

CoSMIX: A Compiler-based System for Secure Memory Instrumentation and Execution in Enclaves

Meni Orenbach
Yan Michalevsky
Christof Fetzer
Mark Silberstein

The night is dark and full of terrors

GAME OF THRONES

The ~~night~~ is dark and full of terrors

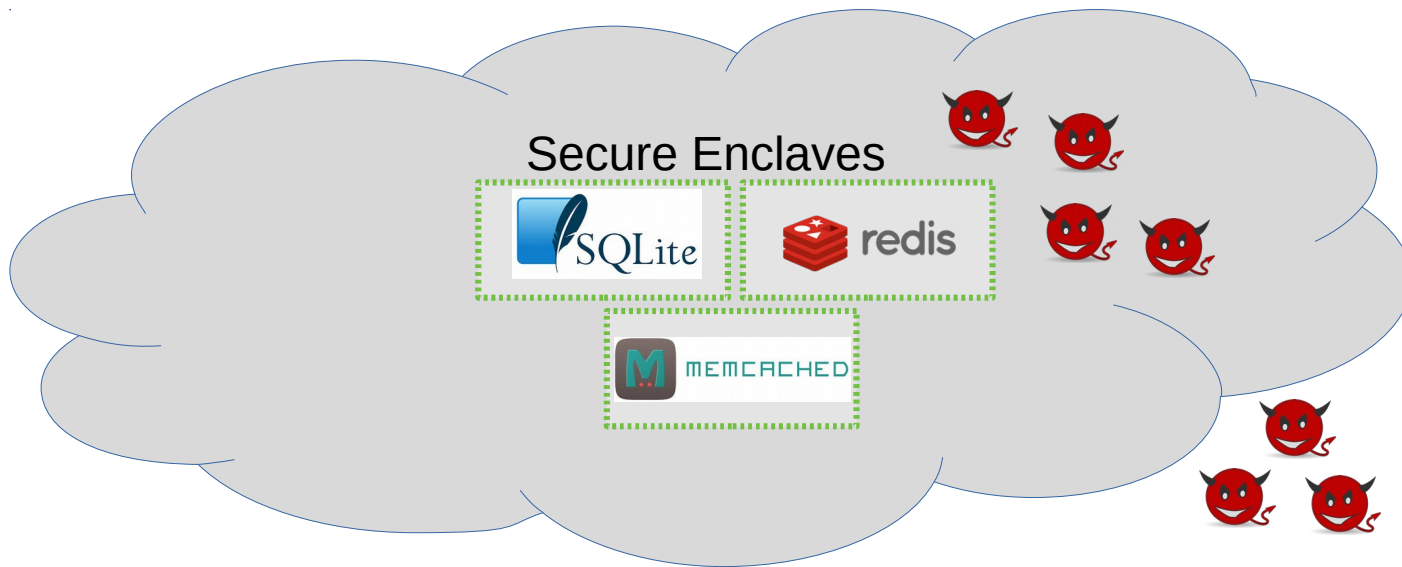
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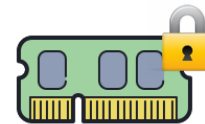
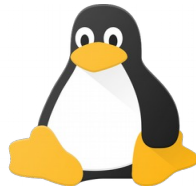
The cloud is dark and full of terrors

Yet, hardware enclaves can help



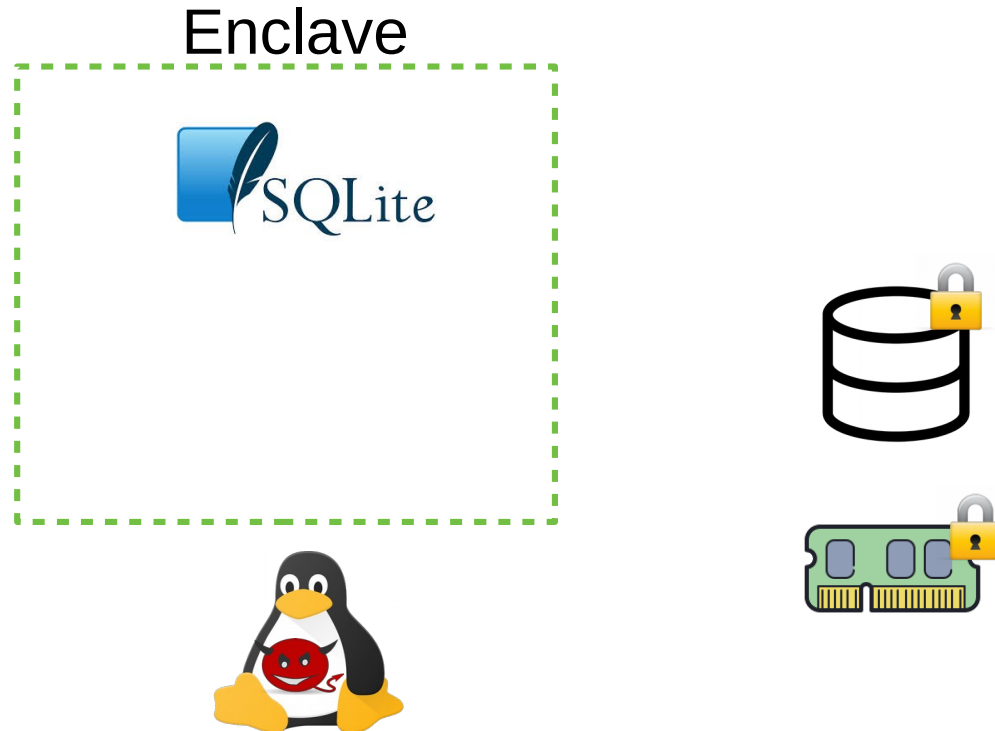
Enclaves shield applications from privileged adversaries

- ✓ Confidentiality
 - ✓ Integrity
- Untrusted OS



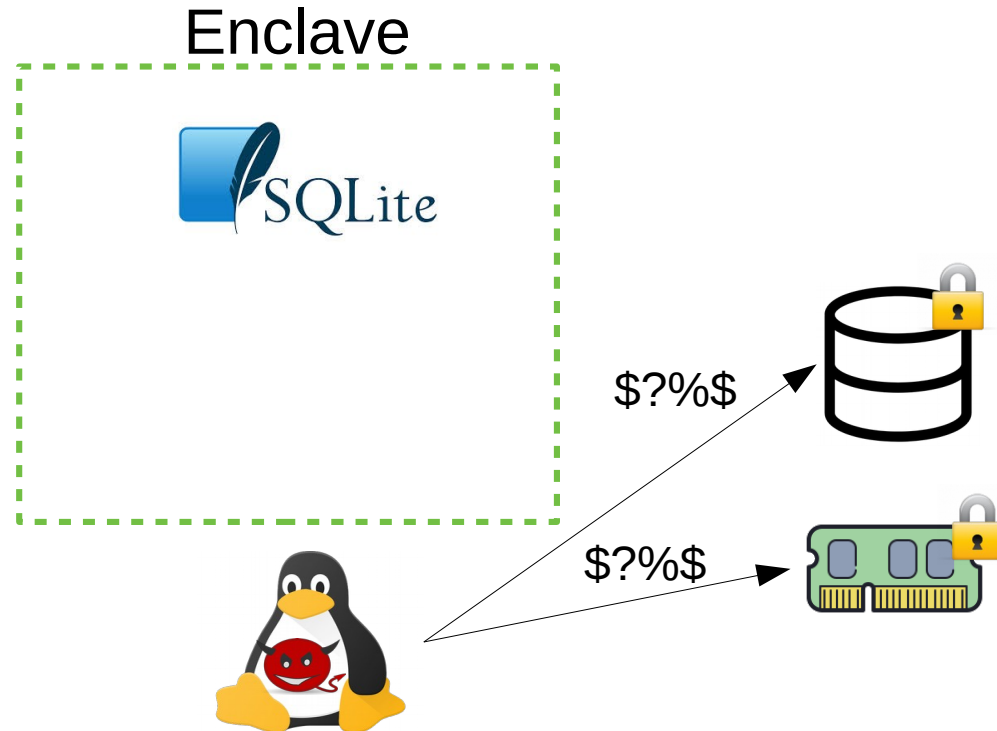
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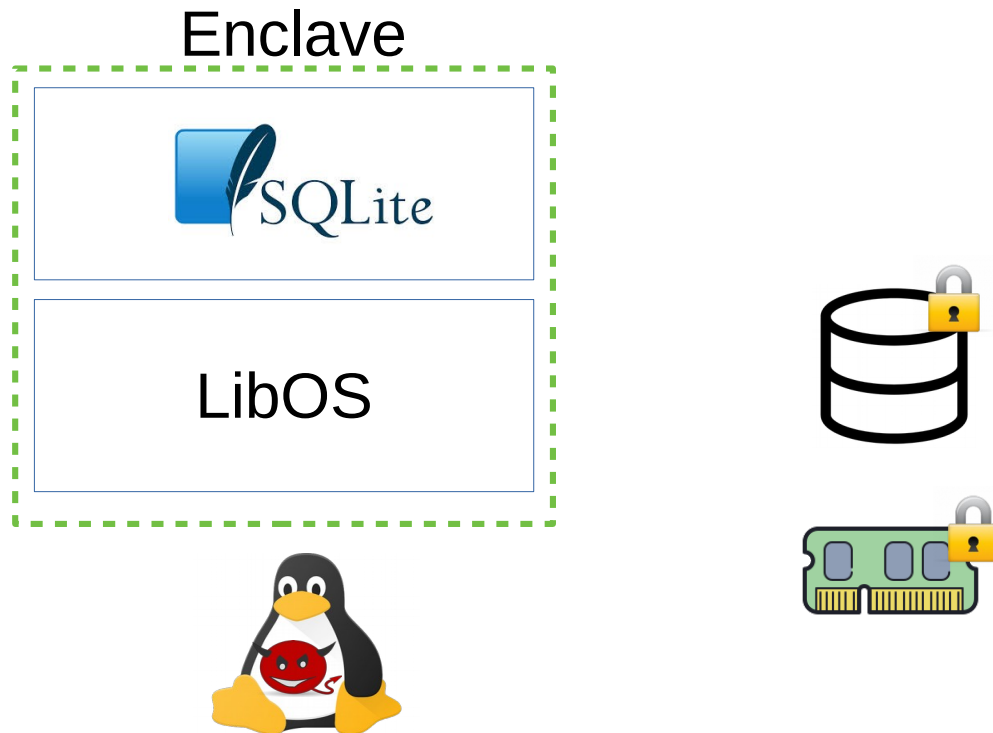


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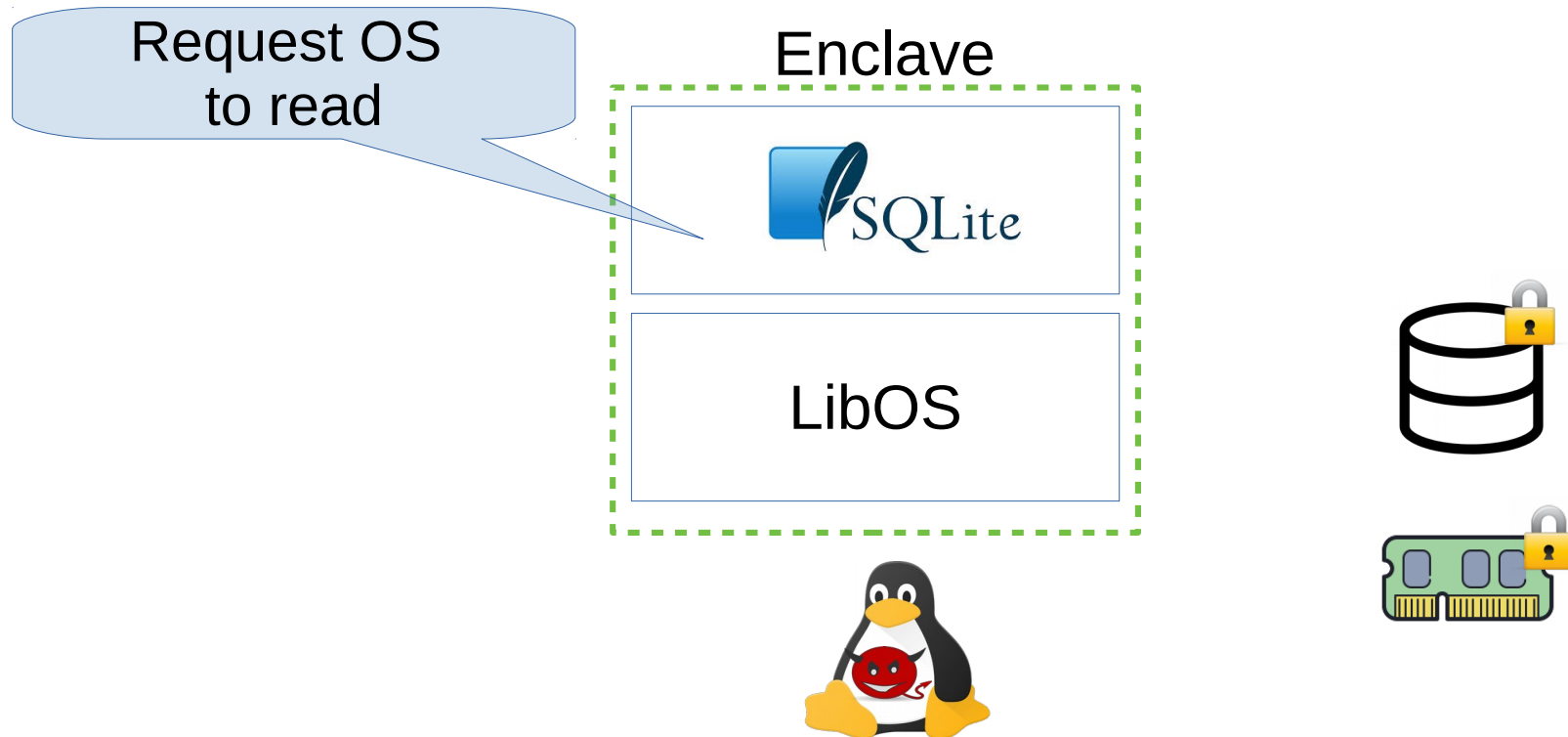
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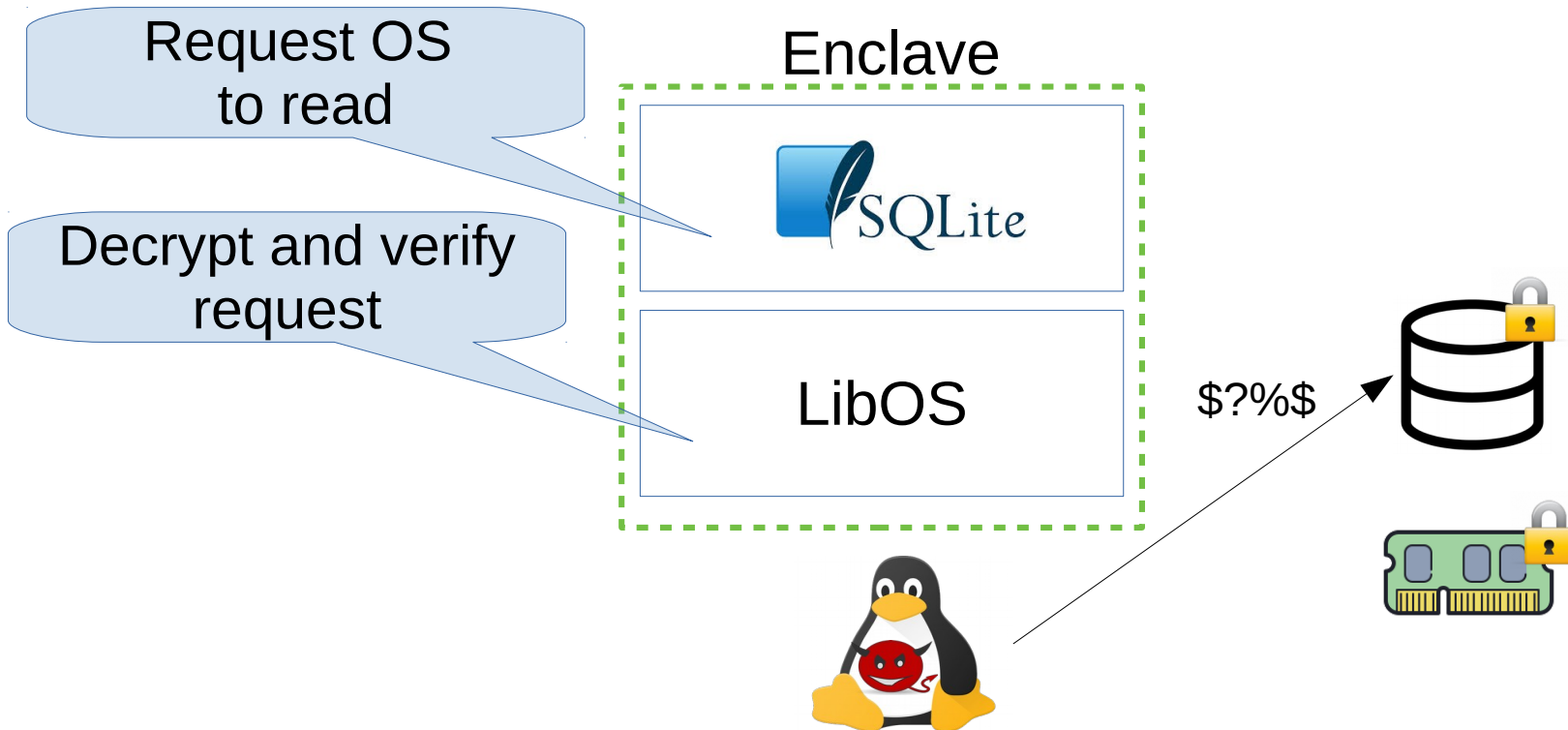
Run unmodified applications inside enclaves



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Talk focus: Current SGX Enclaves

Integrated into Intel CPUs

Can we execute
any x86 application
inside **enclaves**?

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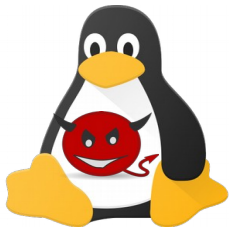


Memory-mapped files in SGX?

Enclave



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fast_read_db():  
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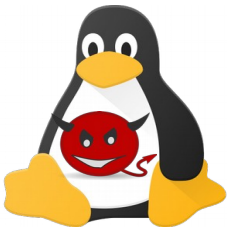


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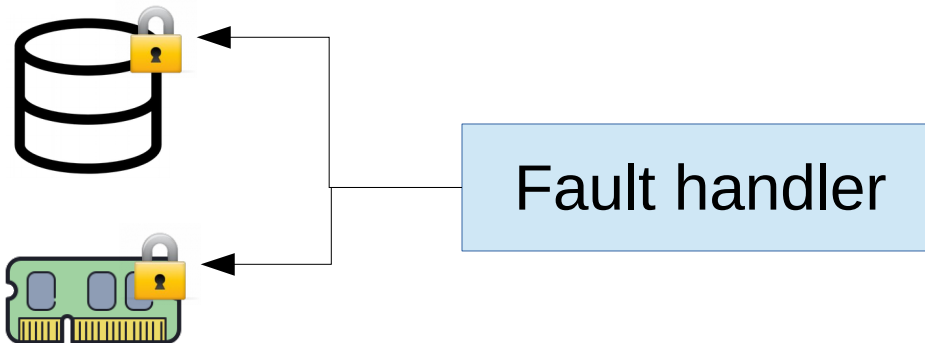
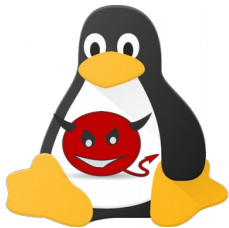


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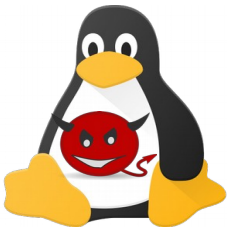
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Handler customization is a powerful tool

- File mapping
- Disaggregated memory
- Compressed memory and more



Memory-mapped files in SGX?

