

# User-space Tracing with UST

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# Presenters

- David Goulet
  - Focus on production systems
  - Academia (Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal)
  - Industry (Révolution Linux)
- Mathieu Desnoyers
  - EfficiOS Inc.
  - Work funded by Ericsson

# What is UST ?

- UST, a.k.a. LTTng-UST, is the LTTng User-space tracer
- Entirely stand-alone
  - i. Works on vanilla Linux kernels
- Trace
  - i. Applications
  - ii. Libraries

# Content

1. Current UST Features
2. LTTng User Interface Unification
  - Kernel / User-space tracing
3. Collaboration

# Current UST Features

## Interface Unification

## Collaboration

# 1. Current UST Features

- Flexibility
    - Enable/Disable any *tracepoint* before and during tracing
  - External data buffers
    - Crash : the UST consumer still able to get the data out!
  - Performance
    - 190ns/event (high data volume tracer)
  - Linear scalability
  - *Disk output and flight recorder mode*
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# 1. Current UST Features - Instrumentation

- Markers

```
int
do_search(
    Operation    *op,    /* info about the op to which we're responding */
    SlapReply    *rs /* all the response data we'll send */ )
{
    struct berval base = BER_BVNULL;
    ber_len_t    siz, off, i;

    trace_mark(ust, search_event, "DN %s", op->o_req_dn.bv_val);
}
```

So easy to use! Here to stay!

- Tracepoints/TRACE\_EVENT

# 1. Current UST Features - Trace Clock

- **CLOCK\_TRACE** (13 Jan 2011)
  - ◆ LTTng kernel 0.240 or higher
  - ◆ UST 0.11 or higher
  - ◆ Timestamp synchronized (kernel and user-space)
    - Common time reference for simultaneous viewing
  - ◆ Only for x86 and x86\_64
    - Very easy to do for other arch.
  - ◆ We need that mainline :)



Current UST Features

**Interface Unification**

Collaboration

## 2. Interface Unification

- Goals
  1. *One command to rule them all (usability!)*
  2. Merge kernel and user-space tracer interfaces
  3. Common fast time source
  4. Aim for production environment
  5. Security

## 2. Unification – trace session daemon

- Introducing *ltt-sessiond*
  1. Manage tracing sessions
  2. Manage consumers (UST and kernel)
  3. Security
  4. Thread/Process scaling
  5. LTTng and UST : merge and control
  6. Remote control and streaming

## 2. Unification – liblttngctl

- LTTng Control Library
  1. API for UST and kernel tracer control
  2. Uses *ltt-sessiond* for session

Only a library is not enough right?!

