CaT
Content-aware Tracing and Analysis for Distributed Systems

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in 22nd International Middleware Conference (Middleware '21)

Universidade do Minho

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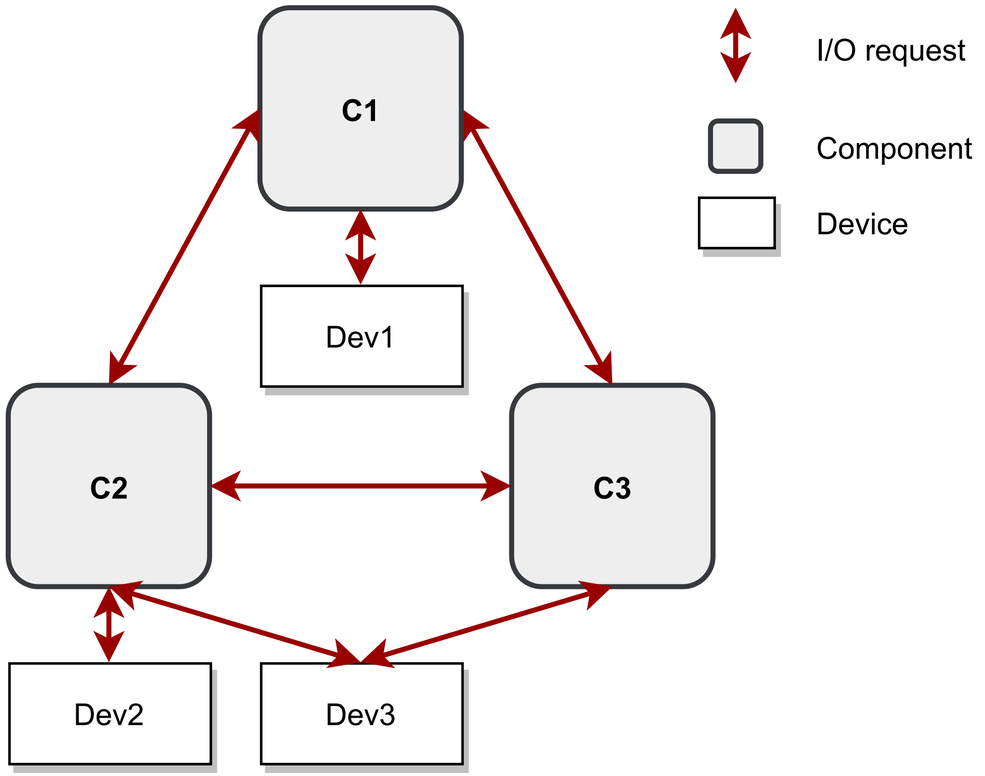
Tracing Distributed Systems

- Developing, configuring, and managing distributed systems are difficult, costly, and challenging tasks
- Tracing and analysis frameworks provide valuable insights into how the system's state evolves over time
- Key for performance analysis, diagnosing anomalies, correctness and security

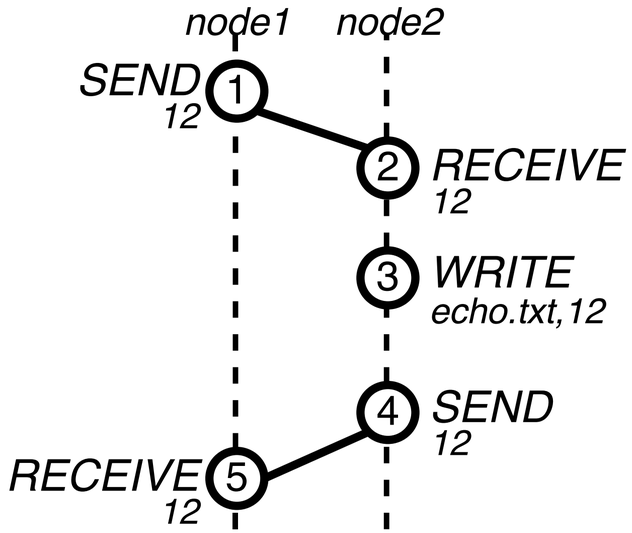
Challenges And Problems

- Performance and storage overhead
- Transparency
- Accuracy
- Causality
- Automation and visualization



State Of The Art

- Current tools either take an intrusive approach or only take into account the requests' context.



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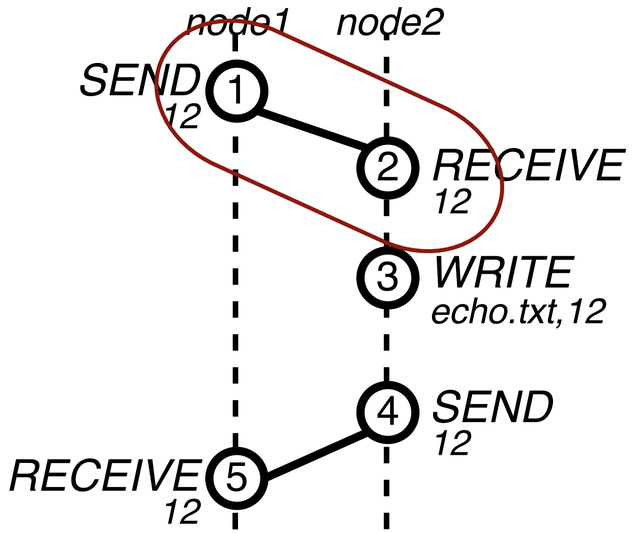

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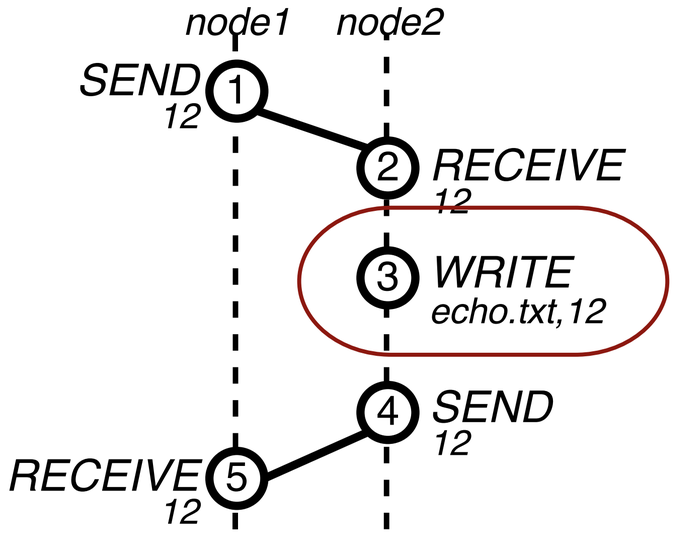

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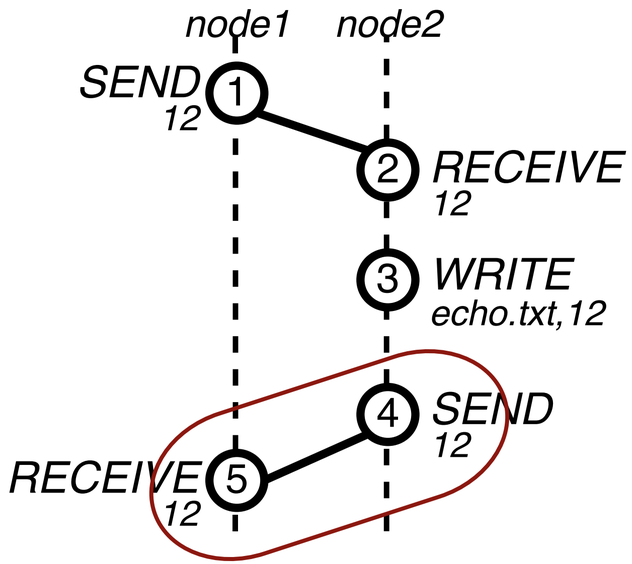

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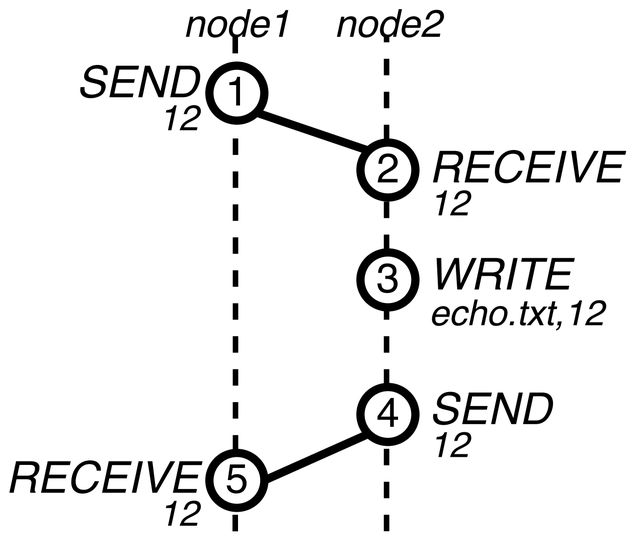
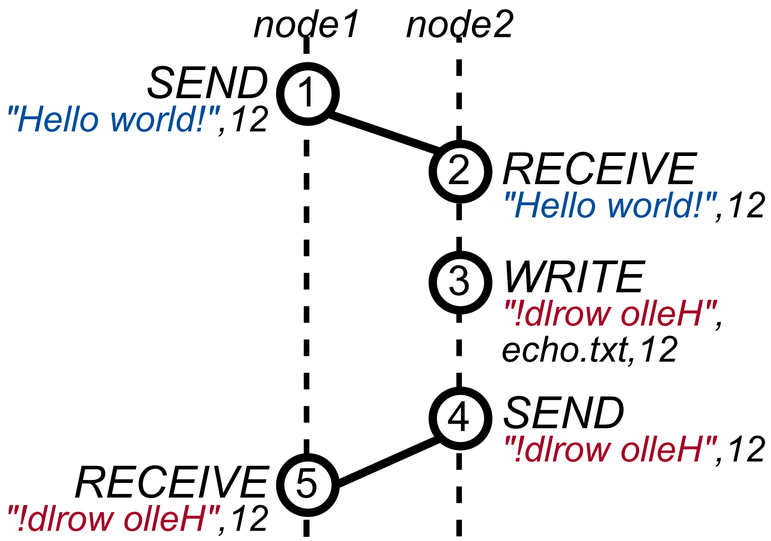


What if the content is actually different?

Context-based tracing

Key Insights

- To capture and analyze both the context and content of requests.

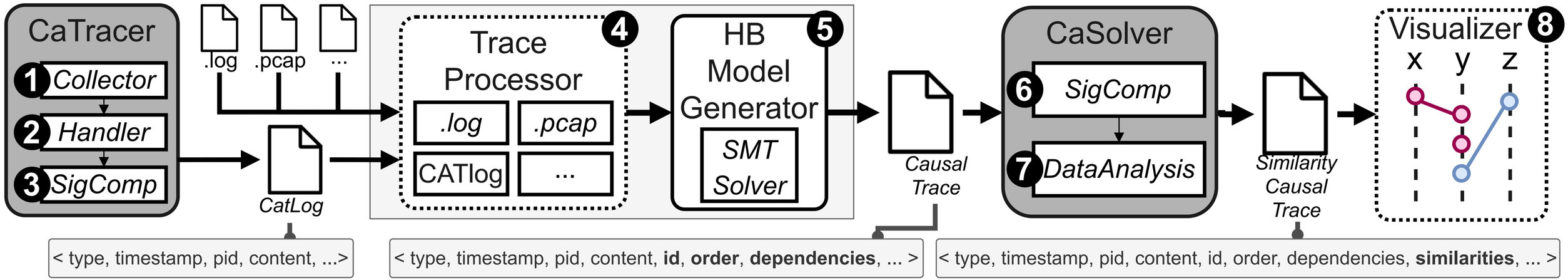


Content-based tracing

Contributions

- **Content-aware tracing**: Captures and analyses the context and content of applications' I/O requests
- **Non-intrusive tracing**: Uses kernel-level tracing tools (Strace and eBPF) to capture I/O requests
- **Open-source prototype**: A fully integrated pipeline to capture, analyze and visualize the context and content of I/O requests
- **Evaluation**: A detailed evaluation using two real Big Data applications: TensorFlow and Apache Hadoop

