

Practical Persistence

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persistence: the period of time during which an object is usable

M. P. Atkinson, P. J. Bailey, K. J. Chisholm, W. P. Cockshott, and R. Morrison, “Ps-algol: A language for persistent programming,” (1983)

“

**Your programs should
not fear death!**

The Traditional Way...

Persistence managed
by the application!



PhantomOS

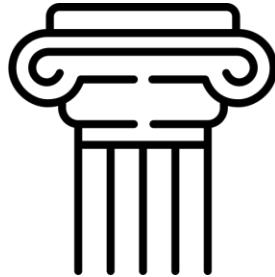
*A non-linux OS, offering **orthogonal** persistence!*

The Principles of Orthogonality

A Userspace Programmer's Perspective

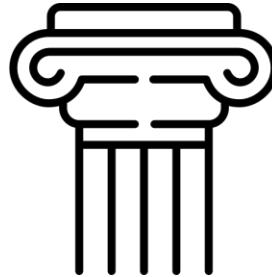
Independence

All data treated the same,
despite longevity.



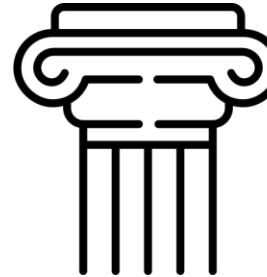
Data Type

All data should be
persistent.



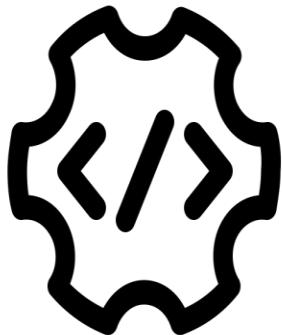
Identification

Type system should not
influence data persistence.

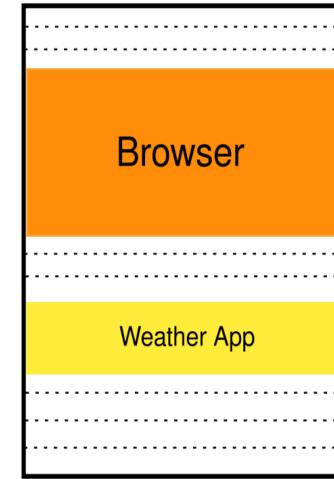


**The userspace programs are not responsible
for their persistence... the kernel is!**

PhantomOS: Under the Hood

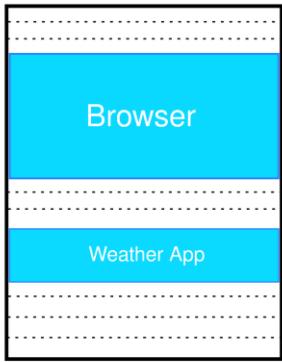


Phantom Virtual Machine



Persistent Address Space

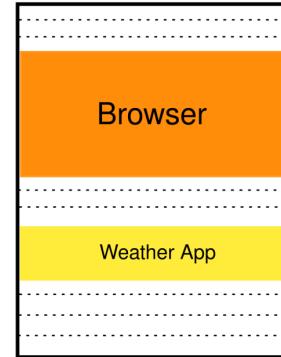
PhantomOS: Under the Hood



Frozen Persistent Address Space



“Superblock”



Persistent Address Space

The “Superblock” Approach



Fast



Easy to Implement



Fault Tolerance



Storage Recovery

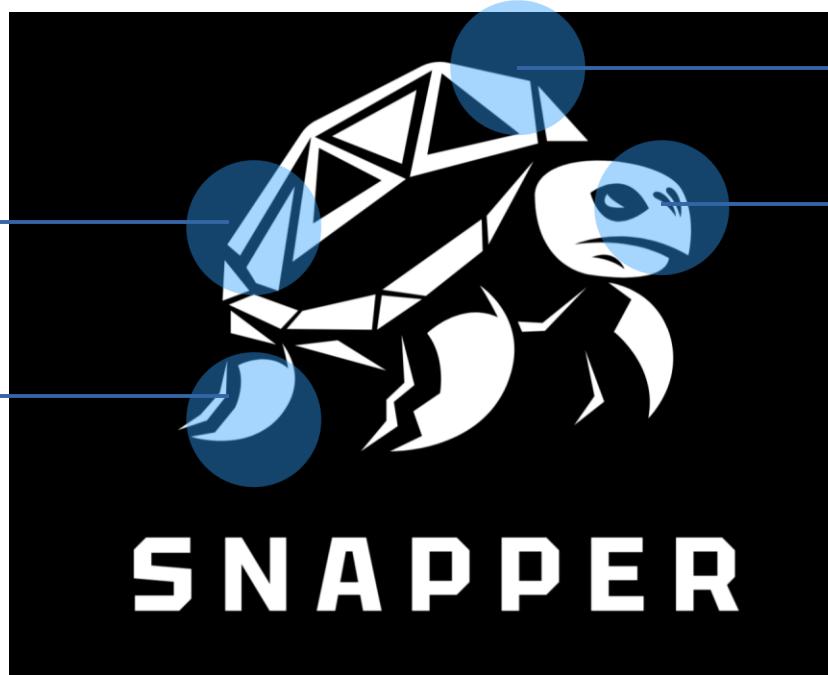
Enter the Snapper!

