Education and Research Computing supported by DevOps DSL@ISE@IU

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Ideas - Observations

- Support of a variety of users
- Research flexibility is not captured just by a data/compute center where we often find outdated software
- Templated state-of-the-art images to the rescue
- Containers for uniform execution environments
- Client tools such as cloudmesh client enhance DevOps experience
Intelligent Systems Engineering Department @ IU

- **ISE**
  - a. Interdisciplinary
  - b. Collaborative Research
  - c. Rich set of disciplines
    - i. Bioengineering
    - ii. Computer Engineering
    - iii. Cyber-physical Systems
    - iv. Environmental Engineering
    - v. Intelligent Systems
    - vi. Molecular and Nanoscale Engineering
    - vii. Neuro-engineering
  - d. Innovation with "intelligent systems"

- **Topics**
  - a. Hardware & Software
  - b. Sensor systems & Signal Processing
  - c. High Performance Simulation
  - d. Medical Devices
  - e. Living Organisms

- Design Centered Approach
- Hands on
- Research Oriented
- Interfacing with other disciplines
Observations about Users

- Admin Community
- Admin
- Developer
- Student
- Researcher

Knowledge → Need → Methodology

System and operational delegation and usage

Leverage

Admin

Leverage

DevOps

Usage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>System Type</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th># Nodes</th>
<th># CPUs</th>
<th># Cores</th>
<th>RAM (GB)</th>
<th>Storage (TB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bravo</td>
<td>HP Proliant</td>
<td>Storage (112 TB Beegfs/IB)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>3072</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>delta</td>
<td>SuperMicro GPU Cluster</td>
<td>GPU</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>1333</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>echo</td>
<td>SuperMicro Cluster</td>
<td>Containers (Kubernetes, Docker Swarm)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>6144</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juliet</td>
<td>SuperMicro HPC Cluster</td>
<td>MPI, MapReduce</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>3456</td>
<td>16384</td>
<td>1024 HDD; 50 SSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romeo</td>
<td>SuperMicro cluster</td>
<td>GPU (K80, Volta)/Deep Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>48 HDD; 2.4 SSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tango</td>
<td>Penguin/Intel Xeon Phi/Omnipath</td>
<td>MPI, Applications, Distributed Systems Machine Learning/Data Analytics</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>4416</td>
<td>12800</td>
<td>205 HDD; 51 SSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tempest</td>
<td>SuperMicro HPC Cluster/Omnipath</td>
<td>Applications, MPI, Distributed Systems</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>2560</td>
<td>25 HDD; 4 SSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>victor</td>
<td>SuperMicro HPC Cluster</td>
<td>Clouds, Containers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>4096</td>
<td>128 HDD; 6.4 SSD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Compute Resources

• Deployment of Hosts
  – Software stack and system configuration using configuration management tools (Ansible)
    • Used for openstack cloud deployment
    • Used for container system deployment (docker swarm; kubernetes)
  – Kickstart/preseed OS installation (Centos; Ubuntu)

• Operation
  – Streamlined account/project application and setup starting from a web portal (SaaS approach)
  – Continuous delivery of user documentation generated from document source
  – User deployments, Long running experiment deployments
Summary: System Admin Usage

• Initial provisioning of new cluster nodes
  – PXE/Kickstart for RHEL installation
  – Ansible for OS configuration and software provisioning
    • Consistent, repeatable, Self-documenting configuration
  – Kickstart and Playbooks in github
• Recovery or upgrade of production nodes
  – Easily recover after disk failures or other problems.
  – Deploy updates and security patches automatically and consistently.