CAT Architecture



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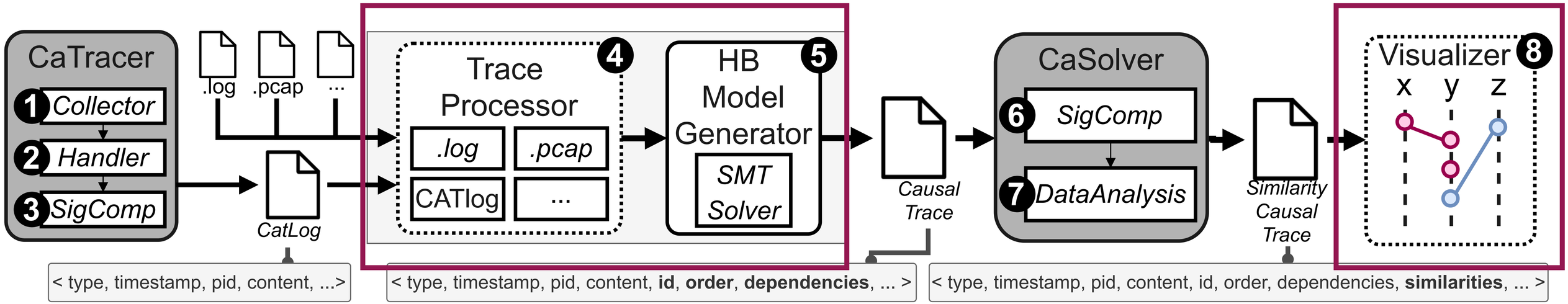

F. Neves, N. Machado and J. Pereira, "**Falcon: A Practical Log-Based Analysis Tool for Distributed Systems**," 2018 48th Annual IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN)

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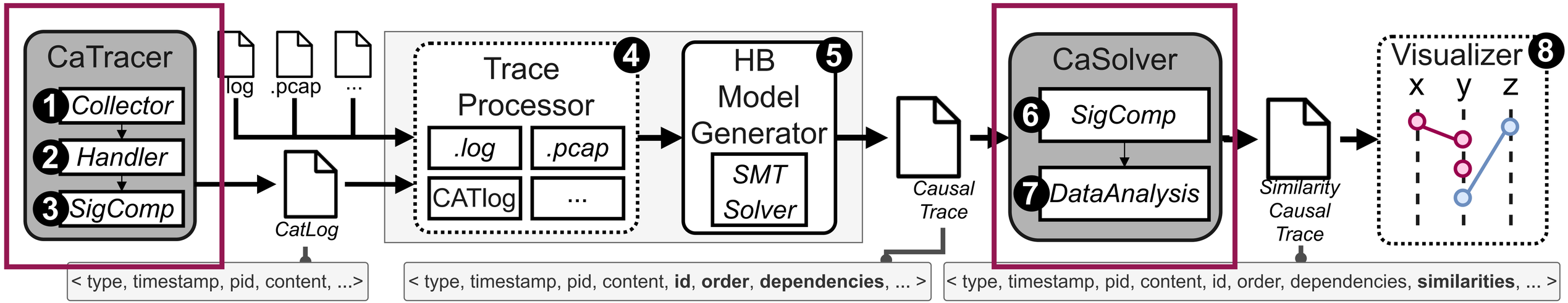

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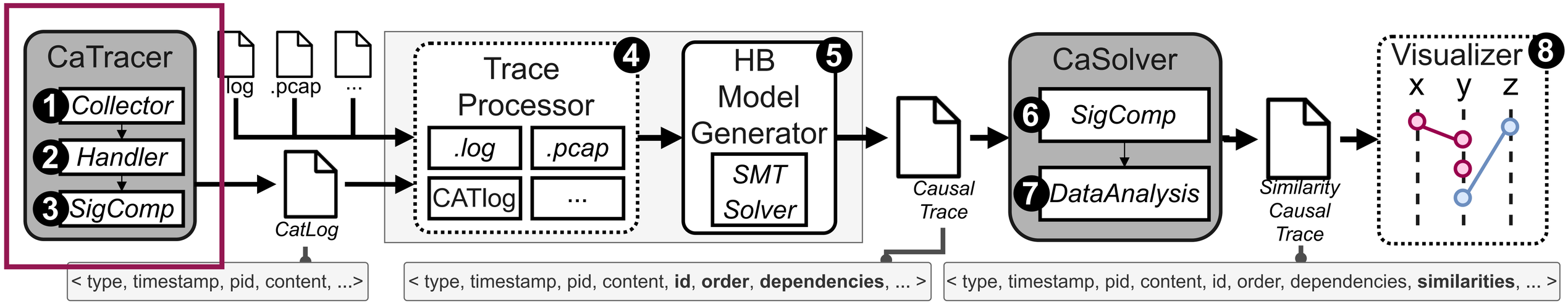
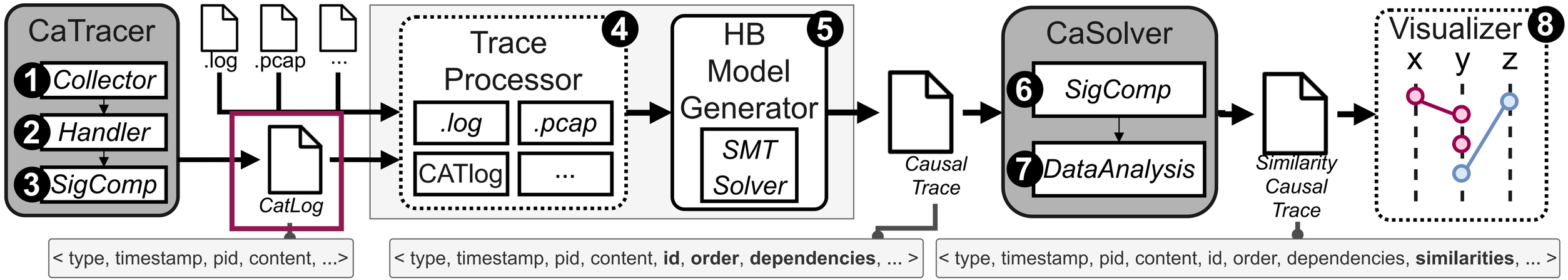


CaTracer: collects information about I/O requests

I/O request => event

CAT Architecture



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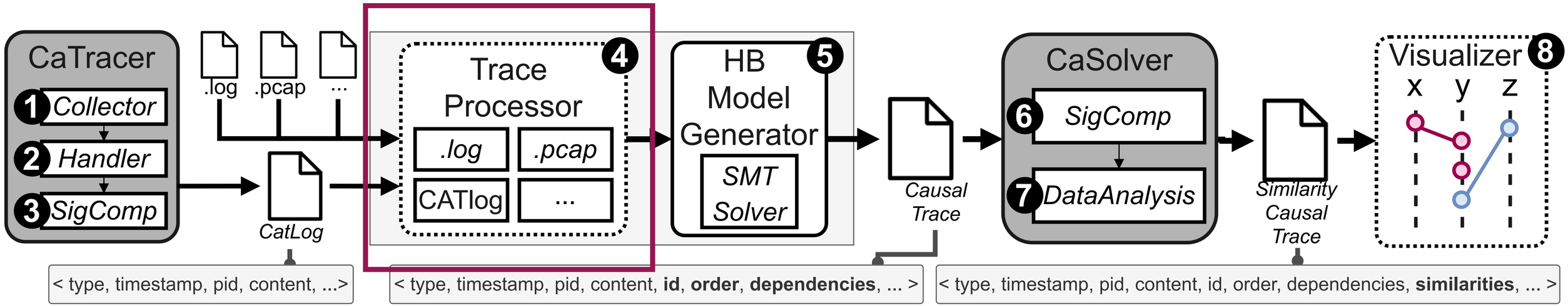
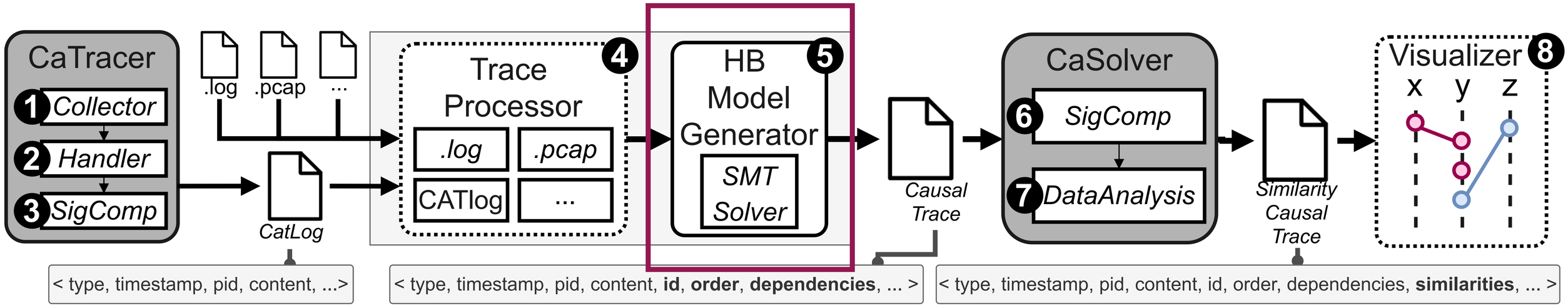


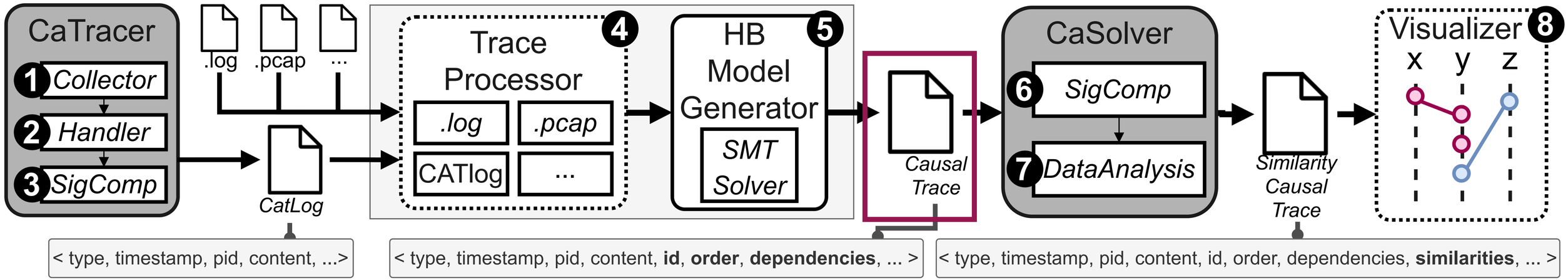
Trace Processor: parses and organizes the events into different data structures.

CAT Architecture



HB Model Generator: infers the causality between events.

CAT Architecture



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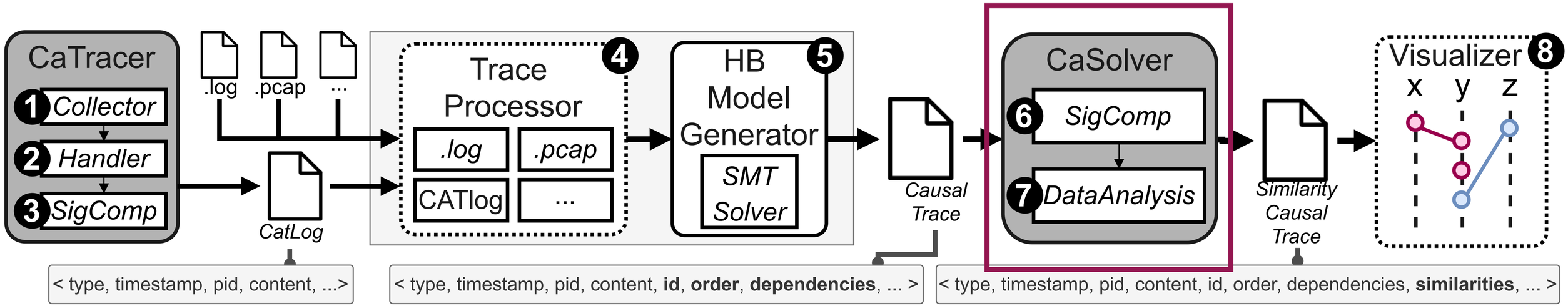
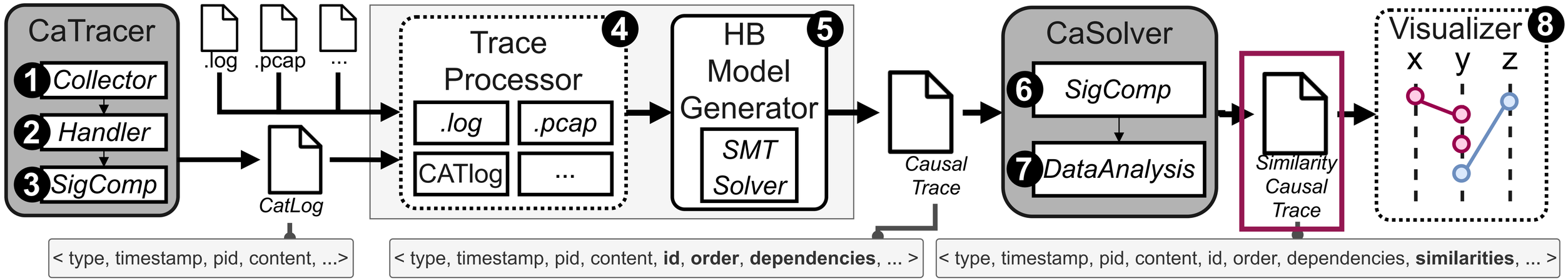


CaSolver: finds events with a high probability of operating over the same data flow.

