

Today's Topic:






**Resolving the
Free Buffer
Waits Event**

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OraPub presentations at OOW.

- **Sunday, 3pm**
 - Resolving the Free Buffer Waits Event
 - S318617, Moscone West, L2, room 2005
- **Monday, 11am**
 - Optimizing Internal Serialization Control
 - Unconference, Hotel Parc 55, Lombard room
- **Wednesday, 1pm**
 - Evaluating the Anticipated Effect of Performance Sols.
 - Unconference, Hotel Parc 55, Lombard room
- **Thursday, 1:30pm**
 - Quantifying Oracle Database System Performance
 - S315724, Moscone South, room 302




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OraPub is about Oracle performance.

- OraPub is all about Oracle performance management; monitoring, firefighting, quantitative and predictive analysis.
- Web site started in 1995 and the company was founded in 1998 by Craig Shallahamer.
- OraPub has always been about disseminating Oracle database centric technical information.
- Consulting, training, books, papers, and products are now being offered.
- We have been on-site in 24 countries and our resources have been received in probably every country where there are DBAs.

Resources


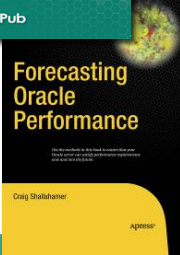


- Free Tools
- Free Papers
- Books
- Products
- Consulting
- Training



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Short resume.

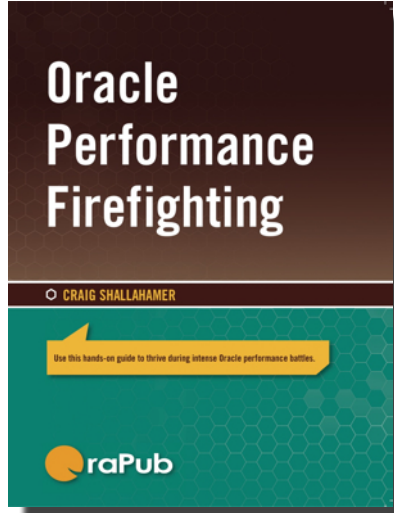
- Studies economics, mathematics, and computer science at university in California, US.
- Started working with Oracle technology in 1989 as a Forms 2.3 developer on Oracle version 5.
- Soon after started performance firefighting...daily!
- Co-found both Oracle's Core Technology and System Performance Groups.
- Left Oracle to start OraPub, Inc. in 1998.
- Authored 24 technical papers and worked in 24 countries.
- Authors and also teaches his classes *Oracle Performance Firefighting*, *Adv Oracle Performance Analysis*, and *Oracle Forecasting & Predictive Analysis*.
- Authored the books, *Forecasting Oracle Performance*, and his new book, *Oracle Performance Firefighting*.




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If you want my firefighting book...


- Retail \$49.95
- Amazon \$69.95
- OraPub normal \$39.95
- “OOW” disc. \$29.96
- Cash in hand \$30.00

