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Building a Global VM Network for Real-Time OSINT Tracking

Today, I will be walking you through the process of building a global network of Virtual Machines (VMs) dedicated to real-time Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) tracking, with the goal of extracting key metadata, interconnecting data streams, and achieving live tracking of individuals using open-source video feeds. The crucial aspects of this system include the tasks assigned to individual VMs, the efficient network connectivity of these VMs, metadata extraction for OSINT purposes, and finally, real-time tracking using open video feeds from public sources.

1. Overview of the Global VM Network

The backbone of this system is a series of interconnected virtual machines, each assigned specific tasks critical to the tracking process. These VMs can be geographically distributed across cloud providers or on-premise environments for redundancy and to ensure global coverage. The main components and tasks are as follows:

1. Data Collection VMs:

These VMs focus on gathering open-source data from various platforms, such as social media, public cameras, and websites. They scrape data, including images and videos, as well as any publicly available streams.

2. Metadata Extraction VMs:

Responsible for extracting critical metadata from the collected files (images, videos). This includes GPS data, timestamps, and other EXIF information that can aid in identifying location and timeframes.

3. Processing and Analysis VMs:

These VMs run machine learning models for image recognition, pattern analysis, and object detection (e.g., identifying people or vehicles). They process the data collected from multiple sources to find common targets for tracking.

4. Tracking and Coordination VMs:

These machines handle the integration and coordination of data streams, combining GPS coordinates, timestamps, and video feed data to track subjects across multiple cameras or data sources in real-time. They ensure smooth handover from one data stream to another, similar to nodes in a cluster network.

5. Data Storage and Logging VMs:

These store all collected data, metadata, and logs of the system’s operations. A central database or distributed ledger can be used for this purpose to maintain a record of the movement or actions being tracked.

2. Interconnecting VMs – Cluster Network Architecture

The VMs in this system are interconnected to function as nodes in a cluster network. This architecture ensures that each VM has access to the resources of the others, enabling data to flow seamlessly between the nodes. By setting up these VMs as part of a distributed Kubernetes cluster, we can ensure high availability, redundancy, and dynamic scaling. This means that when one node reaches maximum load, others can step in to process tasks, maintaining real-time performance.

Key benefits of using a cluster architecture:

Scalability: VMs can be dynamically allocated based on the load.

Redundancy: No single point of failure exists; if a VM goes down, others can handle the workload.

Interconnected Processing: Multiple VMs can work on different parts of a single task, reducing time and improving efficiency.

3. Metadata Extraction

Metadata extraction is a key step in this network and one of the primary functions of certain VMs. By extracting metadata, particularly GPS and timestamp data, we can correlate visual data with physical locations and times, providing context for real-time tracking.

Metadata Extraction – Script Overview

Metadata, especially from images and videos, often contains valuable information like GPS coordinates, timestamps, and device details. To automate metadata extraction, we employ ExifTool combined with a Python wrapper for ease of use.

Here's a Python script for extracting GPS, timestamp, and other relevant metadata from images and video files:

import subprocess

import json

# Function to extract metadata using ExifTool

def extract\_metadata(file\_path):

try:

# Call ExifTool to get metadata in JSON format

result = subprocess.run(['exiftool', '-json', file\_path], stdout=subprocess.PIPE, stderr=subprocess.PIPE)

metadata = json.loads(result.stdout.decode('utf-8'))

if metadata:

# Extract relevant metadata

gps\_data = {

"latitude": metadata[0].get('GPSLatitude'),

"longitude": metadata[0].get('GPSLongitude'),

"timestamp": metadata[0].get('DateTimeOriginal'),

"camera\_model": metadata[0].get('Model')

}

return gps\_data

else:

return "No metadata found"

except Exception as e:

return f"Error extracting metadata: {e}"

# Test the function

file\_path = 'example.jpg' # Replace with your file path

metadata = extract\_metadata(file\_path)

print(metadata)

This script can be deployed on the metadata extraction VMs to automate the process. By feeding it image or video files, the VMs will output relevant location, timestamp, and device information, which can then be stored or sent to the tracking and coordination VMs for further processing.

4. Real-Time Tracking Using Open-Source Video Feeds

One of the most powerful capabilities of this system is the ability to track individuals or objects across open-source video feeds. To achieve this, the system must tap into publicly available video streams and automatically analyze the footage to detect and follow targets in real-time.

Accessing Open-Source Video Feeds

Public video feeds can be accessed through multiple means:

Shodan: A search engine that can locate open and unsecured cameras connected to the internet.

Insecam: A repository of thousands of public video feeds from traffic cameras, security cameras, and other sources.