Retention &
Redundancy
Policies

Multiple
Generations of
Snapshots

File-System
Support

Pause-able
Snapshots



PhantomOS ported to Genode

 [jws / genode-wundertuete](#)

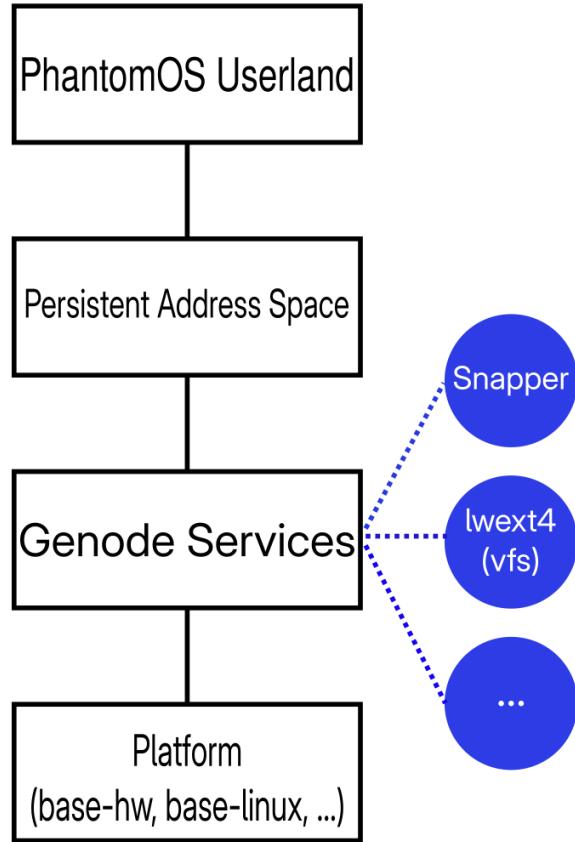
[Code](#) [Issues](#) [Projects](#) [Releases](#) [Wiki](#) [Activity](#)

Complementing the Genode OS Framework with nice components from the Wundertüte

19 commits 5 branches 0 tags 107 KiB

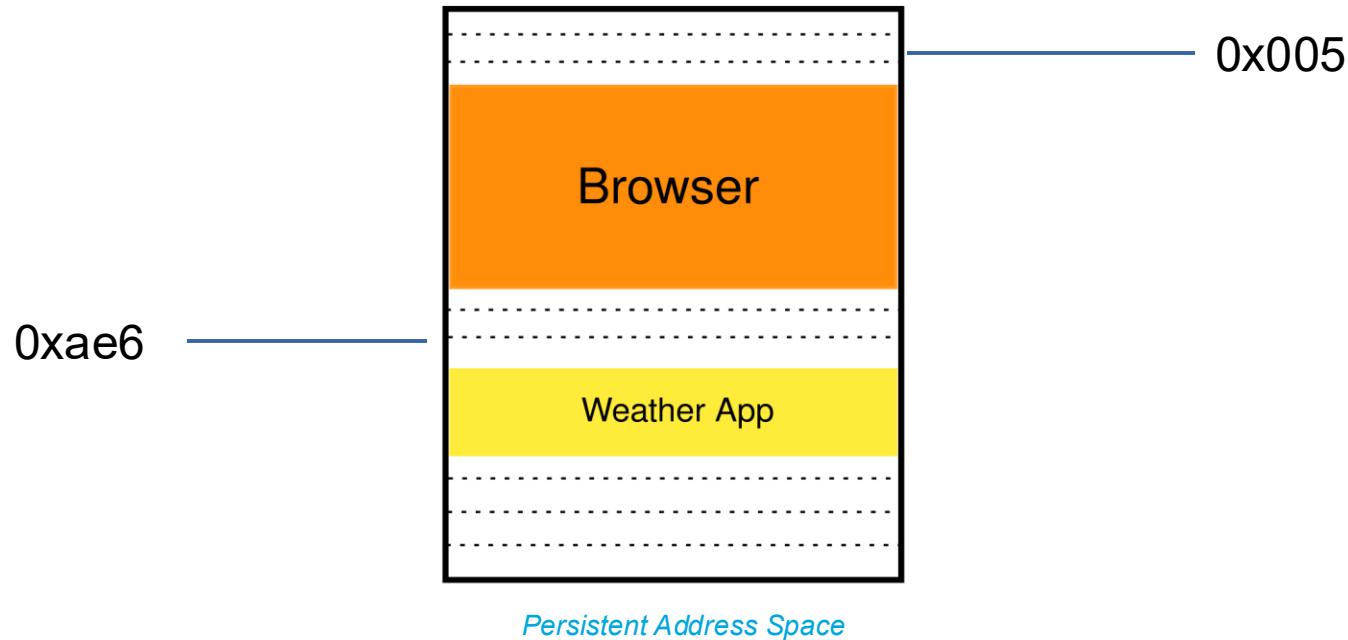
[import-lwext4_from_world-2024-04-19](#) Find a file [HTTPS](#) [SSH](#) <https://codeberg.org/jws/genode-wundertuete.git>

