

Coupled Storage System for Efficient Management of Self-Describing Data Formats (CoSEMoS)

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<https://cosemos.de/>



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- CoSEMoS's goal is to rethink the **architecture of storage systems**
 - DFG project to improve performance and data management
 - Built upon JULEA: Modern C11 code, available as open source
 - Currently in its first year with a funding period of 2019–2022
- JULEA provides a **flexible storage framework**
 - Contains necessary building blocks for storage systems
 - Facilitates rapid prototyping and evaluation
- Runs in **user space** and has **few dependencies**
 - Kernel code increases complexity and fragility significantly
 - Possible to use on clusters without root access

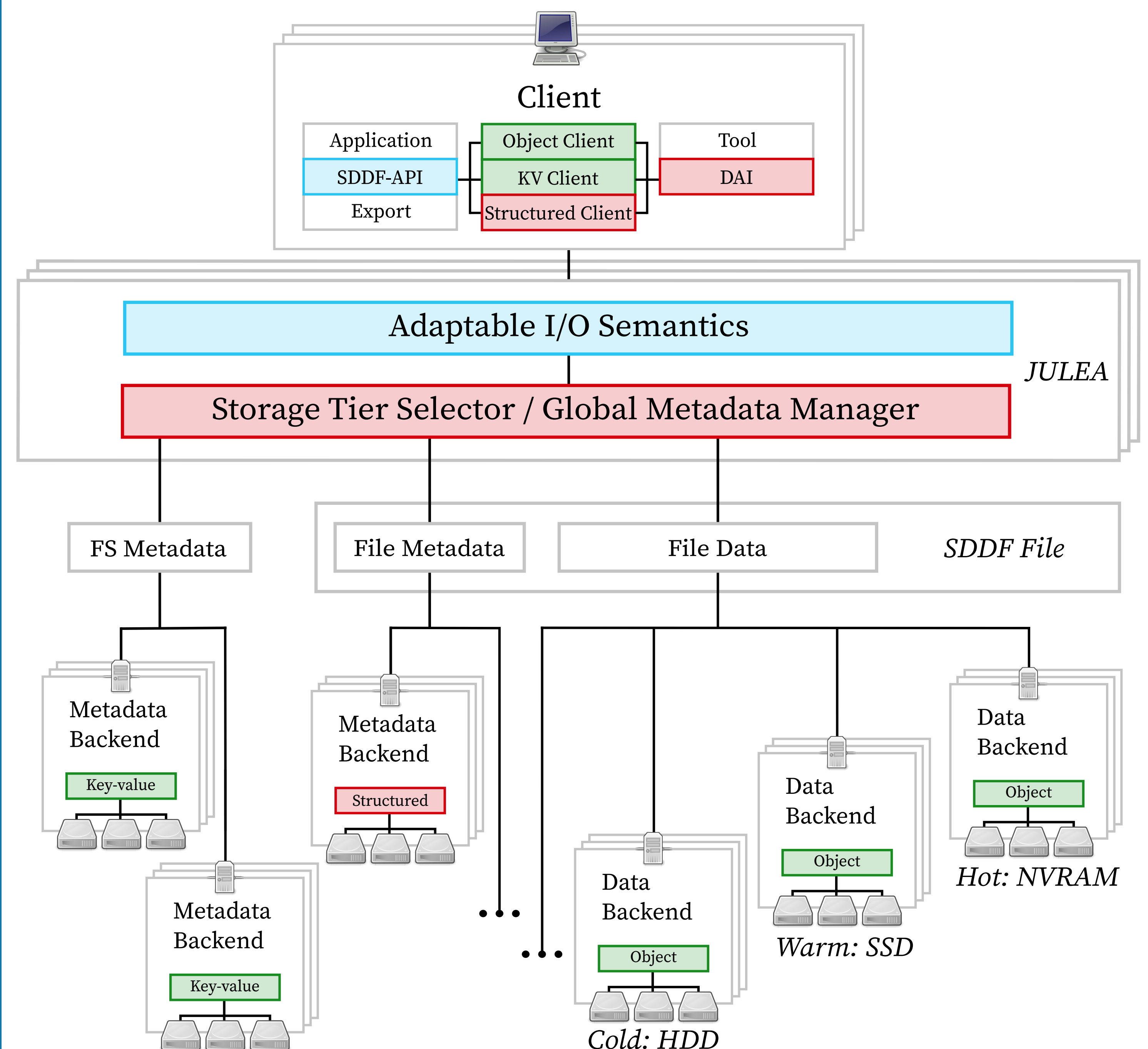
PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Vast amounts of data written to parallel distributed file systems
 - **Self-describing data formats (SDDFs)** widely used to exchange data
 - Structural information is encoded in the files themselves
 - Files can be accessed and interpreted without prior knowledge
1. **Weak treatment of different types of metadata**
 - Two different types of metadata
 - **File system metadata** is stored on the metadata servers
 - **File metadata** (for example, attributes or additional annotations) is stored within SDDF files on the data servers
 - Strict separation of metadata leads to inefficient file access
 - Reading data requires file system metadata, file metadata, file data
 2. **Static I/O semantics**
 - Strict consistency and coherence semantics due to POSIX
 - Different semantics on different layers not compatible
 - Static approaches are unable to satisfy all requirements
 3. **Inefficient data placement**
 - Hierarchical structuring of different hardware is used
 - Data movement across storage tiers is an expensive operation
 - Hardware is available, new approaches need to be developed

OBJECTIVES

1. **Global metadata management**
 - Closely **couple storage system and self-describing data formats**
 - All metadata handled by metadata servers
 - Optimize metadata accesses using database technologies
 - Storage system can handle different kinds of metadata
 - Novel data management approaches via a data analysis interface
 - Query file metadata across multiple files in a unified way
2. **Adaptable I/O semantics**
 - Possible to dynamically adapt semantics
 - Application and library requirements vary widely
 - Provide appropriate interfaces for applications and libraries
 - Specify **requirements regarding atomicity, consistency etc.**
 - Provide sensible defaults for SDDFs
3. **Intelligent storage selection**
 - Use structural information for **informed data placement decisions**
 - Improve performance by optimizing data placement
 - Different parts of self-describing files can be put on different tiers

ARCHITECTURE



- **Green components** exist already within JULEA
- **Blue components** exist but will be extended
- **Red components** will be created as part of CoSEMoS

WORK PACKAGES

- WP1: **Application Interface**
 - T1.1 SDDF Interface ⚙️
 - T1.2 Application Requirements and Semantics ⌛
 - T1.3 Data Analysis Interface ⌛
- WP2: **Storage Tier Selector and Global Metadata Manager**
 - T2.1 Structured Metadata Backend ✓
 - T2.2 Structured Metadata Client ✓
 - T2.3 Metadata Backend Selection ⌛
 - T2.4 Data Storage Tiering ⚙️
- WP3: **Evaluation and Dissemination**
 - T3.1 Compatibility Tests ⌛
 - T3.2 Case Study ⌛
 - T3.3 Workshop Organization ⚙️

PARTNERS

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- <https://cosemos.de/>
- <https://github.com/wr-hamburg/julea>
- <https://github.com/wr-hamburg/julea-adios2>