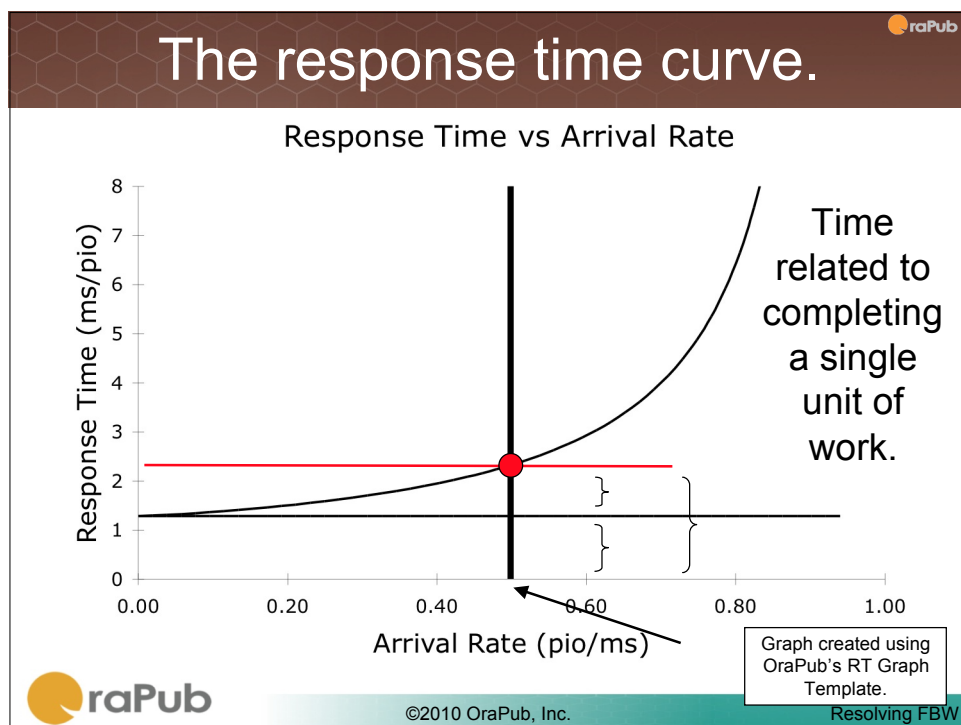
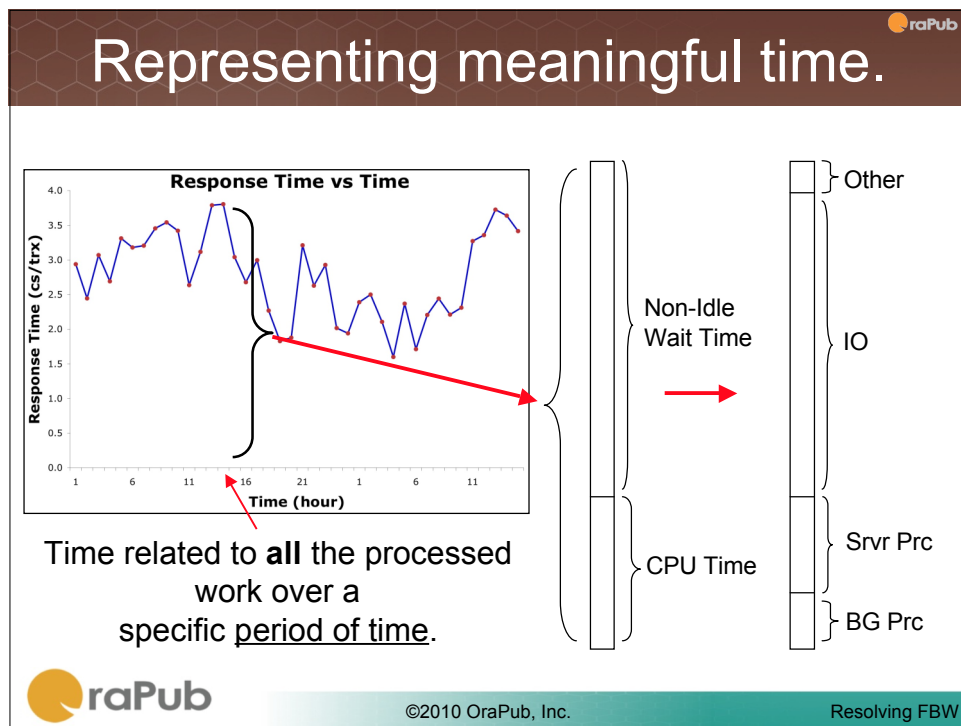


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Our real objective tonight.

Learn how to resolve the “perfect storm” wait event “free buffer waits” by delving into Oracle internals and applying a rigorous time-based diagnostic and analysis method.

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Oracle RTA numeric classification.

- While not visually as dazzling, numerically classifying response time provides many benefits, such as:
 - The entire performance situation is quantified providing inputs into advanced analysis.
 - The classification naturally results in diagnosis.
 - The performance problem is highlighted.
 - Provides strong clues as to the operating system situation.
 - Makes *before* and *after* analysis straightforward.
 - Lends itself towards systematic diagnosis.
 - Allows for intelligent classification of time.
 - Can be used for casual and introductory work as well as detailed and advanced analysis.



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How do you know?

```
SQL> @rtpctx
Database: prod18                                04-MAY-10 11:22am
Report:  rtpctx.sql                            OSM by OraPub, Inc.      Page 1
Response Time Activity (467 sec interval)
```

RT Component	Time (sec)	% RT	Avg Time Waited (ms)	Count(k)
free buffer waits	2663.010	37.82	40.218	66
direct path read	2055.780	29.20	4.881	421
CPU consumption: Oracle SP + BG procs	461.302	6.55	0.000	0
db file async I/O submit	406.800	5.78	2748.649	0
db file sequential read	216.220	3.07	5.772	37
read by other session	178.170	2.53	65.818	3
log file parallel write	110.440	1.57	244.336	0
...				
Instance Workload Statistic			Interval Work	Interval Work/Sec
user calls		59		0.126
session logical reads	21132973		45252.619	
physical reads	4716617		10099.822	
physical read IO requests	327596		701.490	
execute count	8520		18.244	



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Source: OSM Toolkit

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A simple Oracle RTA template.

```

Oracle Response Time Analysis Template: FBW
RT: 5.874 s CPU cores: 4, Dur: 462 ms
CPU capacity: 4 * 462 = 1,848 s

workload
-- uc/s : 0.126 /s redo/s: _____ mb/s
-- exe/s : 18.244 /s trx/s : _____ /s
-- lio/s : 15.241 /s PIO/s : 19099.8 /s
-- 45253

-- ST: 4623 s 8 % of RT (ora util%: _____)
-- Svr Prc: _____ s _____ %
-- BG Prc: _____ s _____ %

parse: _____ s _____ % of ST
recur: _____ s _____ % of ST

-- QT: 5.413 s 92 % of RT
-- IO: 5.413 s 100 % of QT
-- R: 4.872 s 90 % of IO
-- #1: FBW 2663 s 40.2 ms
-- #2: DIRECT Path 2056 s 4.9 ms
-- #3: SEQ RD 178 s 65.8 ms

-- W: 516 s 10 % of IO
-- #1: fileasync 406 s 2548 ms
-- #2: log file 110 s 244 ms
-- #3: 0 s _____ ms

-- OTHER: _____ s _____ % of QT
-- #1: _____ s _____ %
-- #2: _____ s _____ %
-- #3: _____ s _____ %
        
```

Notice the response time components are ready for entry based upon an Oracle performance statistics.

