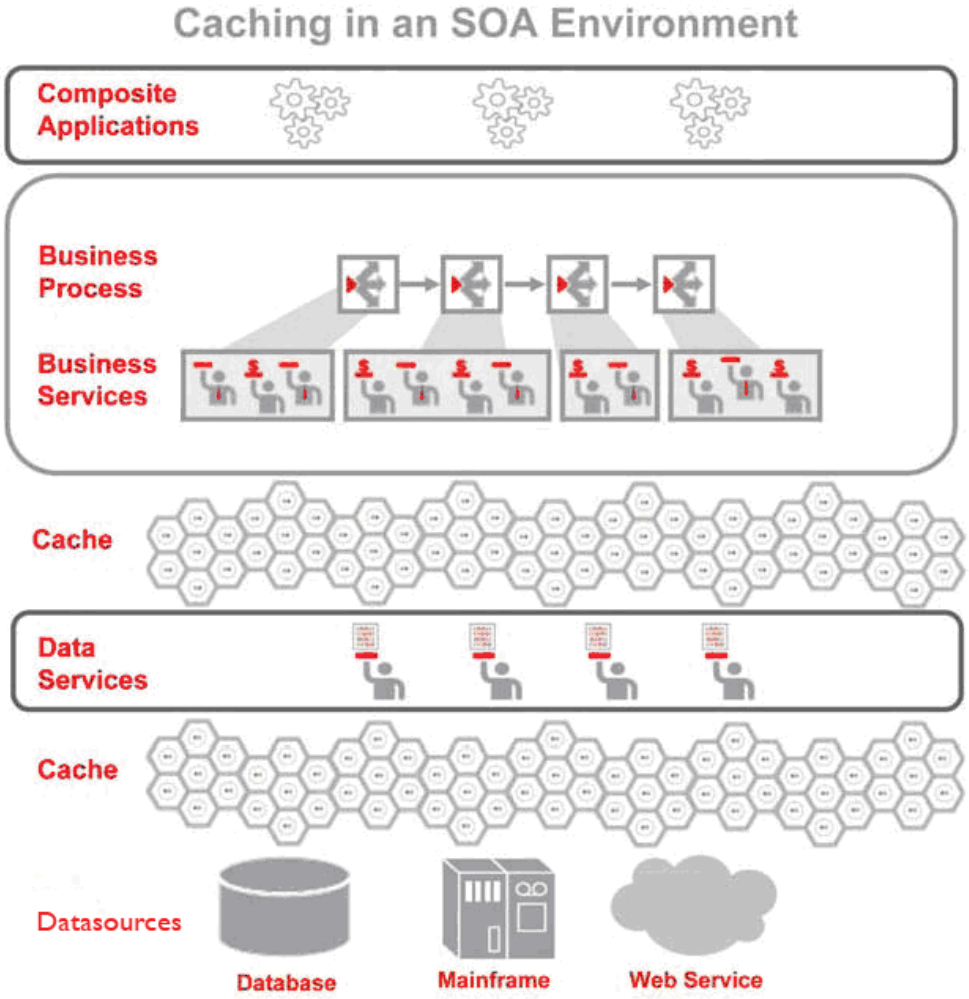


PJM Real-time Energy Pricing

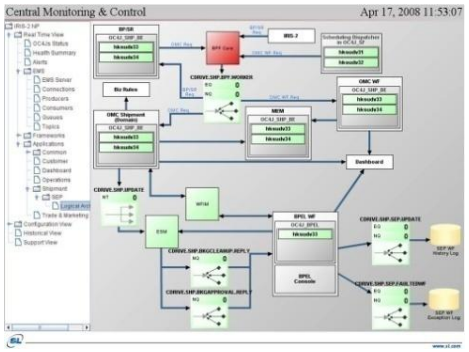


Banking application in Korea

RTView – Multi-Tier Visibility



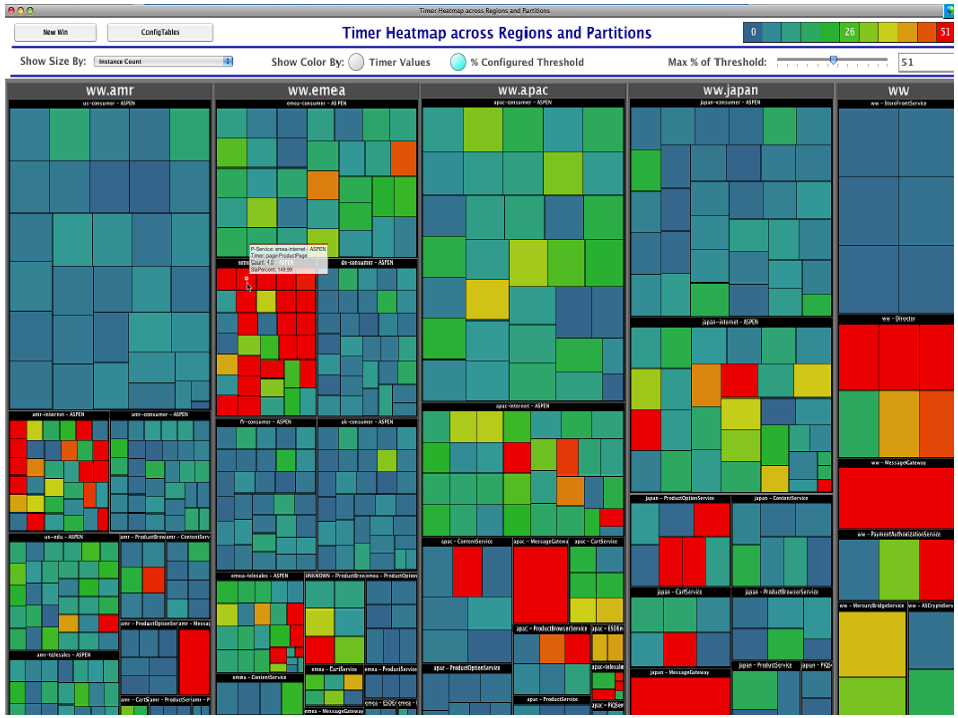
Unified Real-time display of data from all Application tiers



