

The History of Logging @ Facebook (Abridged)

KC Braunschweig

Production Engineer

Who Are You?

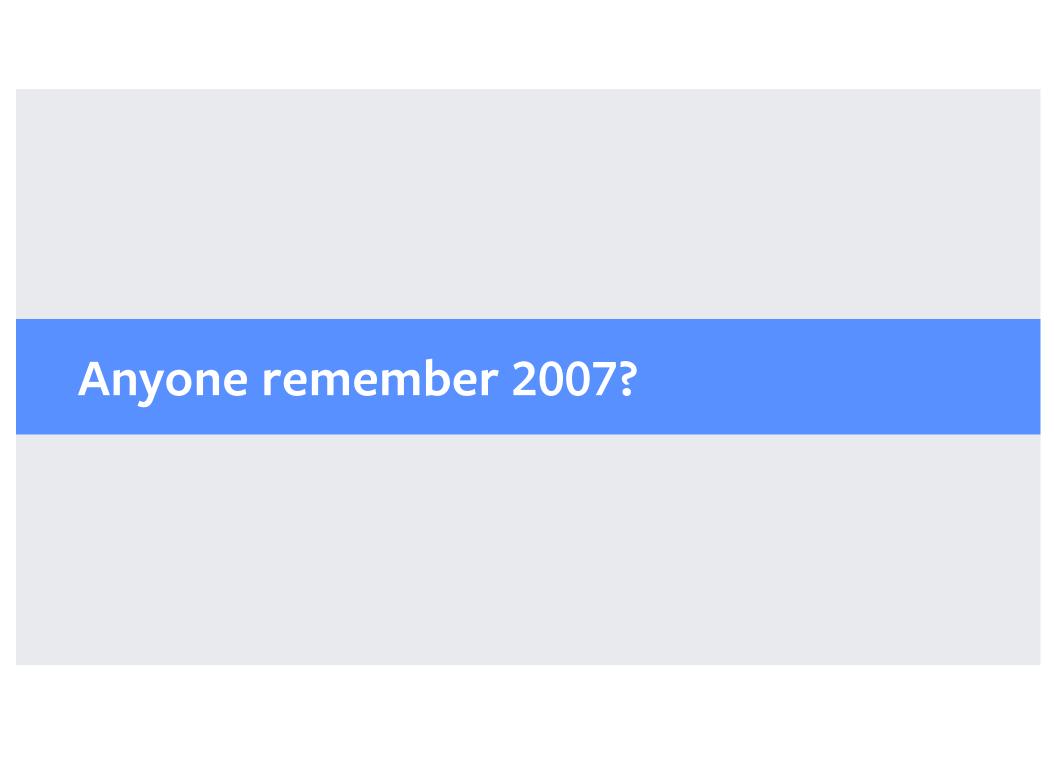
- Facebook Production Engineer since 2012
 - OS & Config Management (Chef) 2012-2015
 - Scribe 2015-2018



#movefast

Reference links at the end of the slides





Anyone remember 2007?

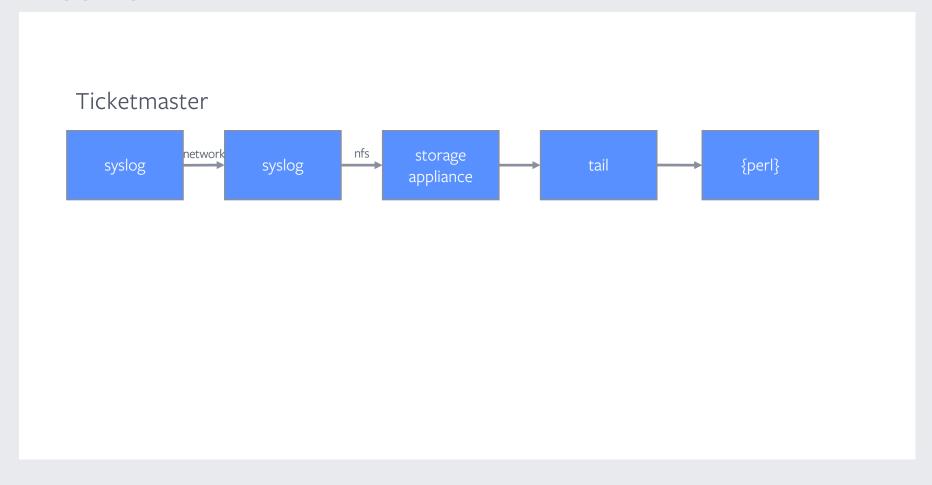
Who cares about logging anyway?

- Hannah Montana tour goes on sale
- Ticketmaster LLC v. RMG Techs. Inc.



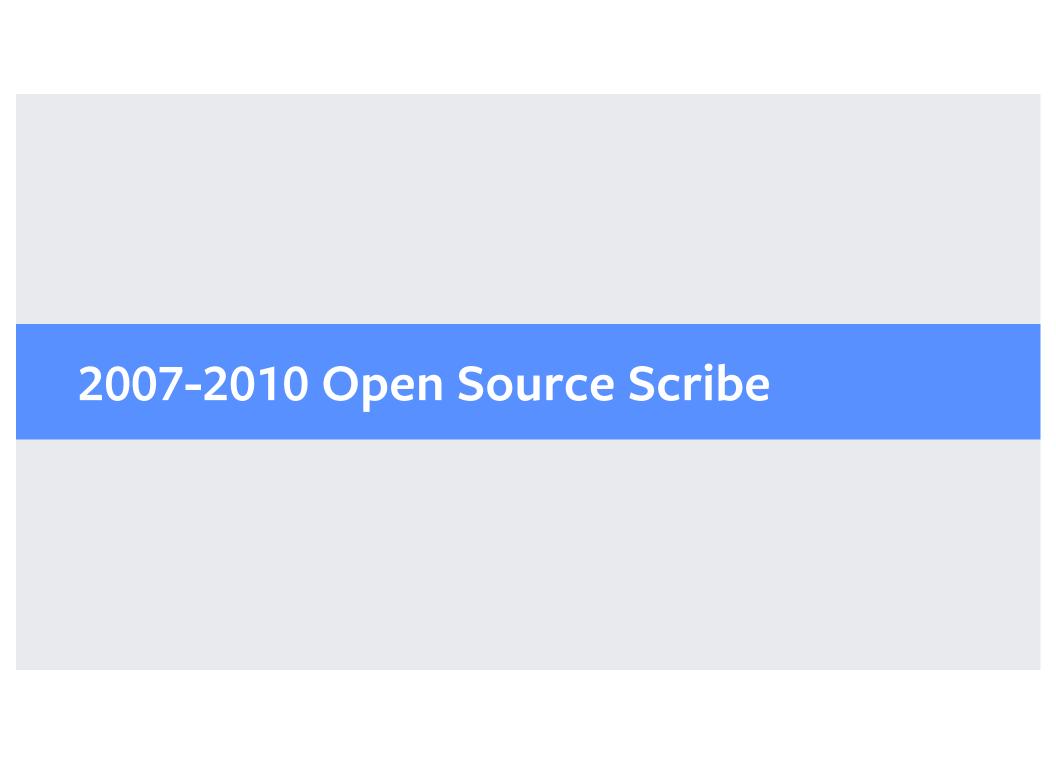
- Someone might try to abuse your app for their own gain
- You may have to defend your app in court
- Your logs might impact how you charge customers
 - Compliance requirements?

Logging at Ticketmaster in 2007



Agenda

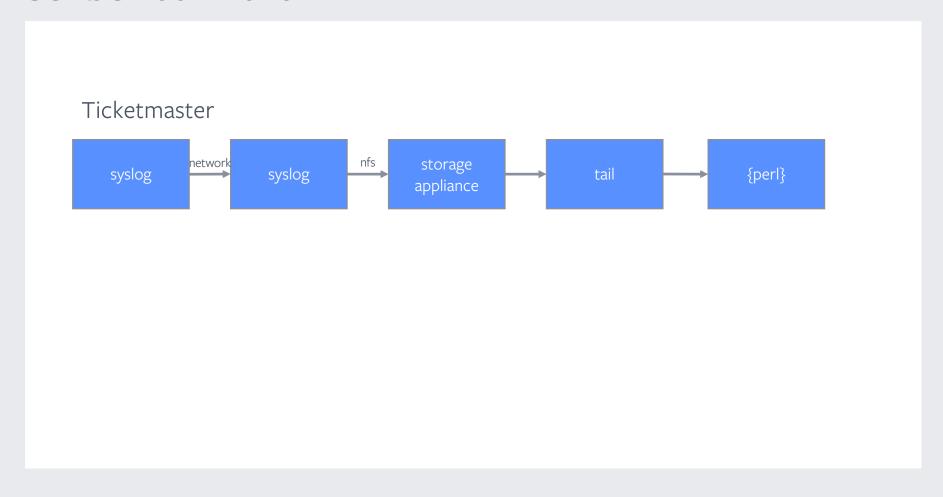
- The industry in 2007
- 2007-2010 Open Source Scribe
- 2010-2015 Scribe on HDFS
- 2015-2018 Scribe on LogDevice