Hence the term, Oracle Response Time Analysis or ORTA for short.

Source: http://filebank.orapub.com/perf_stats/RTA_Template.pdf

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How do you know, with `rtsysx.sql`?

```

SQL> @rtsysx 120 50

OraPub's Response Time Analysis (RTA) interactive system level delta report

Initializing response time delta objects...
Sleeping and probing active SQL for next 120 seconds...
Done sleeping...gathering and storing current values...

*** Response Time Ratio and Workload Metrics
RT Ratio  Ora Trx/s  Block Changes/s  User Calls/s      Execs/s
-----
0.967      1.30      12051.93      0.57      38.18

*** Response Time System Summary (delta - interactive - system level)

Tot CPU   CPU SP   CPU BG   CPU Parse  CPU Recur   Tot Wait  IO Wait  Other Wait
Time      Time      Time      Time      Time Ora CPU   Time      Time      Time
(sec)     (sec)     (sec)     (sec)     (sec) Util %   (sec)     (sec)     (sec)
-----
168       165       2         0         199  34.9  4,896     4,775     121
98       2
        
```

↑

↑

↑

↑

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How do you know, with `rtsysx.sql`?

*** I/O Wait Time Summary w/Event Details (delta - interactive - system level)

IO Wait Time (sec)	IO WRITE Wait Time (sec)	IO READ Wait Time (sec)	% IO Write	% IO Read
4,775	2,891	1,887	61	40

IO Wait Event	R,W	%	Tot Call Wait Time (sec)	Avg Call Wait Time (ms)	Tot Waits
free buffer waits	W	49	2,326.90	29.56	78,722
direct path read	R	35	1,668.53	8.70	191,708
db file async I/O submit	W	6	308.23	1802.51	171

*** Other Wait Time (non-I/O) Event Detail (delta - interactive - system level)

Non IO (other) Wait Event	%	Tot Call Wait Time (sec)	Avg Call Wait Time (ms)	Tot Waits
os thread startup	40	48.53	1,6176.67	3
enq: RO - fast object reuse	25	30.00	7500.00	4
buffer busy waits	24	29.08	605.83	48
cr request retry	9	11.22	0.14	77,906
latch: enqueue hash chains	3	3.76	250.67	15



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How do you know, with `rtsysx.sql`?

*** SQL Activity Details During Probe

SQL ID	Sec/EXE	Phys Rds (k)	Log Rds (k)	Tot Time (sec)	CPU Time (sec)	Sec/PIO	Sec/LIO	Runs	Rows (k)	Sorts	Stmt Type
cvb1dphpubtbfw	18.43	24	3,874	571.5	100.0	0.024	0.000	31	0	#####	SELEC
2rnnuhxkj3y2q	10.76	1	149	172.1	1.3	0.185	0.001	16	160	0	UPDAT
aqrakypxtx32j0	9.88	1	116	167.9	0.9	0.183	0.001	17	170	0	UPDAT
9gm93sw7hq936	11.19	1	116	167.9	1.0	0.163	0.001	15	150	0	UPDAT
fm7q0unp5a0by	9.87	1	143	157.9	1.2	0.136	0.001	16	160	0	UPDAT
50q9gvxbzrym8k	75.30	153	300	150.6	2.4	0.001	0.001	2	0	0	SELEC
c41xqj15aa6t6	74.72	188	369	149.4	2.9	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
1kmn18p5vgmkh	70.55	187	366	141.1	2.9	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
9bmhnvbnndt693	69.88	172	337	139.8	2.6	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
gcs0nwp0yudyq	69.37	189	371	138.7	3.0	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
98kndhdunkf0r	67.93	190	372	135.9	3.0	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
acz1t53gkwa12	7.86	1	113	133.6	0.9	0.156	0.001	17	170	0	UPDAT
ddjn9szuw8n2r	57.14	161	312	114.3	2.5	0.001	0.000	2	0	0	SELEC
5gbu1vnjk7jkn	9.35	384	748	46.7	4.2	0.000	0.000	5	0	0	SELEC
a0n2bkax2r0k6	8.68	319	623	34.7	3.3	0.000	0.000	4	0	0	SELEC
gz5bfrcj060u	0.79	0	0	15.9	0.5	3.963	0.089	20	0	19	INSER
7msxd2qjtsw05	2.76	0	0	2.8	0.0	0.921	0.691	1	0	0	SELEC



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How do you know, using ASH?

```
SQL> @ashrt 10 %
```

Database: prod18 04-MAY-10 11:57am
Report: ashrt.sql Page 1
ASH Response Time Analysis Report (last 10 min, SQL_ID=%)

