

BLAKE2

<https://blake2.net>

Another hash again?



Why not SHA-2, SHA-3?

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BLAKE, Groestl, JH, Skein?

Why not SHA-2, SHA-3?

BLAKE, Groestl, JH, Skein?

BMW, CubeHash, MD6, Shabal?

focus on

software (*speed*)

&

usability

“But speed in software is limited by HDD latency”

True on legacy hardware, but
recent SSDs R/W at $\approx 500\text{MBps}$

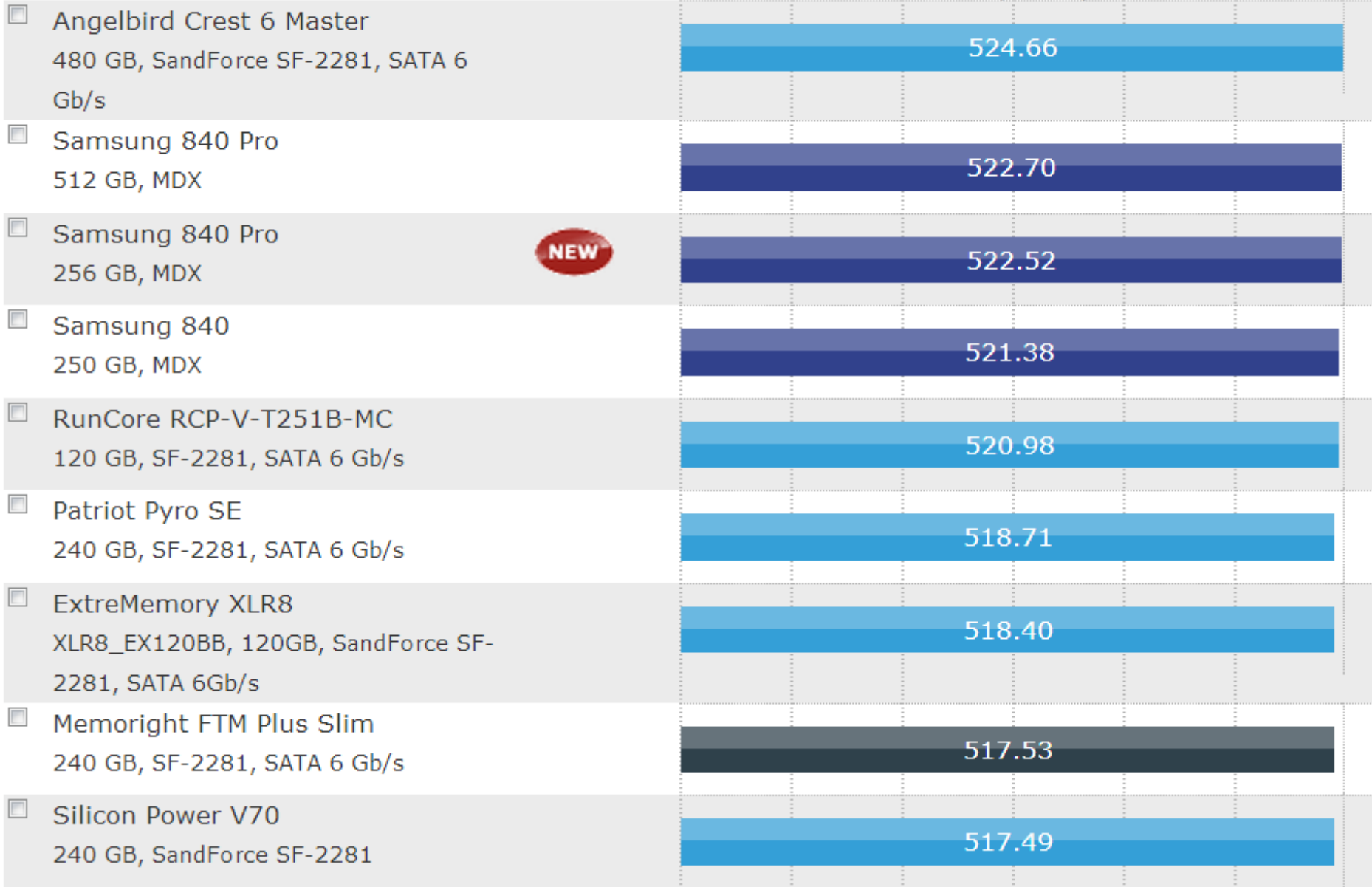
on 2GHz Core i7 (SB)

