Multi-host containerised HPC cluster

The new Docker networking put into action to spin up a SLURM cluster





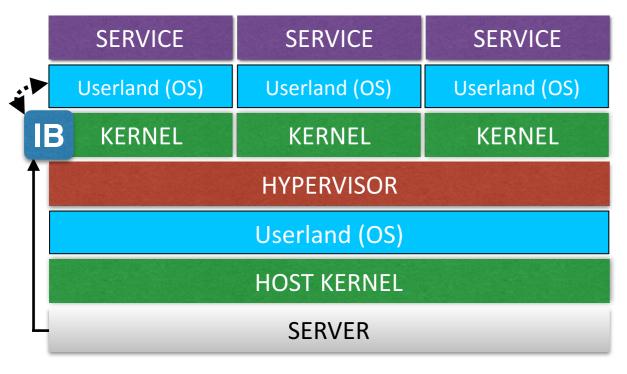
The Bits and Pieces...

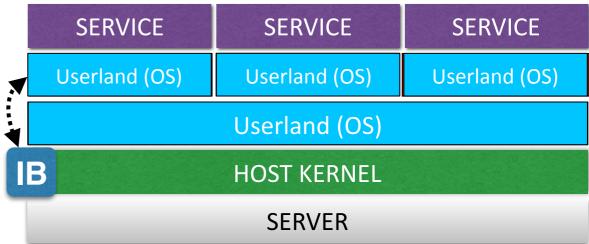




Docker

- Containers do not spin up their own kernel
 - All containers share the same host kernel
 - they are separated via Kernel Namespaces
 - constrained using CGroups





Traditional Virtualisation

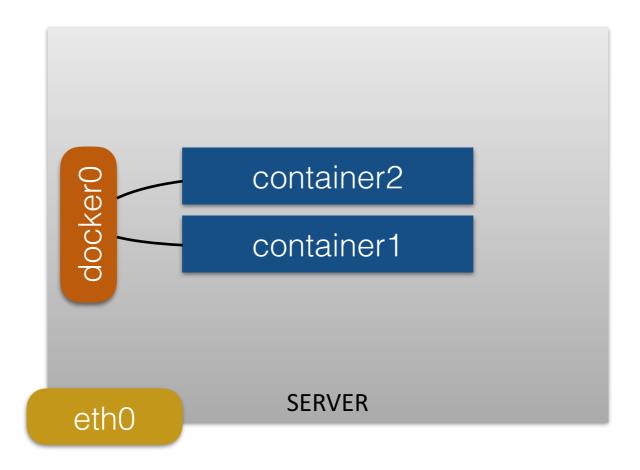
Containerisation





Docker

- Docker-Engine as a Container Runtime
 - creates/starts/stops/manipulates/removes containers all through RESTful API
 - handles Namespaces, CGroups, IP connectivity, bind-mounts, etc.

