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FIGO

Federated Infrastructure for GPU Orchestration

INW 2025 - 21st Italian Networking Workshop

Moena (TN), Jan. 20-22

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Unleashing GPU Power: Addressing Researchers' Demand

- **Exploding Demand for GPUs**
- **Challenges Faced by Researchers**
 - **High Costs:** GPUs are expensive, limiting access for smaller research groups.
 - **Limited Availability:** Scarcity of cutting-edge GPU models, creating bottlenecks in research workflows.
 - **Underutilization:** GPUs often sit idle due to exclusive (static) allocations.



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Solution : dynamic sharing and a federated infrastructure

1) Allocation of GPUs to VMs and Container needs to be **dynamic**

2) Research groups that owns servers with GPUs can make them available over a **federated** infrastructure.

A booking web GUI is used to reserve the resources.

The owners of the GPUs have priority (and even pre-emption) on their resources... when the GPUs are not used, they will be shared.



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FIGO - Federated Infrastructure for GPU Orchestration

- Enable dynamic sharing of GPUs across federated testbeds.
- Maximize resource utilization while reducing idle times.
- Make high-performance GPUs more accessible to a broader research community.



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Technical issues with current GPU allocation mechanisms

Virtual Infrastructure Managers like OpenStack **statically** assign GPUs to VM.

Once the GPU is allocated to the VM, it cannot be given to other VMs even if the VM is not running.

NOT EFFICIENT!



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FIGO - Technical details

The **incus** orchestrator (lxd) is used to manage containers and VMs that use the GPUs

FIGO is basically a wrapper over incus, with commands to:

- handle instances (VMs and containers)
- manage GPU profiles
- administer users
- manage remote servers offering CPU and GPU resources



FIGO - Command Line Interface (CLI) Commands

Command	Description
<code>figo instance</code>	Manage instances (VMs and containers), including creation, listing, starting, stopping, IP configuration, key management, and direct bash execution.
<code>figo gpu</code>	Handle GPU management, including monitoring status, adding/removing GPU profiles, listing profiles, and retrieving PCI addresses.
<code>figo profile</code>	Manage profiles by showing, dumping, listing, copying, deleting, and initializing them.
<code>figo user</code>	Manage users, including adding, editing, listing, granting access, and deleting users with detailed control over project association and VPN setup.
<code>figo remote</code>	Manage remote servers, including listing, enrolling, and deleting remotes for federated infrastructure.
<code>figo project</code>	Manage projects by creating, listing, and deleting isolated environments for users or research groups.
<code>figo operation</code>	Monitor and manage operations across the federated testbed, including status and progress tracking.
<code>figo vpn</code>	Configure VPN routes for secure communication, supporting various router types and dynamic configuration options.



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FIGO - Example commands

```
# Create a new user
```

```
figo user add john_doe -e john@example.com -n "John Doe" -o  
"Example Corp" -w -k -s
```

```
# Enroll a remote node
```

```
figo remote enroll my_remote 192.168.1.100 8443 ubuntu  
~/.config/incus/client.crt /var/lib/incus/server.crt  
--loc_name main
```




