

# One More Gap Bridged Towards Practice

Support Serialization Feature in Native Image

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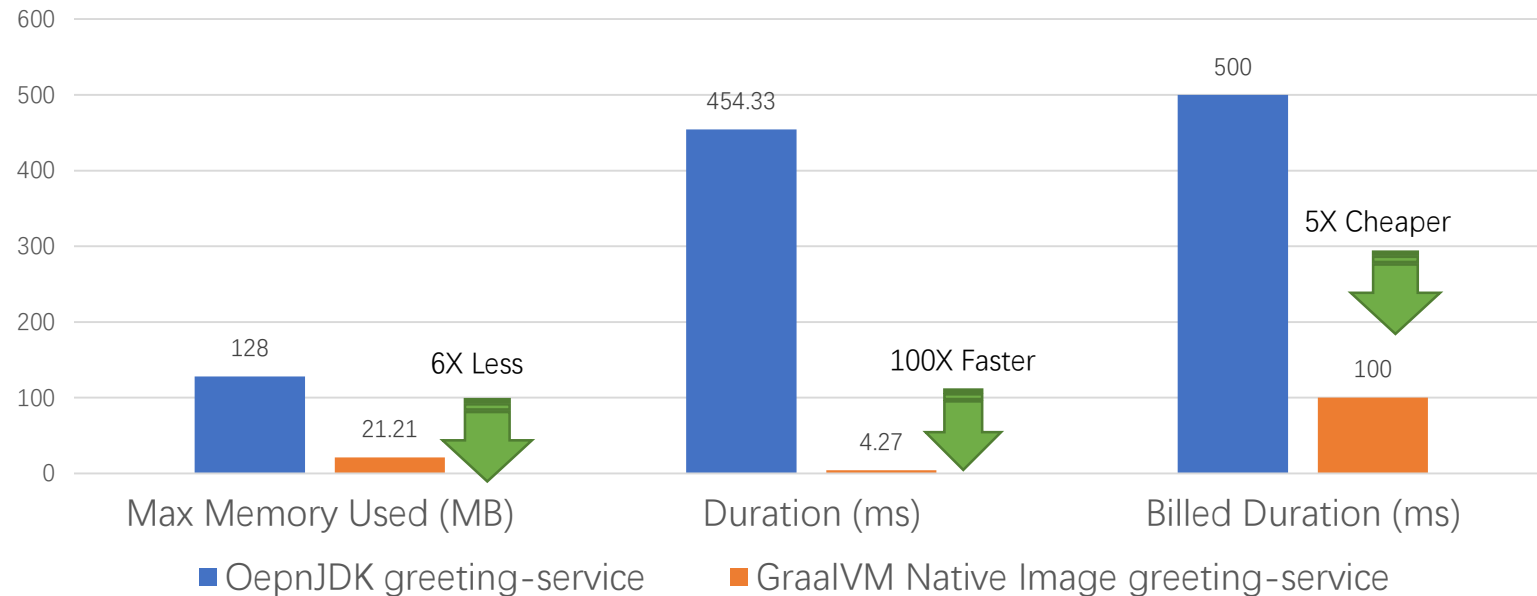
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# Background

- Why are we interested in native image?
  - Fast startup
  - Less footprint
  - Ideal for FaaS
- Limitations: Not 100% compatible with OpenJDK
  - Not support some key features, e.g. serialization, dynamic class loading and multiple classloaders
  - Stability concerns

OpenJDK Java Function V.S. GraalVM Native Image Function  
Deployed on Alibaba Cloud




# Motivation

- Java serialization is used in Alibaba middleware. Can't work around when building native image for Alibaba applications.
- Serialization feature is demanded in the GraalVM community for a long time

[native-image] UnsupportedOperationException: ObjectOutputStream.writeObject() #460 New issue

Closed cushion opened this issue on 9 Jun 2018 · 25 comments

 cushion commented on 9 Jun 2018


I ran into this stack trace using native-image on an applic...

```
com.oracle.svm.core.jdk.UnsupportedFeatureError: Objec
at java.lang.Throwable.<init>(Throwable.java:
at java.lang.Error.<init>(Error.java:70)
at com.oracle.svm.core.jdk.UnsupportedFeature
at com.oracle.svm.core.jdk.Target_com_oracle
at com.oracle.svm.core.jdk.Target_java_io_obj
```