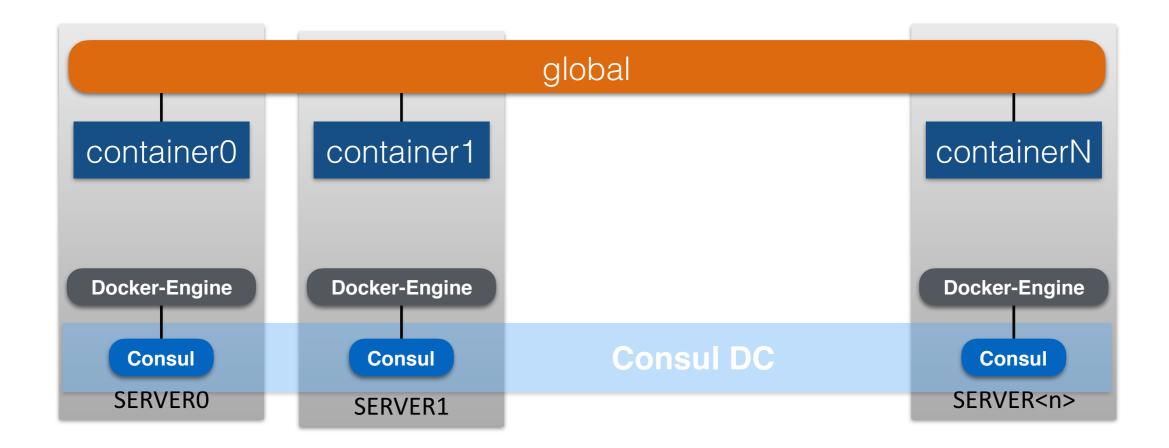






Docker Networking

- Docker Networking spans networks across engines
 - KV-store to synchronise (Zookeeper, etcd, Consul)
 - VXLAN to pass messages along (macvlan might take over)

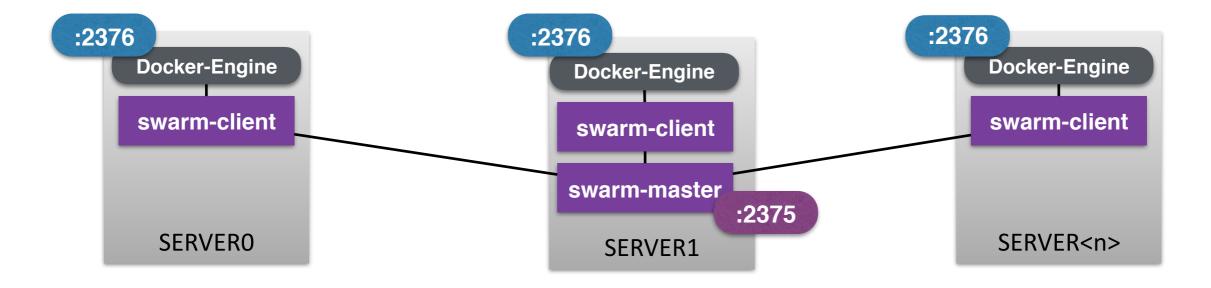






Docker Swarm

- Docker Swarm proxies docker-engines
 - serves an API endpoint in front of multiple docker-engines
 - does (simple) placement decisions.







Docker Swarm [cont]

```
[root@venus001 ~]# docker -H docker1:2375 info legrep --color=never "(192|Container|^\w+)"
Containers: 50
                                     query docker-swarm
Images: 374
 docker1: 192.168.12.11:2376
  └ Containers: 5
 venus001: 192.168.12.181:2376
  └ Containers: 12
 venus002: 192.168.12.182:2376
  └ Containers: 6
 venus003: 192.168.12.183:2376
  L Containers: 4
 venus004: 192.168.12.184:2376
  └ Containers: 4
 venus005: 192.168.12.185:2376
  └ Containers: 5
 venus006: 192.168.12.186:2376
  └ Containers: 5
 venus007: 192.168.12.187:2376
  └ Containers: 3
 venus008: 192.168.12.188:2376
  └ Containers: 6
CPUs: 76
Total Memory: 266.5 GiB
Name: a7d177accc81
[root@venus001 ~]#
```



