CHAMELEON: BUILDING AN EXPERIMENTAL INSTRUMENT FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE AS APPLICATION OF CLOUD COMPUTING

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CHAMELEON IN A NUTSHELL

- Chameleon is a facility for Computer Science experimentation
  - Project started 10/14, public availability since 07/15
  - 1,000+ users, 200+ research projects
- It is reconfigurable: “as close as possible to having it in your lab”
  - Up-to-date and fine-grain information about resources
  - Allows you to reserve isolated nodes, reconfigure nodes at bare metal level, reboot, power on/off, custom kernel, console access, etc.
- It is also large-scale: “support Big Data, Big Compute research”
  - ~650 nodes (~14,500 cores), 5 PB of storage distributed over 2 sites connected with 100G network
- It is complementary to other testbeds such as GENI
- Chameleon is an open testbed
  - Open to all non-commercial CS research projects
  - NSF-funded national facility
  - Create account, then create or join a project (less than 24 hour review)
- Find out more at www.chameleoncloud.org!
CHAMELEON HARDWARE

Switch
Standard Cloud Unit
42 compute
4 storage
x2

Core Services
Front End and Data Mover Nodes

Chameleon Core Network
100Gbps uplink public network (each site)

Core Services
3.6 PB Central File Systems, Front End and Data Movers

Switch
Standard Cloud Unit
42 compute
4 storage
x10

To UTSA, GENI, Future Partners

504 x86 Compute Servers
48 Dist. Storage Servers
102 Heterogeneous Servers
16 Mgt and Storage Nodes

Heterogeneous Cloud Units
Alternate Processors and Networks

SCUs connect to core and fully connected to each other

Chicago
Austin

www.chameleoncloud.org
CHAMELEON HARDWARE (MORE DETAIL)

► “Start with large-scale homogenous partition” (deployed)
  ► 12 Standard Cloud Units (48 node racks)
  ► Each rack has 42 Dell R630 compute servers, each with dual-socket Intel Haswell processors (24 cores) and 128GB of RAM
  ► Each rack also has 4 Dell FX2 storage server (also Intel Haswells), each with a connected JBOD of 16 2TB drives (total of 128 TB per SCU)
  ► Allocations can be an entire rack, multiple racks, nodes within a single rack or across racks (e.g., storage servers across racks forming a Hadoop cluster)
  ► 48 port Force10 s6000 OpenFlow-enabled switches 10Gb to hosts, 40Gb uplinks to Chameleon core network

► Shared infrastructure (deployed)
  ► 3.6 PB global storage, 100Gb Internet connection between sites

► “Graft on heterogeneous features” (still evolving)
  ► Infiniband network in one rack with SR-IOV support (deployed)
  ► High-memory, NVMe, SSDs, and GPUs on selected nodes (deployed)
  ► FPGAs, ARM microservers and Atom microservers (coming soon)
Development of new models, algorithms, platforms, auto-scaling HA, etc., innovative application and educational uses

*Persistent, reliable, shared clouds: modest OpenStack KVM cloud*

Repeatable experiments in new models, algorithms, platforms, auto-scaling, high-availability, cloud federation, etc.

*Isolated partition, Chameleon Appliances: CHI + Chameleon appliances*

Virtualization technology (e.g., SR-IOV, accelerators), systems, networking, infrastructure-level resource management, etc.

*Isolated partition, full bare metal reconfiguration: CHI*
EXPERIMENTAL WORKFLOW REQUIREMENTS

discover resources
- Fine-grained
- Complete
- Up-to-date
- Versioned
- Verifiable

provision resources
- Advance reservations & on-demand
- Isolation
- Fine-grained allocations

configure and interact
- Deeply reconfigurable
- Appliance catalog
- Snapshotting
- Super Appliances: “one-click virtual clusters”

monitor
- Hardware metrics
- Fine-grained information
- Aggregate and archive
BUILDING A TESTBED FROM SCRATCH

- Requirements (proposal stage)
- Architecture (project start)
- Technology Evaluation and Risk Analysis
  - Many options: G5K, Nimbus, LosF, OpenStack
  - Sustainability as design criterion: can a CS testbed be built from commodity components?
  - Technology evaluation: Grid’5000 and OpenStack
  - Architecture-based analysis and implementation proposals
- Implementation (~3 months)
- Result: Chameleon Infrastructure (CHI) =
  - 65%*OpenStack + 10%*G5K + 25%*”special sauce”
- Integration environments versus production
CHI: DISCOVERING AND VERIFYING RESOURCES