File	Commit Message	Time
 Josef Söntgen 9f042607db	Remove lwext4_fs (superseded by vfs_lwext4)	last year
 include/lwext4	lwext4: move block back end into server	last year
 lib	vfs/lwext4: add Ext2/3/4 VFS plugin using lwext4	last year
 ports	lwext4: update port	last year
 recipes	Remove lwext4_fs (superseded by vfs_lwext4)	last year
 run	Remove lwext4_fs (superseded by vfs_lwext4)	last year
 src/lib	Remove lwext4_fs (superseded by vfs_lwext4)	last year
 README.md	Initial commit	last year

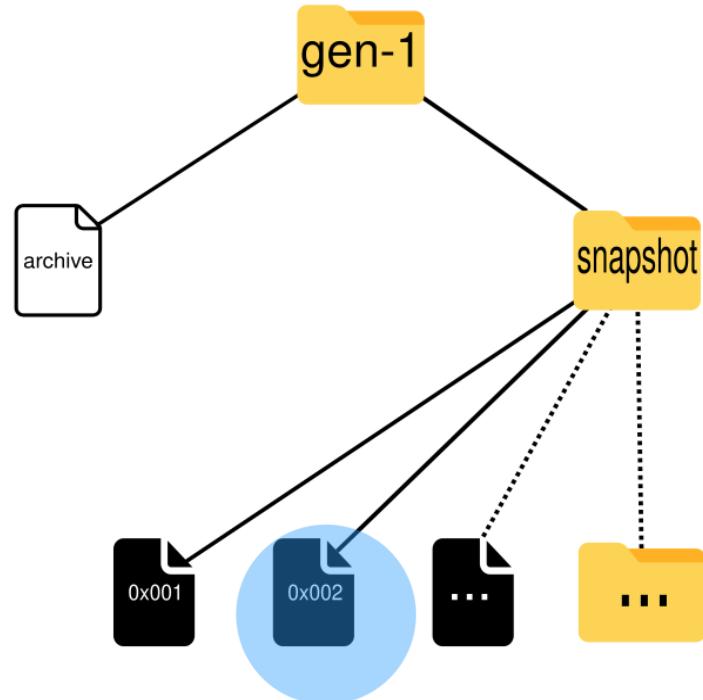
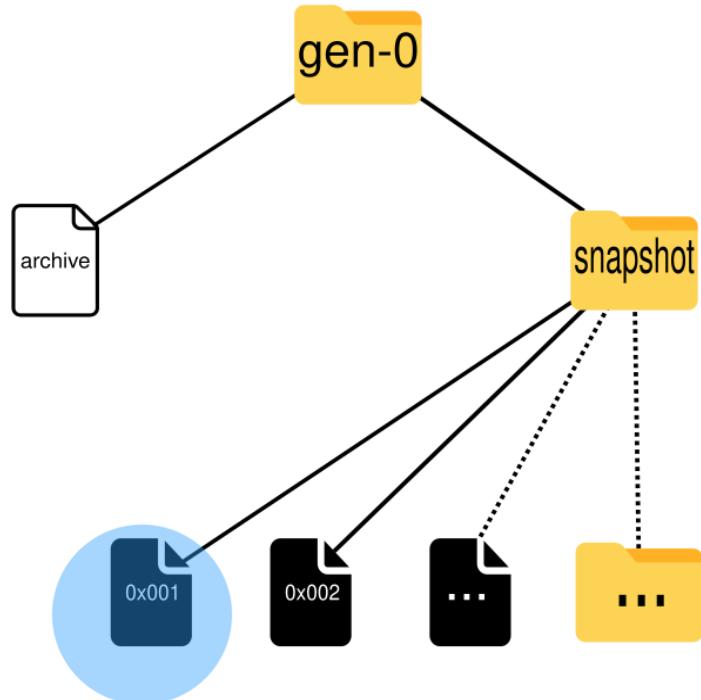


