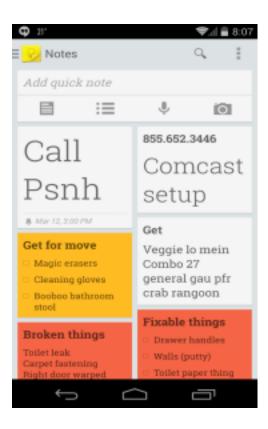
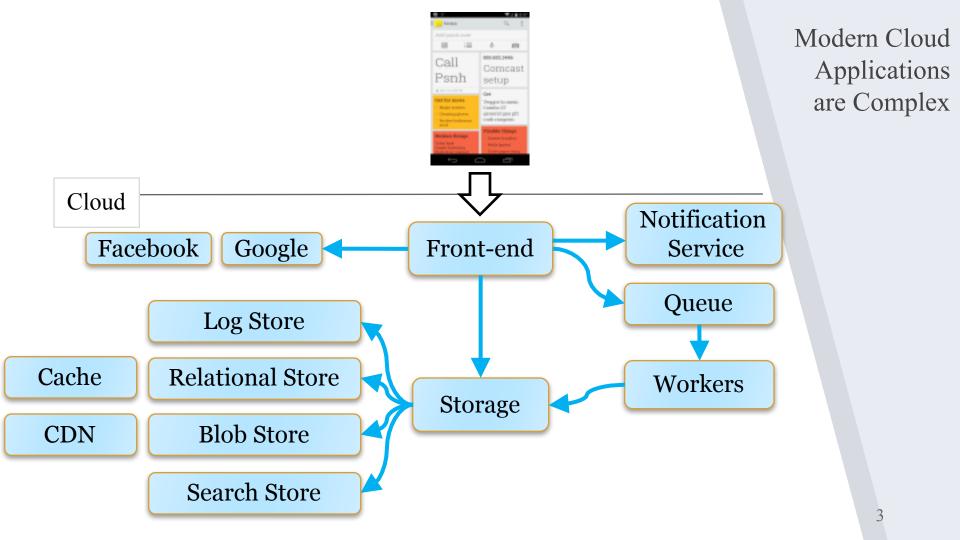
WebPerf:
Evaluating "WhatIf" Scenarios for
Cloud-hosted Web
Applications

Yurong Jiang Lenin Ravindranath Suman Nath Ramesh Govindan



A Cloud-Hosted Web Application





The Problem

Cloud-side Latency

Latency of these applications is critical for user experience

Developers find it hard to optimize cloud-side latency for cloud-hosted Web applications

Front-end

Configuration Complexity

INSTANCE	CORES	RAM	DISK SIZES	PRICE
AO	1	0.75 GB	19 GB	\$0.02/hr (~\$15/mo)
A1	1	1.75 GB	224 GB	\$0.08/hr (~\$60/mo)
A2	2	3.5 GB	489 GB	\$0.16/hr (~\$119/mo)
АЗ	4	7 GB	999 GB	\$0.32/hr (~\$238/mo)
A4	8	14 GB	2,039 GB	\$0.64/hr (~\$476/mo)

Each choice impacts latency

Relational Store

Azure SQL

Configuration Complexity

Premium				
	DTUs ²	MAX STORAGE PER DB	PRICE 1	
P1	125	500 GB	~\$465/mo	
P2	250	500 GB	~\$930/mo	
P4	500	500 GB	~\$1,860/mo	
P6	1000	500 GB	~\$3,720/mo	
P11	1750	1 TB	~\$7,001/mo	

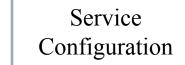
Latency implications hard to understand

What if?

What if I move the blob store from basic to standard tier?

Exploring Configuration Choices





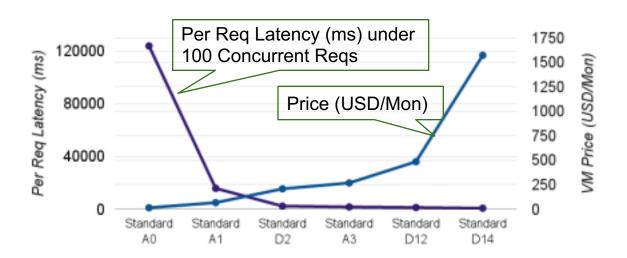


100 ms



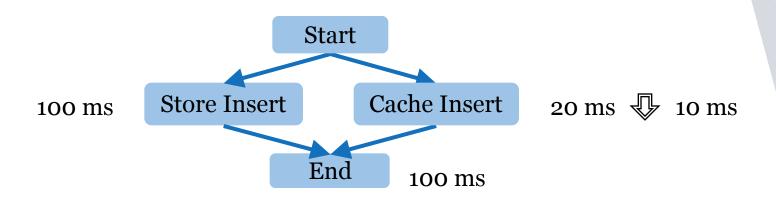
Challenge

Answer to what-if question may depend on workload



Challenge

Answer to what-if question may depend on causal dependencies



Challenge

A what-if capability should be expressive

Relational Store



What if I re-locate this component?

Relational Store



What if I increase this component's load?

Table Store

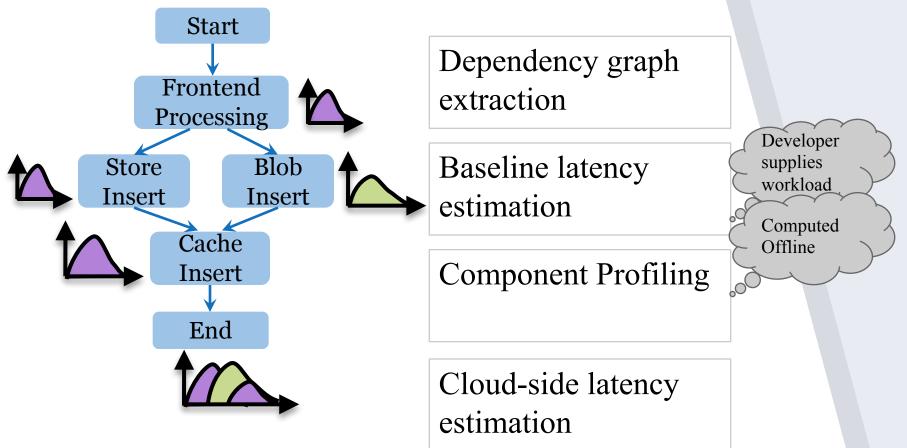


What if a replica fails?

WebPerf is a what-if scenario evaluator

- ❖ Input: a what-if scenario
- ❖ Output: resulting cloud-side latency distribution

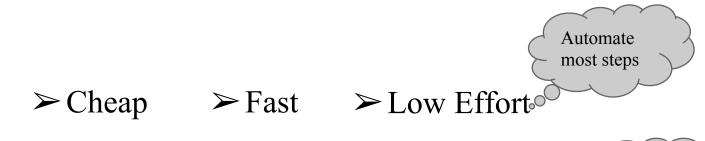
What if I upgrade blob storage from basic to standard tier?



Why might WebPerf work?

Cloud deployments well-engineered

- * Components designed for predictable latency
- ❖ Often co-located in same datacenter



Why?

Many component profiles are application-independent

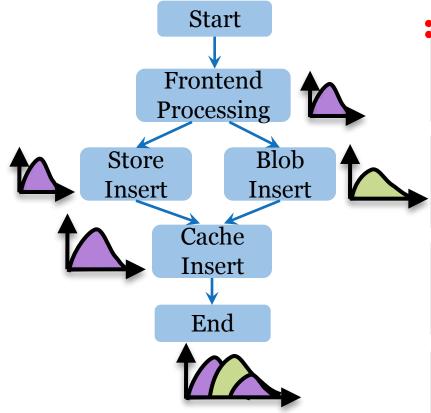
Compute

once

offline, reuse

The dependency graph is usually independent of what-if scenario

What if I upgrade blob storage from basic to standard tier?