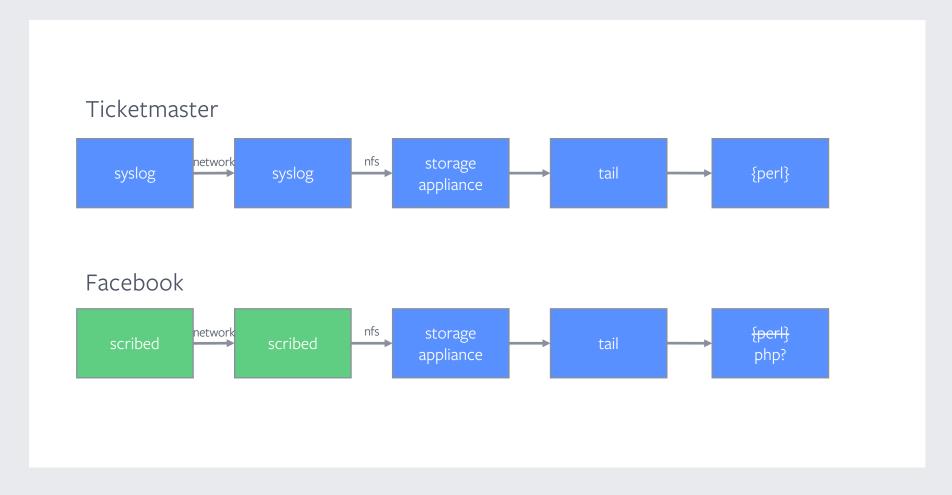


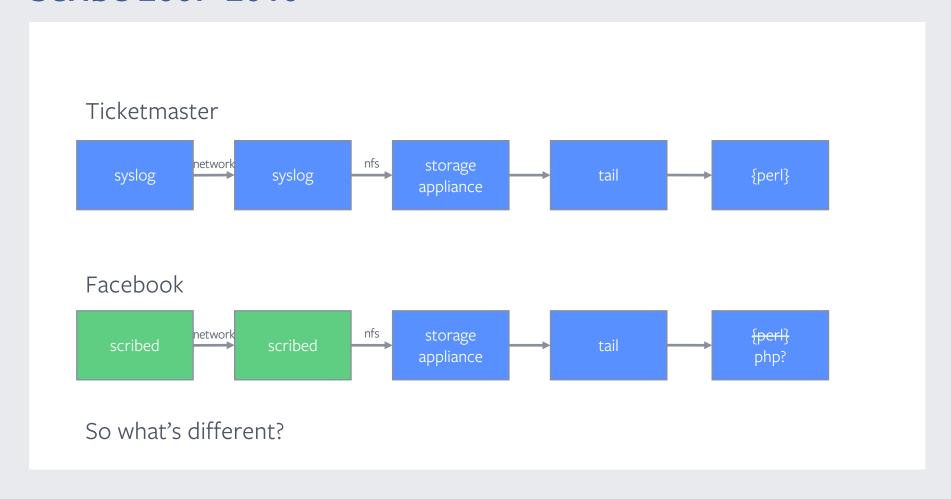


- Scribe open sourced 2008
 - now archived ⊗
- Scribe Tech Talk 2/27/2009
 - Robert Johnson & Anthony Giardullo





