Performance Beyond Throughput: An OpenJ9 Case Study

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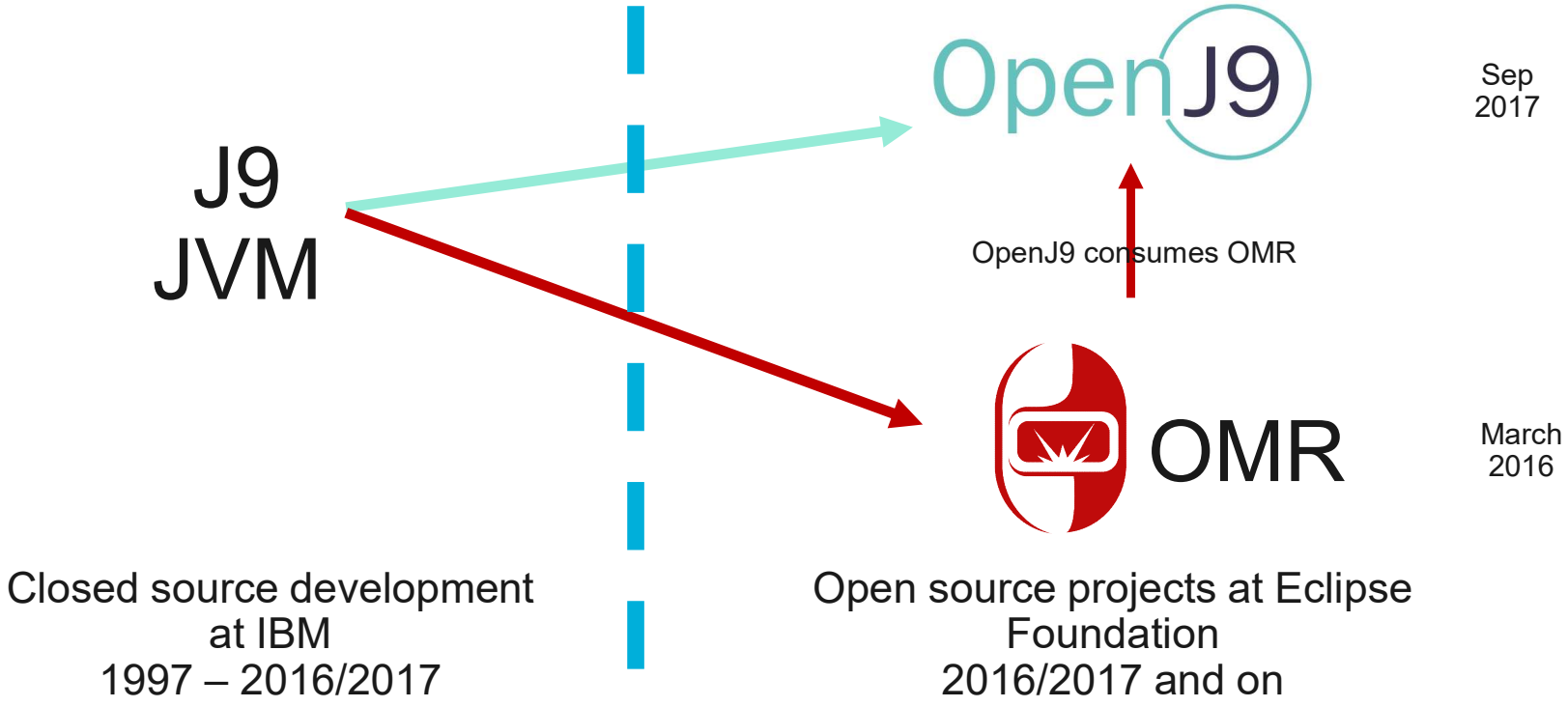
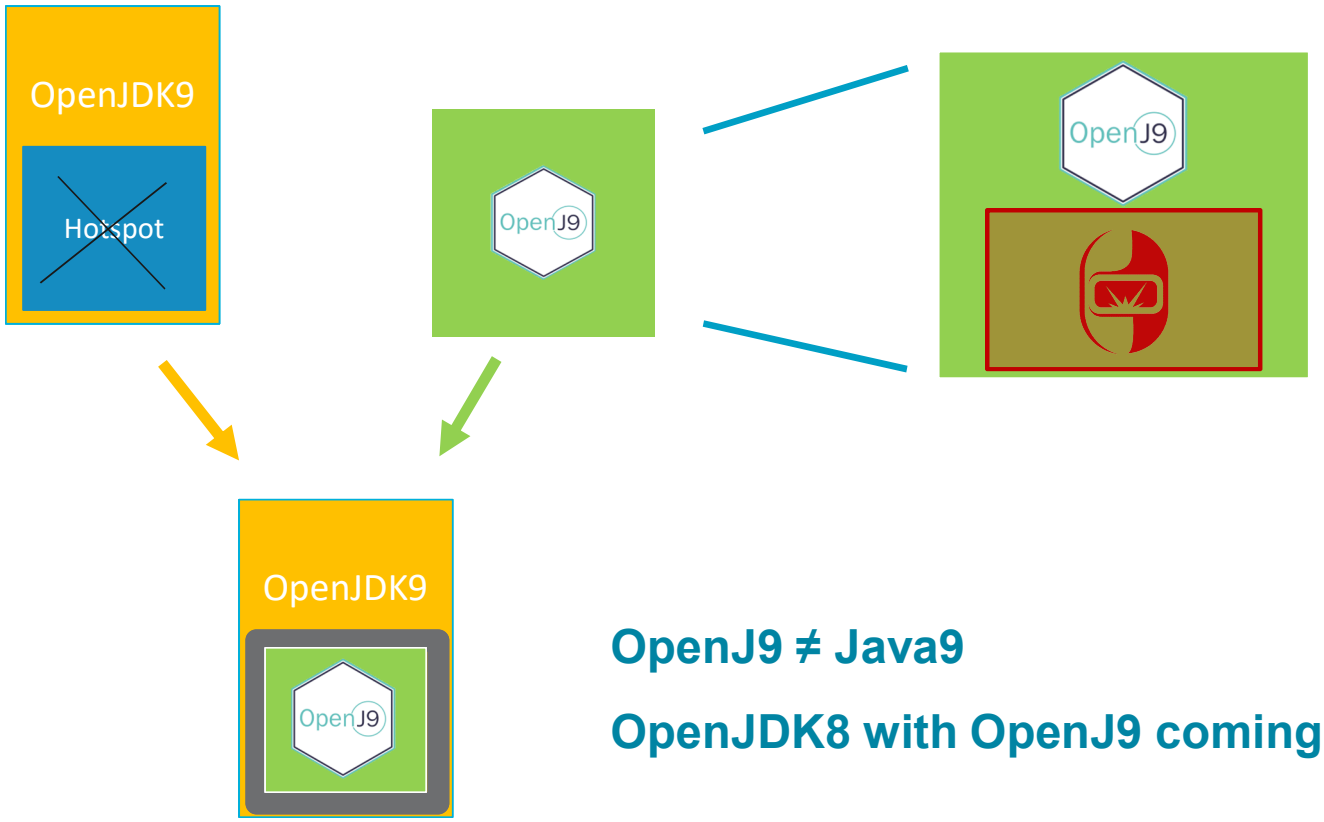
Eclipse OpenJ9: an open source JVM



Why use Eclipse OpenJ9?

- Very open. Dual license: Eclipse Public License v2.0 and Apache 2.0
- Very easy for anyone to contribute
  - github repositories:
    - https://github.com/eclipse/openj9
    - https://github.com/eclipse/omr
  - Prebuilt binaries:
    - https://adoptopenjdk.net/nightly.html?variant=openjdk9-openj9
- Performance
  - Excellent performance for a wide variety of metrics important in the cloud
  - Hardware exploitation for x86, Power and Z mainframes
  - Focus on large applications rather than microbenchmarks

OpenJDK9 with OpenJ9



OpenJ9 ≠ Java9

OpenJDK8 with OpenJ9 coming soon!