Dependency graph extraction

Baseline latency estimation

Component Profiling

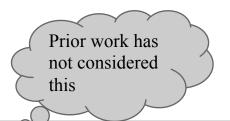
Cloud-side latency estimation

Goal

Fast, accurate dependency extraction with zero developer input

Approach

Track dependencies at run-time by instrumenting binary



Task Asynchronous Programming

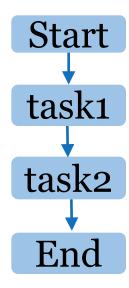
- Many cloud apps use this
- ❖ Only mechanism for asynchronous I/O in Azure
- * AWS provides APIs for .NET

Task Asynchronous Programming

```
async processRequest (input)
                                    On front-
                                   end
    /* process input */
                                   Start task
   task1 = store.get(key1);
    value1 = await task1; 
                                   Continue
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
    value2 = await task2;
    /* construct response */
    return response;
```

```
async processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
    value1 = await task1;
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
    value2 = await task2;
    /* construct response */
   return response;
```

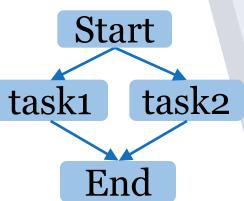
Task Asynchronous Programming



Asynchronous Parallel Operations

WhenAll: Continue only when all tasks finish

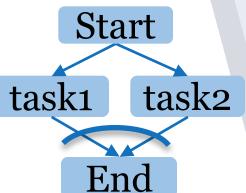
```
async processRequest (input)
{
    /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
   value1, value2 = await
            Task.WhenAll(task1, task2);
    /* construct response */
    return response;
```



Asynchronous Parallel Operations

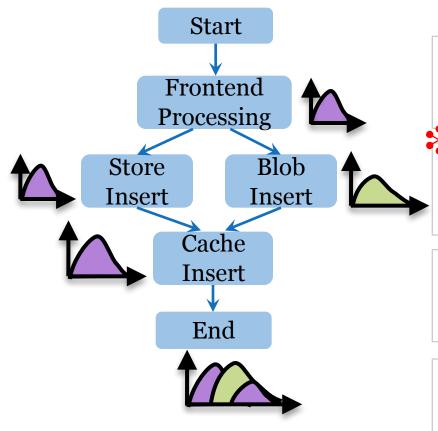
WhenAny: Continue when any one task finishes

```
async processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
   task2 = cache.get(key2);
   value1, value2 = await
            Task.WhenAny(task1, task2);
    /* construct response */
    return response;
```



```
async processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
                                      Init
    task1 = store.get(key1);
    value1 = await task1;
                                      Received
                                      value1
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
    value2 = await task2;
                                      Received
    /* construct response ◆*/
                                      value2
    return response;
                                        .NET compiler
                                        generates this
```

Instrument state machine *binary* to *dynamically* track tasks and continuations

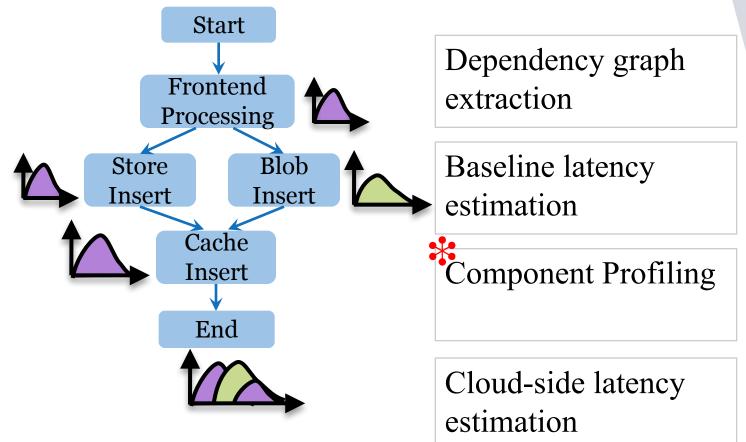


Dependency graph extraction

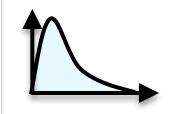
Baseline latency estimation

Component Profiling

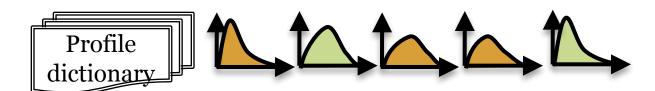
Cloud-side latency estimation



A component's *profile* contains latency distributions of API calls to component



WebPerf profiles commonly used components offline



Generalized Profiles



Tiers





Location

Relational Store



Load

Table Store



Failure

Not all profiles can be computed offline

Application Dependent Profiles

Relational Store

Azure SQL

SQL join latency depends on size

Cache

Redis Cache

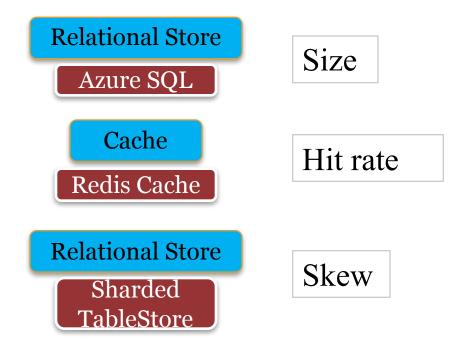
Cache latency depends on hit rate

Relational Store

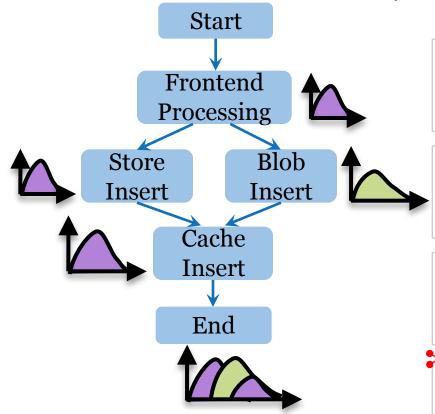
Sharded TableStore Access latency depends on skew

WebPerf uses parameterized profiles

User must specify workload hint



What if I upgrade blob storage from basic to standard tier?



Dependency graph extraction

Baseline latency estimation

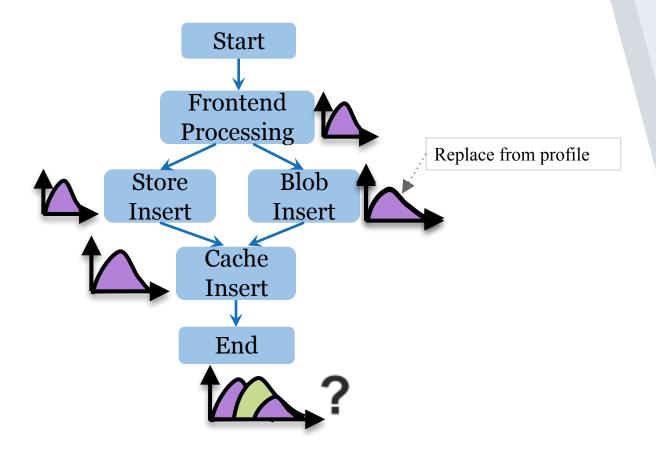
Component Profiling



Cloud-side latency estimation

What if I upgrade blob storage from basic to standard tier?

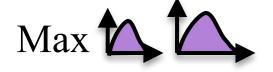
Cloud-Side Latency Estimation



Cloud-Side Latency Estimation



Simple operations on distributions suffice









WebPerf is accurate, fast, cheap, and requires low developer effort

- ♦ How accurate is WebPerf?
- ❖ Are workload hints necessary?

Applications

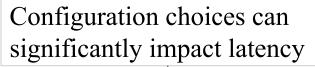
Different functionality

Different components

Varying complexity

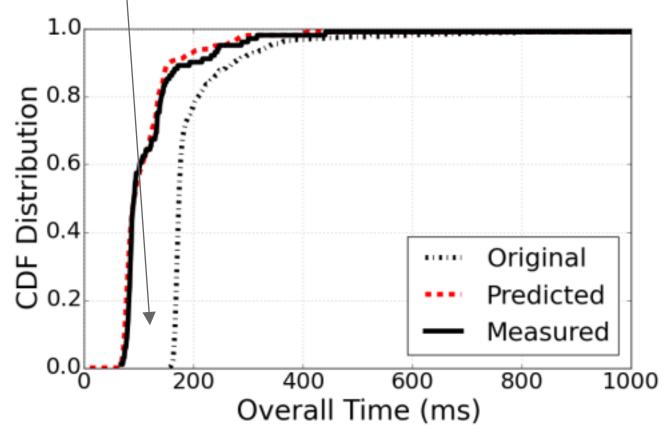
Application	Azure components used	Average I/O Calls
SocialForum	Blob storage, Redis cache, Service bus, Search, Table	116
SmartStore.Net	SQL	41
ContosoAds	Blob storage, Queue, SQL, Search	56
EmailSubscriber	Blob storage, Queue, Table	26
ContactManager	Blob storage, SQL	8
CourseManager	Blob storage, SQL	44