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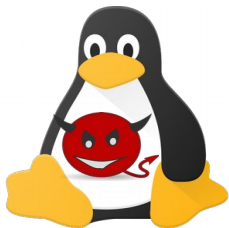


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Efficient and requires **no modifications**
Applications **rely** on this abstraction



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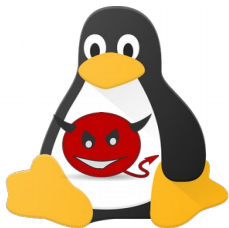
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Its Not Possible in SGX Today!



Memory-mapped files in SGX?

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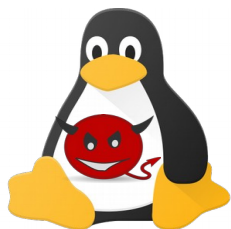
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Implementation options:

Use fault handler

Use SGX demand-paging instructions

Use in-enclave handler



Fault handler

Memory-mapped files in SGX?

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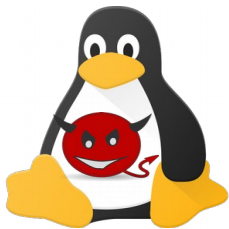
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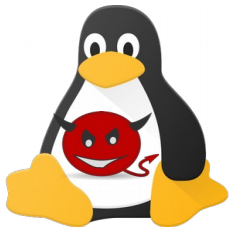
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Implementation options:

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Use in-enclave handler



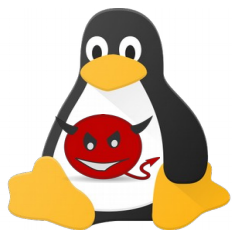
Fault handler

Inefficient: in-enclave handler

Enclave



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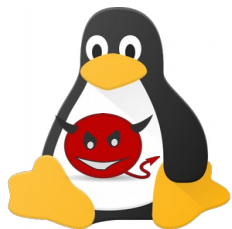


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Inefficient: in-enclave handler

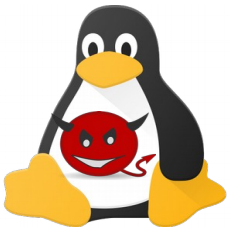
Enclave



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EXIT

Fault handler



Inefficient: in-enclave handler

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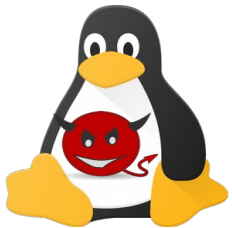
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exception_handler():  
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ENTER

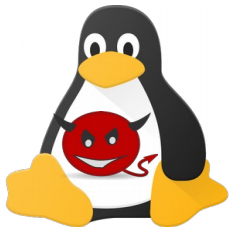
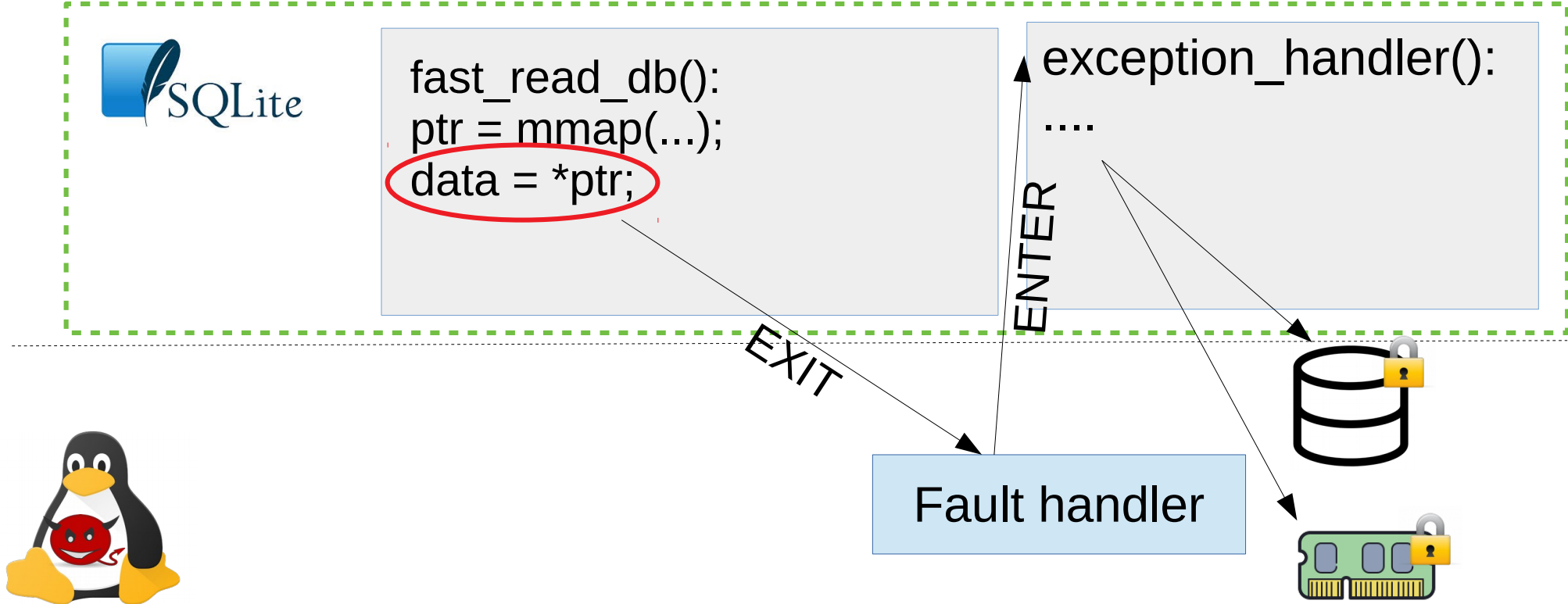
EXIT

Fault handler



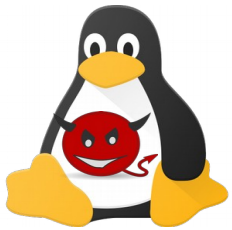
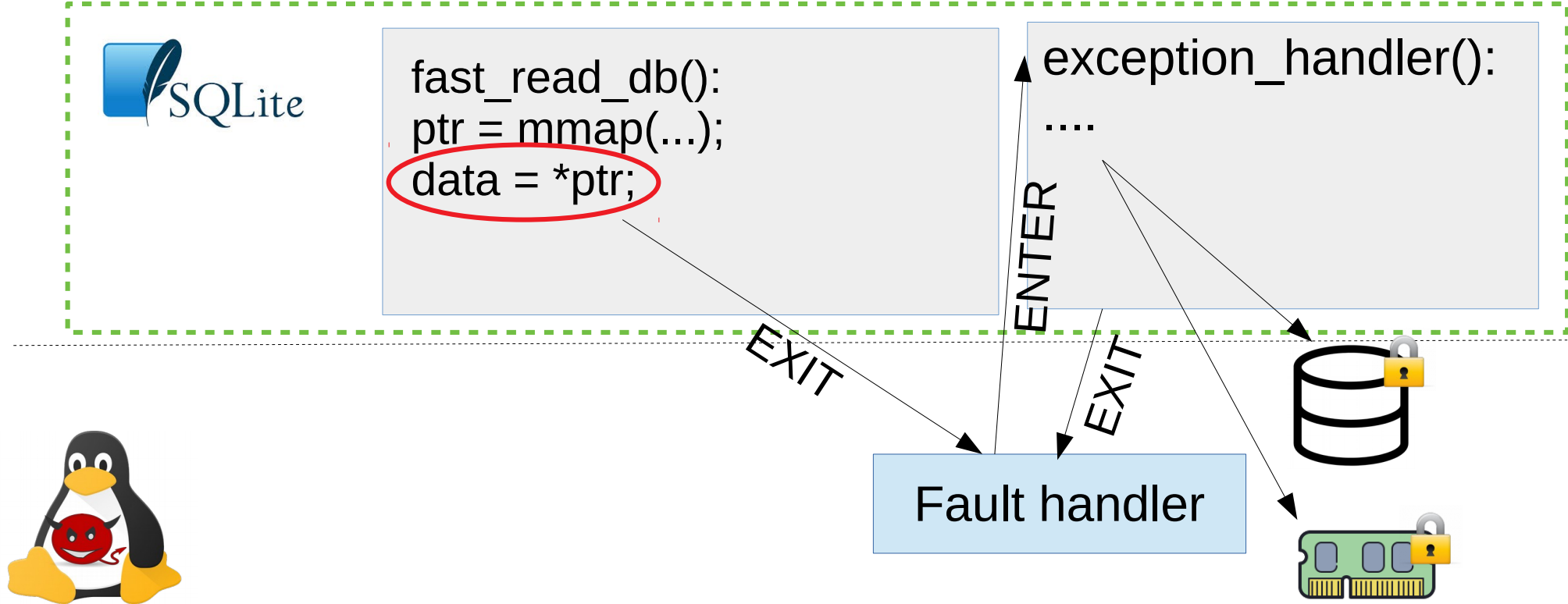
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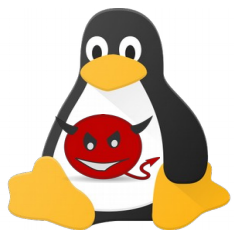
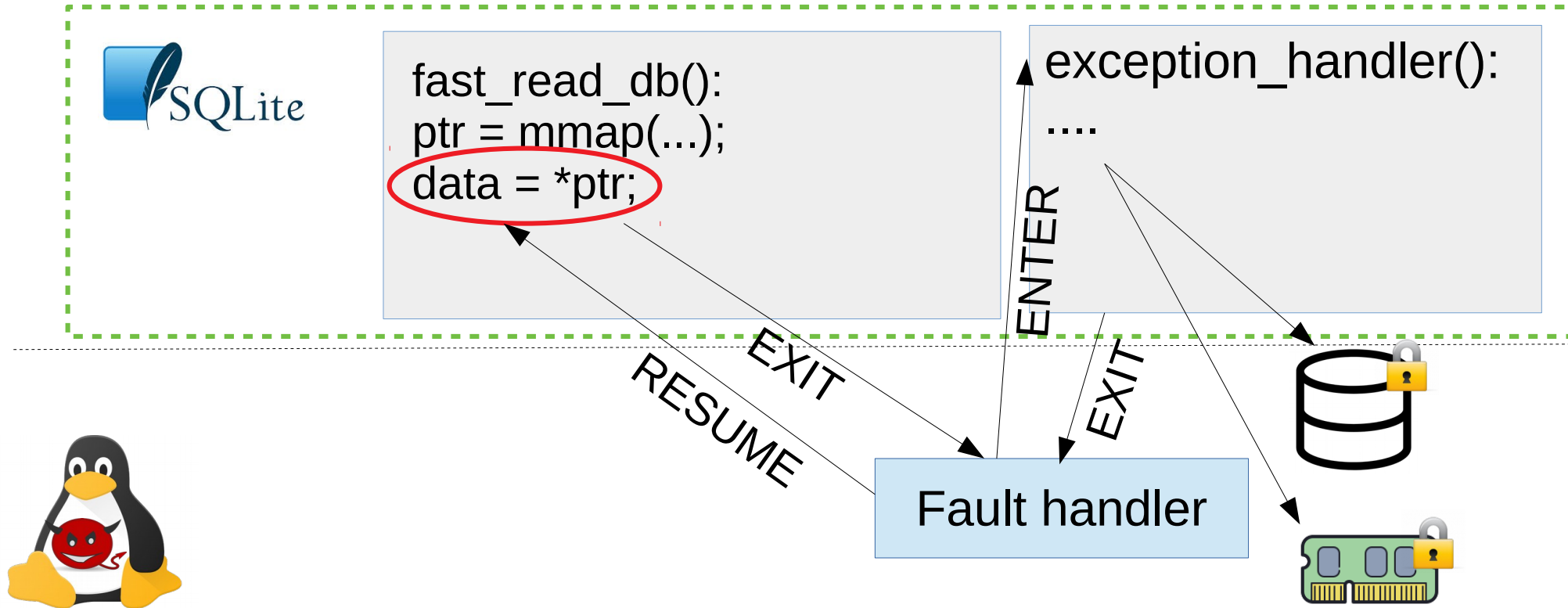
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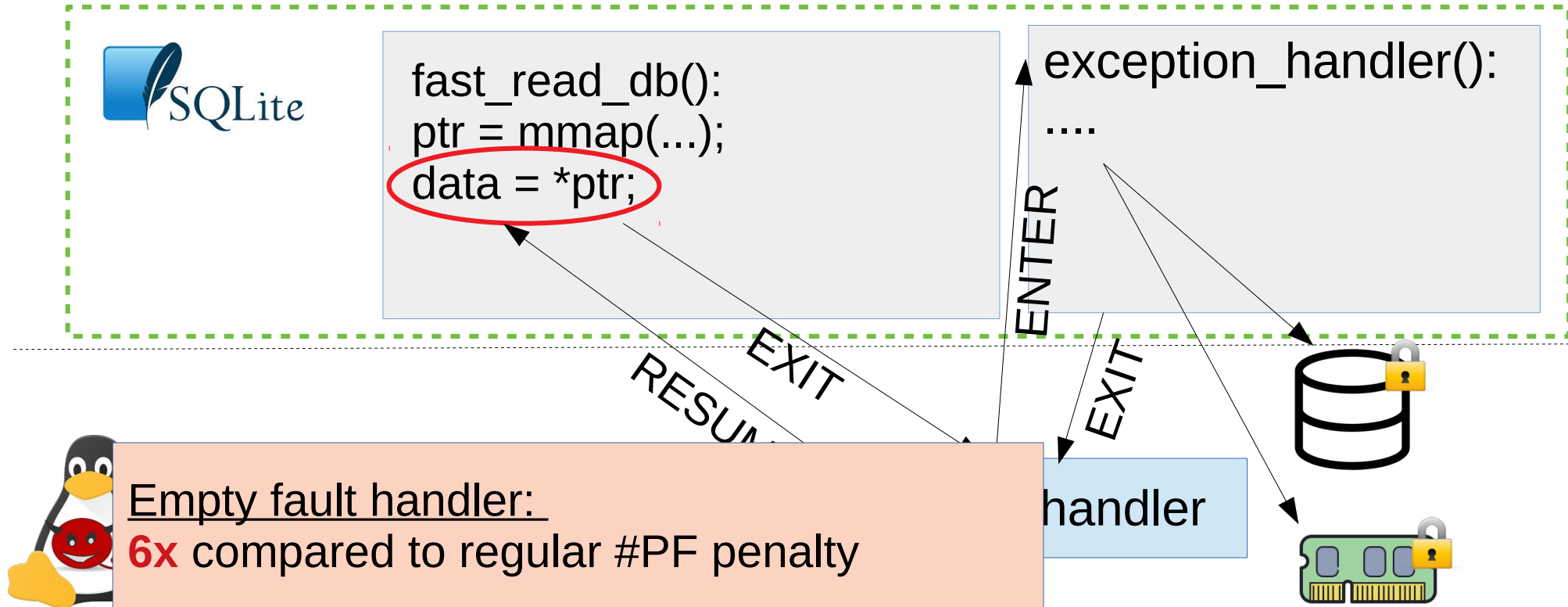
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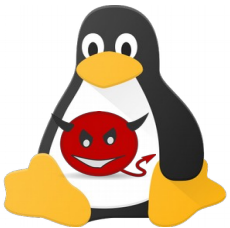
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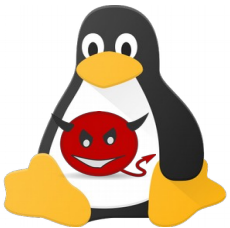
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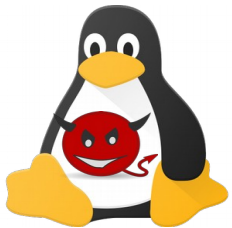
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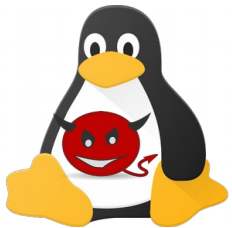


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EXIT

Fault handler



Insecure: in-enclave handler

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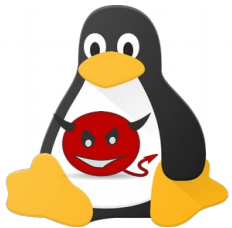


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EXIT
RESUME

Fault handler



Insecure: in-enclave handler

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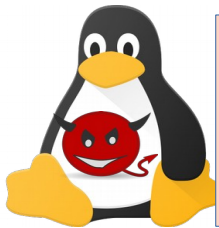


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RESUME
EXIT

Fault handler



Enclaves are missing
an OS abstraction!

Previous works that sidestep the lack of secure page faults

- In-enclave paging
- Oblivious page accesses
- Secure access to remote memory

Ad-hoc solutions

Requires applications modifications
What if we want to use more than one?

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What if we want to use more than one?

Efficient page fault customization **missing**

We cannot rely on **hardware**

We cannot **change applications**

So what can we do?



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We cannot rely on **hardware**

We cannot **change applications**

So what can we do?

**Automatically change
applicataions with
memory instrumentation**



Agenda

- ~~Motivation~~
- CoSMIX
- Evaluation

CoSMIX

Efficient **Instrumenting** compiler
and runtime system

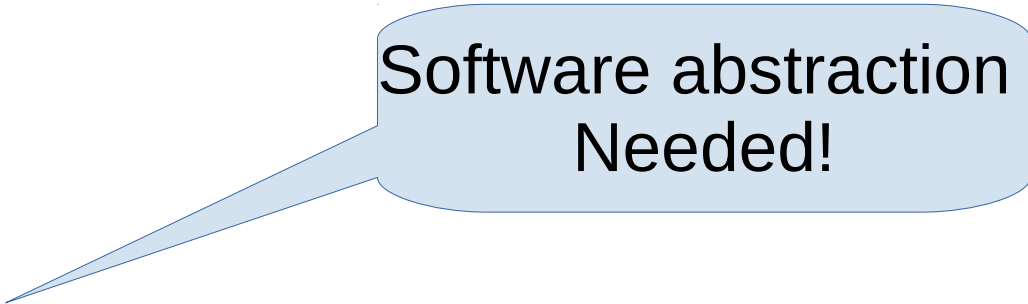
What to instrument?

- Observation:
 - No need to instrument every memory access
- Instrumentation policy:
 - Annotations on memory allocations
 - Automatically inferring memory accesses to be instrumented

How to express memory behavior

Interface for custom page fault handlers

How to express memory behavior



Software abstraction
Needed!