CAT Architecture



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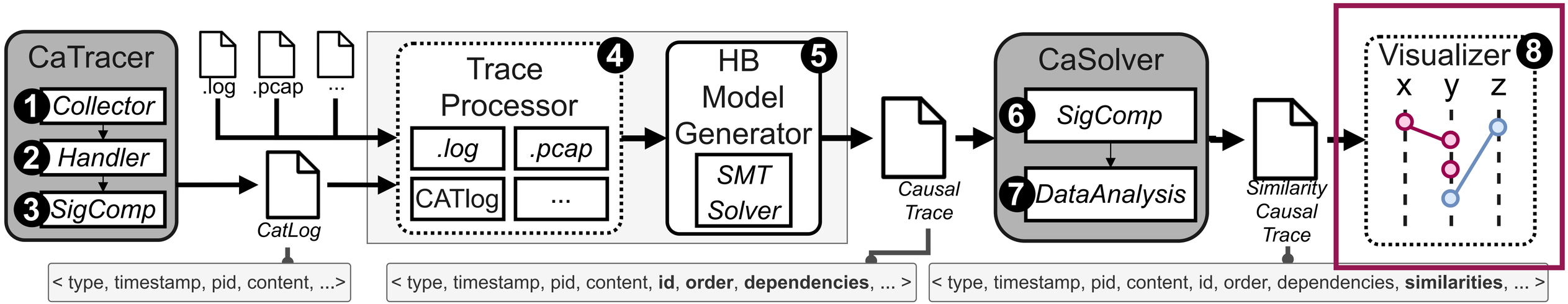
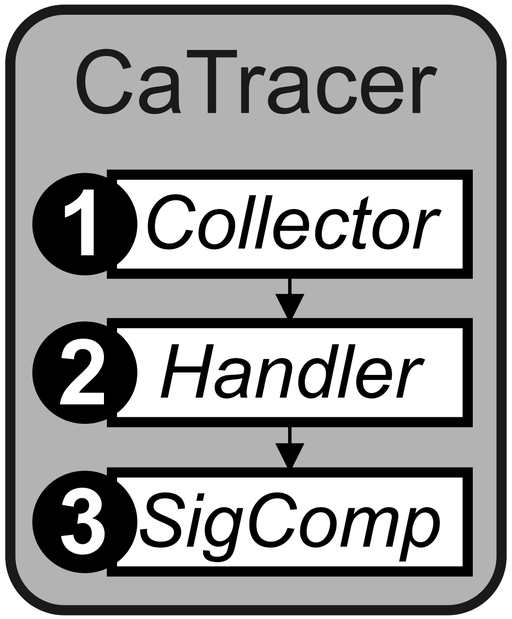


Visualizer: builds a space-time diagram representing the targeted system execution, the events causal relationships and their data flows.

CaTracer

- Three main submodules:
  - **Collector**: captures applications I/O requests
  - **Handler**: parses, organizes and saves the requests
  - **SigComp**: compute hash sums of requests' content
- Two implementations:
  - **CatStrace** - strace-based tracer
  - **CatBpf** - eBPF-based tracer



CASOLVER

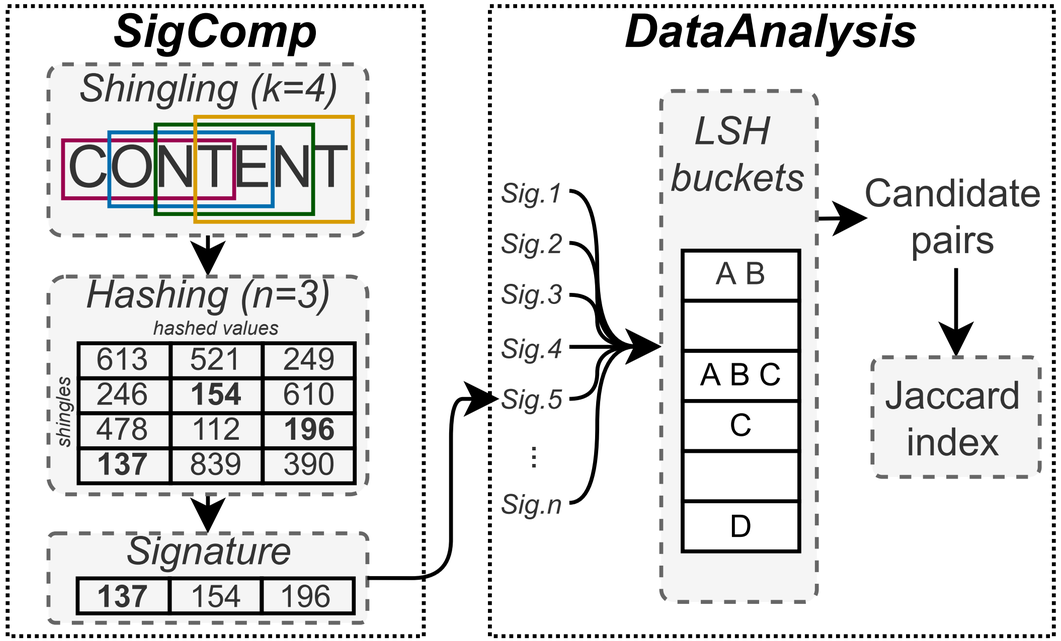
SigComp submodule:

- Resorts to the *min-wise hashing* (MinHash) algorithm to summarize the events content into a small set of signatures

DataAnalysis submodule:

- Resorts to the *Locality-sensitive hashing* (LSH) mechanism to find candidate pairs referring to similar content

- *Jaccard index* is used to computed the similarity between the candidate pairs



Visualizer

Color-based representation for data dependencies:

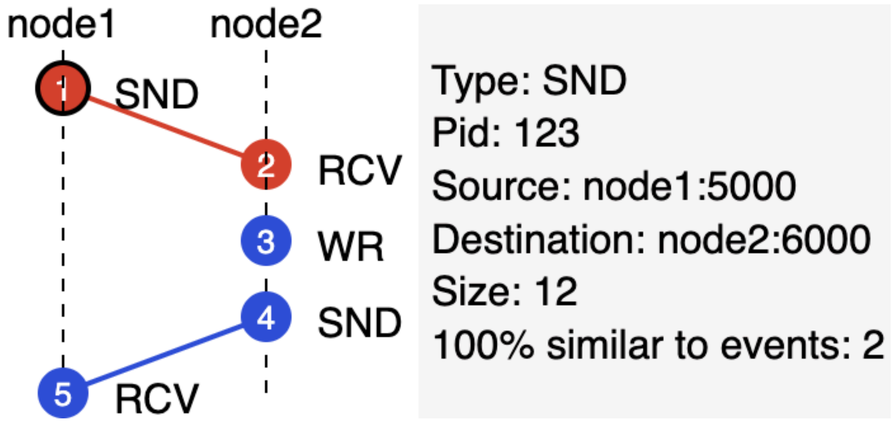
- Events with similar content are depicted with the same color
- Events with unique content are depicted with the black color

Additional information:

- By selecting a specific event or relationship it is possible to consult additional information about it

Storage-based representation:

- An horizontal representation for storage related events



Evaluation

Content-aware tracers evaluation:

- What is the performance impact, resource usage, storage overhead, and accuracy of each CaTracer?

CAT Framework in Action:

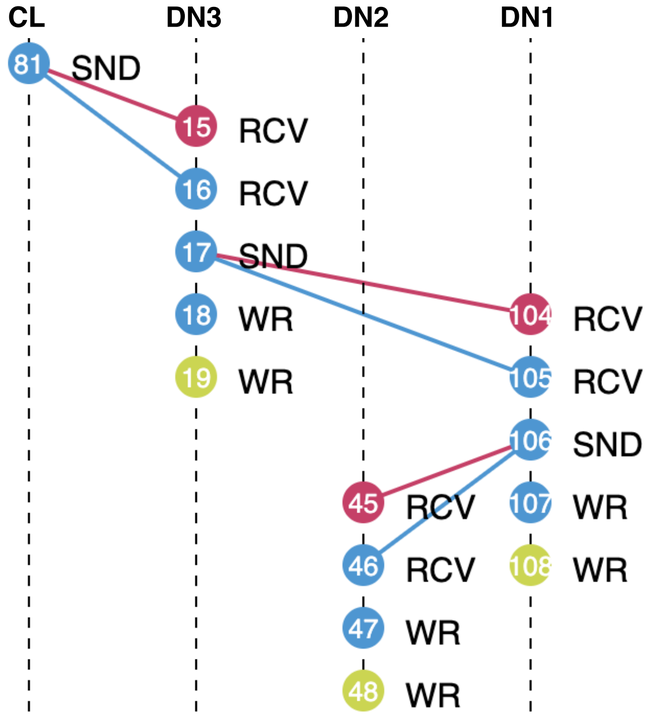
- What novel insights can CAT's content-aware approach provide?

Content-aware tracers evaluation

	CatBpf	CatStrace
Performance and Storage overhead		
	• Minimal	• Significant performance overhead • Can easily generate a file with significant size
Accuracy		
	• Can lose information • Captures only 4 KiB of requests content	• Captures all the requests • Captures 256 KiB of requests content
Resource Usage		
	• Considerable usage of CPU and RAM	• Lower resource usage **(!)**

CAT Framework In Action

Storage and replication of a file in HDFS



a) Normal execution

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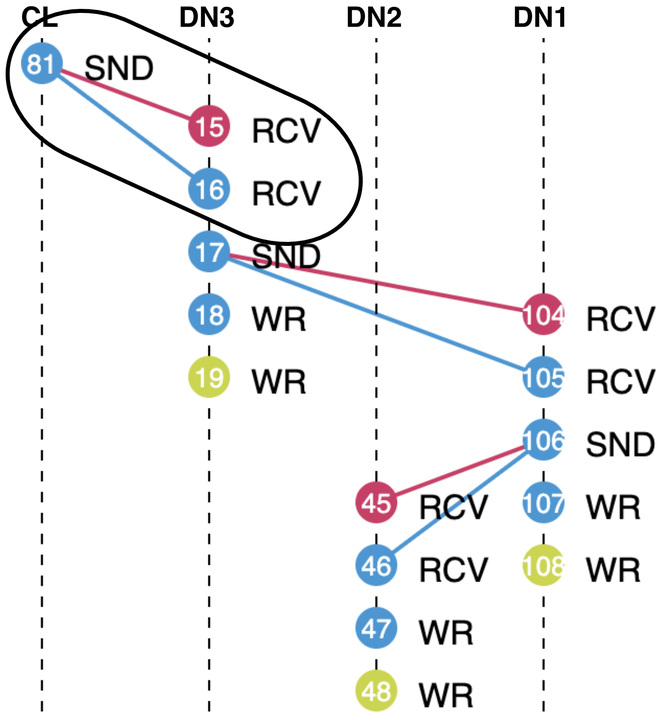

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Client sent the file to DN3 (81)