In-depth Monitoring of Middleware Components

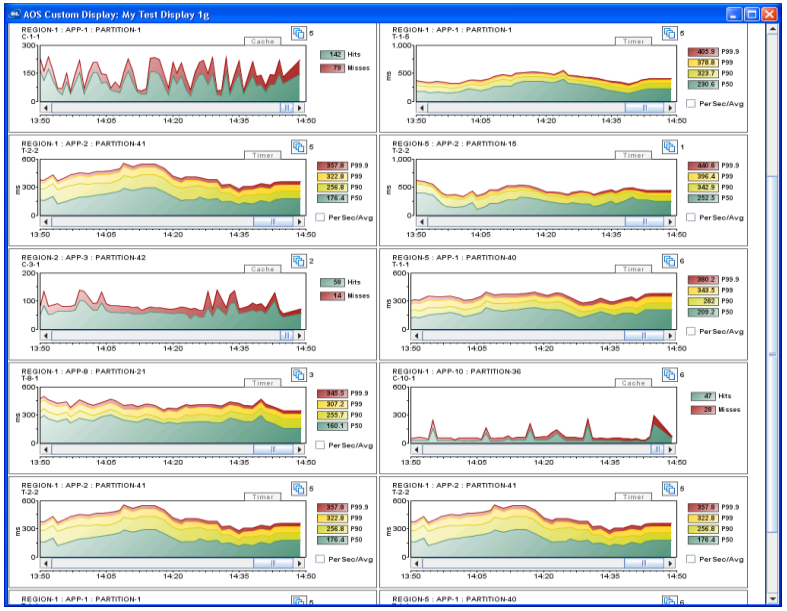
RTView – Large Data Volumes

- Typical large implementation, distributed over several regions with many custom applications
- Heatmap View showing current state of entire system – size represents number of servers for application
- Color represents how close metric is to SLA – large red boxes are worst – drilldown to detail



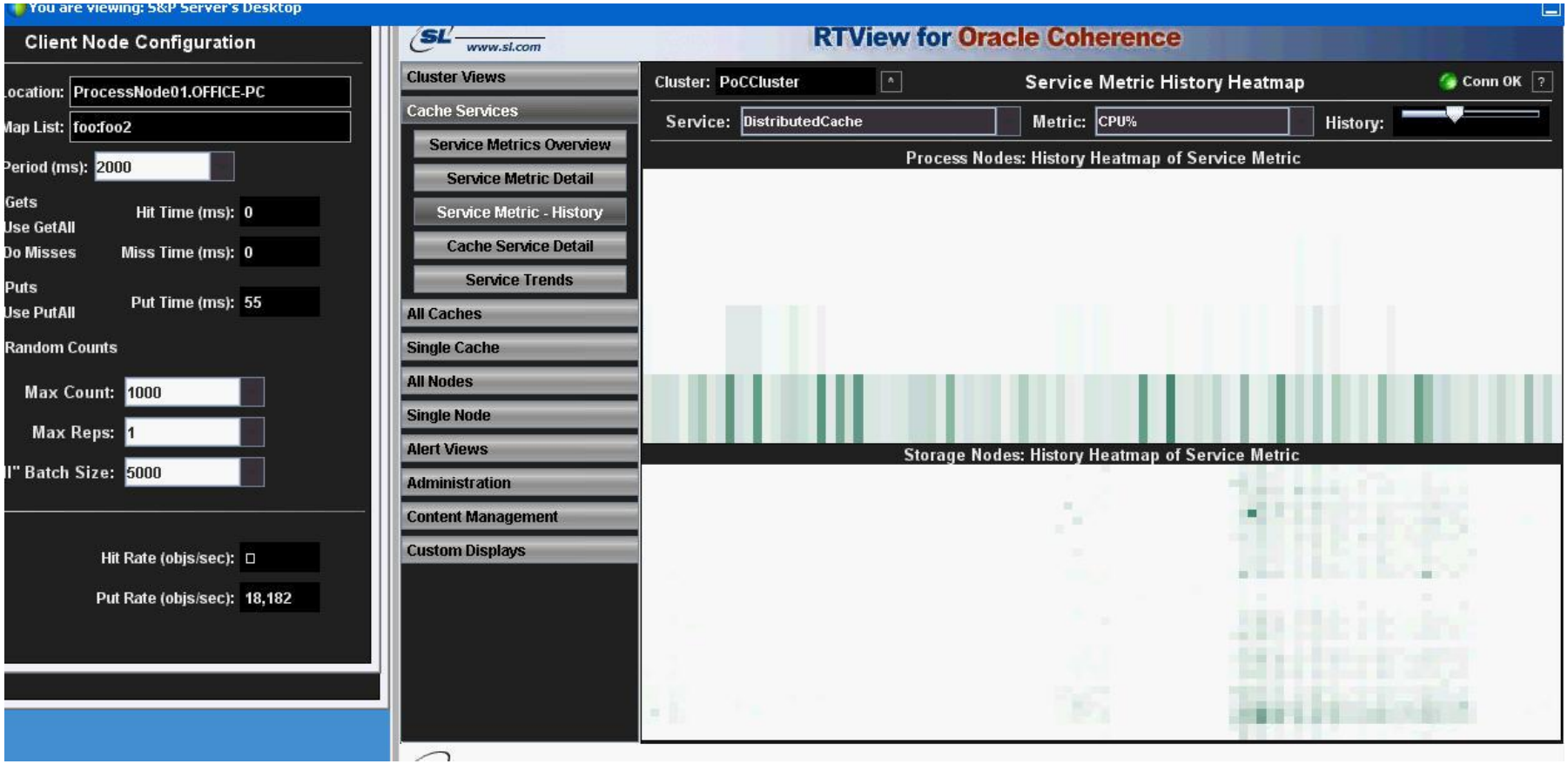
RTView - Drill-Down to Detail Metrics

- Drilldown to detail level metrics showing internal metrics from each application
- Sophisticated history and alert view allows fine-tuning of thresholds for each metric