Interface for custom page fault handlers

Memory Stores (Mstores)

Another layer of **virtual memory**
on top of an abstract **backing store**

Memory Stores (Mstores)

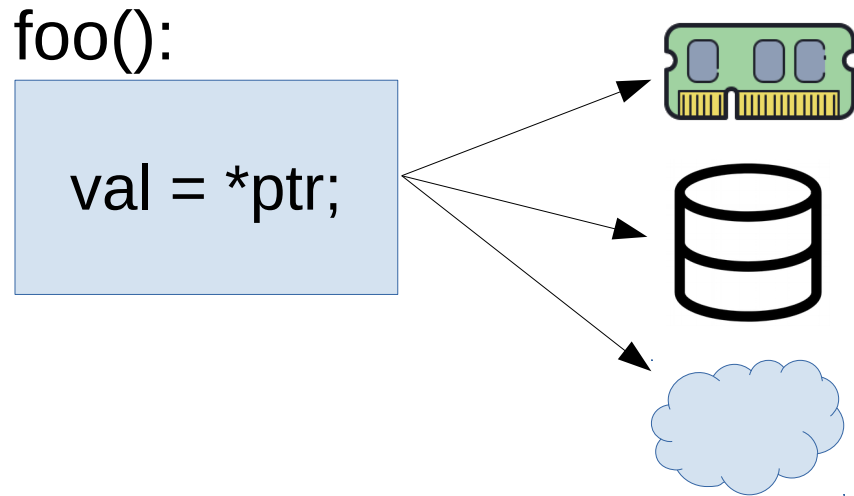
Another layer of **virtual memory**
on top of an abstract **backing store**

foo():

```
val = *ptr;
```

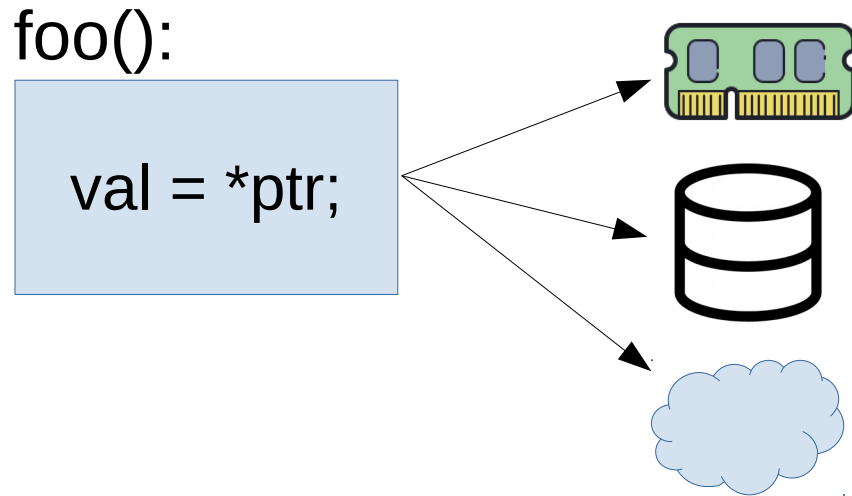
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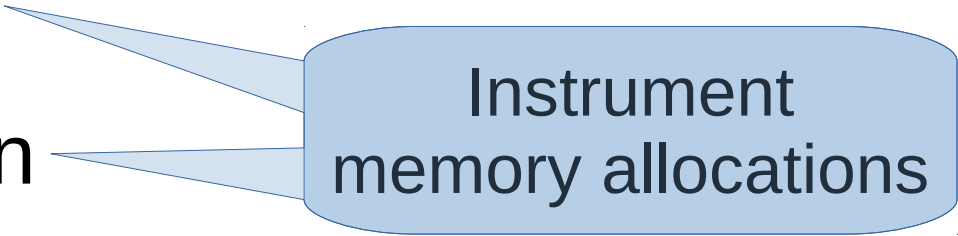


Memory store interface

- Allocation
- Deallocation
- Address translation
- Paging system

Memory store interface

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Instrument
memory allocations

Memory store interface

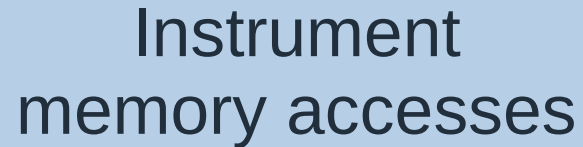
- Allocation
- Deallocation



Instrument
memory allocations

A light blue rounded rectangular callout box with a pointer pointing to the 'Allocation' and 'Deallocation' items in the list above.

- Address translation
- Paging system



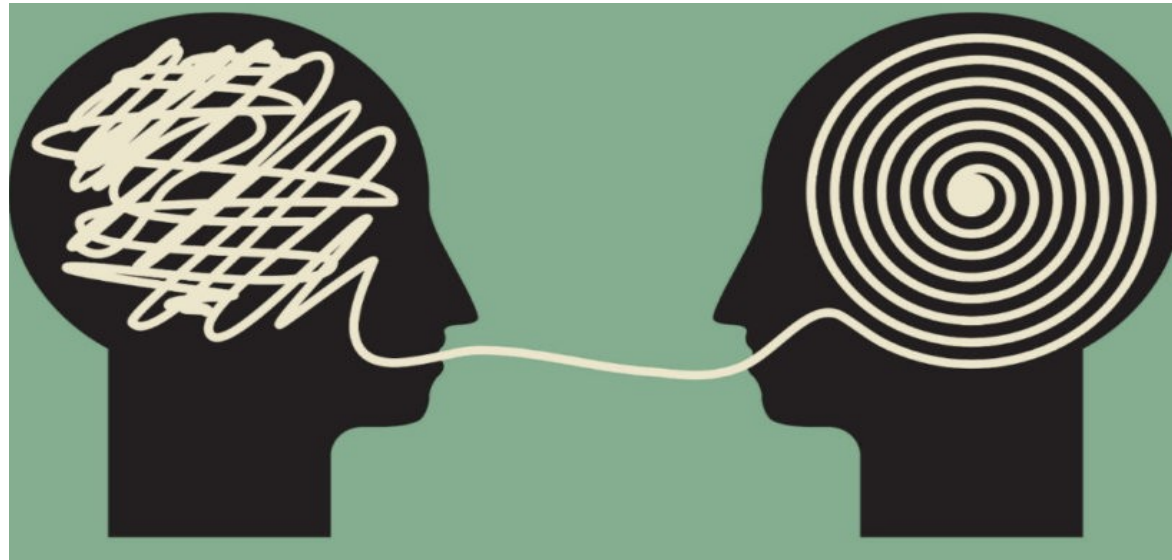
Instrument
memory accesses

A light blue rounded rectangular callout box with a pointer pointing to the 'Address translation' and 'Paging system' items in the list above.

Software address translation


Memory store address

Backing store address



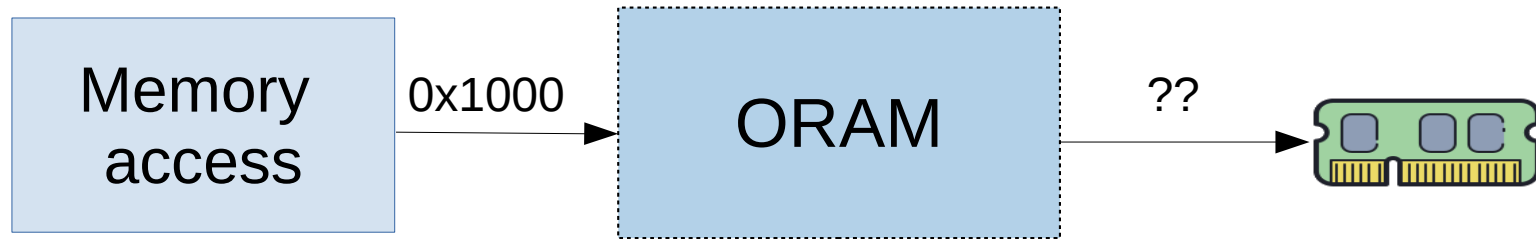
More **flexible** than page fault handler customization

Memory store interface

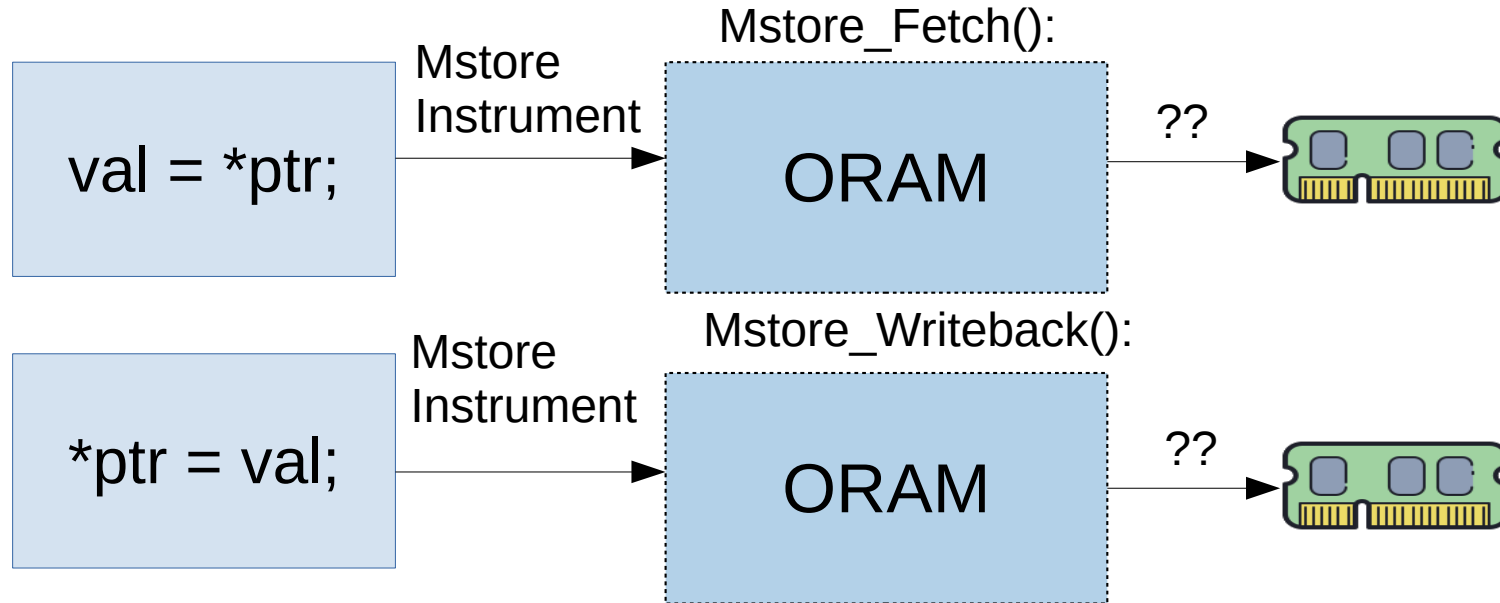
- Allocation
 - Deallocation
 - Address translation
 - Paging system
- 
- Direct-access
Mstore

Use case: Oblivious RAM (ORAM)

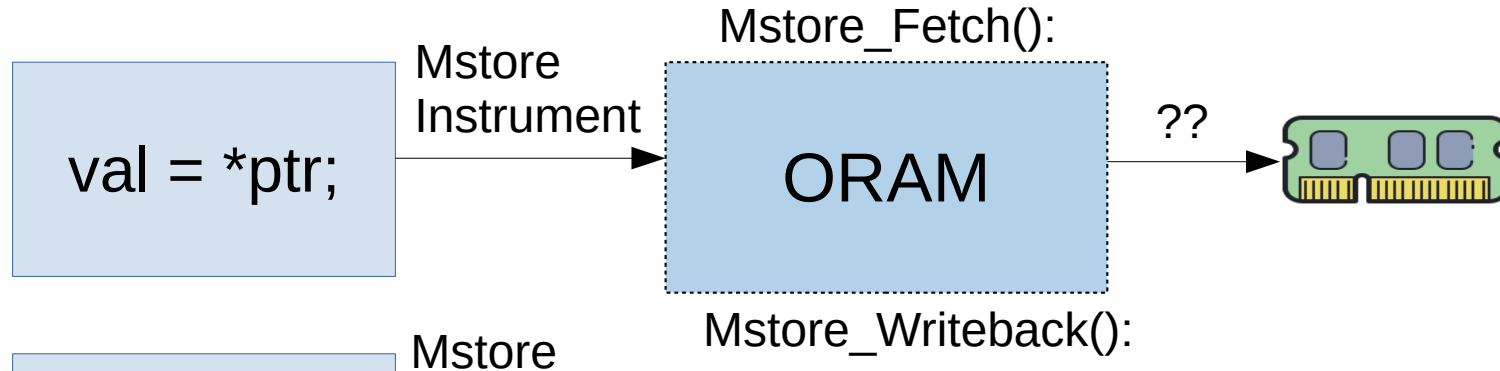
- Preserves input-output behavior
- Obfuscates distribution of memory accesses



Direct-access memory store




Direct-access memory store

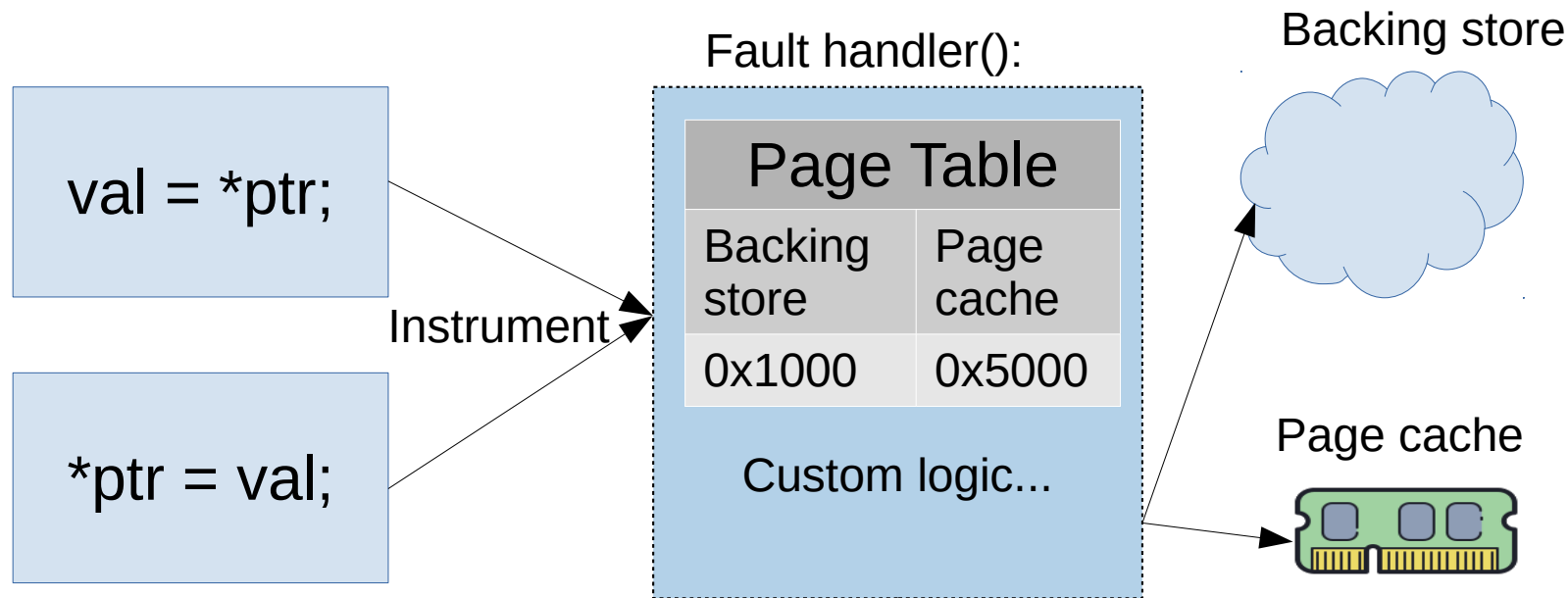


Previous works required manual modifications to use ORAM on every access

Memory store interface

- Allocation
 - Deallocation
 - Address translation
 - Paging system
- 
- Cached
Mstore

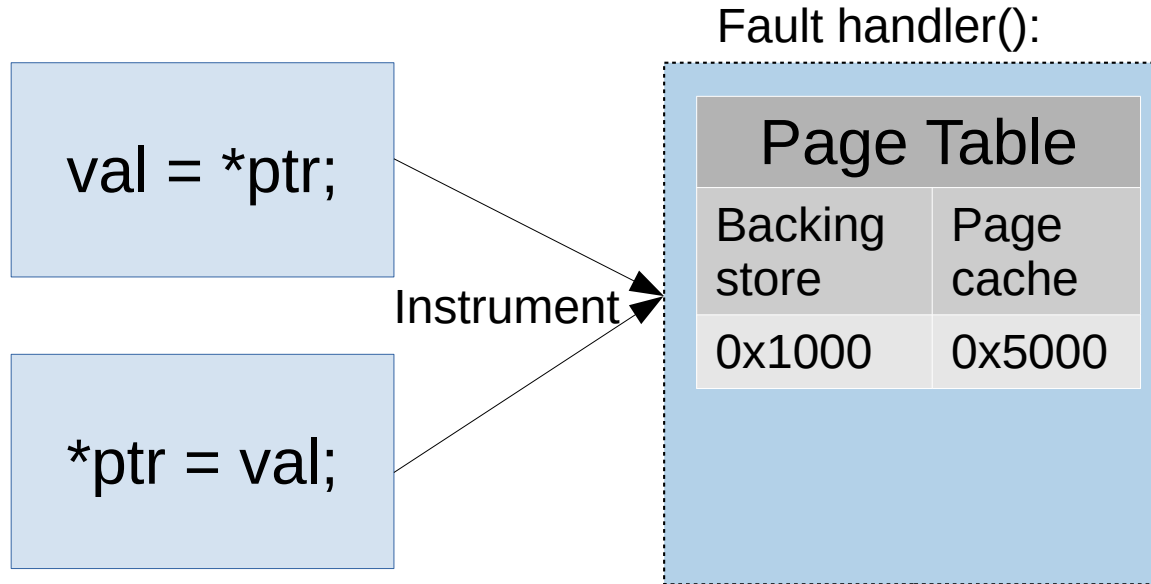
Cached memory stores



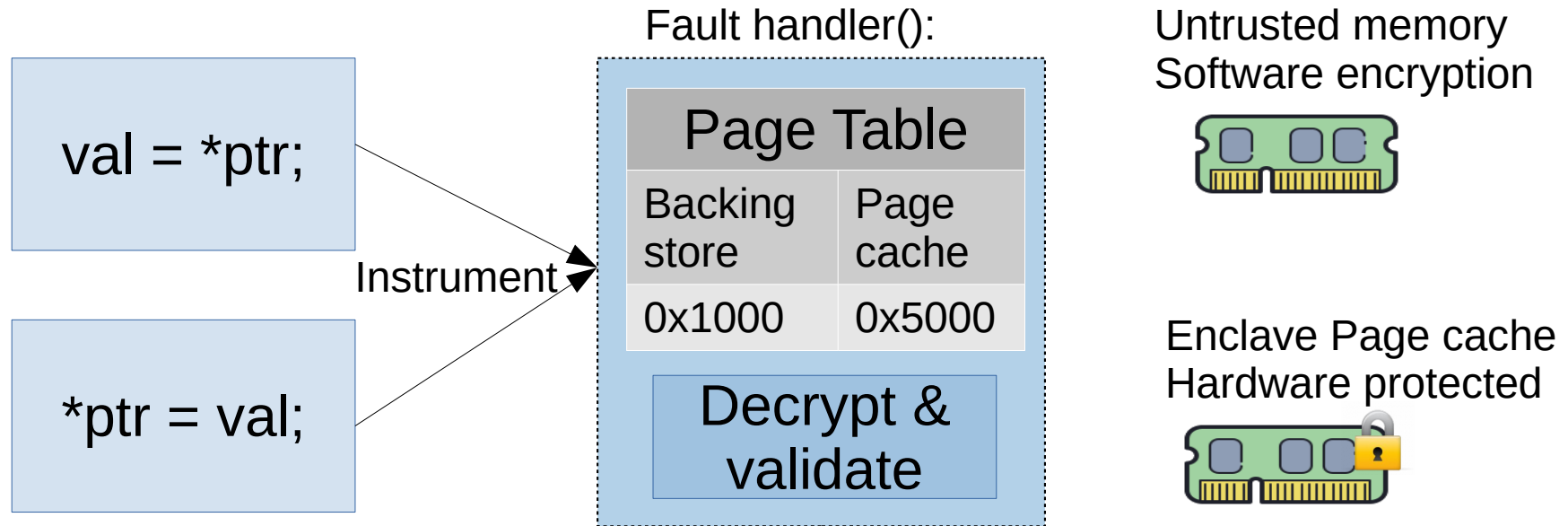
Use case: In-enclave demand-paging

- Maintains SGX enclaves security
- Removes costly enclave exits
 - Boost performance
- Previous work required **manual modifications**

