

ConPaaS : A Cloud Platform for Hosting Elastic Applications

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Typical Cloud Applications (according to AWS)

- Application Hosting
- Backup and Storage
- Content Delivery
- E-Commerce
- High Performance Computing
- Media Hosting
- On-Demand Workforce
- Search Engines
- Web Hosting

Applications running at Amazon Web Services



Many Cloud applications are alike

- Web servers
- Application servers
- Database servers
- High-performance frameworks (MapReduce, MPI, Workflows)
- ... and a few percents of miscellaneous programs

Cloud application developers often rebuild the same types of frameworks again and again and again...

Can the Cloud help support common types of applications?

- Infrastructure-as-a-Service provides basic computing resources
 - Absolute flexibility: you can build anything you want
 - But it can be very complex and time consuming
 - Deployment
 - Software upgrades
 - Fault-tolerance
 - Performance monitoring
 - Resource provisioning
 - Dynamic reconfiguration orchestration
 - etc.

Platform-as-a-Service provides high-level services

- Each PaaS service targets a specific family of applications
- Provide a simple deployment environment for applications
- Provide high-level guarantees for applications using these services

What is ConPaaS ?



ConPaaS is an open-source runtime environment for hosting applications in Cloud environments.

- Broad range of functionalities
 - Application servers, databases, high-performance computing, miscellaneous
- Fully integrated
 - Applications can compose any set of services together
- Easy to use but also very powerful
 - Simple Web GUI + powerful command-line tool
 - Services are highly customizable
- Cutting-edge SLA enforcement technologies
 - Elasticity and resource provisioning techniques to guarantee performance at the lowest possible cost
- Support for deployment on multiple-clouds
 - OpenNebula, AmazonEC2, OpenStack (soon)

ConPaaS hosting Cloud Applications

Fully support for the following services:

- Web servers static content and dynamic web applications (PhP, JSP)
- MapReduce for data-intensive computing
- TaskFarming for scientific applications
- Databases (SQL and NoSQL) for everybody
- More services coming: CDN, functional testing, XtreemFS, etc.

BUT: You can easily build your own ConPaaS service.



ConPaaS Applications

A ConPaaS application is defined as a composition of multiple service instances

 For example: web hosting service + MySQL database + logging service (to store access logs)



Architecture of a ConPaaS service

- A ConPaaS service is implemented as one or more virtual machine instances dedicated to a single user
 - Single-tenant: each VM belongs to a single user
 - No VM sharing between services (even for the same user)
- ConPaaS services are elastic: we can grow/shrink their capacity at runtime with no service disruption
 - Horizontal provisioning: add/remove virtual machines
- ConPaaS services will support dynamic resource provisioning: automatic capacity adjustment to support performance guarantees at minimum cost

ConPaaS Organization



ConPaaS Organization



Each agent VM contains an agent process

Lifecycle of a ConPaaS service





Elastic Cloud Applications

- Web applications



The varying capacity problem



The varying capacity problem



The varying capacity problem



Response time













Provisioning in a multi-service Web application





Provisioning in a multi-service Web application





Provisioning in a multi-service Web application



When the application needs more capacity, where should I place extra resources?

- Threshold rules-based resource provisioning systems
 - Impose an SLO to each service individually



- Threshold rules-based resource provisioning systems
 - Impose an SLO to each service individually
 - Scaling decisions are based on the actual workload burst



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Threshold rules-based resource provisioning systems

- Impose an SLO to each service individually
- Scaling decisions are based on the actual workload burst
- Examples: RightScale, OpenShift, Auto Scaling Amazon, etc ...

Advantages

- Each service can be scaled in isolation
- Easily interpreted by non specialists

Disadvantages

- Only system-level performance constraints (CPU usage and Resp. time)
- Easy target to temporal bursty variations in the workload
- VM performance heterogeneity
- Overall performance is suboptimal: SLO for backend services





ConPaaS: Auto-scaling System

- Profiling-based resource provisioning system
 - Extend the threshold rules-based system using profiling techniques
 - VM performance profiling
 - Impose an SLO to the front-end service only
 - Scaling decisions are based on the most recent workload history

Advantages

- Services collaborate to maintain the SLO at min. cost
- VM performance heterogeneity
- Application-specific performance constraints
- Avoid flash crowds and slashdot effects

Disadvantages

Best-effort in terms of SLA fulfillment

VM performance profiling

Purpose: To estimate the application response time that a certain VM will provide under a given workload.

Online profiling:

- Idea: while the application is in use, we direct a number of specified request workloads to the tested VMs and measure the response time
- Usage:
 - to dynamically adjust the load balancing weights of the provisioned VM's
 - to refine the conditions for scaling out/back
- Implementation: through a customized web load balancer



VM performance profiling

Purpose: To estimate the application response time that a certain VM will provide under a given workload.

Offline profiling:

- Idea: to gather information about VM instances to have an initial assessment of their throughput.
- ► Usage:
 - ► to select the suitable set of VMs for an initial configuration
 - to define the flexible threshold ranges for each VM's instance
- Implementation: through training

Preliminary Experimental Results

Purpose: Compare the behavioral pattern between the threshold-based and profiling-based (using the PhP web hosting service)

- Application: Wikipedia services Mediawiki
 - English Wikipedia articles data (approx. 20Gb)
- Monitoring:
 - Ganglia (http://ganglia.sourceforge.net/)
 - Modules to monitor web-specific metrics
- Testing: Wikibench, a Wikipedia-based benchmark
 - Real access traces
- Enviroment: Amazon Elastic Cloud Compute



SLA Fulfillment (only PhP requests)



Resource Consumption



Num. Machine Usage per Time

Conclusion

- ConPaaS is a platform-as-a-service environment
 - Designed to facilitate elastic application hosting in the cloud
 - Auto scaling system: Trade-off between SLA fulfillment and resource consumption
 - Designed to be easily extensible
- ConPaaS addresses two major classes of applications:
 - Web applications
 - Scientific applications
 - Combinations of both

ONGOING WORK:

- Online profiling when adding/removing VMs
- Offline profiling to establish flexible threshold ranges
- Vertical scaling (up/down)
- Cost-aware resource provisioning

www.conpaas.eu





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ConPaaS

ConPaaS is the Platform-as-a-Service component of the Contrail E.U. project.

ConPaaS aims at facilitating the deployment of applications in the cloud. It provides a number of services to address common developer needs. Each service is self-managed and elastic:

- it can deploy itself on the cloud
- it monitors its own performance
- it can increase or decrease its processing capacity by dynamically (de-)provisioning instances of itself in the cloud

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