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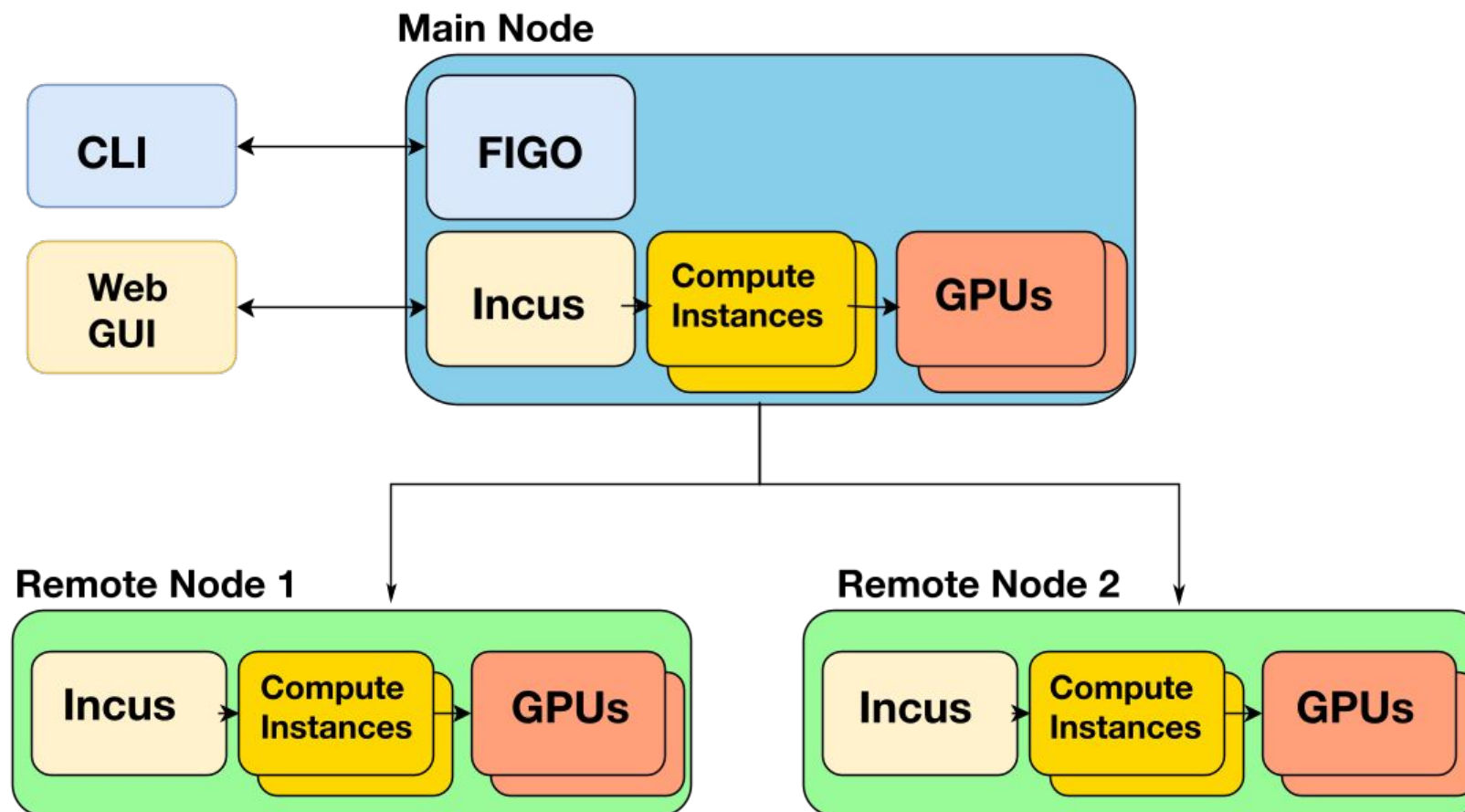
FIGO - Example commands

```
# Attach a GPU to an instance on a remote in a project  
figo gpu add my_remote:my_project.instance_name
```

```
# Add a route using a host address with expl. user and port  
figo vpn add route 10.10.128.0/24 via 10.10.10.2 type  
mikrotik host 160.80.10.2 --user myuser --port 22
```



FIGO - Architecture





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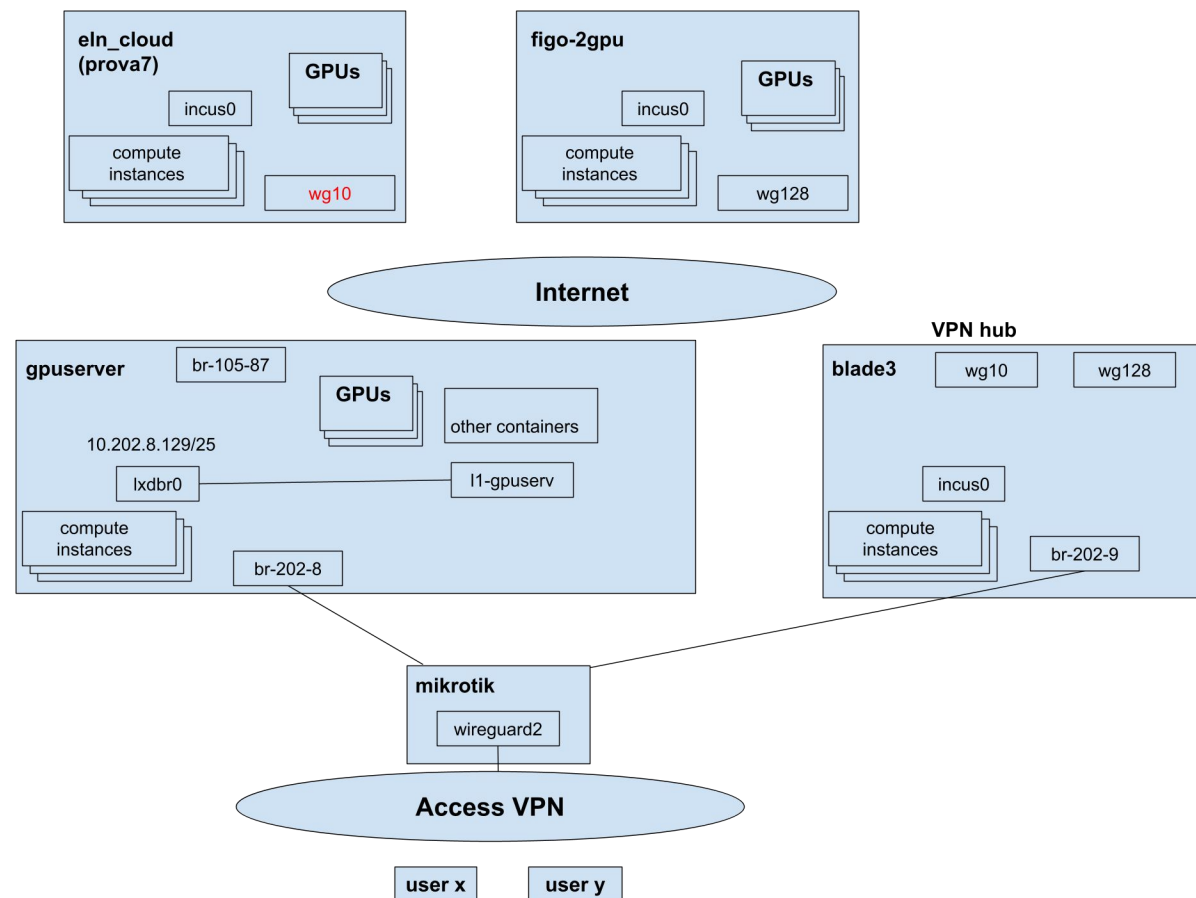
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FIGO - Physical infrastructure





