



Apache httpd v2.4:  
*It's Not Your Daddy's  
Web Server!*

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@jimjag



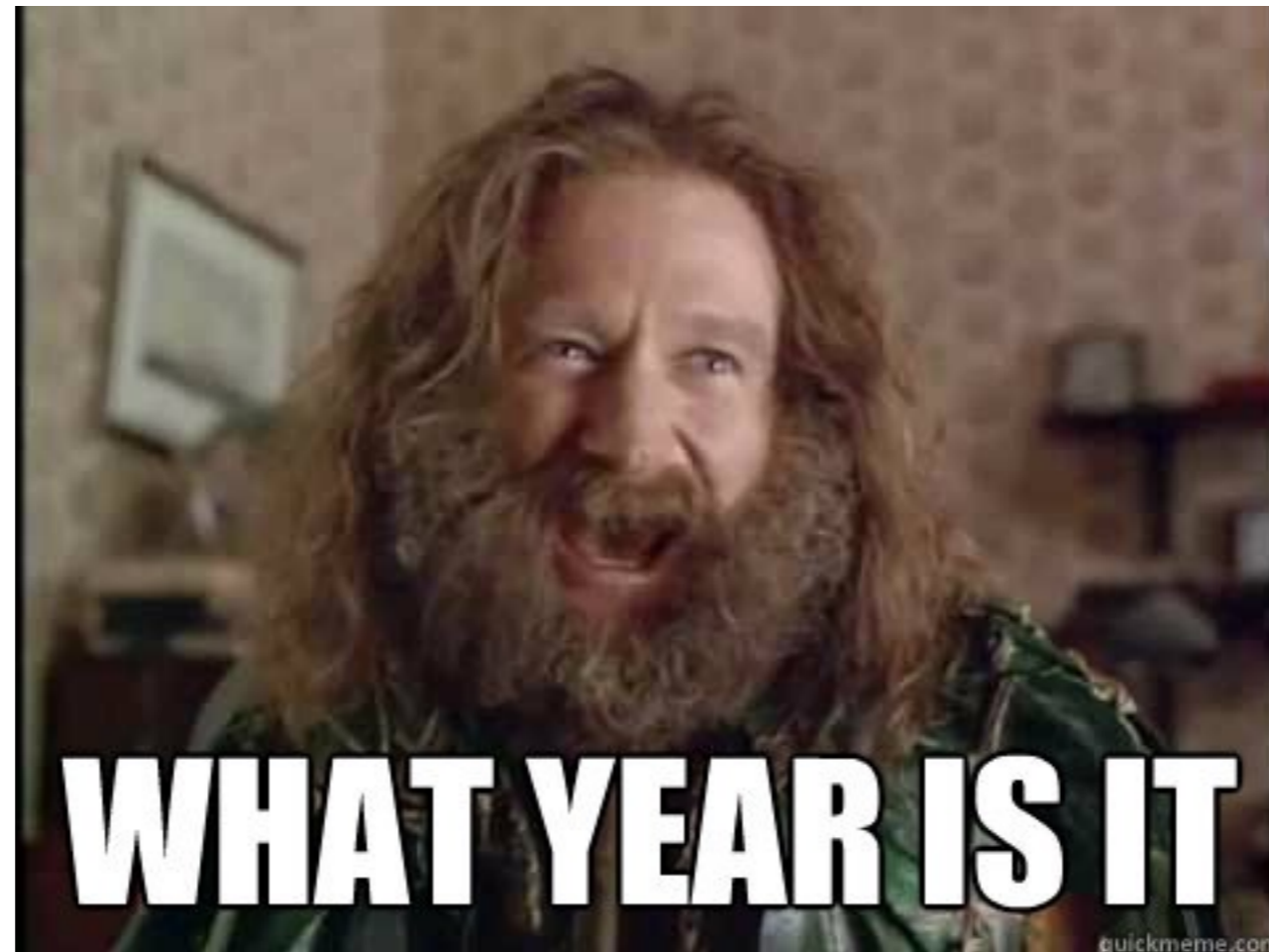
# About Me

- ➔ **Apache Software Foundation**
  - ➔ **Co-founder, Director Emeritus, Member and Developer**
- ➔ **Director Emeritus**
  - ➔ **Outercurve, MARSEC-XL, OSSI, OSI (ex)...**
- ➔ **Developer**
  - ➔ **Mega FOSS projects**
- ➔ **O'Reilly Open Source Award: 2013**
- ➔ **European Commission: Luminary Award**
- ➔ **Open Source Chef: ConsenSys**



# *Hold on a tic*

→ How do you define “new”??



# httpd is sooo old school (aka fud)

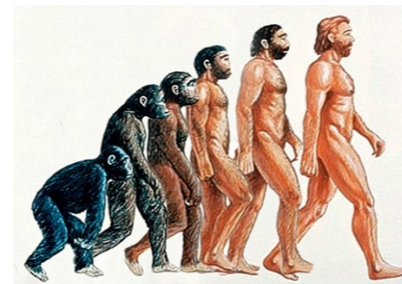
→ Apache doesn't scale (its SLOW)

→ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzkRVzciAZg>



**Node.js Is Bad Ass Rock Star Tech**  
by gar1t • 1 year ago • 52,419 views  
A Q&A session on web servers turns existential.

→ Apache is too generalized



VS



→ Apache is too complex (config file)

→ really?

→ Apache is too old  
(yeah, just like Linux)



It's **Squagels!**

# *Apache httpd 2.4 - design drivers*

- **New features and improve old ones**
- **Support for async I/O w/o dropping support for older systems**
- **Larger selection of usable MPMs: added Event, Motorz, etc...**
- **Leverage higher-performant versions of APR**
- **Increase performance**
- **Reduce memory utilization**
- **The Cloud**

*Currently at version 2.4.33 (2.4.1 went GA Feb 21, 2012)*


# ***What's New: Apache httpd 2.4***

- **Configuration / Runtime Improvements**
- **New Modules / Capabilities**
- **Cloud / Proxy Enhancements**
- **Performance Increases**
- **HTTP/2**

# Configuration - Runtime

→ **mod\_macro**

From my  
ApacheCon 2000  
Preso




### Useful Modules

- **mod\_macro**
  - Streamlines complex conf files

```
<Macro MyVirtualHost $host $port $dir>
Listen $port
<VirtualHost $host:$port>
  DocumentRoot $dir
</VirtualHost>
</Macro>
Use MyVirtualHost www.apache.org 80 /projects/apache/web
Use MyVirtualHost www.perl.com 8080 /projects/perl/web
```

- [http://www.cri.enscm.fr/~coelho/mod\\_macro/](http://www.cri.enscm.fr/~coelho/mod_macro/)



```
<Macro VHost $name $domain>
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName $domain
  ServerAlias www.$domain

  DocumentRoot /var/www/vhosts/$name
  ErrorLog /var/log/httpd/$name.error_log
  CustomLog /var/log/httpd/$name.access_log combined
</VirtualHost>
</Macro>

Use VHost example example.com
Use VHost myhost hostname.org
Use VHost apache apache.org

UndefMacro VHost
```