System Architecture

Snapper: Inner Workings

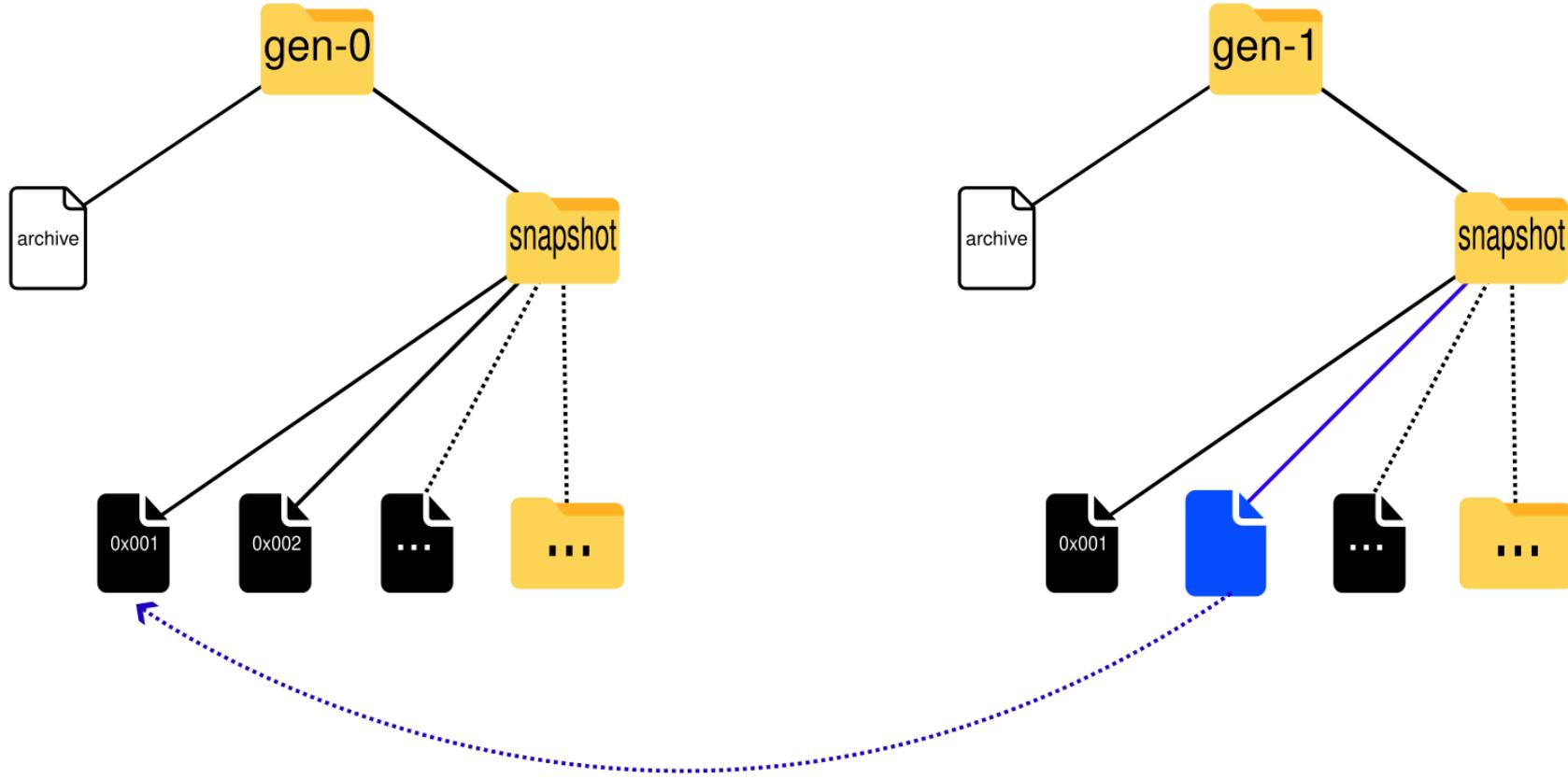


Snapper: Inner Workings



Same file?

Snapper: Inner Workings



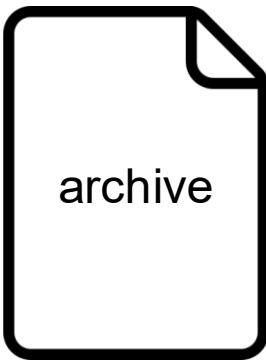
Snapper: Inner Workings



+	-----	+	-----	...
	v		hash	
+	-----	+	-----	...
	rc		data	
+	-----	+	-----	...

Symbol	Size	Description
v	1 byte	Snapper version
hash	4 bytes	integrity for the data
rc	1 byte	reference count (unsigned)
data	as required	the snapshot content

Snapper: Inner Workings



Archive File

Symbol	Size	Description
v	1 byte	Snapper version
hash	4 bytes	integrity check for the data
n	8 bytes	number of entries in the data
data	as required	key-value map that contains snapshot files' paths

Benchmarks!

