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A Soft Real-Time Precise Tracing Garbage Collector for C++

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Abstract. The paper presents an efficient garbage collector that can be used in soft realtime and interactive applications written in C++. The garbage collector is tuned to best meet requirements of Internet server-side applications. It collects and sweeps garbage concurrently to application threads, thus it minimizes unpredictable execution delays and can increase applications' performance. The article shows how such a garbage collector is built, what data structures and algorithms are used, and how they can be efficiently implemented in C++.

Key words: memory management, mark-and-sweep algorithm, smart pointer, real-time application, concurrent garbage collection, object finalization, write barrier, reference cycles