What-if scenario	Example	
Tier : A component X is upgraded to tier Y	X = A Redis cache, Y = a standard tier (from a basic tier)	
Load : X concurrent requests to component Y	X = 100 , Y = the application or a SQL database	
Interference : CPU and/or memory pressure, from collocated applications, of X%	X = 50% CPU, 80% memory	
Location : A component X is deployed at location Y	X = A Redis Cache or a front end, Y = Singapore	
Failure : An instance of a replicated component X fails	X = A replicated front-end or SQL database	

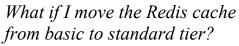


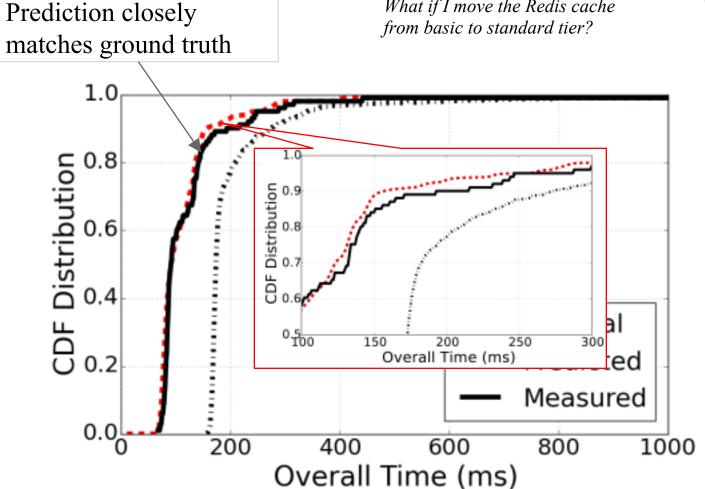
What if I move the Redis cache in SocialForum from basic to standard tier?





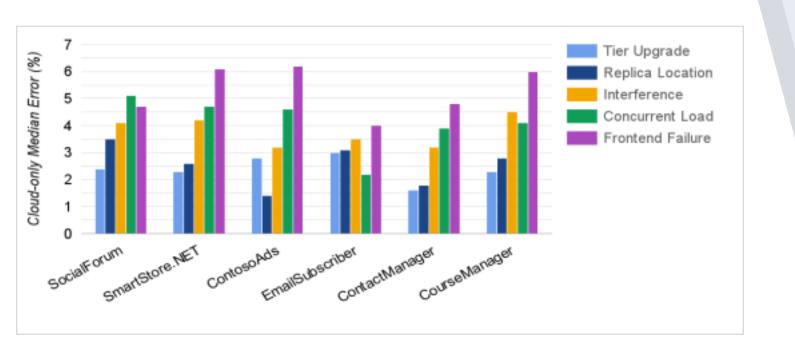




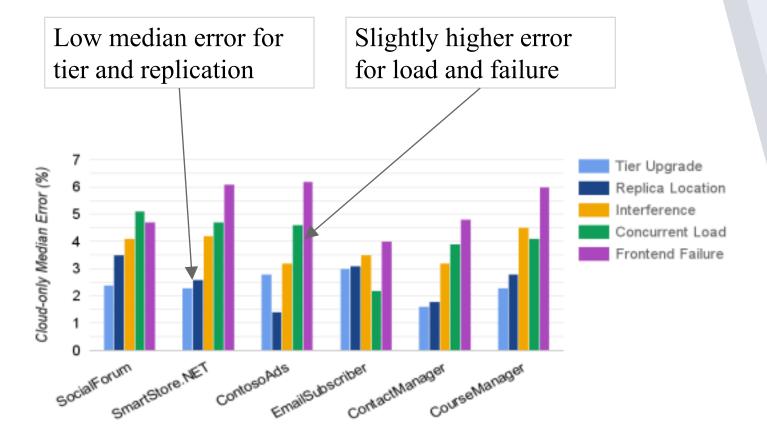


Median prediction error under 7%

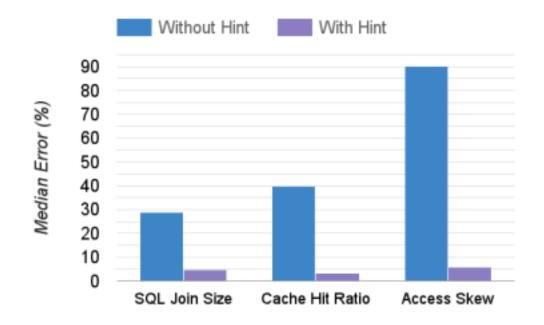
Difference between predicted distribution and ground truth



Accuracy

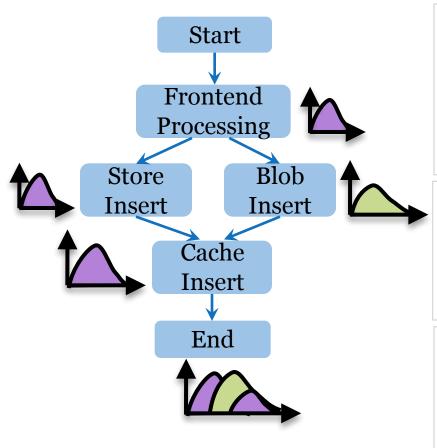


Workload Hints



Workload hints can significantly improve accuracy

Conclusions



WebPerf predicts cloudside latency distributions for different what-if scenarios

It accurately tracks dependencies and profiles components offline

Across six different applications and scenarios, its error is less than 7%

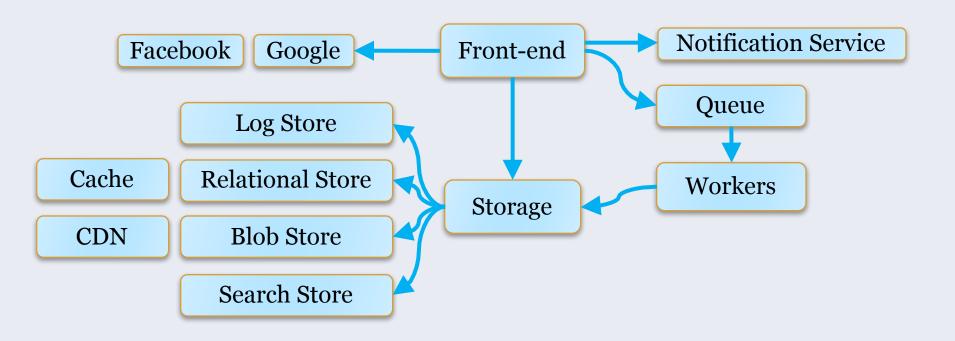
WebPerf Contributions and Summary

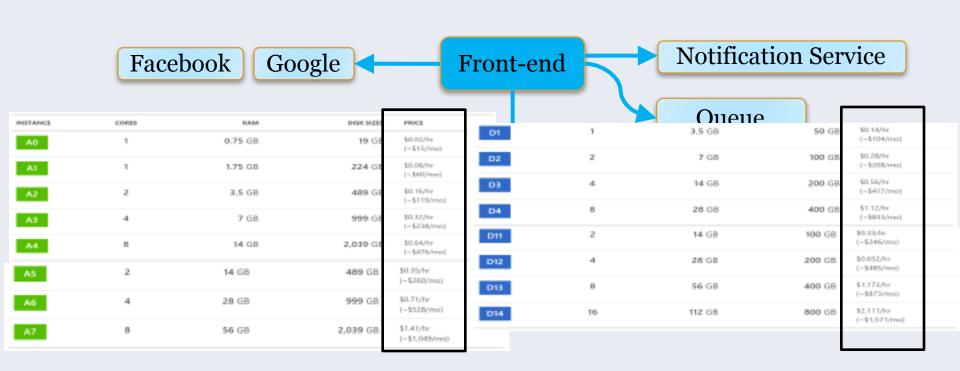
An automated tool to instrument web apps and capture both browser objects and front end cloud processing dependency