EarthCam: A platform offering public webcam streams from locations around the world.

Person Tracking with YOLO and OpenCV

For real-time detection and tracking, the system uses machine learning models like YOLO (You Only Look Once) for object detection. By integrating YOLO with OpenCV, we can analyze live video streams and track individuals based on movement and appearance.

Here is a Python script that demonstrates how to use YOLO for person detection in a live video feed:

import cv2

import numpy as np

# Load YOLO weights and config files

net = cv2.dnn.readNet('yolov3.weights', 'yolov3.cfg')

layer\_names = net.getLayerNames()

output\_layers = [layer\_names[i - 1] for i in net.getUnconnectedOutLayers()]

# Load the video feed (can be local or remote using a URL)

video\_capture = cv2.VideoCapture("http://your\_camera\_feed\_url")

# Load the COCO dataset class labels (80 object types, including 'person')

with open("coco.names", "r") as f:

classes = [line.strip() for line in f.readlines()]

# Start video feed processing

while True:

ret, frame = video\_capture.read()

# Prepare the image for YOLO

height, width, channels = frame.shape

blob = cv2.dnn.blobFromImage(frame, 0.00392, (416, 416), (0, 0, 0), True, crop=False)

net.setInput(blob)

outputs = net.forward(output\_layers)

# Processing detections

for output in outputs:

for detection in output:

scores = detection[5:]

class\_id = np.argmax(scores)

confidence = scores[class\_id]

# If a person is detected (class\_id == 0 is 'person' in COCO dataset)

if confidence > 0.5 and class\_id == 0:

center\_x = int(detection[0] \* width)

center\_y = int(detection[1] \* height)

w = int(detection[2] \* width)

h = int(detection[3] \* height)

# Bounding box coordinates

x = int(center\_x - w / 2)

y = int(center\_y - h / 2)

# Draw a bounding box around the person

cv2.rectangle(frame, (x, y), (x + w, y + h), (0, 255, 0), 2)

# Display detection info (confidence)

label = f"Person: {confidence:.2f}"

cv2.putText(frame, label, (x, y - 10), cv2.FONT\_HERSHEY\_SIMPLEX, 0.5, (0, 255, 0), 2)

# Display the processed frame

cv2.imshow("Person Detection", frame)

# Exit on 'q' key press

if cv2.waitKey(1) & 0xFF == ord('q'):

break

video\_capture.release()

cv2.destroyAllWindows()

Live Camera Handover and Interconnectivity

To ensure continuous tracking, the system must intelligently hand over the tracking of an individual from one camera feed to another. This can be achieved by:

GPS Data Integration: Linking camera locations based on their GPS coordinates. When the tracked person leaves one feed, the system switches to another nearby camera.

Time Synchronization: Using timestamps to align feeds from different sources and ensure no gaps in tracking.

This ability to shift across feeds in real-time ensures comprehensive monitoring of a subject’s movements.

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Conclusion

By creating a globally distributed VM network with specific tasks for metadata

extraction, live video processing, and data coordination, we can achieve real-time OSINT tracking with incredible precision. Each VM in this network plays a critical role, whether it's scraping data, extracting key metadata, processing information using machine learning models, or coordinating data streams to track individuals across multiple feeds. By leveraging open-source tools, public video streams, and a robust interconnectivity infrastructure, we can build a highly efficient and scalable system.

The steps outlined above showcase the necessary components and processes to create a powerful global OSINT tracking network:

Metadata extraction provides the critical contextual information required to locate individuals, linking visuals to physical locations.

Real-time tracking using YOLO and OpenCV allows for the detection and tracking of persons in live video feeds. By incorporating multiple feeds and video handovers, the system can track individuals continuously.

Cluster network architecture ensures that the system is fault-tolerant, scalable, and capable of handling the significant computational load that comes with processing live feeds and large data sets in real time.

Final Remarks

The potential applications for such a system are vast, from law enforcement to investigative journalism and security surveillance. However, it's important to note that ethical considerations must guide the use of such technology. The protection of privacy and compliance with legal frameworks are paramount in ensuring that such systems are used responsibly.

With careful planning, the right tools, and adherence to ethical practices, this global VM network can provide an innovative solution to the ever-growing demand for real-time intelligence and tracking capabilities.

Thank you for your time, and I am open to questions about any part of the process. Whether it's about the technical specifics of the VMs, metadata extraction, or live tracking, I'd be happy to elaborate further.

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This concludes the full speech, integrating the latest additions concerning metadata extraction and the live tracking process via open-source video feeds. This holistic guide covers the architecture, technology stack, and scripts involved in building such an advanced system.