2018

Open classes that serialize with JVM do not with native-image #1333 New issue

Closed mcred opened this issue on 24 May 2019 · 3 comments

 mcred commented on 24 May 2019

Below is a simplified sample of nested open classes that will serialize when run with JVM, b... compiled native binary. Does anyone have any insight as to why this is? I used maven to c...

```
package hello
```

2019

ObjectInputStream / ObjectOutputStream are not supported #2507 New issue

Closed phamvanthanh opened this issue on 27 May 2020 · 2 comments

 phamvanthanh commented on 27 May 2020

Hi  
ObjectInputStream / ObjectOutputStream are not supported thus it is not able to do serialize/deserialize.

environment:  
[ GRAALVM CE 20.2.0-dev]\*\*

- JDK major version: [e.g.:11]
- OS: [Windows]
- Architecture: [e.g.: AMD64]

Assignees  
 cstancu

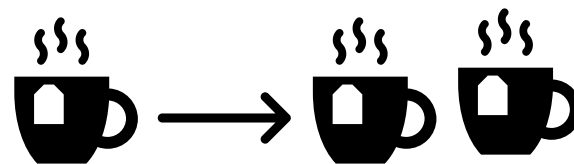
Labels  
bug native-image

Projects  
None yet

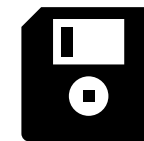
2020



Communication

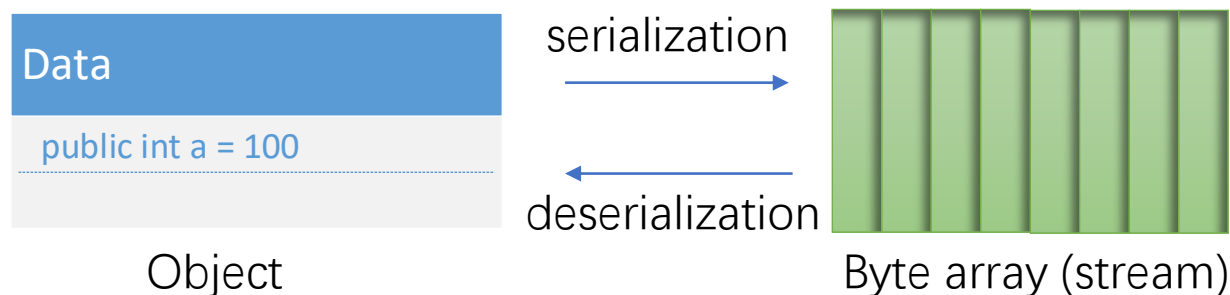


Deep Clone



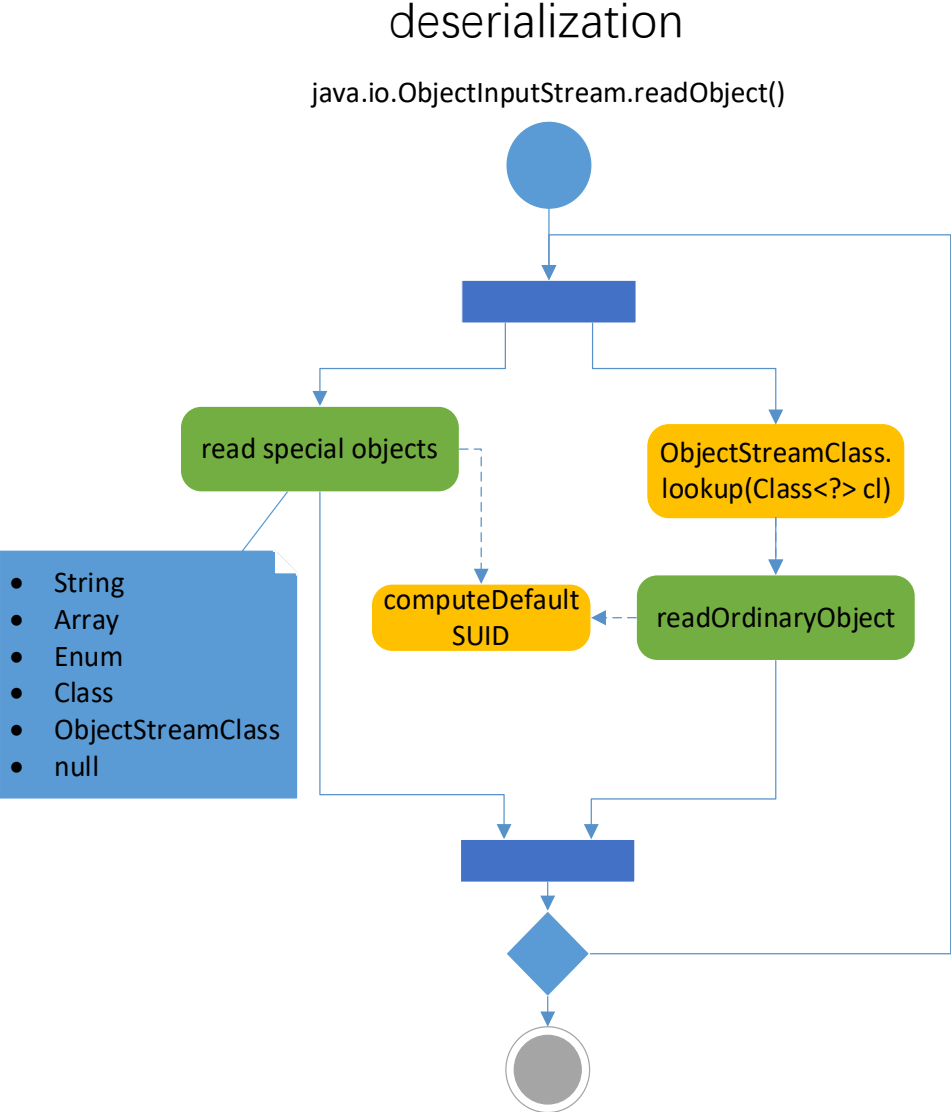
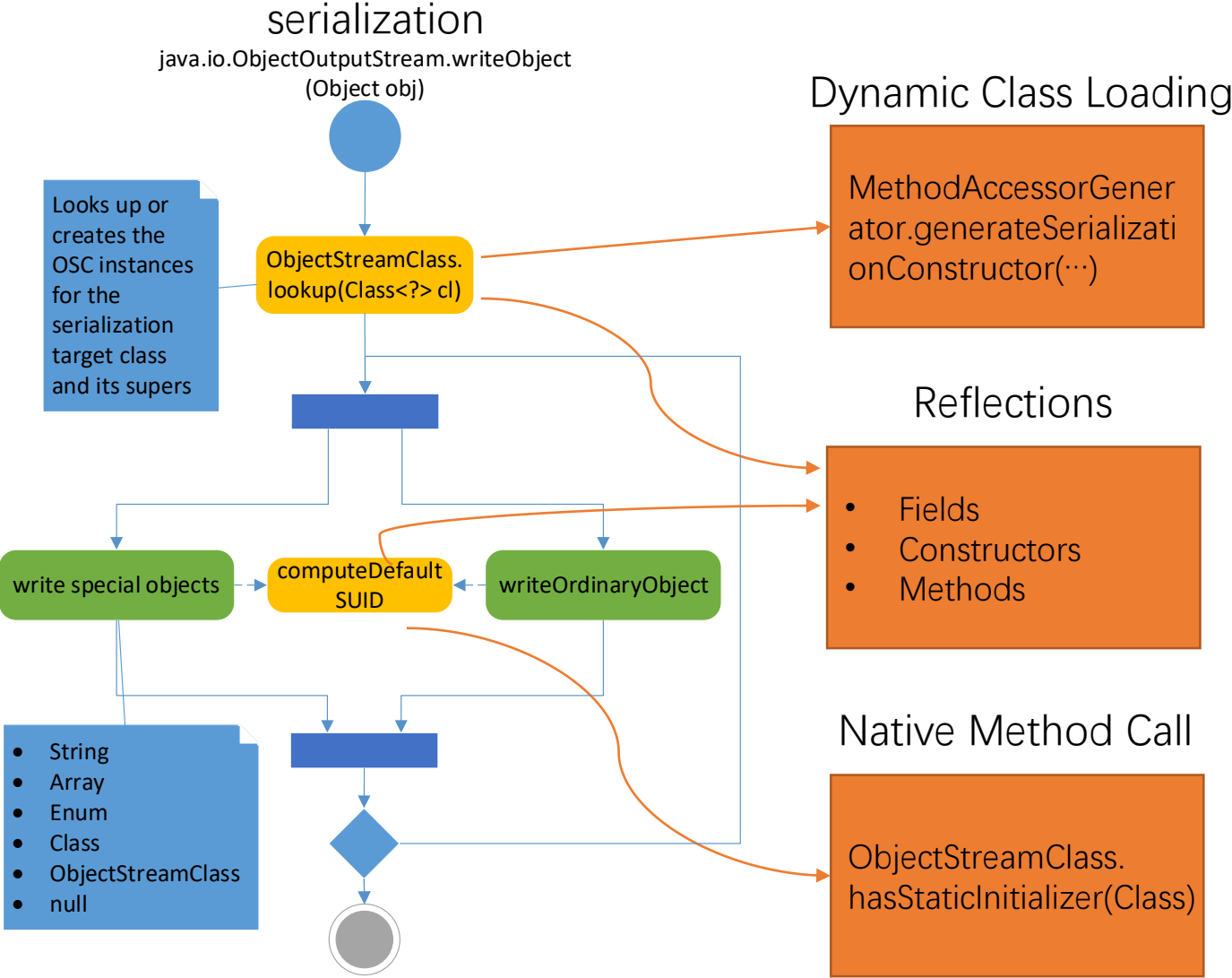
Data Persistence

