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# "NVMe, Storage Class Memory and Operational Databases: Real-World Results"

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*Brian Bulkowski, CTO and Founder*  
*August, 2016*

# What is Aerospike ?

**Large-scale DHT Database ( 10B ++ objects, 100T++, O(1) get / put )**

... with queries, data structures, UDF, fast clients ...

... On Linux ...

**High availability clustering & rebalancing ( proven 5 9's, no load balancer )**

**Very high performance C code – reads and writes**

( 2M++ TPS from Flash, 4M++ TPS from DRAM *PER SERVER* )

**KVS++ provides query, UDF, table/columns, aggregations, SQL**

**Direct attach storage; persistence through replication and Flash**

**Cloud-savvy – runs with EC2, GCE others; Docker, more ...**

**Dual License: Open Source for devs, Enterprise for deployment**

## Enterprise Requirement: 2-Speed IT

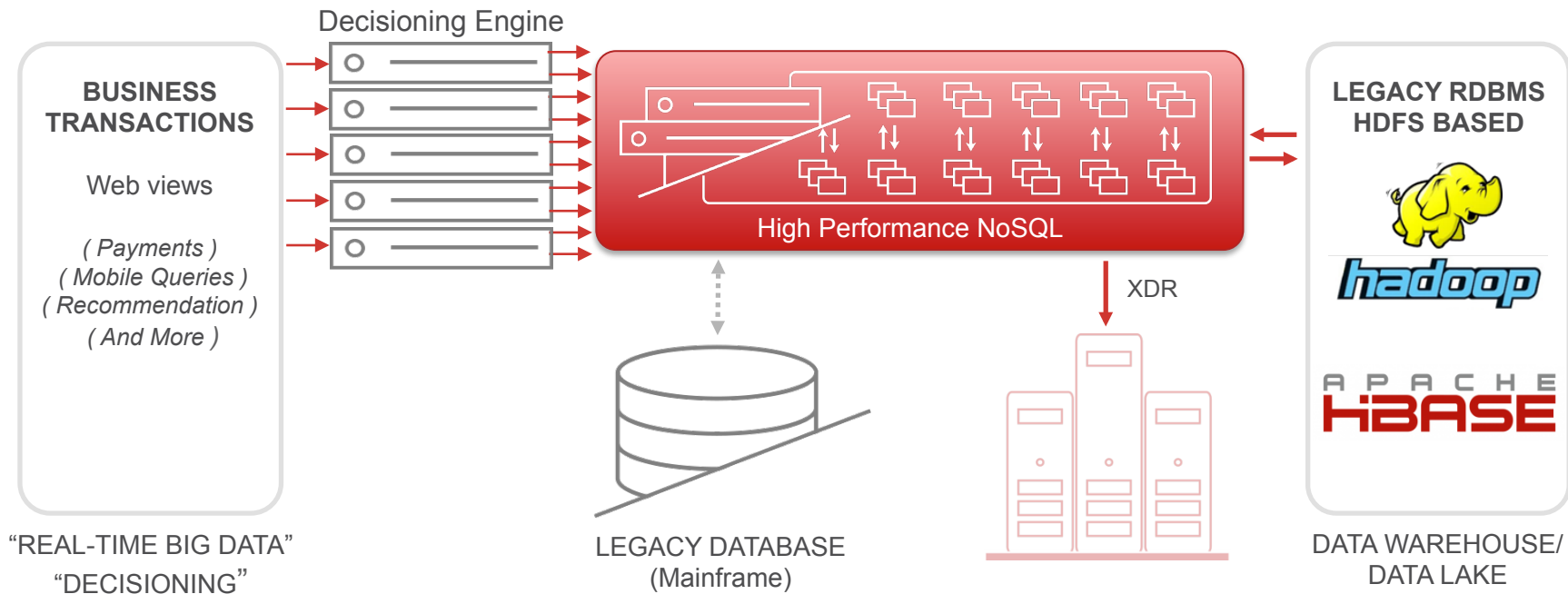


The only way for traditional enterprises to easily build Digital business is adapting to **2-Speed IT** decoupling Systems of Record and Systems of Engagement

Front office Consumer Scale Digital Applications that move at a **Faster pace and act as** Systems of Engagement

Back office legacy Enterprise Scale Applications that move at a **slower pace and act as** Systems of Record

# Architecture Overview – Flash based system of engagement



“REAL-TIME BIG DATA”  
“DECISIONING”