Performance is about more than just throughput

- Performance means different things to different people
- OpenJ9 pays attention to many other metrics important to customers:
  - start-up time
  - footprint
  - ramp-up
  - response time
  - CPU
- Different goals → different design decisions
- Must keep a balance → make sensible trade-offs

Agenda

- Start-up time – 37% improvement
- Footprint – 44-60% improvement
- Behavior at idle – 55% improvement
- Ramp-up in a resource constrained environment
- Response time – 10x improvement
- Performance monitoring tools

Start-up time

- Start-up time == time needed for your server application to become operational
- Important for:
  - developers
  - scaling out operations
  - outages (planned or not)
- General characteristics of a start-up phase
  - A fair amount of class loading
  - A large amount of interpretation activity (jitting takes time!)
- OpenJ9 solutions
  - Shared class cache technology and dynamic Ahead-of-Time (AOT) compilation
  - Specialized running mode: -Xquickstart

Eclipse OpenJ9 shared class cache technology

- Memory mapped file used to cache:
  - ROM classes (pre-processed .class files)
  - AOT compiled code
  - Interpreter profiling data
- Population of the cache happens naturally and transparently at runtime
  - Distinction between ‘cold’ and ‘warm’ runs
- Enabled with **–Xshareclasses**
- Dynamic AOT compilation
  - Relocatable format
  - AOT loads are ~100 times faster than JIT compilations
  - More generic code → slightly less optimized
    - Generate AOT code only during start-up
    - Recompilation helps bridge the gap

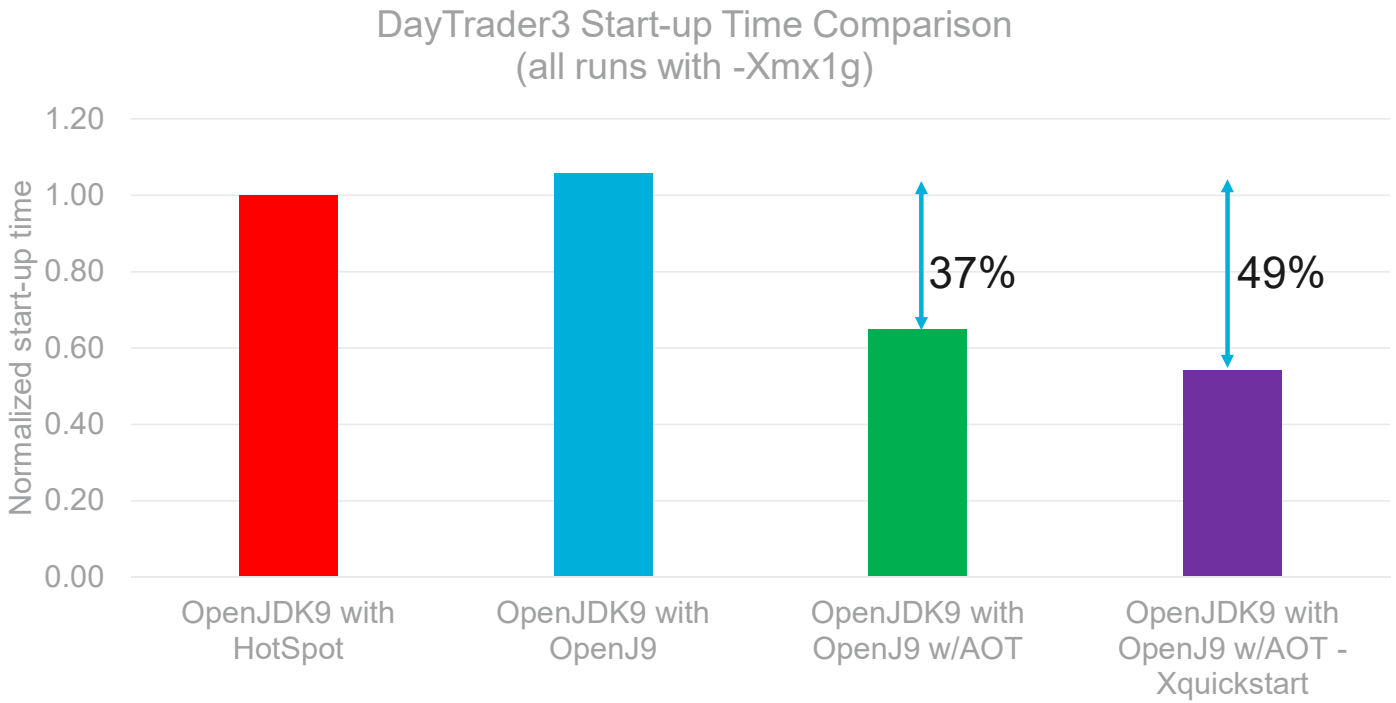
-Xquickstart mode

- Use cases
  - User cares a lot about start-up time
  - Very short running applications
  - Interactive, graphical applications

- Under the hood
  - Cheaper JIT compilations, but less optimized code
  - Interpreter profiler is disabled

- Somewhat similar to “-client” from HotSpot

Start-up performance with Eclipse OpenJ9



Benchmark: https://github.com/WASdev/sample.daytrader3
More details: https://github.com/eclipse/openj9-website/blob/master/benchmark/daytrader3.md

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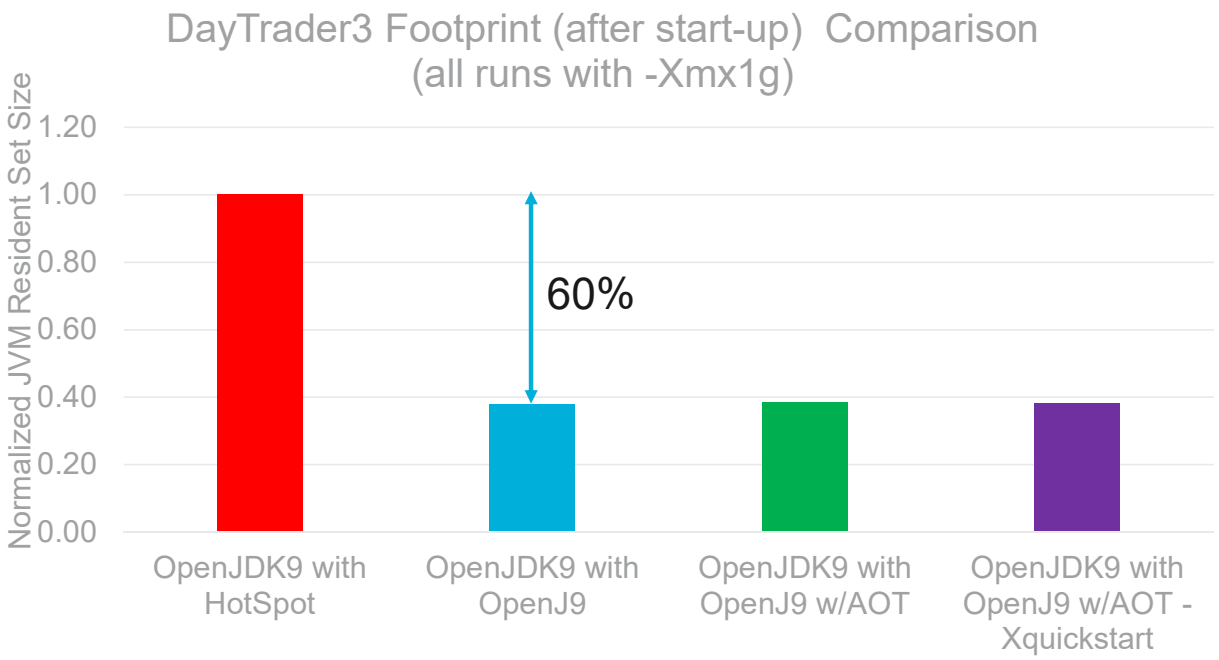
Footprint

- Myth: machines have plenty of RAM, so optimizing for footprint is not worthwhile
- Reality: application footprint is very important to:
  - Cloud users: pay for resources
  - Cloud providers: higher app density means lower operational costs
- Trends:
  - Virtualization → big machines partitioned into many smaller VM guests
  - Microservices → increased memory usage; native JVM footprint matters
- Distinction between:
  - On disk image size – relevant for Cloud Foundry
  - Virtual memory footprint – relevant for 32-bit applications
  - Physical memory footprint (RSS)

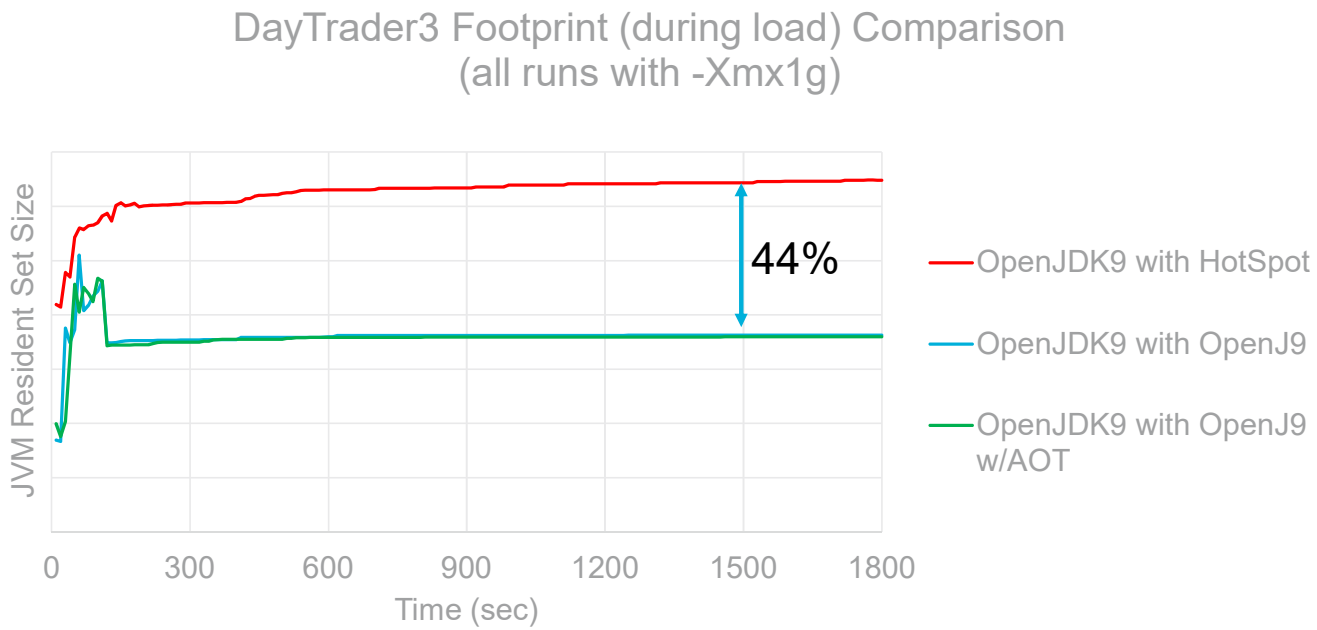
In the cloud footprint is king

Footprint after start-up comparison



- After start-up, OpenJ9 uses 60% less physical memory than HotSpot

Footprint during load comparison



- During load, OpenJ9 uses 44% less physical memory than HotSpot
- Further savings when multiple JVMs connect to the same shared class cache

