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Configurable and Scalable IITBombayX MOOC platform on commodity servers

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Certificate

The project entitled Configurable and Scalable IITBombayX MOOC platform on commodity servers submitted by Mr. Amit Kumar Tiwari, Mr. Harshit Mogalapalli, Mr. Mridul Mahajan, Mr. Ritik Kumar and Mr. Soumyakant Mohakul is approved for Summer Internship 2019 programme from 19th May 2019 to 9th July 2019, at Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay.

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0.2 Declaration

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the institute.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The aim of this project is to deploy an instance of Open edX MOOC platform on a multinode cluster using Kubernetes as the container orchestrator and Docker as the container runtime environment.

Technologies used:

- Docker
- Kubernetes
- Ansible
- Shell scripting
- Git
- Cluster management and configuration

1.2 Open edX

Open edX is an open source online MOOC platform to create and deliver online courses. It provides both web and mobile platforms to clone the basic template of e-learning platform. In this project, we have worked on the web platform.

1.2.1 Releases

Open edX has multiple releases. Some of the most recent ones are:

- Ironwood
- Hawthorn
- Ginkgo

We have used the Ironwood.1 release in this project.

1.2.2 Installation

Open edX can be installed in two ways:

- Native installation
- Docker-based installation

1.2.2.1 Native installation

- i) Prerequisites
 - Ubuntu 16.04 amd64
- ii) Set-up configurations

Ubuntu package sources need to be updated:

- \$ sudo apt-get update -y
- \$ sudo apt-get upgrade -y
- \$ sudo reboot

iii) Installation procedure

1. Set the OPENEDX_RELEASE variable to the Git Tag corresponding to the Ironwood release of Open edX:

export OPENEDX_RELEASE=open-release/ironwood.1

2. Next, create a config.yml file, which states the hostname of the Learning Management System (LMS) and the Content Management System (CMS):

EDXAPP_LMS_BASE: 127.0.0.1 EDXAPP_CMS_BASE: 127.0.0.1:8080

(works only when the LMS hostname and the CMS hostnames are the same, or the CMS hostname is a subdomain of the LMS hostname).

- 3. Now bootstrap the Ansible installation.
- 4. Retrieve the ansible-bootstrap.sh bash script from the Github server and execute it:

wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/edx/configuration/ \$OPENEDX_RELEASE/util/install/ansible-bootstrap.sh -O - | sudo bash

5. Use the generate-password.sh file from the Github server to randomize password:

wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/edx/configuration/ \$OPENEDX_RELEASE/util/install/generate-passwords.sh -O - | bash

6. Finally, use the native sh script from the Github server to install Open edX:

wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/edx/configuration/ \$OPENEDX_RELEASE/util/install/native.sh -O - | bash

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1.2.2.2 Docker-based installation

i) Installing docker engine, docker machine and docker compose:

The docker based installation allows the resources of our system to be utilized in an optimal way. Docker is based on the principle of containerization. For Open edX Devstack to work properly, we would need the Docker engine, Docker Machine and Docker Compose tools.

For installing the docker engine, the following commands need to be run:

```
1. $ sudo apt-get update
```

```
2. $ sudo apt-get install \
apt-transport-https \
ca-certificates \
curl \
gnupg-agent \
software-properties-common
```

- 3. \$ curl -fsSL https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu/gpg sudo apt-key add
- 4. \$ sudo apt-key fingerprint 0EBFCD88

```
5. $ sudo add-apt-repository \
"deb [arch=amd64] https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu \
$(lsb_release -cs) \
stable"
```

- 6. \$ sudo apt-get update
- 7. \$ sudo apt-get install docker-ce docker-ce-cli containerd.io
- 8. \$ apt-cache madison docker-ce
- 9. \$ sudo apt-get install docker-ce=< VERSION_STRING > docker-ce-cli=< VERSION_STRING > containerd.io

In order to test if Docker has been installed properly, one can run the following

command:

\$ sudo docker run hello-world

For installing docker machine, run the following commands:

```
base = https://github.com/docker/machine/releases/download/v0.16.0 \&\& curl -L \$base/docker-machine-\$(uname -s)-\$(uname -m)>/tmp/docker-machine \&\& sudo install /tmp/docker-machine /usr/local/bin/docker-machine
```

For installing docker compose, run the following commands:

- Project: P3
- 1. \$ sudo curl -L "https://github.com/docker/compose/releases/download/1.24.0/docker-compose-\$(uname -s)-\$(uname -m)" -o /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
- 2. \$ sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/docker-compose

For checking if the tools mentioned above have been installed properly, you can use the -- version flag with the corresponding command to check the installed version.

ii) Installing Ironwood Devstack:

The three most recent versions of the Open edX Devstack are Ginkgo, Hawthorn and Ironwood.

The following commands perform the Ironwood-release installation of Devstack:

- 1. git clone https://github.com/edx/devstack
- 2. cd devstack
- 3. git checkout open-release/ironwood.master
- 4. export OPENEDX_RELEASE=ironwood.master
- 5. make dev.checkout
- 6. make dev.clone
- 7. make dev.provision

On successfully running dev.provision, you will have 15 docker-containers running. The list of them can be obtained using the command: docker ps

The list of docker-containers are: Docker-containers List

The Provision Log for the tasks executed are: provision.log

iii) Errors:

1. ./provision.sh: line 21: /usr/local/bin/docker-compose: Permission denied Makefile:59: recipe for target 'dev.provision.run' failed make: *** [dev.provision.run] Error 126

Solution:

```
$ sudo -i
$ curl -L https://github.com/docker/compose/releases/download/1.18.0/docker-compose-
'uname -s'-'uname -m' -o /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
$ chmod 755 /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
$ exit
```

2. TASK [common: Update expired apt keys] ********* fatal: [127.0.0.1]: FAILED! =; "changed": true, "cmd": "apt-key adv --recv-keys -keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com 69464050", "delta": "0:02:00.744139", "end": "2019-05-24 07:49:07.605347", "failed": true, "rc": 2, "start": "2019-05-24 07:47:06.861208", "stderr": "gpg: requesting key 69464050 from hkp server keyserver.ubuntu.com\ngpg: keyserver timed out\ngpg: keyserver receive failed: keyserver error", "stdout": "Executing: /tmp/tmp.NmWIivV5Jo/gpg.1.sh --recv-keys\n--keyserver\nkeyserver.ubuntu.com\n69464050", "stdout_lines": ["Executing: /tmp/tmp.NmWIivV5Jo/gpg.1.sh --recv-keys", "--keyserver", "keyserver.ubuntu.com", "69464050"], "warnings": [] to retry, use: --limit @/edx/app/edx_ansible/edx_ansible/playbooks/demo.retry

Project: P3

Solution:

This error occurs due to the fetching to apt-keys from an expired link. To resolve follow the following steps:

- (a) sudo exec -it edx.devstack.lms bash
- (b) cd app/edx_ansible/edx_ansible/playbooks/roles/common_vars/defaults/
- (c) vi main.yml
- (d) On entering the main.yml file in vim editor change the link for the keyword COMMON_EDX_PPA_KEY from keyserver.ubuntu.com to hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80
- (e) exit

Chapter 2

Docker

2.1 Docker [12]

2.1.1 About Docker

Docker is an open-source software tool designed to automate and ease the process of creating, packaging, and deploying applications using an environment called a container. Using application running as a docker conatiner removes the system dependency of the application. No changes has to be made in applications to run them in different environments or machines. Docker based application provides liberty to the developer, tester and deployer to run the same application which any changes specific to their environment.

2.1.2 Terms related to Docker

2.1.2.1 Containerization

Containerization is a lightweight alternative to full machine virtualization that involves encapsulating an application within a container with its own operating environment. Essentially, containers share the kernel space with the host OS, but have a separate user space. This makes them lightweight.

2.1.2.2 Docker Image

A *Docker Image* is the basic unit for deploying a Docker container. A Docker image is essentially a static snapshot of a container, incorporating all of the objects needed to run a container.

TLS handshake timeout error in pulling Docker image:

In case there is a TLS handshake timeout error while pulling a Docker image from an online repository, try running the command again and again and eventually the image will be pulled:

2.1.2.3 Docker Container

A *Docker Container* encapsulates a Docker image and when live and running, is considered a container. Each container runs in an isolated environment on the host machine.

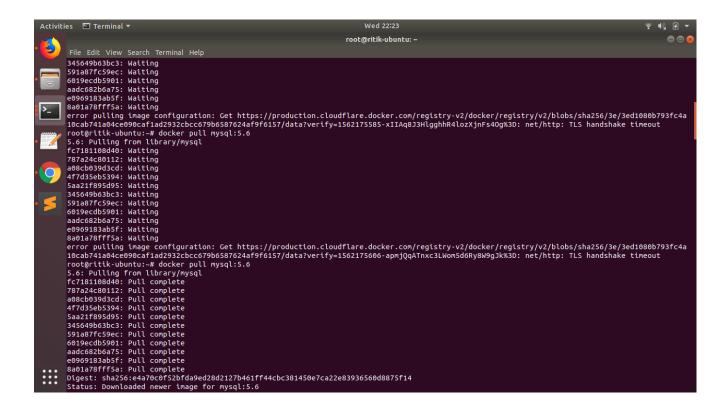


Figure 2.1: TLS handshake timeout error

2.1.2.4 Docker Registry

The *Docker Registry* is a stateless, highly scalable server-side application that stores and distributes Docker images. This registry holds Docker images, along with their versions and, it can provide both public and private storage location. There is a public Docker registry called Docker Hub which provides a free-to-use, hosted Registry, plus additional features like organization accounts, automated builds, and more. Users interact with a registry by using Docker push or pull commands.

2.1.2.5 Docker Engine

The *Docker Engine* is a layer which exists between containers and the Linux kernel and runs the containers. It is also known as the Docker daemon. Any Docker container can run on any server that has the Docker-daemon enabled, regardless of the underlying operating system.

2.1.2.6 Docker Compose

Docker Compose is a tool that defines, manages and controls multi-container Docker applications. With Compose, a single configuration file is used to set up all of your applications services. Then, using a single command, you can create and start all the services from that file.