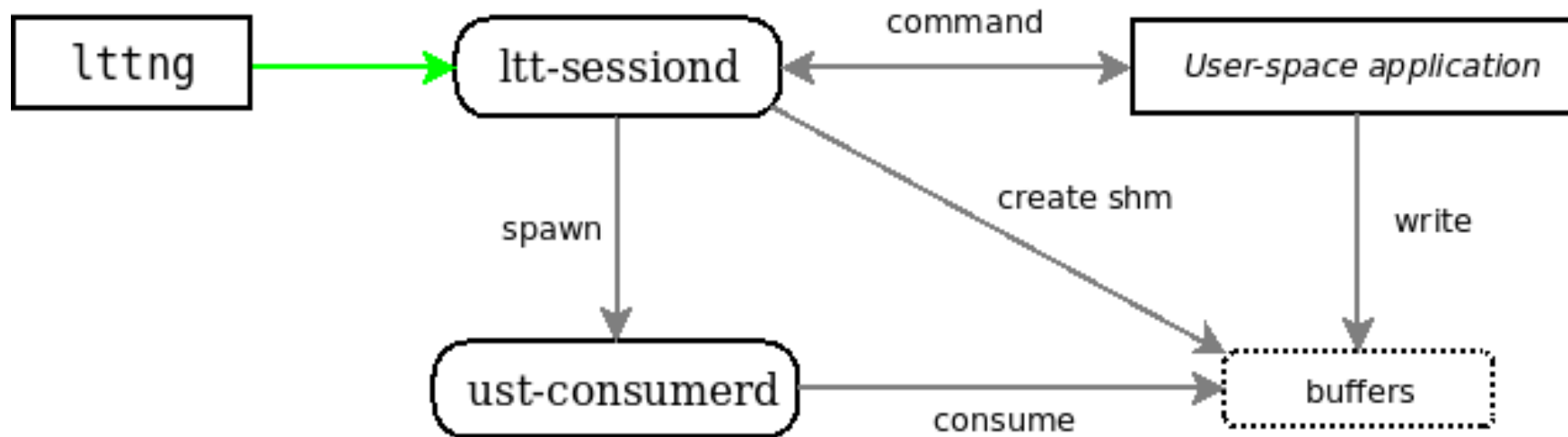
## 2. Unification – *lttng*

- LTTng Control command line tool
  - ♦ `lttng` is the tracer control tool
  - ♦ Uses *liblttngctl*
  - ♦ Replaces *ustctl* and *lttctl*
  - ♦ Main goal : *strace* alike tool (easy use)

Put this all together, we have ...