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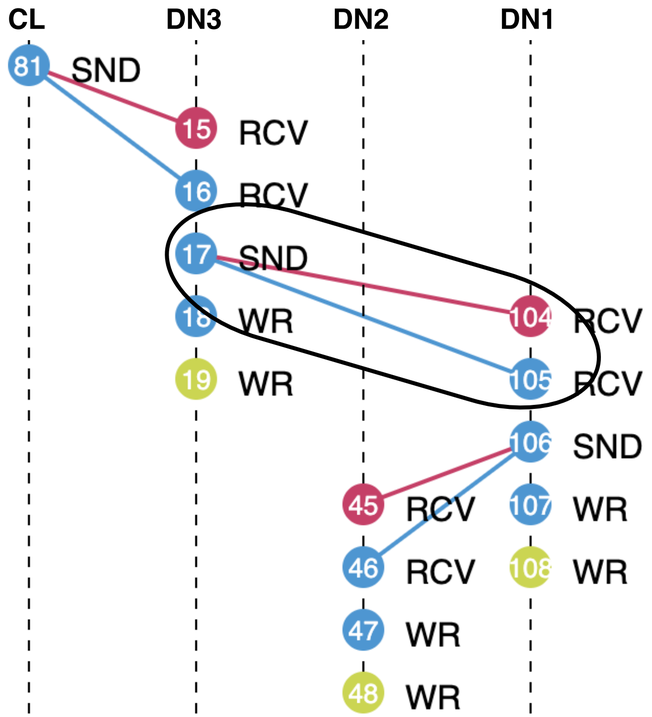

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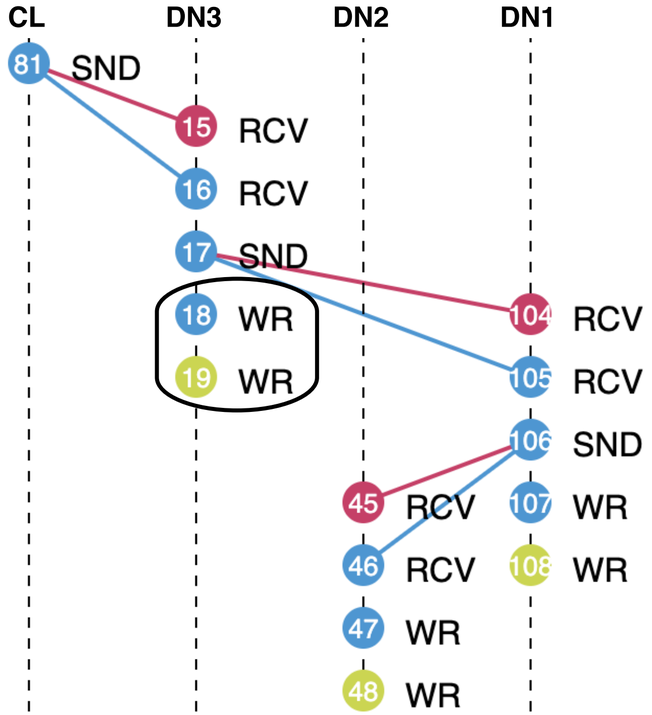

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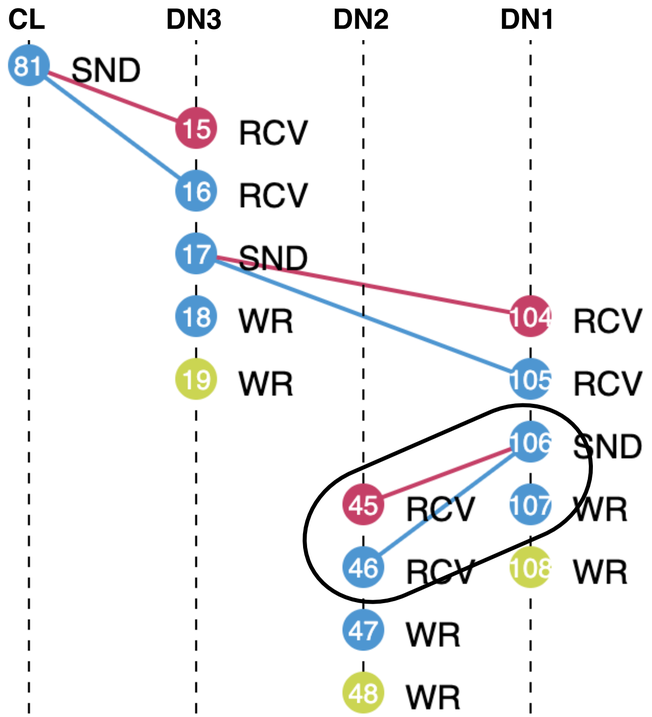

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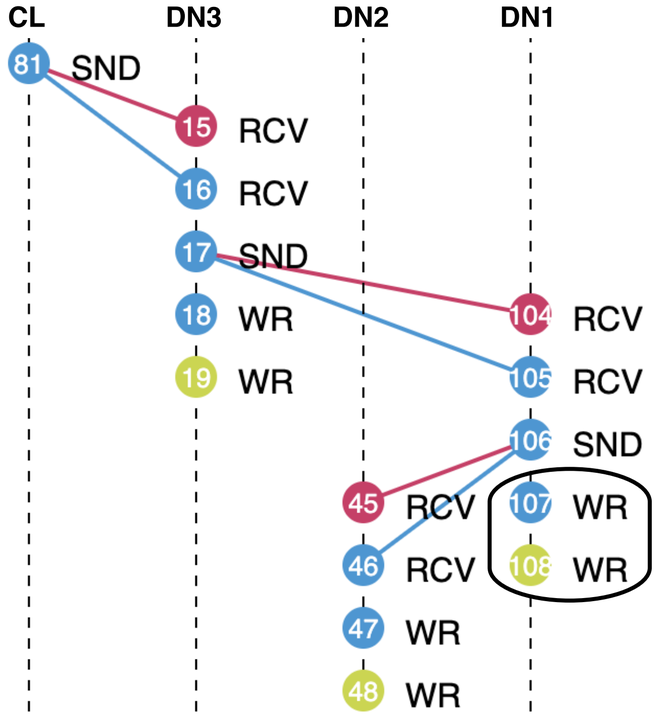

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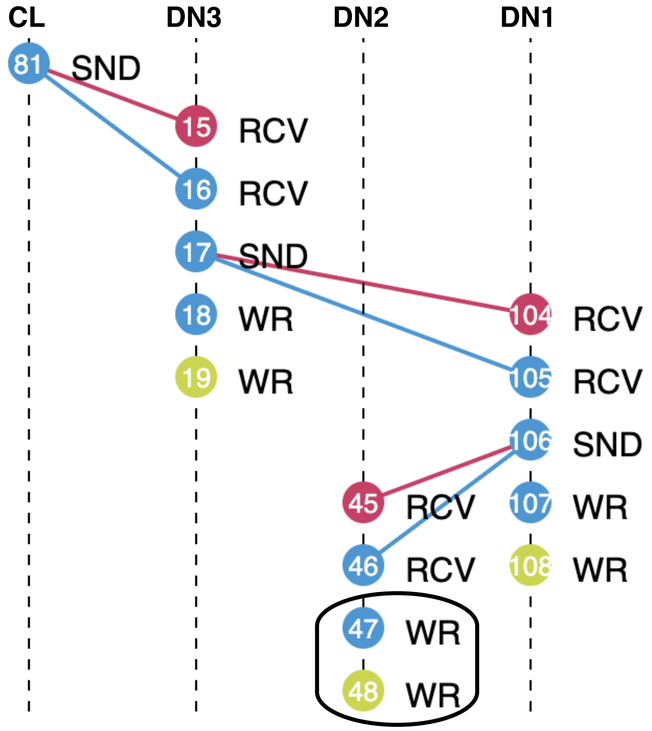

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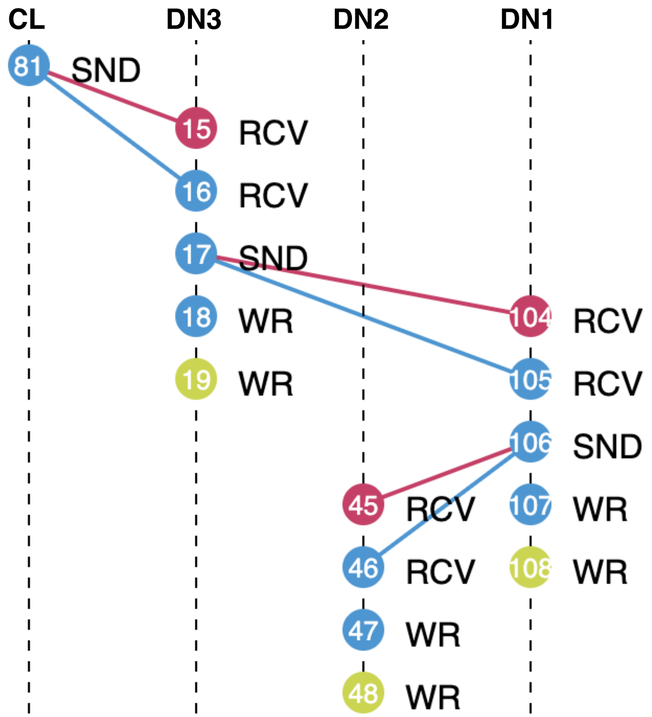

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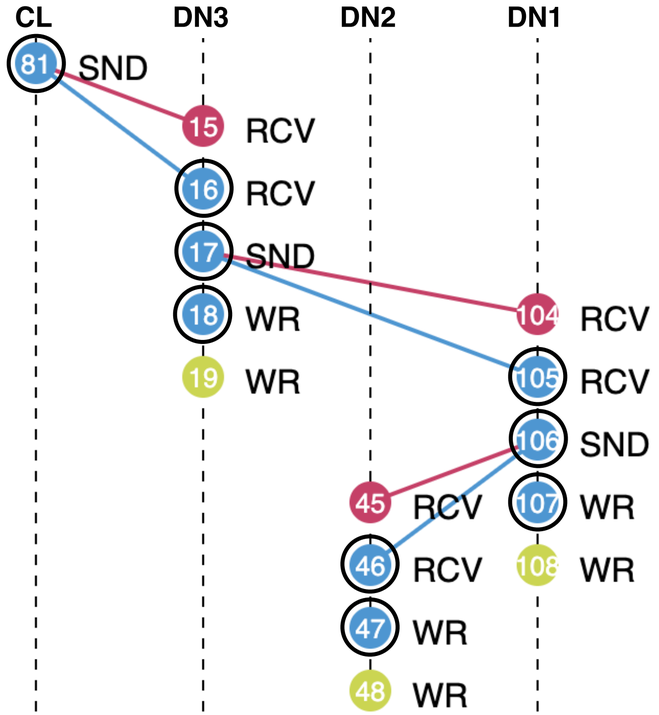

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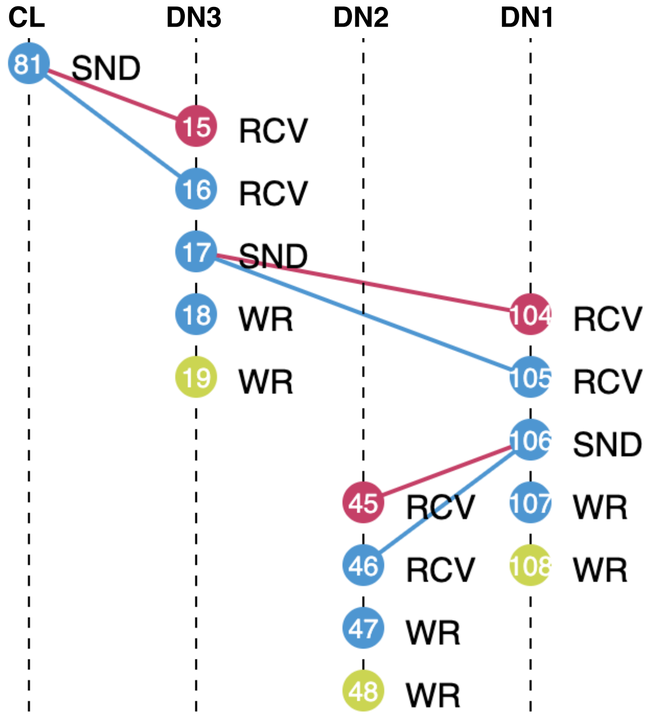