RTView – Complex Visualizations

Observe "internal load balancing" of Data Grid



Challenges

- Challenge #1:

  Database Performance

  Common to see queries taking minutes

  How can you get real-time that way ?

Challenges

- Challenge #2:

  Network Data-Transfer Bandwidth

  Bigger pipes, but there's more data to send

  How do you get the greatest throughput ?

Challenges

- Challenge #3:

  Processor Performance

  More cores just means more processes !

  How do you optimize your utilization ?

Challenges

- Challenge #4:

  Lack of Real-Time Predictability

  Virtualization is the new time-share !

  How can you trust your data ?

  "time-sharing", "network computer", "cloud", do things ever really change ?

- Solution – Clues ?
- Facts of Life:

  Database – can’t live with it, can’t live without it

  Network – it’s a funnel, no way around it

  Processor – must limit what you ask it to do

  Virtualization - it’s erratic, have to compensate

Solutions

- Solution #1:

  Proper Data Model

    Data structures designed for real-time
    In-memory structures to buffer database

Can your application be …

… like a high-performance racecar ?

What is most important part of racecar ?

(besides the engine)

… the Transmission …

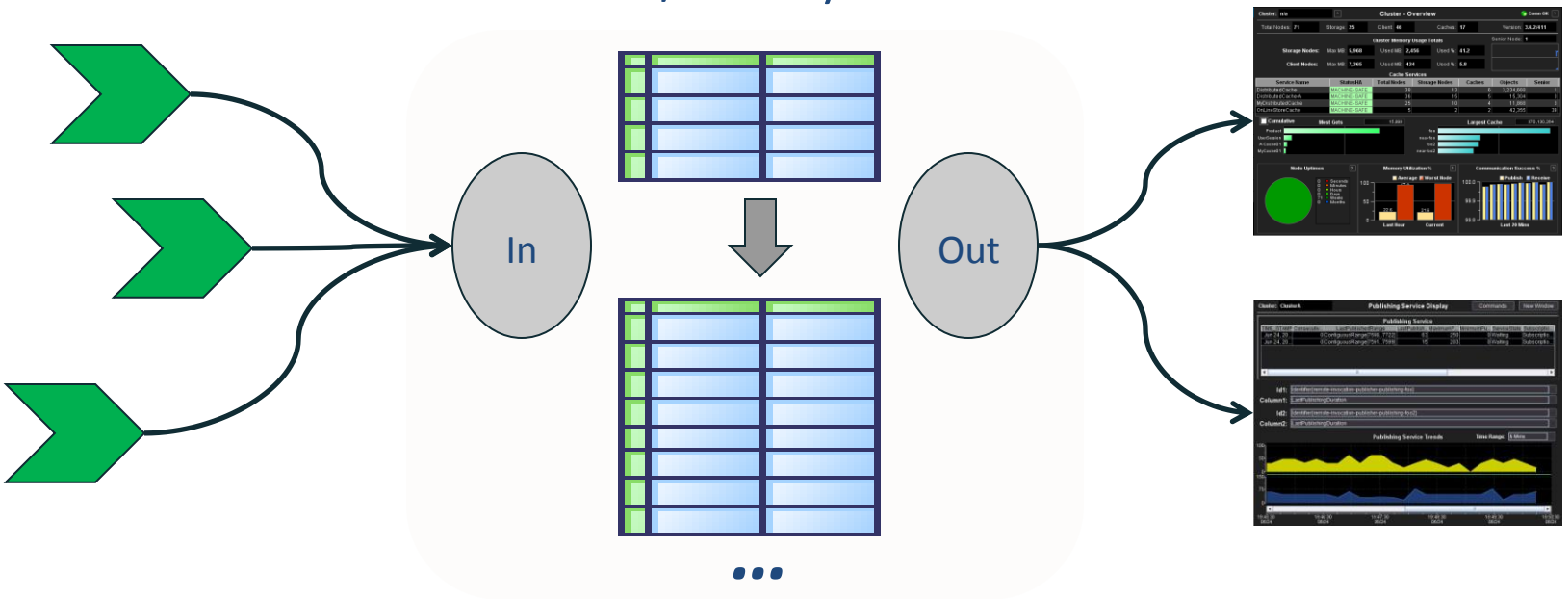
*For Real-Time performance, it's the **Cache** …*