% Service Time (cpu)	% Queue Time (wait)	% Qt IO (wait)	% Qt Other (wait)
7.64	92.36	99.28	0.72

Activity Detail	% R Time
free buffer waits	52.37
direct path read	24.78
db file scattered read	8.31
db file sequential read	4.38
log file switch completion	1.86


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How do you know, using ASH?

```
SQL> @ashsqlpcte 10 free%buffer
```

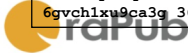
Database: prod18 04-MAY-10 11:58am
Report: ashsqlpcte.sql Page 1
System Level ASH: Find SQL by event (last 10 min)

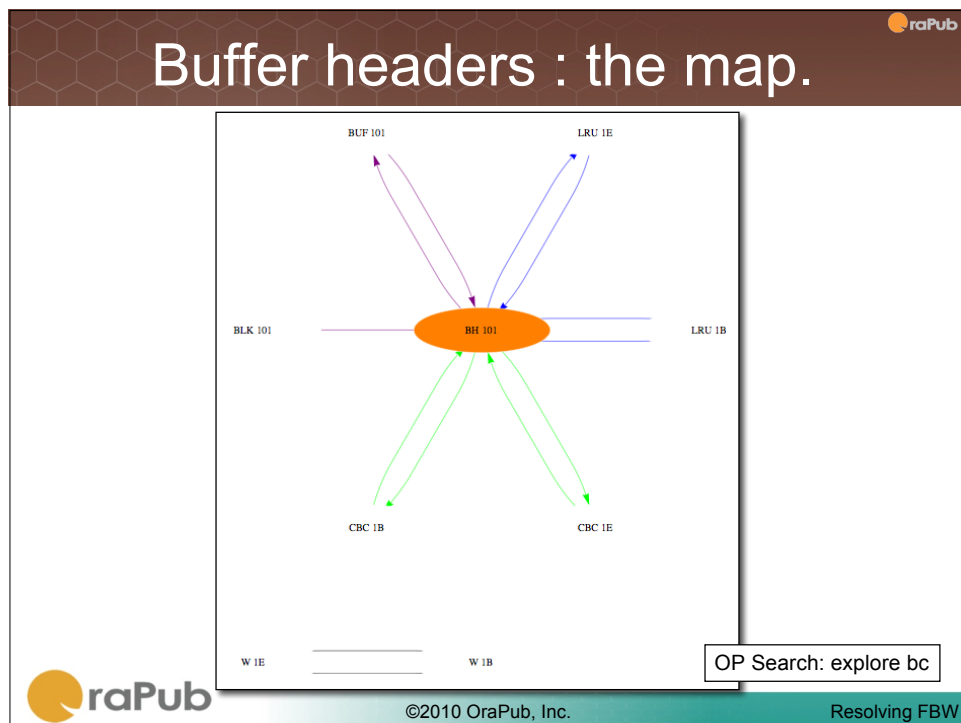
Wait Event	SQL_ID	ADDRESS	HASH_VALUE	% Time Waited
free buffer waits	cvb1dphpubtffw	3322B8E0	732292572	27.76
free buffer waits	2rnnuhxkj3y2q	2FF59E34	1695676502	11.03
free buffer waits	9gm93sw7hq936	30757B08	252388454	10.82
free buffer waits	acz1t53gkwal2	2FF9AFD8	3744344098	10.75
free buffer waits	aqrakypth32j0	2FF5E278	1943112224	10.51
free buffer waits	fm7q0unp5a0by	30767B78	710214014	10.44


```
SQL> @ashsqlpctcpu 10
```

Database: prod18 04-MAY-10 11:59am
Report: ashsqlpctcpu.sql Page 1
System Level ASH: Find SQL by event (last 10 min)

SQL_ID	ADDRESS	HASH_VALUE	% Time CPU
cvb1dphpubtffw	3322B8E0	732292572	65.69
7bkng9mb666d	30079BFC	1723013325	1.81
a0n2bkax2r0k6	307CA920	3123413574	1.67
1knn18p5vqmkh	30730024	1270566480	1.53
6gych1xu9ca3g	364D3AA8	1955997807	1.53


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A buffer can be pinned, dirty, or free.

- **Free/mirrored.** When a block's cached image mirrors the actual block on disk. The cached block (i.e., the buffer) can be replaced by another block and it can be referenced by any Oracle process. When the contents of a dirty buffer has been written to disk, it is once again a mirror of the actual block and placed back on the LRU end of its LRU list. An empty buffer is also called a free buffer. There are multiple buffer *states* (`x$bh.state`) related to a free/mirrored buffer.
- **Pinned.** A buffer is pinned to keep it from being replaced. You don't want a block you're referencing to be replaced! Pinning can also be used to ensure serial access.
- **Dirty.** When a block's cached image is not the same as its database file image. After a block has been changed (i.e., was pinned) and has not yet been written back to its database file, it is deemed "dirty."
(`v$bh.dirty='Y'`)
- `v$bh` and `sys.x$bh` contain buffer details.