LEGACY DATABASE  
(Mainframe)

DATA WAREHOUSE/  
DATA LAKE

**500**

Business Trans per sec

**X**

**5000**

Calculations per sec

**=**

**2.5 M**

Database Transactions per sec



— [ Real-world engagements ] —

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# AdTech – Real-Time Bidding

## Challenge

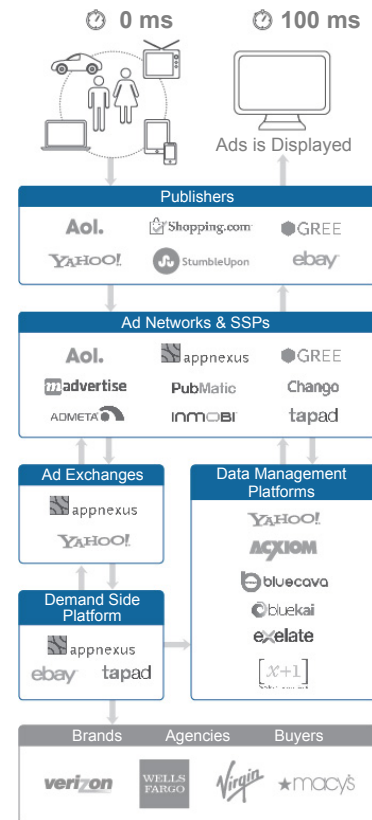
- Low read latency (milliseconds)
- 100K to 5M operations/second
- Ensure 100% uptime
- Provide global data replication

## Performance achieved

- 1 to 6 billion cookies tracked
- 5.0M auctions per second
- 100ms ad rendering, 50ms real-time bidding, 1ms database access
- 1.5KB median object size

## Selected NoSQL

- 10X fewer nodes
- 10X better TCO
- 20X better read latency
- High throughput at low latency



# Fraud Prevention

## Challenge

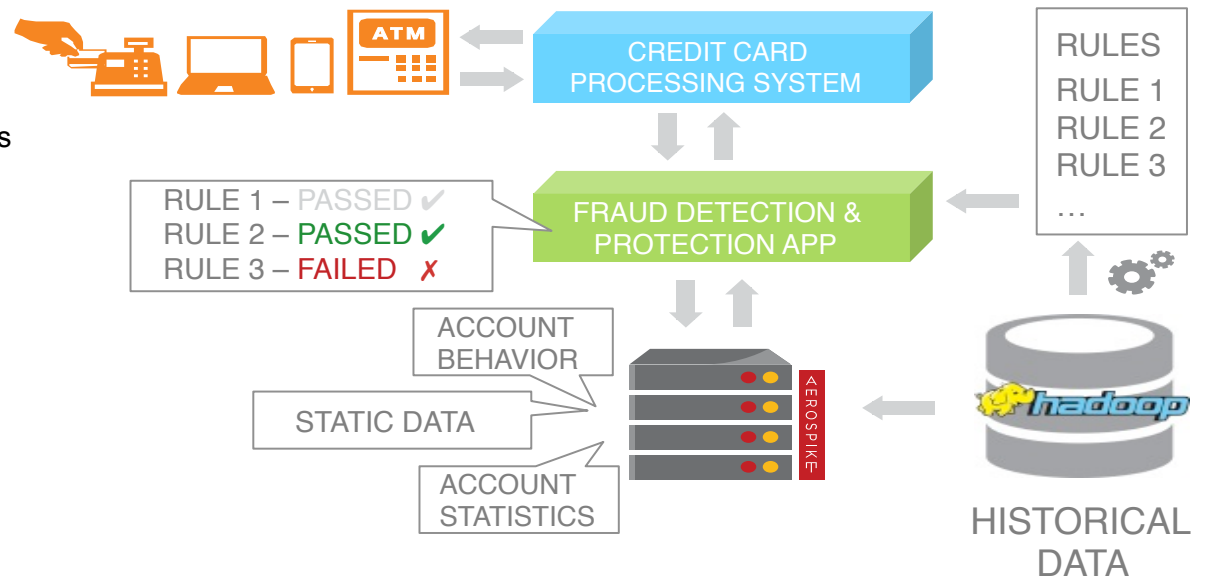
- Overall SLA 750 ms
- Loss of Business due to latency
- Every Credit Card transaction requires hundreds of DB reads/writes