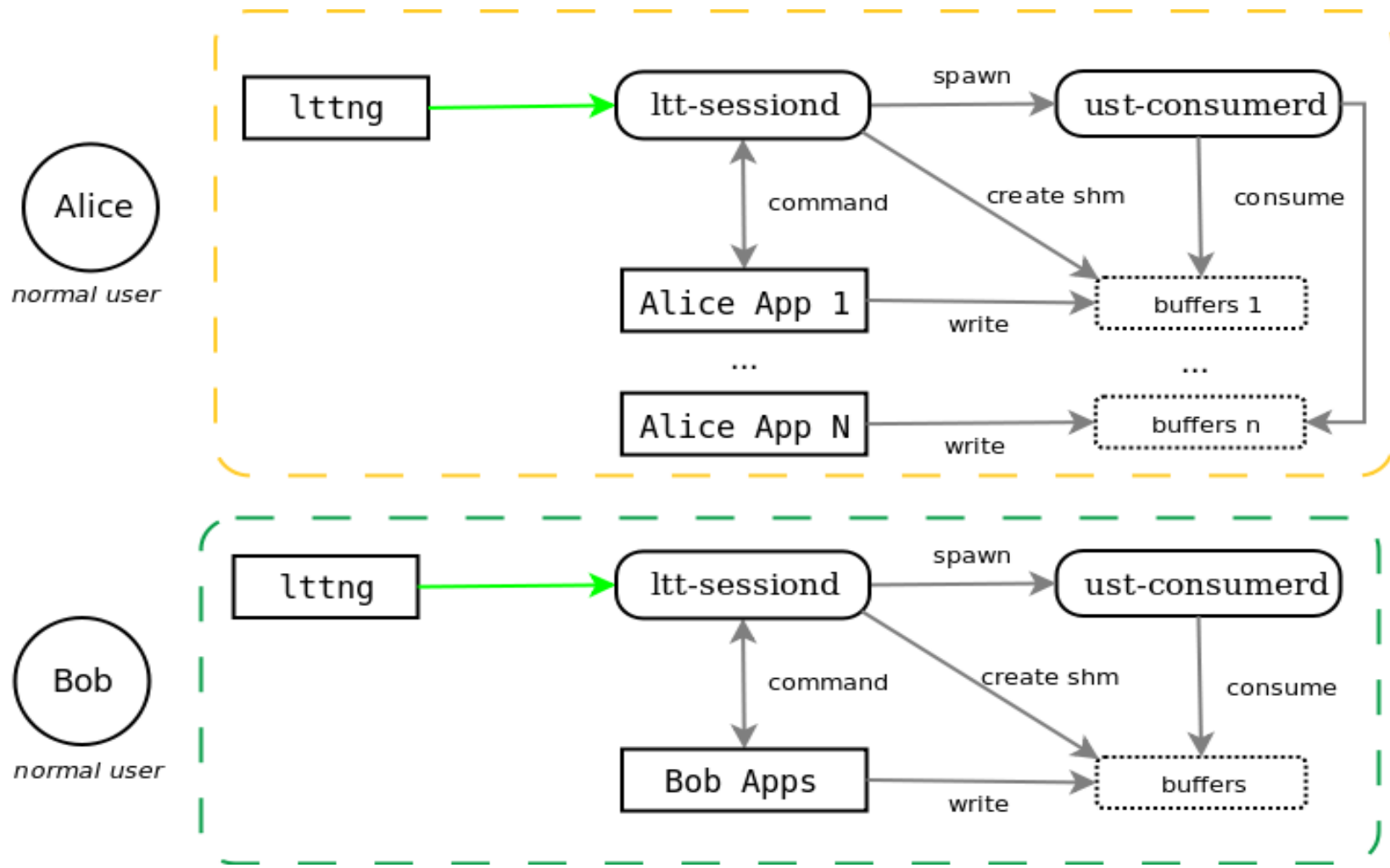
## 2. Unification – ltt-sessiond

Big picture



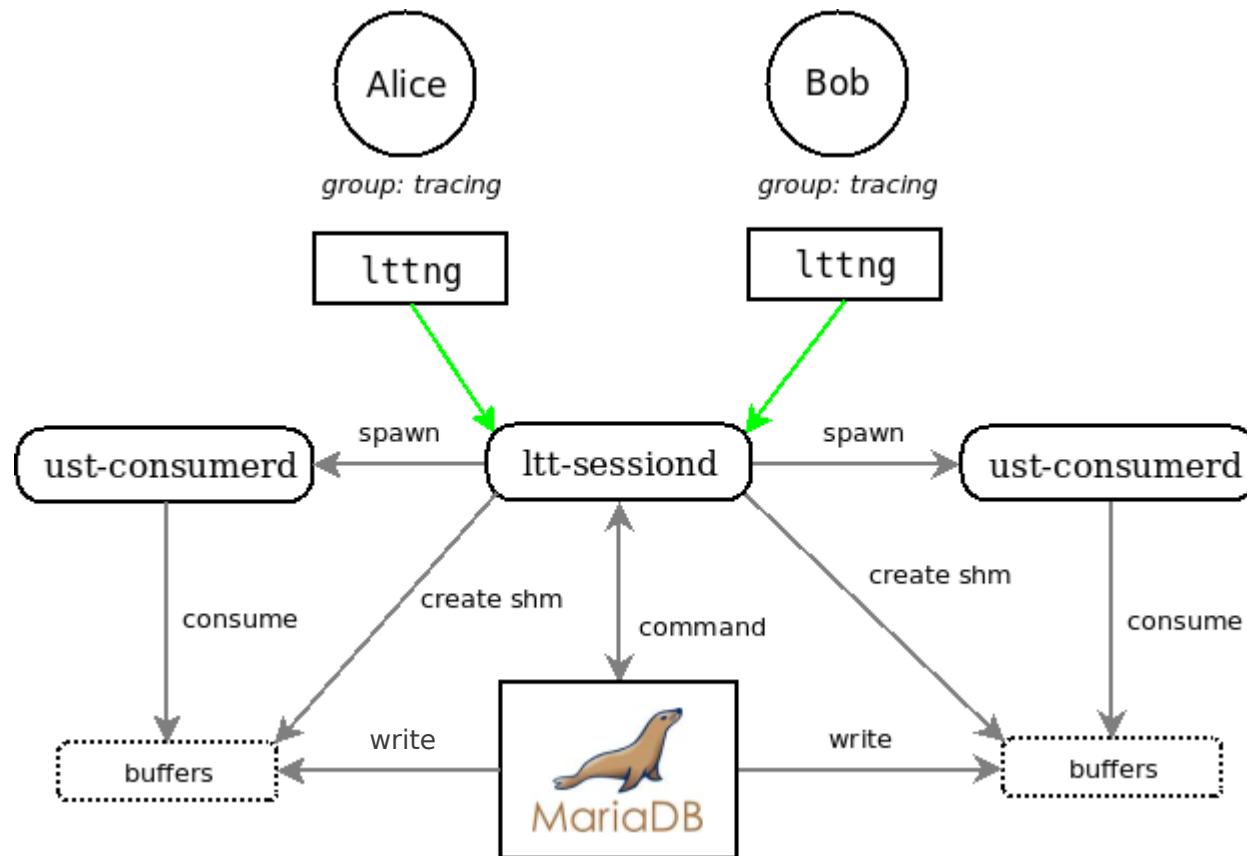
## 2. Unification – ltt-sessiond (3)

Multi-user case (*normal user*):