Footprint Testimonials

Mike Milinkovich ✓
@mmilinkov

Follow

node.js has had a free ride because of the slow pace of *open* innovation in Java. With Eclipse @openj9 and Eclipse @vertx_project , Java can now compete on footprint in the cloud. #thisishuge

> **Doug Schaefer** @dougschaefer
> Well, for fun set up a simple vert.x server w/ derby on OpenJ9 and it's at 60MB RES. Smaller than Ghost, sqlite on node at 100MB. ¯_(ツ)_/¯

7:51 AM - 12 Oct 2017

58 Retweets **95** Likes

Doug Schaefer
@dougschaefer

Follow

Remember when my OpenJ9 VM was at 60MB RES? Now it's under 40. Keeps getting smaller! Smart memory management.

7:26 PM - 11 Oct 2017

2 Likes

Mark Stoodley @mstoodle · Oct 5
Save money with Eclipse @openj9 running your Java code in half the footprint!

2 16 18

Mark Hammons
@MarkHammons

Follow

Replying to @mstoodle @openj9

I can back up this claim. On a playframework webapp i'm working on, openj9 and openjdk 9 have near same max speed. openj9 uses .6x the ram.

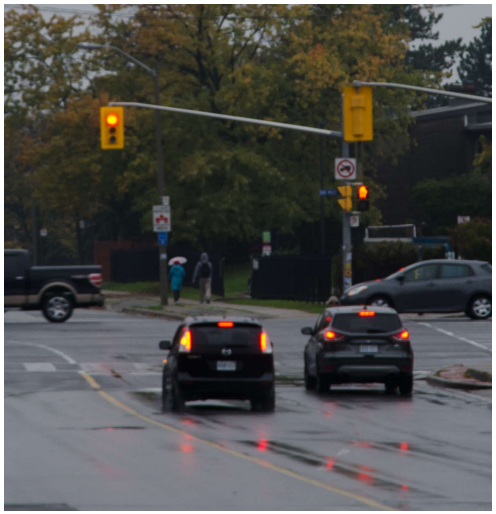
Mark Hammons @MarkHammons · Oct 7
Replying to @MarkHammons @mstoodle @openj9
openj9 also seems to return ram to the os more willingly than openjdk. openjdk consumes more memory till it reaches a good size for gc. 1/2

1

Mark Hammons @MarkHammons · Oct 7
i've watched the ram used by openj9 reported by my os peak at 800MB, then shrink to 730MB. Not something I see with openjdk! 2/2

Behavior at idle

- Important for cloud in high application density scenarios (over commit)
- anthesisgroup.com: “Some 30 percent of VMs are zombies”
  https://anthesisgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Comatsoe-Servers-Redux-2017.pdf



- Undesirable effects of idle JVMs:
  - May consume a small amount of CPU
  - May create some churn at the hypervisor level (swapping in/out guest VMs)
  - May take the CPU out of low power mode
  - May hold on to garbage memory that they don’t really need

Idle behavior in Eclipse OpenJ9

- Idle state detection mechanism
- Reduced frequency of sampling thread in idle state
- Reduced optimization level for JIT compiler during idle state
- Free the garbage in the heap and disclaim physical memory pages after some time in idle state

CPU and wakeups of idle JVM

- Analyze behavior of idle OpenLiberty server with powertop tool

OpenJDK9 with HotSpot – 0.168% CPU

Summary: 84.7 wakeups/second, 0.0 GPU ops/seconds, 0.0 VFS ops/sec and 0.3% CPU use.

Usage	Events/s	Category	Description
0.9 ms/s	44.2	Process	/sdks/OpenJDK9-x64_Linux_20172509/jdk-9+181/bin/java
119.5 µs/s	20.0	Process	[xfsaild/dm-1]
138.6 µs/s	7.4	Timer	tick_sched_timer
10.5 µs/s	1.6	Process	[rcu_sched]
190.4 µs/s	1.5	Timer	hrtimer_wakeup

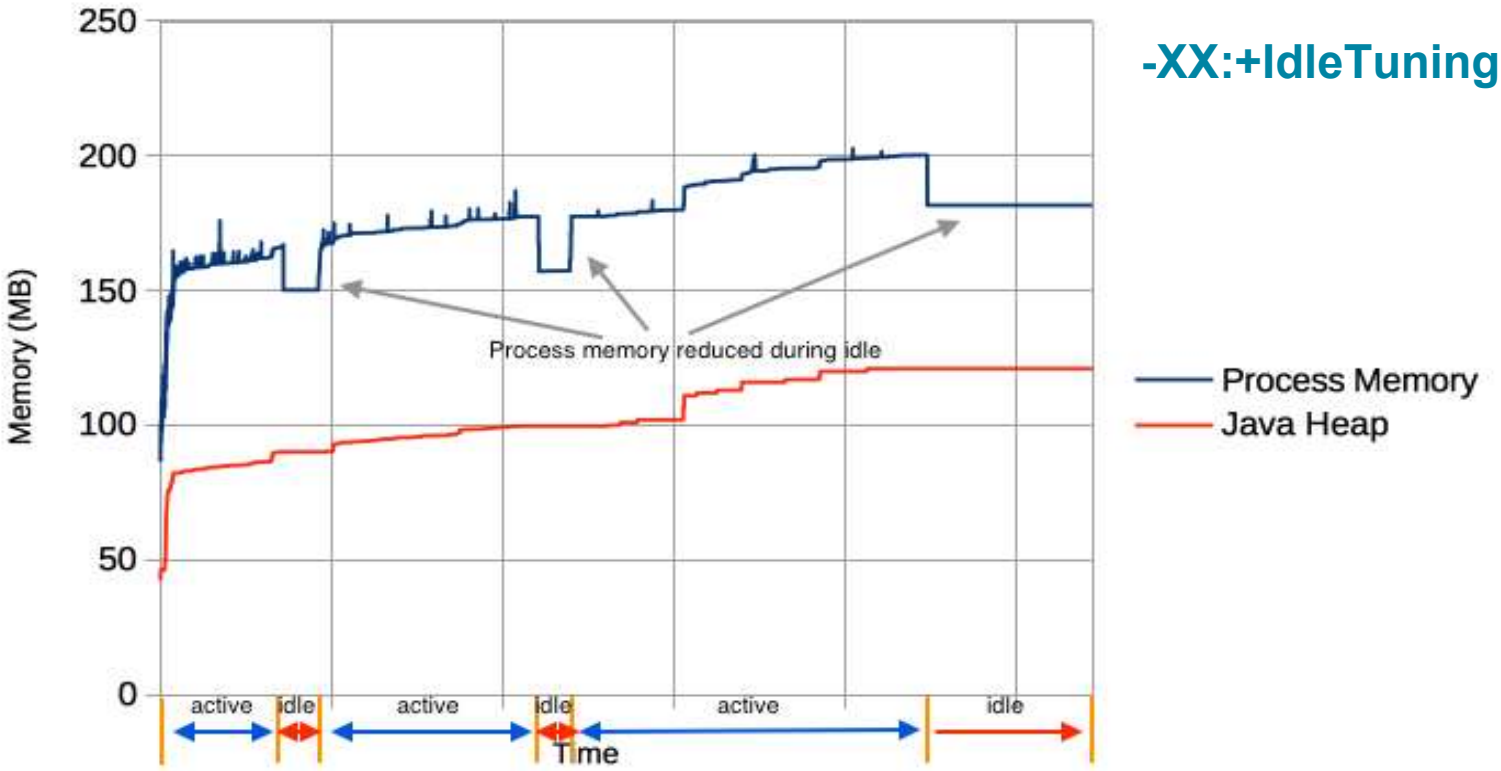
OpenJDK9 with OpenJ9 – 0.111% CPU

Summary: 38.5 wakeups/second, 0.1 GPU ops/seconds, 0.0 VFS ops/sec and 0.2% CPU use