# What is Serialization

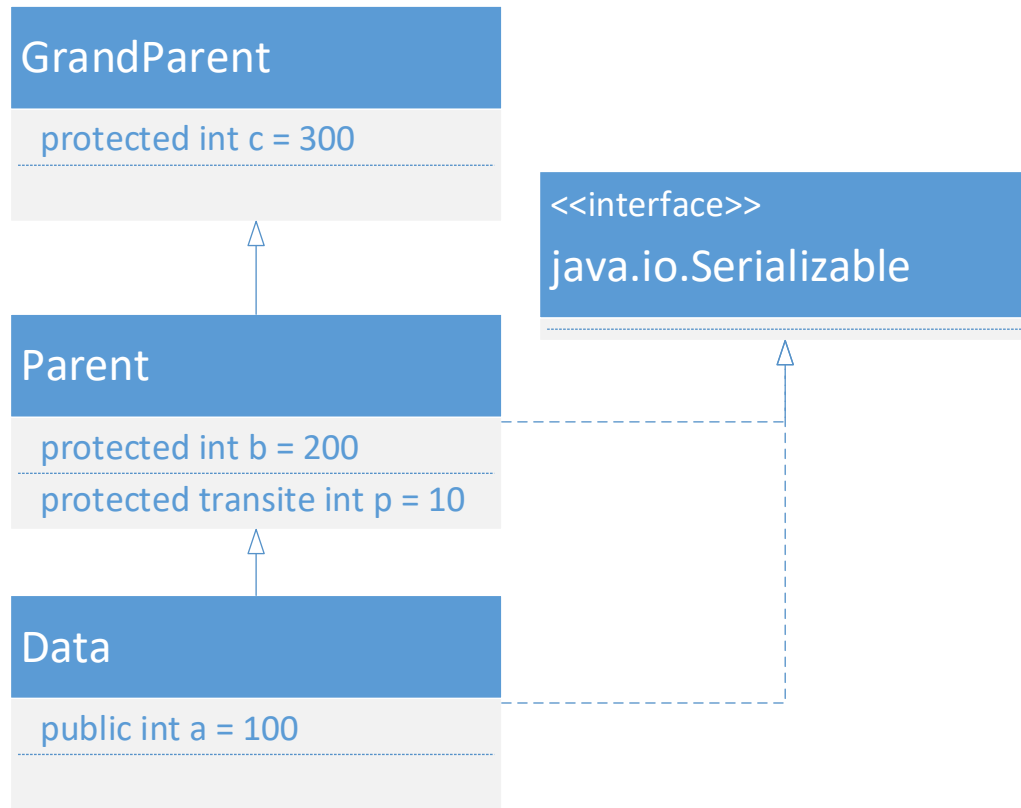


- Object Serialization Specification (OSS): <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/platform/serialization/spec/serialTOC.html>
- `java.io.ObjectInputStream`: For deserialization
- `java.io.ObjectOutputStream`: For serialization
- `java.io.ObjectStreamClass`: Target class descriptor, short as OSC