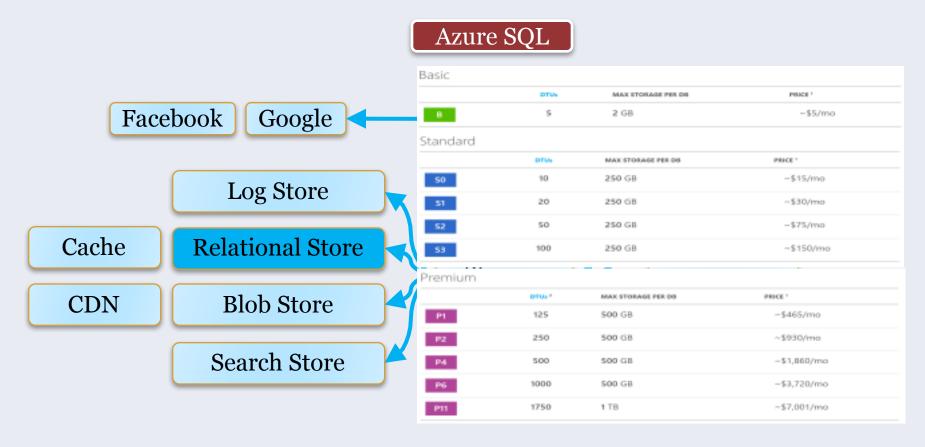
Predicting web app cloud latency and end-to-end latency in probabilistic setting under six different scenarios

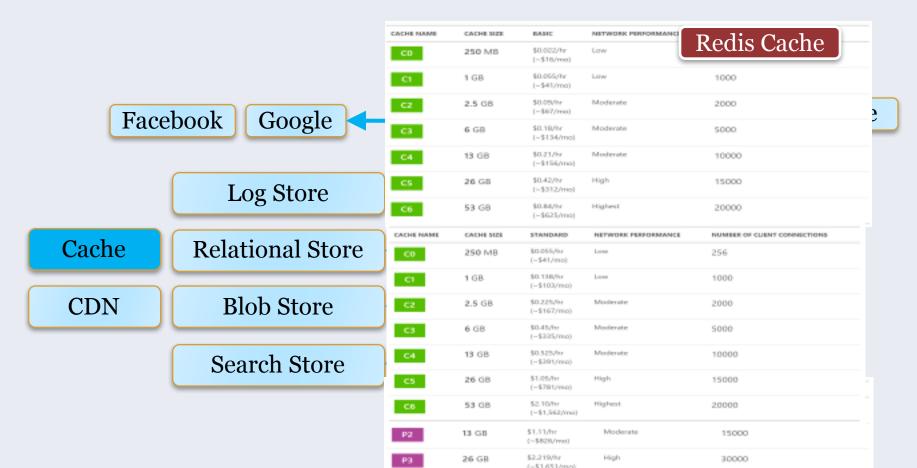
Evaluations with six real websites show WebPerf achieves < 7% median prediction error

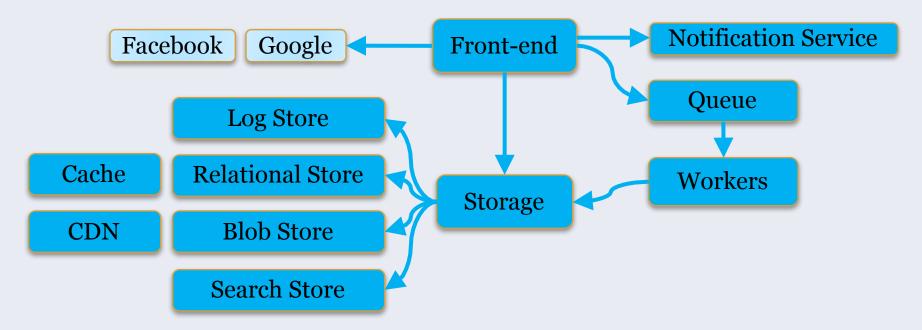
Thank you











Reasoning about cost-performance trade-off is hard!

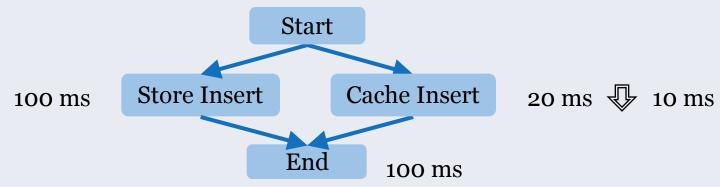
Cost-Performance Trade-off

Configuration does not directly map to performance

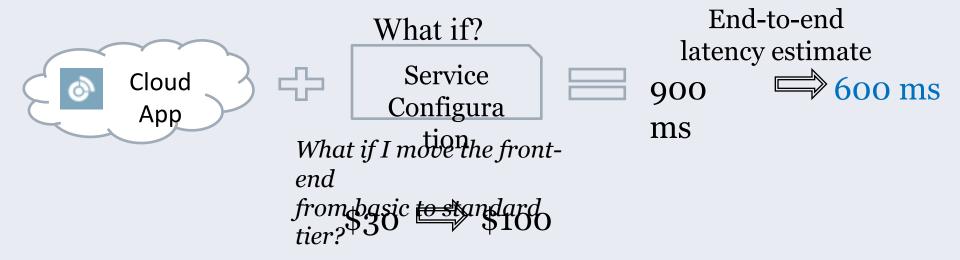
INSTANCE	CORES	NAM	DHK SZES	PRICE
A0	1	0.75 GB	19 G8	\$0.02/hr (~\$15/mo)
Δ1	1	1.75 GB	224 GB	\$0.08/9w (~\$60/me)
AZ	2	3.5 GB	489 GB	\$0.16/hr (~\$119/mo)
A3	4	7 (8	999 GB	\$0.32/hr (~\$230/mo)
A4	8	14 GB	2,039 05	\$0.64/hr (-\$476/mo)



End-to-end latency depends on application's causal dependency



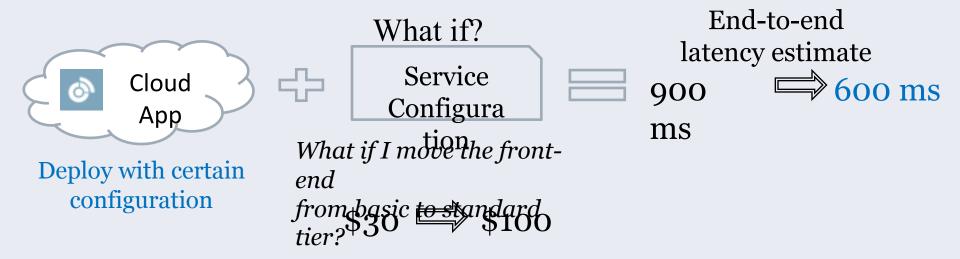
"What-If" Analysis



Create a new deployment and measure performance

➤ Expensive ➤ Time consuming ➤ High overhead

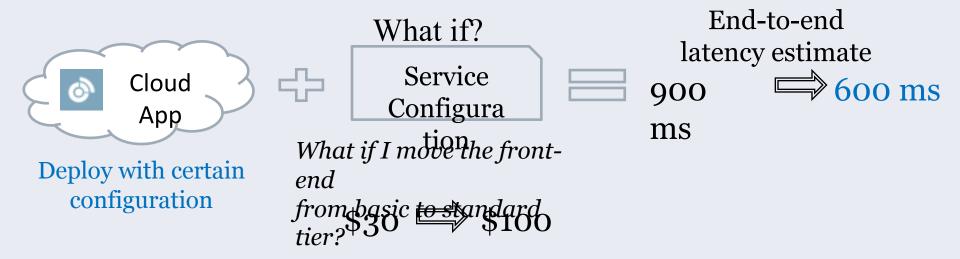
WebPerf: "What-If" Analysis



Predict performance under hypothetical configurations

- > Zero cost
- ➤ Near real-time ➤ Zero developer effort

WebPerf: "What-If" Analysis



Predict performance under hypothetical configurations

- > Zero cost
- ➤ Near real-time ➤ Zero developer effort

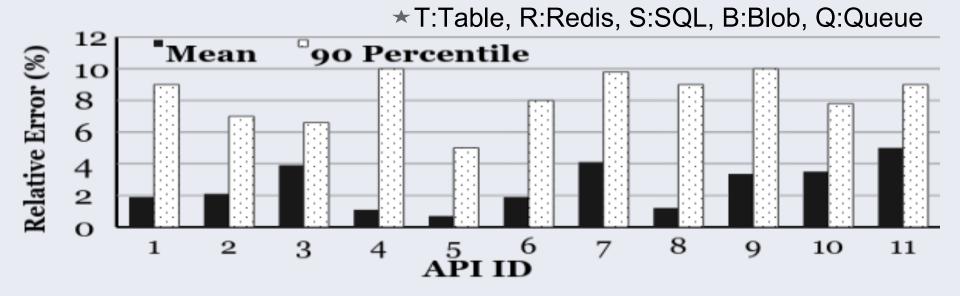
WebPerf: Key Insights

- Offline, application-independent profiling is useful
 - Modern cloud apps are built using existing services (PaaS)
 - Individual services have predictable performance
 - S3, Azure Table Storage, Dynamo DB, DocumentDB, ...
 - Services are co-located inside the same datacenter
 - Tighter latency distribution