2.1.2.7 Dockerfiles

Dockerfiles are merely YAML configuration files that contains all of the configuration information and commands needed to assemble a container image. With a Dockerfile, the Docker daemon can automatically build the container image.

2.1.3 Docker-Machine

Docker Machine can be used to:

- Manage and provision multiple remote Docker hosts.
- Provision Swarm clusters.

Docker Machine is a tool that lets you install Docker Engine on virtual hosts, and manage hosts with docker-machine commands. Using docker-machine command you can start, inspect, stop and restart a managed host, upgrade the Docker client and daemon, and configure a Docker client to talk to your host.

2.1.3.1 Install Docker Machine:

• For Linux systems, execute the following command:

 $\$ base=https://githubcom/docker/machine/releases/download/v0.16 && curl -L \$base/docker-machine-\$(uname -s)-\$(uname -m) >/usr/local/bin/docker-machine && chmod +x /usr/local/bin/docker-machine

- Check the installation by displaying the Machine version:
 - \$ docker-machine version

2.1.3.2 Use Docker Machine to run Docker Containers:

- Create a new docker virtual machine.
- Switch your environment to your new VM.
- Use the docker client to create, load and manage containers.

2.1.3.3 Create a Machine

\$ docker-machine create -driver virtualbox default

2.1.3.4 Connect your shell to the new machine

\$eval \$(docker-machine env default)

2.1.3.5 Run containers and experiment with machine commands

- Use docker-run to download and run images
- Run docker-machine ip default to get the host IP address.
- Run docker-machine stop default to stop the host default.
- Run docker-machine start default to start the host default.
- Run docker-machine env -u to see which Docker variables we need to unset to switch to the current shell.

2.1.4 Docker Swarm

Docker swarm is used to create a cluster of nodes. Multi-container, multi-machine applications are made possible by joining multiple machines into a Dockerized cluster called a swarm. Docker swarm is a group of machines running docker and are connected to each other by means of an overlay network. There can be one or multiple nodes that can manage the swarm, these nodes are called manager nodes. The rest of the nodes only provide capacity to run the containers and are called worker nodes.

2.1.4.1 Types of networks in docker

• Bridge Network: This is the type of network that allows the docker containers to communicate within a single host system. This type of network is not feasible to communicate between multiple host systems.

A bridge network can be created by:

\$ docker network create --driver bridge mynetwork

User-defined bridge networks are best when you need multiple containers to communicate on the same Docker host.

• Overlay Network: An overlay network is used for multi host network communication. It connects multiple docker daemons together and enables swarm services to communicate with each other. A docker swarm must always be connected via an overlay network.

An overlay network can be created by:

\$ docker network create -driver overlay mynetwork

Overlay networks are best when you need containers running on different Docker hosts to communicate, or when multiple applications work together using swarm services.

• Macvlan Network: Macvlan networks allow you to assign a MAC address to a container, making it appear as a physical device on your network. The Docker daemon routes traffic to containers by their MAC addresses.

A Macvlan Network can be created by:

```
\ docker network create -d macvlan \ --subnet=192.168.40.0/24 \ --gateway=192.168.40.1 \ -o parent=eth0 my-macvlan-net
```

Macvlan networks are best when you are migrating from a VM setup or need your containers to look like physical hosts on your network, each with a unique MAC address.

• **Host Network**: For standalone containers, remove network isolation between the container and the Docker host, and use the hosts networking directly.

We can use the hosts system network to at a particular port to allow the container to share data. Host networks are best when the network stack should not be isolated from the Docker host, but you want other aspects of the container to be isolated.

2.1.4.2 Initialising a Swarm Node as Manager

In order to initialize a swarm node a manager we need to find the IP address of the node using the command **ifconfig**. Then run the command:

\$ docker swarm init -advertise-addr IP_OF_THE_MANAGER

The join token for another node as a manager can be found by:

\$ docker swarm join-token manager

The join token of another node as a worker can be found by:

\$ docker swarm join-token worker

2.1.4.3 Docker Stack

For multiple services that are dependent on each other to communicate with each other on a swarm network, we may use the Docker Stack command. Docker stack deployment is used to deploy a list of interdependent services on a swarm network.

To deploy a stack we create a docker-compose file with an additional feature in each service as deploy.

\$ docker stack deploy -c docker-compose.yml myapp

The -c flag is used to execute the docker compose file and create multiple interdependent services which can communicate with each other via the swarm network.

An example of docker-compose file for stack deployment: example-voting-app.yml

Chapter 3

Ansible

3.1 Ansible

Installing docker, kubernetes, and all the other components in each node in a multinode cluster, which contains many nodes, can be a tedious task. To overcome this issue, Ansible can be used for configuration management. Furthermore, Ansible can be used to configure the nodes too. By default Ansible uses a native openSSH connection and runs commands simultaneously on multiple nodes. We have created Ansible Playbooks for all the needed configurations.

3.1.1 Installing openssh

\$ sudo apt-get install openssh-server

\$ sudo apt-get install openssh-client

3.1.2 Generating key at server and copying in client

\$ ssh-keygen (generate ssh-key)

Copy this key to all nodes to avoid the need to enter a password each time while connecting to the node.

To copy ssh-key type command:

 $ssh-copy-id\ username@IP_address$

3.1.3 Ansible setup

3.1.3.1 Adding repository

\$ sudo apt-add-repository ppa:ansible/ansible

\$ sudo apt-get update

3.1.3.2 Installing ansible

\$ sudo apt-get install ansible

3.1.3.3 Checking version

\$ ansible -version

3.1.3.4 Ansible directories

\$ ls -lha /etc/ansible/

3.1.3.5 Making a copy a directory for our use

\$ cp -R /etc/ansible/ myplatform vi ansible.cfg (uncomment the inventory = hosts) vi hosts (remove all and write all nodes in new line)

You can check if all the nodes working by running: \$ ansible -m ping all

ψ ansible -in ping an

3.1.4 Some useful commands for ansible

3.1.4.1 To see the hostnames of all nodes

\$ ansible -m shell -a 'hostname' all

3.1.4.2 To see the volumes used by all nodes

\$ ansible -m shell -a 'df -h' all

3.1.4.3 To run an ansible-playbook

\$ ansible-playbook -K playbook-docker.yml

Chapter 4

Kubernetes

4.1 Kubernetes[13]

4.1.1 What is Kubernetes

Kubernetes is a container-orchestration tool developed by Google in 2015 and later donated to CNCF (Cloud Native Computing Foundation). Kubernetes provides a smart way for orchestration in setting a multi-node cluster. Kubernetes comes with a lot of functionalities such as load balancing, pod scaling, process scheduling and process management.

4.1.2 Main Features Of Kubernetes

- Service discovery and load balancing
- Storage orchestration
- Automatic bin packing
- Self-healing
- Automated rollouts and rollbacks
- Secret and configuration management
- Batch execution
- Horizontal scaling

4.1.3 Terminologies in Kubernetes

4.1.3.1 Pod

The most fundamental unit in a kubernetes cluster is a pod. A pod is a collection of container and volumes. Each pod is assigned an IP address.

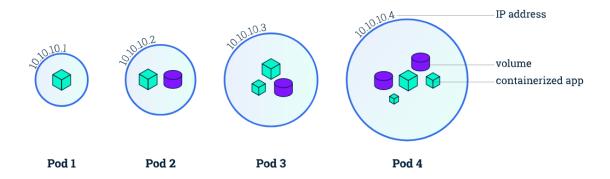


Figure 4.1: Kubernetes pods [1]

4.1.3.2 Deployment

A deployment can be seen as a stateless state of the pod. A deployment is used to provide pod definition and rolling updates to the pod. A deployment contains information such as number of replicas, image, volume mount, hostname and restart policy.

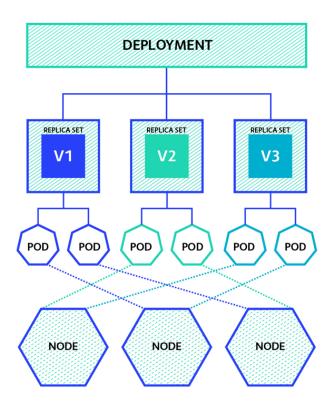


Figure 4.2: Kubernetes deployment [2]

4.1.3.3 Service

A service exposes a deployment as a network service. A deployment is stateless whereas a service can be considered as a stateful definition. The three types of services in kubernetes are: ClusterIP, NodePort and LoadBalancer.

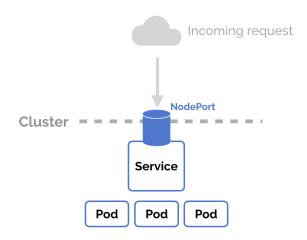


Figure 4.3: Kubernetes service [3]

4.1.3.4 Ingress network

An ingress network exposes the services in the cluster to the outside network i.e. to the clients. An ingress helps us in handling the outside traffic and routing it based on the context.

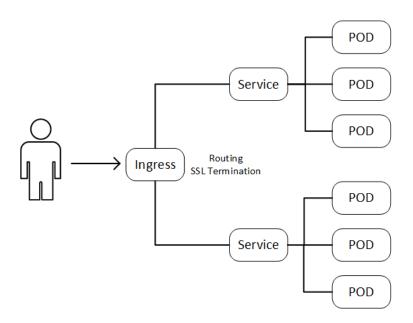


Figure 4.4: Ingress network [4]

4.1.4 Networking in Kubernetes

Kubernetes supports a large number of network plugins using different protocols. The type of networking to be used completely depends on the type of cluster you want to set up and your cluster requirements.

In a kubernetes network, each pod is assigned its own IP address. Pods can communicate with pods, nodes and services in a node without NAT.

The networking in kubernetes can be primarily broken down into 4 parts:

- 1. Container to container communication
- 2. Pod to pod communication
- 3. Pod to service communication
- 4. Service to external Communication

The major plugins used for achieving these communications are:

4.1.4.1 Flannel

Flannel is the simplest kubernetes network which satisfies all kubernetes requirements. Flannel is basically an overlay network.