SHA-256: 110 MiBps

SHA-512: 172 MiBps

Compare

0 87.5 175 262.5 350 437.5
score (in MB/s)



*“OK, but software hashing
is never a bottleneck”*

Except in

cloud storage

advanced file systems

version control systems

intrusion detection systems

etc.

Example: Artillery IDS

hashes **all files** in **/etc/** and **/var/www/** **every 60sec** on a machine busy serving HTTP

*~2000 small files in /etc/ of a basic install
but /var/www/ can be huge (GiBs)
(↳200MiB on my tiny server...)*

Example: ZFS (Sun/Oracle)

“Each block of data is checksummed and the checksum value is then saved in the pointer to that block (...) Next, the block pointer is checksummed (...) This checksumming continues all the way up the file system's data hierarchy to the root node, which is also checksummed, thus creating a **Merkle tree**.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZFS#ZFS_Data_Integrity

Example: ZFS (Sun)

Integrity checking defaults to a **weak checksum**, because SHA-256 (optional) isn't fast enough

Deduplication in ZFS also requires fast hashing

Example: OpenStack Swift

Cloud storage system used by NASA, AT&T, etc.

“Objects and files are written to multiple disk drives spread throughout servers in the data center, with the OpenStack software responsible for ensuring data replication and integrity across the cluster.”

<http://www.openstack.org/software/openstack-storage/>

→ MD5

Example: Perforce

major commercial VCS

used in 5500+ orgs, including Google

www.perforce.com/perforce/r12.1/manuals/cmdref/verify.html

Click to go forward, hold to see history

p4 verify

Synopsis

Verify that the server archives are intact.

Syntax

```
p4 [g-opts] verify [-m maxRevs] [-q] [-t|-u|-v|-z] [-X] [-b batch] file[revRange]...
```

Description

p4 verify reports the revision specific information and an **MD5 digest** (fingerprint) of the revision's contents.

reported to take **several hours** on
large projects...



Why do people still use/recommend MD5 if it is cracked since 1996?



It's still commonly recommended way of hashing passwords, even if it's insecurity had been proven in 1996

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Therefore we suggest that in the future MD5 should no longer be implemented in applications like signature schemes, where a collision-resistant hash function is required. According to our present knowledge, the best recommendations for alternatives to MD5 are SHA-1 and RIPEMD-160.



1

(The Status of MD5 After a Recent Attack, CryptoBytes, RSA Laboratories, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2 — SUMMER 1996)

MD5 2.5 times as fast as SHA-256

SHA-3 not much faster...

Need #1

at least as fast as **MD5**

Need **more** than a (fast) hash

Bring what **users need**, in a
way that **users understand**

Need #2

specify “extra features”

but avoid bloat of design/specs

Need #3

usage-oriented specs

focus on users' needs and expectations
do it with the right language

Mission summary

aggressively optimize the design
identify and specify extra features
provide ready-to-use code and tools
present it in the most convincing way

Tiger team

JP Aumasson (@aumasson)

Samuel Neves (@sevenps)

Zooko Wilcox-O'Hearn (@zooko)

Chris Winnerlein (@codesinchaos)

BLAKE2

Faster than MD5 on 64-bit Intel
32% less RAM used than BLAKE

No-overhead support of
Parallel hashing (multicore, SIMD)
Tree mode (updatable, incremental)
Prefix-key, salt, personalization