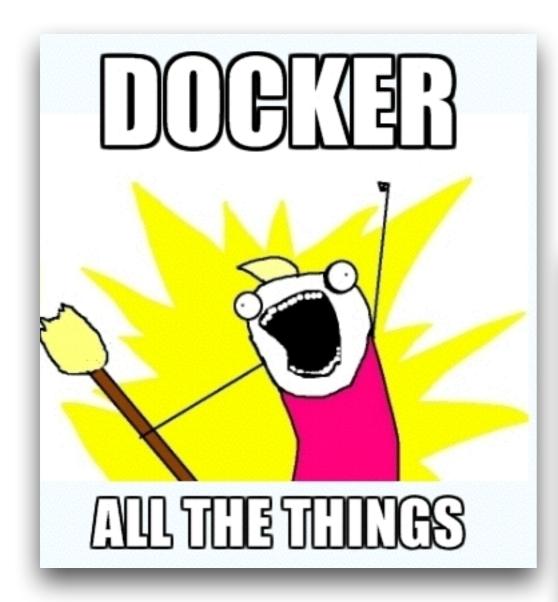


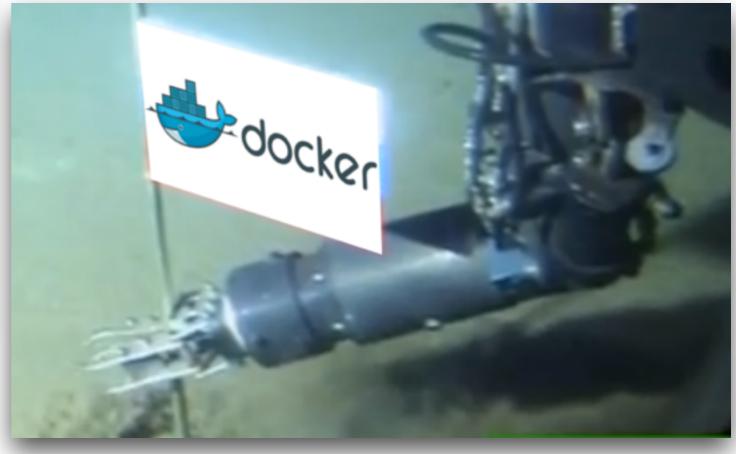
Introduce new Technologies





Introducing new Tech



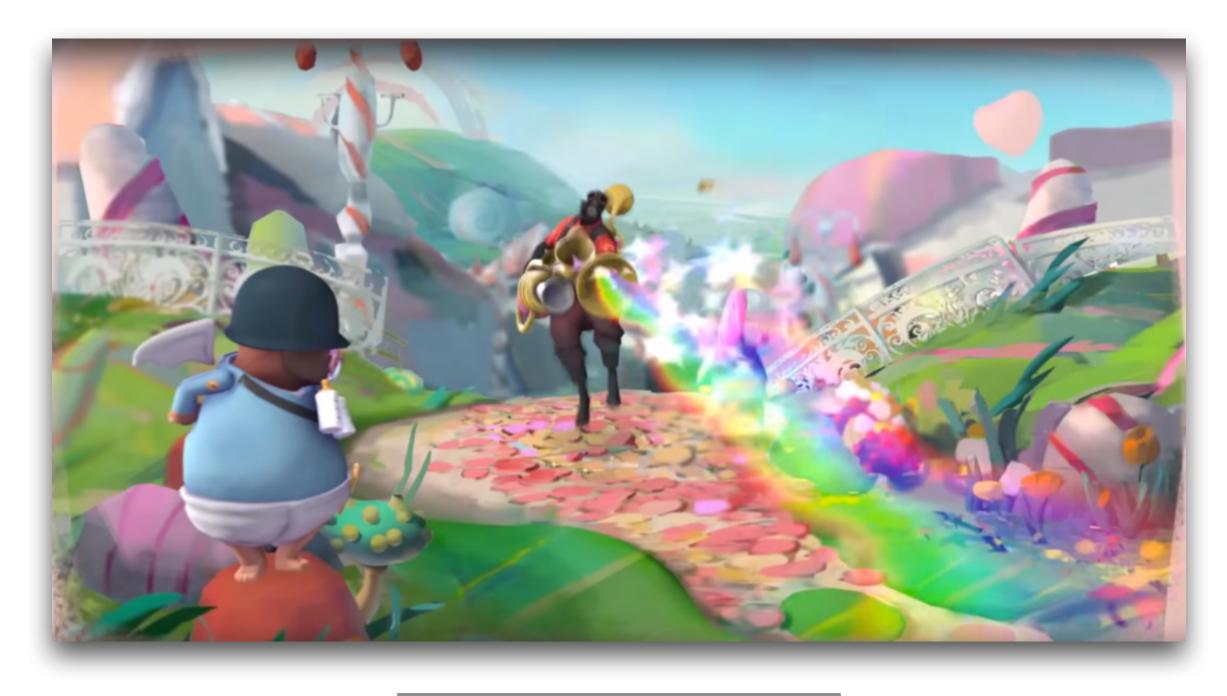






Introducing new Tech

Self-perception when introducing new tech...