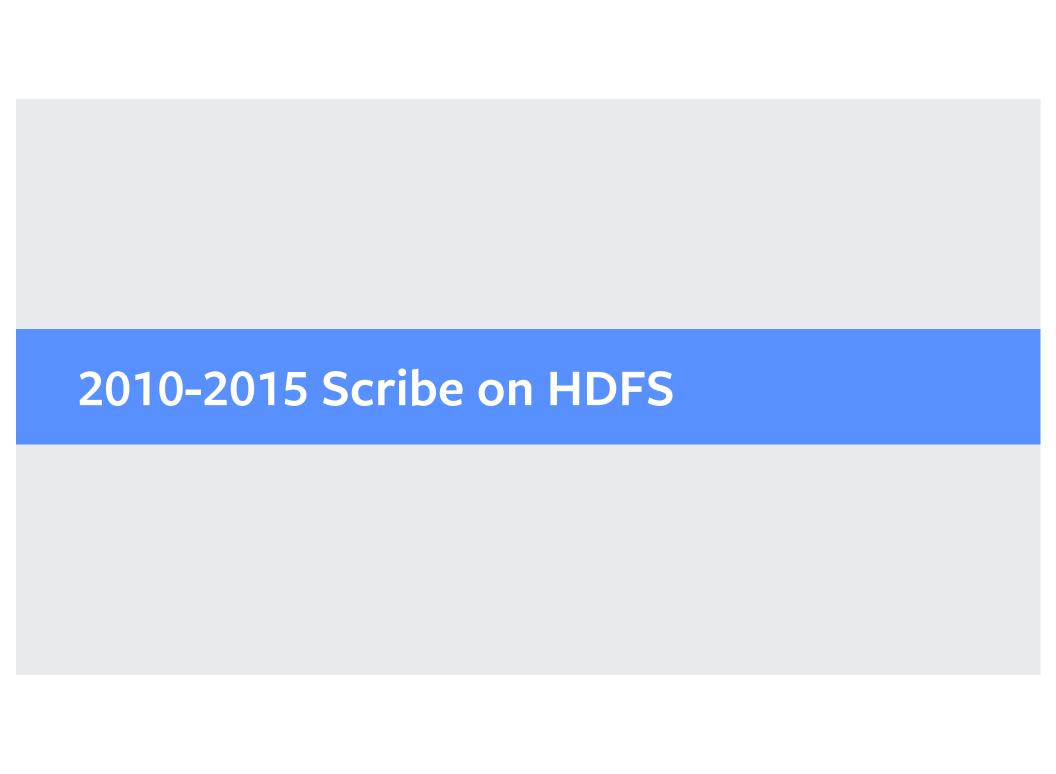


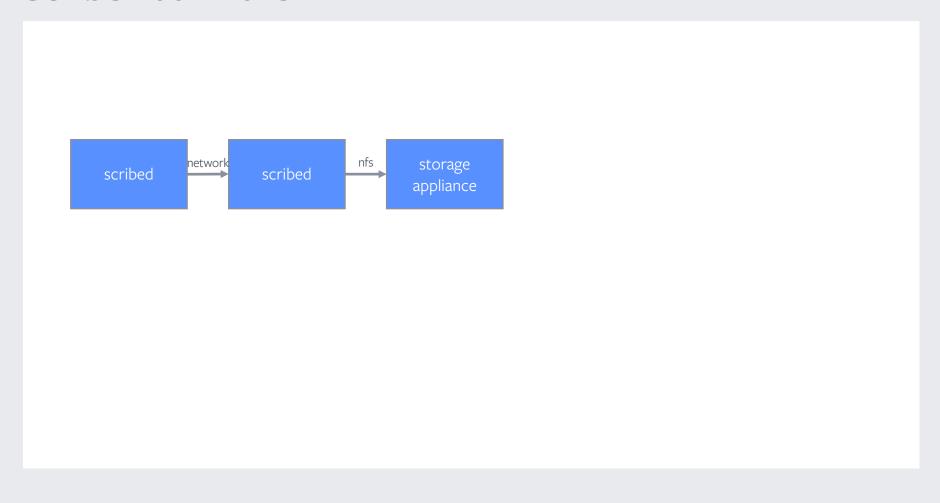


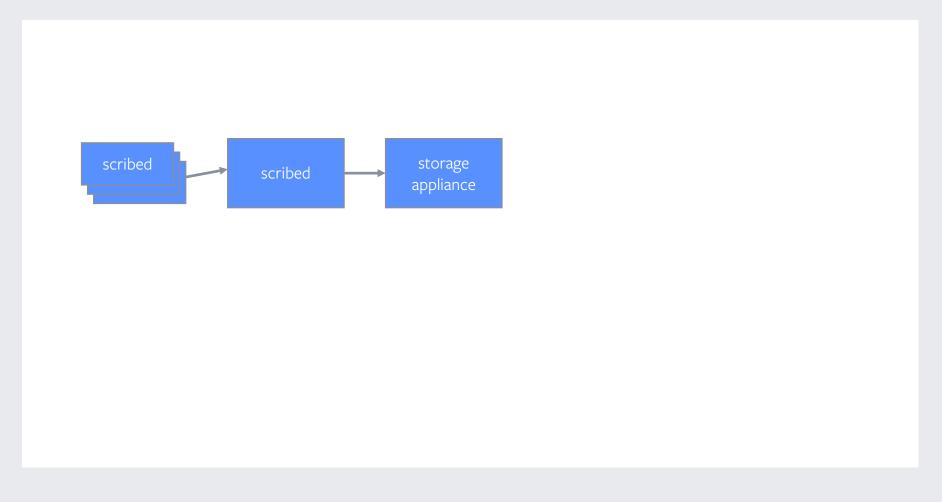
Data Model

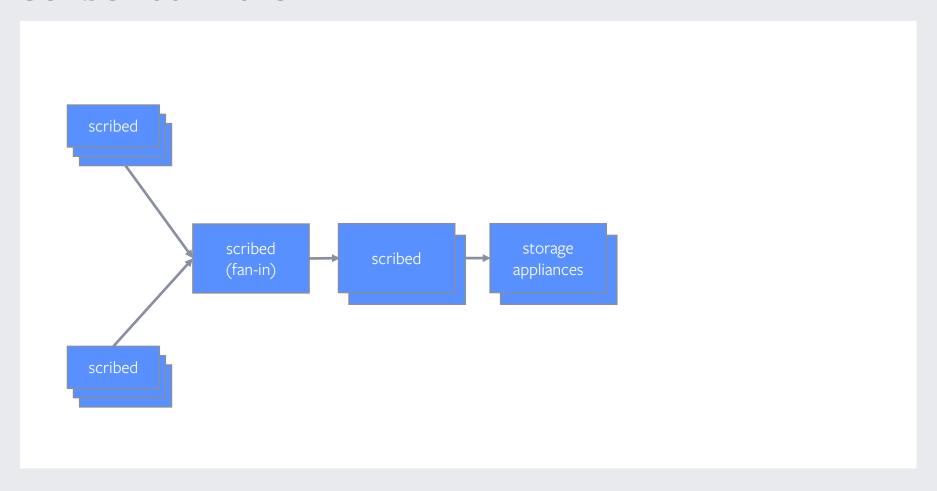
```
struct LogEntry
{
   1: string category,
   2: string message
}
service scribe extends fb303.FacebookService
{
   ResultCode Log(1: list<LogEntry> messages);
}
```

- Unix 101 Do one thing and do it well
- Implications
 - Scribe is a transport layer
 - Never inspect or manipulate the payload
 - A log is a series of newline terminated strings, but that doesn't matter









Meanwhile... "big data"

Hadoop – big data ecosystem 💡



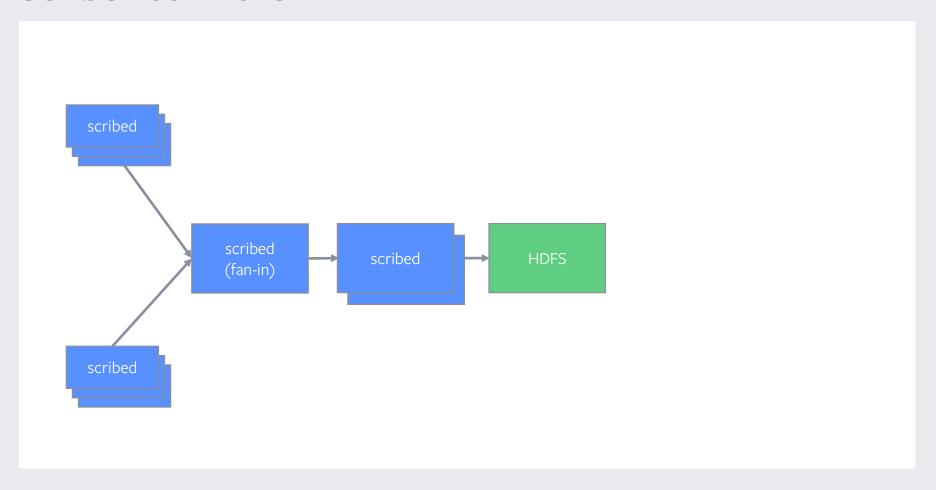


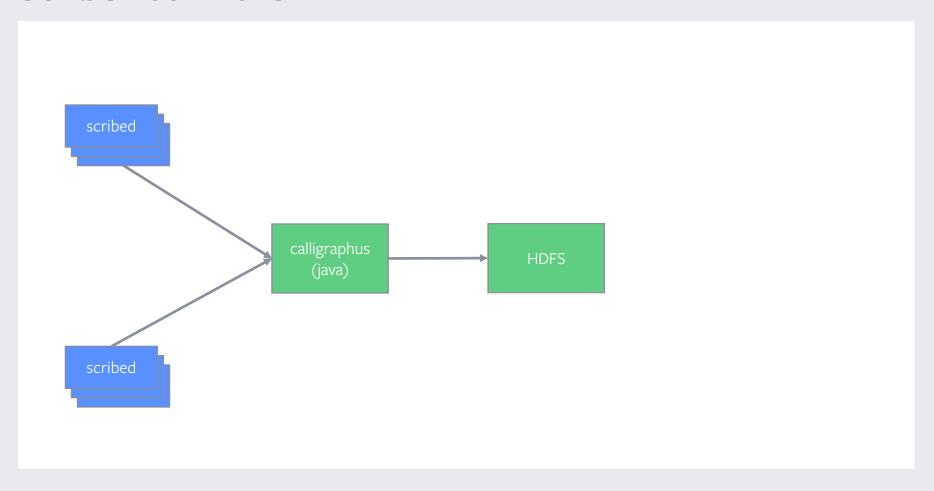
- HDFS hadoop distributed filesystem
 - Patterned after Google File System paper
- Hive SQL like queries on top of HDFS