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Resolving FBW

There are three key lists.

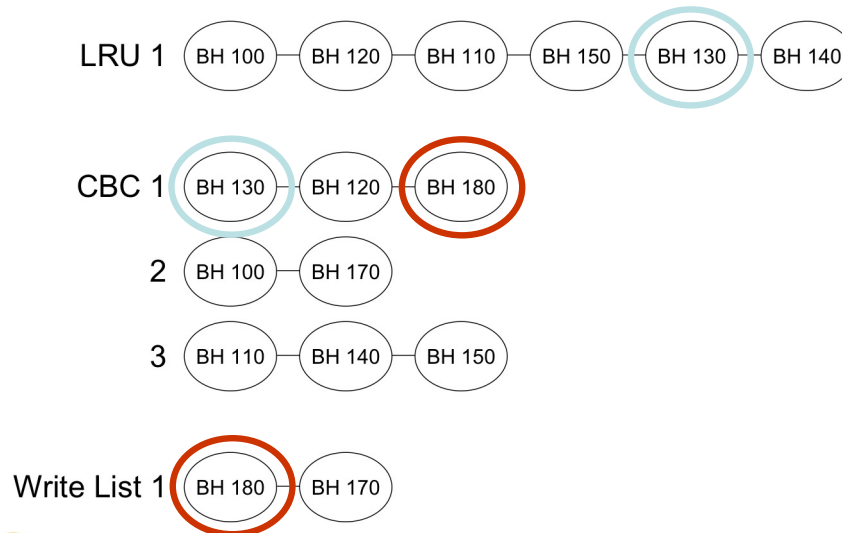
- **Hash buffer chains** are used to quickly determine if a block is in the cache.
- **LRU (LRU) chains** are used to keep popular buffers cached and to find free buffers.
- **Write (LRU-W) lists** are used by its DBWR to batch write dirty buffers. Also called the *dirty list*.



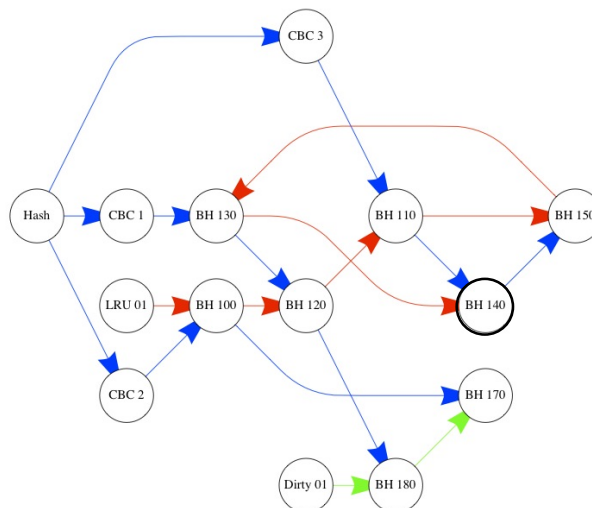
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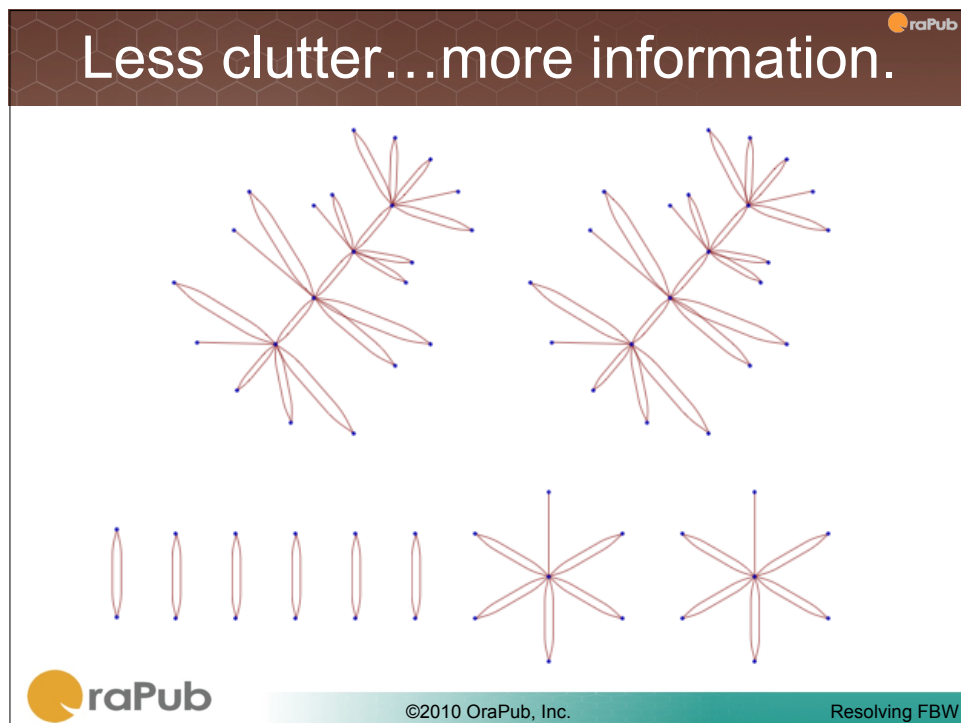
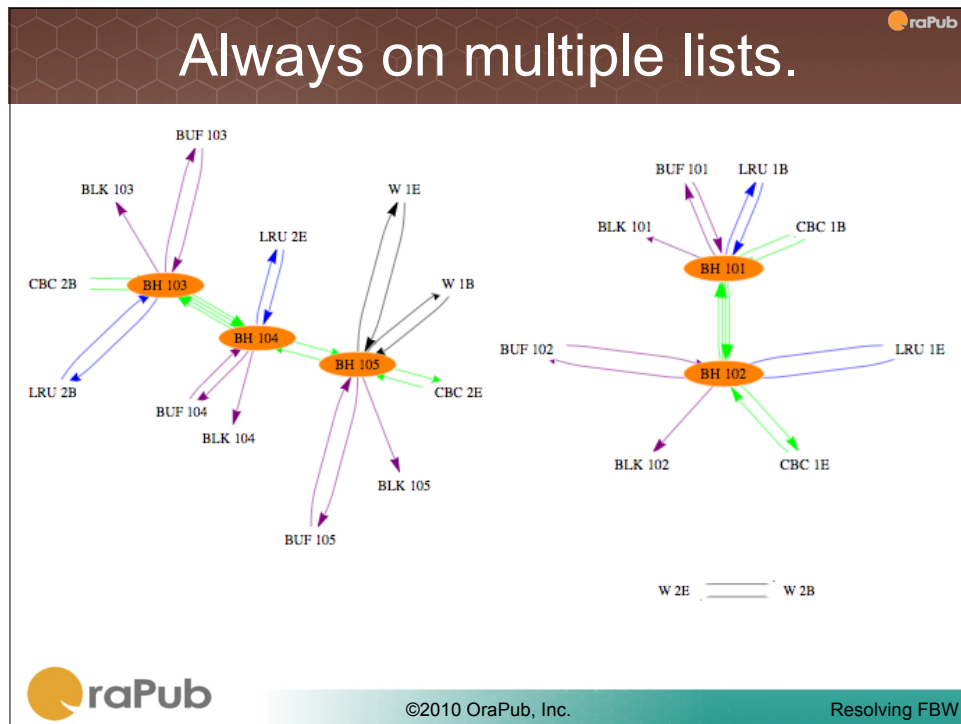
Buffer headers are on many lists.