- Fine-grained, up-to-date, and complete representation
- Both machine parsable and user friendly representations
- Testbed versioning
  - “What was the drive on the nodes I used 6 months ago?”
- Dynamically verifiable
  - Does reality correspond to description? (e.g., failure handling)

- Grid’5000 registry toolkit + Chameleon portal
  - Automated resource description, automated export to RM/Blazar
- G5K-checks
  - Can be run after boot, acquires information and compares it with resource catalog description
CHI: PROVISIONING RESOURCES

- Resource leases
- Advance reservations (AR) and on-demand
  - AR facilitates allocating at large scale
- Isolation between experiments
- Fine-grain allocation of a range of resources
  - Different node types, etc.
- Future extensions: match making, testbed allocation management

- OpenStack Nova/Blazar, AR: extensions to Blazar
- Extensions to support Gantt chart displays and several smaller features
CHI: CONFIGURE AND INTERACT

- Deep reconfigurability: custom kernels, console access, etc.
- Snapshotting for image sharing
- Map multiple appliances to a lease
- Appliance Catalog
- Handle complex appliances
  - Virtual clusters, cloud installations, etc.
- Interact: shape experimental conditions

- OpenStack Ironic, Glance, and meta-data servers
- Added snapshotting and appliance management
CHI: INSTRUMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Enables users to understand what happens during the experiment
- Instrumentation: high-resolution metrics
- Types of monitoring:
  - Infrastructure monitoring (e.g., PDUs)
  - User resource monitoring
  - Custom user metrics
- Aggregation and Archival
- Easily export data for specific experiments

OpenStack Ceilometer + custom metrics
CHAMELEON CORE: TIMELINE AND STATUS

► 10/14: Project starts
► 12/14: FutureGrid@Chameleon (OpenStack KVM cloud)
► 04/15: Chameleon Technology Preview on FG hardware
► 06/15: Chameleon Early User on new hardware
► 07/15: Chameleon public availability (bare metal)
► 09/15: Chameleon KVM OpenStack cloud available
► 10/15: Identity federation with GENI
► Today: 1,000+ users/200+ projects
► 2016: Heterogeneous hardware releases
VIRTUALIZATION OR CONTAINERIZATION?

- Yuyu Zhou, University of Pittsburgh
- Research: lightweight virtualization
- Testbed requirements:
  - Bare metal reconfiguration
  - Boot from custom kernel
  - Console access
  - Up-to-date hardware
  - Large scale experiments

**SC15 Poster:** “Comparison of Virtualization and Containerization Techniques for HPC”
EXASCALE OPERATING SYSTEMS

▲ Swann Perarnau, ANL
▲ Research: exascale operating systems
▲ Testbed requirements:
  ▶ Bare metal reconfiguration
  ▶ Boot kernel with varying kernel parameters
  ▶ Fast reconfiguration, many different images, kernels, params
  ▶ Hardware: performance counters, many cores

HPPAC'16 paper: “Systemwide Power Management with Argo”
CLASSIFYING CYBERSECURITY ATTACKS

- Jessie Walker & team, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB)
- Research: modeling and visualizing multi-stage intrusion attacks (MAS)
- Testbed requirements:
  - Easy to use OpenStack installation
  - Access to the same infrastructure for multiple collaborators
TEACHING CLOUD COMPUTING

- Nirav Merchant and Eric Lyons, University of Arizona
- ACIC2015: project-based learning course
  - Data mining to find exoplanets
  - Scaled analysis pipeline by Jared Males
  - Develop a VM/workflow management appliance and best practice that can be shared with broader community
- Testbed requirements:
  - Easy to use IaaS/KVM installation
  - Minimal startup time
  - Support distributed workers
  - Block store: make copies of many 100GB datasets
FROM POSSIBLE TO EASY...

Y1: Make things possible
- Develop CHI
- Deploy new hardware

Y2: From possible to easy
Valentine’s Day goodies:
- Custom kernel/console
- Liberty upgrade
- Appliance marketplace and appliances

Y2: From possible to easy
Independence Day goodies:
- Heterogeneous hardware
- Object store
- Appliance tools and appliances

... AND ON
PARTING THOUGHTS

- Open testbed: work on your next research project @ www.chameleoncloud.org
  The most important element of any experimental testbed is users and the research they work on

- From vision to reality with Express Delivery
  - Built from scratch in less than a year on a shoestring
  - Operational testbed: 1,000+ users/200+ projects

- Blueprint for a new type of facility:
  - Sustainability: built largely from commodity components
  - Enables two way leverage of effort
  - Facilitates adoption
CHAMELEON TEAM

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