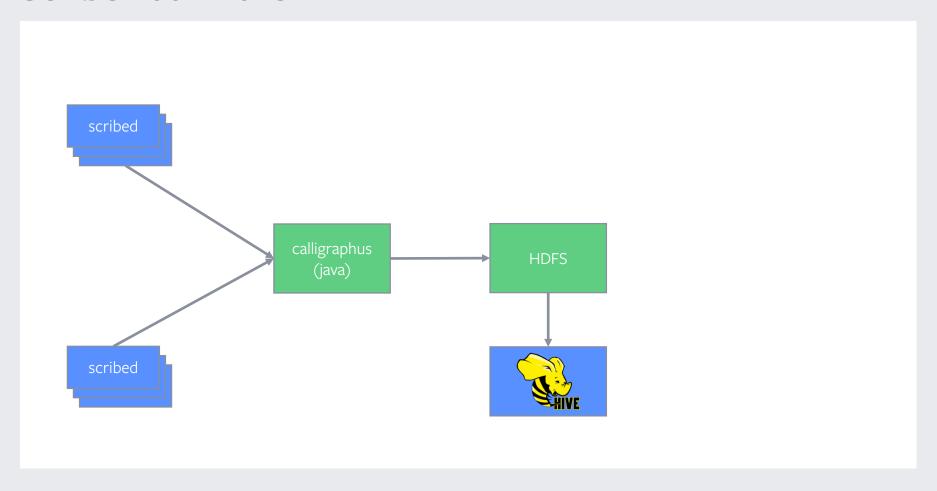


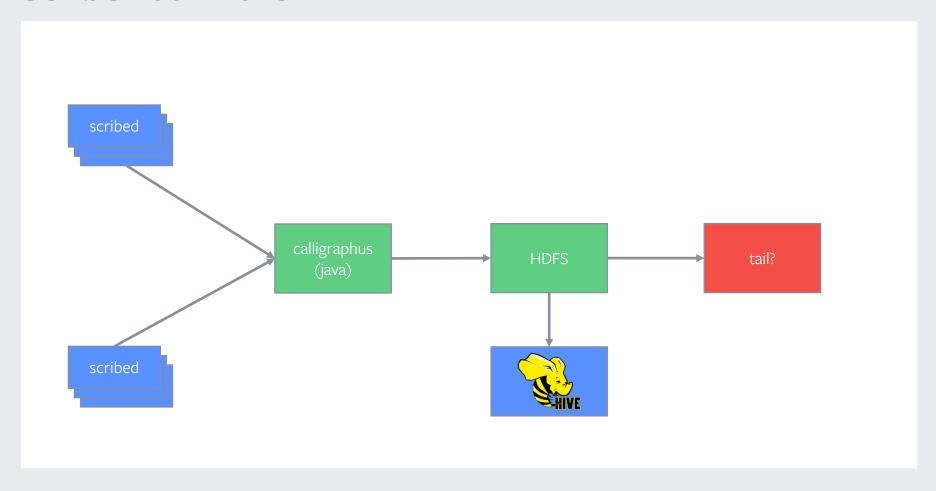


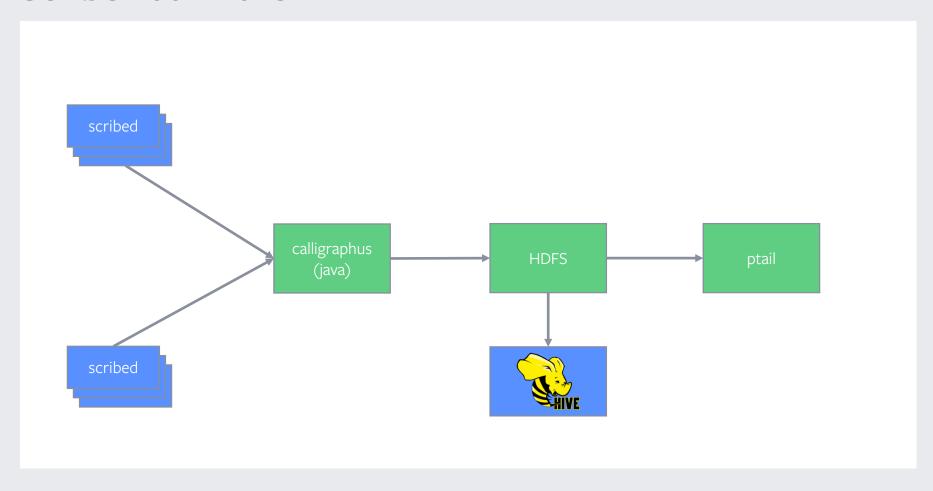


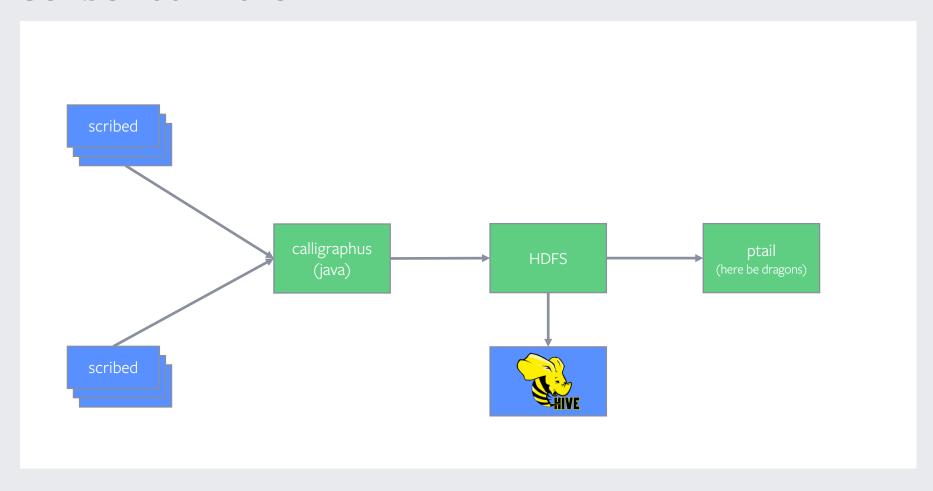


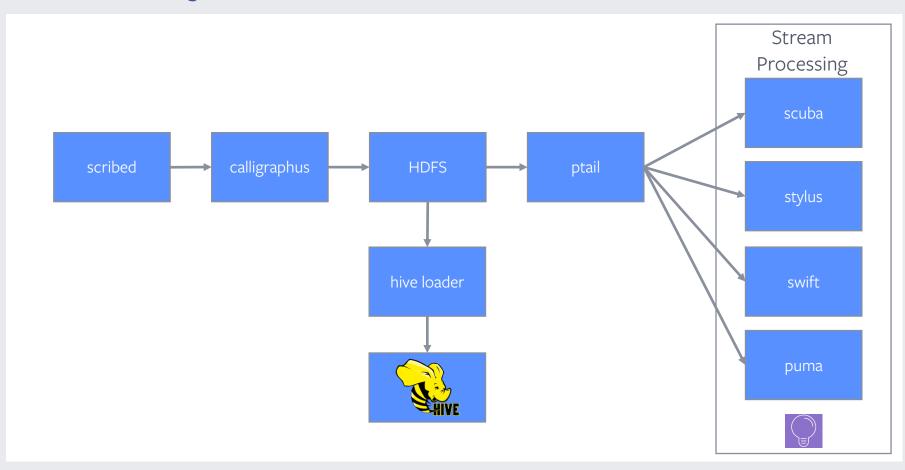


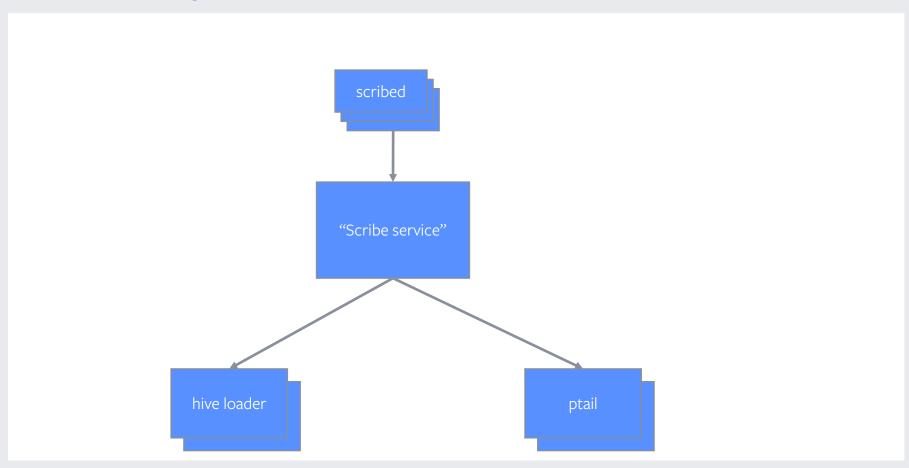


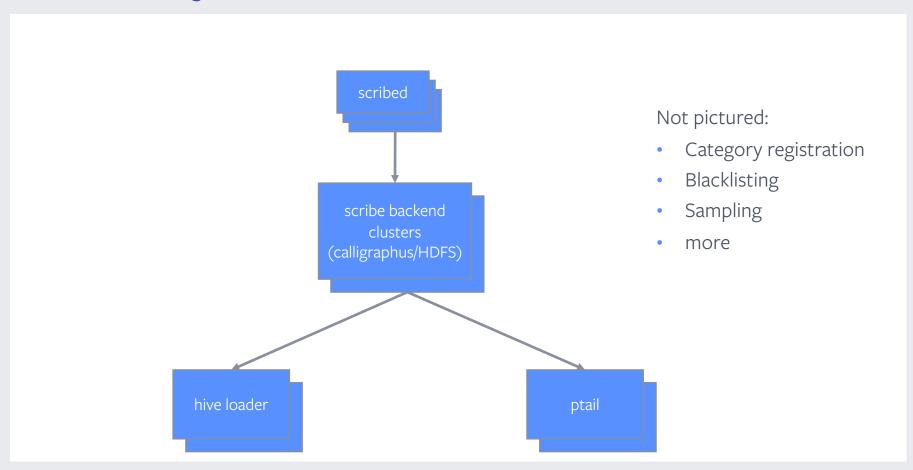


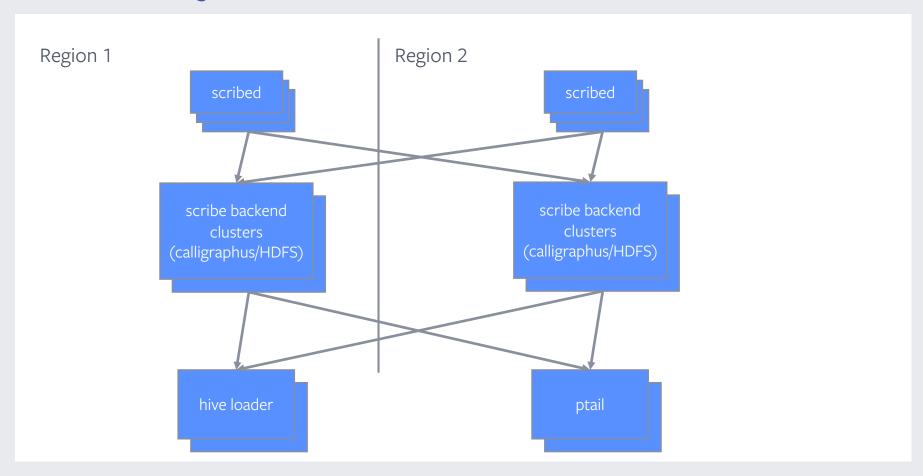


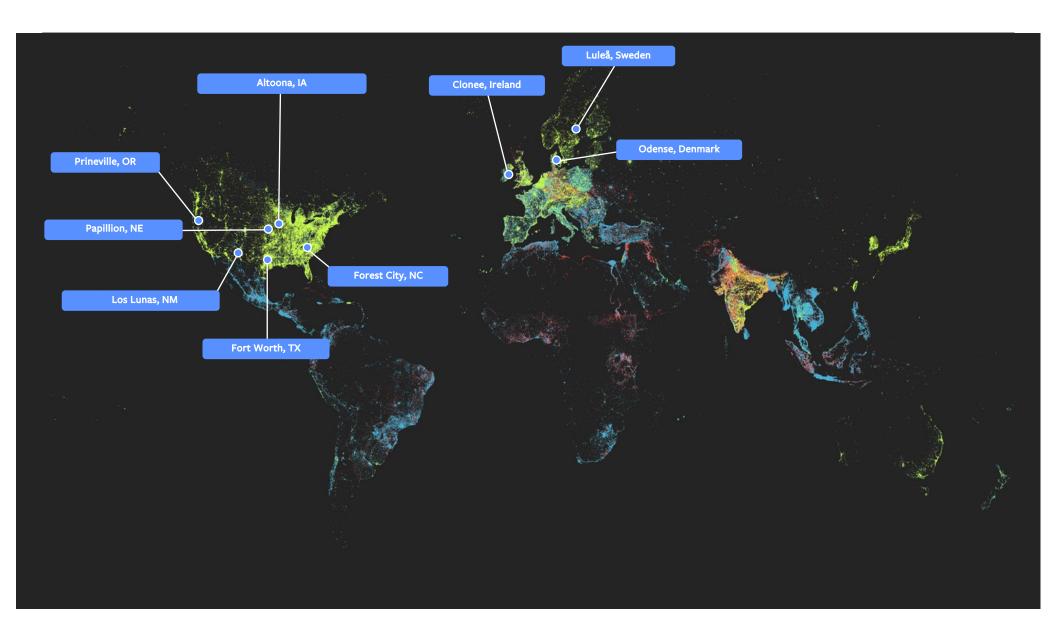












Hitting limitations



- Scribe writes hundreds of GB/s with thousands categories
- Scary growth rates -> we need to scale 10x
- Scaling metadata was harder than scaling writes
 - Mitigated with "scopes" but not solved
- Streaming was increasingly important
 - Built on ptail (a hack)
- HDFS support was being deprecated inside Facebook

Meanwhile...

Enter LogDevice



- Logdevice
 - Started early 2013
 - Open sourced 2018