A more connected view.



How many LRUs, write lists, CBC chains, and buffer headers are there?



The key TC components.

- Midpoint insertion
- Touch count incrementation
- Buffer promotion
- Parameters for everything...

The diagram illustrates the LRU chain structure. It shows a sequence of buffer headers (BH) connected by arrows. From left to right, the headers are: LRU 06, BH 310, BH 140, BH 240, BH 345, BH 245, BH 155, BH 320, and BH 335. A callout bubble labeled 'LRU End' points to BH 310. Another callout bubble labeled 'MRU End' points to BH 335. Below the chain, a horizontal line is divided into three sections: 'Cold Region' (under BH 310 to BH 240), 'Mid-pointer' (under BH 345, with an arrow pointing to it), and 'Hot Region' (under BH 245 to BH 335).

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The write list and the DBWR.

- Lists of dirty buffer (headers) go by many names; dirty list, write list, LRU-W, checkpoint queue, etc.
- **Write list** is composed entirely of dirty buffer headers.
- Each LRU has an associated write list.
- Dirty buffers are moved to their associated write list by either a:
 - Server process, when its looking for free buffers, or its
 - DBWR when looking for something to do.
- The DBWR will write the dirty buffers, in small batches, to their "dbf" file making them free buffers again and then placing the newly free buffers on the LRU end of their LRU chain.

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When the DBWR is active.

```
SQL> 1
1* select count(*) from v$bh where dirty='Y'
SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
219

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
214

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
287

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
274

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
212
```

The number of dirty buffers is constantly changing.

```
SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
236

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
156

SQL> /


COUNT(*)
-----
148

SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
275


SQL> /

COUNT(*)
-----
261
```