Usage	Events/s	Category	Description
681.2 µs/s	19.2	Process	/sdks/OpenJDK9-OPENJ9_x64_Linux_20172509/jdk-9+181/bin/java
58.3 µs/s	5.2	Timer	tick_sched_timer
21.9 µs/s	3.6	Process	[rcu_sched]
39.3 µs/s	2.0	Timer	hrtimer_wakeup
157.1 µs/s	1.0	kWork	ixgbe_service_task

- OpenJ9 triggers ~55% fewer wakeups than HotSpot

Footprint of idle Eclipse OpenJ9



-XX:+IdleTuningGcOnIdle

Benchmark: https://github.com/blueperf/acmeair
More details: https://developer.ibm.com/javasdk/2017/09/25/still-paying-unused-memory-java-app-idle

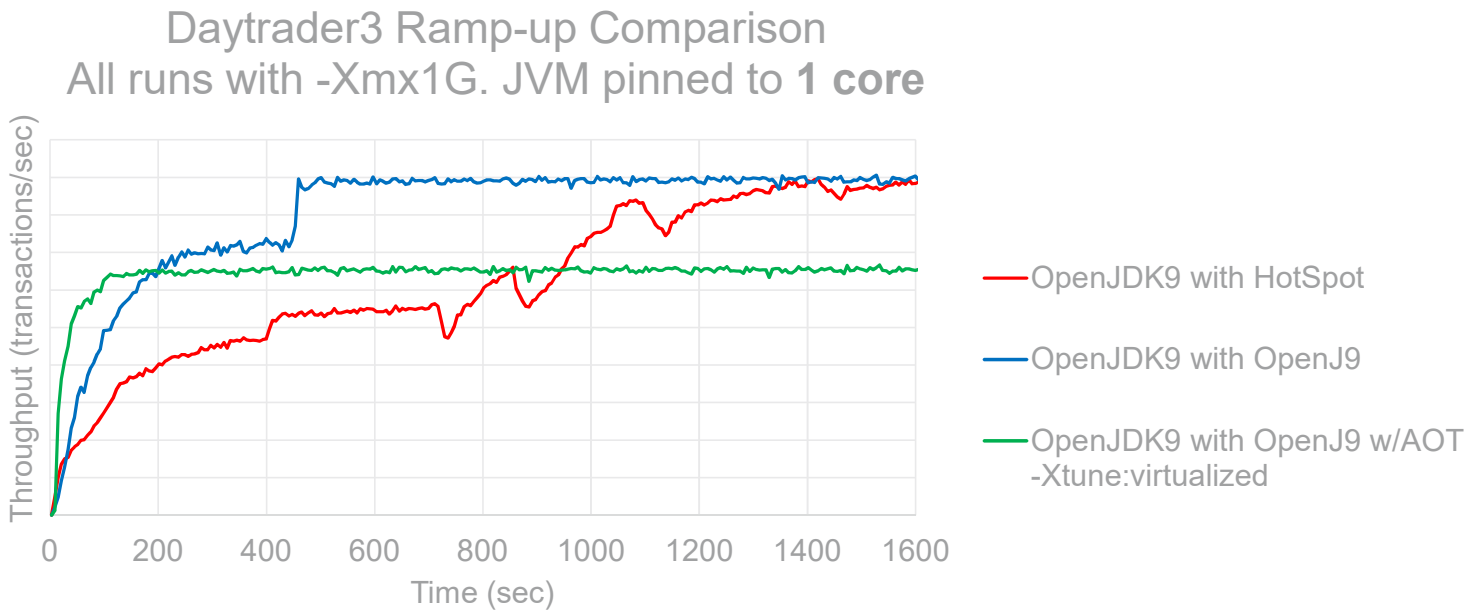
CPU constrained environments

- Virtual machines with 1 CPU are not that uncommon
- Compilation threads contending for CPU with application threads; side effects:
  - Slow ramp-up
  - Possible jitter in server response time

- OpenJ9 solutions to reduce CPU consumption:
  - Dynamic AOT compilation (enabled with -Xshareclasses)

  -Xtune:virtualized
    - More conservative JIT optimization. Subdued recompilation.
    - Saves compilation CPU (20-30%) at the expense of a 2-3% throughput loss
    - Some reduction in footprint
    - Works well in conjunction of dynamic AOT (generate AOT code as much as possible - if enabled)

Ramping-up in a CPU constrained environment



- -Xtune:virtualized and AOT good for CPU constrained situations and short running applications

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Response time

- Jitter in response time due to:
  - JIT compilation overhead (when JVM is CPU constrained)
  - GC operation – “stop the world”

- Addressing the GC pauses in OpenJ9
  - Metronome – soft real-time GC policy
    - GC pauses configurable to as low as 1ms
  - Pause-less GC feature for zOS
    - GC can run concurrently with application
    - Hardware support in z14 – Guarded Storage Facility
    - Enable with **-Xgc:concurrentScavenge**

z14: Pause-less Garbage Collection
Java Store Inventory and Point of Sale Application

Java GC-tuning made easier

High scavenge pause times made this application a candidate for Pause-less GC

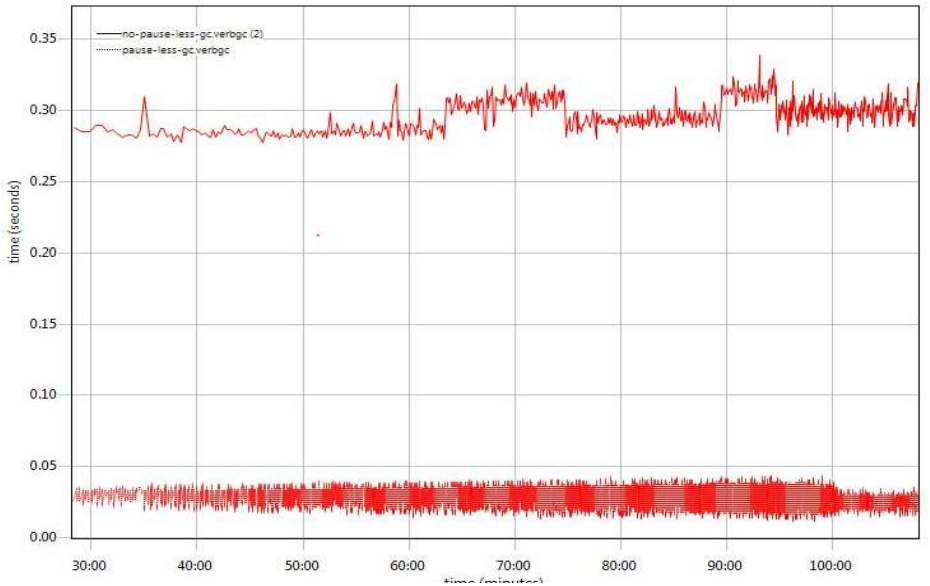
- Up to **3.4x** better throughput for **response-time** constrained Service Level Agreements (SLAs)
- Up to **10x** better average GC pause-times

Enable Pause-less GC with:
- IBM Java 8 SR5 or newer (OpenJ9 included)
- IBM z14's Guarded Storage Facility
- z/OS 2.3 or z/OS 2.2 with APAR OA51643

JVM option: **-Xgc:concurrentScavenge**

Pause time

Variant	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Total
	time (seconds)	time (seconds)	time (seconds)	time (seconds)
no-pause-less-gc.verbgc (2)	0.3	0.28	0.34	199
pause-less-gc.verbgc	0.03	0.01	0.04	54.1



IBM Monitoring and Diagnostic Tools - Garbage Collection and Memory Visualizer

Performance monitoring tools

- Many low level performance tools exist
  - CPU: top, htop, vmstat, pidstat, mpstat, sar, nmon
  - Memory: sar, dstat, slabtop, free, nmon
  - Disk activity: iotop, iostat, sar, nmon
  - Network: ping, iftop, netstat, tcp, nicstat,
  - Profilers: perf, oprofile, tprof