- HDFS is a distributed filesystem we used to store logs
- LogDevice is a distributed log system

Meanwhile...

In LogDevice and the industry



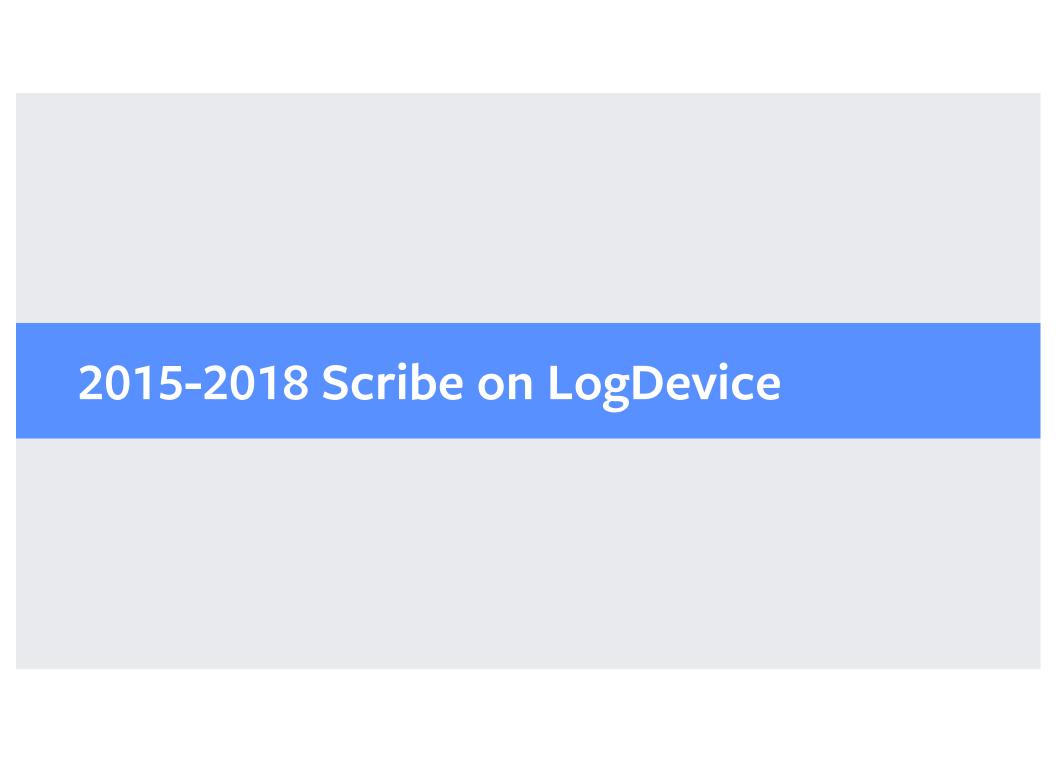
- Logs get an explicit definition
 - A log is a series of newline terminated strings
 - A log is a record-oriented, append-only, trimmable stream
 - The Log: What every software engineer should know about real-time data's unifying abstraction (Jay Kreps)
 - No problem for Scribe's data model!

Meanwhile...

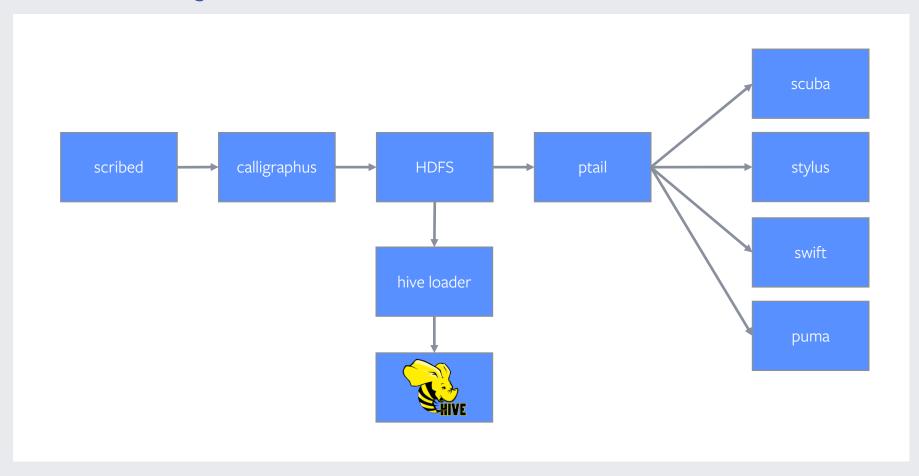
Enter LogDevice

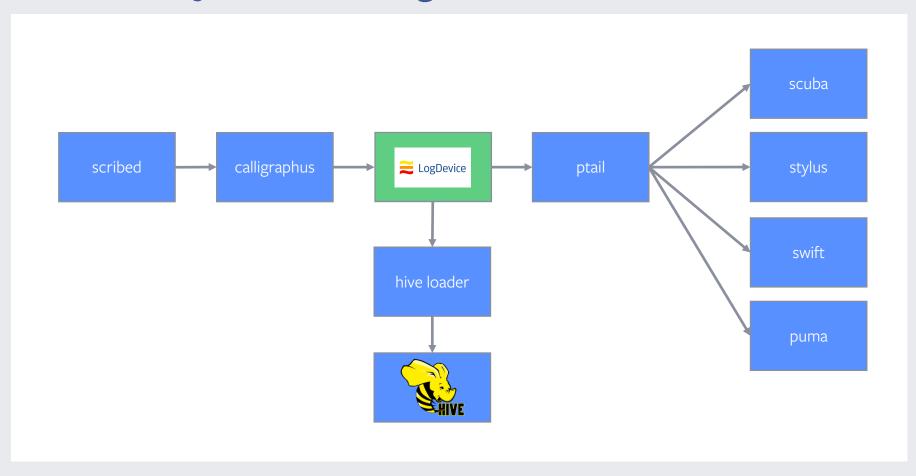


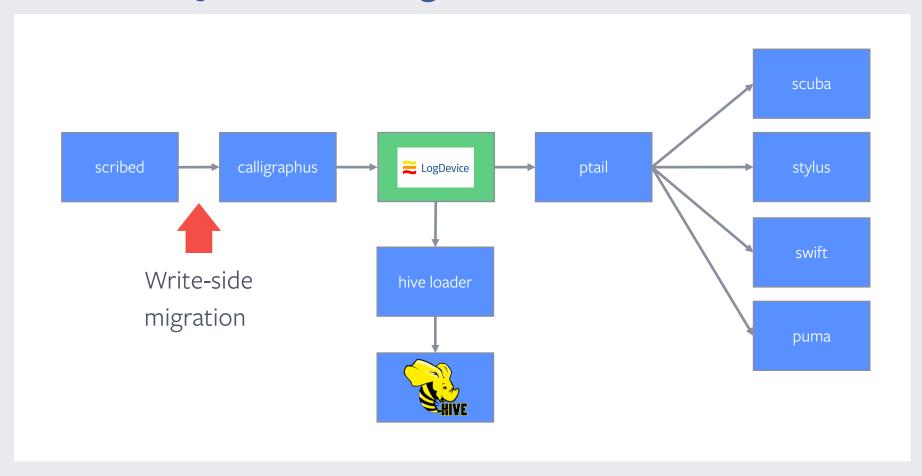
- Streaming is first class
- Built in trimming (by time or size)
- Built in transport encryption
- Supported by our own dev team, dedicated to our use case
- Distributed metadata (no Namenodes)