# OpenJDK Implementation



# Object Instantiation at Deserialization



Data data: a=1, b=2, c=3, p=4

```

private Object readOrdinaryObject(boolean unshared)
    throws IOException
{
    ...
    Object obj;
    try {
        obj = desc.isInstantiable() ? desc.newInstance() : null;
    } catch (Exception ex) {
        ...
    }
    ...
    readSerialData(obj, desc);
    ...
    return obj;
}
    
```

a=0  
b=0  
p=0  
c=300

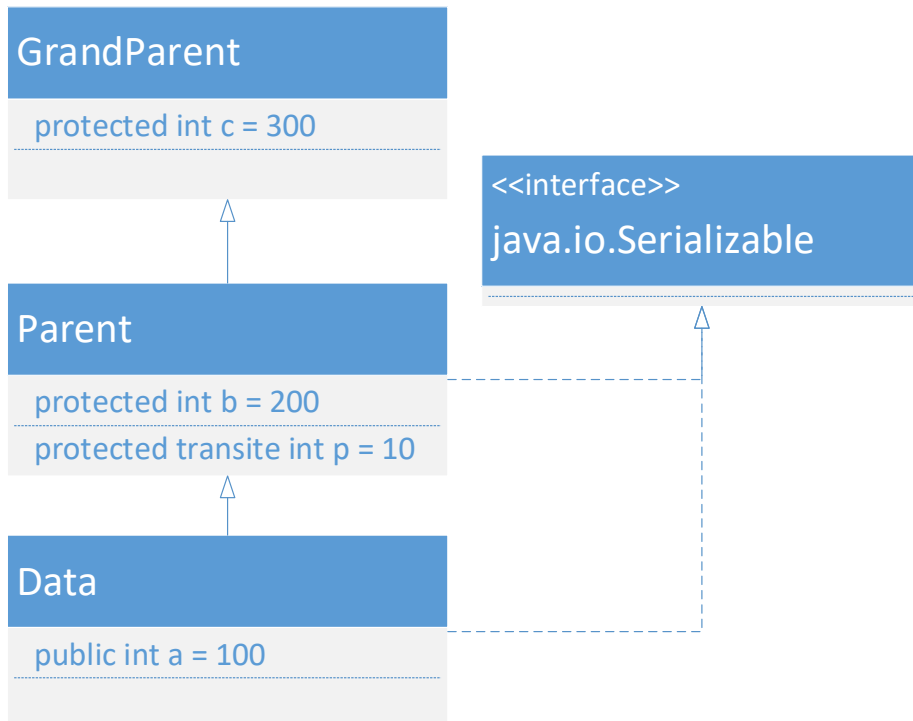
*"the no-arg constructor for the first non-serializable supertype is run" OSS 3.1.11.a.*

Data data = new GrandParent()

a=1  
b=2  
p=0  
c=300

# Dynamic Class Loading Can Help

- Dynamically generated class “GeneratedSerializationConstructorAccessor” (GSCA)
- It’s almost constant, so is possible to turn to static



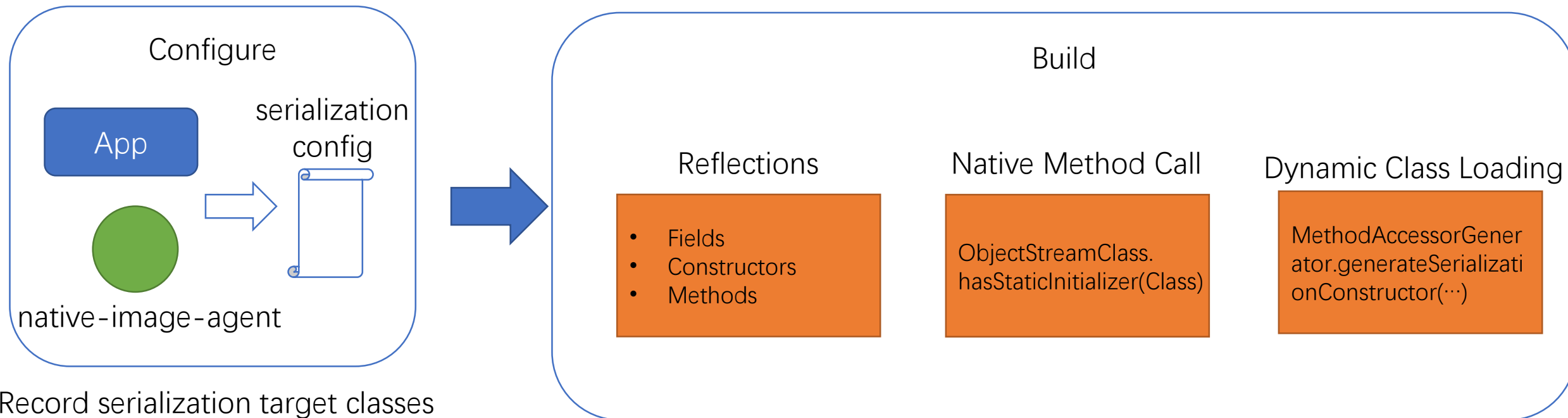
```

public sun.reflect.GeneratedSerializationConstructorAccessor2();
descriptor: ()V
flags: ACC_PUBLIC
Code:
    stack=1, locals=1, args_size=1
    0: aload_0
    1: invokespecial #36          // Method sun/reflect/SerializationConstructorAccessorImpl.<init>:()V
    4: return

public java.lang.Object newInstance(java.lang.Object[]) throws java.lang.reflect.InvocationTargetException;
descriptor: ([Ljava/lang/Object;)Ljava/lang/Object;
flags: ACC_PUBLIC
Code:
    stack=6, locals=2, args_size=2
    0: new          #6          // class com/alibaba/test/serialize/Data
    3: dup
    4: aload_1
    5: ifnull      24
    8: aload_1
    9: arraylength
    10: sipush     0
    13: if_icmpeq  24
    16: new        #22          // class java/lang/IllegalArgumentException
    19: dup
    20: invokespecial #29        // Method java/lang/IllegalArgumentException.<init>:()V
    23: athrow
    24: invokespecial #12        // Method com/alibaba/test/serialize/GrandParent.<init>:()V
    27: areturn
    28: invokespecial #42        // Method java/lang/Object.toString:()Ljava/lang/String;
    31: new        #22          // class java/lang/IllegalArgumentException
    34: dup_x1
    35: swap
    36: invokespecial #32        // Method java/lang/IllegalArgumentException.<init>:(Ljava/lang/String;)V
    39: athrow
    40: new        #24          // class java/lang/reflect/InvocationTargetException
    43: dup_x1
    44: swap
    45: invokespecial #35        // Method java/lang/reflect/InvocationTargetException.<init>:(Ljava/lang/Throwable;)V
    48: athrow
Exception table:
    from   to target type
    0      24  28  Class java/lang/ClassCastException
    0      24  28  Class java/lang/NullPointerException
    24     27  40  Class java/lang/Throwable
Exceptions:
    throws java.lang.reflect.InvocationTargetException
}
    
```