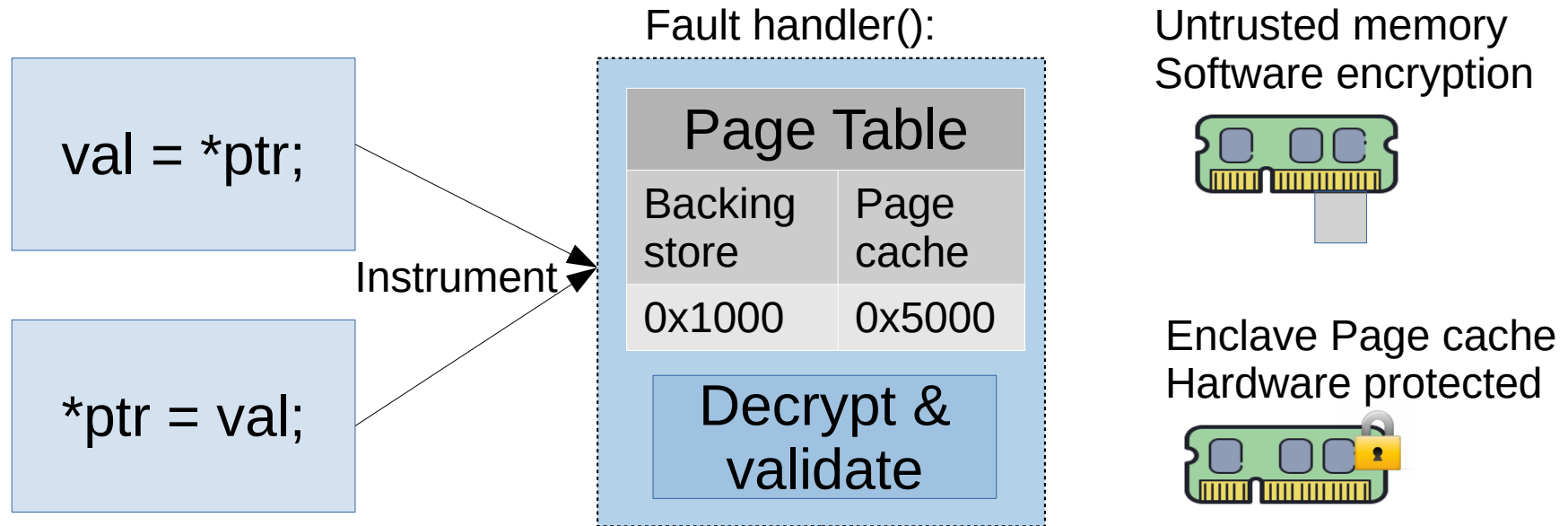
Cached memory stores: In-enclave demand-paging



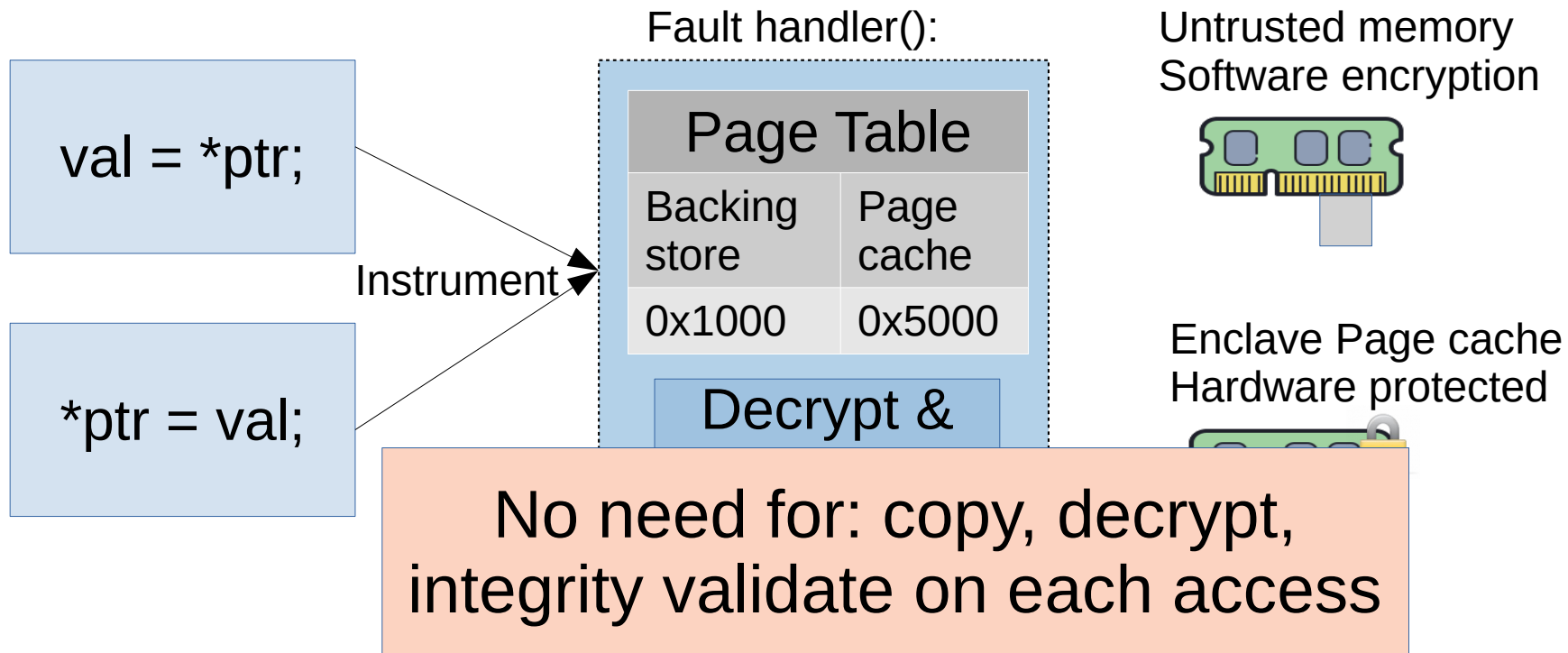
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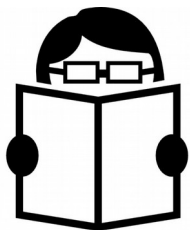


Cached memory stores: In-enclave demand-paging



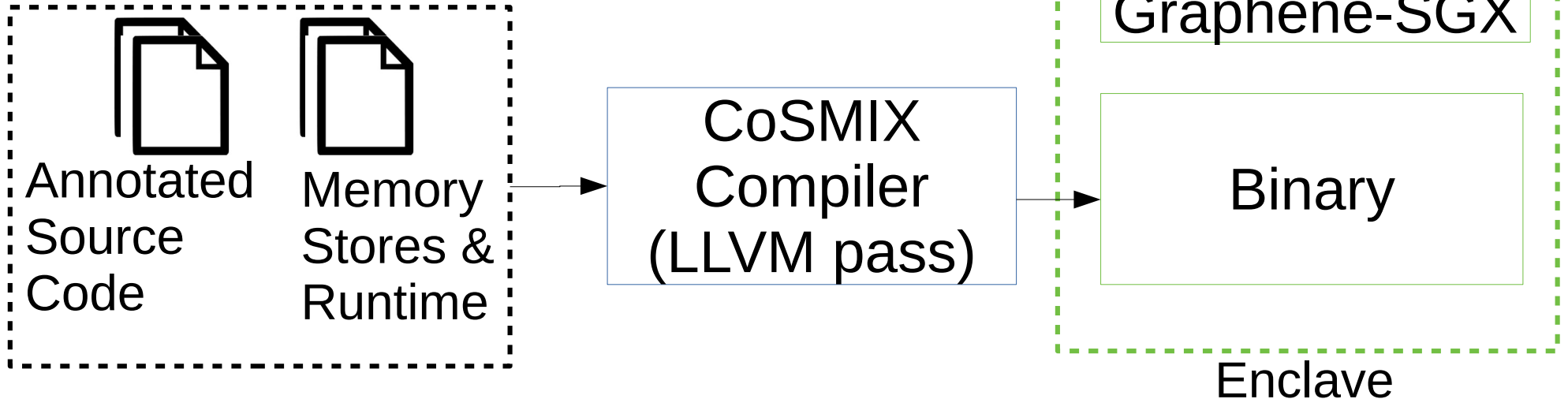
Memory stores are easy

- C/C++
- Small and simple interface: Function callbacks!
- Common building blocks provided



**It took a week to implement
memory-mapped files mstore**

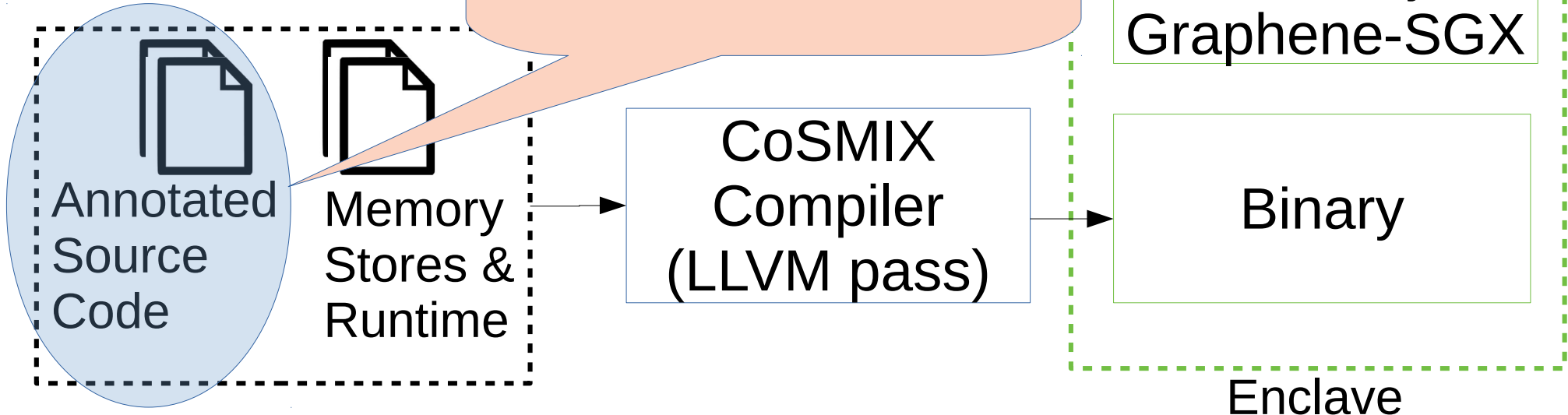
CoSMIX: end-to-end usage



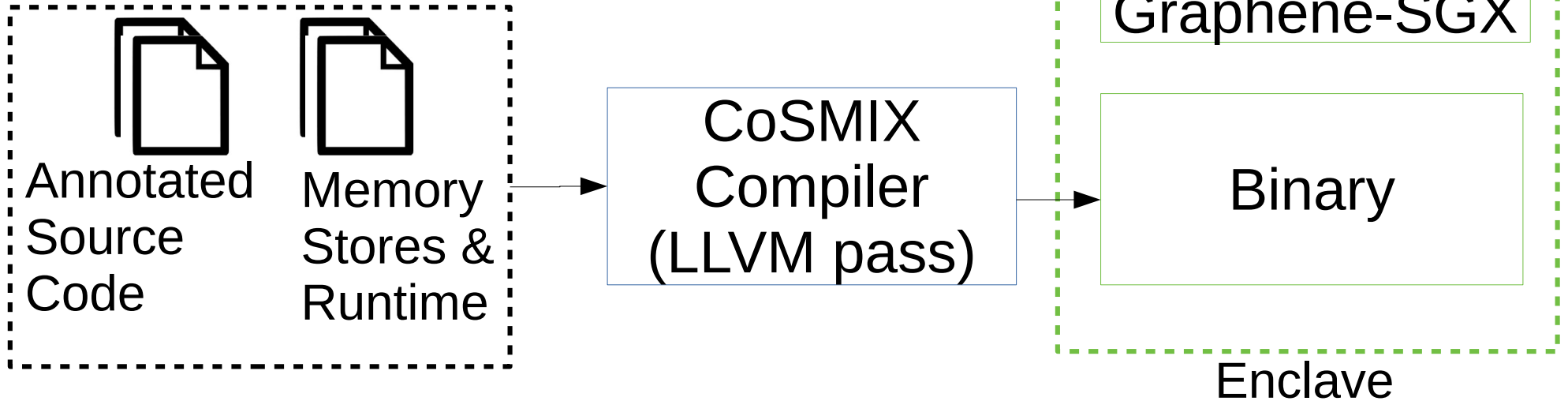
CoSMIX: end-to-end usage



Annotate memory allocations with memory stores



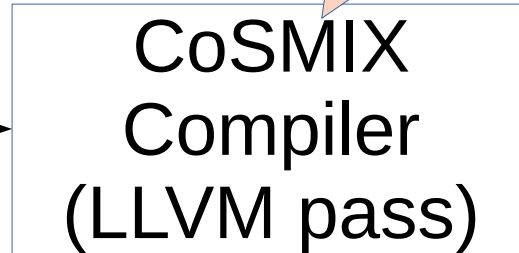
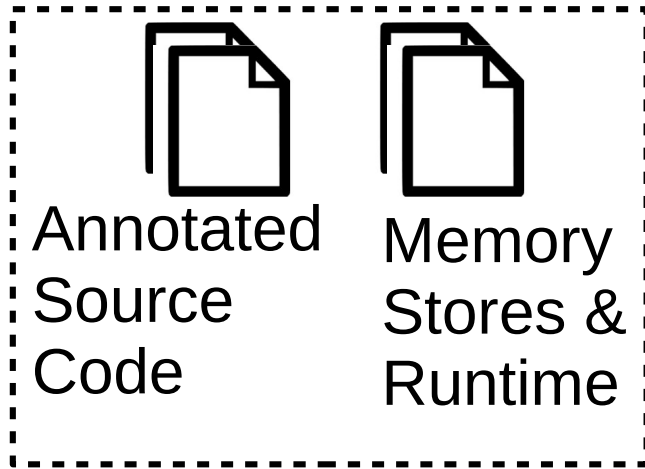
CoSMIX: end-to-end usage



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Allocations instrumented
to infer memory stores'
callbacks for each access

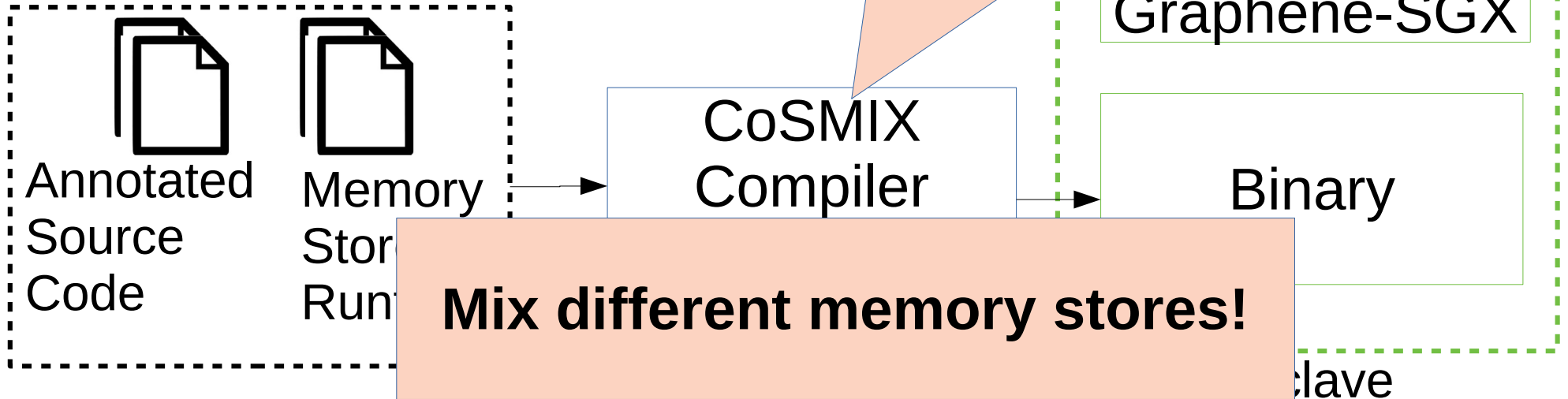


Enclave

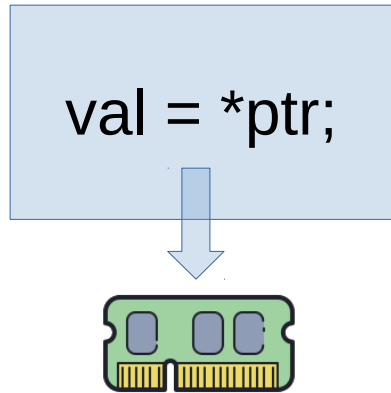
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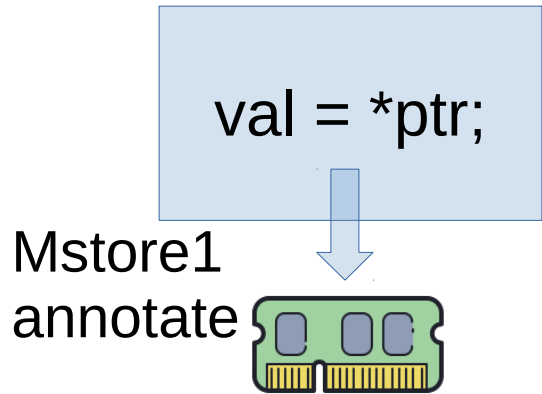
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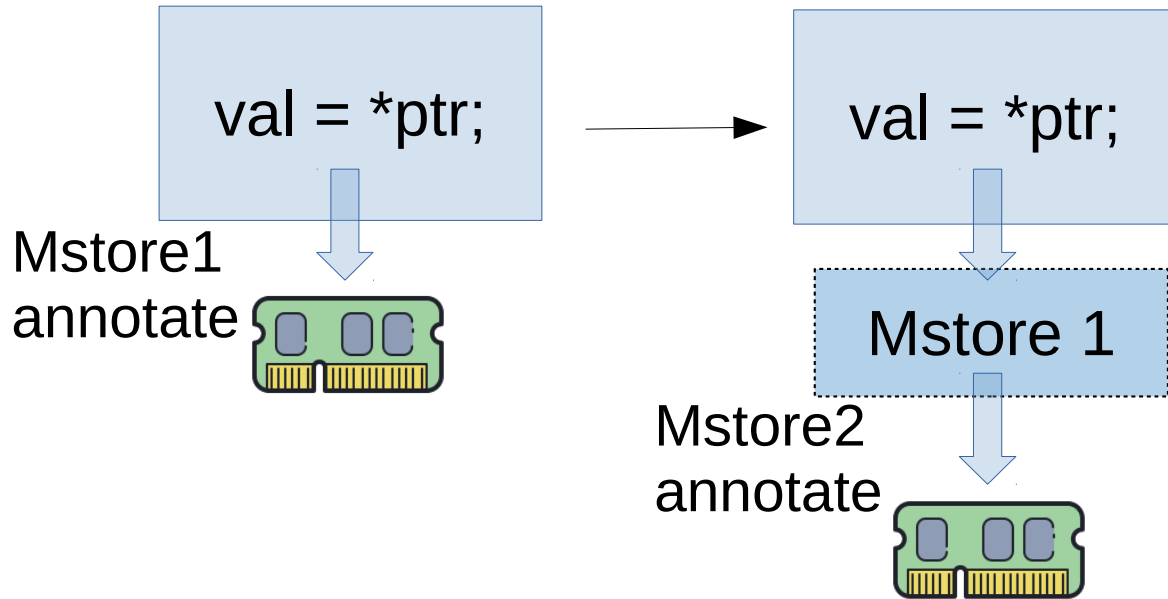
Memory stores are stackable