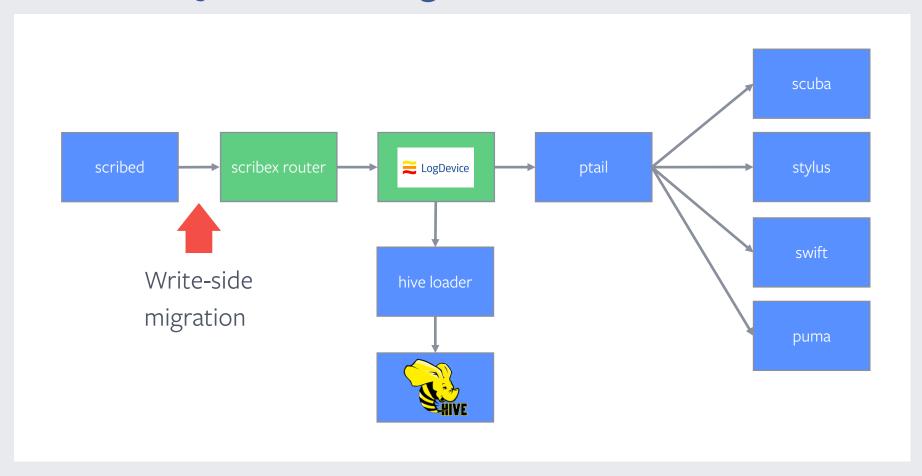


Scribe Ecosystem with HDFS







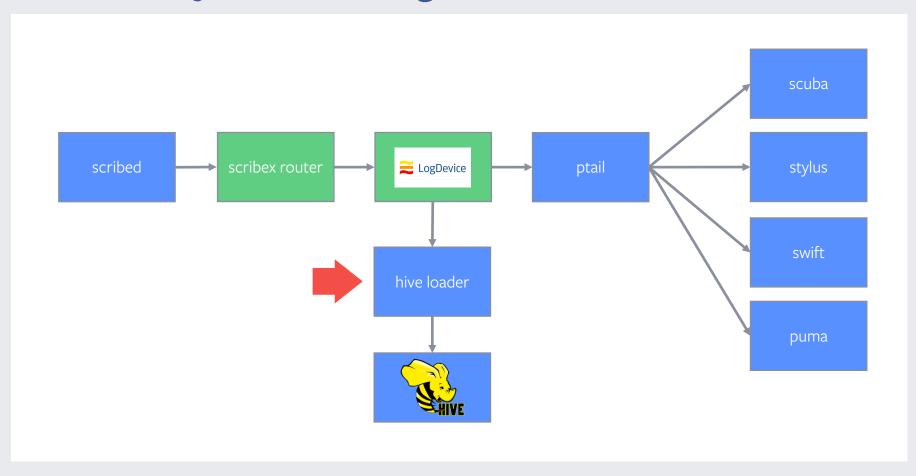


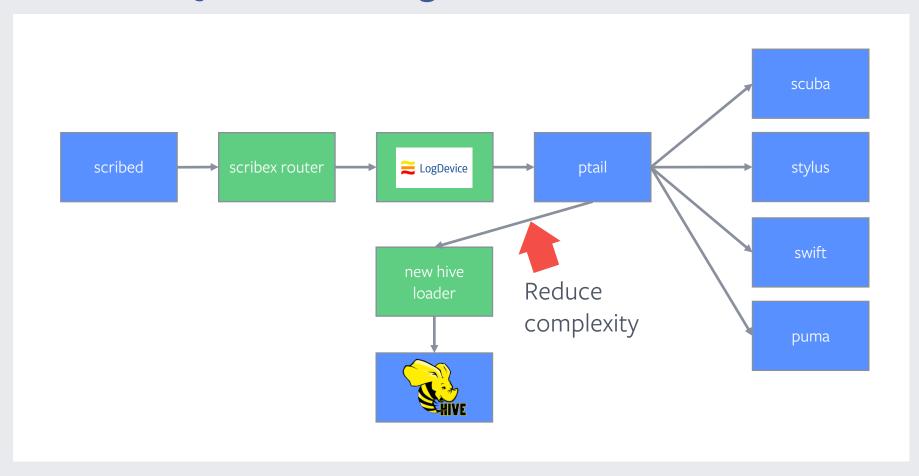
Migration Plan

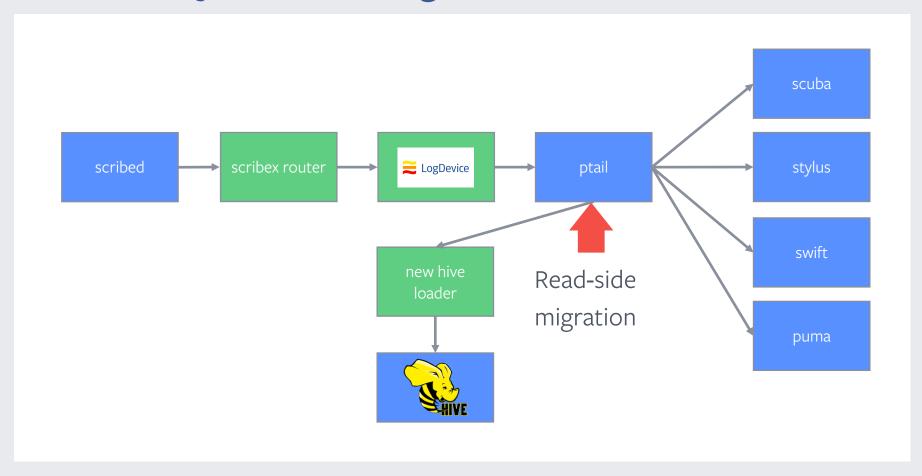
- Write-side constraints
 - Thrift
 - FB service discovery & routing
 - Scopes used to scale metadata

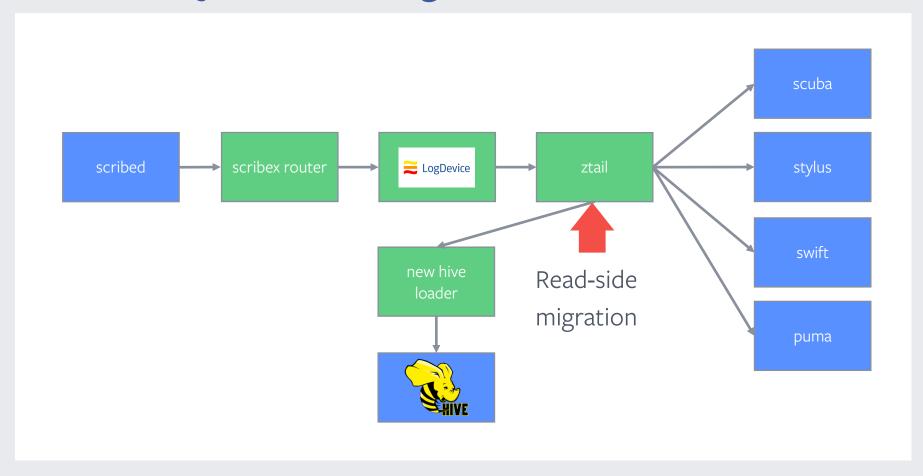
Migration Plan

- Write-side constraints
 - Thrift
 - FB service discovery & routing
 - Scopes used to scale metadata
- Use scopes to migrate by category
- Independent "scribe" clusters
- We can even double write*









Migration Plan

- Read-side constraints
 - Pipe interface
 - ptail -f my_category | my_stream_app
 - No one ever upgrades

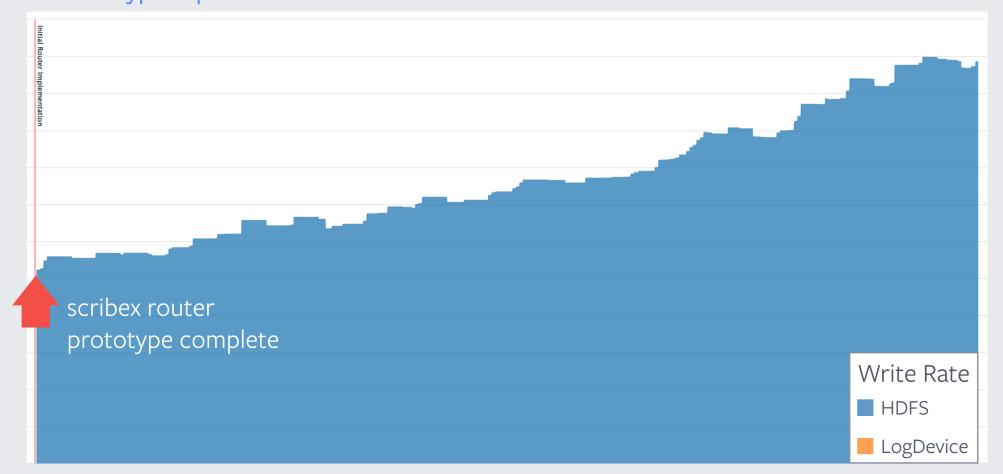
Migration Plan

- Read-side constraints
 - Pipe interface
 - ptail -f my_category | my_stream_app
 - No one ever upgrades
- Hide behind pipe interface
- Migrate using transparent, forced upgrades
 - ptail-autoupgrader (binary is still just ptail)