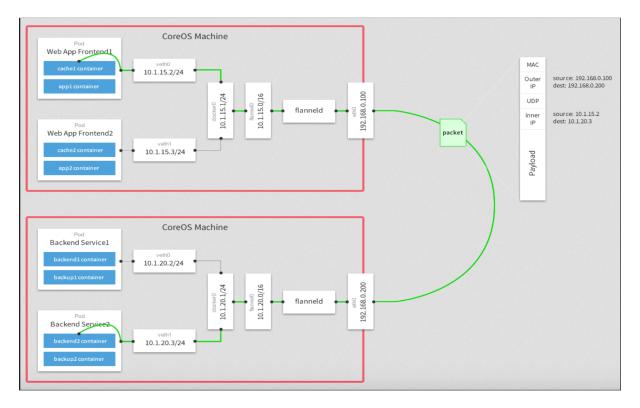


Figure 4.5: Flannel network [5]

4.1.4.2 Calico

Calico provides a highly scalable networking and network policy solution for connecting Kubernetes pods based on the same IP networking principles as the internet, for both Linux and Windows. Calico can be deployed without encapsulation or overlays to provide high-performance, high-scale data center networking.

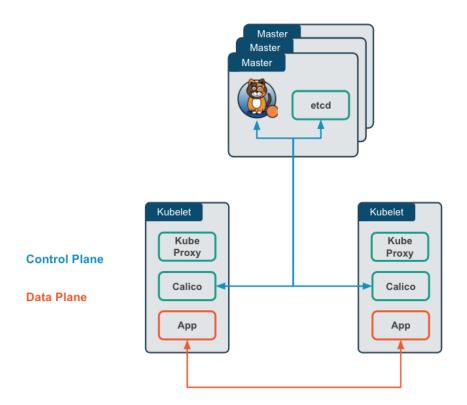


Figure 4.6: Calico network [6]

4.1.4.3 Weavenet

Weavenet is a simple network for kubernetes and its hosted applications. Weave Net runs as a CNI plug-in or stand-alone.

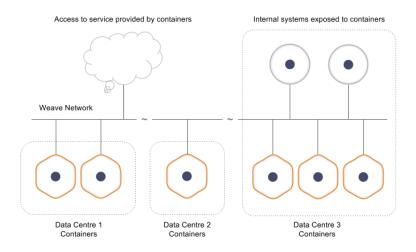


Figure 4.7: Weavenet [7]

In addition to these, kubernetes supports many other plugins too. A list of them can be found in the official documentation page of kubernetes (Networking in Kubernetes).

4.1.5 Prerequisites for running kubernetes [14]

4.1.5.1 Disable Swap Space

In order to set up a kubernetes cluster, all nodes including the master must have swap space disabled.

• To disable swap space for currenThere are a lot of plugins available that can be used as per the requirements. In this project, we have used a calico pod network as CNI.

t session, run:

\$ sudo swapoff -a

• To permanently disable swap space, go to /etc/fstab and comment the swap space line.

4.1.5.2 Make IP static

All nodes in cluster including master must have a static IP address. In order to manually make the IP static add the following lines to the file /etc/network/interfaces:

auto wlo1 iface wlo1 inet static address YOUR_IP_ADDRESS

4.1.6 Kubernetes setup

- 1. Install docker (follow the steps given here to successfully install docker).
- 2. Enable docker to run automatically on startup:
 - \$ sudo systemctl enable docker
- 3. Install curl:
 - $\$ curl -s https://packages.cloud.google.com/apt/doc/apt-key.gpg | sudo apt-key add
- 4. Add Googles kubernetes repository:
 - \$ sudo apt-add-repository "deb http://apt.kubernetes.io/ kubernetes-xenial main"
- 5. Install kubeadm, kubectl and kubelet:
 - \$ sudo apt-get install kubeadm
 - \$ sudo apt-get install kubectl
 - \$ sudo apt-get install kubelet

4.1.7 Setting up your Kubernetes cluster

In order to set up your cluster first, initialise your master with kubeadm:

$\$ kubeadm init --apiserver-advertise-address=YOUR_IP_ADDRESS --podnetwork-cidr=40.196.0.0/16

On successful execution of the command, we get a join command for the worker nodes to join the cluster. Preserve this command to bring nodes into the cluster once the dash-board is created.

You can also generate the join token by running the command:

\$ kubeadm token create

And the SHA256 key can be generated by running the command:

\$ openssl x509 -pubkey -in /etc/kubernetes/pki/ca.crt | openssl rsa -pubin -outform der 2>/dev/null | openssl dgst -sha256 -hex — sed 's/^.* //'

Now to bring any node into the cluster run the following command into the cluster after changing the IP with your master systems IP address, token and SHA256 key with that generated by running the above command:

$\$ kubeadm join IP_OF_MASTER:6443 --token GENERATED_TOKEN --discovery-token-ca-cert-hash sha256:GENERATED_HASH

Once the cluster has been successfully initialised, run the following commands:

\$ mkdir -p \$HOME/.kube

\$ sudo cp -i /etc/kubernetes/admin.conf \$HOME/.kube/config \$ sudo chown \$(id -u):\$(id -g) \$HOME/.kube/config

4.1.7.1 Setting up a pod network

There are a lot of plugins available that can be used as per the requirements. In this project, we have used a calico pod network as CNI.

Once the network is set up, we need to install and host the dashboard on localhost. Flannel is a overlay network whereas calico is an L3 network. The advantages in detail can be read from this medium Blog.

i) To install and set up a calico pod network, run the command:

 $\$ kubectl apply -f https://docs.projectcalico.org/v3.1/getting-started/kubernetes/installation/hosted/kubeadm/1.7/calico.yaml

ii) To install and set up flannel pod network, run the command:

\$ sudo kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/coreos/flannel/master/Documentation/kube-flannel.yml

Run kubectl get pods -o wide -all-namespaces to view all the running pods:

In case you face a CrashLoopBackOff error in running the coredns pods. Resolve the issue using the stackoverflow link https://stackoverflow.com/questions/53075796/coredns-pods-have-crashloopbackoff-or-error-state/53414041#53414041[17]

Once the network is set up, we need to install and host the dashboard on localhost.

4.1.7.2 Setting up and hosting the dashboard [15]

- i) For installation and hosting in localhost:
- $\$ kubectl create -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/kubernetes/dashboard/v1.8.3/src/deploy/recommended/kubernetes-dashboard.yaml
- ii) For Creating service account:
- \$ kubectl create serviceaccount dashboard -n default
- iii) To add cluster binding rules to the dashboard:
- \$ kubectl create clusterrolebinding dashboard-admin -n default
- --clusterrole=cluster-admin
- --serviceaccount=default:dashboard
- iv) To generate token for login
- \$ kubectl get secret \$(kubectl get serviceaccount dashboard

-o jsonpath=".secrets[0].name") -o jsonpath=".data.token" | base64 --decode

After the token is generated you can run the dashboard on localhost on port 8001(default). To bring up the dashboard run the command:

\$ kubectl proxy

Now you can visit the dashboard on the localhost:8001 at url:

http://localhost:8001/api/v1/namespaces/kube-system/services/https:kubernetes-dashboard:/proxy/

The dashboard can be accessed by entering the token generated. We can see the pods running, deployments, services and volumes created. We can also scale up and scale down the number of replicas.

4.1.7.3 Kubernetes commands for getting resource info

In order to get the complete details of the pods via command line run the command:

\$ kubectl get pods -o wide --all-namespaces

For viewing pods in default namespace run the command:

\$ kubectl get pods

Similarly for viewing deployments and services run the corresponding commands:

- \$ kubectl get deployments
- \$ kubectl get services

Once the cluster is set up, we can create deployments for the running in the cluster. We can expose these deployments to endpoints via services and to external traffic by creating an ingress network.

4.1.8 Kubernetes API Server

The Gateway to the Kubernetes cluster is the Kubernetes API server. It is a centralized system that is accessed by all users, automation, and components in the Kubernetes cluster. The API server implements a RESTful API over HTTP, performs all API operations, and is responsible for storing API objects into a tent storage backend.

4.1.8.1 Pieces of API Server

Kubernetes API server has three core functions:

• API management:

In API management process, APIs are exposed and managed by the server.

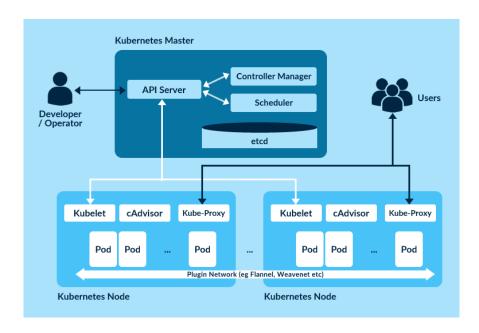


Figure 4.8: Kubernetes architecture [8]

• Request processing:

Request processing processes individual API requests from a client.

• Internal control loops:

Internal control loops has internals responsibilities for background operations necessary to the successful operation of the API server.

4.1.8.2 API Management [16]

The API server is an HTTP serverthus, every API request is an HTTP request. But the characteristics of those HTTP requests must be described so that the client and server know how to communicate. For the purposes of exploration, its great to have an API server actually up and running so that you can poke at it. You can either use an existing Kubernetes cluster that you have access to, or you can use the minikube tool for a local Kubernetes cluster. To make it easy to use the curl tool to explore the API server, run the kubectl tool in proxy mode to expose an unauthenticated API server on localhost:8001 using the following command:

\$ kubectl proxy

4.1.9 Request Management

The main aim of the API server is to receive and process API calls in the form of HTTP requests.

Type of request performed by the API server are as follows:

• GET

- LIST
- POST
- DELETE

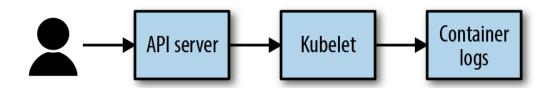


Figure 4.9: Request management [9]

4.1.10 ETCD

A key-value storage for kubernetes backing store for all cluster data.