CPU: AMD Ryzen 7 6800H with Radeon Graphics

Platform: x86, base-hw (QEMU)

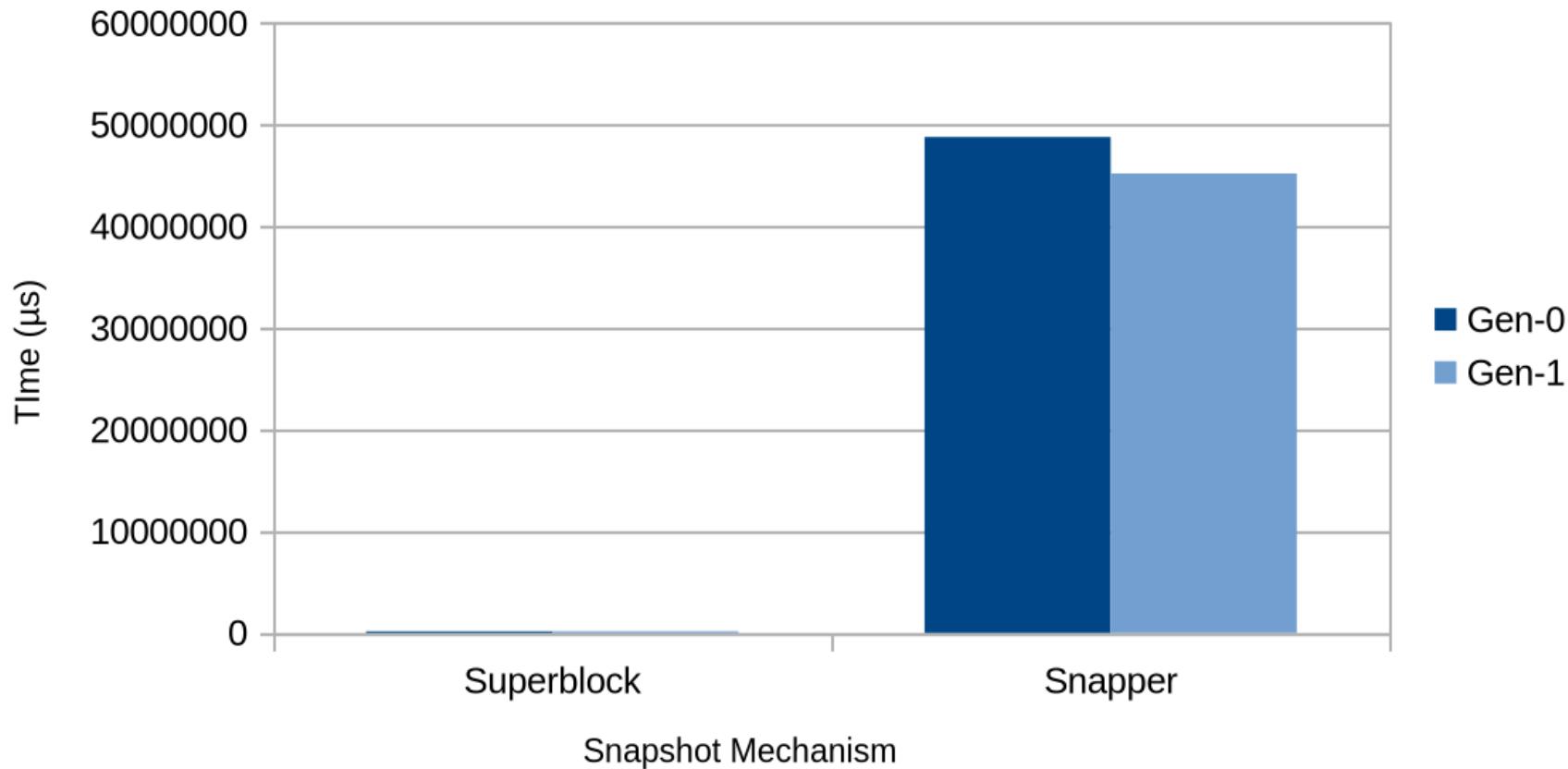
Resources: 12 GB RAM, 8 cores

Build: Graphics enabled

Commit*: <https://github.com/rumenmitov/phantomuserland-snapper/tree/b44116b3b32a75eee901205131a69874d0f633be>