BLAKE2b

for 64-bit CPUs, 1-64 byte digests
12 rounds, based on BLAKE-512

BLAKE2s

for 32-bit CPUs, 1-32 byte digests
10 rounds, based on BLAKE-256

G function: simpler, faster

$$a \leftarrow a + b + m_{\sigma_r}(2i)$$

$$d \leftarrow (d \oplus a) \ggg 32$$

$$c \leftarrow c + d$$

$$b \leftarrow (b \oplus c) \ggg 24$$

$$a \leftarrow a + b + m_{\sigma_r}(2i+1)$$

$$d \leftarrow (d \oplus a) \ggg 16$$

$$c \leftarrow c + d$$

$$b \leftarrow (b \oplus c) \ggg 63$$

G function: simpler, faster

$$a \leftarrow a + b + m_{\sigma_r(2i)} \quad \text{no constants} \\ \text{-16\% ops}$$

$$d \leftarrow (d \oplus a) \ggg 32$$

$$c \leftarrow c + d \quad \text{saves 64 RAM bytes} \\ \text{in B2s (128 in B2b)}$$

$$b \leftarrow (b \oplus c) \ggg 24$$

$$a \leftarrow a + b + m_{\sigma_r(2i+1)}$$

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12% faster
than 25
(pshufb...)

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= doubling

+ shift

-> a bit faster...

Parameter block xored to the IV

Offset	0	1	2	3
0	Digest length	Key length	Fanout	Depth
4	Leaf length			
8	Node offset			
12				
16	Node depth	Inner length	RFU	
20	RFU			
24				
28				
32	Salt			
...				
44				
48	Personalization			
...				
60				

Little-endian

like MD5, unlike BLAKE or SHA-x

like Intel, AMD, ARM

Bytes, not bits

can save days of debugging (really)

Parallel hashing

×4 and ×8

BLAKE2bp(M) =

B2b(**B2b**(M1), **B2b**(M2), **B2b**(M3), **B2b**(M4))

BLAKE2sp(M) =

B2s(**B2s**(M1), **B2s**(M2), **B2s**(M3), ..., **B2s**(M8))

Parallel hashing

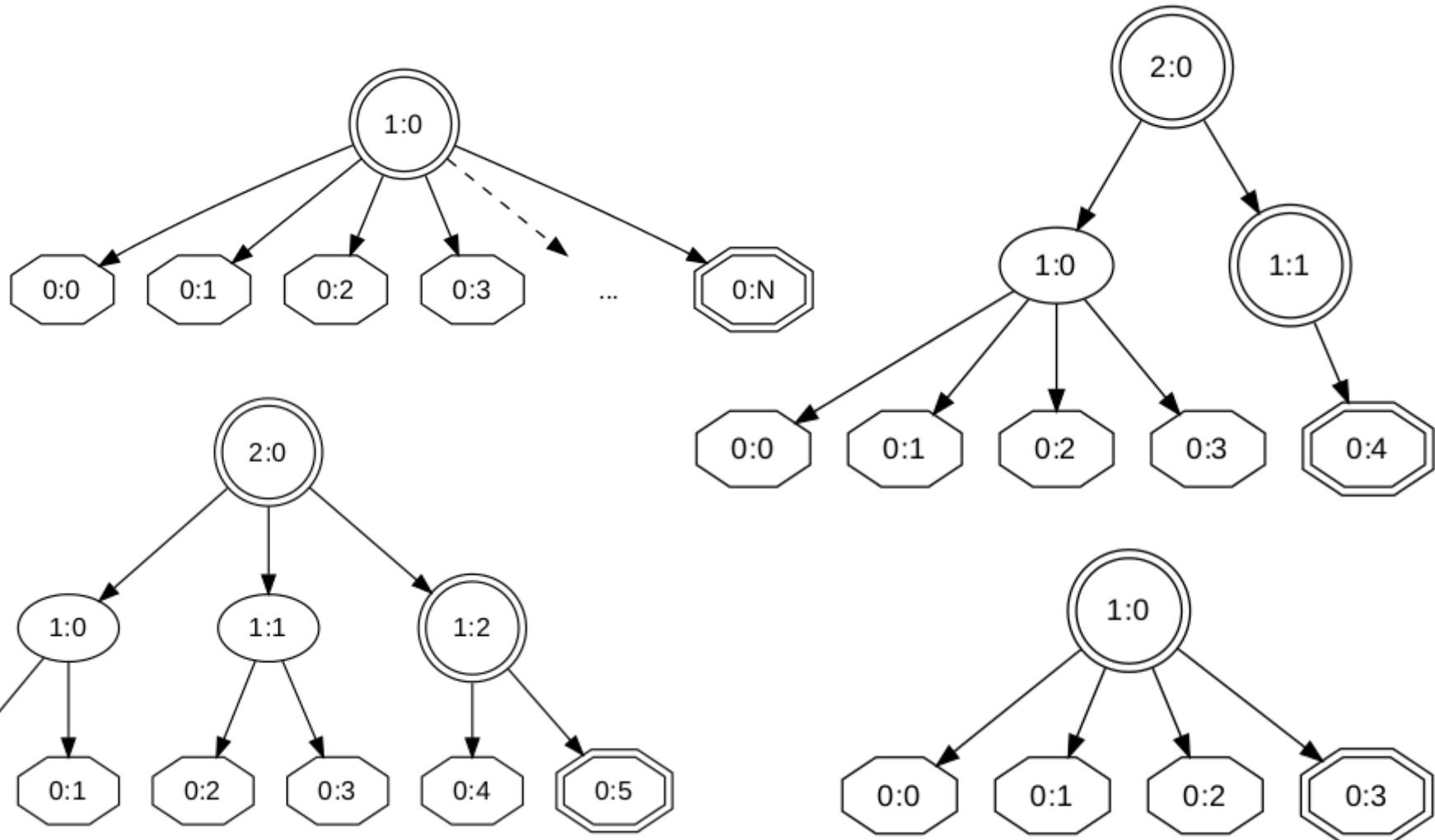
Maximizes CPU usage
keeps cores and pipelines busy
(AVX2 will enable "2-in-1" BLAKE2s)