## Need to scale reliably

- 10 → 100 TB
- 10B → 100 B objects
- 200k → 1 Million+ TPS

## Selected NoSQL

- Built for Flash
- Predictable Low latency at High Throughput
- Immediate consistency, no data loss
- Cross data center (XDR) support
- 20 Server Cluster
- Dell 730xd w/ 4NVMe SSDs



# Fin Serv – Positions System of Record

## Challenge

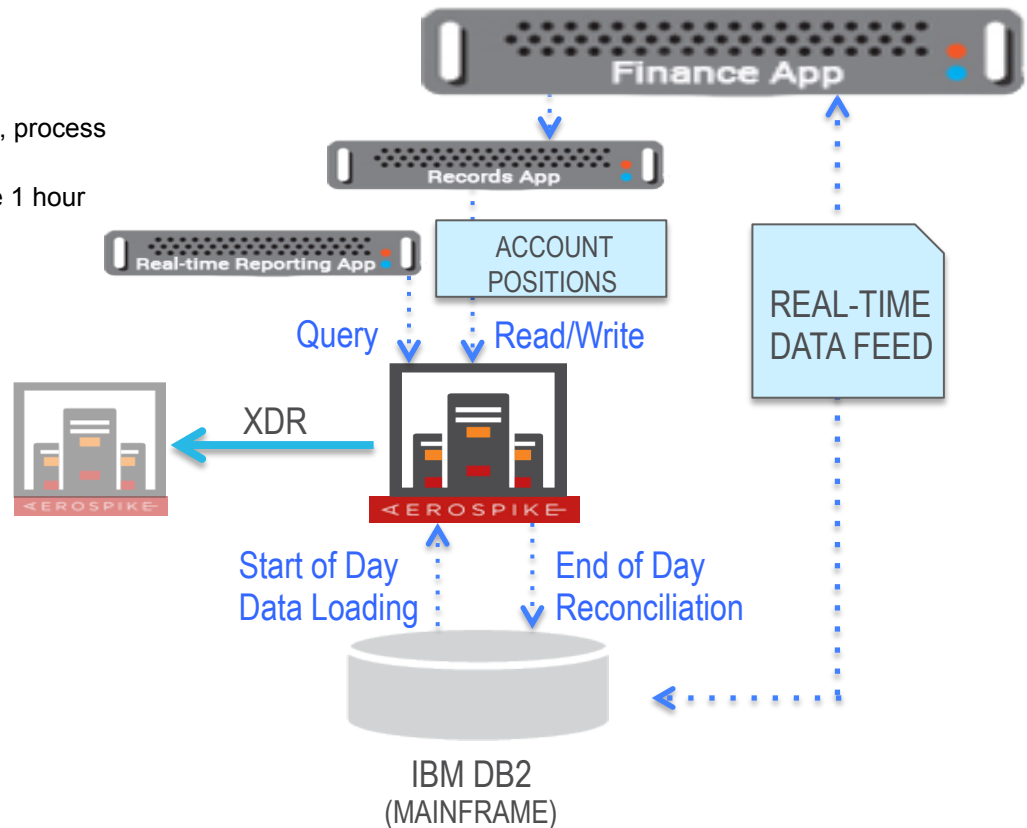
- DB2 stores positions for 10 Million customers
- Must update stock prices, show balances on 300 positions, process 250M transactions, 2 M updates/day
- Running out of memory, data inconsistencies, restarts take 1 hour
- 150 Servers -> Growing to 1000

## Need to scale reliably

- 3 → 13 TB
- 100 → 400 Million objects
- 200k → 1 Million TPS

## Selected NoSQL

- Built for Flash
- Predictable Low latency at High Throughput
- Immediate consistency, , no data loss
- Cross data center (XDR) support
- 10 Server Cluster