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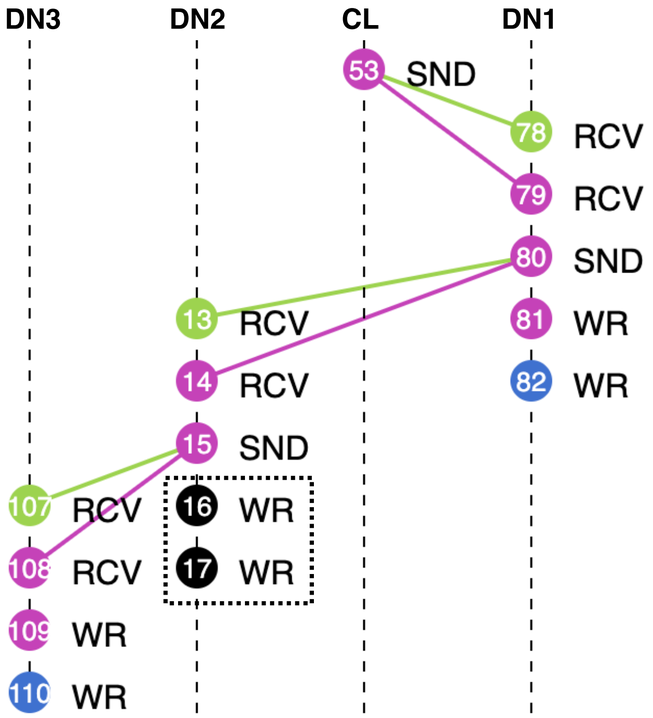

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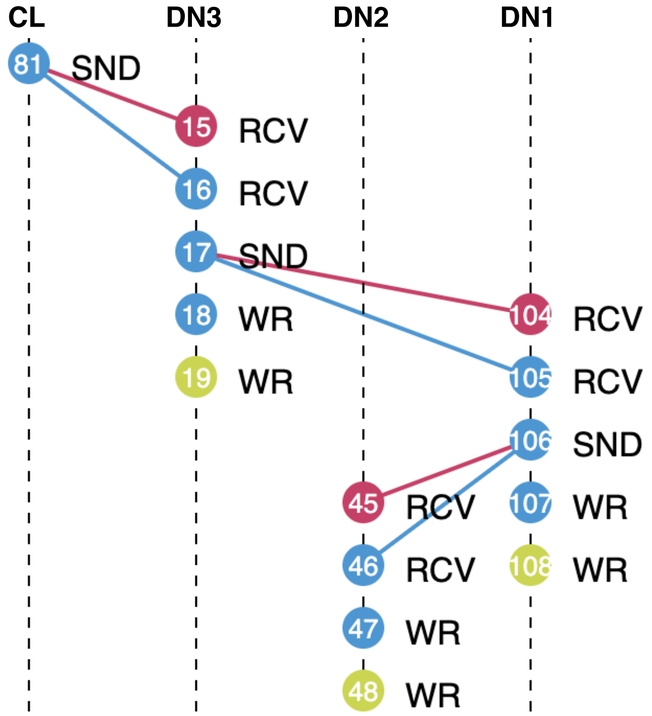

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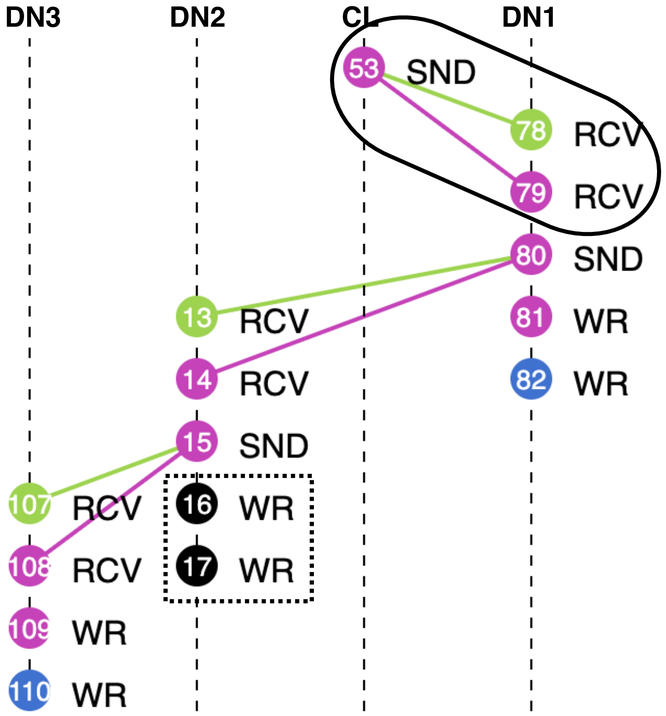

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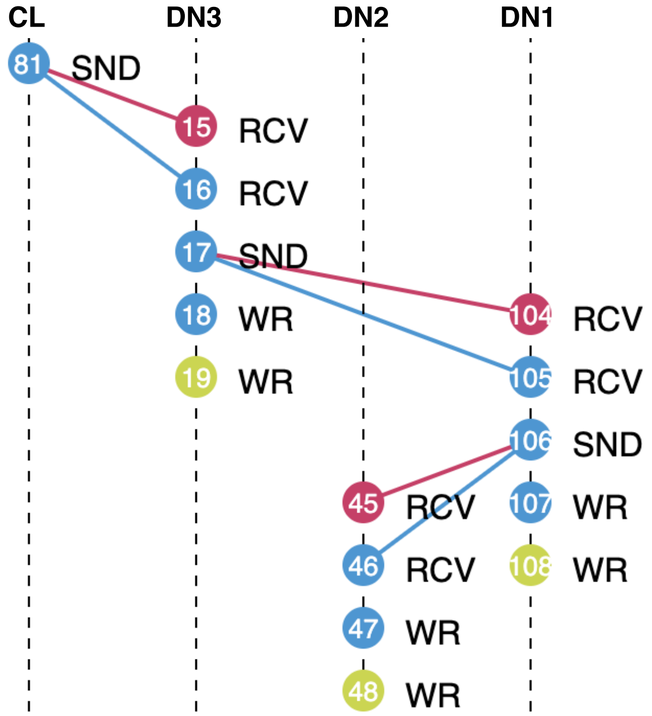

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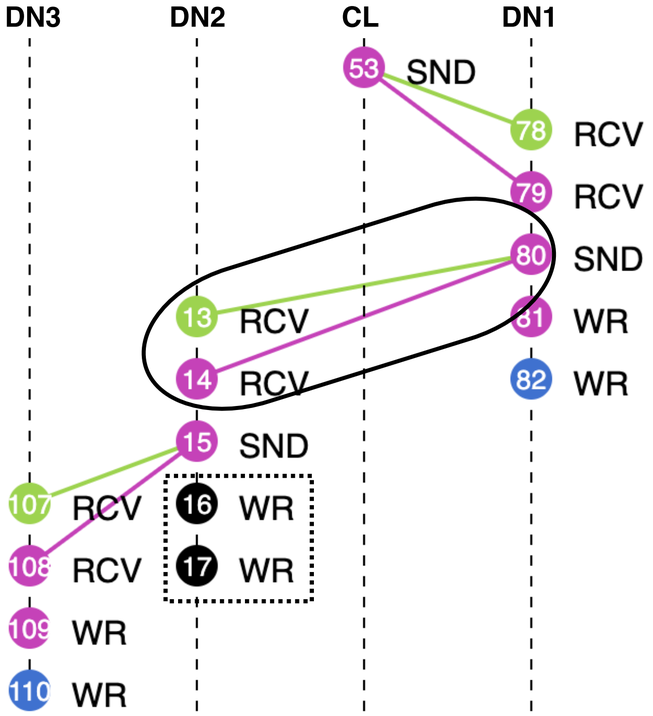

b) Storage corruption

Client sent the file to DN1 (53)
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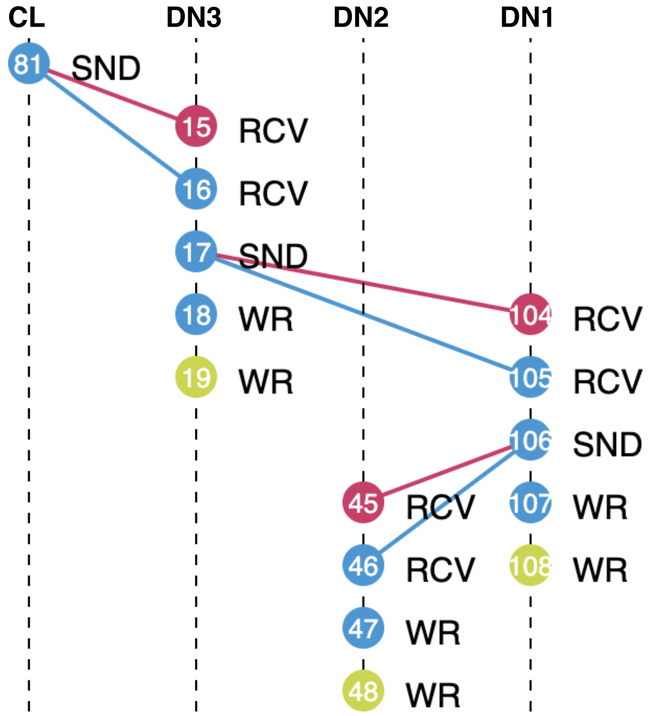
CAT Framework In Action

Storage and replication of a file in HDFS



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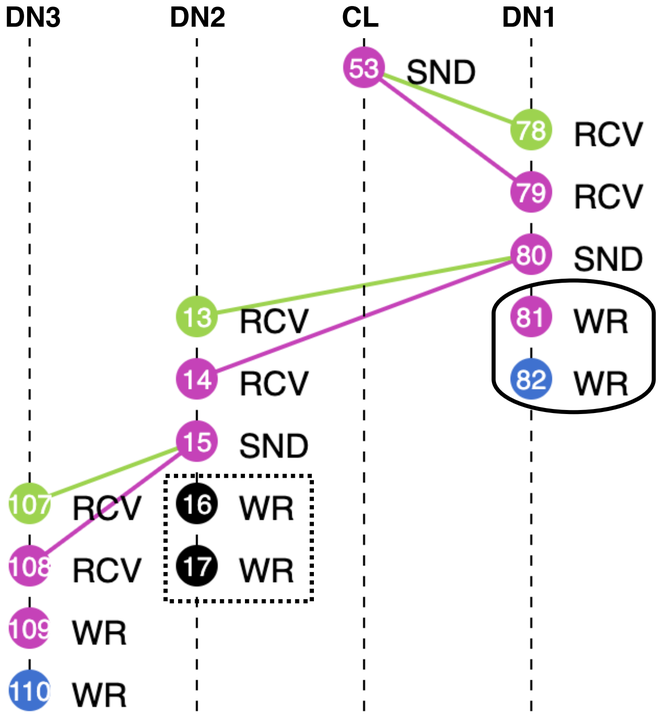

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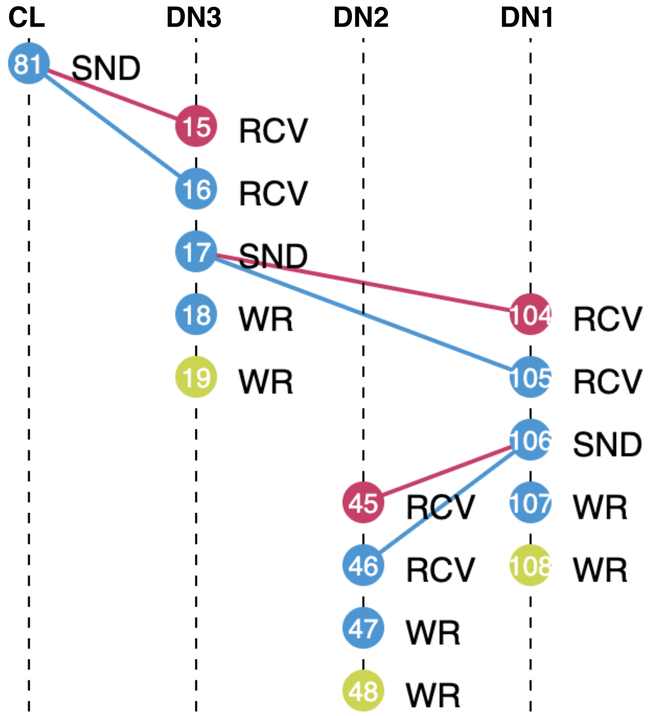