# Configuration - Runtime

→ `<If>` supports per-request conditions

```
# Compare the host name to example.com and
# redirect to www.example.com if it matches
<If "%{HTTP_HOST} == 'example.com'">
    Redirect permanent / http://www.example.com/
<ElseIf "%{HTTP_HOST} == 'foobarfoo.com'">
    Redirect permanent / http://www2.example.com/
</If>
```



# Configuration - Runtime

→ Simple config-file variables: **<Define>**

```
<IfDefine TEST>  
  Define servername test.example.com  
</IfDefine>  
<IfDefine !TEST>  
  Define servername www.example.com  
  Define SSL  
</IfDefine>  
  
DocumentRoot /var/www/${servername}/htdocs
```

# Configuration - Runtime

- **Finer control of timeouts, esp. during requests**
  - `mod_reqtimeout`
  - `KeepAliveTimeout` down to the millisecond
- **Finer control over logging**
  - per module/per directory
  - new logging levels (TRACE[1-8])

```
LogLevel info ssl:warn  
<Directory "/usr/local/apache/htdocs/foo">  
    LogLevel debug  
</Directory>
```

# Configuration - Runtime

## → Other stuff:

- No more `NameVirtualHost`
- General purpose expression parser (BNF compatible)
- `AllowOverrideList`

```
AllowOverride None  
AllowOverrideList Redirect RedirectMatch Header
```

## → Loadable MPM modules

- Recall that different MPMs have different config directives!

```
./configure --enable-mpms-shared=all  
LoadModule mpm_event_module modules/mod_mpm_event.so
```

# Configuration - Runtime

## → Require

- Removes order deny/allow insanity!
- mod\_access\_compat **for backwards combat**

```
AuthType Basic
AuthName "Restricted Resource"
AuthBasicProvider file
AuthUserFile /web/users
AuthGroupFile /web/groups
Require group admin
<Directory /www/docs>
  <RequireAll>
    Require group alpha beta
    Require not group reject
  </RequireAll>
</Directory>
<Directory /www/docs2>
  Require all granted
</Directory>
```

# New Modules

## → mod\_lua

```
<Files *.lua>
  SetHandler lua-script
</Files>
...
example.lua
require "string"
function handle(r)
  r.content_type = "text/plain"

  if r.method == 'GET' then
    r:puts("Hello Lua World!\n")
    for k, v in pairs( r:parseargs() ) do
      r:puts( string.format("%s: %s\n", k, v) )
    end
  elseif r.method == 'POST' then
    r:puts("Hello Lua World!\n")
    for k, v in pairs( r:parsebody() ) do
      r:puts( string.format("%s: %s\n", k, v) )
    end
  elseif r.method == 'PUT' then
    r:puts("Unsupported HTTP method " .. r.method)
    r.status = 405
    return apache2.ok
  else
    return 501
  end
  return apache2.OK
end
```

# New Modules

## → mod\_buffer

- buffer the i/o stacks w/i httpd

## → mod\_sed

- True sed functionality, alternate to mod\_substitute

```
<Directory "/var/www/docs/status">  
  AddOutputFilter Sed html  
  OutputSed "s/complete/DONE/g"  
  OutputSed "s/in-progress/TODO/g"  
</Directory>
```

## → mod\_remoteip

- allow access to the *real* client IP address

```
RemoteIPHeader X-Client-IP
```

- Also provides HA PROXY support

# New Modules

- **mod\_session**
  - easily maintain application server state
- **mod\_auth\_form**
  - Form-based auth can now be handled internally

```
<Location /dologin.html>
  SetHandler form-login-handler
  AuthFormLoginRequiredLocation http://example.com/login.html
  AuthFormLoginSuccessLocation http://example.com/success.html
  AuthFormProvider file
  AuthUserFile conf/passwd
  AuthType form
  AuthName realm
  Session On
  SessionCookieName session path=/
  SessionCryptoPassphrase secret
</Location>
```



# New Modules

## → mod\_log\_debug

- Add debug logging at any hook

```
<Location /foo>  
  LogMessage "subreq to foo" hook=type_checker expr=%{IS_SUBREQ}  
</Location>
```

## → mod\_ratelimit

- (basic) bandwidth limiting for clients

```
<Location /downloads>  
  SetOutputFilter RATE_LIMIT  
  SetEnv rate-limit 400  
</Location>
```

# *Even more!*

- **mod\_cache**
  - Can serve stale data if required
  - **X-Cache-Header** now supports **HIT/MISS/REVALIDATE**
  - Can cache **HEAD**
  - **htcacheclean** improvements
  - *Redis* and *memcached* (And *Apache Geode*)
- **mod\_socache / mod\_slotmem**
  - Data object/blog storage mechanisms
- **mod\_brotli**

# New Modules

## → mod\_proxy submodules:

- mod\_proxy\_fcgi
- mod\_proxy\_scgi
- mod\_proxy\_uwsgi
- mod\_proxy\_wstunnel
- mod\_proxy\_html
- mod\_proxy\_express
- mod\_proxy\_hcheck

# Cloud and Performance

- **The Cloud is a game changer for web servers**
  - **Horizontal scalability is no longer as painful**
  - **Concurrency is no longer the sole consideration**
  - **... or maybe even the primary one**
  - **What's important now? Transaction Time! (because it CAN be)**
    - **Low latency**
    - **Fast req/resp turnover**
  - **Does density still matter? *Of course!***
  - ***micro-services***
  - **Are there environs where *super-mega* concurrency is the bugaboo? *You betcha!* (but the cloud makes these more and more rare, and you're likely using a bad architecture anyway)**

# Cloud and Dynamics

- **The Cloud is a game changer for web servers**
  - **The cloud is a dynamic place**
  - **automated reconfiguration**
  - **horizontal, not vertical scaling**
  - **self-aware environments**



OK, maybe not THAT self-aware

# *Why Dynamic Proxy Matters*

- **Apache httpd still the most frequently used front-end**
- **Proxy capabilities must be cloud friendly**
- **Front-end must be dynamic friendly**

# Apache httpd 2.4 proxy

- ➔ **Reverse Proxy Improvements**
  - ➔ **Supports FastCGI, SCGI, Websockets in balancer**
  - ➔ **Additional load balancing mechanisms**
  - ➔ **Runtime changing of clusters w/o restarts**
  - ➔ **Support for dynamic configuration**
  - ➔ **mod\_proxy\_express**
  - ➔ **mod\_fcgid and fcgistarter**
  - ➔ **Support for Unix Domain Sockets**



# Backend Status

- **Dynamic Health Checks !**
  - **TCP/IP Ping**
  - **OPTIONS**
  - **HEAD**
  - **GET**

```
ProxyHCEXpr ok234 {%{REQUEST_STATUS} =~ /^[234]/}  
ProxyHCEXpr gdown {%{REQUEST_STATUS} =~ /^[5]/}  
ProxyHCEXpr in_maint {hc('body') !~ /Under maintenance/}
```

```
<Proxy balancer://foo/>  
  BalancerMember http://www.example.com/ hcmethod=GET hcexpr=in_maint hcuri=/status.php  
  BalancerMember http://www2.example.com/ hcmethod=HEAD hcexpr=ok234 hcinterval=10  
  BalancerMember http://www3.example.com/ hcmethod=TCP hcinterval=5 hcpasses=2 hcfails=3  
  BalancerMember http://www4.example.com/  
</Proxy>
```

```
ProxyPass "/" "balancer://foo/"  
ProxyPassReverse "/" "balancer://foo/"
```

# Mass Reverse Proxy

- Use the new `mod_proxy_express` module
  - ProxyPass mapping obtained via db file
  - Fast and efficient
  - Still dynamic, with no config changes required
  - micro-services? You betcha!