Not a simple "current value" cache

High-performance Real-time Multi-dimensional Data Cache

Real-Time Cache – *optimized for performance* ***!***

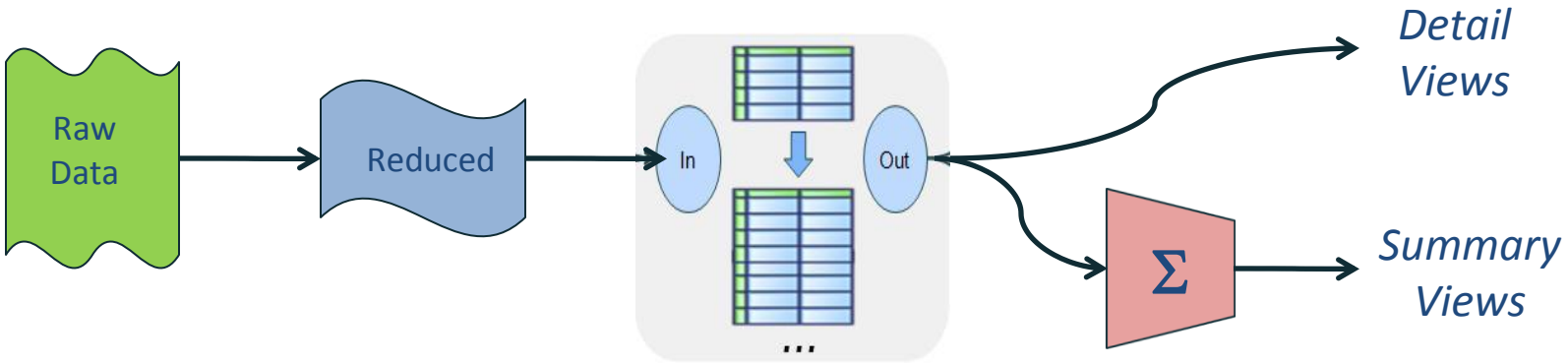
Current / History Tables:



Indexed Insertion -
asynchronous real-time data

Indexed extraction -
optimized transfer to clients

Real-Time Cache *– Data Processing / Aggregation*

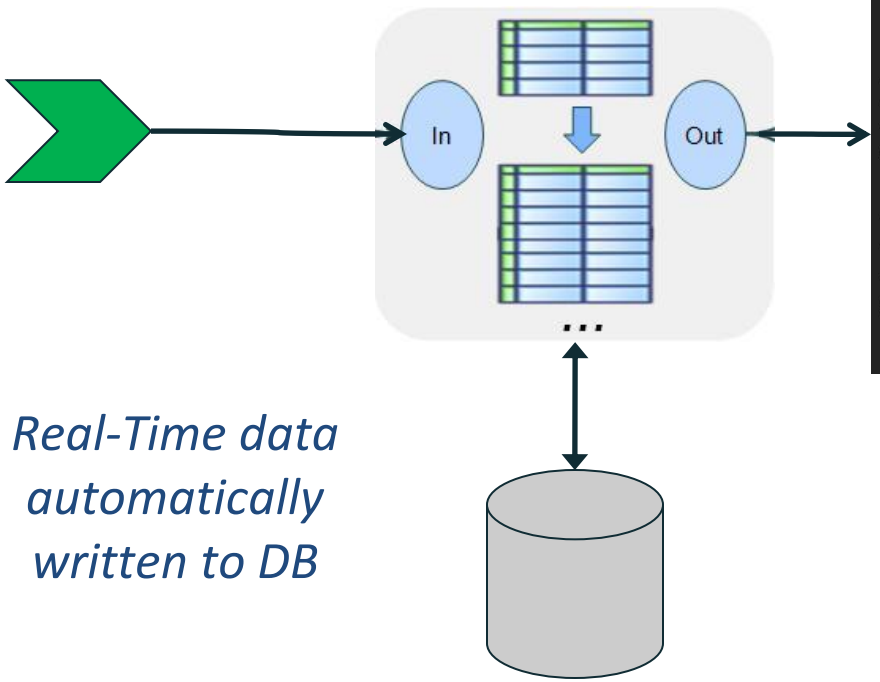


Reduction, Resolution, Aging

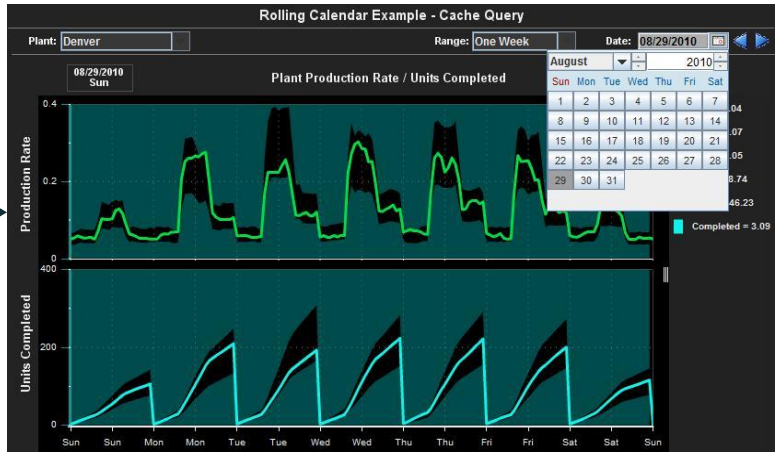
Aggregation

Real-Time Cache *– Database read/write through*

(optimized for timestamped multi-dimensional data)