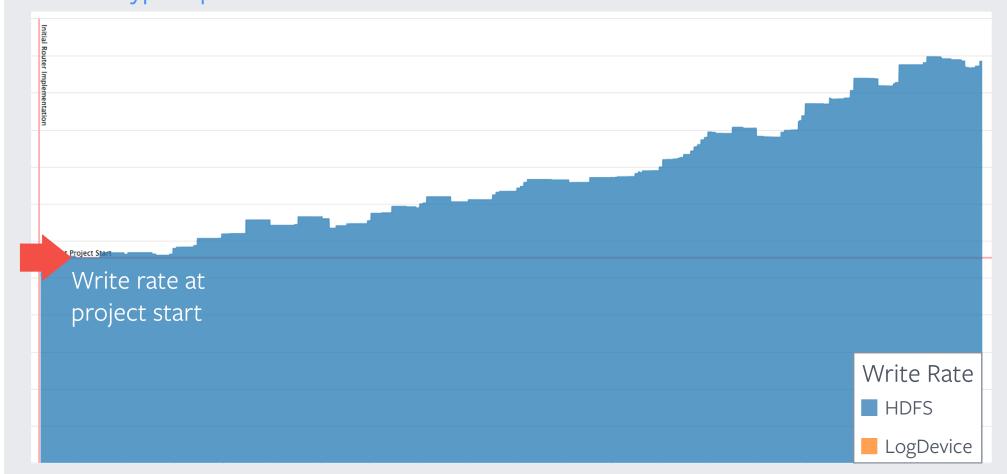
A 6 month project you say?

- New components: scribex router, ztail, LogDevice, hive loader
 - Write code
- Migration Plan
 - Leverage our constraints
- Productionize

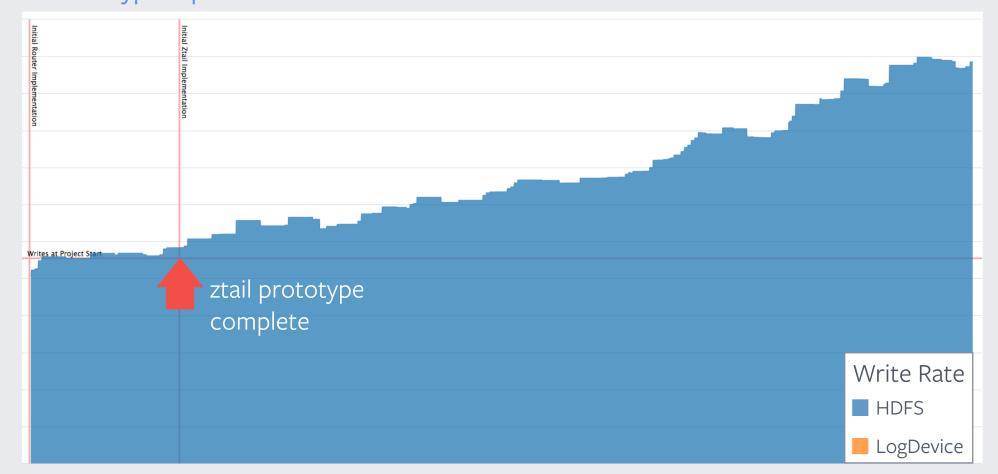
Prototype implementations



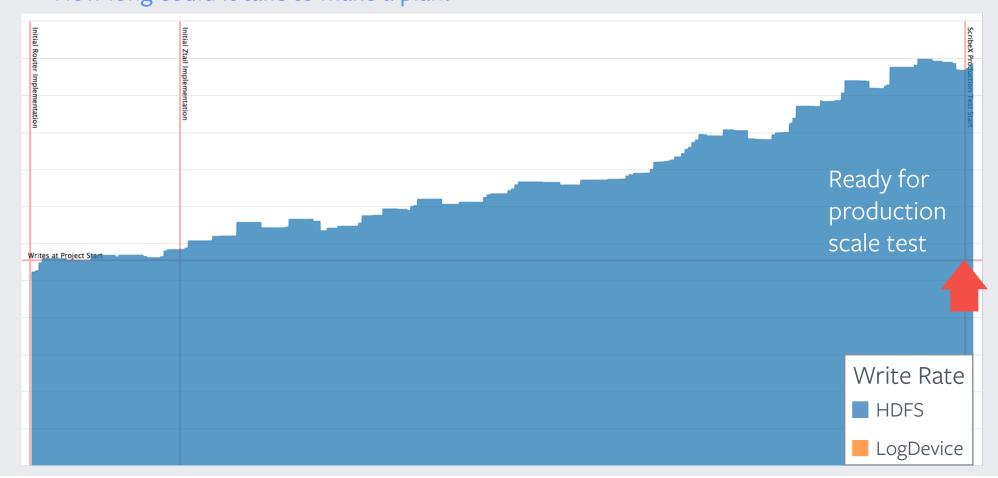
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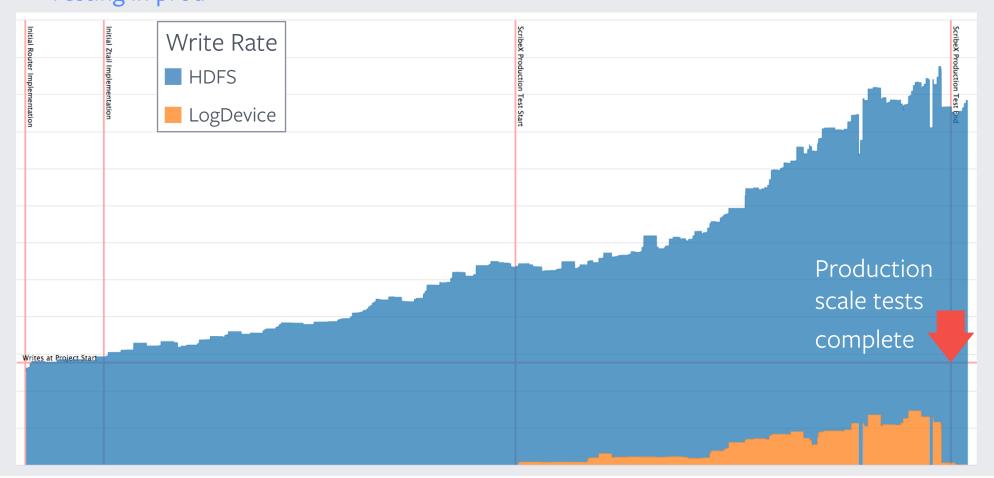
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- The goalposts will move the longer a project goes on
- Replacing a mature system is hard
 - Feature specs are valuable but always incomplete
- Put the new team oncall for the legacy system

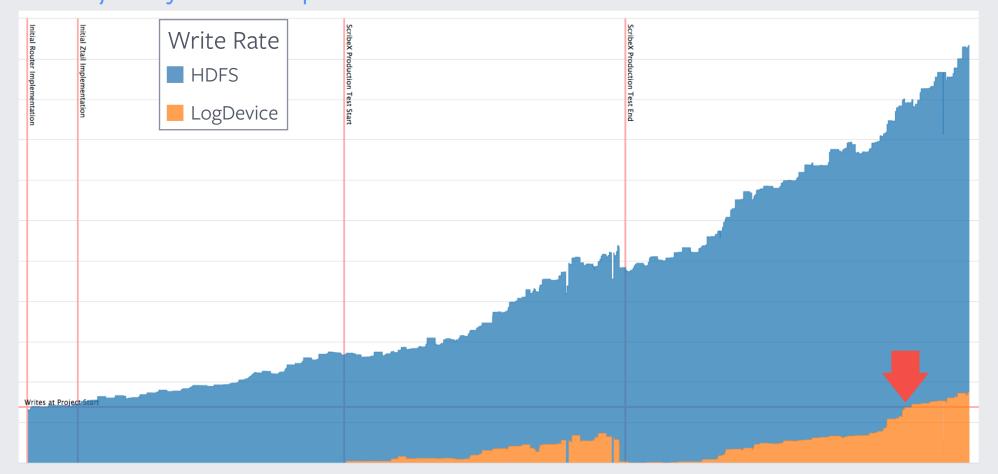


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 - Question both systems

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- End-to-end testing
 - Question both systems
- Migration testing
 - How good is your test coverage?
 - Cover every tailer option permutation?
 - Cheat with empirical data
- Cheat smart
 - Use Scuba to make the data manageable
 - Batch similar use cases together