• Causal dependency within application is independent of the what-if scenarios we consider

Application-Independent Profiling

1	Delete(Async) (T) ★	5	ExecuteQuerySegmented (T)	9	ToList (S)
2	UploadFromStream (B)	6	SortedSetRangeByValue (R)	10	Send (R)
3	AddMessage(Q)	7	StringGet (R)	11	ReadAsString (B)
4	Execute (T)	8	SaveChanges (S)		



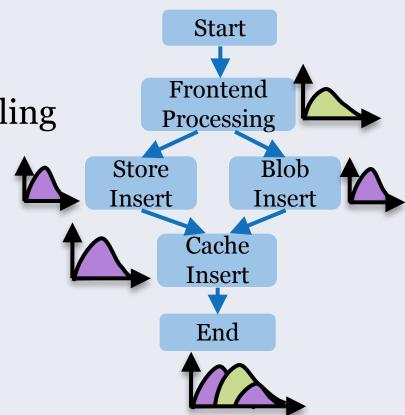
WebPerf Design

Dependency graph extraction

Application-independent profiling

Baseline latency estimation

Latency prediction



```
async processRequest (input)
                               Start task asynchronously
   /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1
                                  Continue after task finishes
   value1 = await task1;
   task2 = cache.get(key2);
   value2 = await task2;
   /* construct response */
                                   cache.get
   return response;
       Thread3
                   store.get
       Thread2
                                             continuation
       Thread1
                                 continuation
```

Dependency Graph Extraction

- Design Goals
 - Accurate
 - Real-time with minimal data collection
 - Zero developer effort
 - No modifications to the platform
 - Low overhead
- Automatic Binary Instrumentation
- Modern cloud applications are highly asynchronous
 - Task Asynchronous Programming Pattern

- Asynchronous operations with a synchronous programming pattern
- Increasingly popular for writing cloud applications
- Supported by many major languages
 - C#, Java, Python, Javascript
- Most Azure services support TAP as the *only* mechanism for doing asynchronous I/O
 - AWS also provides TAP APIs for .NET

Synchronous Programming

```
processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
   value1 = store.get(key1);
    value2 = cache.get(key2);
    /* construct response */
    return response;
                        store.get
                                     cache.get
          Thread1
```

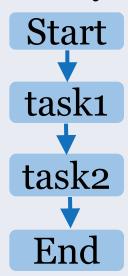
Blocking I/O limits server throughput

Asynchronous Programming Model (APM)

```
processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
                                       callback2 (value2)
    store.get(key1, callback1);
                                           /* construct response */
                                           send(response);
callback1 (value1)
    cache.get(key2, callback2)he.get
       Thread3
                 store.get
        Thread2
                                                callback2
        Thread1
                                   callback1
```

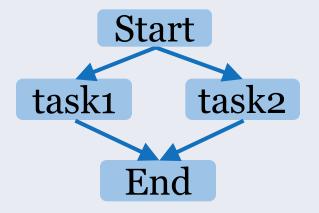
```
async processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
   value1 = await task1:
   task2 = cache.get(key2);
    value2 = await task2;
    /* construct response */
    return response;
```

Dependency Graph



```
async processRequest (input)
    /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
    value1 = await task1;
    value2 = await task2;
    /* construct response */
   return response;
```

Dependency Graph



WhenAll: Continue only when all tasks finish

```
async processRequest (input)
                                     Dependency Graph
                                              Start
   /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
   task2 = cache.get(key2);
                                                    task2
                                        task1
   value1, value2 = await
           Task.WhenAll(task1, task2);
   /* construct response */
                                               End
   return response;
```

```
async processRequest (input)
                                     Dependency Graph
                                              Start
   /* process input */
   task1 = store.get(key1);
   task2 = cache.get(key2);
                                                    task2
                                        task1
   value = await
           Task.WhenAny(task1, task2);
   /* construct response */
   return response;
```

WhenAny: Continue after any one of tasks finishes

Automatic Binary Instrumentation

```
async processRequest (input)
     /* process input */
-1
    task1 = store.get(key1);
    value1 = await task1;
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
1
    value2 = await task2;
    /* construct response */
    return response;
<sup>}</sup> Instrument state machine
Track tasks and continuations
```

```
continuation
     0
continuation
```

```
class processRequest
  string input;
 AsyncTaskMethodBuilder builder;
 string key1, key2, response;
  int asyncId = -1;
  public void MoveNext()
    asyncId = Tracker.AsyncStart(asyncId);
   Tracker.StateStart(asyncId);
    switch (state)
     case -1:
       state = 0;
       /* process input */
       var task1 = store.get(key1);
       Tracker.TaskStart(task1, asyncId);
       builder.Completed(task1.Awaiter, this);
       Tracker.Await(task1, asyncId);
     case 0:
       state = 1;
       var task2 = cache.get(key1);
       Tracker.TaskStart(task2, asyncId);
        builder.Completed(task2.Awaiter, this);
       Tracker.Await(task2, asyncId);
     case 1:
       /* construct response */
```

Automatic Binary Instrumentation

```
Dependency Graph
async processRequest (input)
                                                 Start
    /* process input */
-1
    task1 = store.get(key1);
    value1 = await task1;
                                                 task1
    task2 = cache.get(key2);
1
    value2 = await task2;
                                                task2
    /* construct response */
    return response;
<sup>}</sup> Instrument state machine
                                                 End
Track tasks and continuations
```

Automatic Binary Instrumentation

Tracking async state machines

- Monitor task start and completion
- Track state machine transitions

Tracking pull-based continuations

- Link tasks to corresponding awaits
- Link awaits to continuations

Tracking synchronization points

• Track WhenAll, WhenAny, cascaded task dependencies

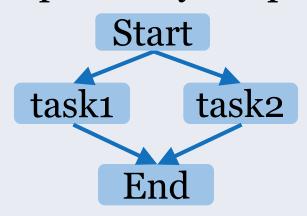
Keeping the overhead low

- Instrument APIs with know signatures
- Instrument only leaf tasks

Dependency graph extraction

- Highly accurate
- Real-time
- Zero developer effort
- Extremely low overhead

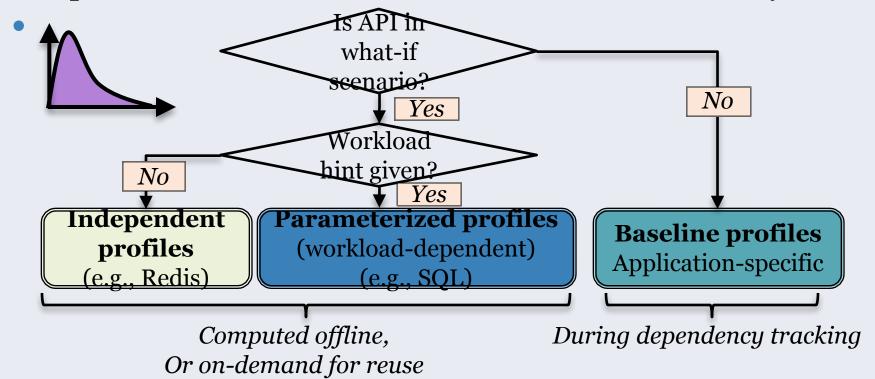
Dependency Graph



[Some Result]