Introducing new Tech

... not always the same as the perception of others.







Docker Buzzword Chaos!





Auto-Scaling



On-Premise & OverSpill









Solutions





self-healing



production-ready

enterprise-grade





Pitfalls

[incomplete list]

- You say Docker perception is 'basically VMware'
 - VMs were easy to shoehorn in legacy workflow, containers might break it
 - spans environments: laptop, dev-cluster, staging, prod
- Not everyone is a unicorn, I do
 - NOT want special distributions
 - useful for elasticity (AWS) and green-flied deployment, not so much for a on-premise datacenter w/ legacy in it.
 - want to leverage existing <stuff>
 - security (ssh infrastructure), user authentication
 - installation workflow, monitoring, logging
 - want to keep up with upstream docker ecosystem
 - networking, volumes
 - features of docker-engine, -compose, -swarm





Reduce to the max!





Put a Docker on it!

- Leverage existing install/configuration workflow
 - Kickstart + ansible-run
- Don't focus on corner cases
 - postpone snowflake-container (e.g. needs multi-tenant IB usage)
 - User namespace: we get there (eventually)
- HPC environments assumptions
 - single-tenant
 - focus on performance





The Setup





Testbed

- Hardware (courtesy of HPC)
 - 8x Sun Fire x2250, 2x 4core XEON, 32GB, Mellanox ConnectX-2)
- Software
 - Base installation
 - CentOS 7.2 base installation (updated from 7-alpha)
 - Ansible
 - consul, sensu
 - docker v1.9.1, docker-compose
 - docker SWARM