# Implementation Overview

- Overall strategy:
  - Configure the target class
  - Fix the unsupported features, so that the serialization implementation in OpenJDK can be compiled into native image.

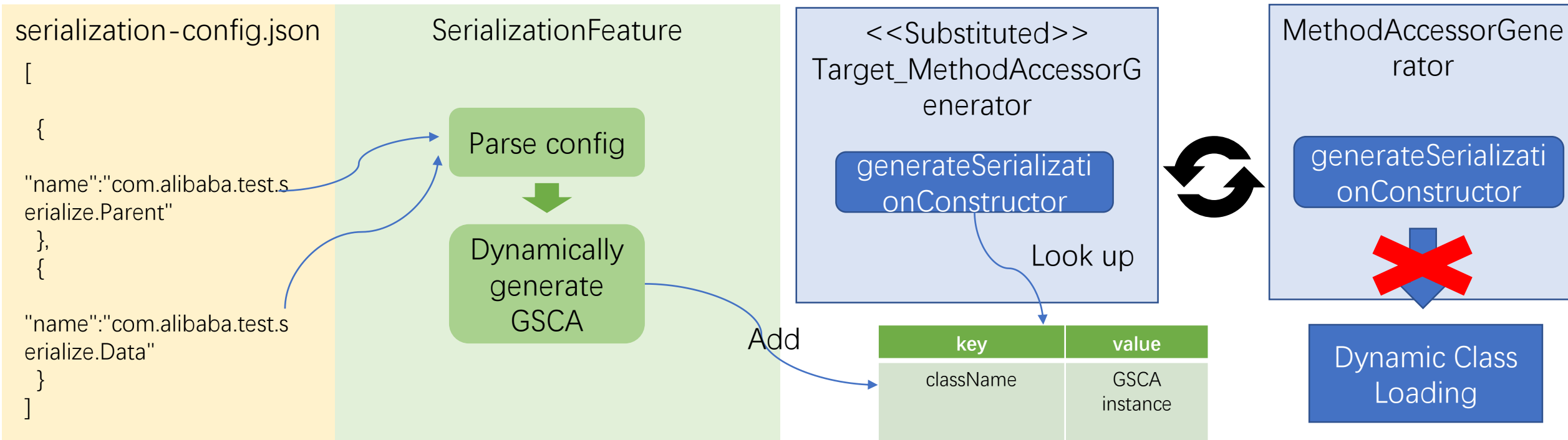


Record serialization target classes



# Turn Dynamic to Static

- The GSCA is almost constant expect target class
- *“Classes are identified by name.”* -- OSS 5.3 Assumptions
- Cache GSCA at build time, fetch at runtime



# Results

- Support Apache MINA's RPC now.
- Support JUnit now. We can write JUnit tests for native image programs.
- Support SPECjvm2008 serial benchmark now.