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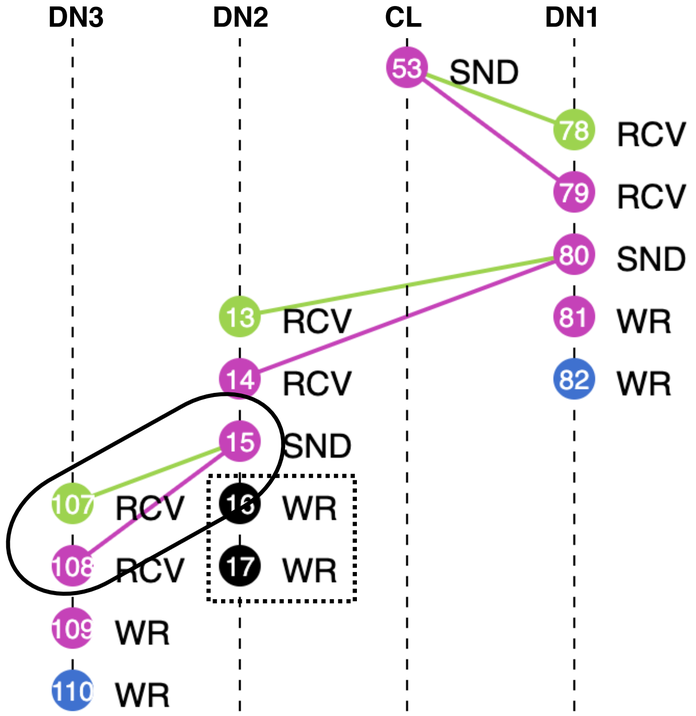

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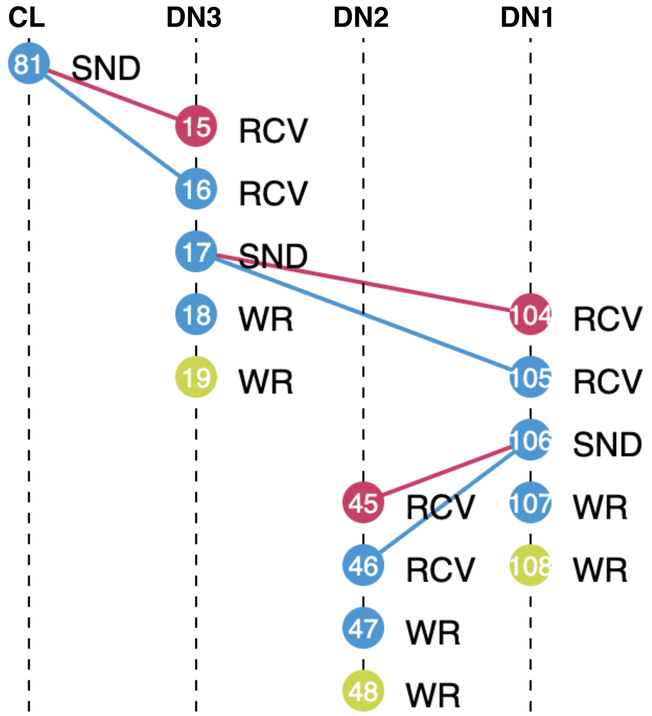

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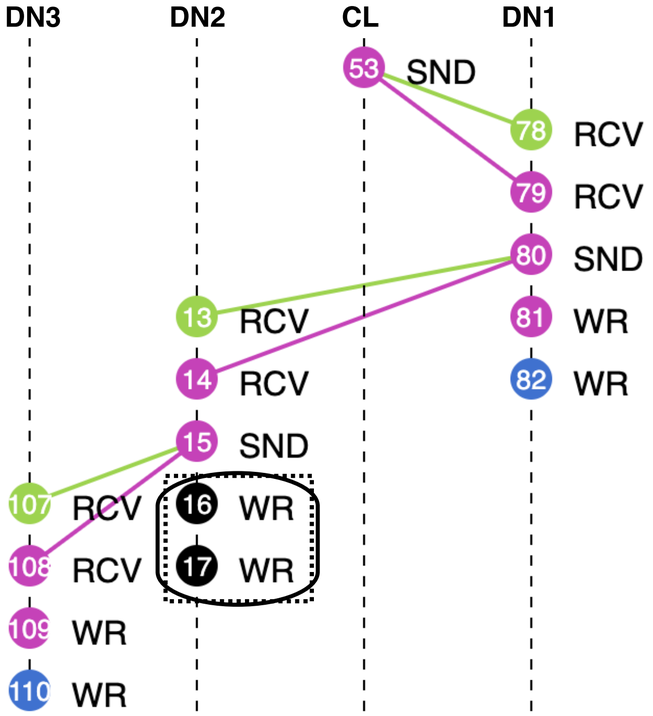

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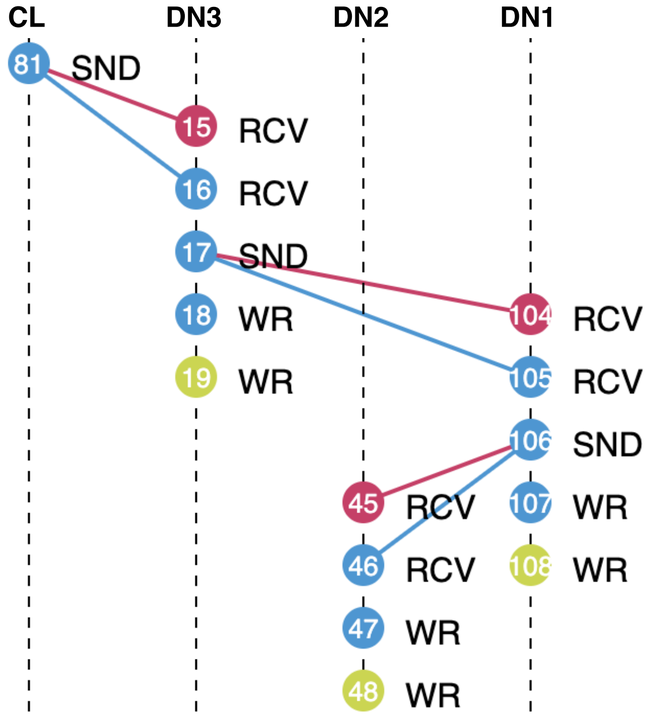
CAT Framework In Action

Storage and replication of a file in HDFS



a) Normal execution

Client sent the file to DN3 (81)
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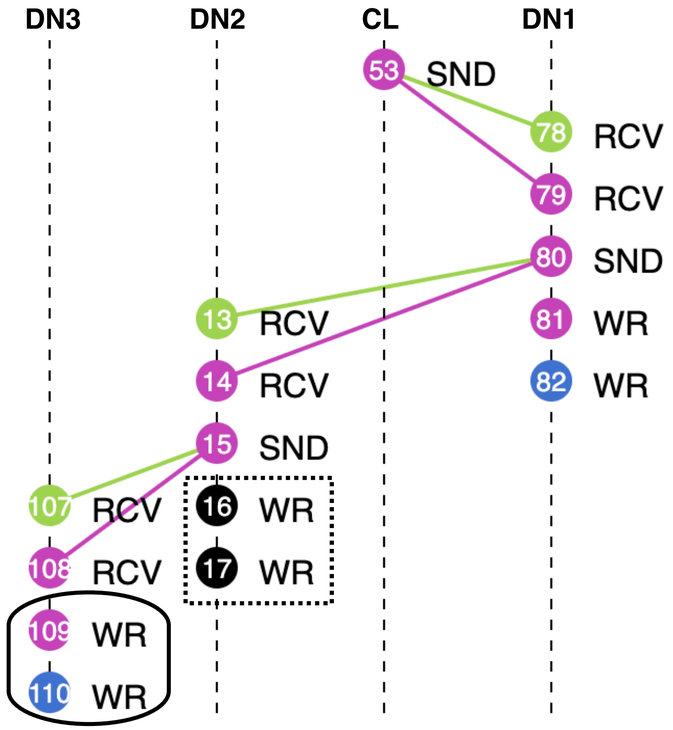

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CAT Framework In Action

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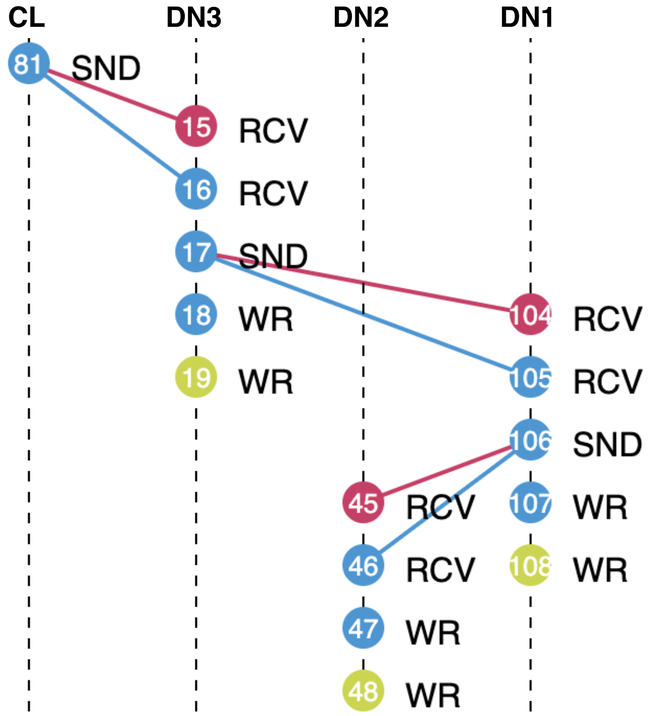

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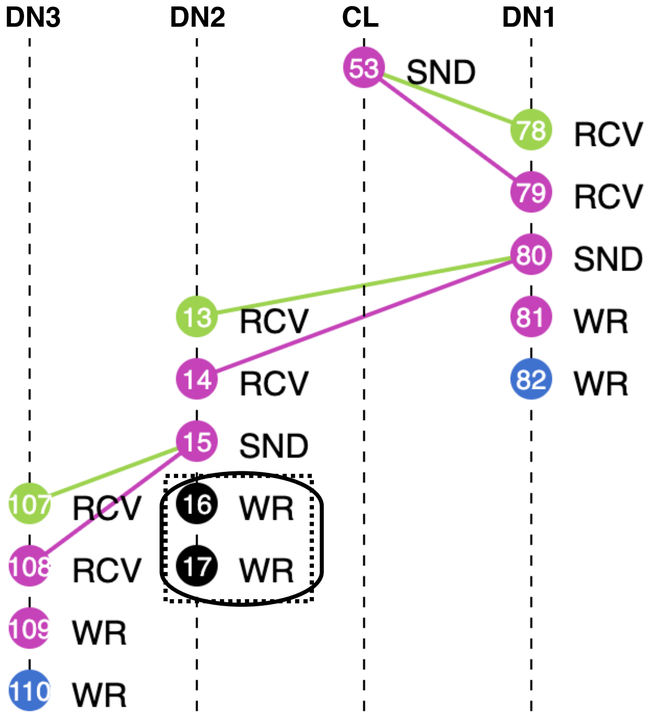

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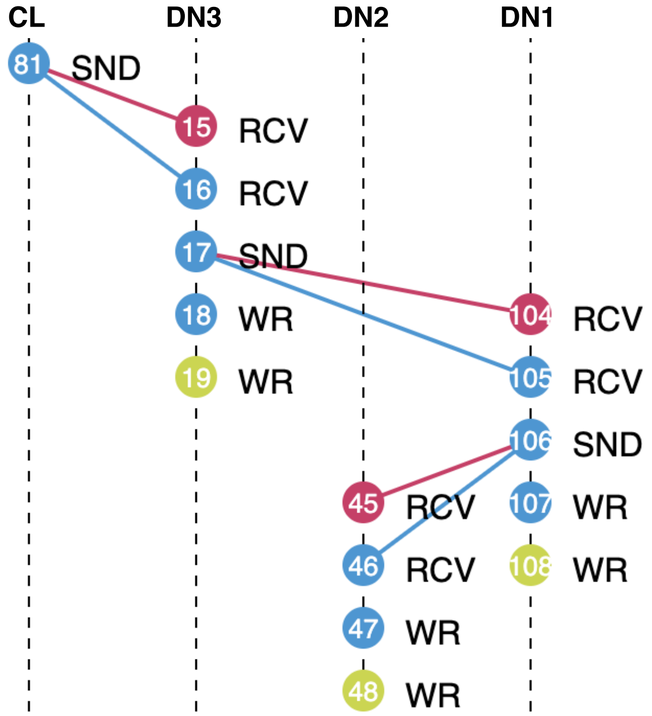