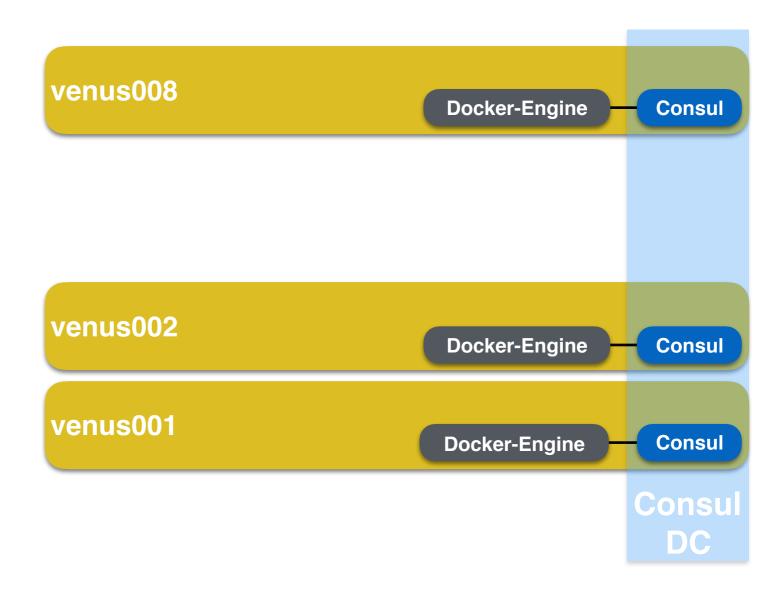






Docker Networking

Synchronised by Consul

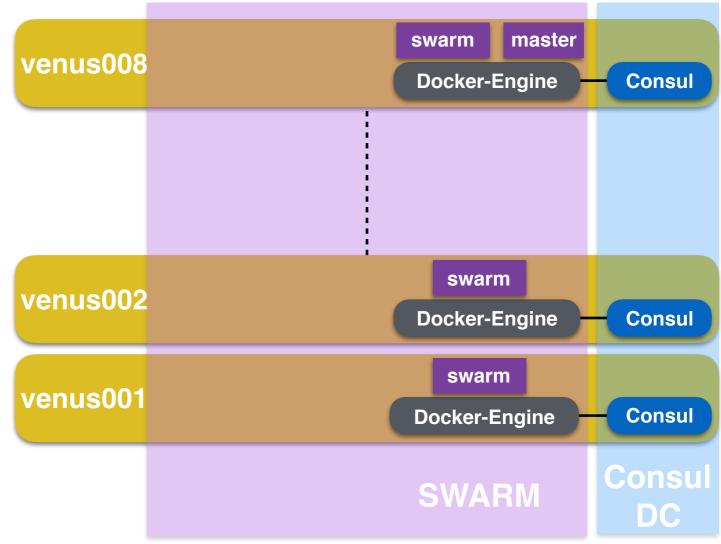






Docker SWARM

- Docker SWARM
 - Synchronised by Consul KV-store



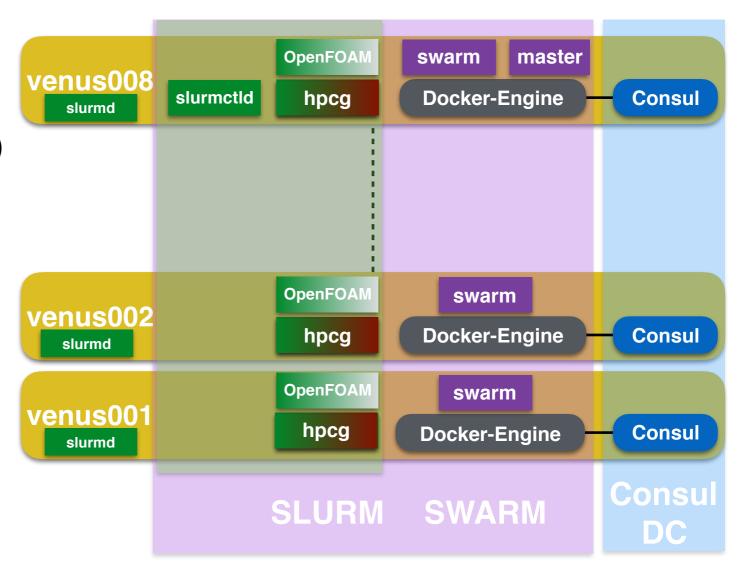




SLURM Cluster

SLURM within SWARM

- slurmd within app-container
- pre-stage multiple container
- spawn at job-start (pre-hook)







SLURM Cluster [cont]

```
venus001 rc=0 docker1:2375 provisioning (master) # docker exec -ti venus001/hpcg1 sinfo
PARTITION AVAIL
                TIMELIMIT NODES
                                 STATE NODELIST
all*
                 infinite
                                 idle hpcg[1-8]
            up
                 infinite
                              4 idle hpcg[1,3,5,7]
odd
            up
                 infinite
                                   idle hpcg[2,4,6,8]
                               4
even
            up
venus001 rc=0 docker1:2375 provisioning (master) # docker exec -ti venus001/hpcg1 srun -N8 hostname
hpcg7
hpcg3
hpcg2
hpcg6
hpcg4
hpcg5
hpcg8
hpcg1
venus001 rc=0 docker1:2375 provisioning (master) #
```