Minimizes computation overhead
with 1 non-leaf node hashing short message

Supports streamed hashing,
unknown-length messages

Tree hashing

Simple, yet comprehensive support



Tree hashing

“Sound tree hashing”

all nodes distinct, last node signaled, etc.

Supports unbounded fanout mode

Secure handling of “tree saturation”

Generic binary tree with 4KiB leaves

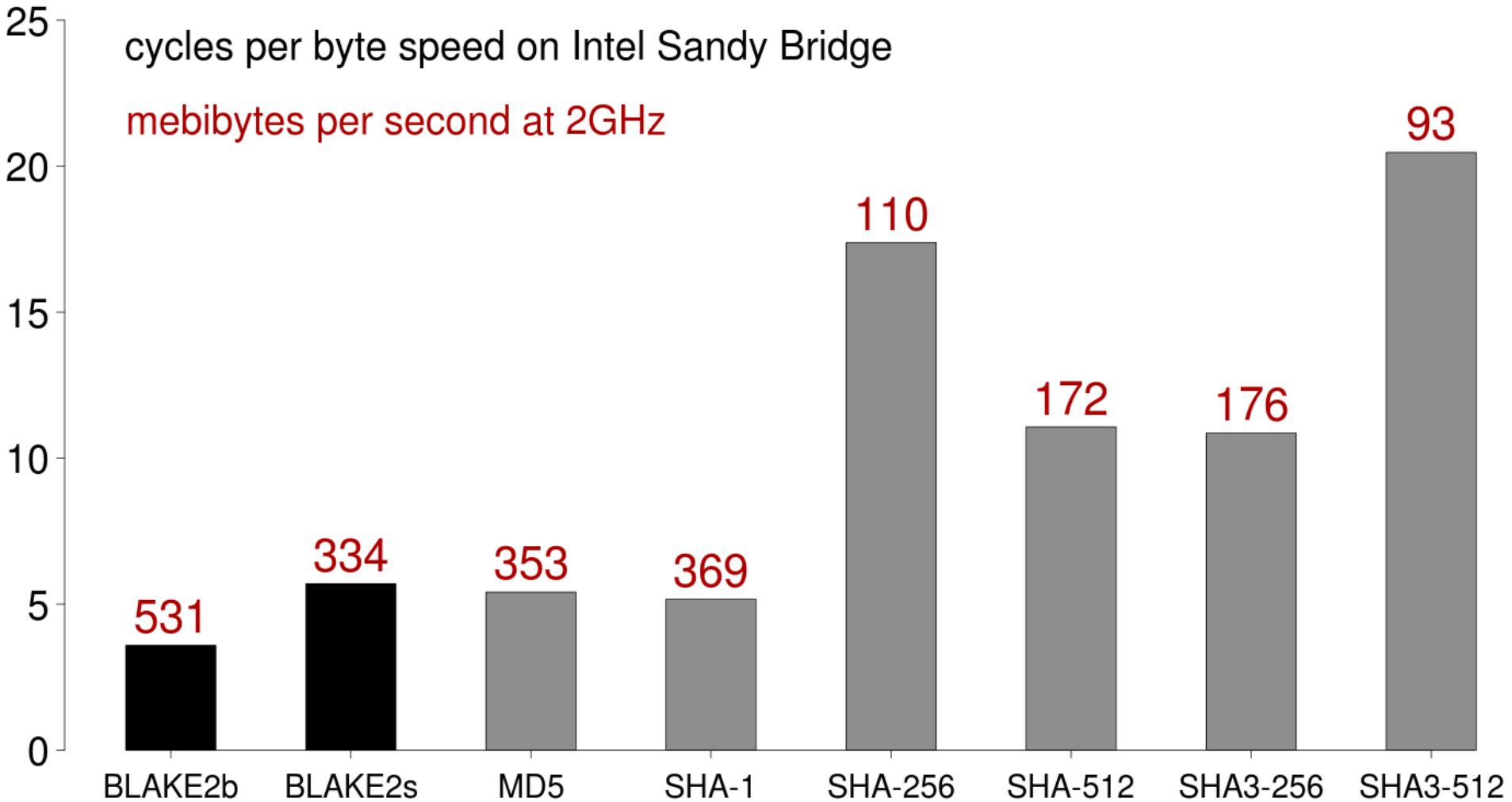
Security

High confidence, following previous analysis of BLAKE

Best hash attack on 2.5 rounds
e.g. collisions in 2^{112} instead of 2^{128}

No formal BLAKE \rightarrow BLAKE2 reduction
due to different compression functions

Performance



BLAKE2 designed to exploit

Multiple cores (4,8)

Instruction-level //ism

SIMD instruction sets

(including ARM's NEON, and future AVX2)

Cycles per byte

Microarchitecture	BLAKE2b			BLAKE2s		
	Long	1536	64	Long	1536	64
Sandy Bridge	3.59	3.96	8.56	5.70	5.74	6.63
Bulldozer	5.47	5.78	18.48	8.67	8.75	10.61

Mebibytes per second

Microarchitecture	BLAKE2b			BLAKE2s		
	Long	1536	64	Long	1536	64
Sandy Bridge (@2GHz)	531	482	223	335	332	288
Bulldozer (@3.6GHz)	628	330	103	220	330	180

Lesser speed-up on Bulldozer due to vector rotations...