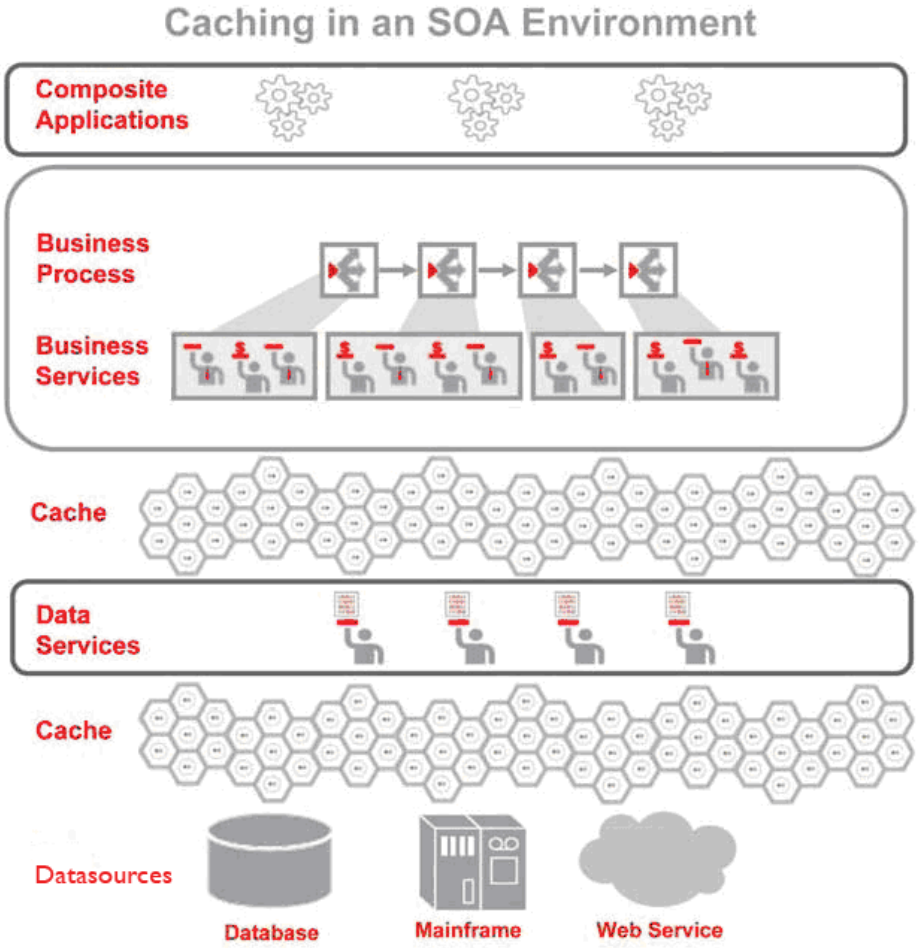


Real-Time data automatically written to DB



Seamless timeline navigation with automatic database query

This sounds a bit like Oracle Coherence …



Buffer database

Read/write through

Listeners

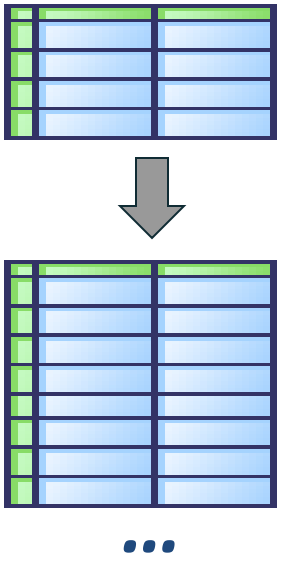
Indexed queries

What's different ?

Different tools for different problems !

Real-Time Multi-dimensional data:

Current / History Tables:



Multiple rows (time range) of selected columns returned in one query

Coherence cache distributes objects (rows) = optimized horizontally

Real-Time multi-dimensional cache manages columns and optimizes vertically

Benefits: Indexed Real-Time Caching

Slow SQL queries minimized

Users shielded from database details

Minimize CPU load using effective indexing

Solutions

- Solution #2

  Server-Side Aggregation

  (am I being too obvious with this one ?)

  Know the use cases

  Joins and GroupBy done on server

  SQL does this, but do you need it ?

Problems with SQL Database Queries

Slow

Slowwer with concurrent queries

If you need it fast, it goes even slowwwwwer !

SQL = Not portable

(Timestamps, especially)

Know your problem space !

Real-Time Monitoring:

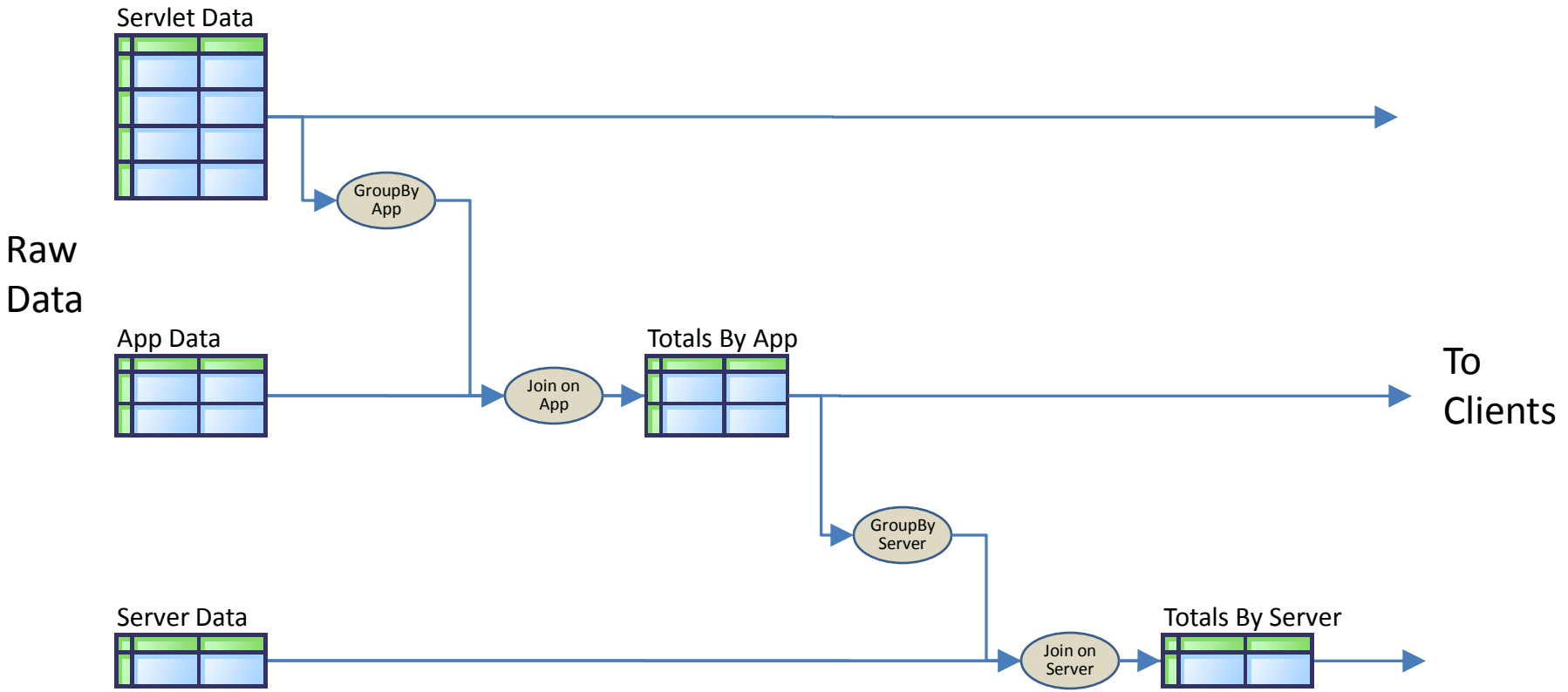
Join and GroupBy heavily used

We wrote our own!

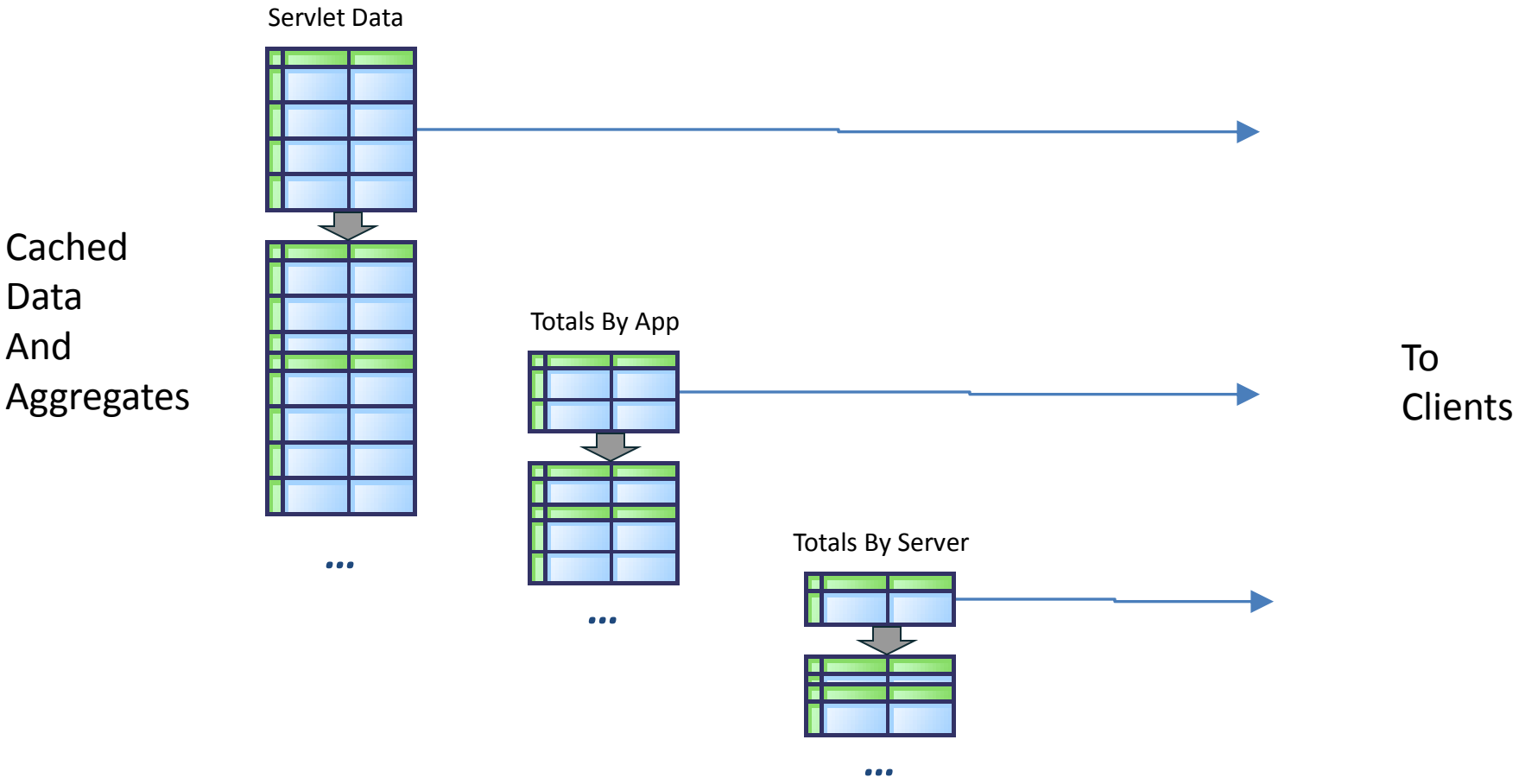
Performed in real-time on server-side data

Optimized for real-time requirements

- Example: Server-Side Aggregation/Caching



- Each cache can maintain its own history



- Result: trend chart of Totals by History has all data available immediately

- Using SQL would require:

