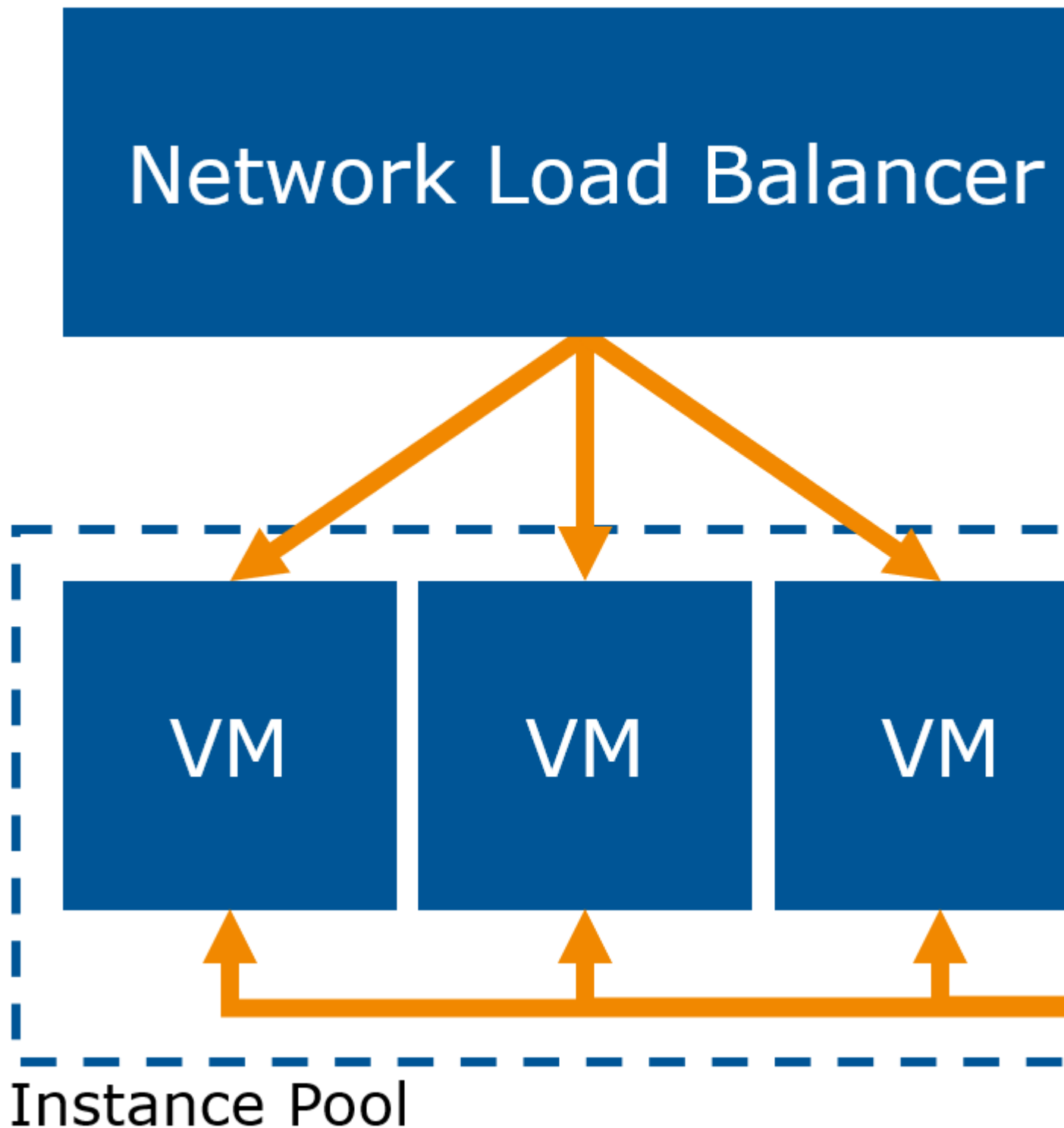


Project work

You are the cloud architect for a small work-for-hire company. A client wants to hire you but they are sceptical about your ability to design a system that can scale. Your job is to design a system where the management should automatically launch new cloud servers when the load is high and remove servers when demand is low.



Warning

Do not continuously run your setup on Exoscale or you will run out of budget! Budget limitations are part of building cloud systems.

After taking a look at the capabilities of the cloud provider and discussing the constraints with your colleagues you decide that:

- You are going to use [Terraform](#) to automate the setup and tear down of the cloud infrastructure. This is necessary because of the constraints.
- You will use [instance pools](#) to manage the variable number of cloud servers and [Network Load Balancers](#) to balance the load.
- You will set up a dedicated monitoring and management instance which will run [Prometheus](#) to automatically monitor the system and alert you when it starts to consume too much.
- On the instance pool you will deploy the [Prometheus node exporter](#) to monitor CPU usage.
- You will install [Grafana](#) to provide a monitoring dashboard and the ability to send webhooks.
- You will configure an alert webhook in Grafana that sends a webhook to an application written by you. If the average CPU usage is too high, the application will scale the instance pool up or down.
- You will write an application that receives this webhook and every 60 seconds scales the instance pool up or down if a webhook is received.

As you also have to demonstrate to the client that you can work in an agile methodology you agree in 4 week sprints with a 2-week demo cycle.

As a dummy service to generate load you will use [http-load-generator](#).

The manual way to implement this architecture is described [on the Exoscale blog](#). We recommend reading and doing the steps manually.

Optionally, you can make use of the following (incurs a 5% point-penalty each):

- [prometheus-sd-exoscale-instance-pools](#) to feed instance pool data into Prometheus
- [exoscale-grafana-autoscaler](#) to drive the autoscaling behavior.

Handing in your project work

In order to hand in your project work you must upload your code to a Git repository, for example on GitHub. Submit the link to the repository.

Your Terraform code **must** be able to install the complete infrastructure into an empty Exoscale account. It **must** ask for the Exoscale API key and the Exoscale account ID.

If you opt to only implement the manual method (without Terraform) please enter `manual` in instead of the text field and we will not evaluate your solution.

Warning

Keep in mind that only submitting a manual solution will give you minimal points. We strongly recommend you ask for help if you are stuck.

Note

The automated version has to run without manual intervention beyond inserting variables. Additionally, the solutions will be spot-checked.

Acceptance criteria

The system will be tested with Apache Benchmark using the following command line:

```
ab -c 2 -n 1000 http://your-nlb-ip/load
```

Your system must be able to launch enough instances within 10 minutes to get the average load back under 80%. When AE

Getting help

Please see the [getting help page](#).