This journey is 15% complete



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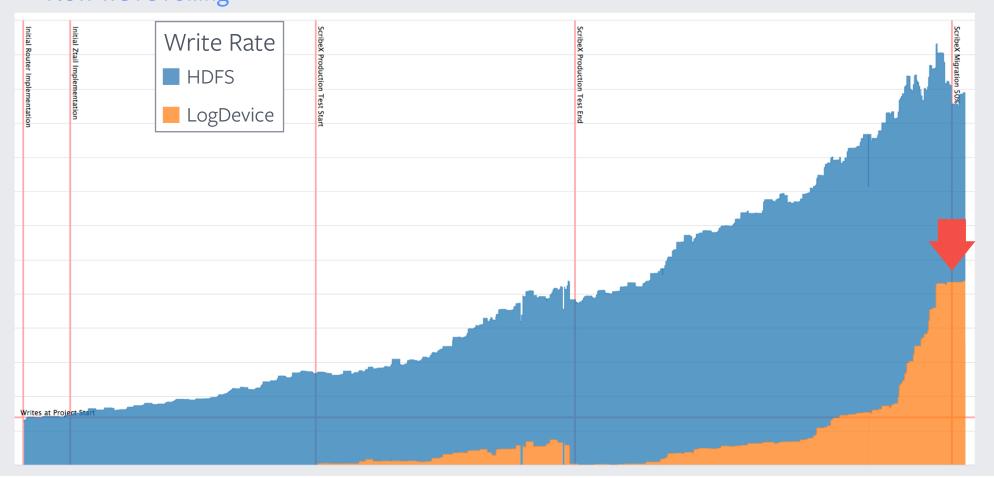
- Migration automation
 - Ex: category owner communication, capacity checks, migration steps, etc.
 - Make writing tooling easy with reusable components
 - Temporary is ok
 - Integration with our monitoring and other systems

This journey is 15% complete

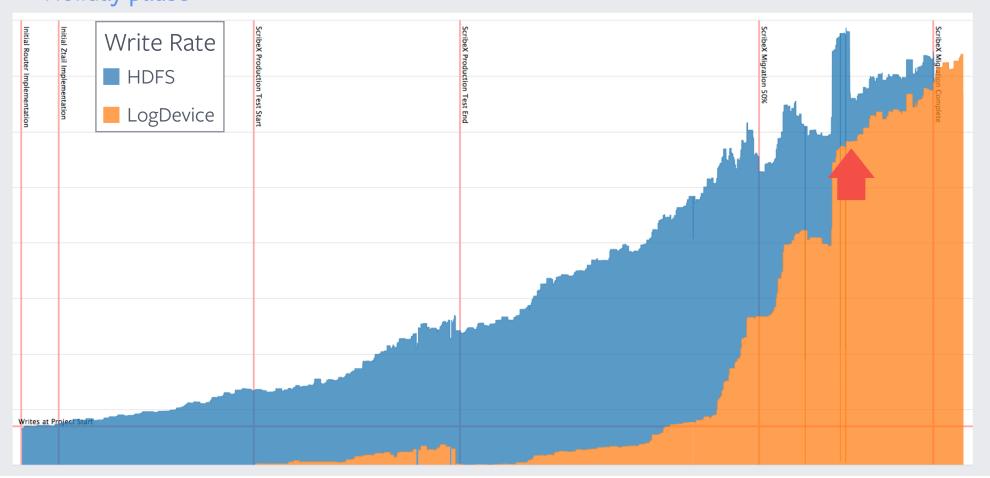
- Migration automation
 - Ex: category owner communication, capacity checks, migration steps, etc
 - Make writing tooling easy with reusable components
 - Temporary is ok
 - Integration with our monitoring and other systems
 - Hackable configuration (configerator)

```
{"date": "20171009",
"categories": [
  "pipe_finder",
  "pipe indexer",
  "speedtrap errors",
```

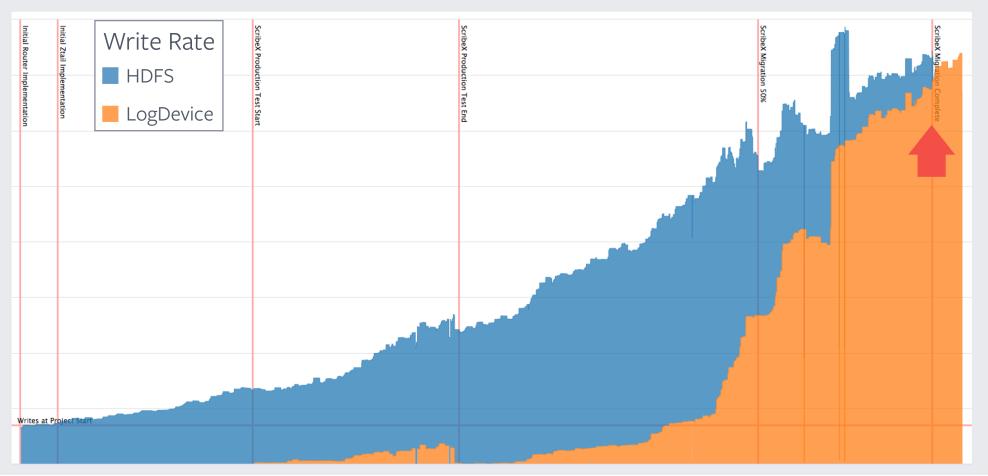
Now we're rolling



Holiday pause



Done and done





Layering is your friend

• Unix 101 – do one thing and do it well

- Raw scribe no structure, low dependency
 - echo "foo" | scribe_cat test_category

- Raw scribe no structure, low dependency
 - scribe_cat
 - Ex: chef

- Raw scribe no structure, low dependency
 - scribe cat
 - Ex: chef -> json -> scribe_cat -> scribe -> scuba
 - No validation good luck

```
# chef handler
Mixlib::ShellOut.new(
   '/usr/local/bin/scribe_cat chef_stats',
   :input => Chef::JSONCompat.to_json(stats)
)
```

- Our old friend syslog
- Imposed schema

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 - omscribe

```
# rsyslog.conf
action(type="omprog"
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```

- Deal with it downstream
 - syslog -> omscribe -> scribe -> puma/stylus

- Facebook applications
 - ScribeClient libraries
- Custom integration
 - As much structure as the developer wants
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- Facebook applications
 - ScribeClient libraries
- Custom integration
 - As much structure as the developer wants
 - Manage schema requirements yourself
- Adding new destinations requires new schema management
- Thousands of engineers have to know what they're doing
- System-wide optimization is hard

- Full structured logging
 - logger schema by config, destination(s) by config, automatic validation
 - configerator schema distribution

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- Full structured logging
 - logger schema by config, destination(s) by config, automatic validation
 - configerator schema distribution
- Magic
 - app -> logger -> JSON -> ScribeClient -> Scribe -> Scuba
 - Scuba JSON is inefficient, let's change it!
 - app -> logger -> thrift -> ScribeClient -> Scribe -> Scuba
 - Transparent for hundreds of apps
 - Transparent for Scribe

Conclusions

- Follow the Unix Philosophy
- Build complex features by layering simple components
- Your spec will be incomplete and take longer than you think
- Leverage your constraints
- Make tools easy to build to make them easy to throw away
- Sometimes a hack is good enough

facebook

Thank you

facebook

Questions

Reference Links

- Facebook Thrift
 - https://code.fb.com/open-source/under-the-hood-building-and-open-sourcing-fbthrift/
- Ticketmaster vs. RMG Technologies
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ticketmaster,_LLC_v._RMG_Technologies,_Inc.
- Scribe Tech Talk 2/27/2009
 - https://www.facebook.com/Engineering/videos/650882334523/
- Open Source Scribe
 - https://github.com/facebookarchive/scribe
- Hadoop Ecosystem
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Hadoop
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Hive
- The Log: What every software engineer should know about real-time data's unifying abstraction (Jay Kreps)
 - https://engineering.linkedin.com/distributed-systems/log-what-every-software-engineer-should-know-about-real-time-datas-unifying

Reference Links

- Realtime Data Processing at Facebook
 - https://research.fb.com/publications/realtime-data-processing-at-facebook/
- Open Source LogDevice
 - https://code.fb.com/core-data/logdevice-a-distributed-data-store-for-logs/
 - https://logdevice.io/
- Rsyslog omprog module
 - https://www.rsyslog.com/doc/v8-stable/configuration/modules/omprog.html
- Configerator Holistic Configuration Management at Facebook
 - https://research.fb.com/publications/holistic-configuration-management-at-facebook/

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