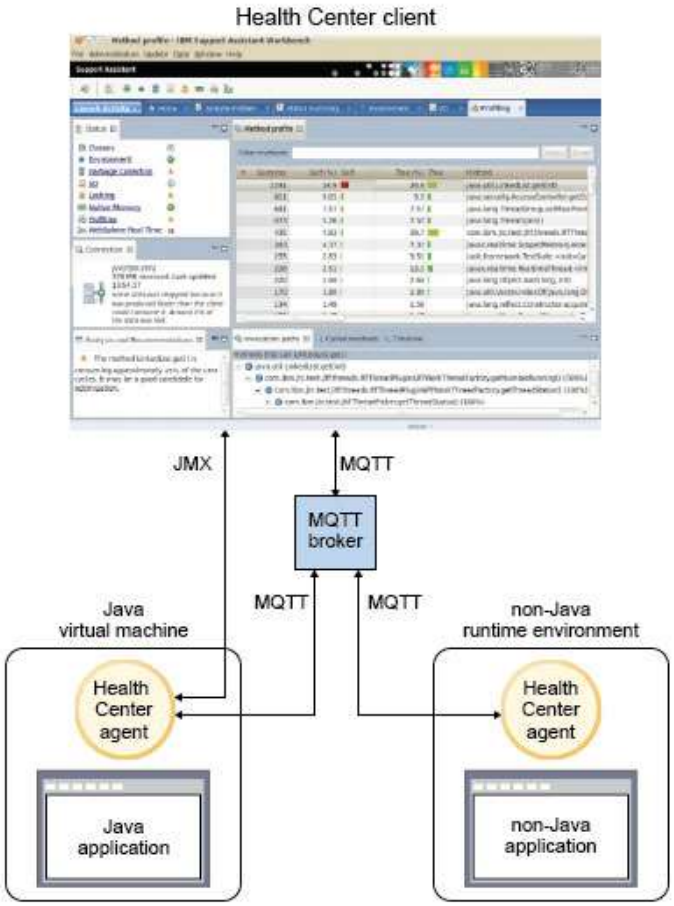
- OpenJ9 performance tools
  - Health Center
  - Garbage Collector and Memory Visualizer (GCMV)

Health Center

- Live monitoring tool with low overhead (<1%)
- Provides insight into your application behavior with visualization
- Diagnoses potential problems and makes recommendations
- Powerful API allowing embedding of Health Center into other applications

Health Center

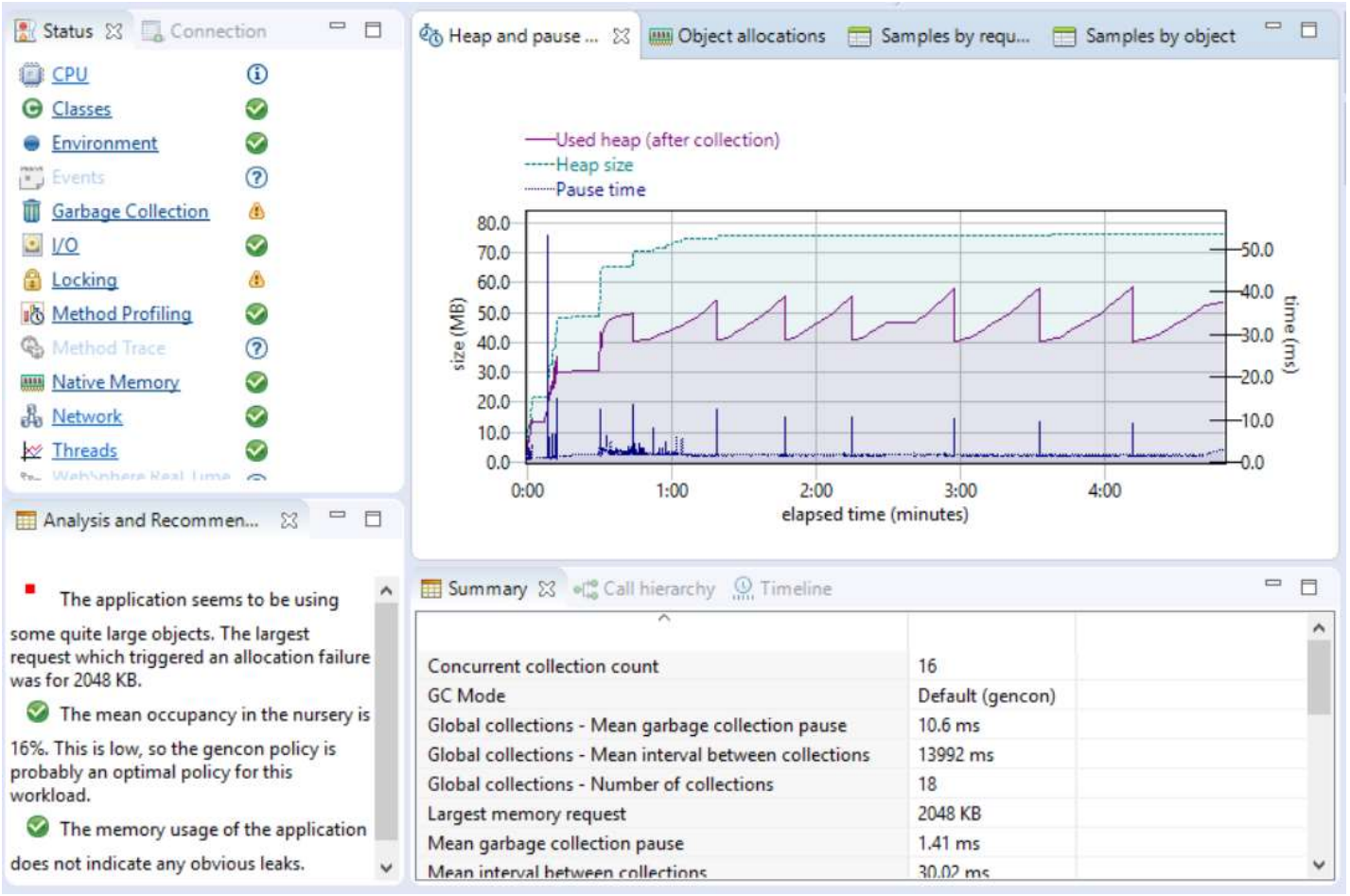
- Tool is composed of two parts
  - Agent that collects data from running JVM
  - Eclipse based client that connects to the agent (typically running remotely)
- The agent ships with all IBM SDK for Java releases
- Latest version of agent available from within Health Center client
- Full usage instructions provided in the client Help topics
- Monitoring enabled with command line option
  java –Xhealthcenter HelloWorld
- Late attach possible
- Headless mode - collection without connecting the GUI



Health Center

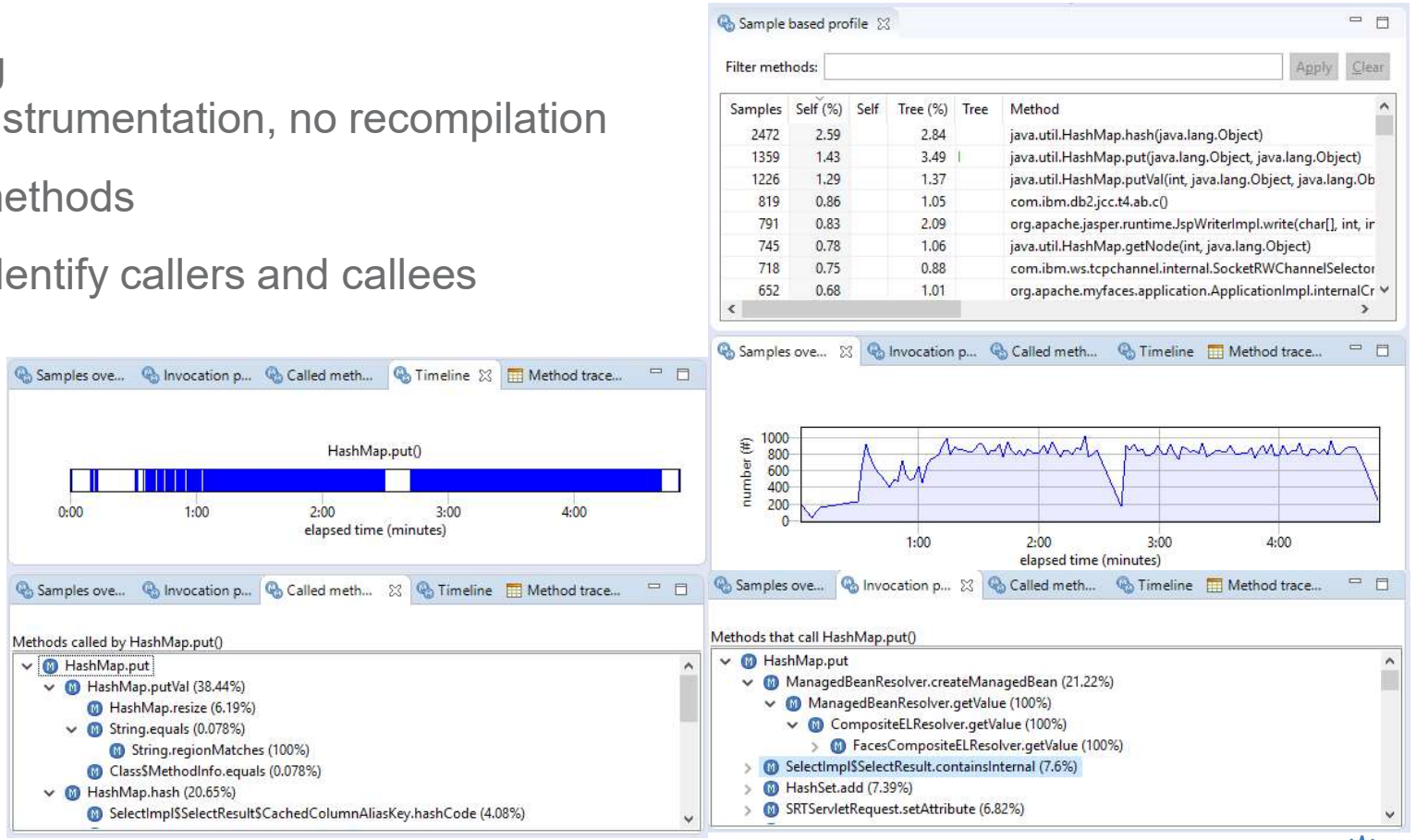
- Provides visualization and monitoring in the following areas
  - Garbage collection
  - Method profiling
  - Lock analysis
  - Threading
  - Classes
  - Environment
  - Memory
  - CPU
  - I/O
  - Network