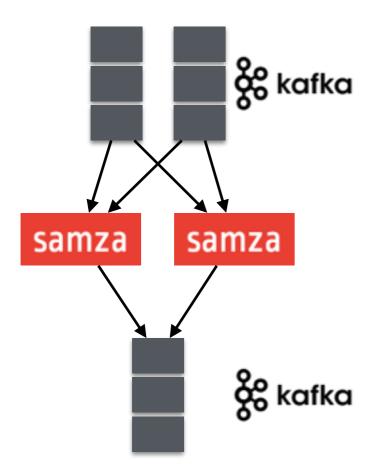


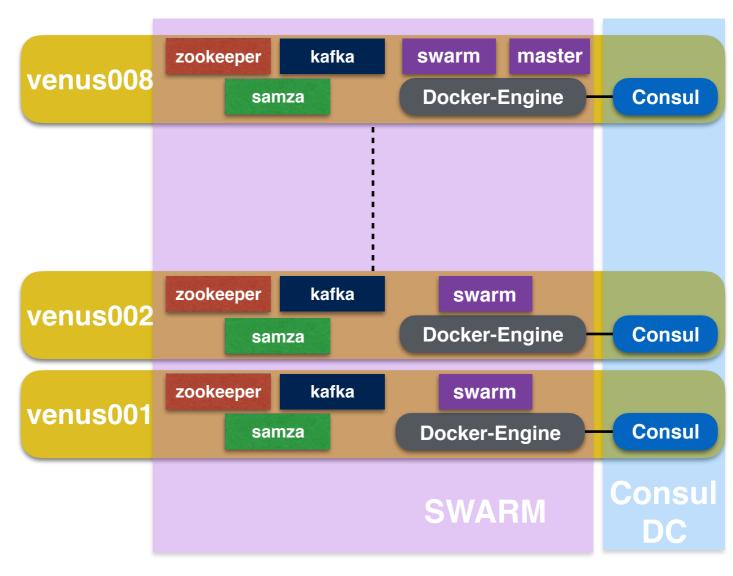


Samza Cluster

Distributed Samza

- Zookeeper and Kafka cluster
- Samza instances to run jobs







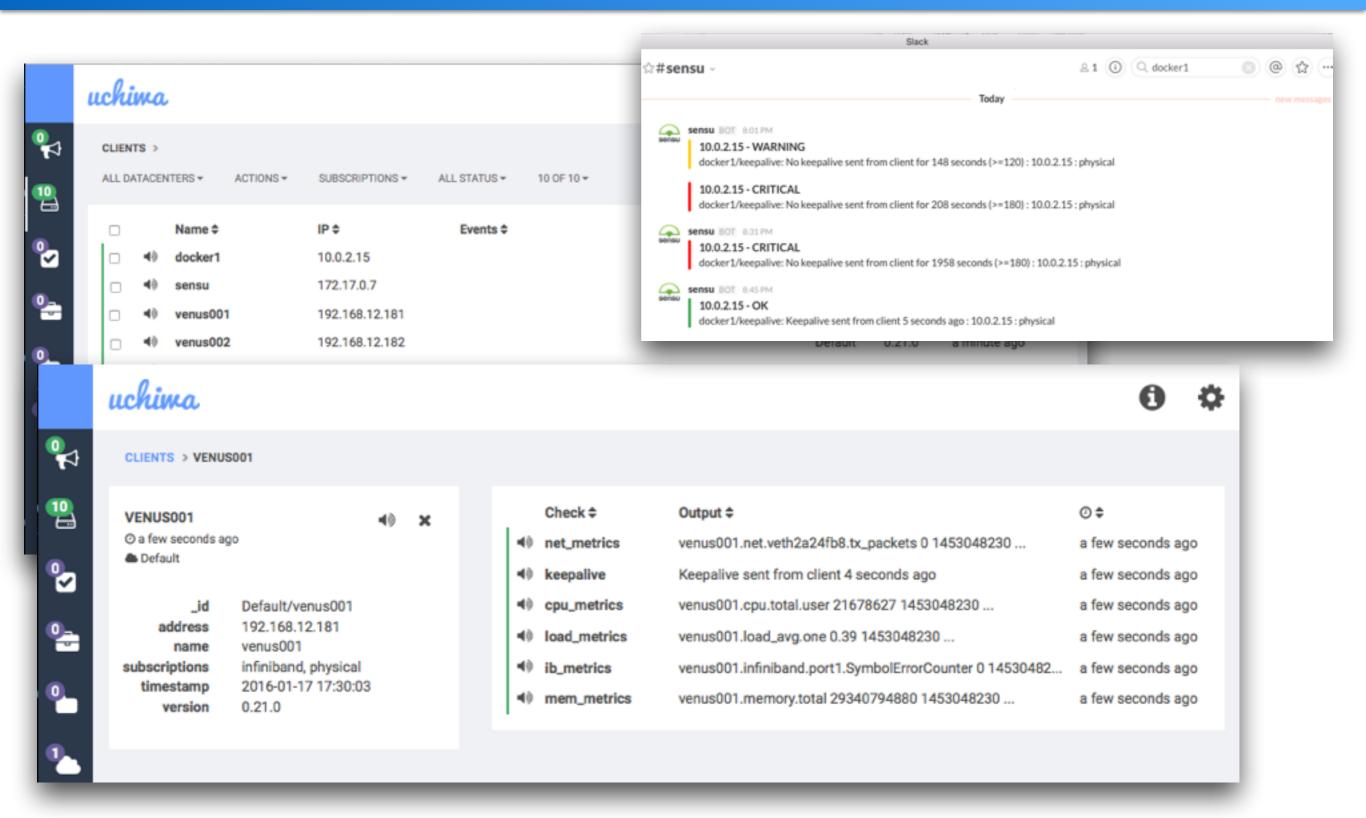


Outta time!