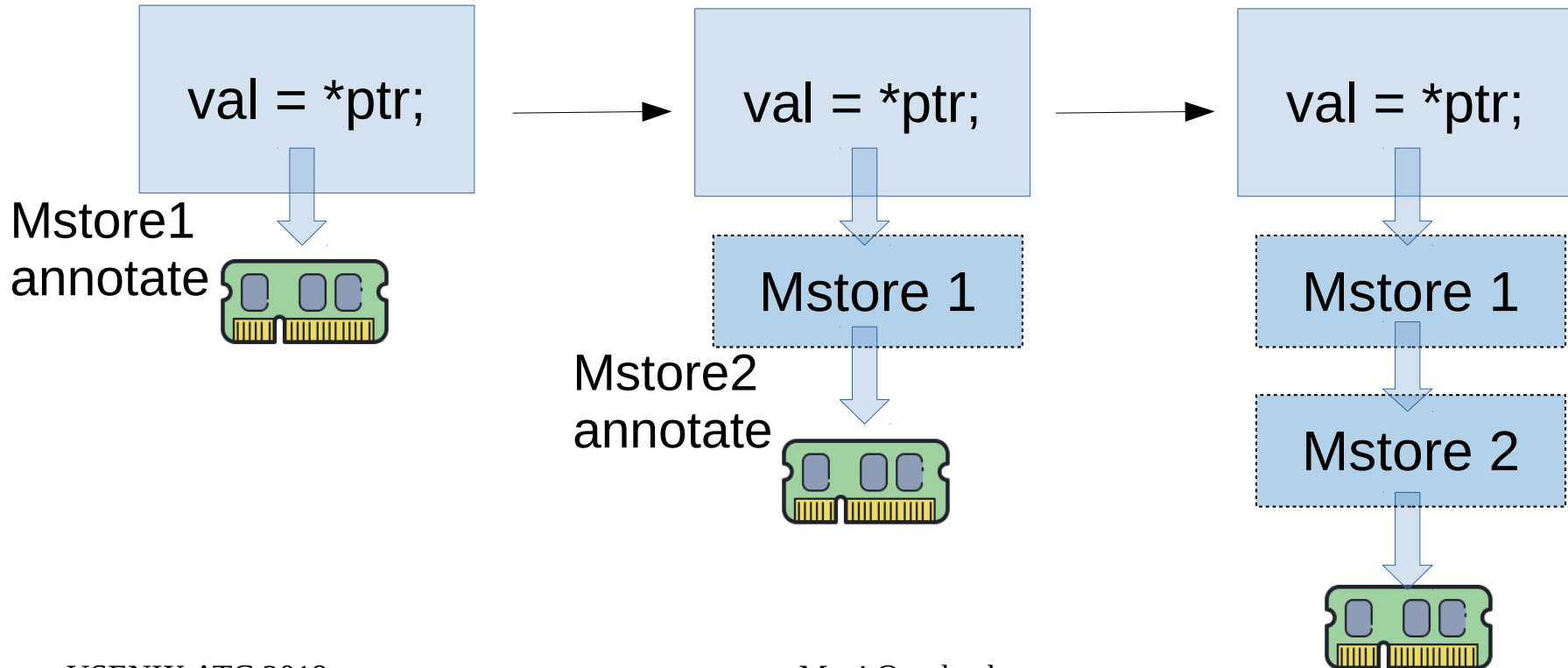
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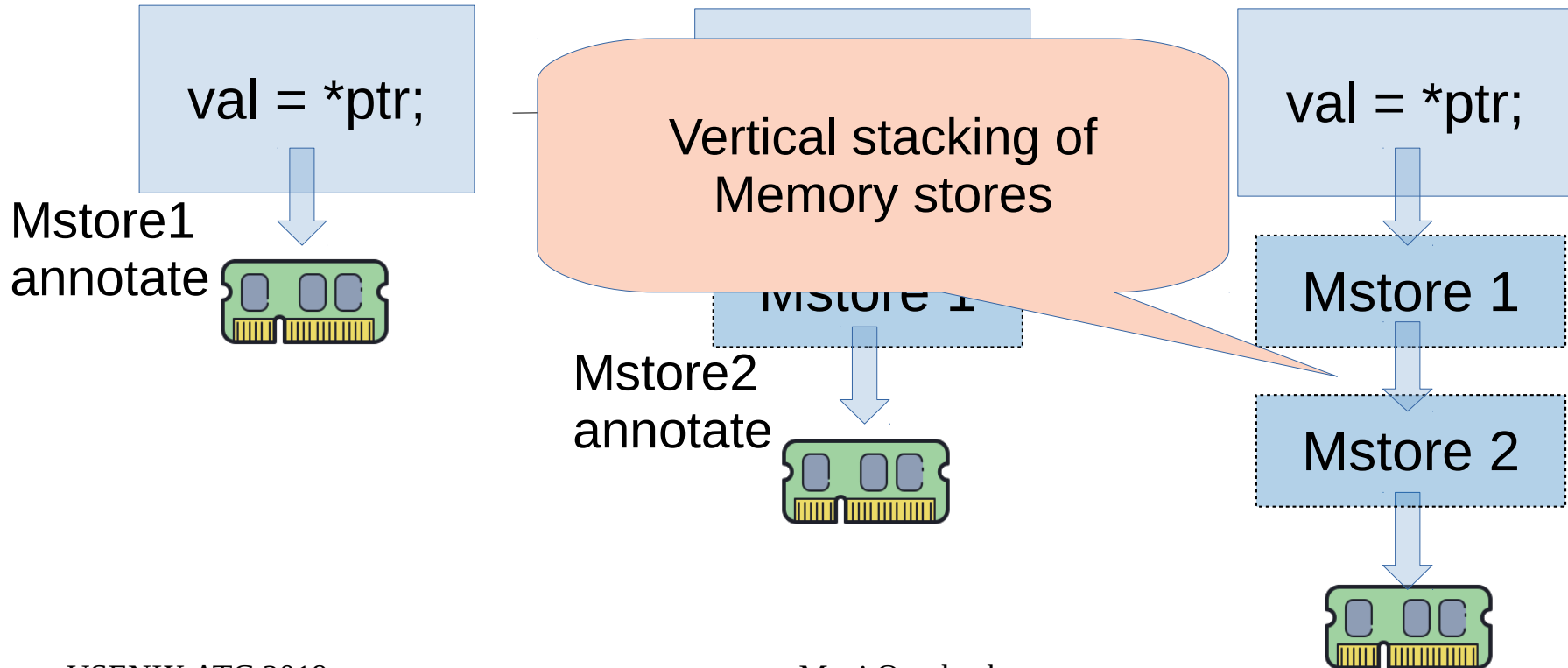
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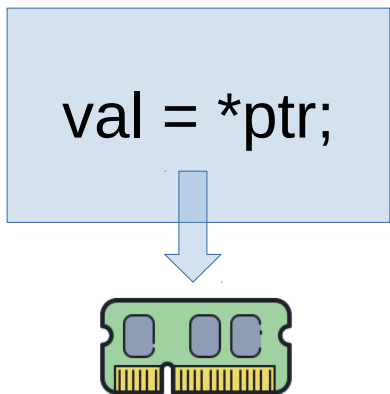
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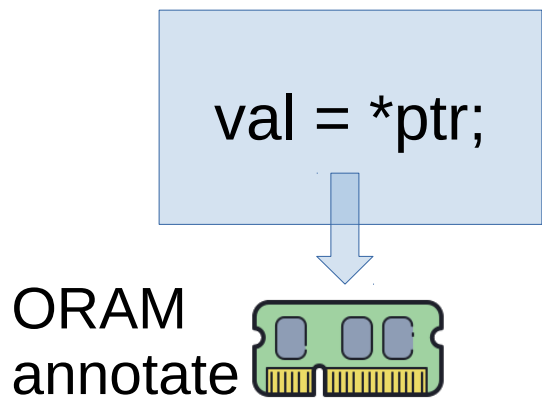
Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging

- ORAM performs multiple memory accesses to hide memory access patterns
- ORAM data structures increase its memory footprint
- ORAM mstore in SGX may cause **memory thrashing**

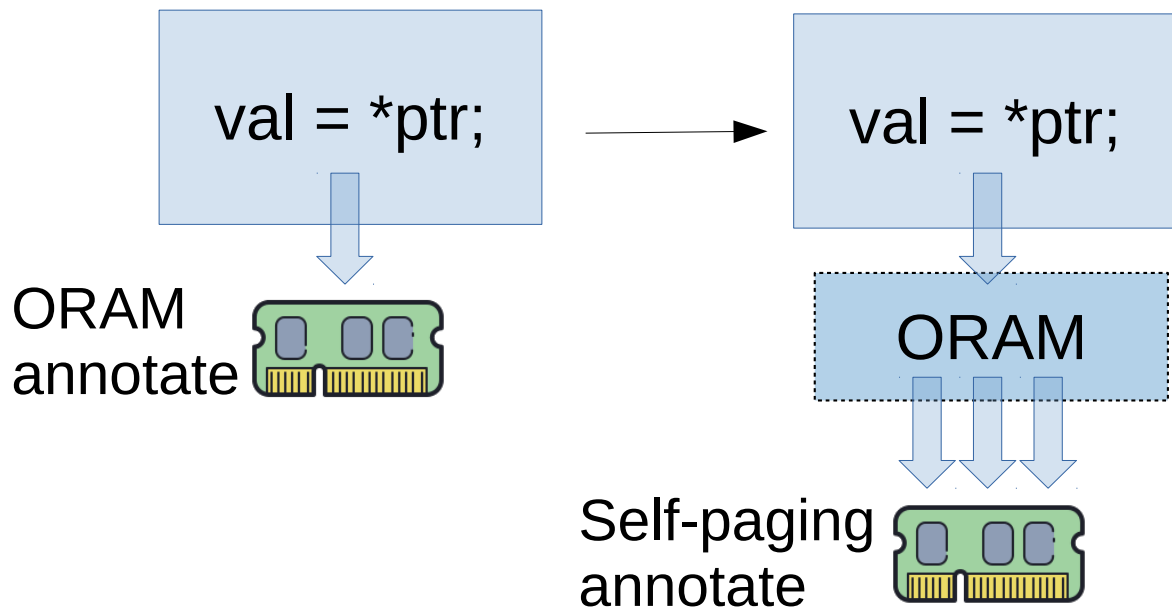
Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging



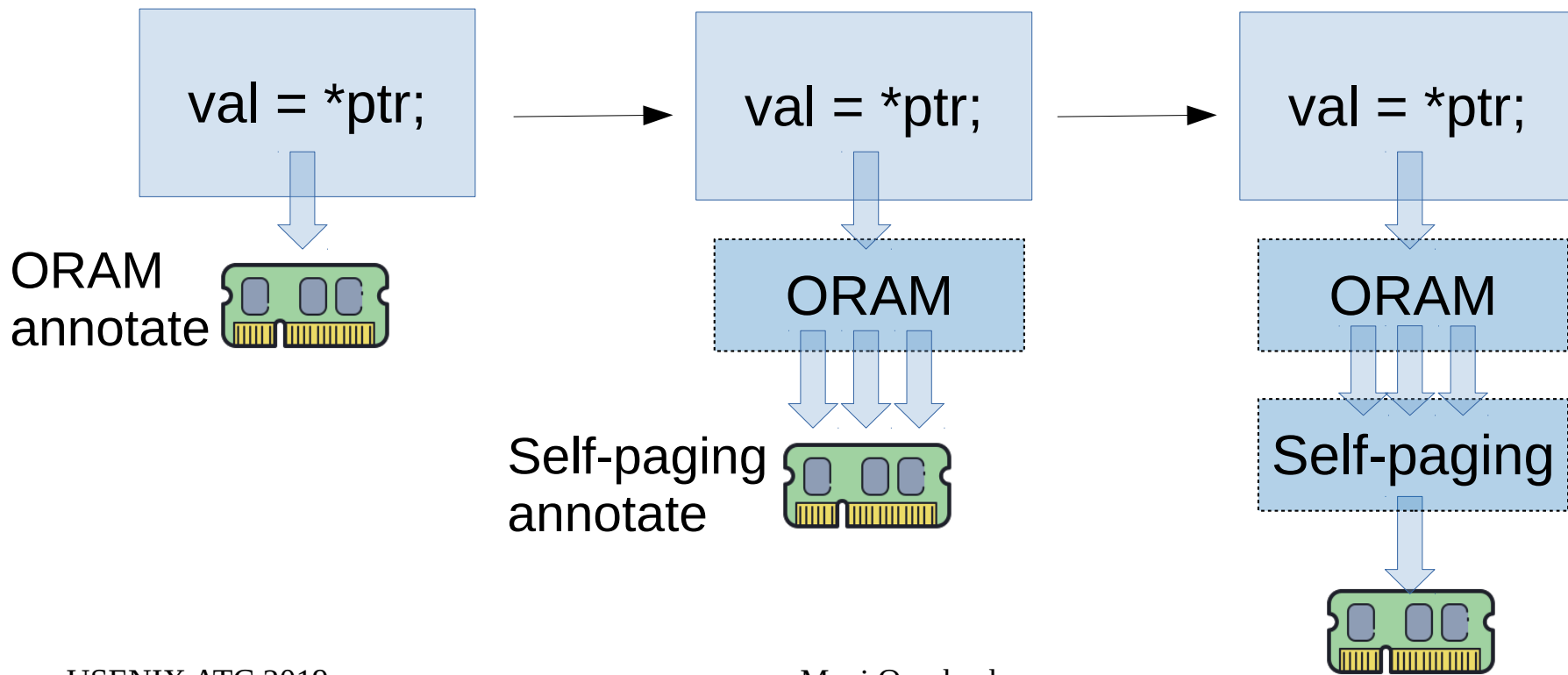
Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging



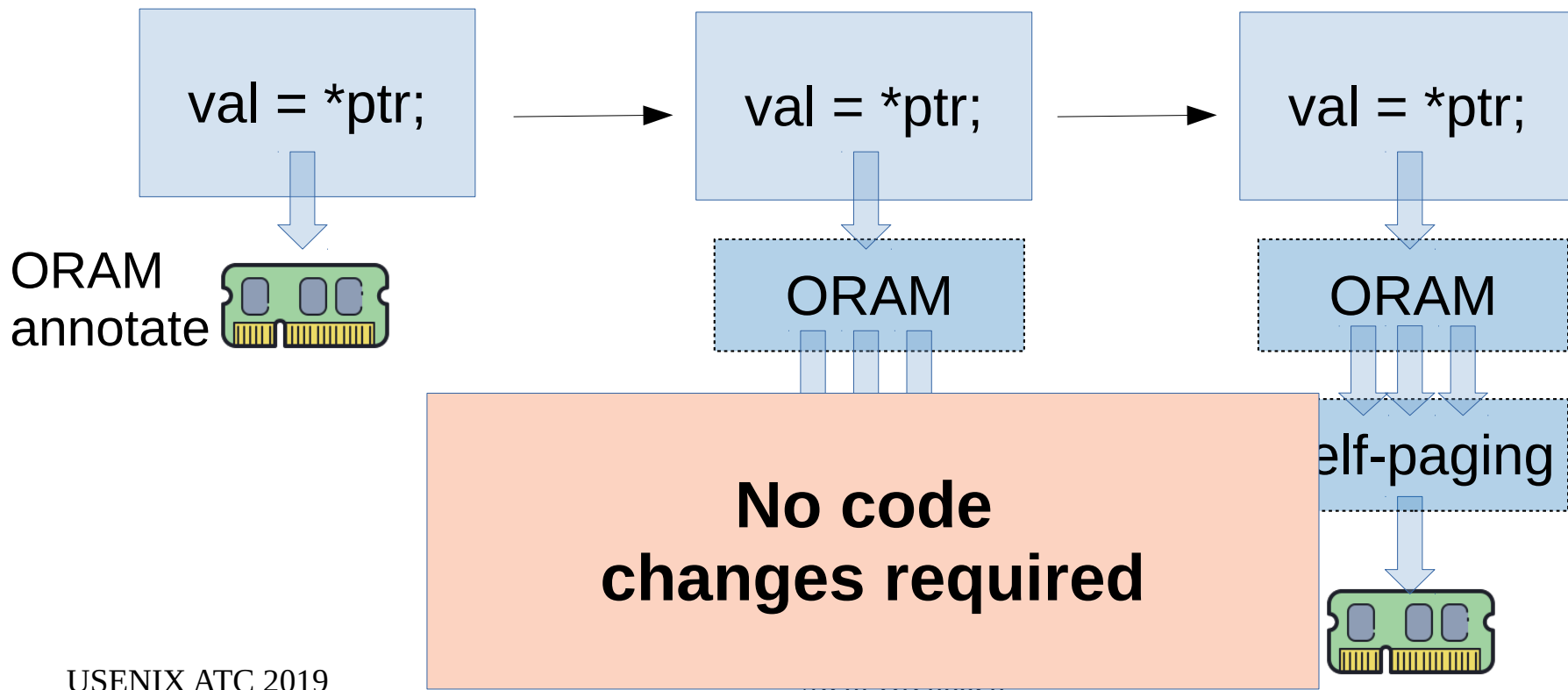
Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging



Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging



Stacking ORAM on in-enclave paging

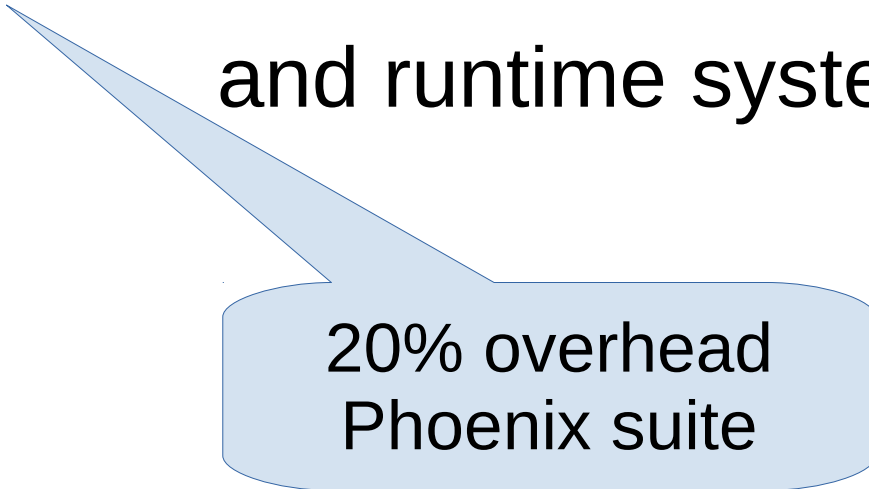


CoSMIX

Efficient Instrumenting compiler
and runtime system

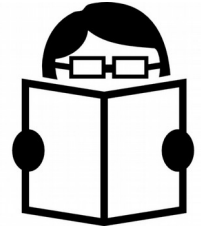
CoSMIX

Efficient Instrumenting compiler
and runtime system



20% overhead
Phoenix suite

Efficient instrumentation



- **Selective** instrumentation with **pointer analysis**
- Temporal access locality
 - Software TLB: **Cache address translations**
 - Selective instrumentation: **TLB can be small**
- Intensive memory accesses in loops
 - **Hoist** instrumentation for loop-invariant accesses

Agenda

- ~~Motivation~~
- ~~CoSMIX~~
- Evaluation

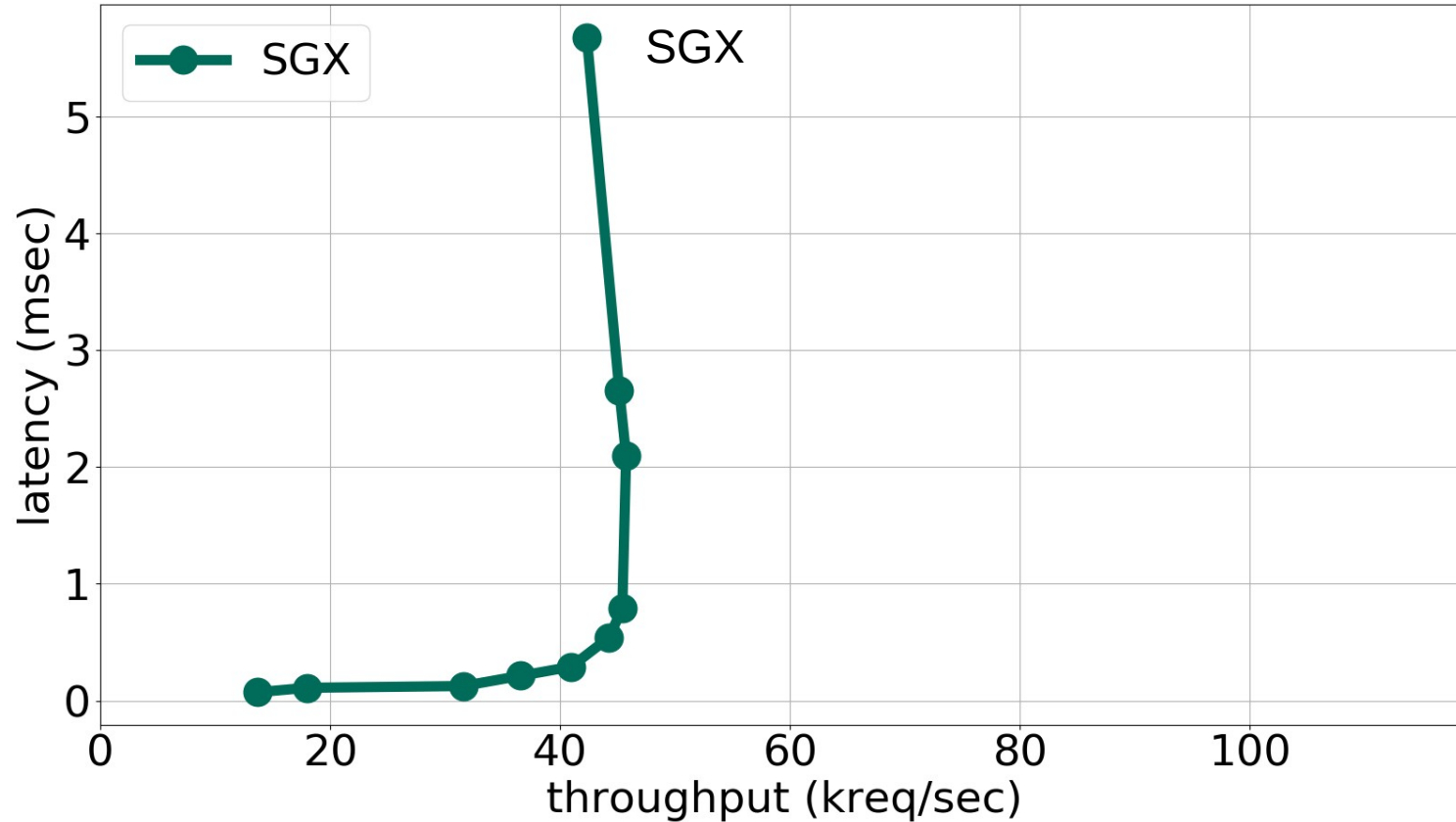
Workloads

Workload	LOC	Added logic
Memcached	16k	In-enclave paging
REDIS	124k	In-enclave paging
SQLITE	135k	Secured file mapping
Face Verification	700	Oblivious page access (ORAM)

Workloads

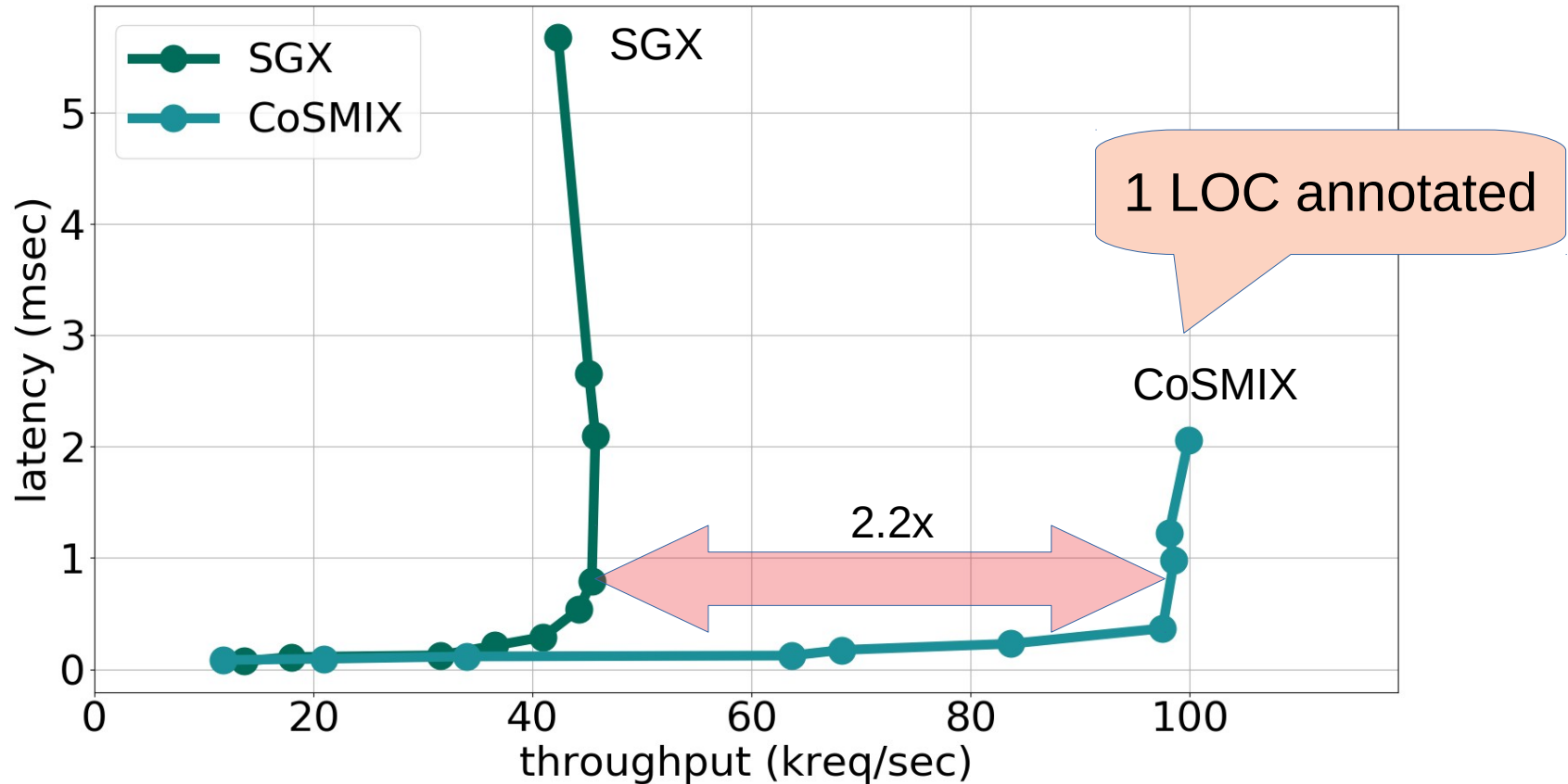
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Memcached (600 MB) Random access 1KB 10% SET



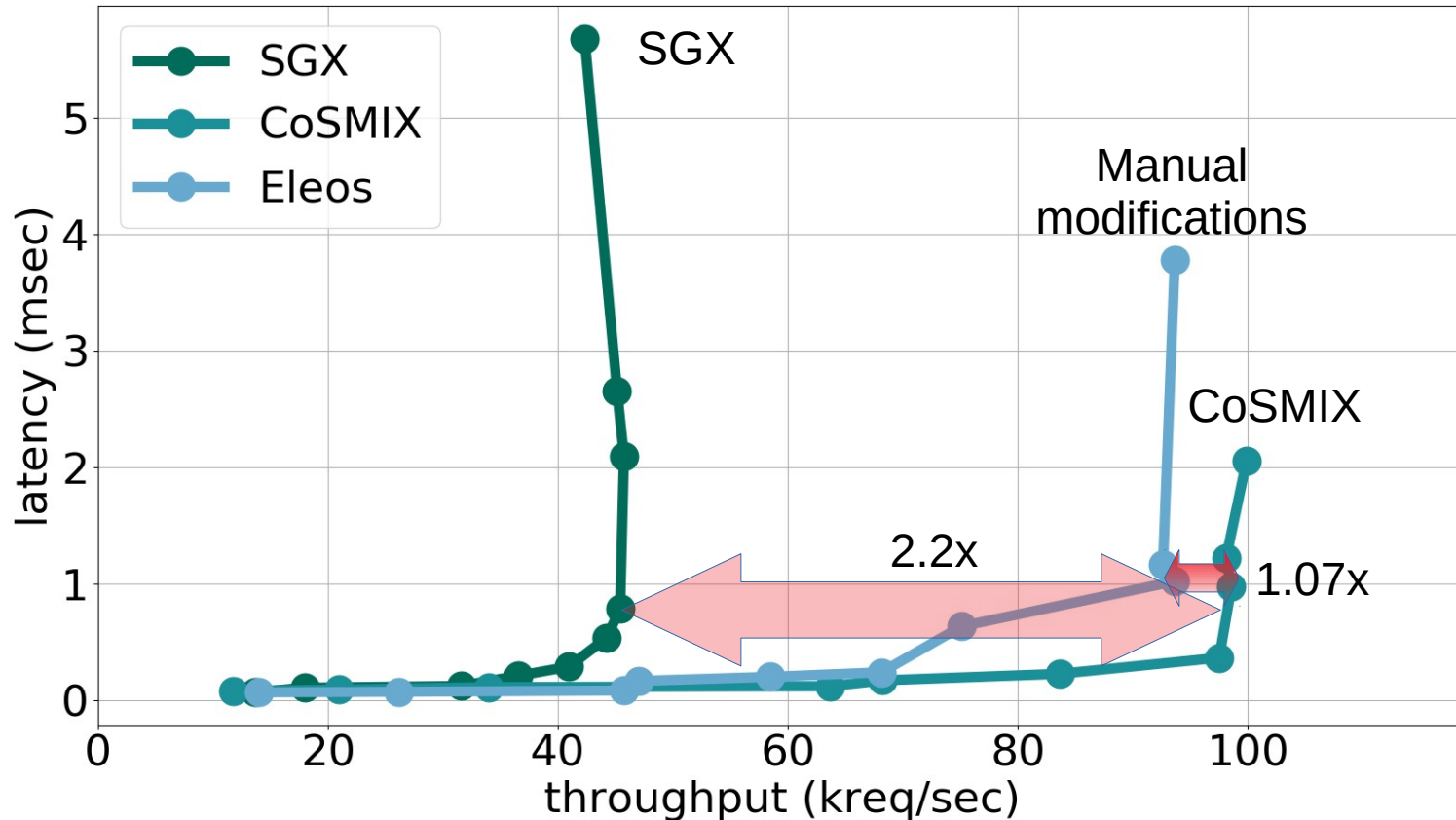
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Random access 1KB 10% SET



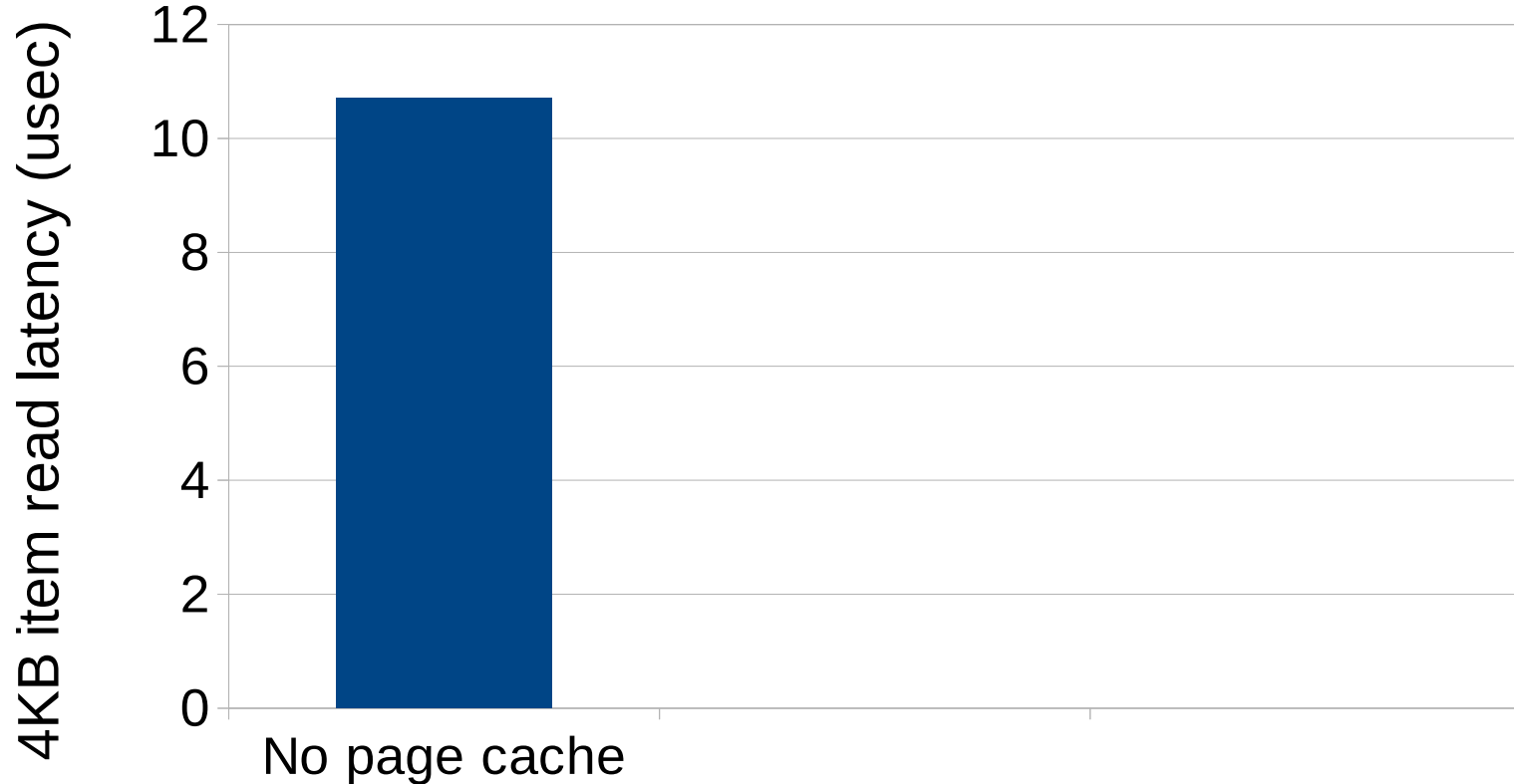
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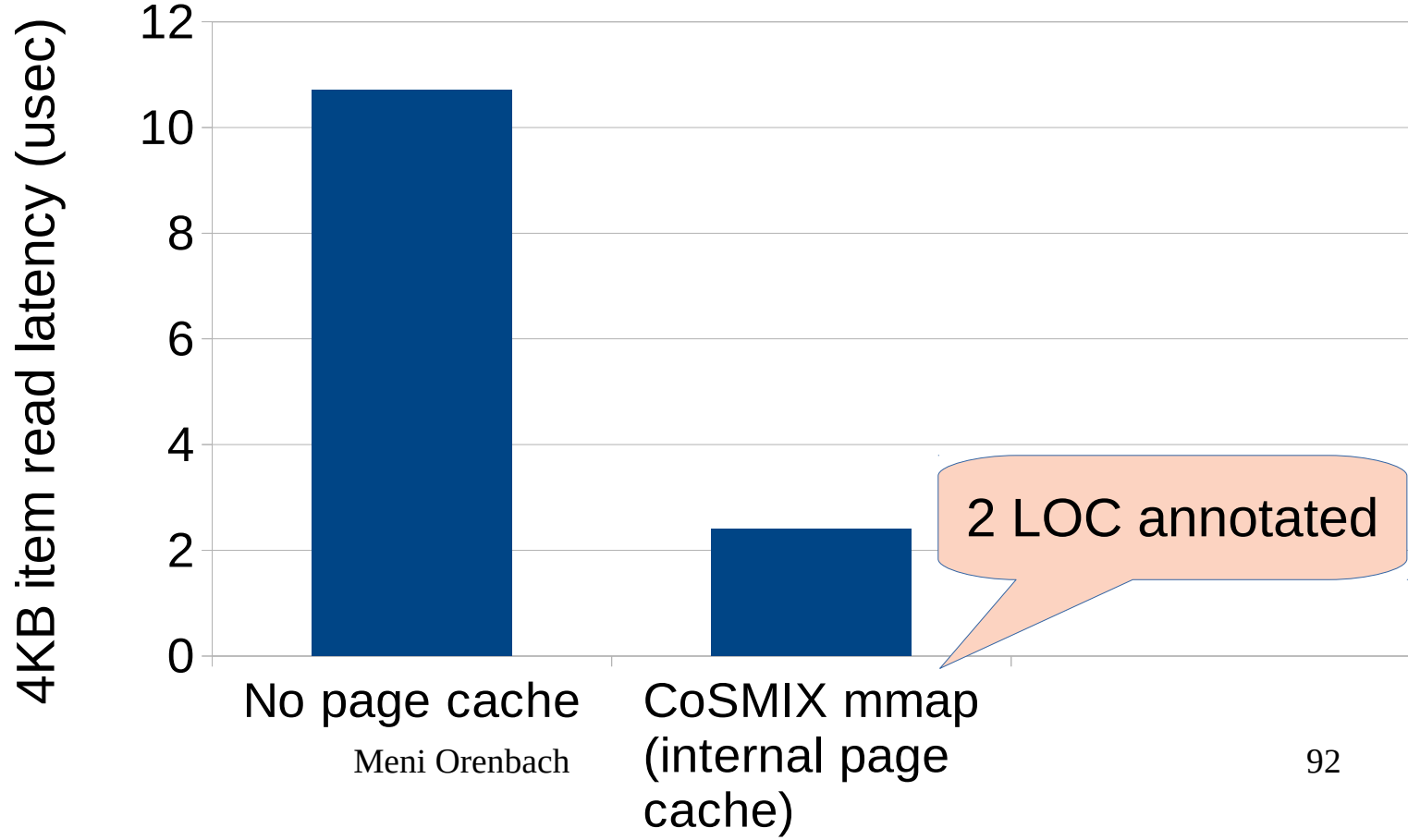
SQLite Encrypted DB file kvtest Random access

Lower is better!



