Operating Systems Fall 2014

Cloud Computing and Data Centers

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Google data center locations



A closer look



Inside data center



- A datacenter has 50 250 containers
- A container has 1,000 2,000 servers
- A server has two processors, 2 disks, tons of memory, battery backup
- Processors are chosen for power efficiency, not performance

Some facts about data centers

- Google has ~0.9 million servers in its all DCs
 - 260M watts of power = 0.01% of global energy
- Facebook processes 750TB of data every day
 - Around 7PB of photo storage from its facility every month
- Amazon serves ~40 PB of videos per month
 - Around 450,000 servers
- Microsoft has 1,000,000 servers
 - It has so far spent around \$23 billion

What do these numbers imply?

• Fueling the Internet



Too big to fail

Google Outage on 17th Aug 2013

40% drop in Internet traffic

\$545,000 revenue loss for 5 min

Personal computing



Cloud email accessed through the browser



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Why not everything else?





Consider ...

- Sharing is easy
- Someone else does backup
- Someone else handles software updates
- There's 7x24x365 operations support, auxiliary power, redundant network connections, geographical diversity
- Scalability both up and down is instantaneous
- Many fewer demands on the local operating system and machine

Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)

- \$0.68 per hour for
 - 4 cores of 2.5 GHz 64-bit 2007 Xeon or Opteron
 - 15 GB memory
 - 1.69 TB scratch storage
- Need it 24x7 for a year?
 - \$3900
- \$0.085 per hour for
 - 1 core of 1.2 GHz 32-bit Intel or AMD
 - 1.7 GB memory
 - 160 GB scratch storage
- Need it 24x7 for a year?
 - \$490

- This includes
 - Purchase + replacement
 - Housing
 - Power
 - Operation
 - Reliability
 - Security
 - Instantaneous expansion and contraction
- 1000 processors for 1 day costs the same as 1 processor for 1000 days!

The nuts and bolts of data center

- Networks
- Servers
- Storages
- Software
- Power systems
- Cooling systems
- . . .



How should we design a data center network?

Interconnecting 10,000s of machines



Format borrowed from Jen Rexford's COS 561 slides

Overall picture



Common data center network topology



Characteristics of data center (networks)

- Single ownership
 - Allows full control over an entire system
 - Less concern about standards and interoperability
- Less heterogeneous environments
 - Similar servers, storage, topology, software stack
- Multiple end-to-end paths
 - E.g. Clos topology, multi-rooted tree topology
- Low end-to-end delays when no congestion
 - Servers in a geographically small region
 - DC:100s of μ s vs. Internet: 10s of ms to 100s of ms

Applications in data centers

- Web services
- Web search
 - Google Search, Microsoft Bing
- High performance computing (HPC)
- Big data analytics
 - Hadoop, MapReduce, Twitter Storm, etc.
- Machine learning
- Cloud applications
 - DropBox, Google Drive, etc.

Applications compete for data center resources

Capacity mismatch



Example: Fat-tree topology



Fat-tree topology

A set of K/2 ports used for upper level connectivity, another set for lower level connectivity

K-port switches/routers





Benefit of multiple equal-cost paths

Each link = 1 Gbps; A talks to C; B talks to D



Deciding an end-to-end path of flows is an important scheduling task to fully utilize multiple paths

Exploiting multiple equal-cost paths

- Many approaches
 - ECMP (Equal-Cost Multi-Path) forwarding
 - Monsoon [PRESTO'08]
 - VL2 [SIGCOMM'09]
 - Hedera [NSDI'10]
 - Mahout [Infocom'11]
 - MPTCP (Multpath TCP) [SIGCOMM'11]
 - Packet Spraying [Infocom'13]

— ...

Data centers are cool!



Google data center, Lenoir, North Carolina, US