## ProxyExpress map file

```
##  
##express-map.db:  
##  
  
www1.example.com      http://192.168.002.2:8080  
www2.example.com      http://192.168.002.12:8088  
www3.example.com      http://192.168.002.10  
...  
www6341.example.com   http://192.168.211.26
```

## httpd.conf file

```
ProxyExpressEnable On  
ProxyExpressDBMFile express-map.db
```

# *Embedded Admin*

- **Allows for real-time**
  - Addition of *new* workers/nodes
  - Change of LB methods
  - Can be *persistent!*
  - More RESTful
  - Can be CLI-driven


# Easy setup

```
<Location /balancer-manager>  
    SetHandler balancer-manager  
    Require 192.168.2.22  
</Location>
```

Welcome to The Apache Software Foundation

www.apache.org

Foundation Projects People Get Involved Download Support



**The Apache Software Foundation**

Home

*Community-led development since 1999.*

**We consider ourselves**  
not simply a group of projects sharing a server, but rather a community of developers and users.

**The Apache Software Foundation**  
provides support for the Apache community of open-source software projects, which provide software products for the public good.

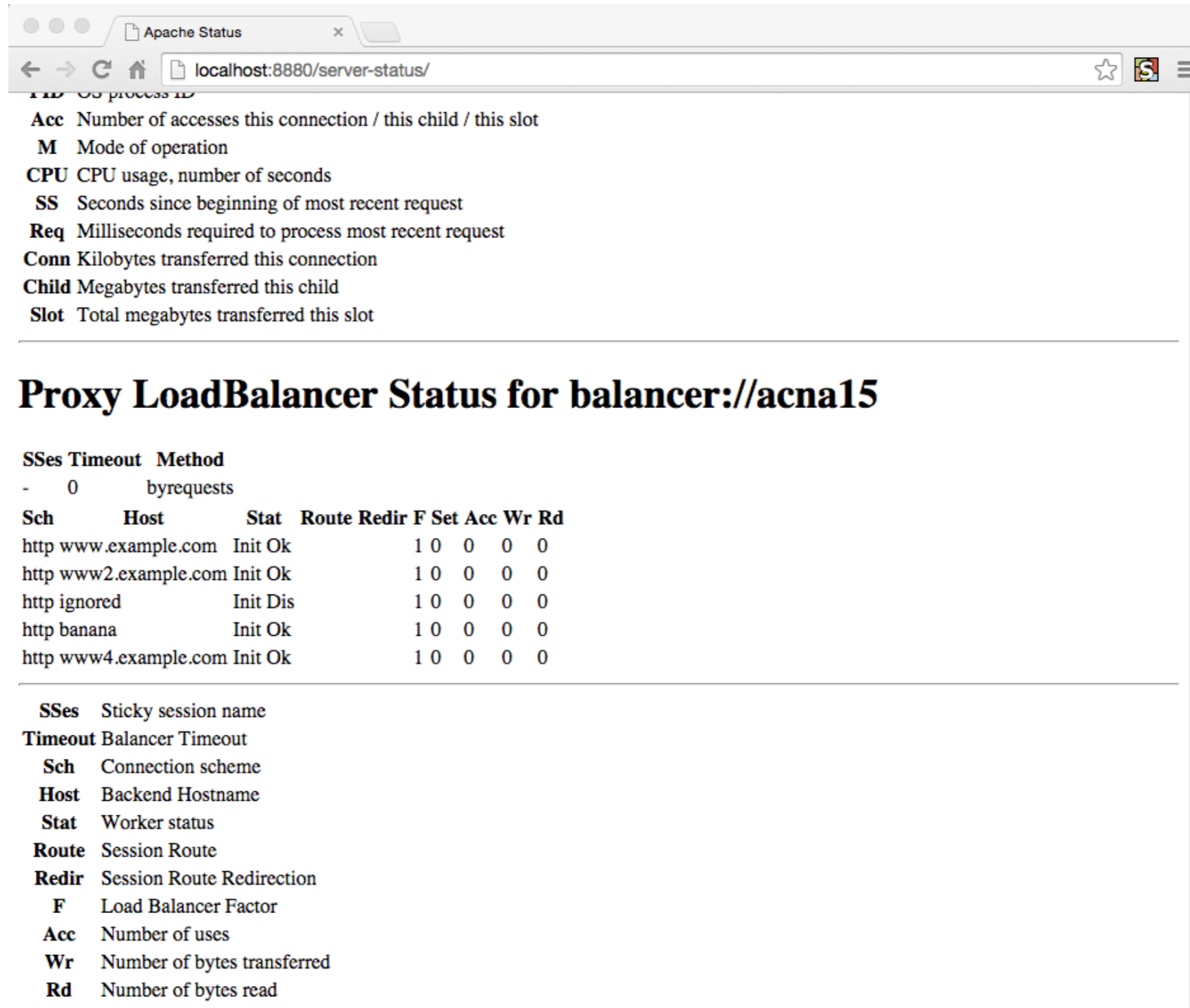
**The Apache projects are defined**  
by collaborative consensus based processes, an open, pragmatic software license and a desire to create high quality software that leads the way in its field.

Featured Projects » Apache Directory Apache OFBiz Apache Drill

**The ASF is made up of more than 150 top level projects** which cover a wide range of technologies. Chances are if you are looking for a rewarding experience in Open Source, you are going to find it here.

**Apache Directory**  
LDAP and Kerberos, entirely in Java

# server-status aware



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Apache Status" and the address bar "localhost:8880/server-status/". The page content includes a legend for server-status and a section for Proxy LoadBalancer Status for balancer://acna15.