Health Center – Garbage collection perspective



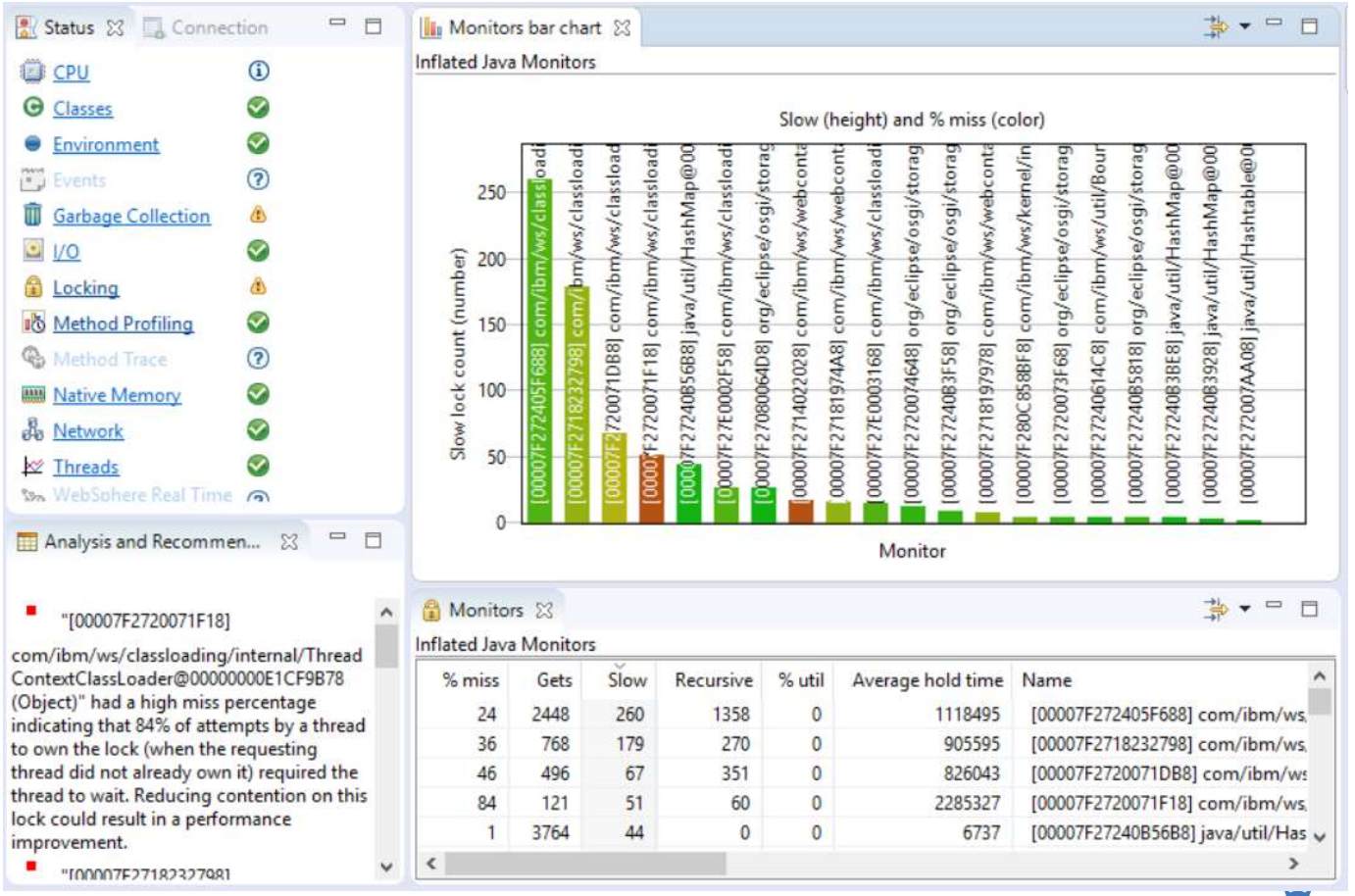
Health Center – Method Profiling perspective

- Always-on profiling
  - No bytecode instrumentation, no recompilation
- Identifies hottest methods
- Full callstacks to identify callers and callees



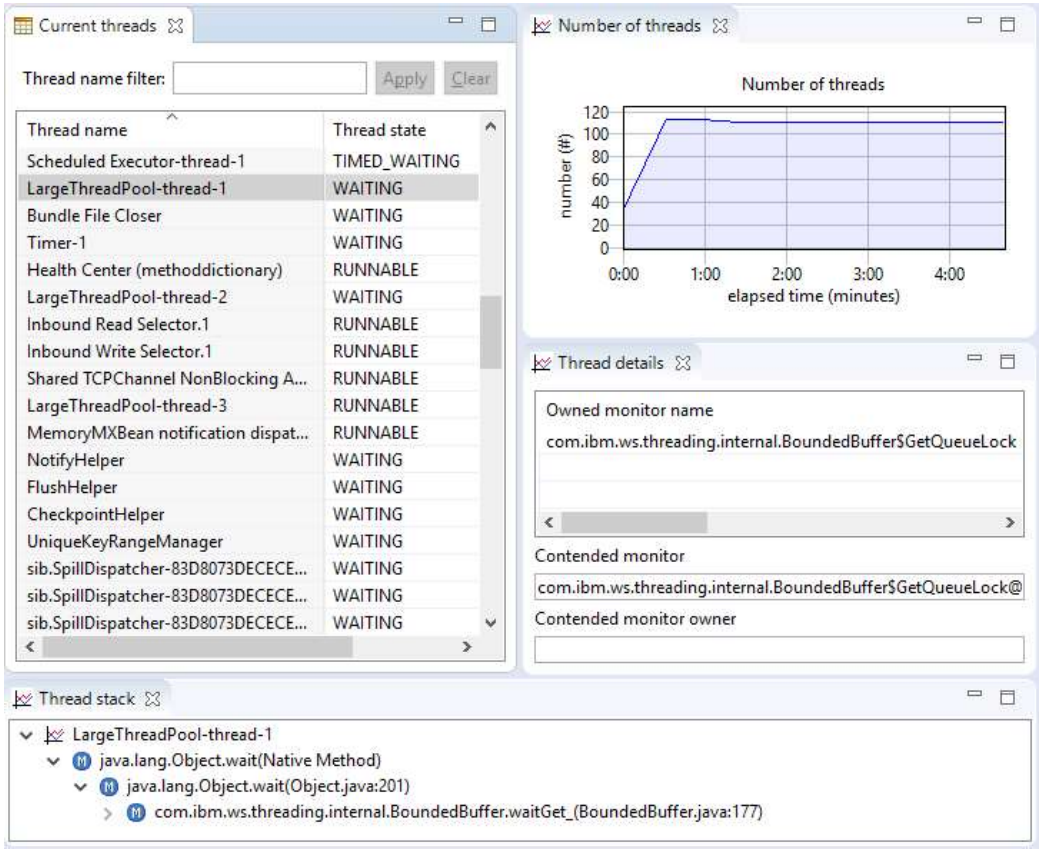
Health Center – Locking perspective

- Always-on lock monitoring
- Helps identify points of contention in the application



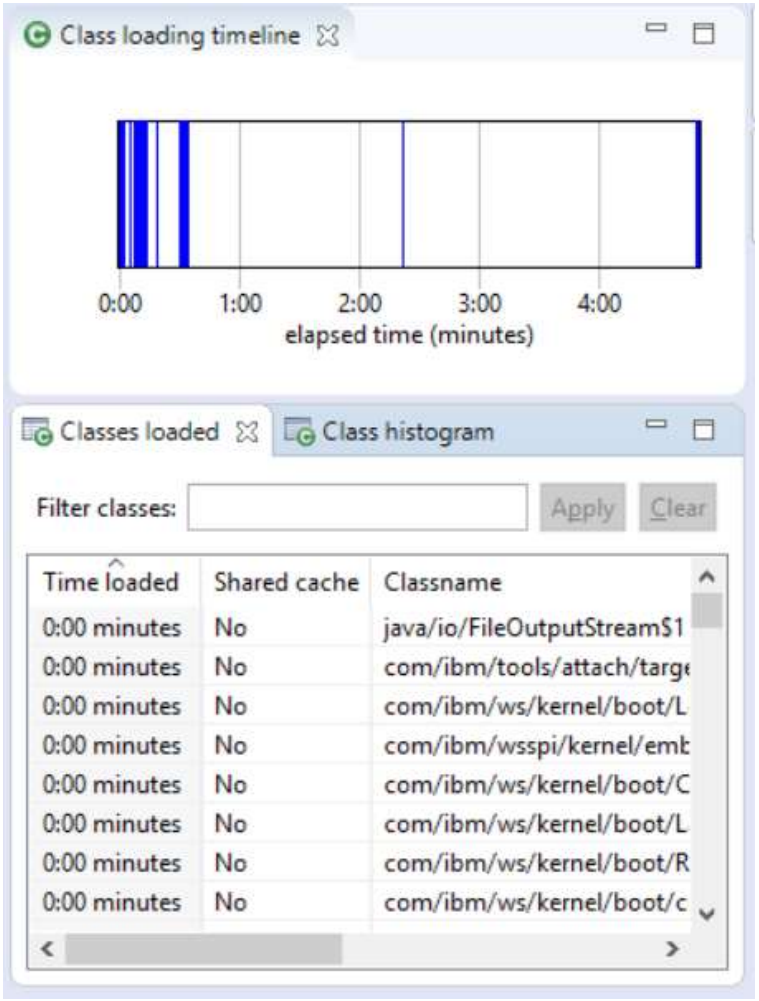
Health Center – Threads perspective

- List of current threads and states
- Number of threads over time
- Detection of contended monitors
- Deadlock detection and analysis



