

The five-minute rule thirty years later

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The five-minute rule in 1987

- Storage hardware: Two-tier hierarchy
 - 1MB RAM: \$5,000 ~ \$5,000/MB
 - 180MB HDD: \$30,000 ~ \$160/MB
- Optimization problem
 - “When does it make sense to cache data in DRAM?”*
- Gray & Putzolu’s answer
 - “Pages referenced every 5 minutes should be memory resident”*

Five-minute rule formulation

Break-even Reference Interval (seconds) =

$$\frac{\text{PagesPerMBofRAM}}{\text{AccessPerSecondPerDisk}} \times \frac{\text{PricePerDiskDrive}}{\text{PricePerMBofDRAM}}$$

Technology ratio

Economic ratio

Five-minute rule formulation

Break-even Reference Interval (seconds) = (400 secs)

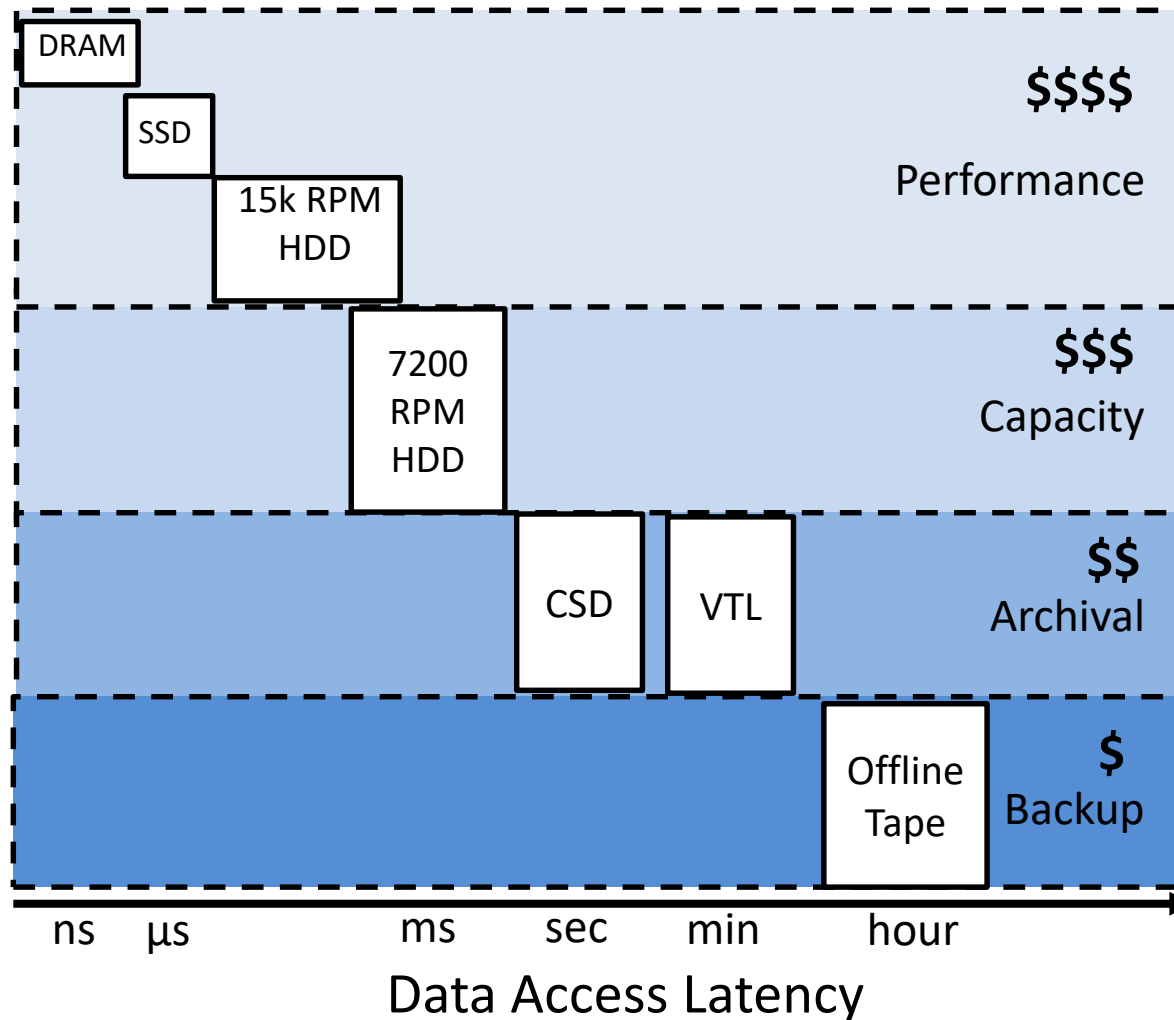
$$\frac{\text{PagesPerMBofRAM (1024)}}{\text{AccessPerSecondPerDisk (15)}} \times \frac{\text{PricePerDiskDrive (\$30k)}}{\text{PricePerMBofDRAM (\$5k)}}$$