  Query 3 tables

  2 GroupBys, 2 Joins, + Join on Timestamp (not portable)

Benefits: Server-Side Aggregation

Client requests and gets exactly what is needed

Client processing = zero
Server processing = done ahead of time
Current/History for aggregates readily available (No SQL)

Response time = fast

Solutions

- Solution #3

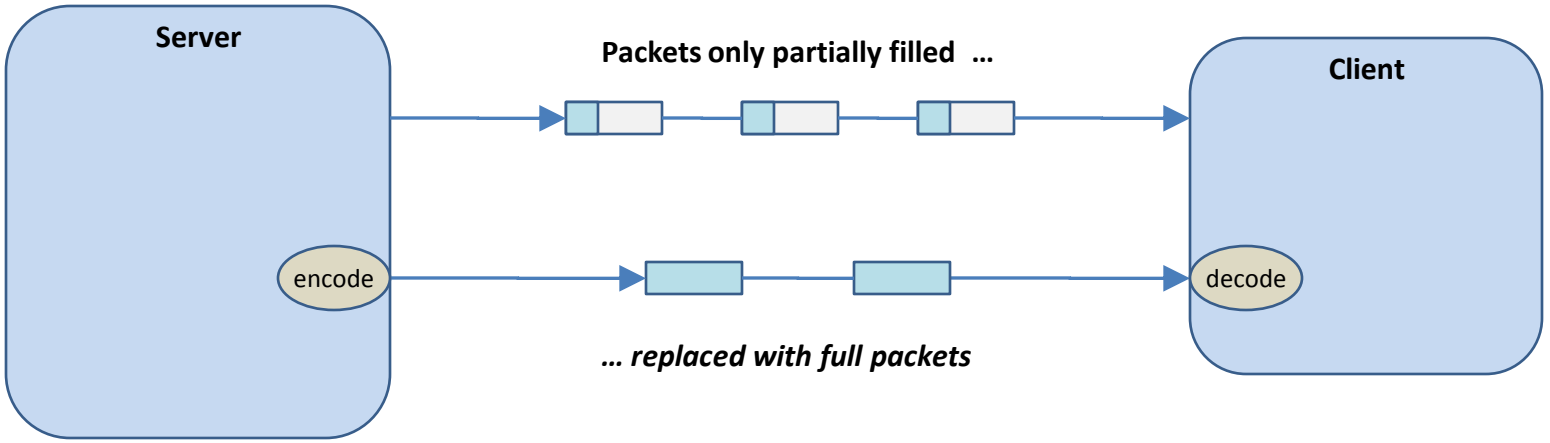
  Use Appropriate Design Patterns

    Server-Side vs. Client-Side Processing
    Efficient Data Transfer Patterns

- Pattern #1:

Data Compaction

(obvious, initial approach for any data transfers)

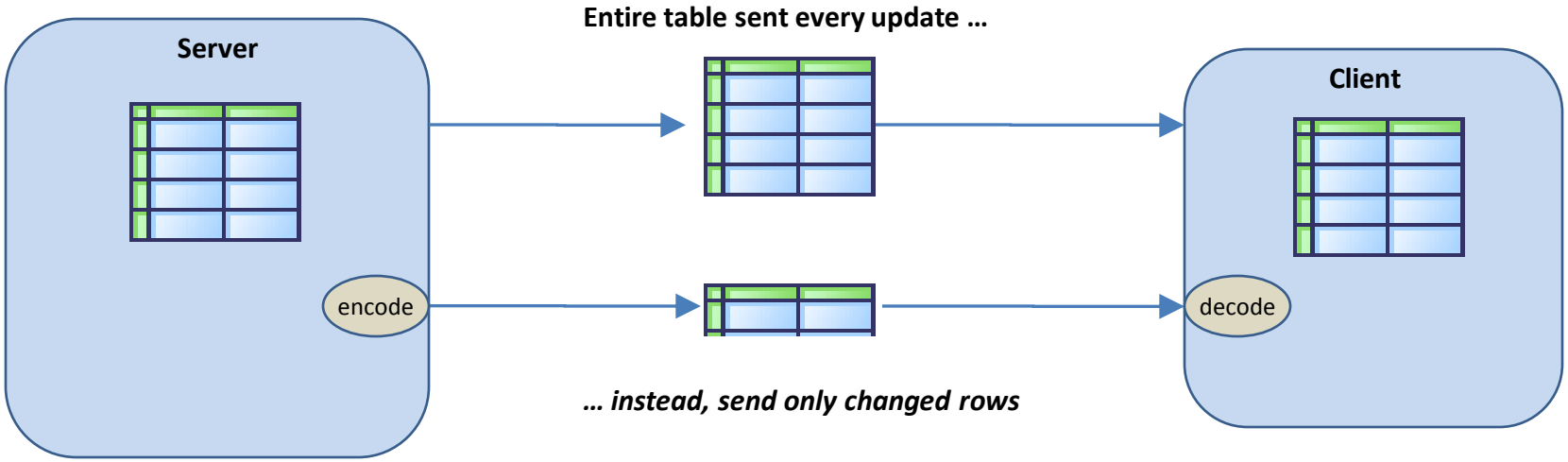


… even simple, non-proprietary algorithms can make big difference

- Pattern #2:

Data Current / Changed

(large data tables with sparse real-time updates)