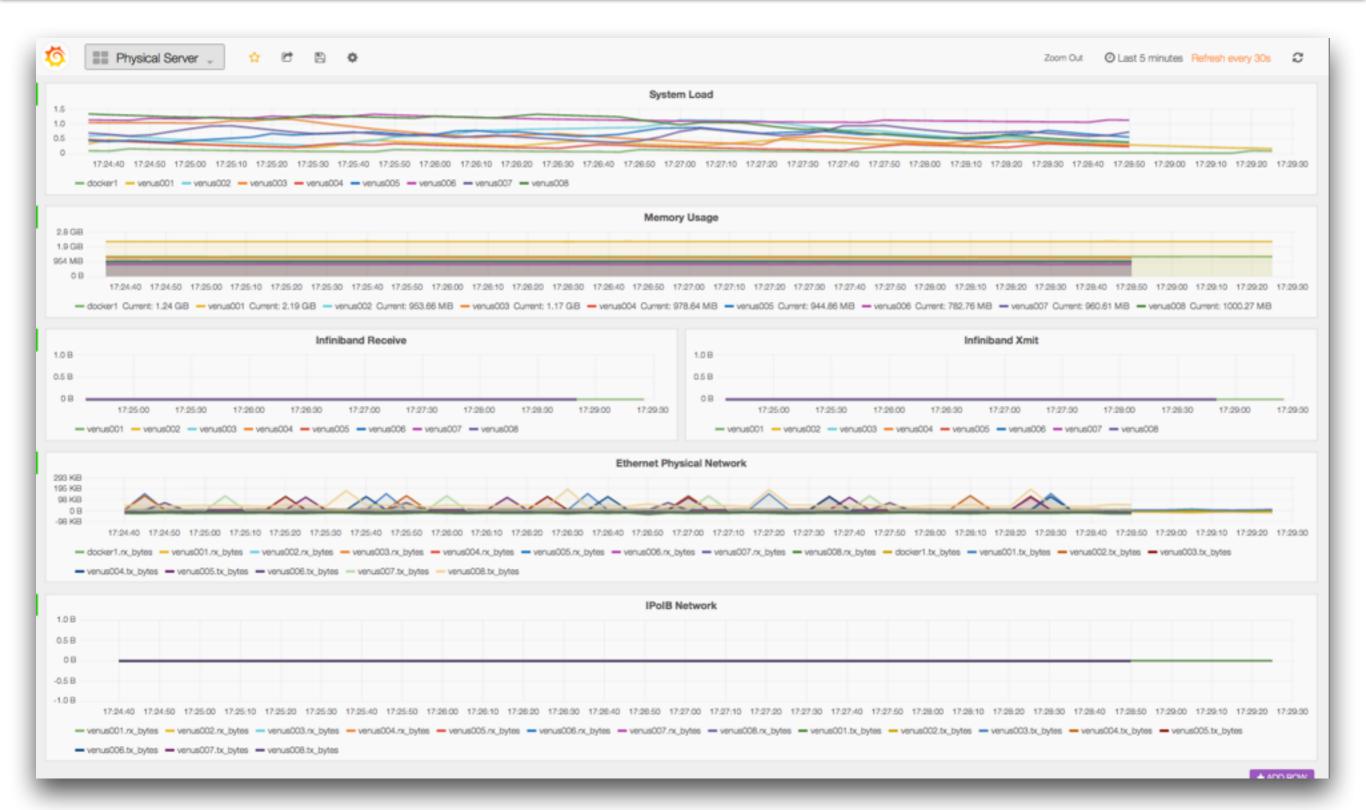
SENSU







Metrics





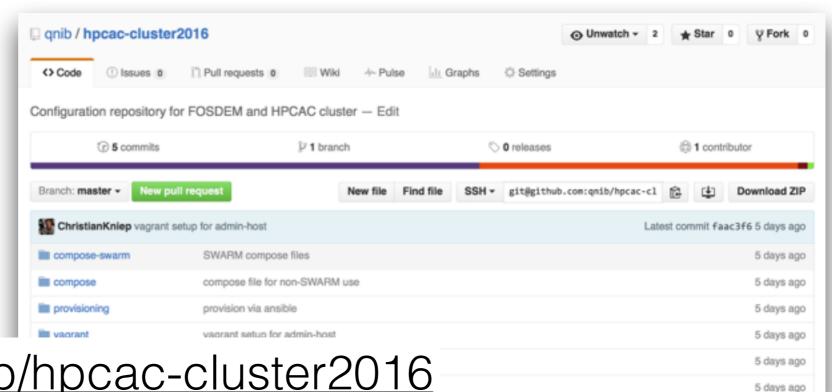


Recap aka. IMHO

- Using vanilla docker tech on-top of any distribution
 - keep up with the ecosystem and prevent vendor/ecosystem lock-in
- 80/20 rule
 - have caveats on the radar but don't bother too much
 - everything is so fast moving it's hard to predict
- Don't scare away stakeholders
 - KISS
 - reuse workflow and infrastructure
 - solution and not problem driven





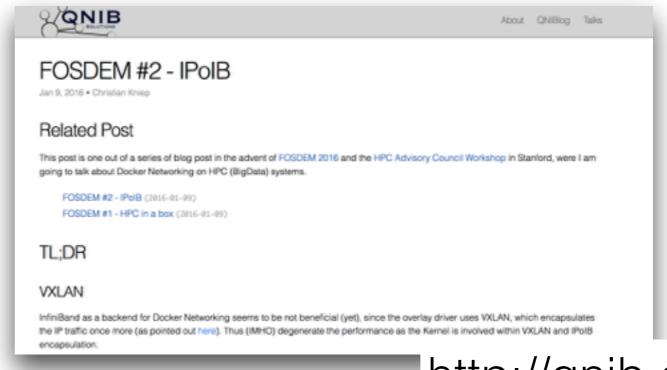


https://github.com/qnib/hpcac-cluster2016

Q&A



eGalea Conference (Pisa) 20/21 April 2016







http://qnib.org