Cycles per byte

5.35

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On Intel Sandy Bridge

BLAKE2b **59% faster** than BLAKE-512

BLAKE2s **31% faster** than BLAKE-256

on long messages

BLAKE2s **faster than MD4**

on ≤ 64 -byte messages

On Intel Sandy Bridge

BLAKE2bp **3.51×** as fast as BLAKE2b

BLAKE2sp **6.37×** as fast as BLAKE2s

-> **700MB** disk image hashed in **~300ms**

Speed-up should converge to 4/8× if optimized

Low-end software
32% smaller than BLAKE

BLAKE2s requires 168 bytes of RAM
BLAKE2b requires 336 bytes of RAM

Hardware

speed-up only from round reduction

BLAKE2b 29% faster than BLAKE-512

BLAKE2s 25% faster than BLAKE-256

Our code package

C “**ref**” and “**sse**” of BLAKE2b/s/bp/sp
supports SSSE3, SSE4.1, AVX, XOP

C# of BLAKE2b for .NET integration

b2sum command-line tool

SUPERCOP-like **benchmark** tool

Released Dec 21st



zooko
@zooko



Following

introducing BLAKE2 — an alternative to SHA-3, SHA-2, SHA-1, and MD5:
identi.ca/url/74622781

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JP Aumasson
@aumasson

the BLAKE2 hash blake2.net by
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4:02 PM - 21 Dec 12 · [Embed this Tweet](#)

Positive reception



Dmitry Chestnykh
@dchest



Following

BLAKE2 merges everything that I liked about BLAKE with everything that I liked about Skein (simple padding, parameter block). Yay!

Positive reception



zooko @zooko

21 Dec

introducing BLAKE2 — an alternative to SHA-3, SHA-2, SHA-1, and MD5: identi.ca/url/74622781

Details



David Brady

@dbrady



Follow

@zooko @kaleidic All I know is BLAKE7 was a LOUSY replacement for Star Trek, Doctor Who and Battlestar Galactica.

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1

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Positive reception

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stories

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BLAKE2 Claims Faster Hashing Than SHA-3, SHA-2 and MD5

Posted by **timothy** on Tuesday December 25, @01:18PM
from the loose-ends-may-appear-under-the-microscope dept.



hypnosec writes

"[BLAKE2](#) has been recently announced as a new [alternative to the existing cryptographic hash algorithms](#) MD5 and SHA-2/3. With applicability in cloud storage, software distribution, host-based intrusion detection, digital forensics and revision control tools, BLAKE2 performs a lot faster than the MD5 algorithm on Intel 32- and 64-bit systems. The developers of BLAKE2 insist that even though the algorithm is faster, there are no loose ends when it comes to security. BLAKE2 is an optimized version of the then SHA-3 finalist BLAKE."

Third-party code

BLAKE2b and BLAKE2s in **Go, JavaScript**
b2sum binaries for OS X, Linux, Windows
(Dmitry Chestnykh)

Libraries .a .so.* (Corey Richardson)

PHP wrapper (Craig Akimoto)

Python wrapper (Kwon-Han Bae)

Node.js bindings (Takashi Seki)

PPC Altivec C (@englabenny)

Now supported in John the Ripper

← → ↻ www.openwall.com/lists/john-users/2013/01/02/2

```
$ ./john testpw
Warning: detected hash type "blake2-512", but the string is also
recognized as "raw-sha512"
Use the "--format=raw-sha512" option to force loading these as that type
instead
Loaded 2 password hashes with no different salts (BLAKE2 512 [32/32])
guesses: 0   time: 0:00:00:02 0.00% (3)   c/s: 139432   trying: critas -
monniel
guesses: 0   time: 0:00:00:03 0.00% (3)   c/s: 151740   trying: 49382609 -
49184819
Session aborted
```

This means, the above hashes are now ambiguous. Because there was no `--format=` option on the command line, john happens to use the first format which identifies one of the hashes in the input file as valid, and uses this format (here: `blake2-512`). However, john also mentions which other hash formats would support at least one of the hashes in the input file (here: `raw-sha512`).

If you want to force a specific format to be used, you'll have to use the `--format=` option, either if you just want to suppress the checks which other formats support the hashes given in the input file, or if you want to make sure a certain format gets used:

```
$ ./john testpw --format=blake2-512
Loaded 2 password hashes with no different salts (BLAKE2 512 [32/32])
guesses: 0   time: 0:00:00:02 0.00% (3)   c/s: 154519   trying: meneste - saa
Session aborted
```

What's next?

SUPERCOP benchmarks

optimized NEON code

Tahoe-LAFS tests

and more...

Thank you
happy $3 \times 11 \times 61$