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
A very active DBWR...

```
[oracle@fourcore ~]$ ps -eaf|grep dbw
oracle 11455      1  0 09:01 ?        00:00:02 ora_dbw0_prod18
oracle 12063 12023  0 10:08 pts/3    00:00:00 grep dbw
[oracle@fourcore ~]$ strace -rp 11455
Process 11455 attached - interrupt to quit
0.000035 times({tms_utime=103, tms_stime=167, tms_cutime=0, tms_cstime=0}) = 488524973
0.000036 semtimedop(... {2, 770000000}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
2.771256 gettimeofday({1264529314, 633792}, NULL) = 0
0.000026 getrusage(RUSAGE_SELF, {ru_utime={1, 31843}, ru_stime={1, 672745}, ...}) = 0
0.000030 gettimeofday({1264529314, 636133}, NULL) = 0
0.000030 pwrite64(22, "\35\242\0\0\2\0\300\0\262\237\35...\1\0"... , 16384, 16384) = 16384
0.009033 gettimeofday({1264529314, 645200}, NULL) = 0
0.000028 pwrite64(22, "&\242\0\0\1\300\0\276\235\35..."..., 8192, 2097152) = 8192
0.000393 gettimeofday({1264529314, 646163}, NULL) = 0
0.000029 pwrite64(22, "\2\242\0\0\3413\301\0\30\236\35..."..., 253952, 645668864) = 253952
0.001805 gettimeofday({1264529314, 648026}, NULL) = 0
0.000028 pwrite64(22, "\2\242\0\0\0\301\0=\235\35..."..., 565248, 660602880) = 565248
0.005447 gettimeofday({1264529314, 655395}, NULL) = 0
0.000029 pwrite64(22, "\2\242\0\0\200\301\0\236\35..."..., 131072, 661651456) = 131072
0.001584 gettimeofday({1264529314, 657043}, NULL) = 0
0.000029 pwrite64(23, "\6\242\0\0\311\0\0\1>\240\35..."..., 122880, 1646592) = 122880
0.001072 gettimeofday({1264529314, 659263}, NULL) = 0
0.000036 gettimeofday({1264529314, 659297}, NULL) = 0
0.000029 pwrite64(23, "\6\242\0\0\351\0\0\1>\240\35..."..., 122880, 1908736) = 122880
0.001134 gettimeofday({1264529314, 661674}, NULL) = 0
0.000028 pwrite64(23, "\6\242\0\0\371\0\0\1>\240\35..."..., 40960, 2039808) = 40960
0.001136 gettimeofday({1264529314, 662870}, NULL) = 0
<unfinished ...>
Process 11455 detached
```

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An inactive DBWR.

```
[oracle@fourcore ~]$ ps -eaf|grep dbw
oracle 12300 1 0 10:21 ? 00:00:00 ora_dbw0_prod18
oracle 12350 12023 0 10:21 pts/3 00:00:00 grep dbw
[oracle@fourcore ~]$ strace -rp 12300
Process 12300 attached - interrupt to quit
...
0.000045 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.000675 gettimeofday({1264530117, 135109}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000042 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.000698 gettimeofday({1264530120, 136949}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000039 getrusage(RUSAGE_SELF, {ru_utime={0, 10998}, ru_stime={0, 29995}, ...}) = 0
0.000080 gettimeofday({1264530120, 137160}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000039 times({tms_utime=1, tms_stime=2, tms_cutime=0, tms_cstime=0}) = 488605789
...
0.000042 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.000708 gettimeofday({1264530123, 138798}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000043 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.000702 gettimeofday({1264530126, 140641}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000045 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.001700 gettimeofday({1264530132, 146335}, NULL) = 0
...
0.000042 semtimedop(11239424, x, 1, {3, 0}) = -1 EAGAIN (Resource temporarily unavailable)
3.001735 gettimeofday({1264530135, 149232}, NULL) = 0
Process 12300 detached
```

 
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What is free buffer wait contention?

- The DBWR can't **pull** dirty blocks out of the buffer cache fast enough to make them free. It's not a **push** to disk issue, it's a **pull** from cache issue.
- Two scenarios are common; when a server process is scanning its LRU looking for free buffers and:
 - It has scanned “too many” buffers (pinned or dirty) before it finds a free buffer. The wait event “free buffer wait” is posted, the DBWR is told to write the related LRU-W list, and the server process waits no more than one second. Upon wake-up the server process starts looking for a free buffer again at the LRU end of its LRU.
 - Stumbles upon a dirty buffer and tries to move a buffer to the write list (LRU-W) but can't (perhaps the DBWR is writing it to disk). The server process posts a free buffer wait event and waits until the DBWR is finished.

 
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Free buffer wait, wait times.

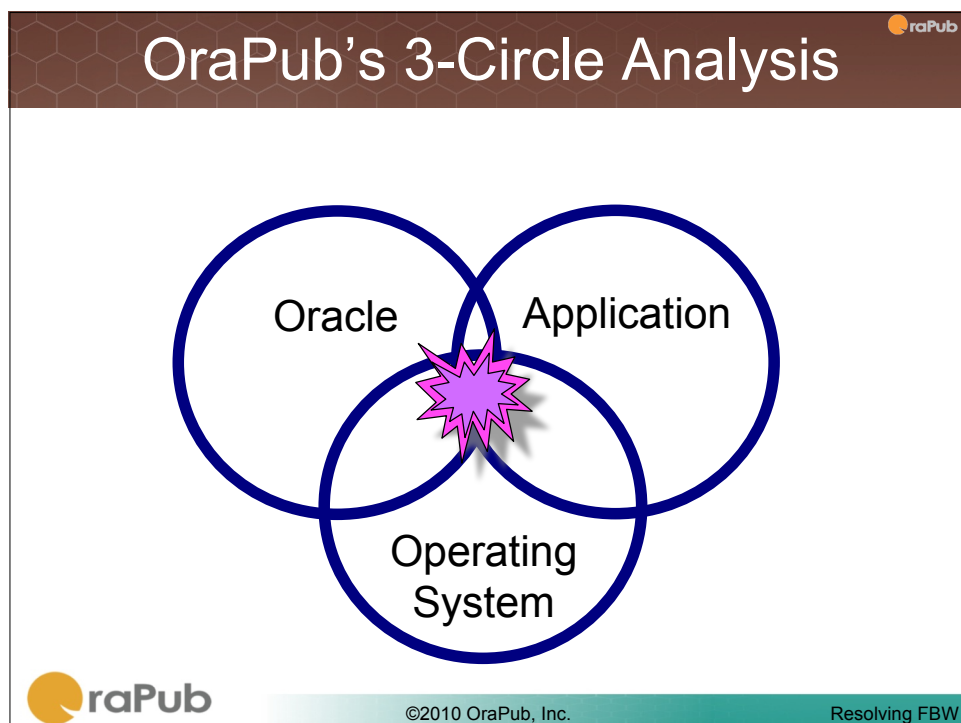
Wait time is nearly always 16m or less.
rtpctx shows average wait time is 30 to 40 ms.

```
SQL> @swhist free%buffer%
```