# Telco – Real-Time Billing and Charging Systems

## Challenge

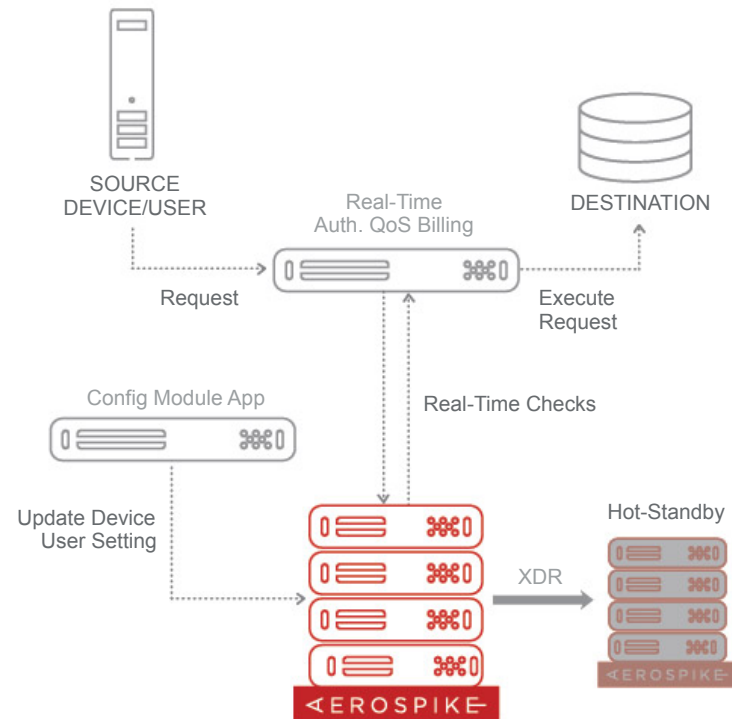
- Edge access to regulate traffic
- Accessible using provisioning applications (self-serve and through support personnel)

## Need for Extremely High Availability, Reliably, Low latency

- > TBs of data
- 10-100M objects
- 10-200K TPS

## Selected NoSQL

- Clustered system
- Predictable low latency at high throughput
- Highly-available and reliable on failure
- Cross data center (XDR) support





NAND Status  
Wide SATA, PCIe, NVMe

## Historical Perspective – Early Days

- **Early SATA ( 2009, 2010 )**

- Intel X25M
- Samsung SS805
- Devices provide 95% < 1ms for about 2,000 IOPS
- \$3 / GB

- **FusionIO - 2010**

- PCIe, but custom driver
- CPU, bus load
- \$8 / GB



## Historical Perspective – 2013, 2014

- **Micron proves fast PCIe possible**
  - P320 ( SLC ) with low bus overhead, excellent driver
  - Over 200,000 IOPS with 99.7% < 1ms
  - ( SFF-8639 hot-swap 2.5” pci-e drives )
- **“Wide SATA” generally used**
  - 12 to 20 2.5” SATA drives per 2U chassis
  - Intel S3700, S3500 ; Samsung 843 favored
  - 8 drives per controller ( many issues )
  - 150,000 IOPs per chassis achievable
- **Violin, FusionIO troubled, DSSD sold to EMC**
- **NVMe available but not practical**



## NVMe Arrives – 2015 to present

- **Linux, Windows drivers achieve performance**
- **U.2 and M.2 form factors available**
  
- **Intel P3700, P3600, P3500 available –**
  - 250k IOPs per card
- **Samsung PM1735 available –**
  - 120k IOPs per card
- **Micron 9100**
- **HGST, Toshiba – 30k to 50k per card**
  
- **SAS / SATA lingers**
  - Samsung SM1635, PM1633; Intel S3700; Micron S600 still shipping



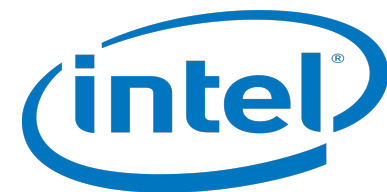
## Flash in the Public Cloud

- **Every public cloud provider has Flash**
  - AWS / EC2 has sophisticated offerings
  - Google Compute is NVMe - high performance
  - Softlayer allows own-hardware
- **Private clouds manage Flash**
  - Docker offers storage metadata
  - Pivotal manages Flash and traditional storage



# 1 Million TPS on 1 Server - NVMe

Intel Reaches 1 Million TPS on 6.4TB Flash Using a Single Aerospike Server



Options for storage on a database before Aerospike:

- **RAM**, which was fast, but allowed very limited storage
- **Disk**, which allowed for a lot of storage, but was limited in speed

**Intel achieved 1M TPS using 4 Intel P3700 SDs with 1.6 TB capacity on a single Aerospike server.** The cost per GB is a fraction of the cost of RAM, while still having very high performance.