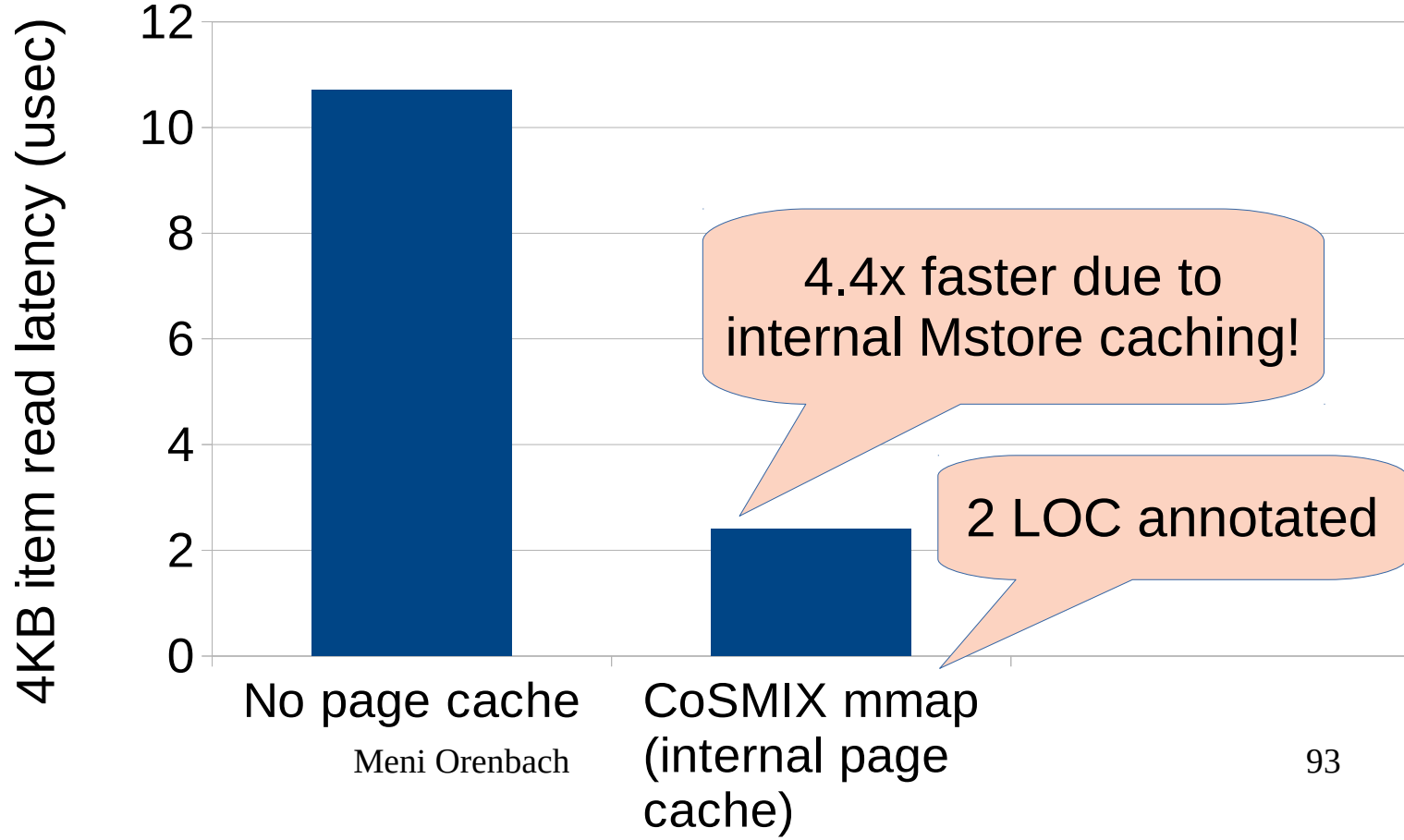
SQLite Encrypted DB file kvtest Random access

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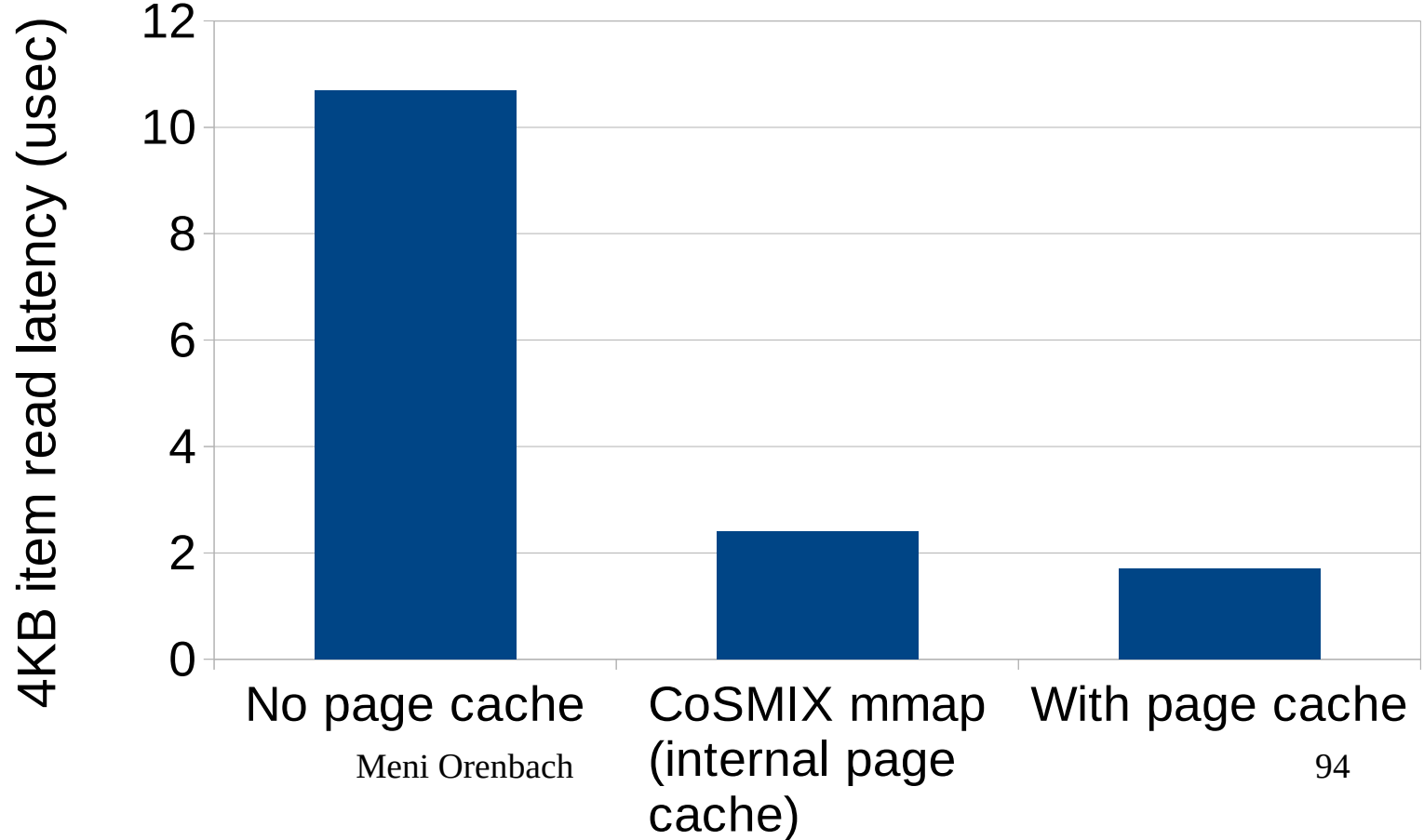
SQLite Encrypted DB file kvtest Random access

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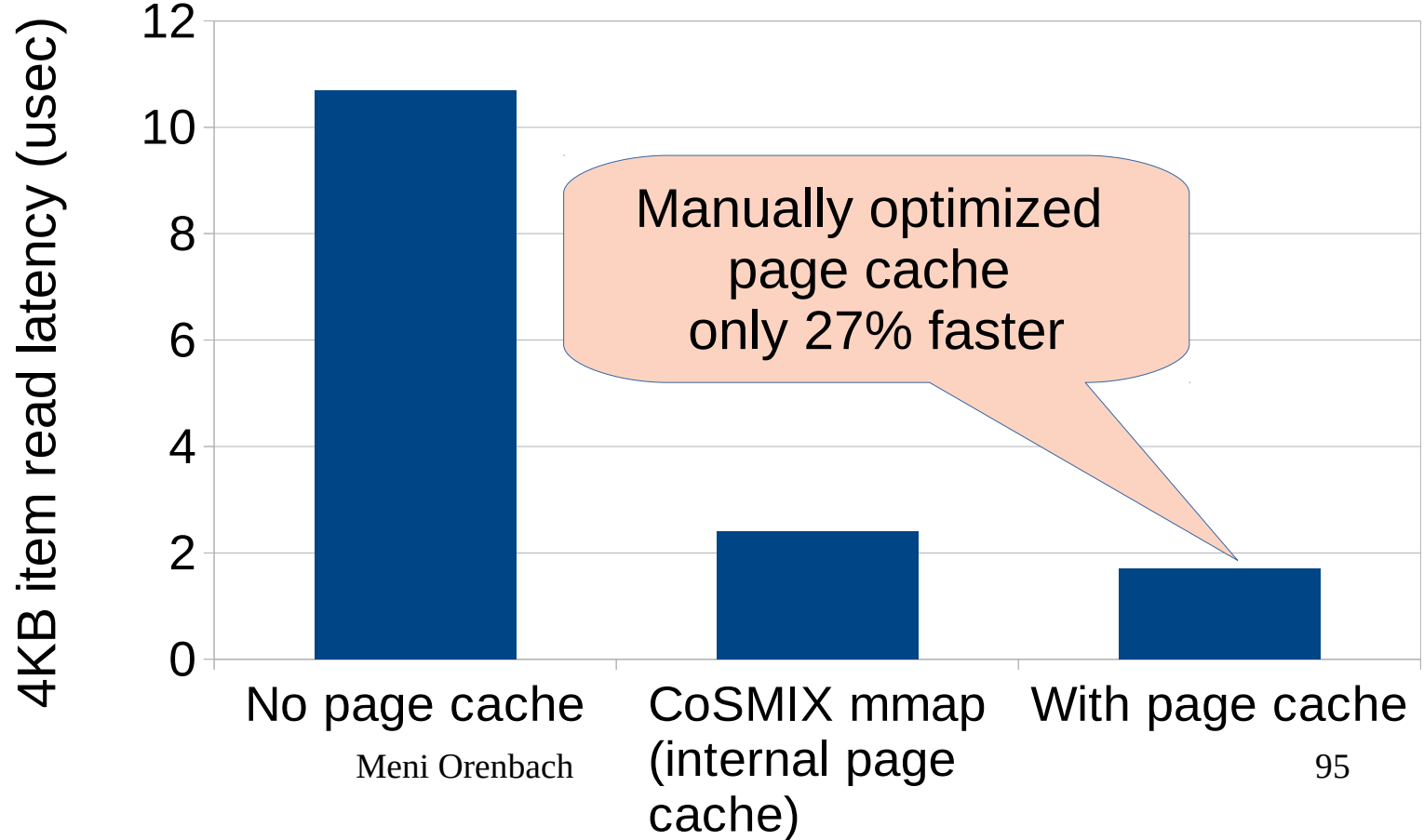
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SQLite Encrypted DB file kvtest Random access

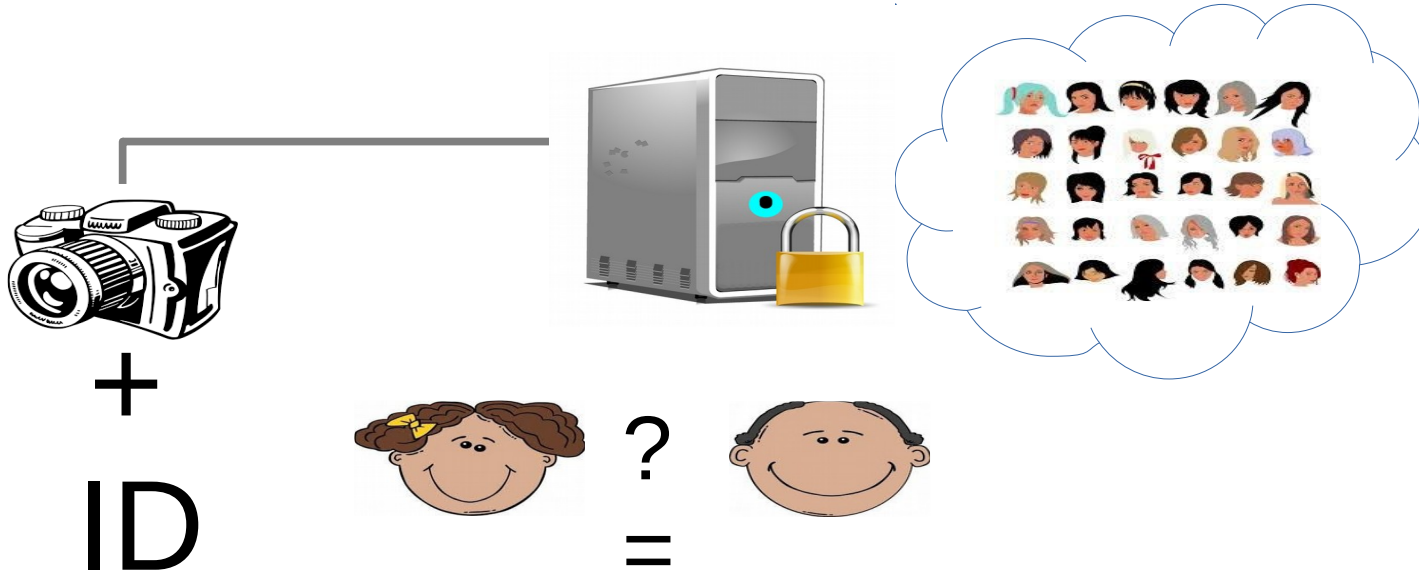
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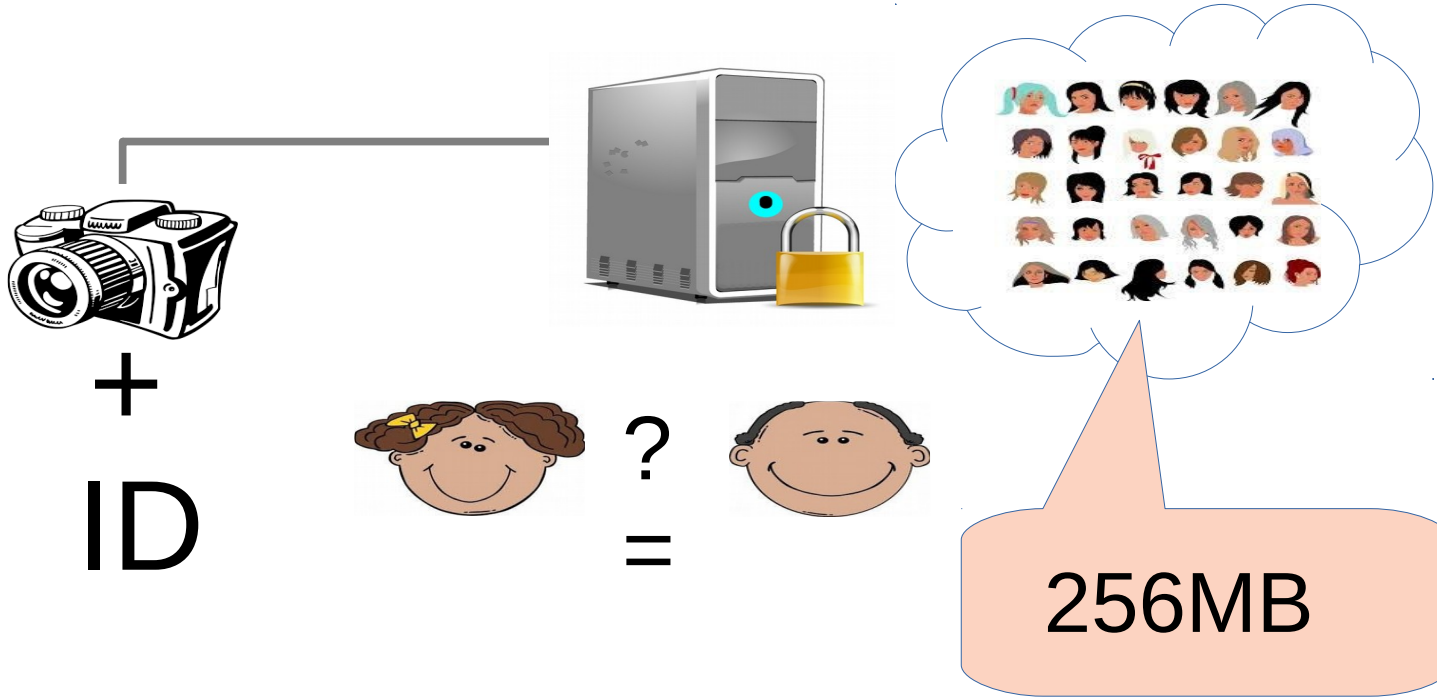
Biometric Identity checking server