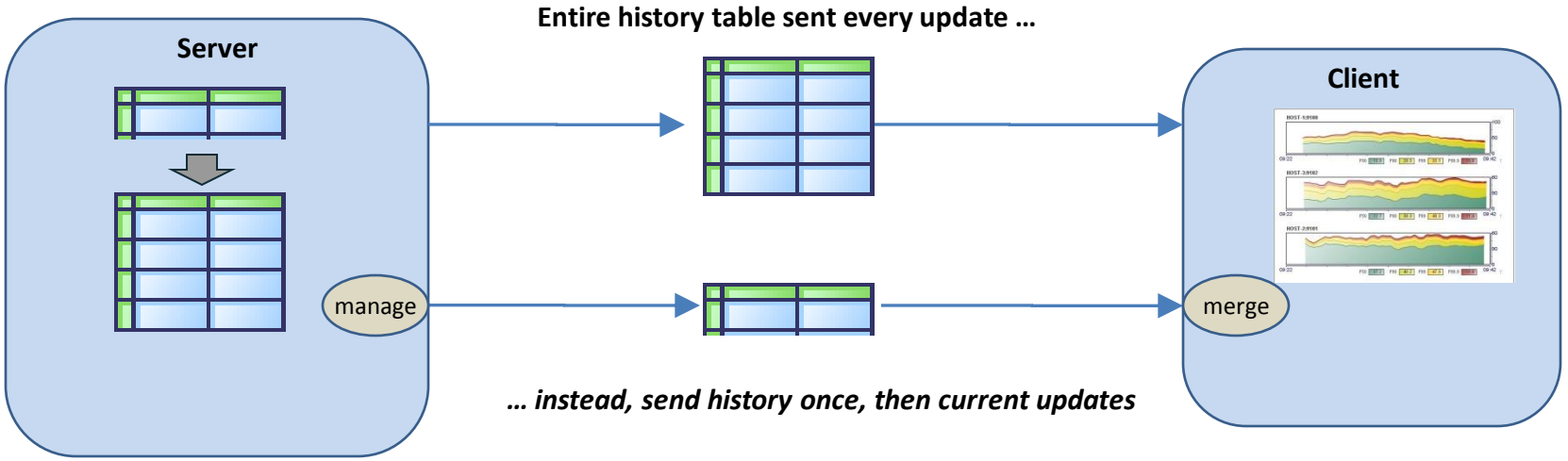


… little more complex, requires indexing

- Pattern #3:

Data History / Current

(trend chart invoke with real-time updates)

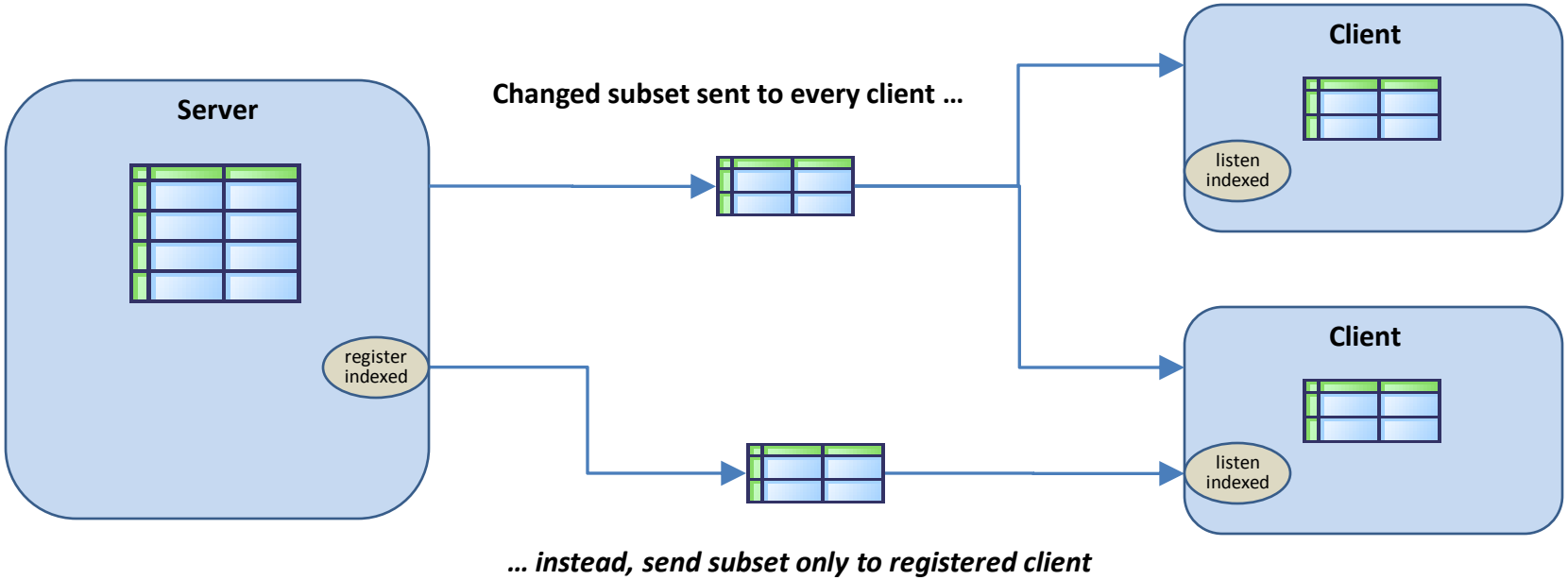


… similar to current / changed pattern, but specific to history

- Pattern #4:

Data Current / Subset

(optimizing transfer of data subsets to multiple clients)



Benefits: Design Patterns for Data Transfer

Same problem over and over again solved similar way

Reduce load on network
Optimize response time – no unnecessary data

Conclusions

- Conclusion #1:

  Know your data !

  Data Model designed for real-time
  In-memory structures to buffer database
  Server-side aggregations

Conclusions

- Conclusion #2

  Respect Design Patterns !

  Server-Side vs. Client-Side Processing
  Efficient Data Transfer Patterns
  Don’t over-generalize – solve the problem

Questions?

See www.sl.com
for more into about SL and RTView