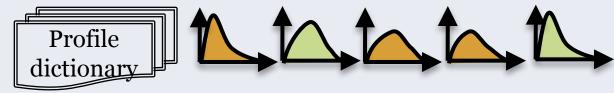
API Profiling

A profile of a cloud API is a distribution of its latency



API Profiling

WebPerf builds profiles offline and maintains in a dictionary

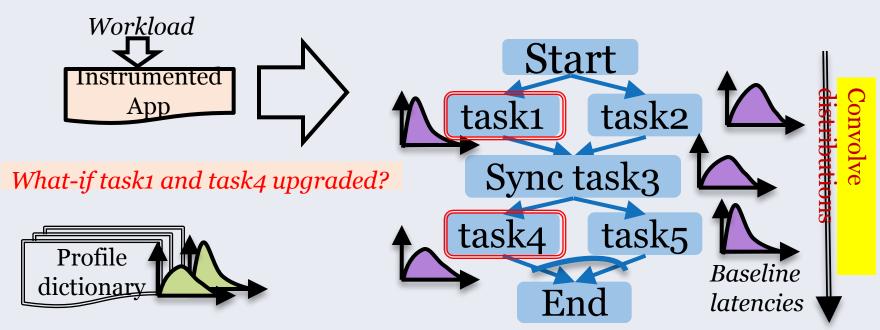


• Starts with common profiles, and builds additional profiles on-demand and reuses them

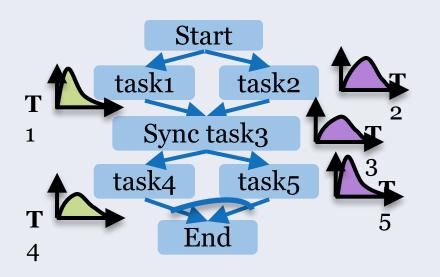
• Optimal profiling: to minimize measurement costs (details in paper)

What-If Engine

Predicts cloud latency under a given what-if scenario



Convolving distributions

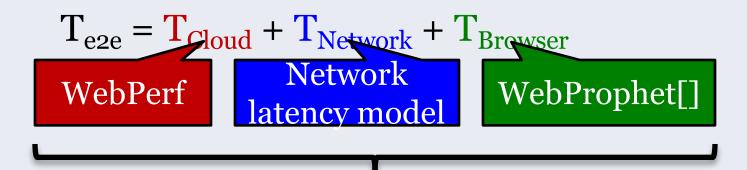


Bottom-up evaluation:

- When All: Prob Max(t1, t2, ...)
- WhenAny: ProbMin(t1, t2, ...)
- WhenDone: ProbAdd(t1, t2, ...)

 $T_{\{s2e\}}$ = ProbAdd(ProbMax(T_1, T_2), T_3 , ProbMin(T_4, T_5))

End-to-end Latency Prediction



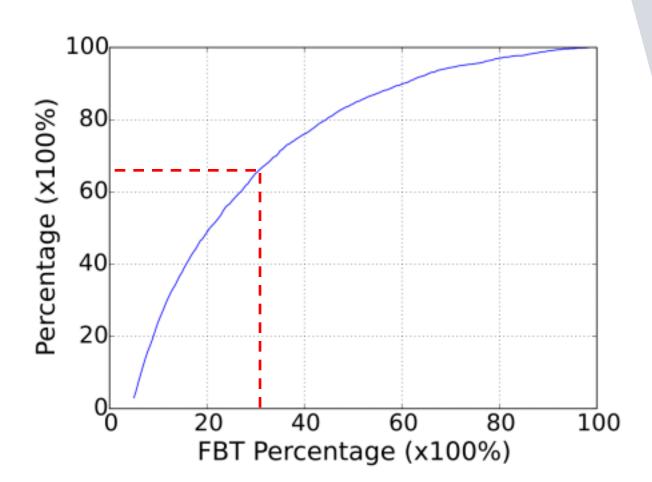
Combine using Monte-Carlo simulation

Details in paper

WebPerf Evaluation

• Six 3rd party applications and six scenarios

Application	Azure services used	Average I/O Calls	
SocialForum	Blob storage, Redis cache, Service bus, Search, Table	116	
SmartStore.Net	SQL	41	
ContosoAds	Blob storage, Queue, SQL, Search	56	
EmailSubscriber	Blob storage, Queue, Table	26	
ContactManager	Blob storage, SQL	8	
CourseManager	Blob storage, SQL	44	



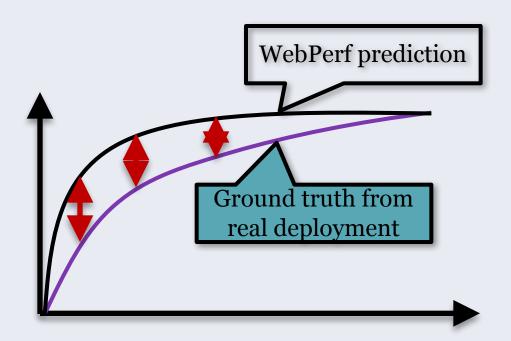
CDF of First Byte Time Percentage

WebPerf Evaluation

• Six 3rd party applications and six scenarios

What-if scenario	Example
Tier : A resource X is upgraded to tier Y	X = A Redis cache, Y = a standard tier (from a basic tier)
Load: X concurrent requests to resource Y	X = 100, $Y = $ the application or a SQL database
Interference : CPU and/or memory pressure, from collocated applications, of X%	X = 50% CPU, 80% memory
Location : A resource X is deployed at location Y	X = A Redis Cache or a front end, Y = Singapore
Failure : An instance of a replicated resource X fails	X = A replicated front-end or SQL database

WebPerf Evaluation



Metric: distribution of relative errors

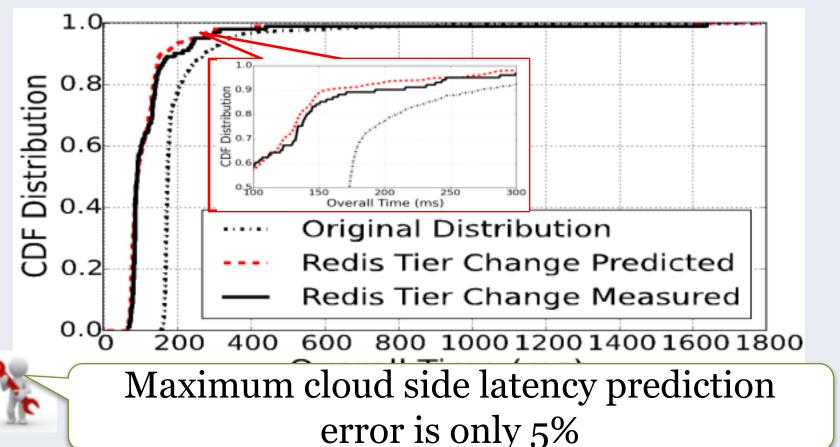
Cache

Redis Cache

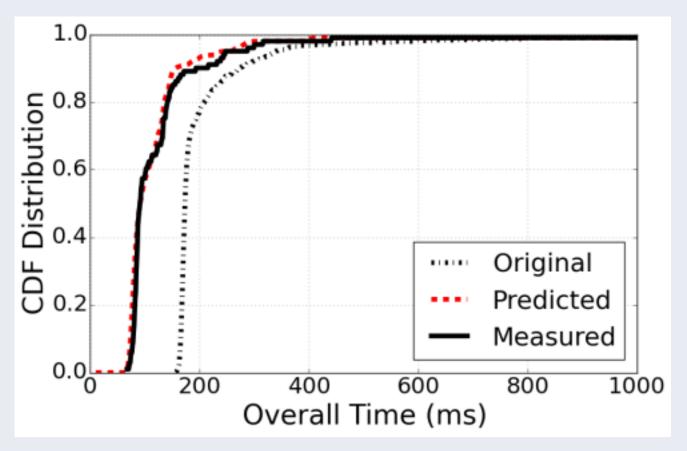
CACHE NAME	CACHE SIZE	BASIC	NETWORK PERFORMANCE	NUMBER OF CLIENT CONNECTIONS
CO	250 MB	\$0.022/hr (~\$16/mo)	Low	256
C1	1 GB	\$0.055/hr (~\$41/mo)	Low	1000
C2	2.5 GB	\$0.09/hr (~\$67/mo)	Moderate	2000
СЗ	6 GB	\$0.18/hr (~\$134/mo)	Moderate	5000
C4	13 GB	\$0.21/hr (~\$156/ma)	Moderate	10000
C5	26 GB	\$0.42/hr (~\$312/mo)	High	15000
C6	53 GB	\$0.84/hr (~\$625/mo)	Highest	20000

Underspecified Configuration Dimensions

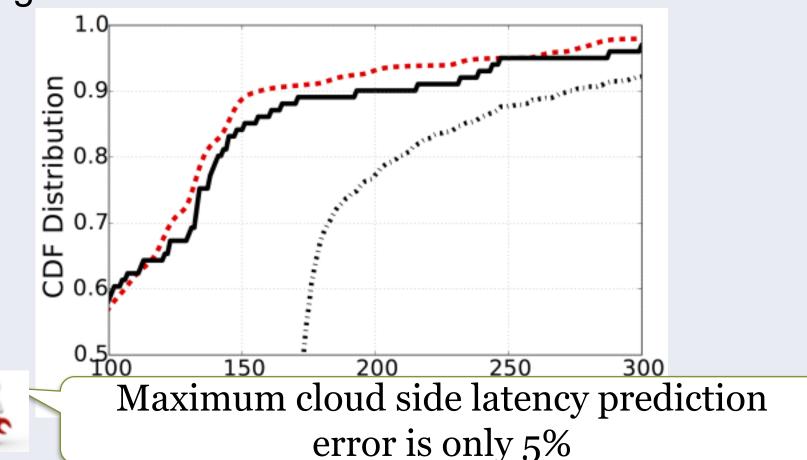
What-if the Redis cache is upgraded from the original standard C0 to Standard C2 tier?