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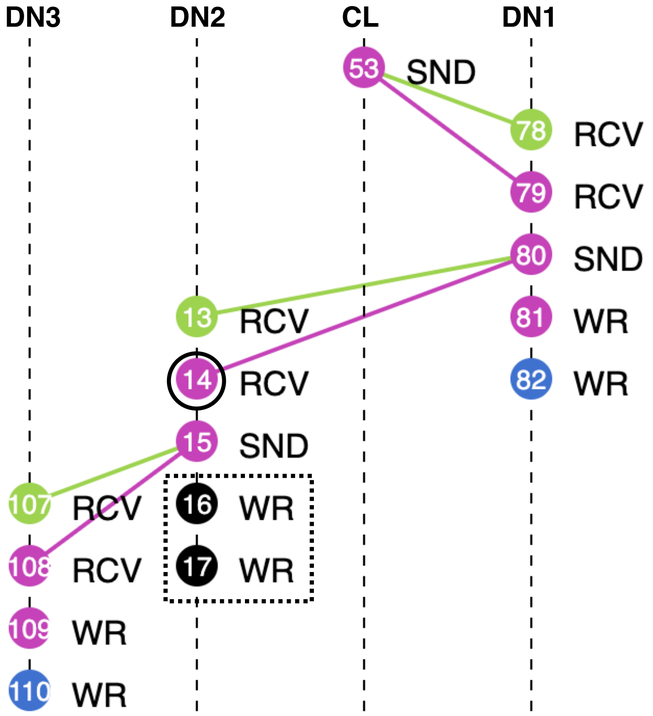

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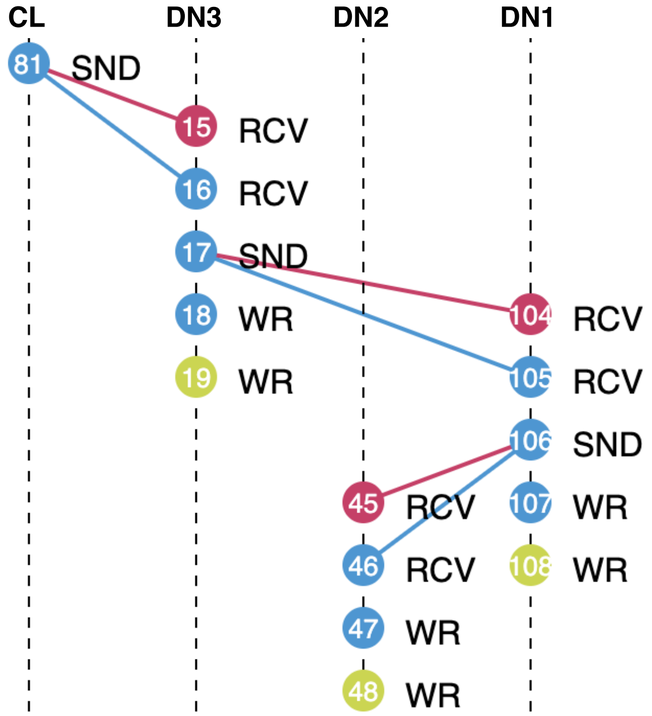

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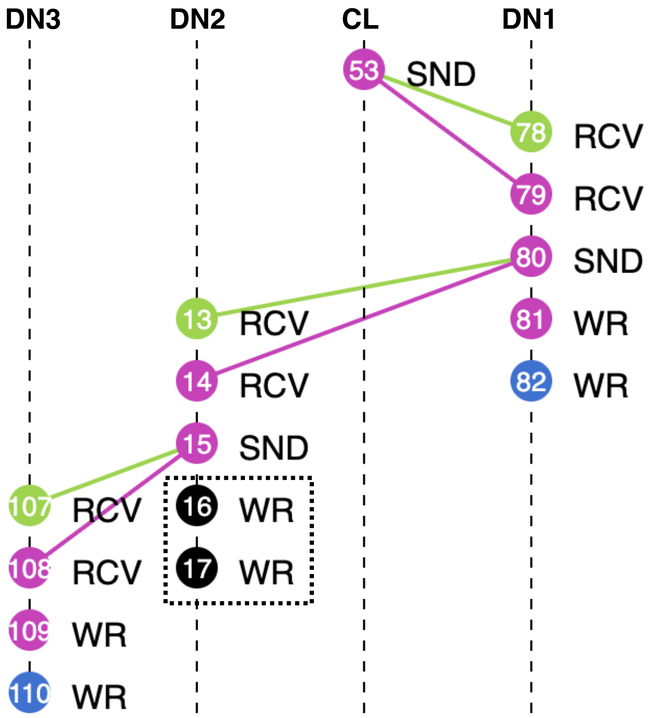

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CaT Framework In Action

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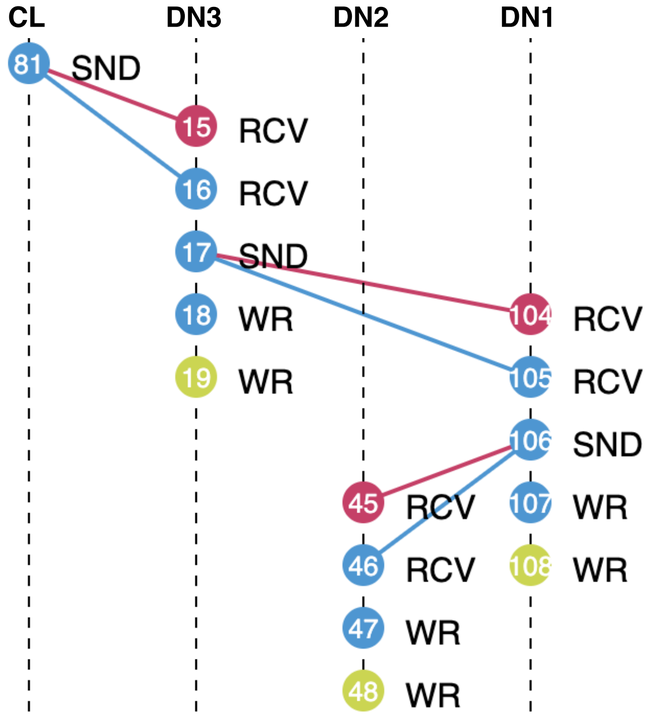

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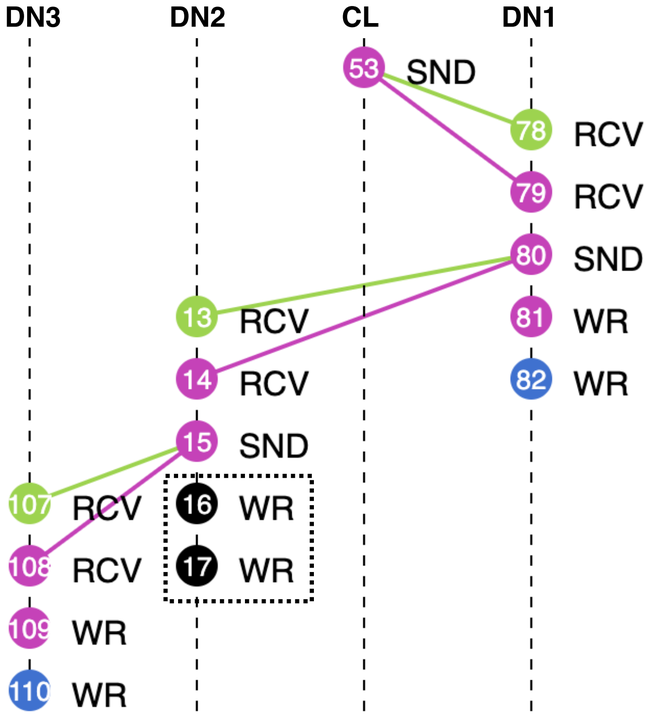

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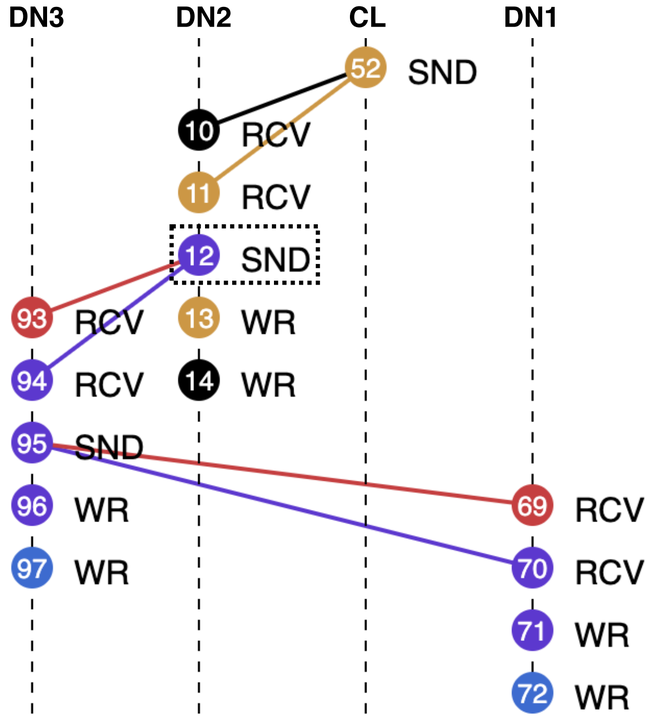

c) Network corruption

Client sent the file to DN2 (52)
DN2 sent it to DN3 (12) and persisted it in disk (13 & 14)
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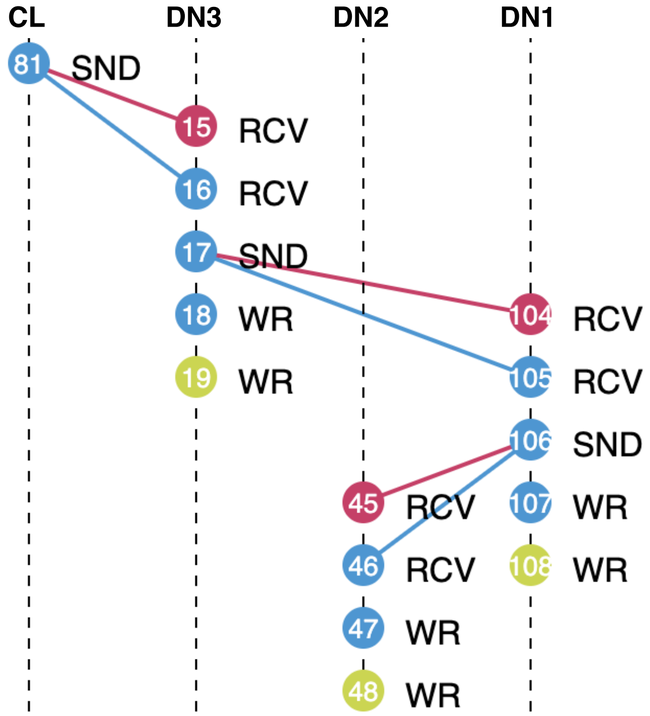
CaT Framework In Action

Storage and replication of a file in HDFS



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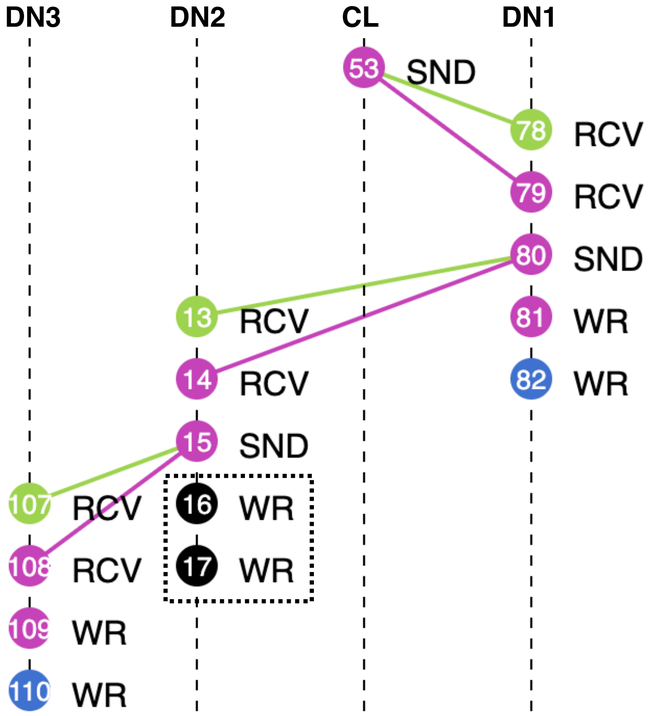