## 2. Unification – ltt-sessiond (2)

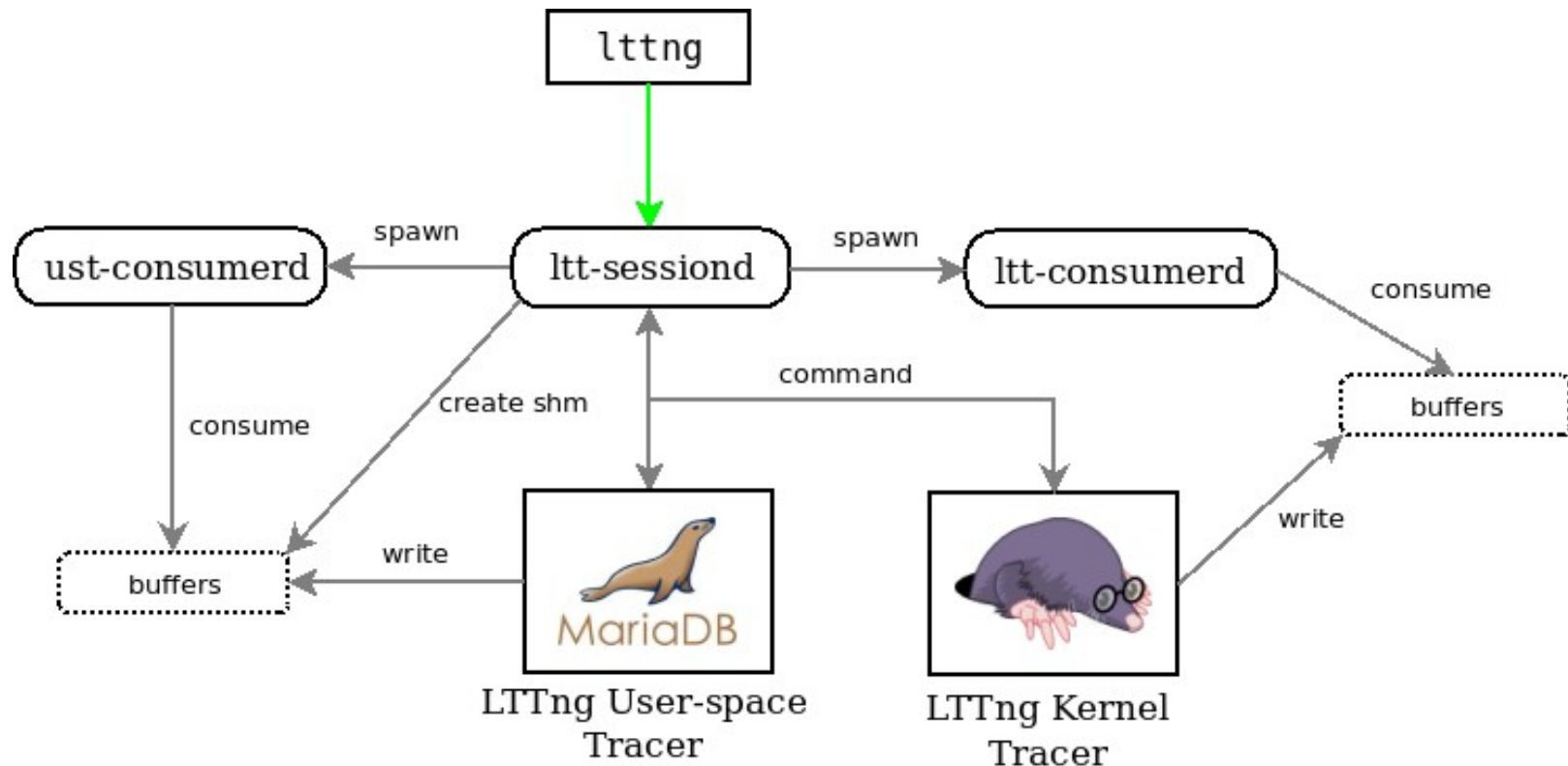
Multi-user case (*tracing* group):





## 2. Unification – ltt-sessiond (4)

Kernel gets in!



Current UST Features  
Interface Unification  
**Collaboration**

## 3. Collaboration – export

- User-space ringbuffer library
  - ◆ From LTTng kernel ringbuffer
  - ◆ Author : Mathieu Desnoyers
- ◆ CTF (Common Trace Format)
  - ◆ Ericsson
  - ◆ Linux Foundation CELF Workgroup
  - ◆ Multi-Core Association Tool Infrastructure Workgroup

### 3. Collaboration – `import`

- TRACE\_EVENT
- Jump label integration
  - i. SIGSTOP and SIGCONT
  - ii. Breakpoint bypass
- Dynamic probes
  - i. Perf dynamic probes
  - ii. GDB
  - iii. SystemTAP/uprobes