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Incus UI

figo.netgroup.uniroma2.it/ui/project/default/instances

Incus UI

Project: default

- Instances
- Profiles
- Networks
- Storage
- Images
- Configuration
- Cluster
- Operations
- Warnings
- Settings
- Documentation
- Discussion
- Report a bug

Instances

Showing all 9 instances

	NAME	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	IPV4	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/>	gpu-vm	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	ivan	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	nvidia-ct2	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	nvidia-ct3	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	nvidiact	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	vm1	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	vm2	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	vm3	VM			• Stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	vm4	VM			• Stopped

Version 6.5-ui-0.8.1



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FIGO - Open source repository

<https://github.com/StefanoSalsano/figo>



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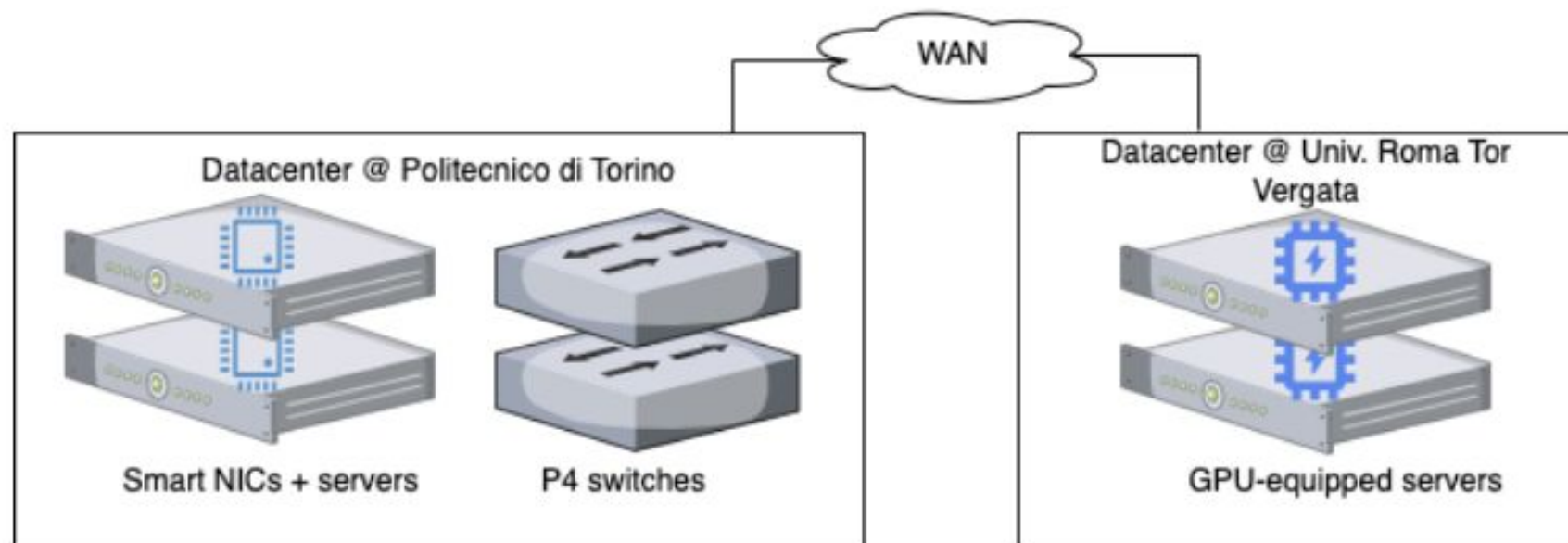
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Beyond FIGO - Sharing Resources in the RESTART Distributed Testbed