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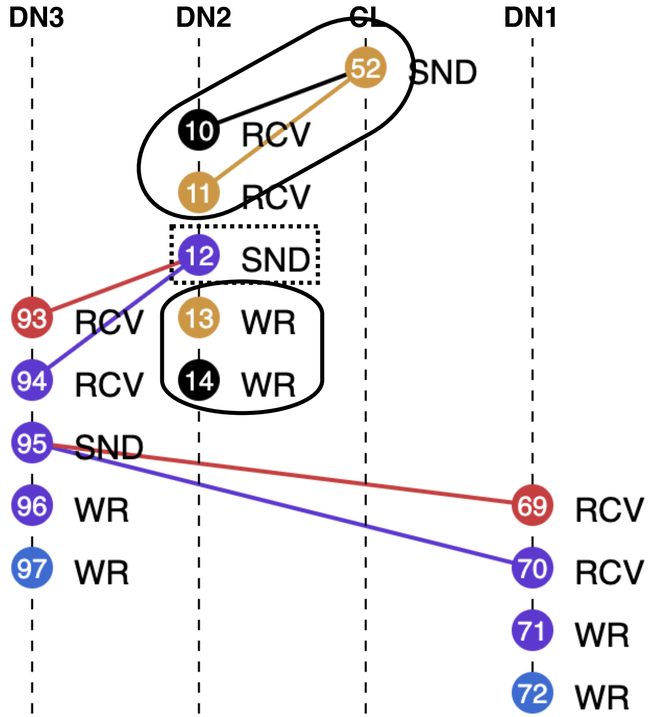

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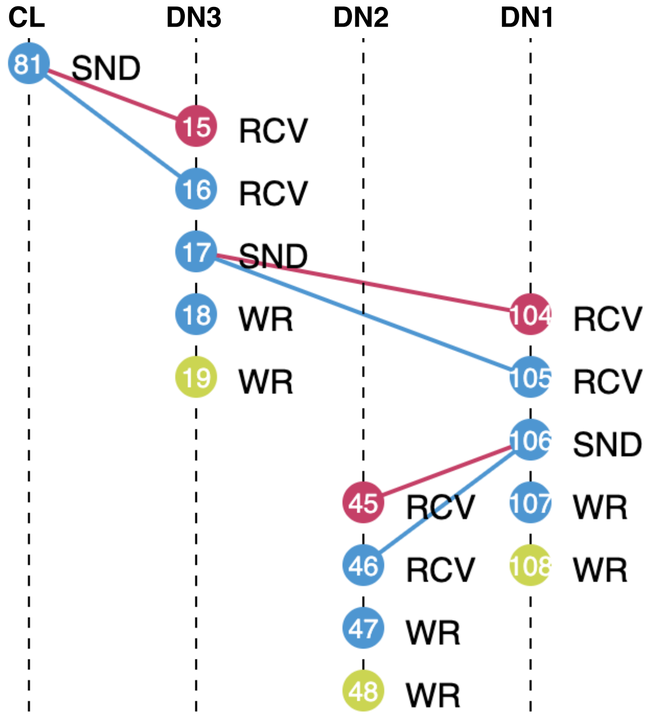

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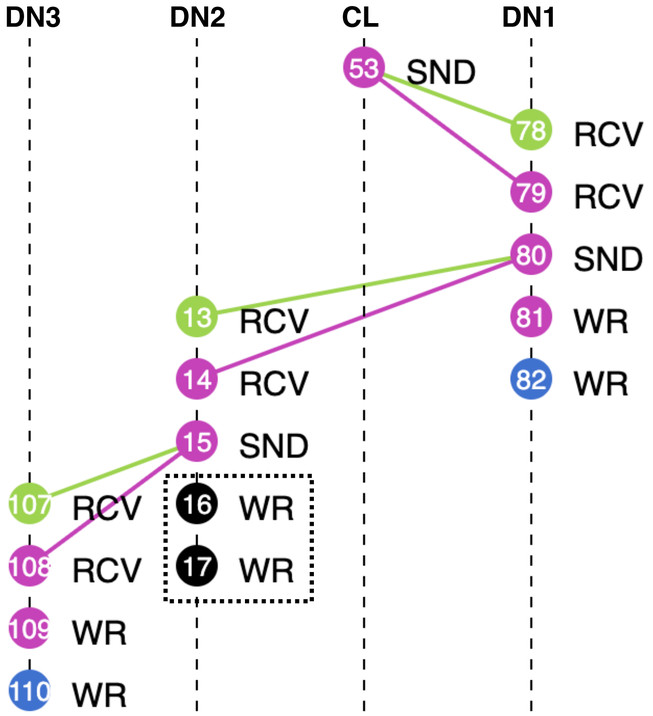

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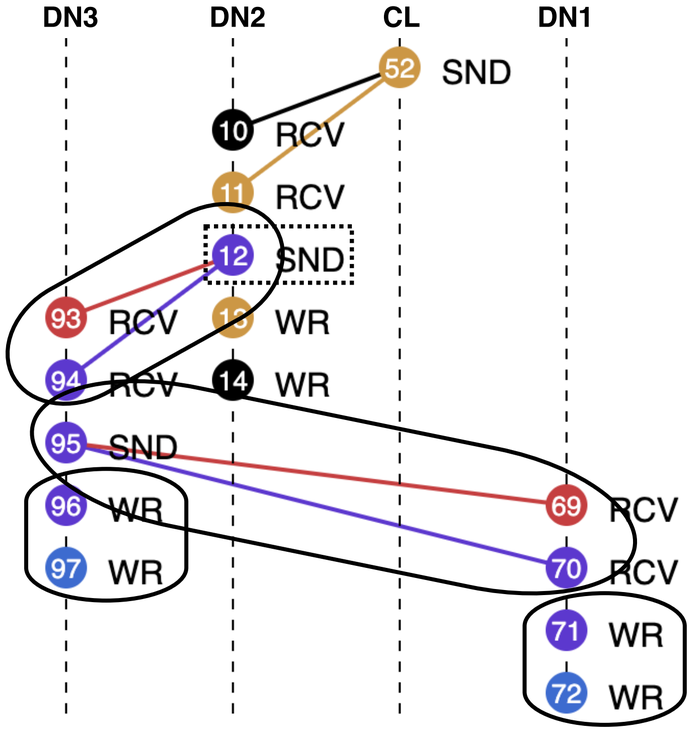

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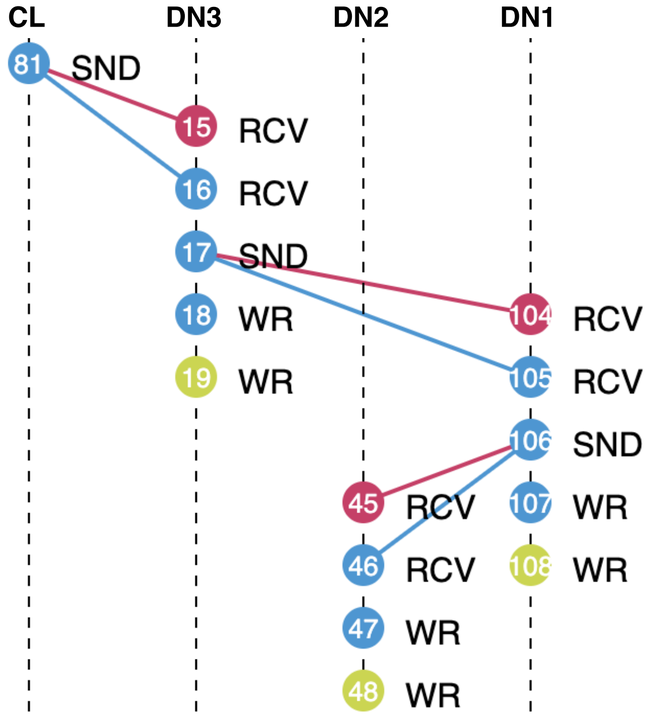

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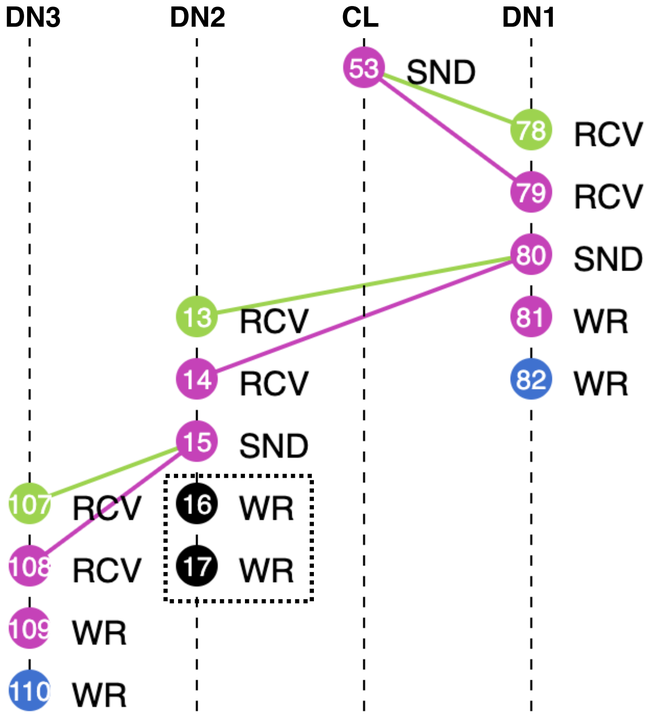

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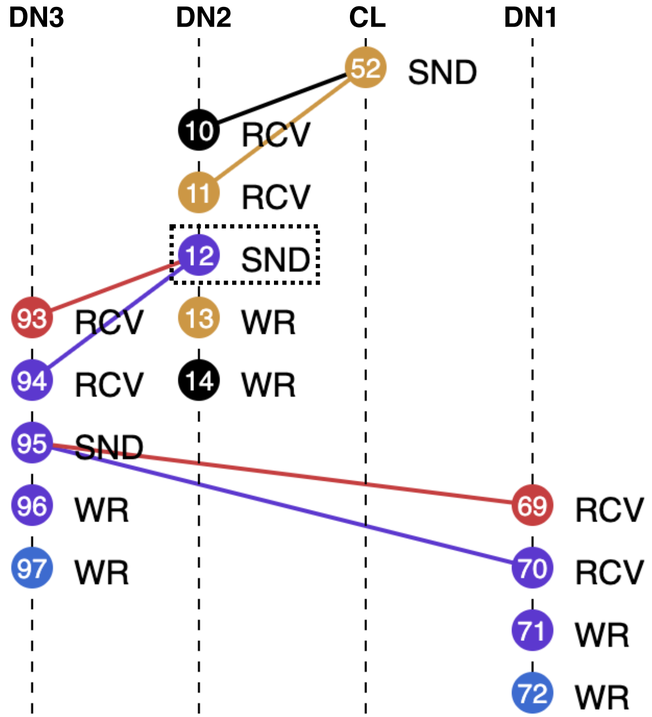

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Conclusion

- A novel framework for collecting and analyzing I/O requests of distributed systems
  - Open-source prototype: https://github.com/dsrhaslab/cat
- Content-aware tracing and analysis strategy that correlates the context and content of requests to better understand the data flow of systems
- Depending on the target workload, it is possible to capture most of the I/O requests while incurring negligible performance overhead
- CAT's content-aware approach can improve the analysis of distributed systems by pinpointing their data flows and I/O access patterns

CaT
Content-aware Tracing and Analysis for Distributed Systems

in 22nd International Middleware Conference (Middleware '21)

CaT's prototype: https://github.com/dsrhaslab/cat

CaT's documentation: https://github.com/dsrhaslab/cat/wiki

Universidade do Minho

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