**Legend for server-status:**

- pid** process ID
- Acc** Number of accesses this connection / this child / this slot
- M** Mode of operation
- CPU** CPU usage, number of seconds
- SS** Seconds since beginning of most recent request
- Req** Milliseconds required to process most recent request
- Conn** Kilobytes transferred this connection
- Child** Megabytes transferred this child
- Slot** Total megabytes transferred this slot

---

## Proxy LoadBalancer Status for balancer://acna15

**SSes Timeout Method**  
- 0 byrequests

Sch	Host	Stat	Route	Redir	F	Set	Acc	Wr	Rd
http	www.example.com	Init Ok			1	0	0	0	0
http	www2.example.com	Init Ok			1	0	0	0	0
http	ignored	Init Dis			1	0	0	0	0
http	banana	Init Ok			1	0	0	0	0
http	www4.example.com	Init Ok			1	0	0	0	0

---

**SSes** Sticky session name  
**Timeout** Balancer Timeout  
**Sch** Connection scheme  
**Host** Backend Hostname  
**Stat** Worker status  
**Route** Session Route  
**Redir** Session Route Redirection  
**F** Load Balancer Factor  
**Acc** Number of uses  
**Wr** Number of bytes transferred  
**Rd** Number of bytes read

# Performance

→ From Nic Rosenthal Battle of the stacks  
(<http://www.slideshare.net/AllThingsOpen/battle-of-the-stacks>)

**HHVM + NGINX**

<http://ldr.io/1ogvD7X>

**VS**

**HHVM + Apache 2.4**

<http://ldr.io/1ogD7b3>

**HHVM + NGINX**

Response time: 76ms

**HHVM + Apache 2.4**

Response time: 60ms

**HHVM + Apache 2.4**



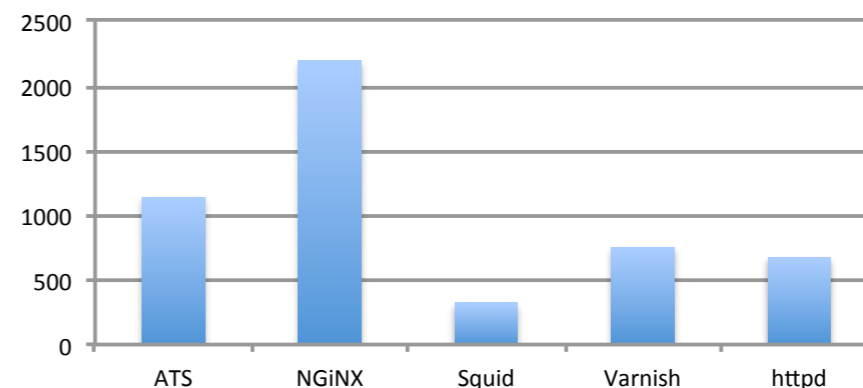


# Performance

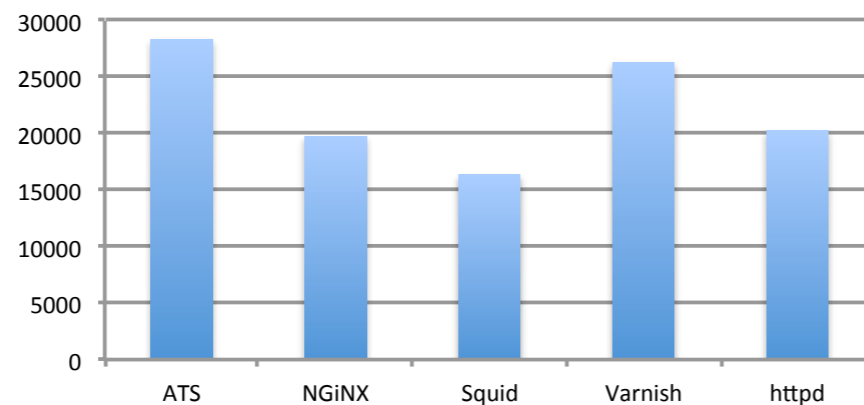
→ From Bryan Call's 2014 ApacheCon preso  
([http://www.slideshare.net/bryan\\_call/choosing-a-proxy-server-apachecon-2014](http://www.slideshare.net/bryan_call/choosing-a-proxy-server-apachecon-2014))