4.1.11 Kube-Scheduler

If there is a newly created pod which is not allocated any node then Kube-Scheduler select a node for them to run.

4.1.12 Kube-Control-Manager

Kube-Control-Manager is a component on master that runs controllers. Each controller is a separate process but they are all merged.

These controllers include:

- Node controller: Responsible for noticing and responding when nodes go down.
- Replication controller: Responsible for maintaining the correct number of pods for every replication controller object in the system.
- Endpoints controller: Populates the Endpoints object (that is, joins Services & Pods).
- Service Account & Token Controllers: Create default accounts and API access tokens for new namespaces.

4.1.13 Converting docker-compose file to its Kubernetes equivalent

As we have docker-compose in docker we similarly have a kompose file with kubernetes. We can deploy a docker-compose created stack on a docker-swarm cluster.

4.1.13.1 Kompose

Kompose is tool provided by kubernetes which converts a docker-compose file into kompose files for providers like kubernetes and openshift. For each service in a compose file we have a deployment, service and persistent volume claim file in kompose. We can also create our persistent volume file is we require a persistent volume for our services.

Installing Kompose on Linux:

1. Download the latest release and install in the system:

 $\$ curl -L https://github.com/kubernetes/kompose/releases/download/v1.17.0/kompose-linux-amd64 -o kompose

2. Give executable permission and move the directory:

```
$ chmod +x kompose
$ sudo mv ./kompose /usr/local/bin/kompose
```

In order to convert the compose file into kompose run the command:

\$ kompose convert -f docker-compose.yml

In order to run yaml file in kubernetes we use the command:

\$ kubectl apply -f FILE_NAME.yaml

Kompose provides an easy solution for converting a docker-compose file into kompose. Docker-compose is an easy to write file whereas kompose files are a bit lengthy and it get a bit tedious to code. So kompose provides an easy alternative. The files provided by kompose does not have a 100% conversion rate but we can change files as per our requirements.

We have converted the docker-compose.yml and docker-compose-host.yml file in devstack to kompose file. We have created a PersistentVolume.yml for each service which creates a pool of space from where a persistentvolumeclaim can claim a volume for the pod. The kompose converts the file in kompose objects and then into kuebernetes objects and then into yaml or json output as per out requirements.

The persistent volumes present are created by admin so that a developer can attach a claim and use the volume for the pod.

4.1.13.2 Compose on Kubernetes

We also have a tool compose-on-kubernetes provided by docker which converts a docker-compose file into compose file. It is an open source tool and can be explored to check its accuracy and efficiency.(https://github.com/docker/compose-on-kubernetes.git)

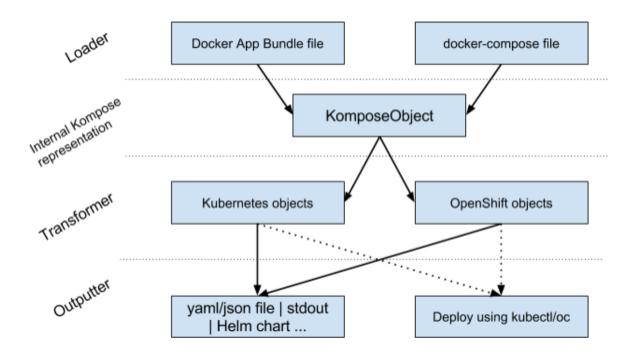


Figure 4.10: Kompose [10]

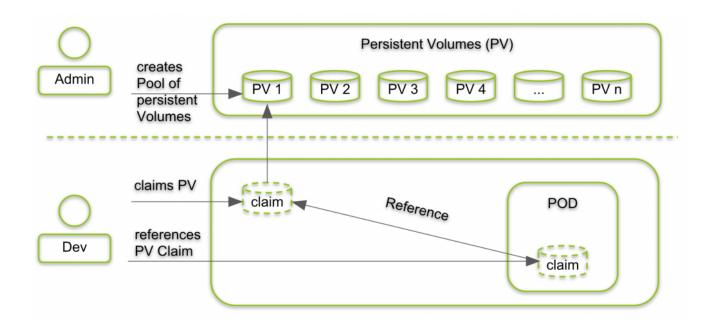


Figure 4.11: Persistent volumes [11]

Chapter 5

Our progress

5.1 Our progress

In this project, our aim was to deploy an instance of Open edX on a Kubernetes cluster.

5.1.1 Kubernetes cluster

At first, we set up a Kubernetes cluster as mentioned above with one master and three nodes.

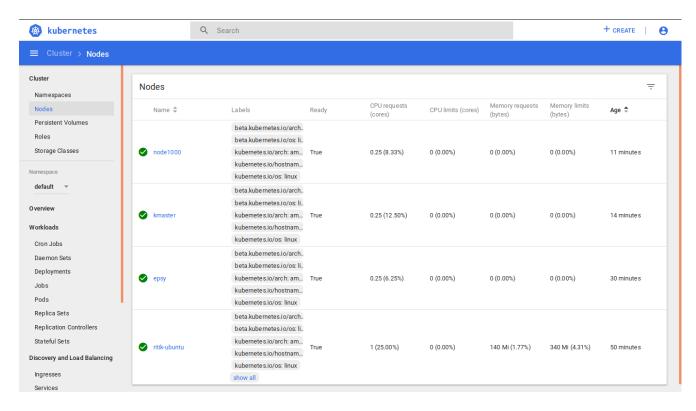


Figure 5.1: Nodes connected in a Kuberentes cluster

5.1.2 Kompose

We converted the docker-compose.yaml file for Open edX containers to multiple Kubernetes deployment files (YAML). But, since the conversion rate was not 100%, we had to create persistent volumes and claims for those volumes on our own.

The converted files can be found in the github repository: https://github.com/fresearchgroup/Configurable-and-Scalable-IITBombayX-MOOC-platform-on-Commodity-Servers/tree/master/kompose_files [18]

5.1.3 Persistent volumes and Persistent volume claims

We made YAML files to create persistent volumes and then attached each volume to a claim using its corresponding persistent-volume-claim.yaml file.

The persistent volume and claim files can be found in the github repository:

https://github.com/fresearchgroup/Configurable-and-Scalable-IITBombayX-MOOC-platform-on-Commodity-Servers/tree/master/host_volumes [19].

You need not create all the persistent volume and claim files manually, we have created a bash script **volumes.sh** in the same directory that does the job.

5.1.4 Kubernetes deployment

We then deployed all the 15 containers on the cluster. Kubernetes assigned the appropriate node (one among the two) for each container to run.

The gradebook and forum deployments were unsuccessful. But, those two are not necessary for running the bare minimum Open edX instance and hence can be removed:

5.1.5 Fault handling

We removed one node from the cluster and found out that Kubernetes deployed all the containers running on that node to the node that was still a part of the cluster.

The pods running in the cluster:

• Before deleting the node epsy:

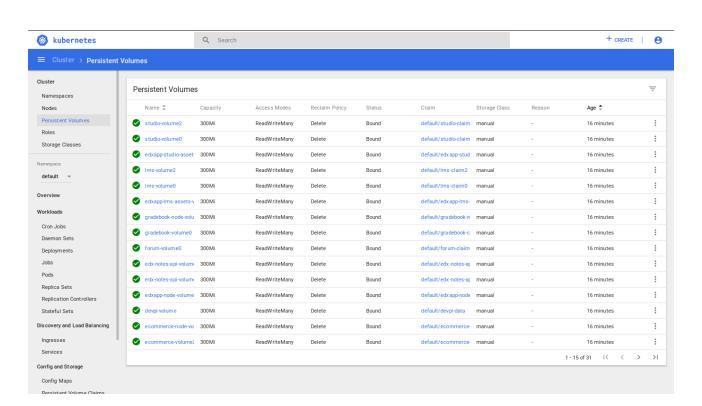


Figure 5.2: Persistent Volumes

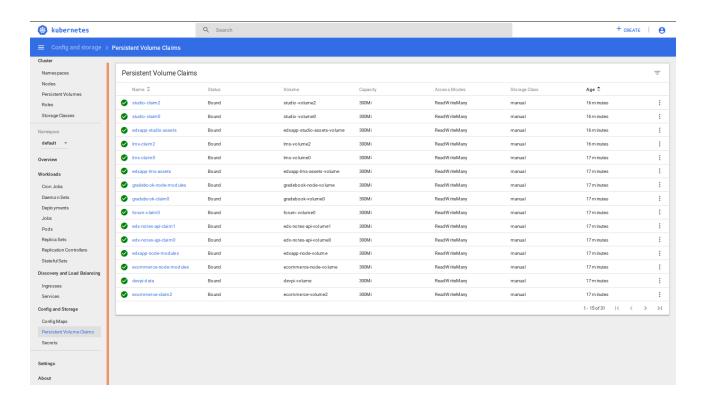


Figure 5.3: Persistent Volume Claims

Project: P3

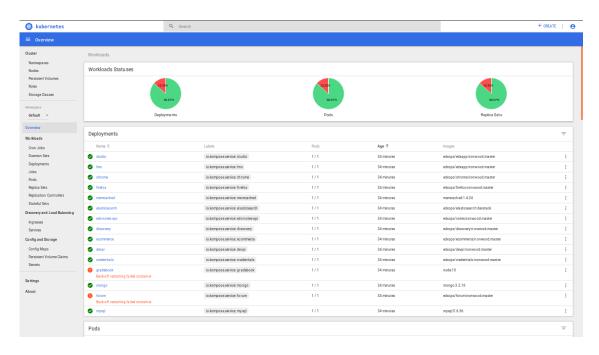


Figure 5.4: Kubernetes deployments

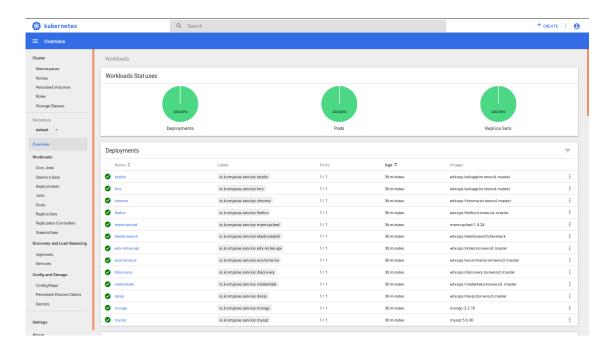


Figure 5.5: Kubernetes deployments after removing gradebook and forum

• After deleting the node epsy:

As we can see, the pods which were earlier running on the node epsy, now run on the remaining nodes after, their host node is deleted. This rescheduling of the pods is done automatically by Kubernetes once a node goes down. The reshudiling takes very less time as is clear from the image (15-16 seconds in this case).