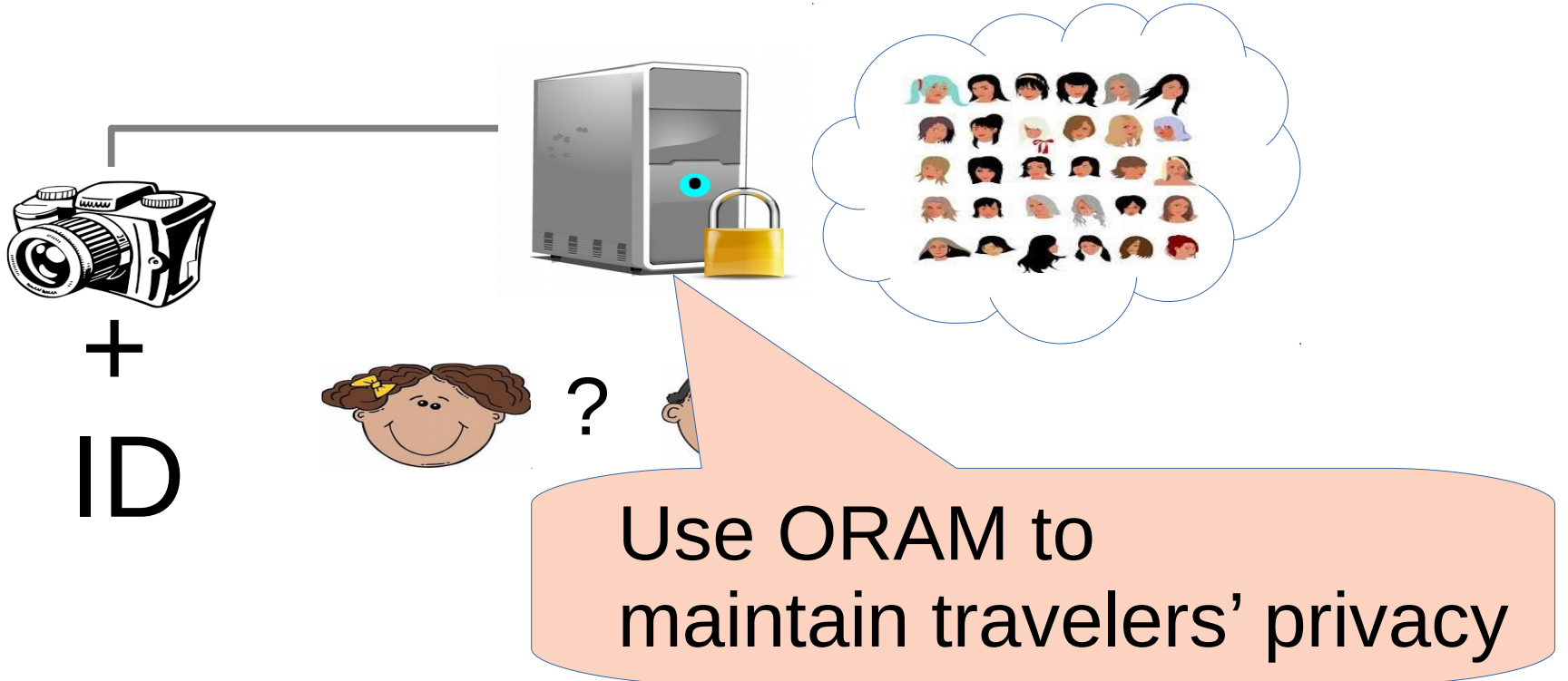
Biometric Identity checking server



Biometric Identity checking server



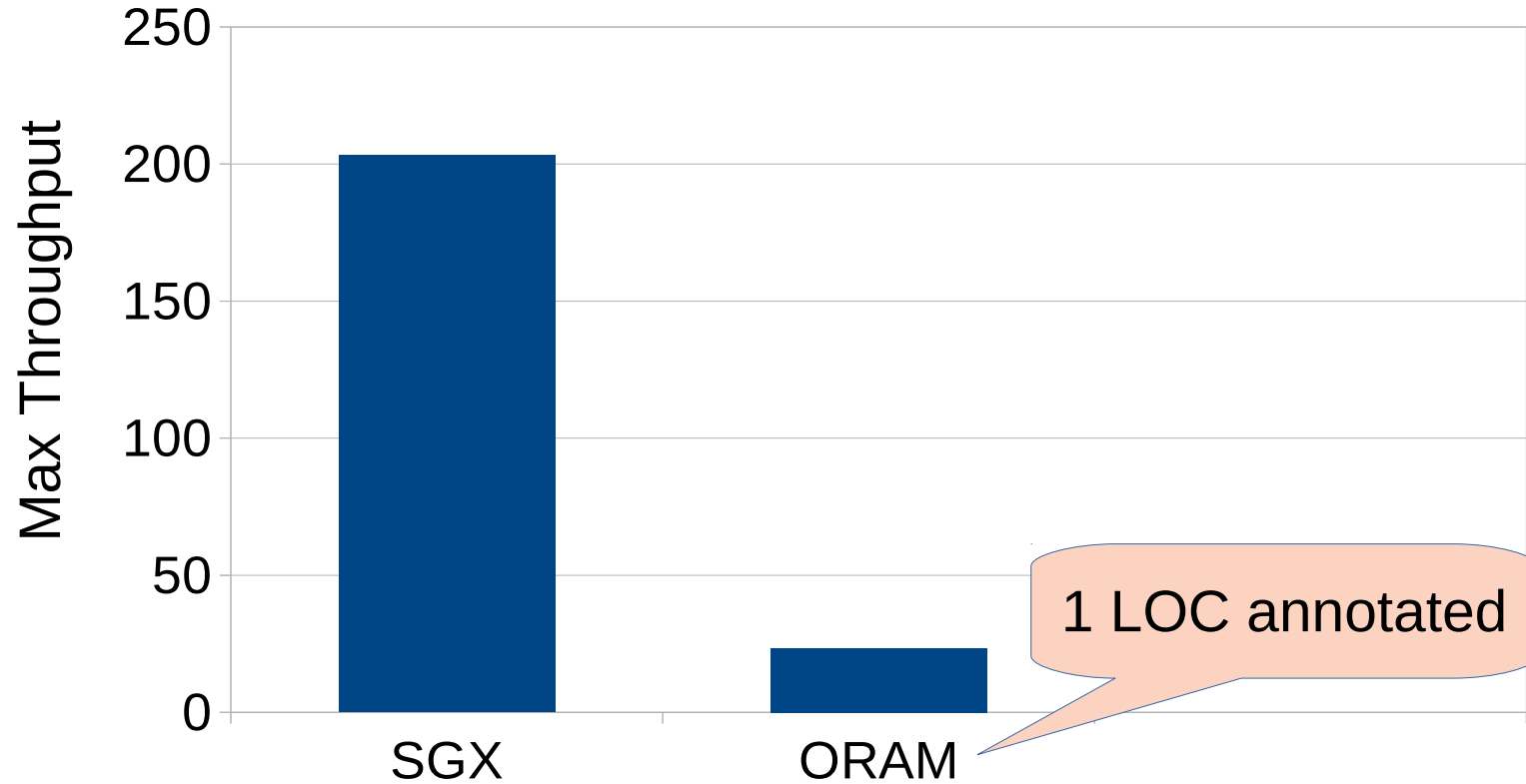
Biometric Identity checking server



ORAM notoriously inefficient

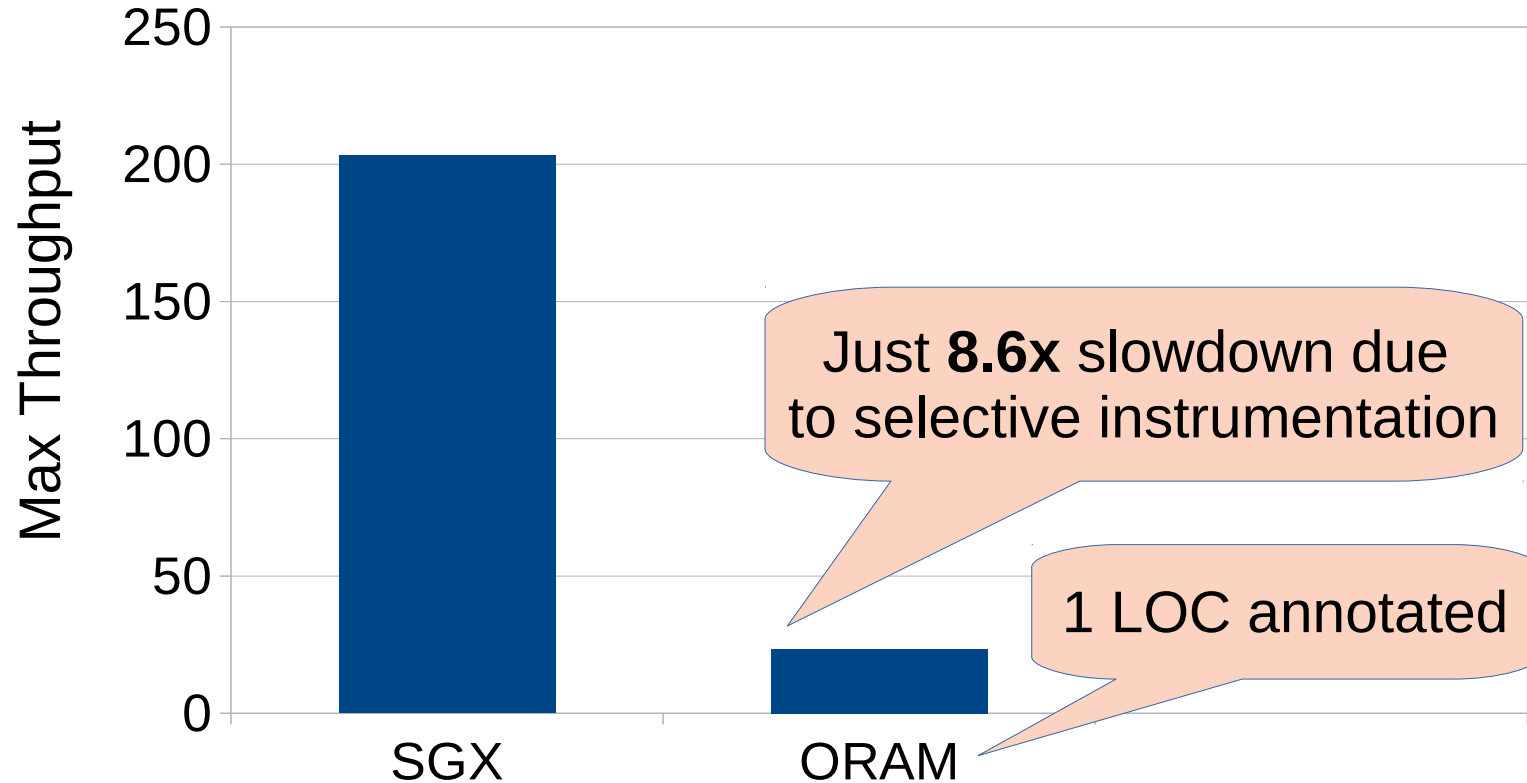
61x slowdown for memory accesses

Face verification



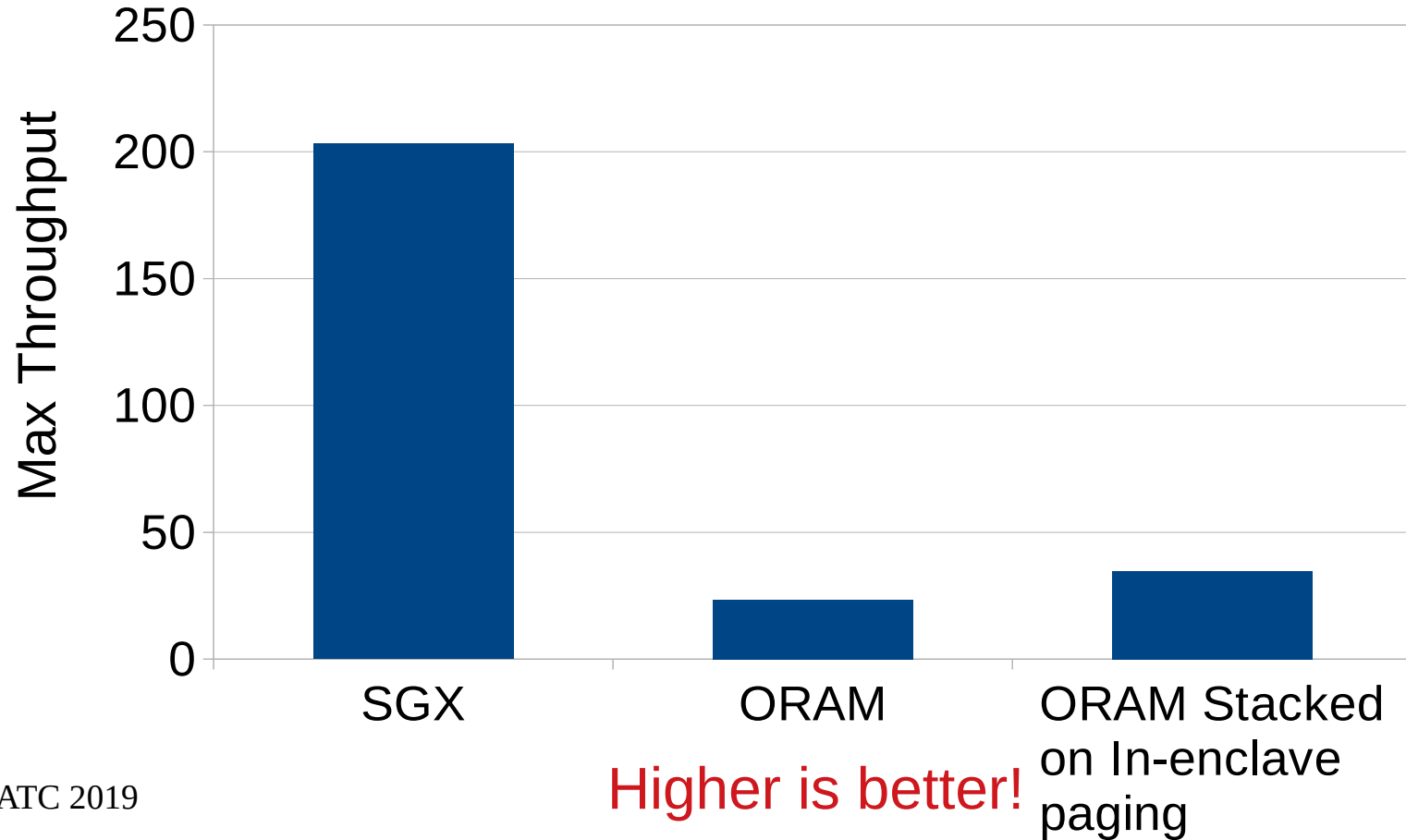
Higher is better!

Face verification

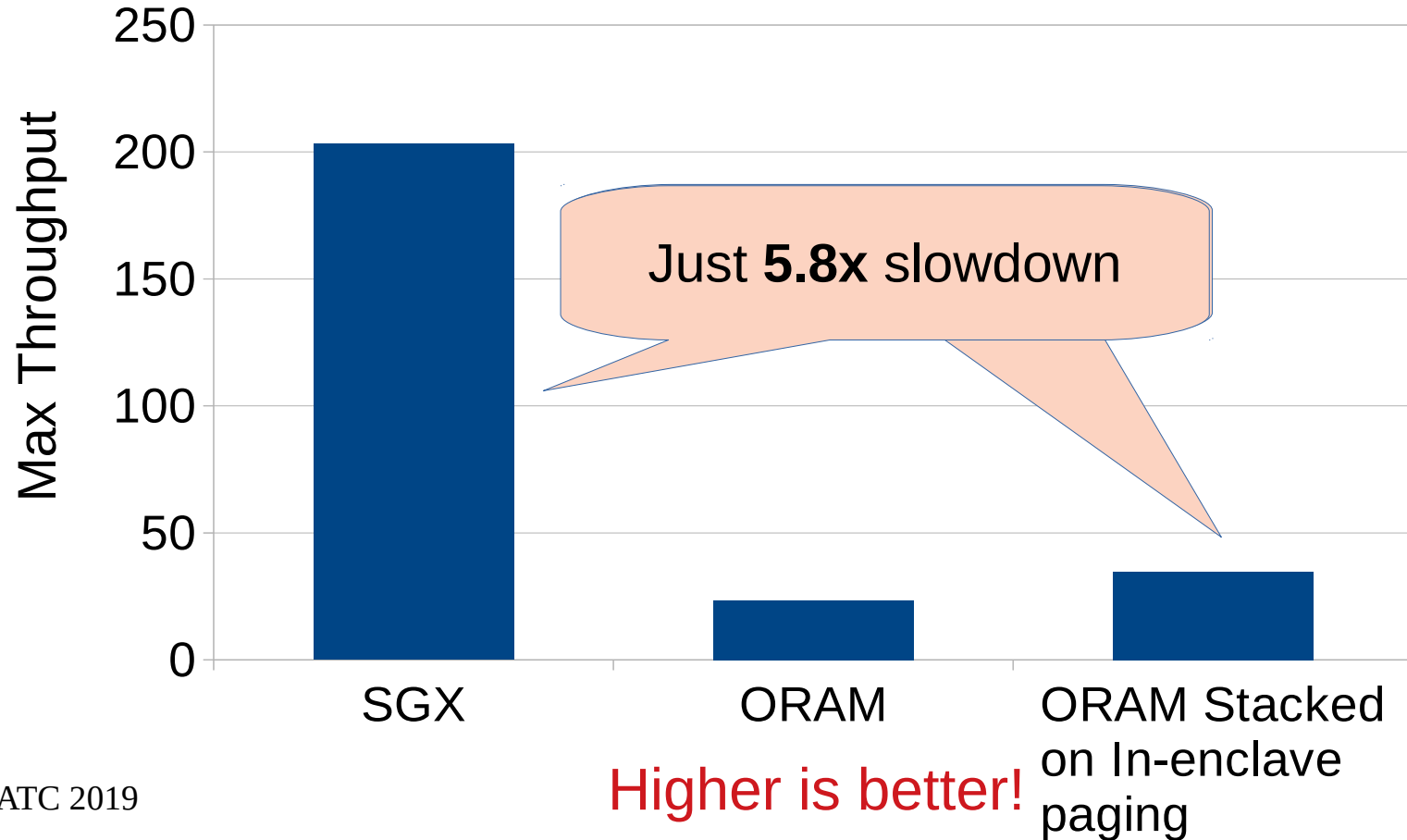


Higher is better!

Face verification



Face verification



Conclusion

- Hardware enclaves improve the security of applications in public cloud environments
- Hardware **limits the use** of a trusted page fault handler
- **CoSMIX** provides trusted page fault handling today
 - Efficient instrumentation makes this a feasible approach

Thank You!



<https://github.com/acsl-technion/cosmix>