What-if the Redis cache is upgraded from the original standard C0 to Standard C2 tier?

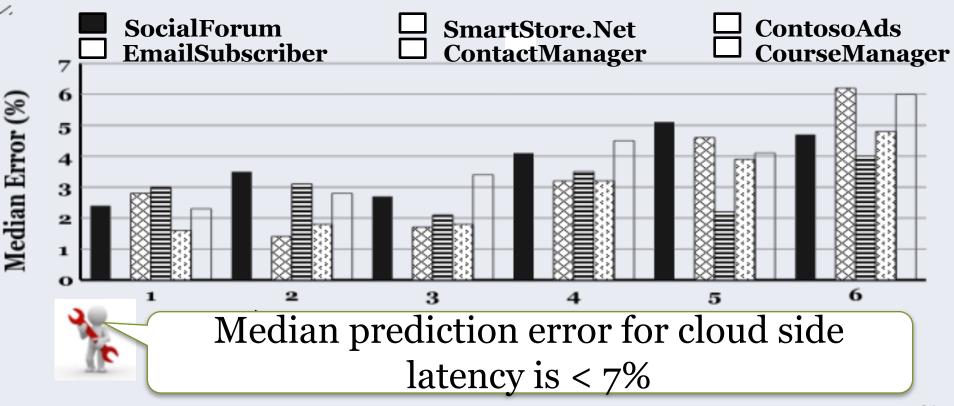


What-if the Redis cache is upgraded from the original standard C0 to Standard C2 tier?

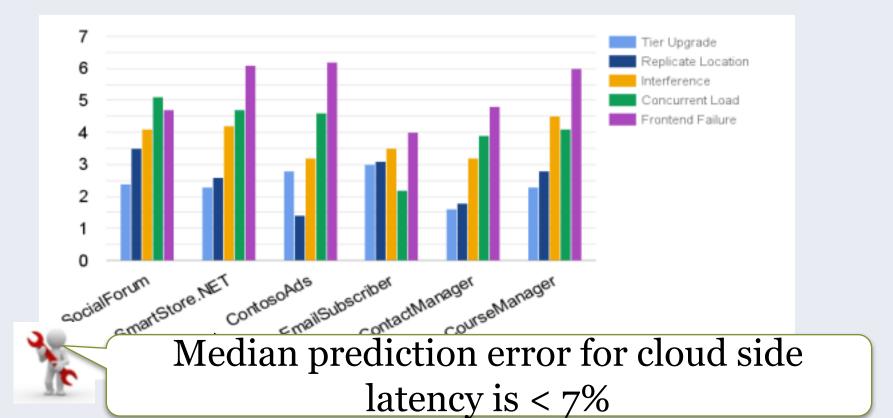




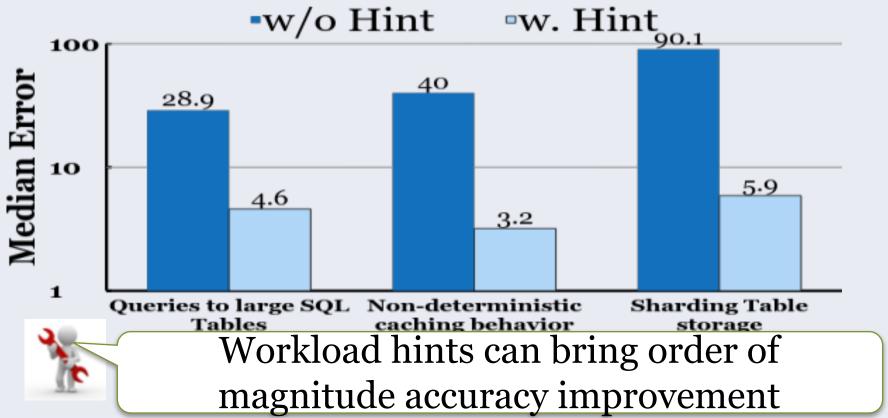
Performance for Six Applications



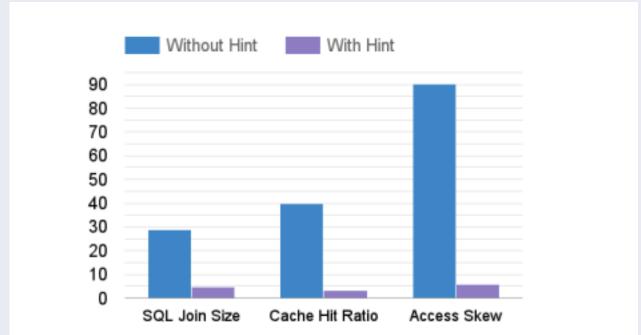
Performance for Six Applications



Workload Hints



Workload Hints



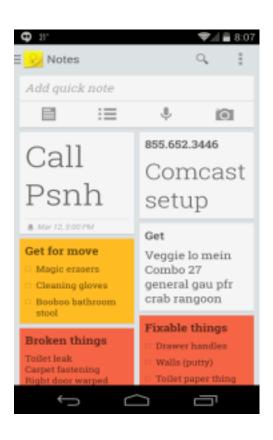


Workload hints can bring order of magnitude accuracy improvement

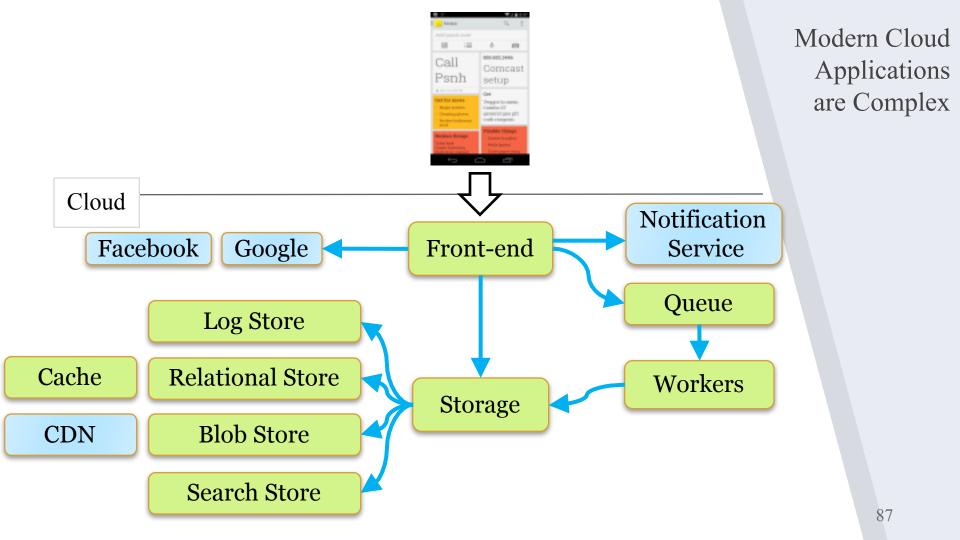
Other findings

- Performance of many applications and scenarios can be predicted reasonably well
 - Thanks to cloud provider's SLAs
- Harder cases
 - Workload-dependent performance: hints help
 - High-variance profiles: prediction has high variance
 - Non-deterministic control flow (e.g., cache hit/miss):
 - Separate prediction for each control flow
 - Hard-to-profile APIs (e.g., SQL query with join)
 - Poor prediction

Modern Cloud Applications are Complex



Behind apps, several distributed, asynchronous components







Hard to reason about the cost/performance tradeoffs of different configurations

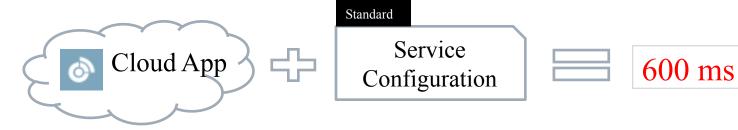
Workload Dependence

INSTANCE	cores	RAM	DISK SIZES	PRICE
A0	1	0.75 GB	19 GB	\$0.02/hr (~\$15/mo)
A1	1	1.75 GB	224 GB	\$0.08/hr (-\$60/ma)
A2	2	3.5 GB	489 GB	\$0.16/hr (~\$119/mo)
A3	4	7 GB	999 GB	\$0.32/hr (-\$238/mo)
A4	8	14 GB	2,039 GB	\$0.64/hr (~\$476/mo)



What if?