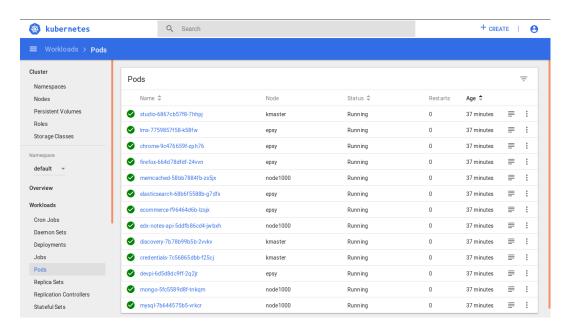


Figure 5.6: Pods running before deleting a node

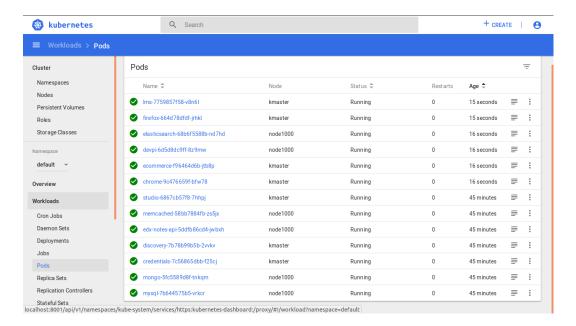


Figure 5.7: Pods running after deleting the node

5.1.6 Provisioning

The file provision in the devstack directory has the commands and links to the files that are to be executed for provisioning and migration of databases. Those are simply docker commands. Since, our containers are running on a Kubernetes cluster, we used the **kubectl exec** in place of **docker exec** to run commands inside the containers. But we faced an internet connectivity issue for the pods:

The containers running inside the Kubernetes cluster were not able to connect to the internet

Commands those were to be executed inside a container and required internet access failed, as containers were not able to connect to the internet.

Suggested resolutions:

These are some methods that may solve this issue (due to lack of time, we were not able to try them properly and anyone taking up this project from here on can try these methods):

- On further research, we found out that the internet connectivity problem of the containers was probably due to some issue in the DNS resolution. This can be further looked up using this link: https://blog.yaakov.online/kubernetes-getting-pods-to-talk-to-the-internet/[20]
- We can mention the commands that are to be executed inside a containere inside its deployment file itself. This is probably a better way than the above one as here the commands will be executed inside any new container that is created through that deployment file. This can be done by using **command** and **args** fields in the deployment file.
- If we have an already running instance of Open edX devstack version on a machine, then we can use the command **docker commit** to create a new image that reflects the changes made on the container while provisioning and then use the new image for deployment purpose in our Kubernetes cluster.

Chapter 6

Performance Testing Open edX Ironwood Release

Given a certain load, Performance Testing allows us to determine and examine non-functional parameters like speed and stability of an application.

6.1 Tools used for Performance Testing

JMeter is a popular tool used for performance testing. Apart from being an open-source software, JMeter is purely written in Java and hence, is platform independent. Also, it provides a GUI to easily set up a test plan. This, combined with the support for a full multithreading framework and the ability to test a wide range of protocols and applications, makes it a very good tool for performance testing.

One can install JMeter by downloading the required binaries from https://jmeter.apache.org/download_jmeter.cgi.

6.2 JMeter Test Scripts

A JMeter test script is a collection of user activities that have been pre-recorded using a proxy. These scripts are stored in the XML format with .jmx extension.

The test script can be recorded as follows:[21]

- 1. Firstly, create a new test plan. A test plan describes what JMeter should do when we run a test script.
- 2. Next, right-click on the newly created test plan and add a thread group. (Add->Threads (Users)->Thread Group) A thread group is used to simulate users for testing an application.
- 3. Add an instance of the HTTP(S) Test Script Recorder via the add sub-menu accessed by right-clicking on the test plan. (Add->Non-Test Elements->HTTP(S) Test Script Recorder)
- 4. In the recorder instance created in the previous step, set the Target Controller field to the newly created Thread Group. This field can be accessed in the Test Plan Creation tab.

- 5. Thereafter, configure the port field to an unused port on your system.
- 6. We must instruct the recorder to bypass recording the loading of static elements like images. To do this, go to the request tab in the recorder instance created earlier, and click on the Add Suggested Excludes button to add default static files' extensions. This can be modified as per convenience.
- 7. Since a user may pause for a while between successive requests, the need to add think time to our test script is evident. JMeter provides various timers. We will use a Uniform Random Timer here, which can be added to the HTTP(S) Test Script Recorder instance. With each timer, we associate some parameters. For a Uniform Random Timer, these are Random Delay Maximum and Constant Delay Offset. This timer samples a point from a Uniform Probability Distribution such that it lies between 0 and the Random Delay Maximum value. Thereafter, it adds the Constant Delay Offset to it. To modify the Constant Delay Offset value, use \${T} in the corresponding field.
- 8. JMeter would now act as an HTTP proxy and would listen to all the incoming and outgoing requests on the configured port.
- 9. Now, we configure the proxy settings in the browser to send requests to the JMeter proxy.
- 10. Click on the Start button available in the State tab in the recorder instance to start the recording.
- 11. Note that the JMeter Root CA certificate must be installed in the web browser to record encrypted web requests.
- 12. To do this, go to the bin directory in the JMeter directory to locate the file named ApacheJMeterTemporaryRootCA, and install it in the system as well as the browser being used for recording the test script. In Firefox, for example, one needs to go to the options page, move to the Privacy and Security tab, click on the View Certificates button, and then click on the Import button to add the JMeter's self-signed certificate.
- 13. Once the recording starts, execute the test scenario.
- 14. Thereafter, click on the Stop button in the Transaction Controller to stop the recording.

6.3 Viewing JMeter Test Results using Listeners

JMeter listeners enable us to view and analyze the test results in graphical or tabular form. Some of these are:

• View Result Tree: This listener allows us to view a tree of samples' responses with their response codes. Furthermore, the response of each sample is shown separately.

• Summary and Aggregate Report: These listeners give an abridged view of information like Request Count, Average, Median, Min, Max, 90% Line, Error Rate, Throughput, Requests/second, and KB/sec for each uniquely named sample in the test plan. For low memory consumption, the Summary Report listener can be a good alternative.

Due to insufficient Java Heap Space, a test plan execution may result in JMeter giving an Out of Memory error. To resolve this, edit the jmeter.bat (for Windows) or jmeter.sh (for Linux) files and update the JVM_ARGS parameter accordingly.

6.4 Test Scenario

Our test scenario is as follows:

- 1. The user registers on the website.
- 2. The user views a list of available courses.
- 3. The user chooses a test course.
- 4. The user enrolls in the chosen course.
- 5. The user views the chosen course's dashboard.
- 6. The user chooses the quiz modules.
- 7. The user attempts the quiz.
- 8. The user submits the quiz responses for evaluation.

We had used this scenario since it involves all the activities that can be performed by a user on a course page.

6.5 Testing Open edX Native Installation

6.5.1 System Configurations

Here are the details of the hardware and software configuration of the application under test and the client machine that has been used to generate load.

6.5.2 Load Generator System Details

- Operating System: Windows 10 Home 64-bit
- RAM: 8GB
- Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-7200U CPU @ 2.50GHz x 2 Cores

6.5.3 Server Configuration

• Operating System: Ubuntu 16.04.6 LTS

• RAM: 7.61 GB

 \bullet Processor: Intel Common KVM Processor @ 2.095 MHz x 2

6.5.4 Test Details

• Duration: 1 Hour

• Virtual Connections: 100

6.5.5 Test Results

The application under test could handle 100 users for the specified server configuration under the current test setup. Furthermore, the test fails for around 120-130 users.