• Account provisioning
  – Automatic via portal after manual approval.
  – Automatic LDAP group management for permissions and access control.
  – Automatic SSH key management via user web portal and LDAP
Types of Resources

• DOE: Leadership class resources for most demanding applications
• XSEDE: large scale - medium scale resources using common software stack
• ISE/department
  – Experimental systems with newest software
    • typically not provided by Research Computing
  – Experiments that are dedicated to an application
  – Preparation for other systems
  – Education
  – Full control of the system

=> We need all three
### Rain: Results documented in series of papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Conference/Proceedings</th>
<th>DOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Rain: Templated Images

- It was sufficient to generate templated images for different architectures
- We used DevOps to generate them
- Templates allow maintainability — (Fix the template and run anywhere)
- Baremetal deployments were heavily used
Rain

• Reprovisioned cluster or parts of the cluster to
  – MPI mode
  – OpenStack Mode
  – Hadoop Mode

• Concept of virtual clusters was highly useful
Today: NSF SDSC Comet

• Comet Large NSF cluster as part of XSEDE
• Virtual Cluster
  – based on Rocks
  – using REST interfaces to manage clusters
  – using cloudmesh client to easily interface
  – full control of the cluster by the user
  – there can be multiple clusters on the same bare metal machine
• cloudmesh: create me a cluster with 30 servers
  – Than users can essentially do what they want to do
  – e.g. cluster is “owned” by user
  – dynamical resource use (grow, shrink, suspend)
Reminder: Why we use DevOps?

• Development:
  – Fast prototype and incremental development

• Test/QA
  – Continuous integration from distributed team members checkins

• Operation
  – Reproducible base system
  – Configuration management
DevOps: Lessons learned

• Reproducible Development environment
  – **Vanilla** OS in cloud or other VMs
  – **Configuration management** (e.g., **ansible**) for system setup and configuration
    • we used previously also chef and puppet
  – **Virtual software development environment**
    • in python we use virtualenv & pyenv
  – **Version control** (public github; IU GIT)
  – **Continuous Integration & Quality Assurance**
    • travis, jenkins
    • system testing, application testing
Observation

This is not just about ansible, chef, puppet, cfengine, ...

It is how to leverage these tools including virtualized software environments such as in the case of python.
Why we use ansible?

• No contributions from students when we used chef and puppet
  – This is not a surprise: At university we teach python, ansible is done in python
• We used to find more stable “templates” in ansible than others.
  – (this may have changed)
• We use it to deploy container infrastructure
Evolving Focus

• Old Focus: OpenStack with DevOps
  – ansible scripts
• New focus: Use community resources for virtual machines
  – now we use **community resources** due to high demand on administration
  – with **cloudmesh client** we can switch easily between **virtual machine providers**
    • `cm cloud=chameleon; cm vm start`
      – vm defaults are defined on a user basis
    • `cm cloud=aws; cm vm start`
Evolving Focus

• New Focus: containers
  – This includes lxc, deployments of docker swarm and kubernetes supported by devops
• We still use templated images via Dockerfiles
• We can deploy them on OSX, Windows, Linux
  – developing clients becomes easier
  – services are supported and easier to deploy
  – Dockerfiles are easier than ansible (different focus)
DevOps in support of NIST Service Abstractions

• Working with NIST to define a BigData Reference Architecture

• Goals
  – Vendor independent
  – Useful Abstractions
  – Pluggable services

• OpenAPI to define REST services
Cloudmesh in support of NIST

• Goal Working on Spec:
  – Volume 8: Big Data Reference Architecture
• Goal Cloudmesh:
  – Derive from spec service abstractions
  – Implement prototype
  – Deploy via DevOps
  – Test services
  – Accept contributions from community that contain deployment specs using DevOps
Cloudmesh Architecture and Use

- Deployment
- Access
- Use

Goal:
```
  cm --n 20
  --service hadoop
  --host echo
```
Nist Usage Scenarios

• Implement usage scenarios for different disciplines while using deployment support with DevOps
cm deploy --n 20 --service fingerprint
NIST References

• https://github.com/cloudmesh-community/nist/tree/master/services
Summary

• DevOps supports users to configure sophisticated environments
• Templated images from vanilla image is supported by various DevOps Tools
• Testing applications is supported by DevOps
• DevOps is more than ansible, chef, puppet
• It is not sufficient to have a version of x in the data center, as that version is likely outdated
• We are reimplementing cloudmesh based on NIST experience.
  – add more abstractions
• Abstractions are needed to make it super simple. Cloudmesh to the rescue :-)