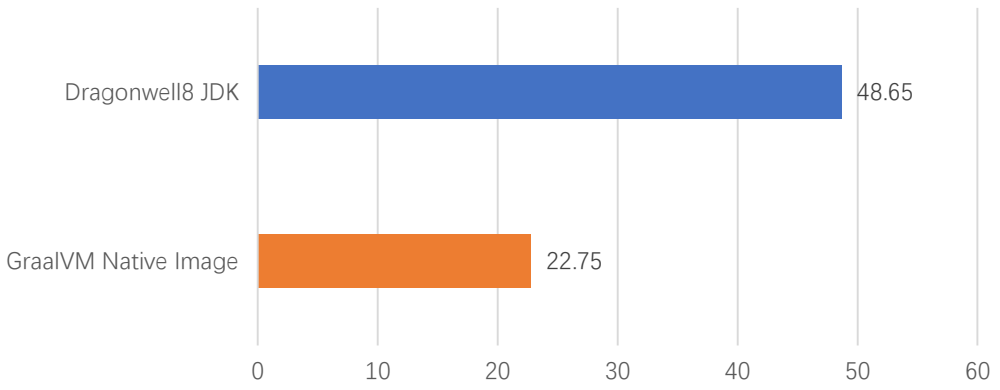
# Performance-Setup

- Testing with SPECjvm2008's **serial** benchmark
  - `java -Xmx2g -Xms1g -cp SPECjvm2008.jar spec.harness.Launch serial -opts 100 -bt 1`
  - `./spec.harness.launch serial -opts 100 -bt 1 -Xmx2g -Xms1g`
- GraalVM version:
  - Compiled on 20 Feb 2021 with master branch till commit:  
<https://github.com/oracle/graal/commit/f38cc1648c28b1112f1ceac24d9bf17cc5ba4bca>
- JDK version:
  - Alibaba Dragonwell8 JDK 8.6.5\* (OpenJDK 8u\_282 )
- Hardware:
  - Alibaba Cloud Elastic Compute Service Instance
  - Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2682 v4 @ 2.50GHz, 4 cores
  - Memory 8G

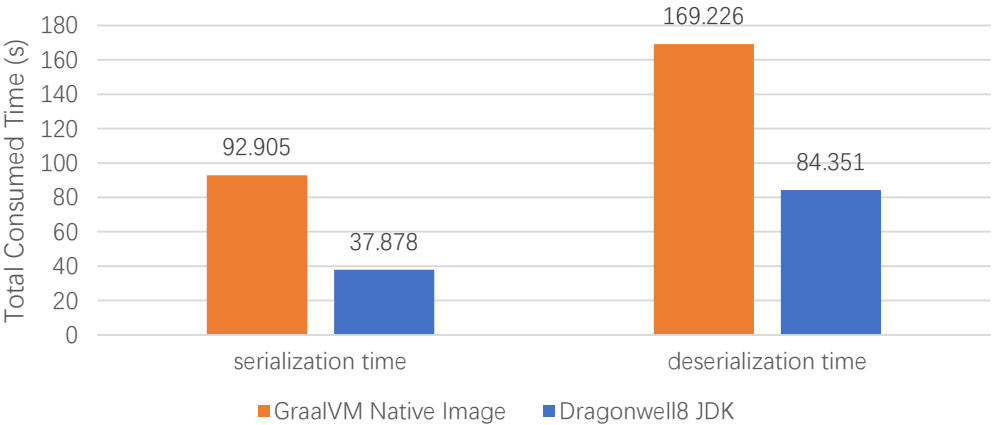
\* a downstream of OpenJDK developed by Alibaba