- Squid used the most CPU again
- NGiNX had latency issues
- ATS most throughput

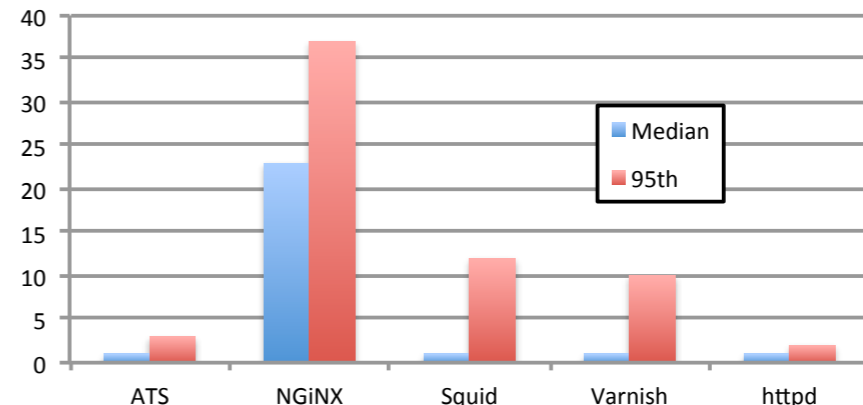
RPS / CPU Usage



Requests Per Second



Latency



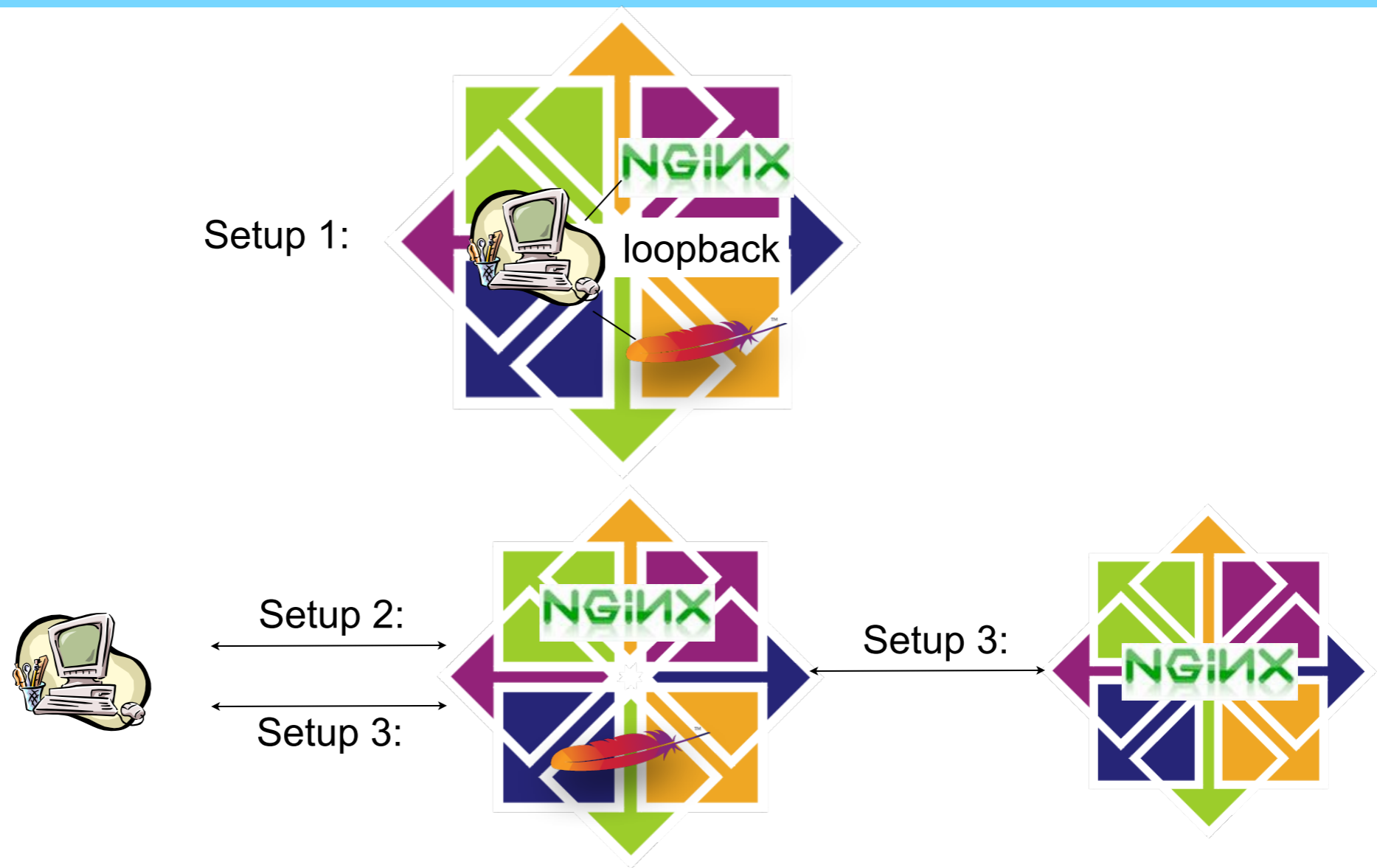
# *Raw Performance*

- ➔ **Event MPM : no longer experimental**
  - ➔ non-blocking
  - ➔ async
- ➔ **Faster, more efficient APR**
- ➔ **Smaller memory footprint**
- ➔ **More efficient data structures (worker and event)**

# Apache httpd vs nginx

- Why nginx? Everyone asks about it...
- Benchmark: local and reverse proxy transaction times
  - Apache httpd 2.4.22-dev, nginx 1.8.1
  - CentOS6, Dual Xeon 3.33GHz
  - 4GB memory
  - localhost loopback and external (no firewall)
  - Double checked results: OSX 10.11.2 (8-core), Fedora 23 (4-core)