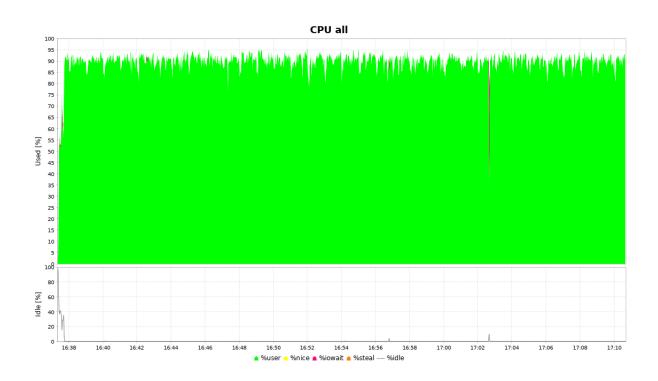


Figure 6.1: SAR CPU Metrics



Figure 6.2: SAR Memory Metrics

```
user@vm5: ~
                                                                             top - 16:51:42 up 21 days, 4:31, 3 users,
                                              load average: 9.54, 9.07,
Tasks: 271 total, 10 running, 247 sleeping,
%Cpu(s): 82.8 us, 16.7 sy, 0.0 ni, 0.0 id,
                                                4 stopped,
                                                             10 zombie
                                               0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.5 si,
KiB Mem : 7980484 total,
                             261864 free, 6412868 used, 1305752 buff/cache
KiB Swap: 12095168 total, 10978504 free,
                                           1116664 used. 1136932 avail Mem
26792 www-data
                20
                     0
                        896384 345860
                                        28852 R
                                                  19.2 4.3
                                                             15:16.88 gunicorn
26782 www-data
                20
                     0
                        893764 343372
                                         28852 R
                                                  20.2
                                                       4.3
                                                             15:42.80 gunicorn
26787 www-data
                20
                     0
                        889652 338624
                                         28852 R
                                                  18.5
                                                       4.2
                                                             15:51.95 gunicorn
                        895392 344844
26780 www-data
                20
                     Θ
                                         28852 R
                                                  18.2
                                                       4.3
                                                             15:49.69 gunicorn
26790 www-data
                20
                     Θ
                        902700 352196
                                         28852 R
                                                  17.5
                                                       4.4
                                                             15:42.94 gunicorn
26792 www-data
                20
                     0
                        892656 342260
                                        28852 R
                                                  17.2
                                                       4.3
                                                             15:43.72 gunicorn
26784 www-data
                20
                     0
                        896768 346268
                                        28852 S
                                                  16.6
                                                             15:51.71 gunicorn
                                                        4.3
26785 www-data
                20
                     0
                        902400 352040
                                         28852 S
                                                  15.9
                                                             15:45.63 gunicorn
                                                        4.4
                     0
                        892696 342324
                                        28852 R
                                                  15.6 4.3
26788 www-data
                20
                                                             15:49.36 gunicorn
                     0
                         764460 261432
                                         7444 R
                                                   9.6 3.3
                                                              3:31.59 python
26702 www-data
                20
 588 root
                     0
                                         7656 S
                20
                         44620
                                10880
                                                   6.0 0.1
                                                             15:32.39 systemd-jo+
                     0 1454928
                                         7152 S
                                                   5.6 1.1
                                                             50:55.92 mysqld
                20
                                 89572
4287 mysql
                                         2464 S
32214 postfix
                20
                     0
                         68368
                                                   5.3 0.0
                                                              0:19.58 qmgr
                                  3476
                                         4260 S
                                                   4.3 0.6 634:59.51 beam.smp
                20
                     0 1196576
                                 50380
9837 rabbitmq
                                         1636 S
22415 syslog
                     0 258448
                                                   1.7
                                                              3:58.58 rsyslogd
                20
                                  3000
                                                        0.0
                                         2004 S
                     0
                         65408
                20
                                  2132
                                                        0.0
                                                              0:28.91 master
32212 root
                                                   1.7
                                         8552 S
3811 mongodb
                20
                     0
                        844480
                                 65388
                                                   1.3 0.8 245:08.40 mongod
                                            0 S
                                                   1.0
                                                      0.0
 528 root
                20
                     0
                             0
                                     0
                                                              2:28.88 jbd2/sda1-8
                     0
                        357064
                                         1772 S
1158 memcache
                20
                                 16316
                                                   1.0
                                                       0.2
                                                              3:55.02 memcached
                     0
                                         3040 R
17560 user
                20
                         40656
                                  3808
                                                   0.7
                                                        0.0
                                                              0:04.04 top
                     0
21788 postfix
                20
                          67884
                                  4404
                                         3944 S
                                                   0.7
                                                        0.1
                                                              0:00.05 trivial-re+
                     0
                                         3968 S
22863 postfix
                20
                         67904
                                  4420
                                                   0.7
                                                        0.1
                                                              0:00.02 bounce
                         754596 235548
                                         6460 S
23279 www-data
                20
                     0
                                                   0.7
                                                        3.0
                                                             15:09.45 python
                     0
                                            0 S
    7 root
                20
                              0
                                     0
                                                   0.3
                                                        0.0
                                                             31:11.21 rcu sched
```

Figure 6.3: A look at the top command, 15 minutes into the test. Guincorn, which is a Python Web Server Gateway Interface HTTP Server, takes up most of the CPU resources.

user@vm5: ~

-	17:07:25	up 2	21 da	ays, 4:4	16, 3ι	load average: 9.82, 9.39, 8.78							
3	265 tota	1,	11 r	unning,	240 sle	eping,		4 stop	ped,	10 zombie	2		
1(2	s): 91.6 u	s,	7.6	sy, 0.6	9 ni, 6	.0 id,	6	0.0 wa,	0.6	hi, 0.8	si, 0.0 st		
Me	em : 7980	484	tota	1, 248	3276 fre	e, 640	1 01	1 <mark>76</mark> use	ed, 1	1332 <mark>0</mark> 32 but	ff/cache		
S١	vap: 12095	168	tota	al, 1097	3708 fre	e, 112	214	1 <mark>60</mark> use	ed. 1145236 avail Mem				
D	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND		
37	www-data	20	0	888308	337612	28852	R	20.8	4.2	18:58.67	gunicorn		
32	www-data	20	0	897240	346720	28852	R	20.1	4.3		gunicorn		
12	www-data	20	0	900888	350140	28852	R	20.1	4.4		gunicorn		
35	www-data	20	0	892708	342348	28852	R	19.8	4.3	18:51.86	gunicorn		
88	www-data	20	0	890700	340120	28852	R	19.8	4.3				
34	www-data	20	0	899836	349336	28852	R	19.5	4.4	18:57.57	gunicorn		
90	www-data	20	0	897292	346788	28852	R	19.5	4.3				
80	www-data	20	0	893088	342588	28852	R	19.1	4.3	18:56.01	gunicorn		
	www-data	20	0	764460	261432	7444	S	15.5	3.3	4:27.98			
37	mysql	20	0	1454928	92788	7152	S		1.2	52:18.81	mysqld		
37	rabbitmq	20	0	1201712	50420	4260	S	5.0	0.6	635:36.14	beam.smp		
8	memcache	20	0	357064	16316	1772	S		0.2	4:12.86	memcached		
.1	mongodb	20	0	844480	65396	8552	R	1.3	0.8	245:23.31	mongod		
8.	www-data	20	0	35244	6140	2924	S	1.3	0.1	0:25.32	nginx		
88	root	20	0	44620	12200	8976	S	0.7	0.2	15:42.19	systemd-journal		
.7	www-data	20	0	35144	6172	2944	S	0.7	0.1	0:19.52	nginx		
9	user	20	0	40792	3808	3040	R	0.7	0.0	0:08.93	top		
8	www-data	20	0	754504	233680	5932	S	0.7	2.9				
9	www-data	20	0			6460		0.7	3.0				
15	www-data	20	0	391748	67632	5312	S	0.7	0.8	0:29.19	ruby		
	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.3	0.0		ksoftirqd/1		
.6	www-data		0	34840	5496	2912		0.3	0.1		0		
	www-data	20	0	60888	10224	4084		0.3	0.1		supervisord		
31	elastic+	20	0	3054468	267640	8800	S	0.3	3.4	133:13.75	java		
8	user	20	0	9712	1120	1028		0.3	0.0				
	user	20	0	9712	1076	984	S	0.3	0.0	0:01.22	sadc		
13	www-data	20	0	332616	46388	8700	S	0.3	0.6	0:23.85	python		

Figure 6.4: A look at the top command, 30 minutes into the test. Guincorn, which is a Python Web Server Gateway Interface HTTP Server, takes up most of the CPU resources.

1													
CA. US	er@vm5: ~												
top -	17:22:23	up 2	21 da	ays, 5:0	91, 3ι	ısers,	10	ad ave	rage	9.78, 9.2	25, 9.02		
Tasks	: 248 tota	1,	8 r	running,	226 sle	eping,		4 stop	peď,	10 zombie	2		
											si, 0.0 st		
KiB Me	em : 7980	484	tota	al, 270	5 <mark>760</mark> fre	e, 639	936	76 use	d, 1	131 <mark>0648</mark> but	ff/cache		
KiB Sı	wap: 120 95	168	tota	al, 10960	5484 fre	e, 112	286	84 use	d. 1	l 152376 ava	ail Mem		
	PID USER PR NI VIRT RES SHR S %CPU %MEM TIME+ COMMAND												
		PR	NI	VIRT	RES								
	www-data	20	0		340532	28852		21.9	4.3	21:53.62			
	www-data	20	0		350580	28852		21.2	4.4	21:57.39			
	www-data	20	0		343908	28852		19.9	4.3	21:54.26			
	www-data	20	0		350504	28852		19.9	4.4	21:47.64			
	www-data	20	0		341976	28852			4.3	21:54.85	0		
	www-data	20	0		344792	28852			4.3	21:48.39			
	www-data	20	0		348328			19.2	4.4	21:49.21			
	www-data	20	0		345860			17.5	4.3	21:48.21			
	www-data	20	0		261432			8.9	3.3	5:19.16			
	mysql	20		1454928	96752			5.3	1.2				
	rabbitmq	20		1194008	50508			2.3		636:10.45			
	memcache	20	0	357064	16316	1772			0.2		memcached		
	root	20	0	44620	5868	2644			0.1		systemd-journal		
	mongodb	20	0	844480		8544				245:37.50			
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.3	0.0		ksoftirqd/0		
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.3	0.0		rcu_sched		
	www-data	20	0	35144	6172	2944		0.3	0.1				
	www-data	20	0	34508	5256	2924		0.3	0.1				
	www-data	20	0	60888	10224	4084		0.3	0.1		supervisord		
	elastic+	20		3054468		8892		0.3		133:19.38			
17560		20	0	40792	3808	3040		0.3	0.0	0:13.29			
	www-data	20	0		221024	6004		0.3	2.8	14:56.83			
	www-data	20	0		235440	6460		0.3	3.0	15:19.25			
	www-data	20	0	204836	28576	3244		0.3	0.4	1:37.23			
	root	20	0	37984	4988	3176		0.0	0.1				
	root	20 a	9	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kthreadd		
5	root	1	- 20	А	а	8	5	a a	а а	и и и ии	kworker/0.0H		

Figure 6.5: A look at the top command, 45 minutes into the test. Guincorn, which is a Python Web Server Gateway Interface HTTP Server, takes up most of the CPU resources.

user@vm5: ~

top - 17:37:10 up 21 days, 5:16, 3 users, load average: 9.21, 9.08, 9.08
Tasks: 268 total, 9 running, 245 sleeping, 4 stopped, 10 zombie
%Cpu(s): 66.7 us, 33.3 sy, 0.0 ni, 0.0 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
KiB Mem : 7980484 total, 266332 free, 6406588 used, 1307564 buff/cache
KiB Swap: 12095168 total, 10946316 free, 1148852 used. 1142048 avail Mem