*commit does not contain the benchmarking code

Comparing The Speed of The Snapshot Mechanisms



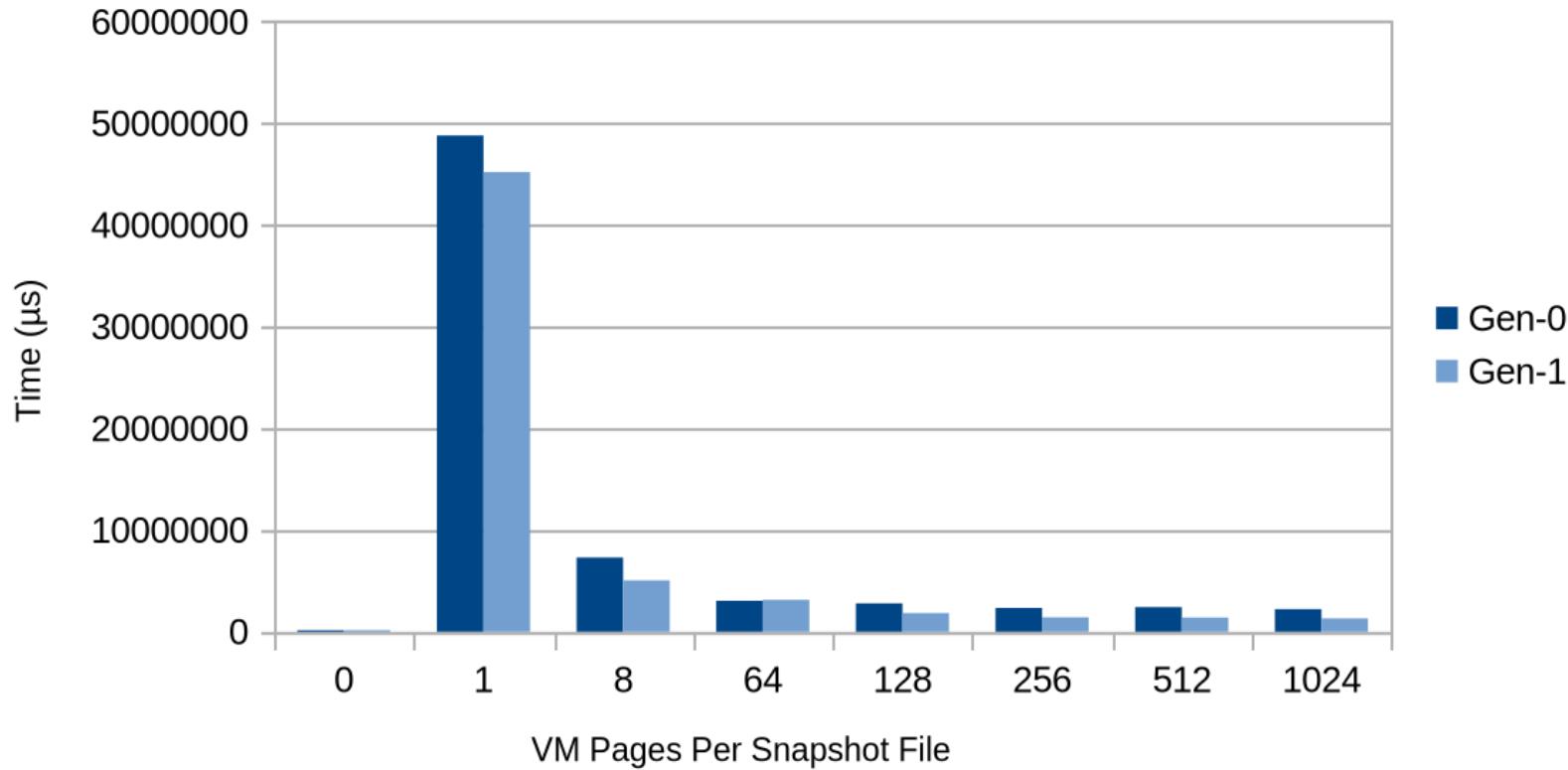
0xaedf



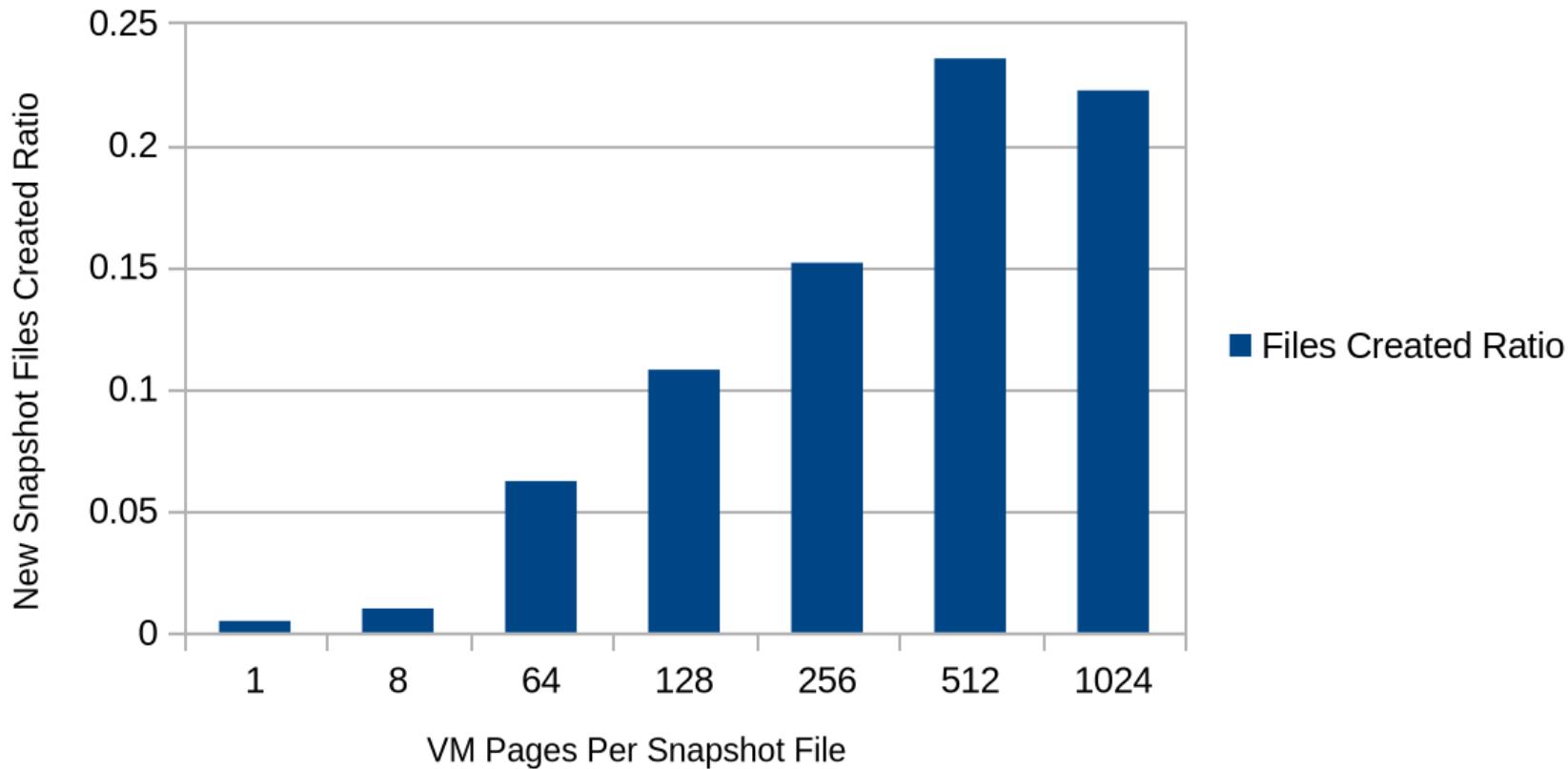
0xaedf
0xaee3
0xaee7
...



Grouping VM Pages Benchmark



Ratio of Creating New Snapshot Files



Snapper: Configuration

```
● ● ●

<start name="snapper" ram="500M" caps="300">
  <provides>
    <service name="Snapper"/>
  </provides>

  <config
    verbose="true"
    redundancy="2"
    max_snapshots="5"
    min_snapshots="2"
    threshold="1000"
    expiration="3600"
    bufsize="10M">

    <rtc/>

    <vfs>
      <fs/>
    </vfs>
  </config>
</start>
```

Fault Tolerance FAQ

Q: System shutdown during snapshot process leaves file-system in a broken state!

A: Use the **fsck** utility to fix the file-system.

Q: After using the fsck utility, Snapper complains that some of the snapshot files have invalid hashes!

A: The files were unable to be properly saved at the time of the shutdown. They cannot be recovered and must be manually **removed** to stop the warnings.