# Setup

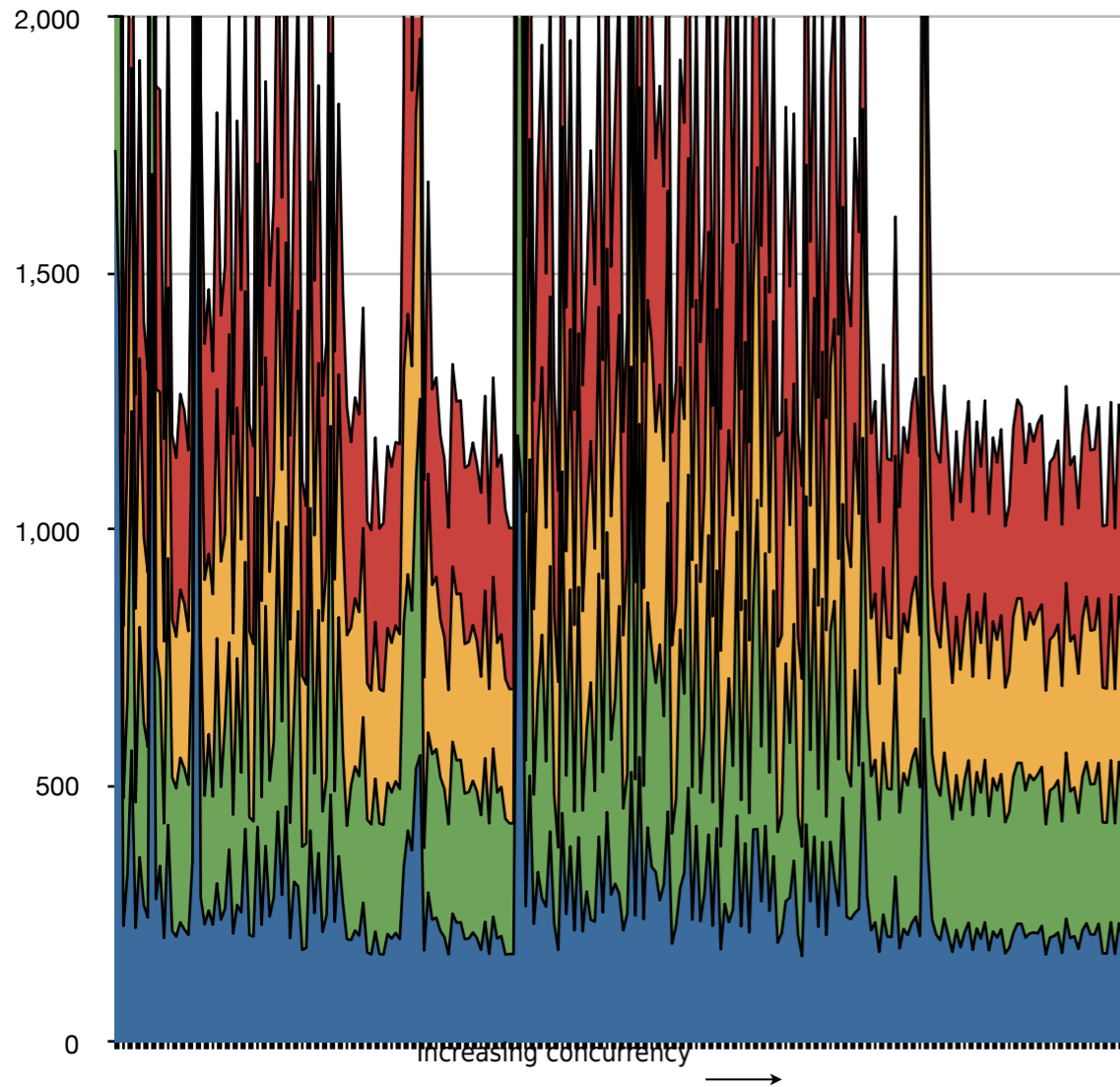


# Considerations

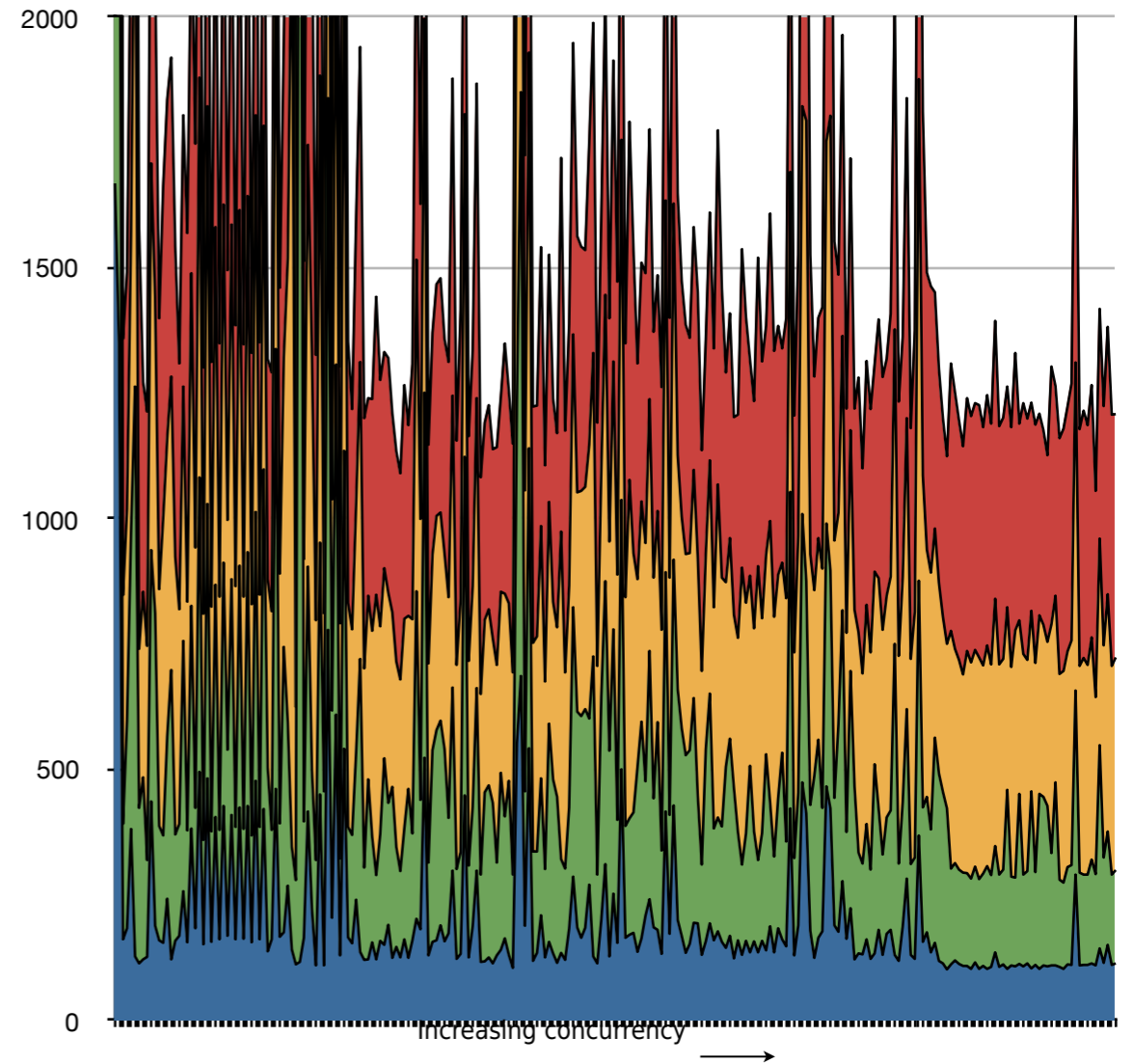
- **Multiple benchmarking systems:**
  - flood (50/250/5/2, 50/100/5/2, 50/5/5/2)
  - httpperf (num-conns=100->20000, numcalls=3,10,100)
  - weighttp
- **Full URL requests (www.example.com/index.html)**
- **Static local requests**
- **Static reverse proxy requests**
- **All Apache httpd MPMs**
- **No significant “tuning” efforts (mostly out of the box configs)**