Technology ratio

Economic ratio

Popular rule of thumb for engineering data management systems

Modern storage hierarchy



Multitier hierarchy with price and performance matching workload requirements

Agenda

- Revisiting the five-minute rule
 - DRAM-HDD break-even interval after 30 years
 - DRAM-SSD, HDD-SSD break-even intervals
- Five-minute rule and the performance tier
 - Break-even intervals with NVDIMM & NVMe SSD
- Five-minute rule and the capacity tier
 - Break-even intervals with Cold Storage, LTO-7 tape

Storage hardware 30 years later

Parameter	Disk (then)	Disk (now)	DRAM (then)	DRAM (now)
Unit cost (\$)	\$30,000	\$49	\$5,000	\$80
Unit capacity	180MB	2TB	1MB	16GB
Random IO/s	15	200	-	-

- Capacity: ↑10,000×, Cost: ↓1,000×, HDD Performance: ↑10×

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Page size (4KB)	Then	Now
RAM-HDD	5 mins	5 hours

- RAM-HDD break-even 60× higher due to fall in DRAM price

Store only extremely “cold” data in HDD

Five-minute rule with SATA SSD

Parameter	Disk (now)	DRAM (now)	SATA SSD (now)
Unit cost (\$)	\$49	\$80	560
Unit capacity	2TB	16GB	800GB
Cost/MB	0.00002	0.005	0.0007
Random IO/s	200	-	67k/20k

- Two properties of SSDs
 - Middleground between DRAM and HDD w.r.t cost/MB
 - 100-1000× higher random IOPS than HDD

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- Two new rules with SSDs
 - DRAM-SSD rule: SSD as a primary store
 - SSD-HDD rule: SSD as a cache

Break-even interval for SATA SSD

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5-minute rule now ~applicable to SATA SSD

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SSD-HDD	-	1 day

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With 1 day interval, all active data will be in RAM/SSD

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 - Break-even intervals with NVDIMM & NVMe SSD
- Five-minute rule and the capacity tier
 - Break-even intervals with Cold Storage, LTO-7 tape

Trends in performance tier

- SSDs inching closer to the CPU
 - SATA -> SAS/FiberChannel -> PCIe -> NVMe -> DIMM
 - NVMe PCIe SSDs are server accelerators of choice

Device	Capacity	Price (\$)	IOPS (k) r/w	B/W (GBps)
SATA SSD	800GB	560	67/20	500/460
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 - NVMe PCIe SSDs are server accelerators of choice
- Storage Class Memory devices (ex: 3D Xpoint)
 - Faster than Flash, Denser than DRAM, and non-volatile
 - Standardized, byte-addressable, NVDIMM-P soon

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Break even interval for PCIe SSD/NVM

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RAM-P4800X	47 s (r) / 52s (w)

DRAM-NVM break-even interval is shrinking
Interval disparity between reads and writes is shrinking

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Impending shift from DRAM to NVM-based data management engines

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 - But high cost/GB
- Cold storage devices (CSD) filling the gap
 - 1,000 high-density SMR disks in MAID setup
 - PB density, 10s latency, 2-10GB/s bandwidth



Break-even interval for tape

Metric	DRAM	HDD	SpectraLogic T50e tape library
Unit capacity	16GB	2TB	10 * 15TB
Unit cost (\$)	80	50	11,000
Latency	100ns	5ms	65s
Bandwidth	100GB/s	200MB/s	4 * 750 MB/s

- DRAM-tape break-even interval: 300 years!

“Tape: The motel where data checks in and never checks out”

- Jim Gray

- Kaps is not the right metric for tape
 - Maps, TB-scan better

Alternate comparison metrics

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\$/Kaps (amortized)	9e-14	5e-9	8e-3
\$/TBScan (amortized)	8e-6	3e-3	3e-2

HDD 1,000,000× cheaper w.r.t Kaps, only 10× w.r.t TBScan

HDD—tape gap shrinking for sequential workloads

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- Is it economical to merge the two tiers?
 - “40% cost savings by using a cold storage tier” [Skipper, VLDB’16]
- Can batch analytics be done on tape/CSD?
 - Query Execution in Tertiary Memory Databases [VLDB’96]
 - Skipper: Cheap data analytics over cold storage devices [VLDB’16]
 - Nakshatra: Running batch analytics on an archive [MASCOTS’14]

**Time to revisit traditional capacity—archival
division of labor**

Summary

- Growing DRAM-HDD & shrinking DRAM-NVM intervals
Most performance critical data will sit in SSD/NVM
- Rapid improvements in SSD/NVM density
All randomly accessed data can sit in SSD/NVM
- Shrinking HDD—tape/CSD difference w.r.t \$/TBscan
Can merge archival+capacity tier into cold storage tier
Sequential batch analytics can be hosted on new tier

Five-minute rule suggests impending consolidation in the storage hierarchy