Storage Class Memory  
( and trends )



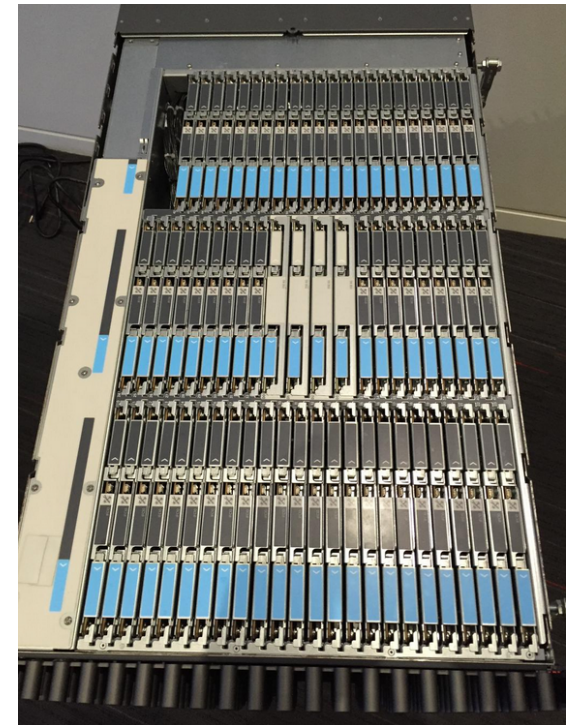
## Trends in NAND

- **Diverging “Drive Writes Per Day”**
- **Low-write devices**
  - 1~2 DWPD
  - Sandisk Inifiniflash, Micron
  - Increase density, lower cost
  - Hadoop / Datalake “all flash” use
- **High-write devices**
  - 10~15 DWPD
  - P3700, Hitachi, Samsung
  - Optane may disrupt everything



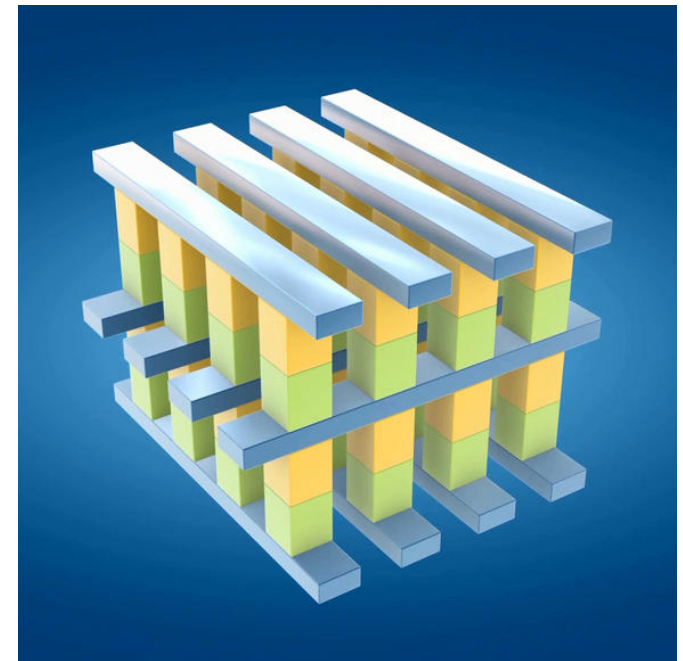
## “All Flash arrays”

- **Database knows best, not storage**
  - Database should manage consistency vs availability
  - Database should manage views and snapshots
- **Array vendors have started making “databases”**
  - “Object stores”
- **High Density “flash aggregation”**
  - Sandisk Infiniflash – SATA
    - High-read, or write-once, applications
  - Apeiron ASD1000 – NVMe
    - Read and write applications
  - Vexata, others



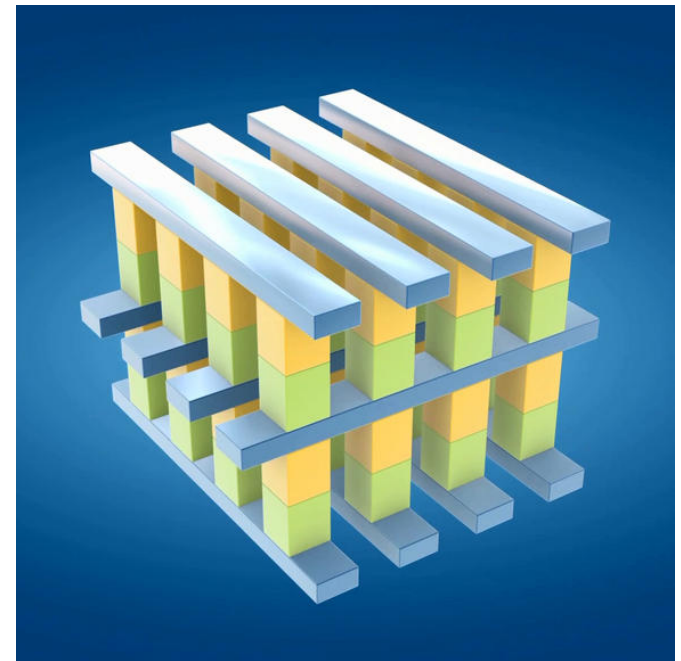
## What is 3D Xpoint?