The RESTART distributed testbed offers more than GPUs:

- Smart NICs - Programmable (P4) Switches



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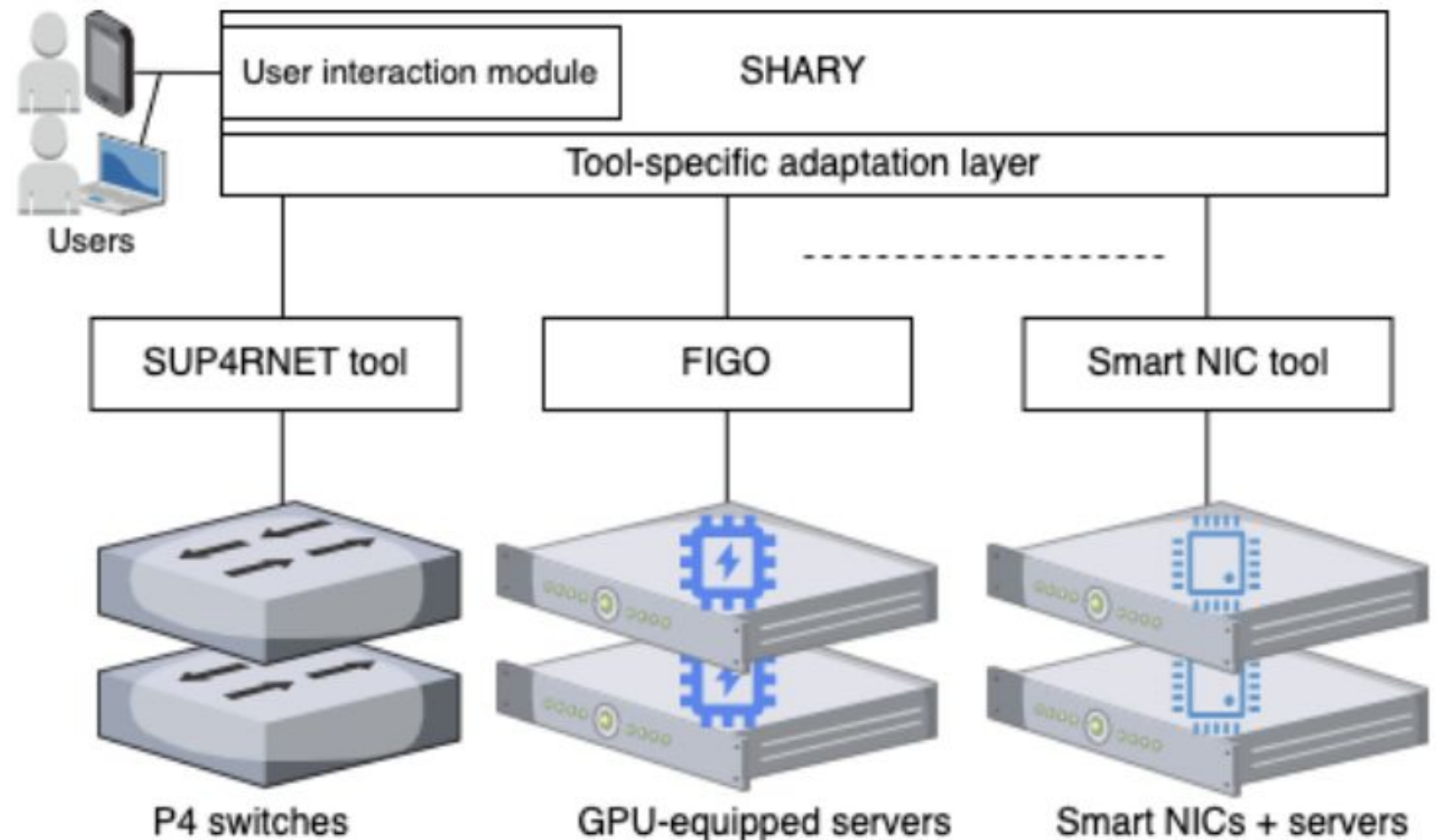
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SHARY - SHaring Any Resource made easY

A common web front
end to manage
reservations

Specific modules to
adapt to the
resources





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Sharing GPUs and Programmable Switches in a Federated Testbed with SHARY

Accepted to NOMS 2025

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FIGO : main benefits

Centralized management and configuration of hw and sw

Pre-configured containers and VM images to simplify the research

Increase the utilization of GPU resources (sharing within a research group and between research groups), get access to more resources

Provide GPU access to researchers who do not have GPUs



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Questions for you

Do you already have GPUs in your lab?

Are you waiting for GPUs?

Interested in joining the initiative?



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