Database: prod18
Report: swhist.sql OSM by OraPub
Wait Event Activity History



Wait Event	ms Wait <=	Occurs	Running Occurs %
free buffer waits	1	12449	1.49
free buffer waits	2	6093	2.22
free buffer waits	4	8170	3.20
free buffer waits	8	10318	4.44
free buffer waits	16	789451	99.05
free buffer waits	32	1582	99.24
free buffer waits	64	1224	99.39
free buffer waits	128	1294	99.55
free buffer waits	256	1520	99.73
free buffer waits	512	1052	99.85
free buffer waits	1024	276	99.89
free buffer waits	2048	252	99.92
free buffer waits	4096	230	99.94
free buffer waits	8192	280	99.98
free buffer waits	16384	296	100.01
free buffer waits	32768	209	100.04
free buffer waits	65536	50	100.04
free buffer waits	#####	3	100.05

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3-Circle method benefits.



- **Speed.** It's applied parallelism! Why tune sequentially when can tune in parallel? Get everyone involved and working towards a common goal.
- **Structure.** It naturally creates a methodical diagnosis that everyone understands.
- **Communication.** It's natural structure allows for straightforward communication.
- **Confirmation.** The multiple perspective crossover diagnosis results in a pinpoint diagnosis with built-in checks.
- **Cooperation.** Avoids finger-pointing by articulating a common goal where usually, everyone can contribute to the solution.
- **Open.** No specific tool, product, or Oracle release is required. Some product naturally embrace OraPub's 3-Circle method.

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Resolving free buffer contention.

- The DBWR can not get dirty buffers to disk fast enough, so increase DBWR *pull power* (e.g., more DBWRs) and perhaps some I/O write throughput improvement...
- The LRU has too many dirty buffers, so:
 - Increase the buffer cache to increase the likelihood of finding a free buffer.
 - Tune SQL to reduce PIO. The server process must find a free buffer to place the block into the cache. By reducing PIO, you reduce the number of times a free buffer must be found.
 - Find DML SQL to understand why (and perhaps reduce) there are so many dirty buffers. This may be an application issue or perhaps a workload balancing issue.
 - Lots of cloned buffers force the need for lots of free buffers. Identify high consistent read SQL and analyze the situation.
 - Encourage the DBWR to write more often, but with smaller batches, by decreasing `_db_large_dirty_queue`.
- Be more patient, search longer, and give the DBWR more time to write its batch by increasing `_db_writer_max_scan_pct`.

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Want to dig deeper?

- **Training** from OraPub
 - Oracle Performance Firefighting (I)
 - Adv Oracle Performance Analysis (II)
 - Oracle Forecasting & Predictive Analysis
 - OraPub 1-Day 2010 Perf Seminar
- **Books**
 - Oracle Performance Firefighting (C. Shallahamer)
 - Forecasting Oracle Performance (C. Shallahamer)
- **Products**
 - **OraPub Stress Identifier** now available.
- **Papers/Tools** at www.orapub.com
 - Scientifically Evaluating Alternative Performance Solutions
 - Introduction To Oracle Performance Optimization
 - **Exploring Oracle's [Buffer Cache, Library Cache]**
- **Craig's Blog** at blogspot.com

**Philadelphia Oct 18-
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Thank You!




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OraPub presentations at OOW.

- Sunday, 3pm
 - Resolving the Free Buffer Waits Event
 - S318617, Moscone West, L2, room 2005
- Monday, 11am
 - Optimizing Internal Serialization Control
 - Unconference, Hotel Parc 55, Lombard room
- Wednesday, 1pm
 - Evaluating the Anticipated Effect of Performance Sols.
 - Unconference, Hotel Parc 55, Lombard room
- Thursday, 1:30pm
 - Quantifying Oracle Database System Performance
 - S315724, Moscone South, room 302



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Today's Topic:





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**Resolving the
Free Buffer
Waits Event**

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