- **Persistent storage using chips**
  - No power while idle
- ***Does not use transistors***
  - Resistor / phase change “but different”
- **Chips almost as fast as DRAM**
  - DRAM – 10 ns ; Nand 10 micro  
Xpoint 1 micro to 100ns
- **“Infinite” write durability**
- **128B read and write granularity**
  - NAND write granularity --- 16 MB
  - DRAM write granularity --- 64 B



## Intel's 3D Xpoint roadmap ( public info )

- **Optane *this year***
  - 3D Xpoint in 2.5" NVMe package
  - "7x faster" – limited by NVMe !
  - Very high write durability
  - Replaces SLC for some use cases
  - Unknown pricing
- **NVDIMM ( on memory bus )**
  - Removes NVMe limit
  - Intel cagy on delivery – "uncommitted"
  - Competes with DRAM
  - *Hard to program to*
  - *Really changes the world*

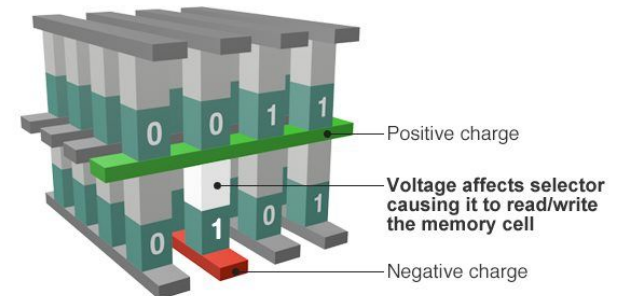
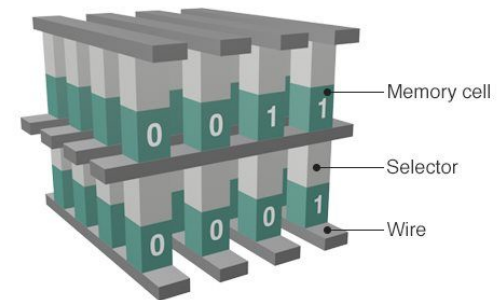


# How to architect for DDR 3D XPoint

- **It's not exactly like DRAM**
  - *It persists*
  - When a system restarts, need to reset
  - Slower, so different data structures required
- **It's not exactly like storage**
  - It's on the memory bus
  - Small blocks for reads and writes
  - New instructions for persistent control
- **Cache approaches will be inferior**

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How 3D XPoint memory works



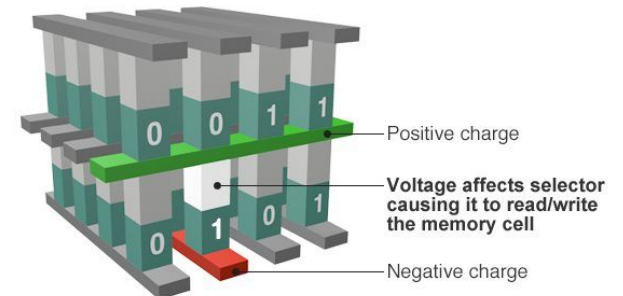
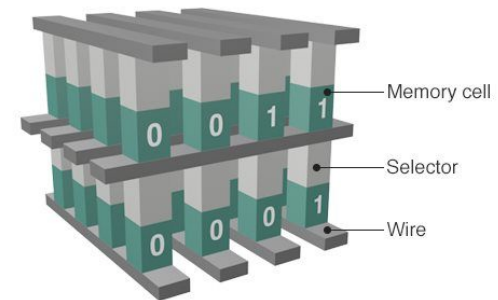
Source: Intel, Micron

BBC

# Architecting for DDR 3D XPoint

- **Think of it like DRAM**
  - Lower power consumption
  - Much higher density ( 1T++ )
- **4x efficiency gain**
  - No defrag required
  - No overprovisioning
- **Aerospike thesis:**  
***Indexes in 3D Xpoint***

How 3D XPoint memory works



Source: Intel, Micron

BBC



— [ Thank You  
Questions? ] —

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