What if I move the front-end from basic to standard tier?



> Expensive

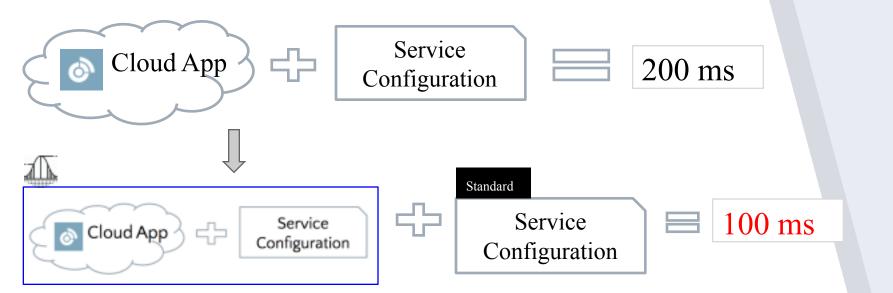
> Slow

➤ High Effort

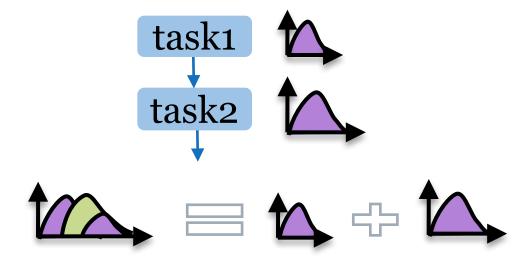
Model and Predict

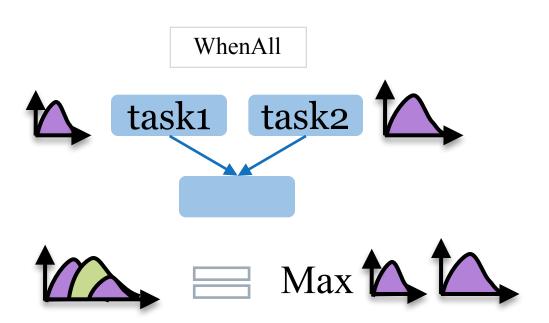
What if?

What if I move the front-end from basic to standard tier?

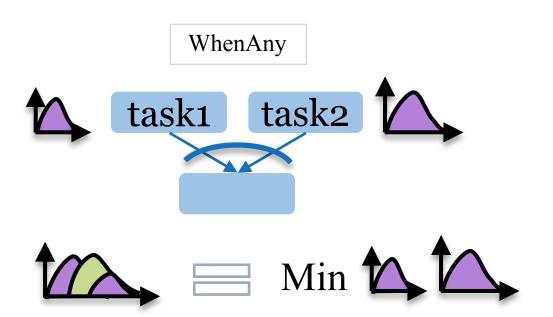


Combining latency distributions





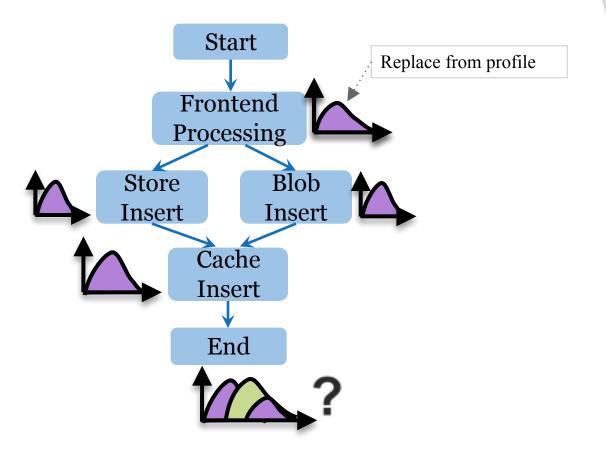
Combining latency distributions

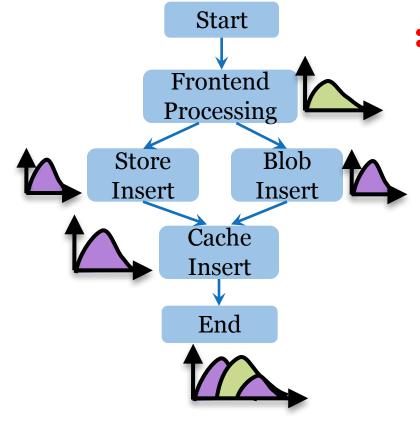


Combining latency distributions

What if I move the front-end from basic to standard tier?

Cloud-Side Latency Estimation





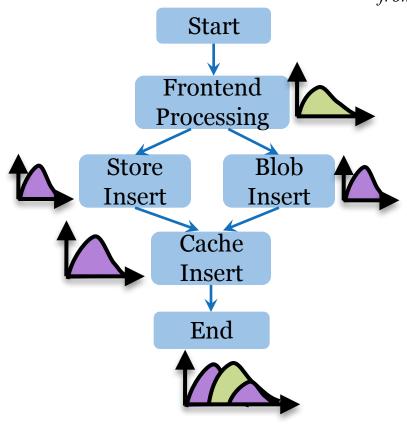
Dependency graph extraction

Baseline latency estimation

Component Profiling

Cloud-side latency estimation

What if I move the front-end from basic to standard tier?



Dependency graph extraction

Baseline latency estimation

Component Profiling

Cloud-side latency estimation

Developer supplies workload

Computed Offline

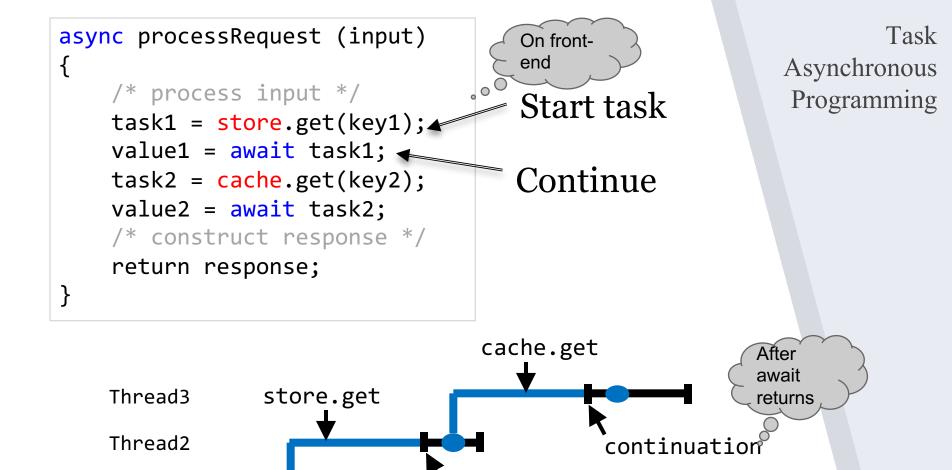
What is WebPerf's overhead?

What are the primary sources of prediction error?

Are workload hints necessary?



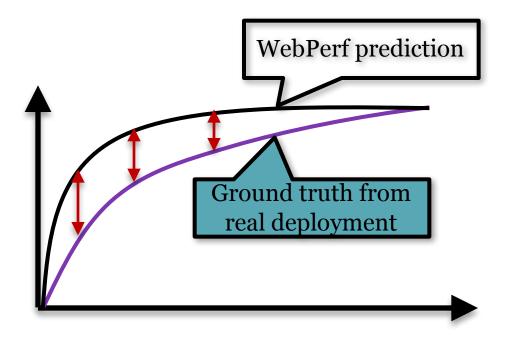
Can WebPerf predict end-to-end latency?



continuation

Thread1

Distributional Difference



Measure of Prediction Accuracy