# nginx vs Event (typical)

nginx

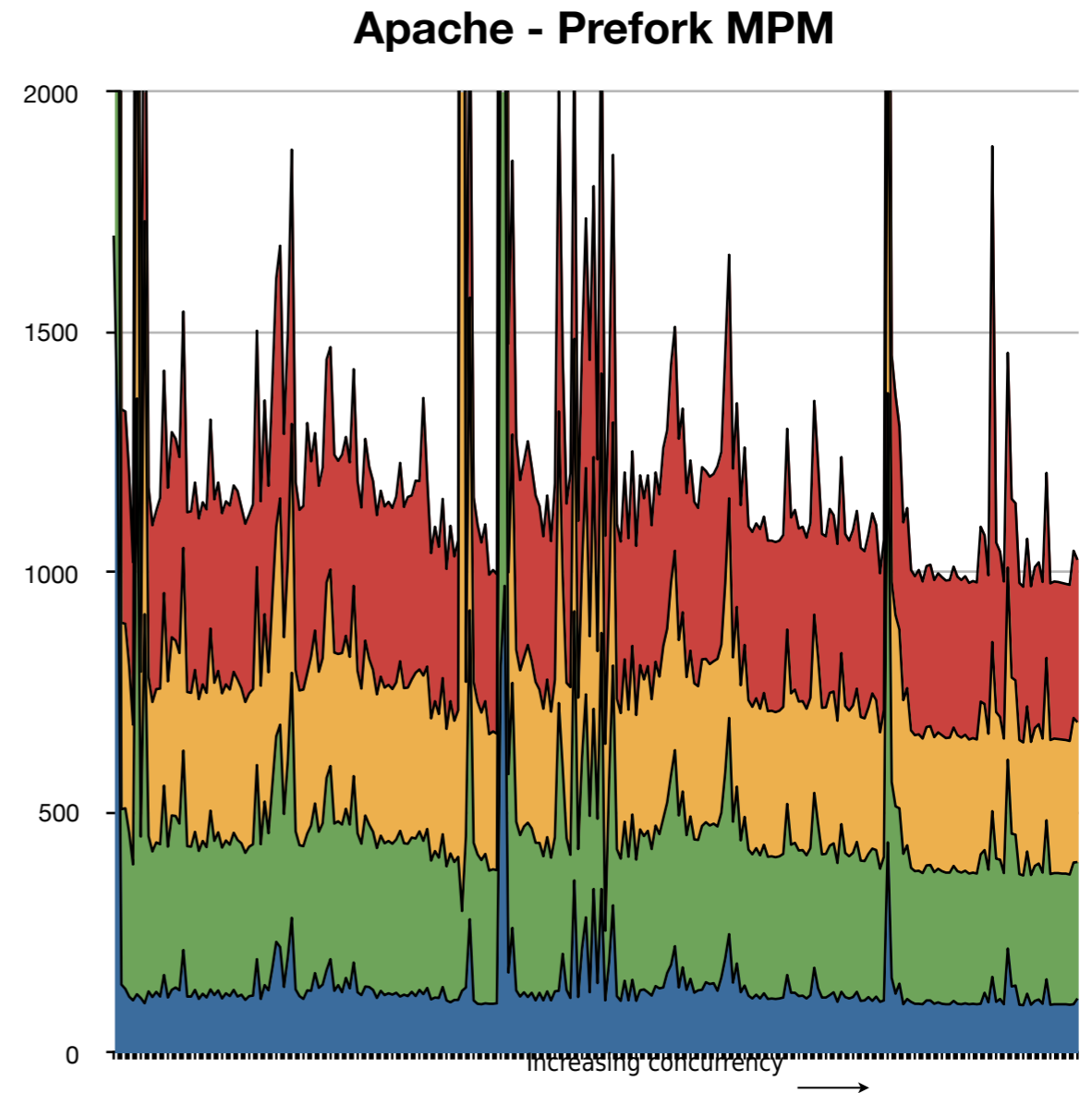
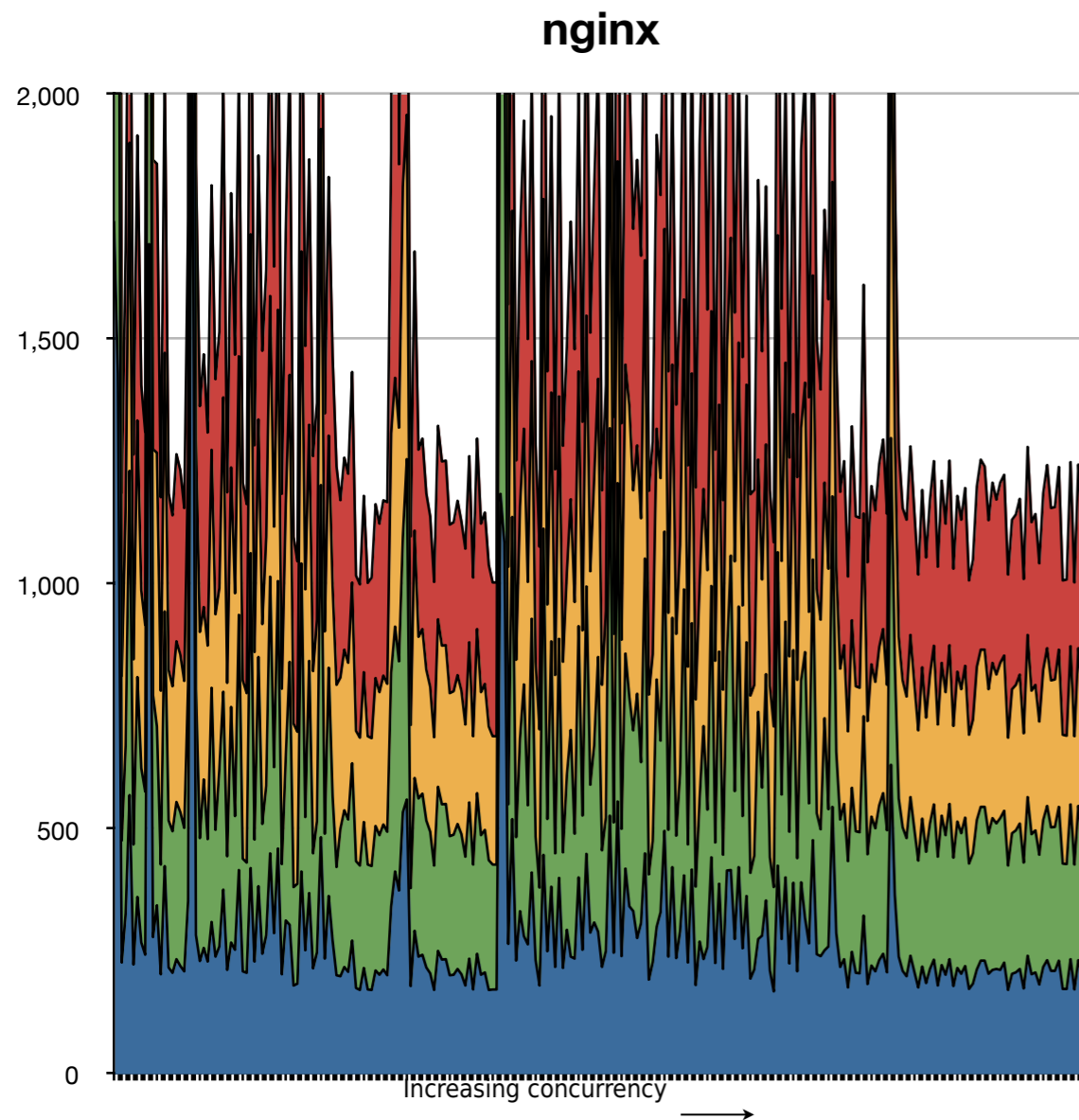