PID	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND
17560	user	20	0	40792	3808	3040	R	66.7	0.0	0:17.63	top
14187	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	33.3	0.0	0:00.06	kworker/u4:1
24542	www-data	20	0	391848	67788	5312	R	33.3	0.8	0:37.59	ruby
26785	www-data	20	0	897916	347428	28852	R	33.3	4.4	24:45.57	gunicorn
26792	www-data	20	0	900376	349852	28852	R	33.3	4.4		gunicorn
1	root	20	0	37984	4988	3176	S	0.0	0.1	16:04.20	systemd
2	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:01.20	kthreadd
3	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	1:49.15	ksoftirqd/0
5	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kworker/0:0H
7	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		rcu_sched
8	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	rcu_bh
9	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:27.82	migration/0
10	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:09.01	watchdog/0
11	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:06.91	watchdog/1
12	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:28.15	migration/1
13	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	2:13.84	ksoftirqd/1
15	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kworker/1:0H
16	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kdevtmpfs
17	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	netns
18	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
19	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:04.79	khungtaskd
20	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	writeback
21	root	25	5	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	ksmd
23	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
24	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		kintegrityd
25	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	bioset
26	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kblockd

Figure 6.6: A look at the top command, 60 minutes into the test. Guincorn, which is a Python Web Server Gateway Interface HTTP Server, takes up most of the CPU resources.

6.6 Testing Open edX Developer Stack (Devstack)

6.6.1 System Configurations

Here are the details of the hardware and software configuration of the application under test and the client machine that has been used to generate load.

6.6.2 Load Generator System Details

• Operating System: Windows 10 Home 64-bit

• RAM: 8GB

• Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-7200U CPU @ 2.50GHz x 2 Cores

6.6.3 Server Configuration

• Operating System: Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS

• RAM: 7.61 GB

• Processor: Intel Common KVM Processor @ 2.095 MHz x 2

6.6.4 Test Details

• Duration: 1 Hour

• Virtual Connections: 10

6.6.5 Test Results

The application under test could handle 10 users for the specified server configuration under the current test setup. Furthermore, the test fails for around 15-20 users.

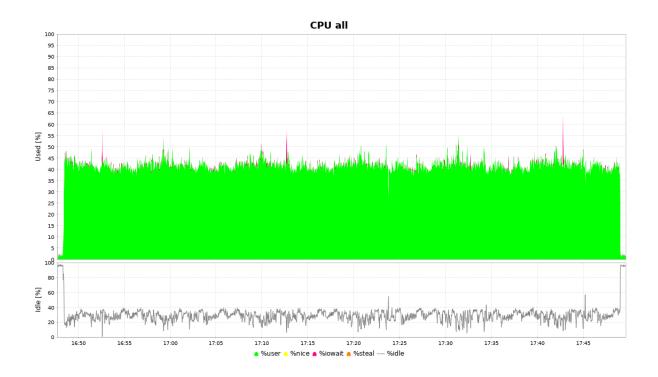


Figure 6.7: SAR CPU Metrics

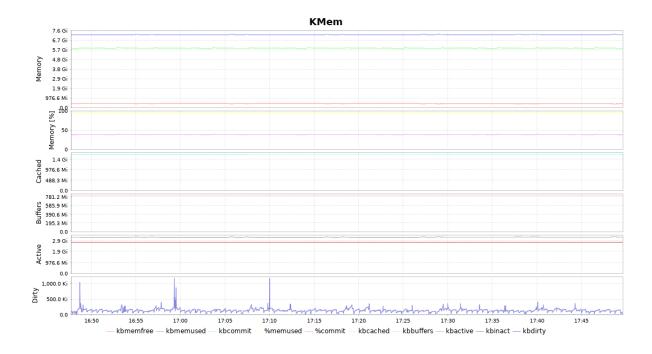


Figure 6.8: SAR Memory Metrics

							T			2.40, 3.3	31, 3.70
Tasks	: 193	total,	1 r	unning,	192 sle	eping,		0 stop	ped,	0 zombie	9
%Cpu(s): 38) hi, 0.5	
KiB M	em :	7980484			5856 fre			224 use		3933404 but	
KiB S	wap:	8188924	tota	11, 8111	1528 fre	ee,	773	396 use	d. 3	3908028 ava	ail Mem
PID	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND
24635	root	20	0	2002208	792816			144.2	9.9	903:21.15	python
10424	root	20	0	246688	47964	3880		5.6		994:33.08	
8471	999	20	0	1821340	618596	14260	S	0.7	7.8	24:14.04	
13545	user	20	0	40544	3688	3000	R	0.7	0.0	0:07.95	
8194	999	20	0	235136	55756	22364	S	0.3	0.7	111:37.82	mongod
9297	user	20	0	113380	8156	1016	S	0.3	0.1	17:06.17	x11vnc
12907	user	20	0	9712	1072	984	S	0.3	0.0	0:03.64	sadc
12908	user	20	0	9712	1040	948	S	0.3	0.0	0:03.55	sadc
14291	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.3	0.0	0:00.18	kworker/u4:2
23800	root	20	0	582060	80820	8736		0.3	1.0	5:21.01	ruby
1	root	20	0	37996	5508	3484	S	0.0	0.1	0:33.67	systemd
2	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:01.61	kthreadd
3	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:09.30	ksoftirqd/0
5	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kworker/0:0H
7	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		rcu_sched
8	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	rcu bh
9	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.40	migration/0
10	root	rt	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		watchdog/0
	root	rt	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		watchdog/1
	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.43	migration/1
	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		ksoftirqd/1
15	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		kworker/1:0H
16	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kdevtmpfs
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	0	-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		khungtaskd
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		writeback
	root	25	5	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	39	19	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		khugepaged
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kintegrityd
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		devfreq_wq
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kswapd0
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		fsnotify_mark
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		ecryptfs-kthr
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kthrotld
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		acpi_thermal_
54	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	9:12.81	vballoon

Figure 6.9: A look at the top command, 15 minutes into the test. Python takes up most of the CPU Resources.

<u>⊯</u> user	w۷II14: ^	-									
top -	17:09	9:54 up 2	24 da	ays, 4:5	52, 3 ı	isers,	10	ad ave	rage	2.94, 2.9	96, 3.17
										0 zombie	
											si, 0.2 st
KiB M	em :	7980484	tota	al, 420	578 4 fre	ee, 362	223	20 use	d, 3	3931380 but	ff/cache
KiB S	wap:	8188924	tota	al, 8111	1528 fre	ee,	773	896 use	d. 3	3926660 ava	ail Mem
PID	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR		%CPU			COMMAND
24635		20	0	2027308				154.5		860:16.23	
10424		20	0	246688	47964	3880		5.3		992:58.04	
8471		20		1821340				1.3		23:54.23	
8194		20	0	235136	55756	22364		1.0		111:27.16	
23800		20	0	582060	80780	8736		1.0	1.0	5:19.02	_
12609		20		1250640	74704	28700		0.7	0.9	38:02.80	
	_apt	20		3586204		6576		0.3		70:34.91	
	root	20		1516272	52280	3940		0.3			devpi-server
	user	20	0	113380	8156	1016		0.3		17:04.56	
	user root	20 20	0	4507544 10732	51996 4548	8396 3708		0.3	0.7		containerd-shim
	root	20	0	9324	4088	3328		0.3	0.1		containerd-shim
13006		20	0	92828	4344	3384		0.3	0.1	0:00.66	
13466		20	0	0	0		S	0.3	0.0		kworker/u4:0
13545		20	0	40544	3688	3000		0.3	0.0	0:00.44	
24272		20	0	11788	5284	4128		0.3	0.1		containerd-shim
	root	20	0	37996	5508	3484		0.0	0.1		systemd
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kthreadd
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		ksoftirqd/0
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kworker/0:0H
	root	20	0	0	0		R	0.0	0.0		rcu sched
8	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	rcu bh
9	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.40	migration/0
10	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:10.46	watchdog/0
	root	rt	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0		watchdog/1
12	root	rt	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		migration/1
	root		0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		ksoftirqd/1
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kworker/1:0H
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kdevtmpfs
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	_
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		khungtaskd
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		writeback
	root	25	5	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	39		0	0		S	0.0	0.0		khugepaged
	root root		-20 -20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	crypto kintegrityd
	root		-20 -20	0	0		១	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20 -20	0	0		ន	0.0	0.0		kblockd
	root		-20 -20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		ata sff
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		devfreq wq
	root	20	0	0	0		S	0.0	0.0		kswapd0

Figure 6.10: A look at the top command, 30 minutes into the test. Python takes up most of the CPU Resources.

usero	۳۷II14: ^										
top -	17:17	7:12 up 2	2.4 da	evs. 5:0	00. 3 u	sers.	10	ad ave	rage	3.51, 3.7	73. 3.49
										0 zombie	
											si, 0.2 st
										3931592 but	
		8188924			1528 fre					3926584 ava	
KID S	wap.	0100524		AI, UII.	1320 110	,	1.	750 usc	.u	3320304 ave	III FICH
PID	USER	PR		VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU			COMMAND
24635	root	20	0	2002208	774064	27348	S	155.6	9.7	871:04.43	python
10424	root	20	0	246688	47964	3880	S	3.6	0.6	993:21.69	python
8471	999	20	0	1821340	618596	14260	S	1.0	7.8	23:59.09	mysqld
13545	user	20	0	40544	3688	3000	R	1.0	0.0	0:02.31	top
8194	999	20	0	235136	55756	22364	S	0.7	0.7	111:29.74	mongod
8120	apt	20	0	3586204	300052	6576	S	0.3	3.8	70:36.58	java
8499	root	20	0	1516272	52280	3940	S	0.3	0.7	39:37.93	devpi-server
9204	user	20	0	235164	32884	6776	S	0.3	0.4	5:25.95	Xvfb
10772	root	20	0	363008	124224	10876	S	0.3	1.6	4:51.07	
11215		20		1388940		24908		0.3	3.8	5:09.84	
12609		20		1250640		28700		0.3	0.9	38:03.85	
12904		20		4468	756	684		0.3	0.0	0:00.22	
12907		20		9712		984		0.3	0.0	0:02.14	
12909		20		9712		936		0.3	0.0	0:02.26	
	root	20		37996		3484		0.0	0.1		systemd
	root	20		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kthreadd
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		ksoftirqd/0
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kworker/0:0H
	root	20		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		rcu sched
	root	20		0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	_
	root	rt		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		migration/0
	root	rt		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		watchdog/0
	root	rt		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		watchdog/1
	root	rt		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		migration/1
	root	20		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		ksoftirqd/1
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kworker/1:0H
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kdevtmpfs
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root	20		0	0	0		0.0	0.0		khungtaskd
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		writeback
	root	25		0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		19	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		khugepaged
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20 -20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kintegrityd
	root		-20 -20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root				0			0.0	0.0		kblockd
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		ata_sff
	root		-20	0	0			0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		devfreq_wq
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0		kswapd0
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00	
35	root	20	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	0.0	0:00.06	fsnotify mark

Figure 6.11: A look at the top command, 45 minutes into the test. Python takes up most of the CPU Resources.