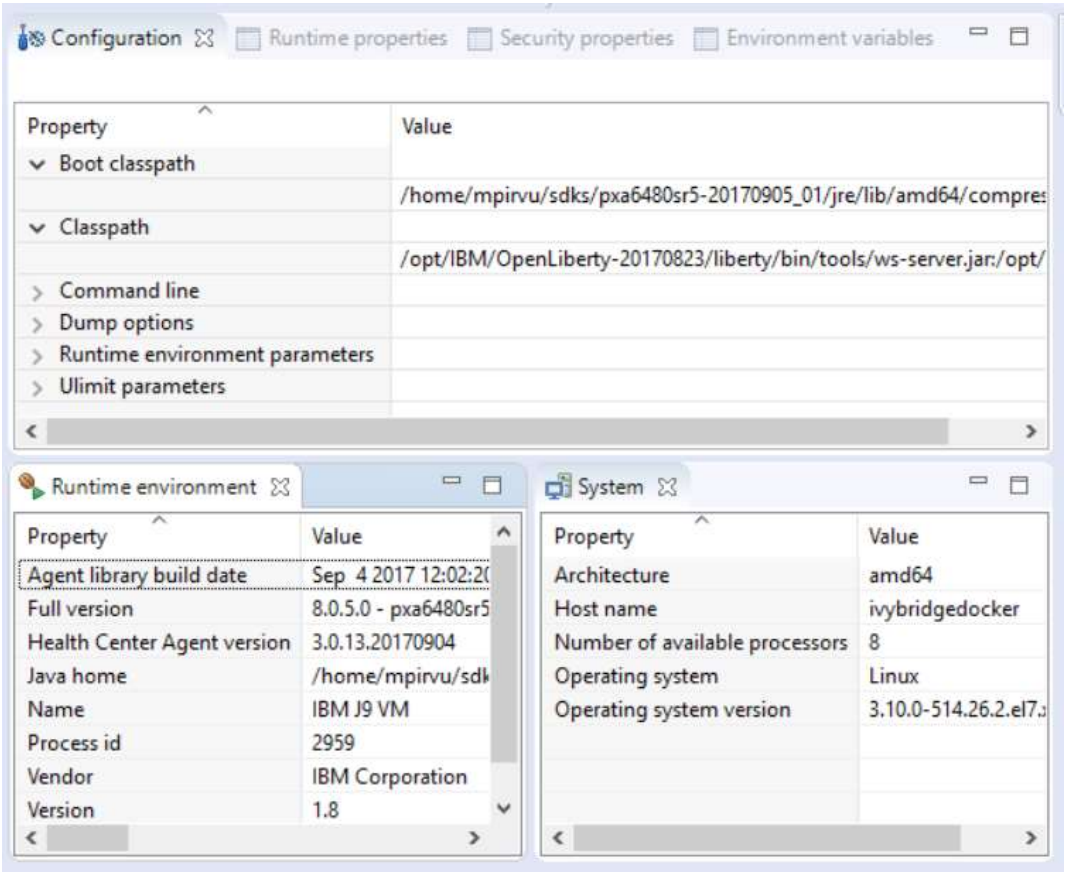
Health Center – Class loading perspective

- Shows all loaded classes
- Shows timeline of loading events
- Identifies shared classes
- Shows number of unloaded classes

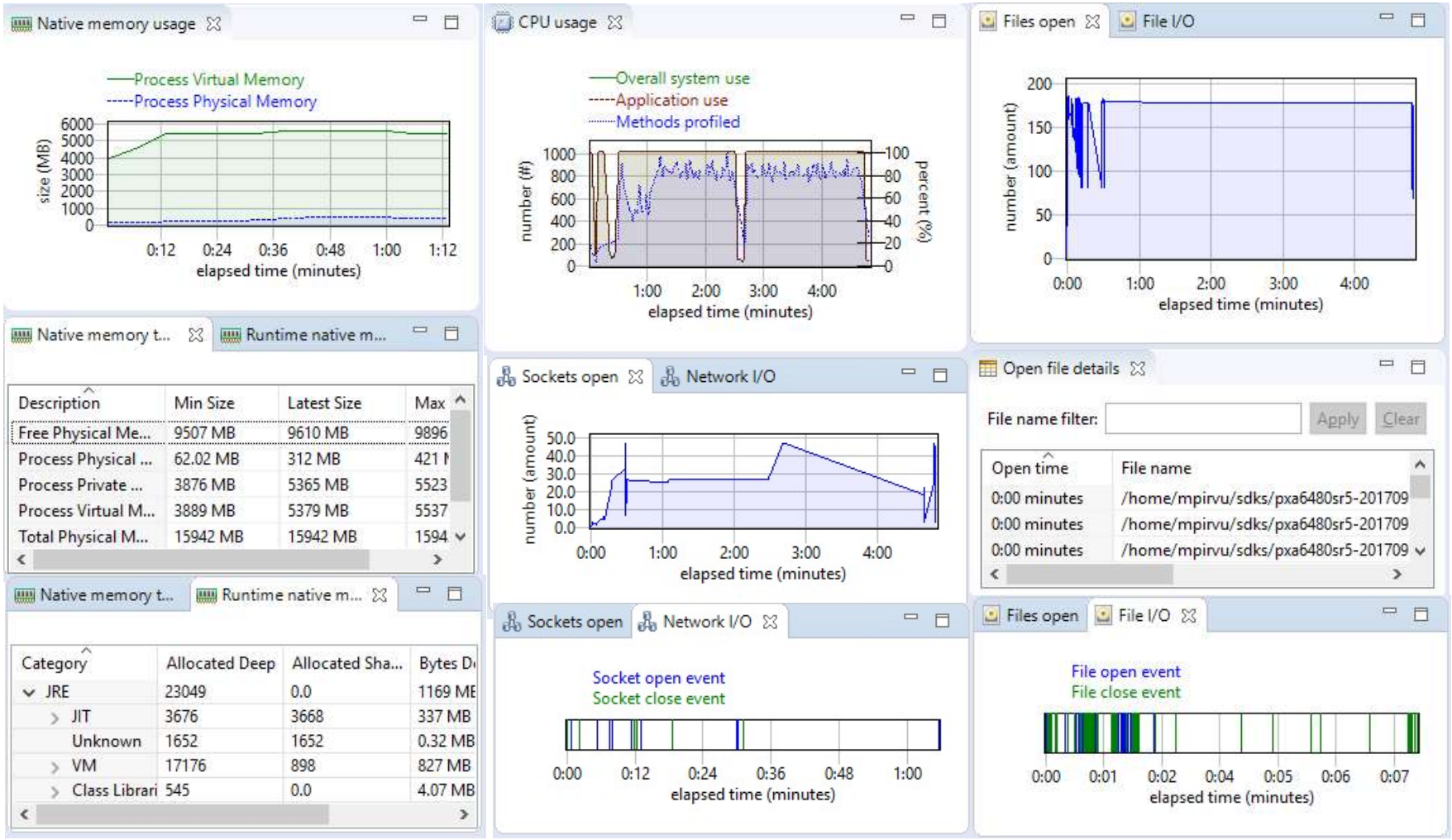


Health Center – Environment reporting

- Detects invalid Java options
- Detects options which may hurt performance
- Useful for detecting configuration-related problems