Apache - Event MPM



Open Write Read Close

# nginx vs Prefork (typical)

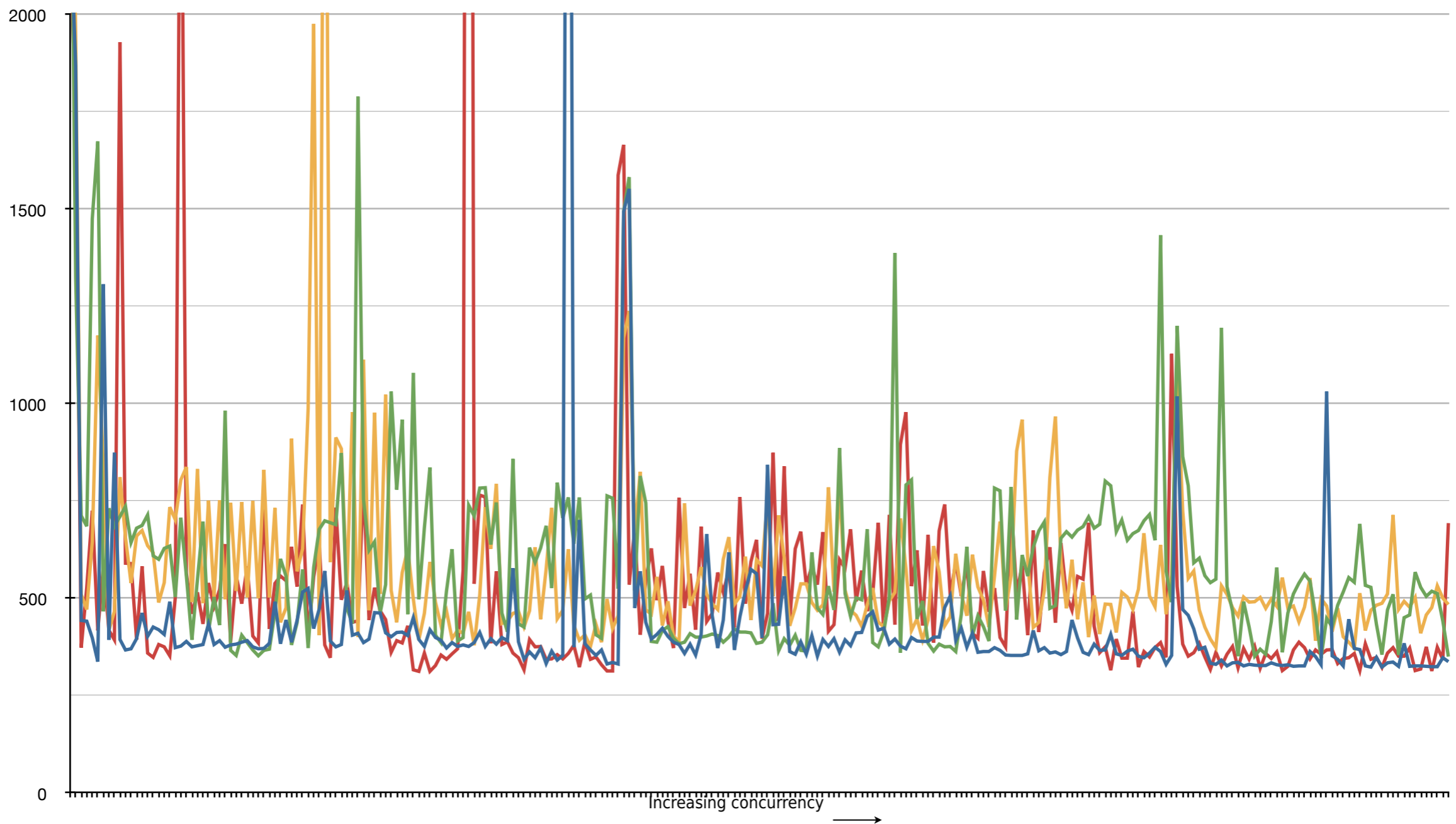


Open Write Read Close



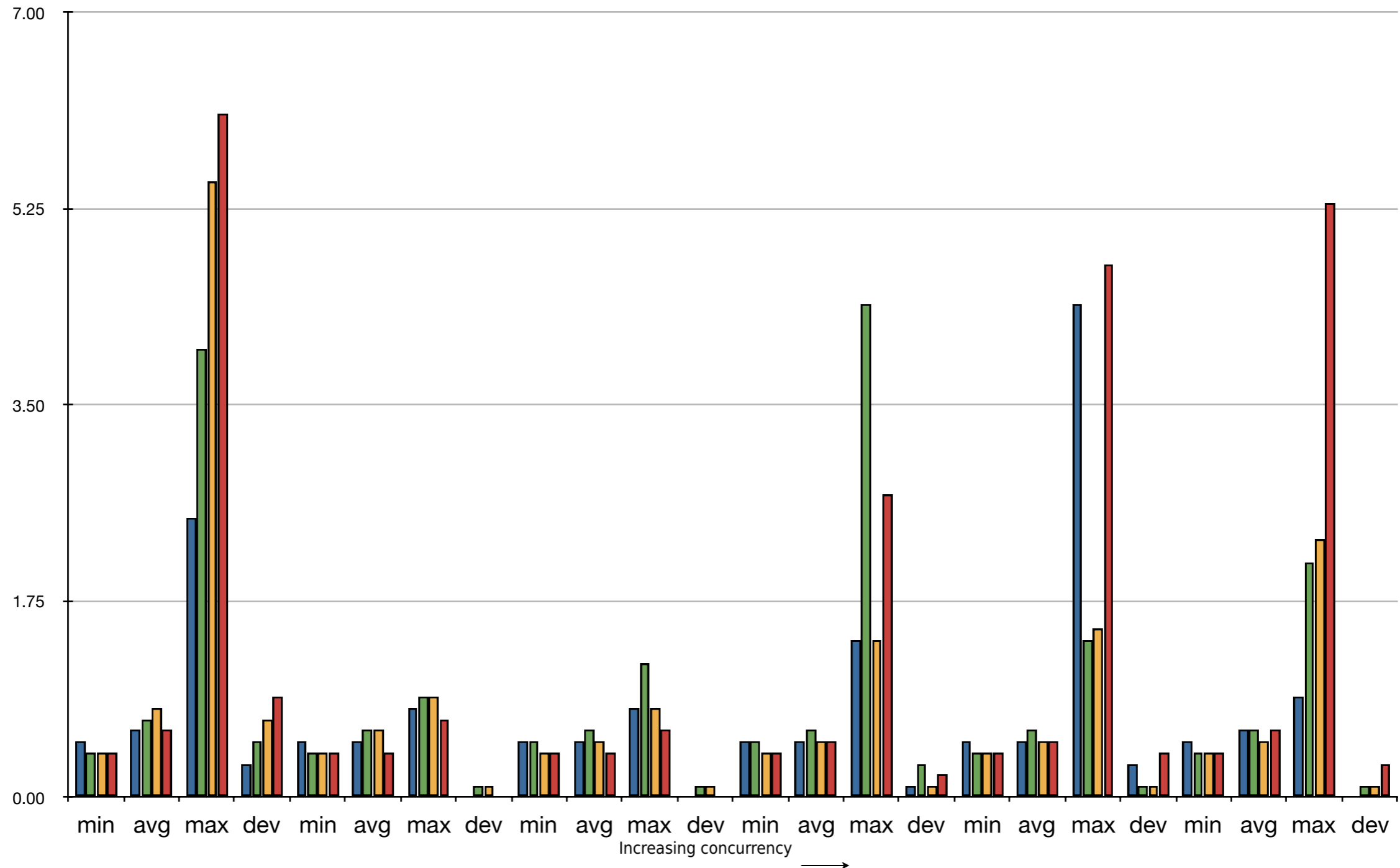
# Total req/resp time

Comparison - total transaction (close)



# Resp to Req. Bursts - httpperf

100 ----> 20000



# Independent benchmarks

表 1 テスト環境 (クライアント)  
Table 1 Experimentation Environment for Client

PREV	クライアント
	Intel Core2Duo E8400 3.00GHz
Memory	4GB

```
#!/bin/sh
RESULT='./result.txt'

for port in 80 8080 8888
do
  #for count in 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000
  #9000 10000
  #for count in 11000 12000 13000 14000 15000 16000 17000
  #18000 19000 20000
  for count in 21000 22000 23000 24000 25000 26000 27000
  #28000 29000 30000
  do
    echo -n "$port $count " >> $RESULT
    httpperf --rate $count --num-conns 25000 --server
ipaddr --port $port \
      --uri=/test.html | grep "Request rate:" >>
$RESULT.$port
    sleep 60
  done
done
```



Source: Ryosuke Matsumoto : <http://blog.matsumoto-r.jp/?p=1812>

# Take-away

- Today, the web-server isn't the slow link in the chain.
- Benchmarks get stale... fast!
- Real world trumps test environs
- Choose the right tool for the right job



# HTTP/2

- Implements RFC 7540
- Supports both **h2** (HTTP/2 over TLS) and **h2c** (HTTP/2 over TCP[cleartext])
- Enterprise-ready regarding stability, performance, etc.
- Also supported in mod\_proxy
- Perfect compliance

# Thanks

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<http://www.slideshare.net/jimjag/>