∰ user(@vm4: ~									
										: 2.80, 3.56, 3.67
				running,						
										0 hi, 0.3 si, 0.2 st
										3932440 buff/cache
KiB Sv	vap:	8188924	tota	al, 811	1528 fre	e,	773	96 use	d. 3	38 62784 avail Mem
	USER	PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR		%CPU		TIME+ COMMAND
24635		20		2040860						888:27.41 python
10424		20	0	246688	47964	3880				993:59.95 python
23800		20	0	582060	80808	8736		2.3	1.0	5:20.24 ruby
8194		20	0	235136	55756	22364		1.0		111:34.03 mongod
8471		20		1821340		14260		1.0	7.8	
13765		20	0	0	0	0		0.7	0.0	
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.3	0.0	9:54.95 rcu_sched
	_apt	20		3586204		6576		0.3	3.8	
	root user	20		1516272	52280	3940		0.3	0.7	39:39.43 devpi-server
		20	0	113380	8156	1016		0.3	0.1	17:05.60 x11vnc
12 4 95 12907		20 20	0	1094968 9712	20904 1072	3108 98 4		0.3	0.3	8:23.09 containerd 0:02.95 sadc
12907		20	0	9712	1072	948		0.3	0.0	0:02.93 Sadc 0:02.84 sadc
12909		20	0	9712	1040	936		0.3	0.0	0:02.04 Sadc 0:03.17 sadc
13006		20	0	92828	4344	3384		0.3	0.1	0:01.73 sshd
13545		20	0	40544	3688	3000		0.3	0.0	0:05.42 top
24272		20	0	11788	5252	4128		0.3	0.1	2:27.56 containerd-shim
	root	20	0	37996	5508	3484		0.0	0.1	0:33.66 systemd
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:01.61 kthreadd
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:09.26 ksoftirgd/0
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 kworker/0:0H
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 rcu bh
	root	rt	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.40 migration/0
	root	rt	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:10.47 watchdog/0
	root	rt	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:08.50 watchdog/1
	root	rt	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.43 migration/1
	root	20	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:26.96 ksoftirgd/1
15	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 kworker/1:0H
	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 kdevtmpfs
17	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 netns
18	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 perf
19	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:12.68 khungtaskd
20	root	0	-20	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 writeback
21	root	25	5	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 ksmd
22	root	39	19	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:14.45 khugepaged
23	root		-20	0	0		S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00 crypto
24	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 kintegrityd
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 bioset
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 kblockd
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 ata_sff
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 md
	root		-20	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0:00.00 devfreq_wq
33	root	20	0	0	0	0	S	0.0	0.0	0:16.93 kswapd0

Figure 6.12: A look at the top command, 60 minutes into the test. Python takes up most of the CPU Resources.

Label	# Samples	Average	Min	Max	Std. Dev.	Error %	Throughput	Received	Sent	Avg. Bytes
309 /	467	31471	26	74382	17594.29	0.00%	0.23709	1.61	0.43	6940.9
313 /register	462	17669	105	44435	8535.64	0.00%	0.23664	2.72	0.24	11763.9
324 /user_api/v1/account/registrati	458	17503	264	44034	7988.56	0.00%	0.24067	0.33	0.32	1388.8
325 /	458	33225	204	78036	14456.6	0.00%	0.23193	1.49	0.56	6578.9
326 /dashboard	453	17476	164	44284	7792.17	0.00%	0.23172	1.35	0.27	5981.9
336 /courses	449	17407	120	43568	7644.5	0.00%	0.23766	1.17	0.28	5020.4
340 /search/course_discovery/	449	16704	56	41720	7587.38	0.00%	0.23471	0.51	0.32	2238.8
344 /courses/course-v1:edX+Demo	443	19313	402	45575	7937.03	0.00%	0.22953	1.42	0.28	6354.3
350 /change_enrollment	440	19322	142	44096	7636.84	0.00%	0.23375	0.1	0.32	419
351 /dashboard	440	19306	461	42813	7222.98	0.00%	0.23015	1.57	0.28	6966
353 /courses/course-v1:edX+Dem	440	22947	4222	49514	7467.51	0.00%	0.22494	2.35	0.27	10684.9
368 /event	440	21945	927	44781	8474.88	0.00%	0.22253	0.09	0.34	426
458 /event	440	23692	1978	44132	8519.23	0.00%	0.22127	0.09	0.39	426
459 /courses/course-v1:edX+Demo	435	58331	17509	92077	16739.07	0.00%	0.21711	17.52	0.6	82614.2
460 /courses/course-v1:edX+Dem	416	33240	12588	53849	8958.8	0.00%	0.21116	16.87	0.3	81815.5
498 /courses/course-v1:edX+Demo	387	24169	8809	44520	8902.71	0.00%	0.20016	0.16	0.3	811.3
501 /event	374	22862	8273	43750	8182.27	0.00%	0.19608	0.08	0.4	426
502 /courses/course-v1:edX+Demo	364	24479	11310	44928	9034.08	0.00%	0.19425	0.48	0.36	2523
503 /event	359	21414	10118	41553	7664.61	0.00%	0.19473	0.08	3.03	426
TOTAL	8174	24316	26	92077	13799.58	0.00%	4.01031	48.37	8.7	12350.4

Figure 6.13: JMeter Summary Report for Open edX Native.

Label	# Samples	Average	Min	Max	Std. Dev.	Error %	Throughput	Received	Sent	Avg. Bytes
505 /	60	45720	65	67966	21874.03	0.00%	0.01887	0.58	0.07	31202.7
572 /register	60	41969	315	54448	17739.53	0.00%	0.01859	0.7	0.11	38549.2
606 /user_api/v1/account/regist	60	12049	3183	16794	2432.88	0.00%	0.01849	0.05	0.04	2516.6
607 /	60	30228	27788	34045	1268.76	0.00%	0.01833	0.5	0.08	27842
608 /dashboard	60	30258	28003	33901	1294.17	0.00%	0.01834	0.49	0.04	27328.9
620 /courses	60	11264	3047	17583	3377.43	0.00%	0.01848	0.45	0.04	24769
623 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	60	39603	30718	49094	3607.05	0.00%	0.01828	0.52	0.04	29282.2
630 /change_enrollment	60	1884	750	3192	546.91	0.00%	0.01849	0.01	0.05	443
631 /dashboard	60	50971	35640	61853	6081.16	0.00%	0.01827	0.57	0.04	32168.1
634 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	60	80800	63578	95378	8477.24	0.00%	0.01809	1.54	0.04	86914.9
650 /event	60	647	247	1453	301.12	0.00%	0.01848	0.01	0.05	450
701 /event	60	676	222	1745	306.8	0.00%	0.01848	0.01	0.05	450
702 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	60	131800	126434	138025	2369.1	0.00%	0.01779	9.31	0.09	535781.9
739 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	50	100446	90343	115660	7293.53	0.00%	0.01845	9.64	0.05	535058.8
814 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	50	3417	1213	6092	1063.3	0.00%	0.01913	0.05	0.05	2721.9
817 /event	50	563	180	1147	230.95	0.00%	0.01916	0.01	0.06	450
818 /courses/course-v1:edX+De	50	7637	3211	12106	1912.21	0.00%	0.0191	0.21	0.06	11332
819 /event	50	776	277	1475	291	0.00%	0.01914	0.01	0.32	450
TOTAL	1030	33315	65	138025	37722.73	0.00%	0.28285	20.85	1.05	75497.6

Figure 6.14: JMeter Summary Report for Open edX Devstack.

6.7 Test Results

- Under the current test setup and server configurations, it is evident that Open edX Native can handle around 100 virtual connections, which is much better than 10, the number of virtual connections that could be handled by Open edX Devstack.
- In 1 hour, the total number of transation completed by Open edX Native was 8174, much more than that of Open edX Devstack, which amounted to 1030.
- Furthermore, the average response time of Open edX Native is 24.316 seconds, which outperforms Open edX Devstack, whose average response time is 33.313 seconds.
- Along with that, the throughput, which has been measured in requests/sec, for Open edX Native is 4.01, whereas it is 0.28 for Open edX Devstack.
- As for the CPU Utilization, Open edX Native consumes around 85-95% of CPU Resources, which is much more than the CPU Utilization of Open edX Devstack (40-50%).
- The memory consumption was close to 100% in both the setups.
- A closer look at the Summary Reports shows that the response time recorded corresponding to the case where the enrolled course's dashboard is accessed is very high, relative to other requests in a given test plan. Moreover, this response time is exceedingly high for Open edX Devstack.

The official Open edX documentation states that nginx and gunicorn have been disabled in Devstack. Hence, it uses Django's runserver as an alternative. This can be verified by the top command's result as shown in figures 14-17, 20-23.

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