# Performance - Result

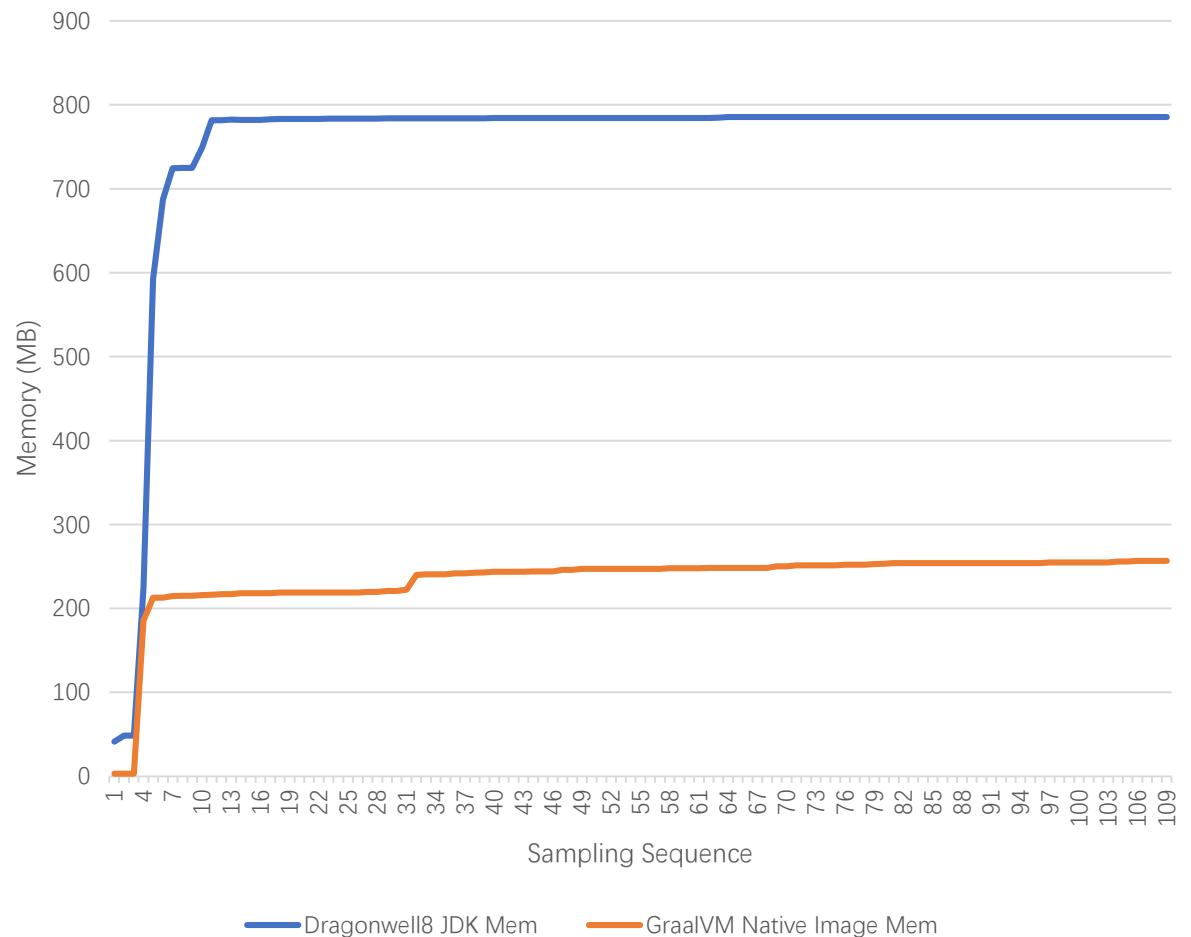
Comparison of SPECjvm2008 Score



Comparison of Serialization and Deserialization Time Consumed



Comparison of Memory



# Limitation and Future Work

- Implicit assumption: The serialization target class name is constant
- Lambda class breaks the assumption
  - Lambda class is dynamically generated
  - The class name is changing
- Future work
  - Solve the lambda limitation
  - Improve performance

java.lang.invoke.InnerClassLambdaMetafactory.<init>

```
constructorType = invokedType.changeReturnType(Void.TYPE);  
lambdaClassName = targetClass.getName().replace( oldChar: '.', newChar: '/') + "$$Lambda$" + counter.incrementAndGet();  
cw = new ClassWriter(ClassWriter.COMPUTE_MAXS);  
int parameterCount = invokedType.parameterCount();  
if (parameterCount > 0) {
```

# Summary

- JDK serialization is widely used in Java world, supporting it can help more programs to adapt to native image.
- The keys of the implementation are:
  - Auto-config: Add JVMTI method breakpoint to auto-record all serialization target classes
  - Dynamic-to-static: Generate configured classes' GSCAs and cache them in the native image for runtime usage
- <https://github.com/oracle/graal/pull/2730>
- Officially released in GraalVM 21.0

# Thank you!