Health Center – Other perspectives

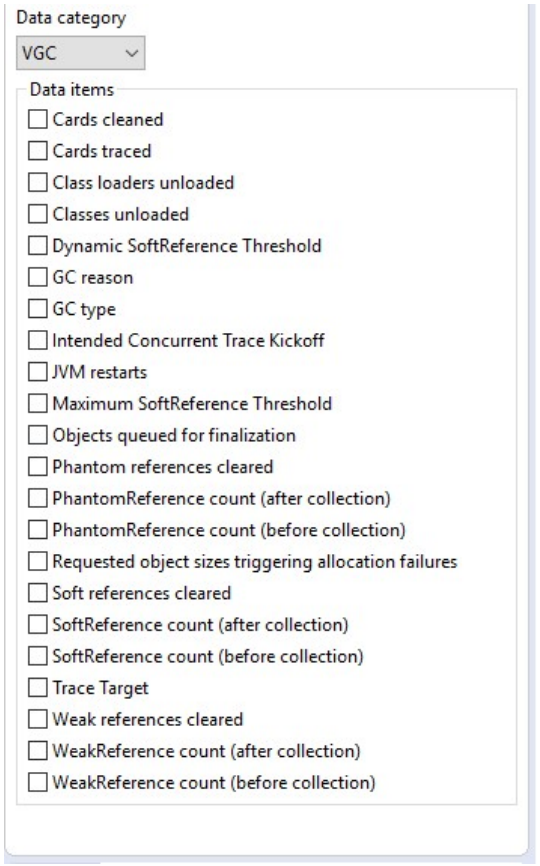


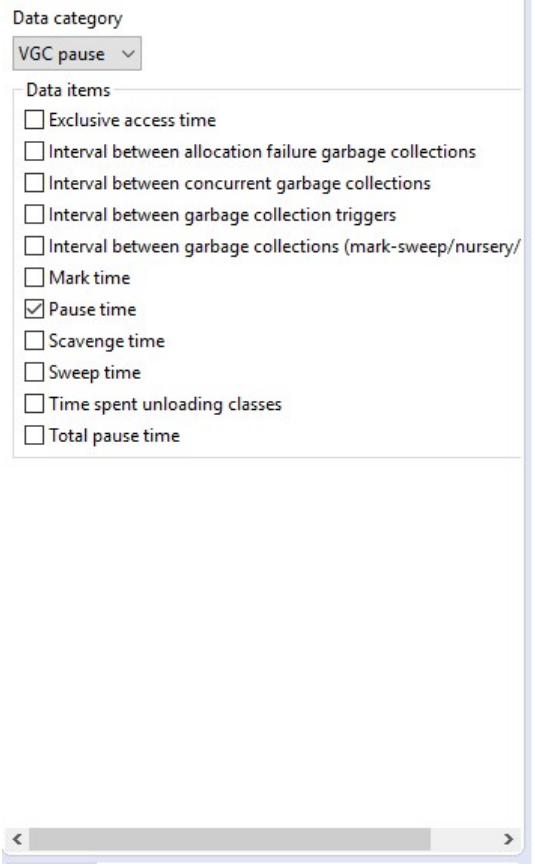
Garbage Collector and Memory Visualizer (GCMV)

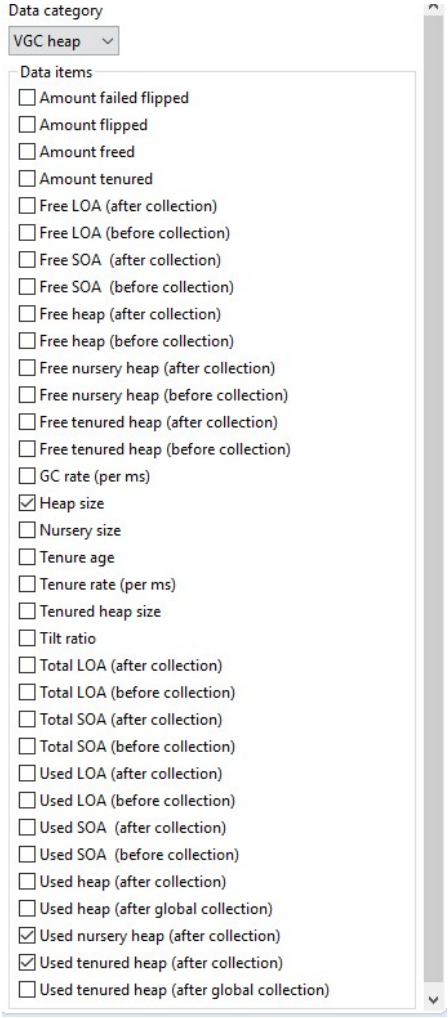
- Visualize a wide range of GC data and Java heap statistics over time
- Recommendations for optimizing GC
- Detect memory leaks
- Visualize physical and virtual memory of the JVM

- Extracts information from:
  - GC verbose logs – for Java heap
  - ps (linux, z/OS), svmon (AIX) or perfmon (Windows) tools – for native footprint

GCMV data categories







GCMV snapshots

- **Analysis and recommendations**
  - Analysis can be limited using cropping

Tuning recommendation

⚠ Excessive time (4.38%) is being spent in GC. Consider increasing the size of the heap.

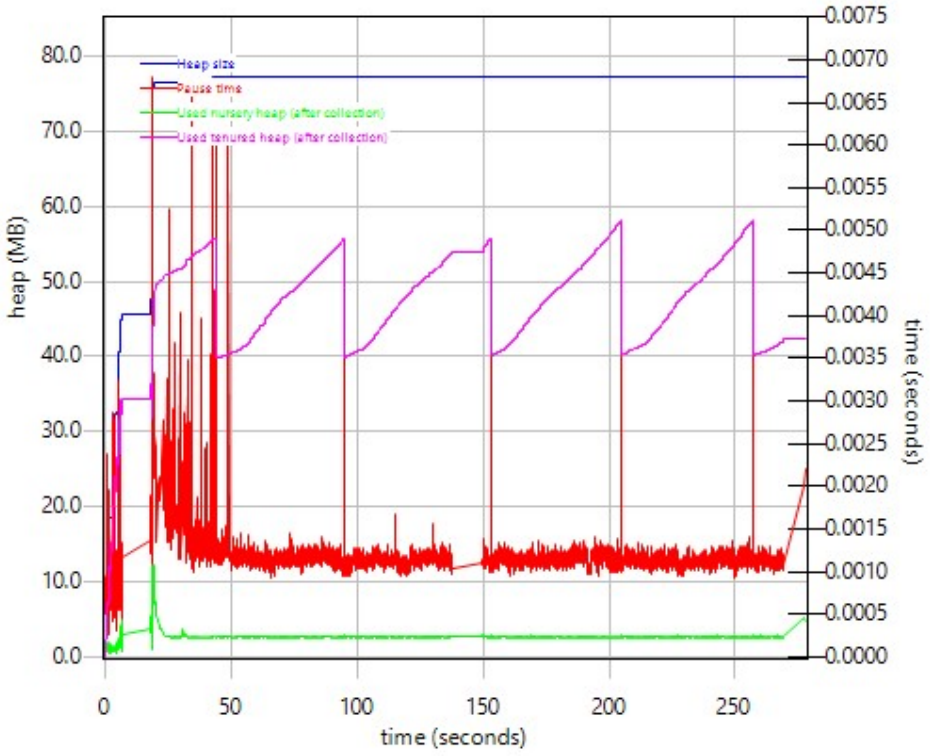
⚠ At one point 968 objects were queued for finalization. Using finalizers is not recommended as it can slow garbage collection and cause wasted space in the heap. Consider reviewing your application for occurrences of the finalize() method. You can use IBM Monitoring and Diagnostic Tools - Memory Analyzer to list objects that are only retained through finalizers.

⚠ 2 global garbage collects took on average 564% longer than the average nursery collect. If you believe this is abnormally high and unacceptable, consider using the Balanced GC policy for applications deployed on a 64-bit platform with a heap size greater than 4GB.

Summary

Concurrent collection count	17
Forced collection count	0
GC Mode	gencon
Global collections - Mean garbage collection pause (ms)	3.31
Global collections - Mean interval between collections (ms)	15146
Global collections - Number of collections	17
Global collections - Total amount tenured (MB)	460
Largest memory request (bytes)	2097160
Number of collections triggered by allocation failure	7416
Nursery collections - Mean garbage collection pause (ms)	1.15
Nursery collections - Mean interval between collections (ms)	37.5
Nursery collections - Number of collections	7416
Nursery collections - Total amount flipped (MB)	5357
Nursery collections - Total amount tenured (MB)	66.9
Proportion of time spent in garbage collection pauses (%)	4.38
Proportion of time spent unpaused (%)	95.62
Rate of garbage collection (MB/minutes)	24311

- **Graphical display of data**
  - Many metrics to choose from
  - Allows zoom, cropping and change of units



Conclusion

Eclipse OpenJ9 == The better JVM for the cloud

Questions?

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Resources

- Description: https://www.eclipse.org/openj9
- Get involved: https://github.com/eclipse/openj9
  https://github.com/eclipse/omr
- Build your own: https://www.eclipse.org/openj9/oj9_build.html
- Download OpenJ9 binaries: https://adoptopenjdk.net/?variant=openjdk9-openj9
- Performance: https://github.com/eclipse/openj9-website/blob/master/benchmark/daytrader3.md
- Links to benchmarks:
  - Daytrader3: https://github.com/WASdev/sample.daytrader3
  - AcmeAir: https://github.com/blueperf/acmeair