Other PhantomOS Developments

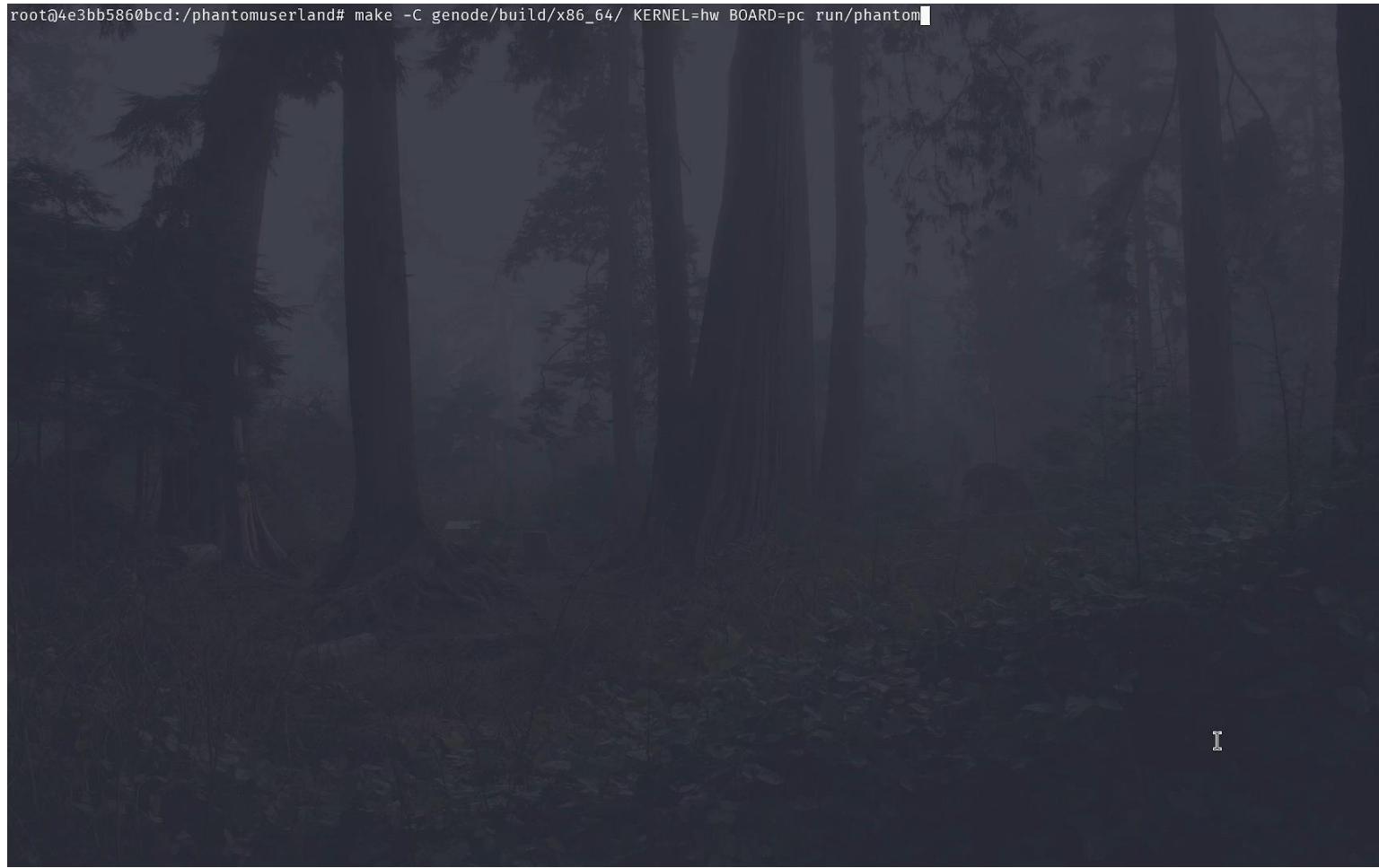


WASM runtime port by Kirill
Samburskiy



Persistent networking by Anton
Brisilin

```
root@4e3bb5860bcd:/phantomuserland# make -C genode/build/x86_64/ KERNEL=hw BOARD=pc run/phantom
```

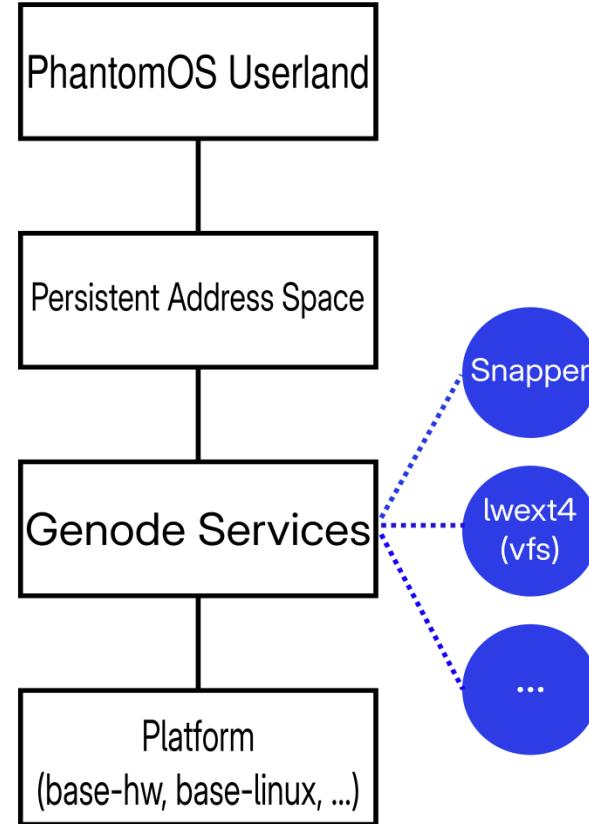


Practical Persistence

Are traditional persistence mechanisms outdated?

PhantomOS's "superblock" approach

Disk storage fault tolerance with Snapper



PhantomOS 2020 FOSDEM Talk: https://archive.fosdem.org/2020/schedule/event/uk_phantom/

Snapper Repo: <https://github.com/rumenmitov/snapper>

PhantomOS Repo (with Genode & Snapper): <https://github.com/rumenmitov/phantomuserland-snapper>