Virtualization

Michael Tsai 2019/3/25

What is virtualization?

- Let's first look at a video from VMware
- What is a virtual machine? [very simple]
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIVXjI4SwVo
- Now watch a product introduction <u>http://www.vmware.com/tw/products/vsphere.html</u>

Problems?

Low utilization Different needs













Windows
Active Directory
Server



Database

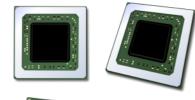


Problem & Results

- Software vendors:
 please run our applications on a separate
 machine (incompatibility with other software)
- Utilization: between 5% to 15%
 and decreasing due to better hardware in the future
- Results: a large number of under-utilized servers

Results

- A large number of servers ==?
 - Huge energy consumption



• CPU, hard drive, ...



Cooling to keep the servers running



Maintenance associated with a large number of servers

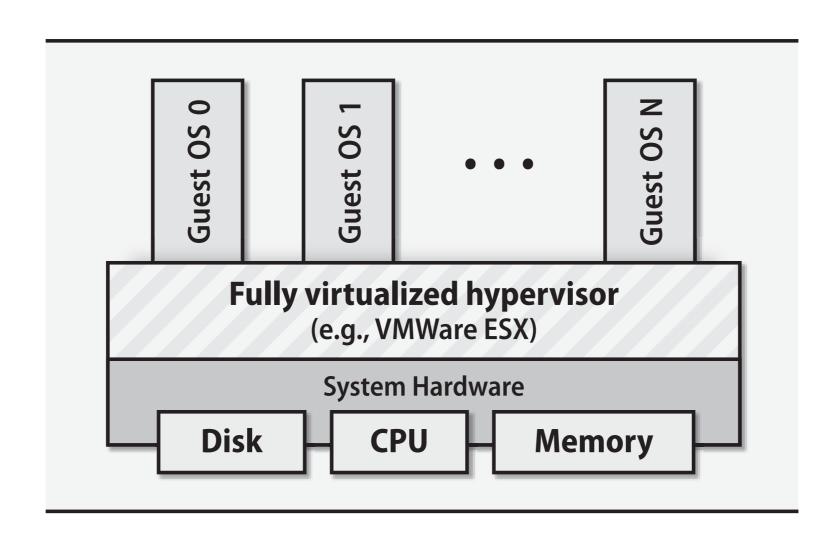
Virtualization

- Basic idea: allow multiple OS'es to run concurrently on the same physical hardware
- Per server maintenance is reduced
- Isolation: each OS "more or less" thinks that they run on a physical machine
- Ability to dynamically assign resources to different OS'es, e.g., memory, CPU time, storage, network bandwidth.
- Possibility of live migration

Types of Virtualization

- Full virtualization
- Paravirtualization
- Operating system virtualization
- Native virtualization

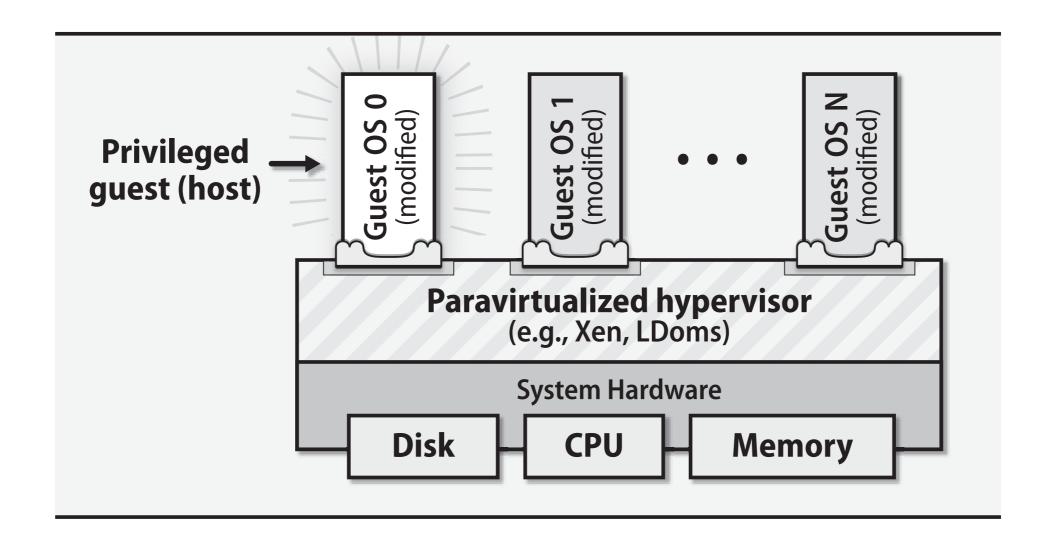
Full virtualization



Full virtualization

- a.k.a bare-metal virtualization
- Most secure: no access to hardware from guest OS
- No guest OS modification is needed
- Require translation of CPU instructions (performance penalty)

Paravirtualization

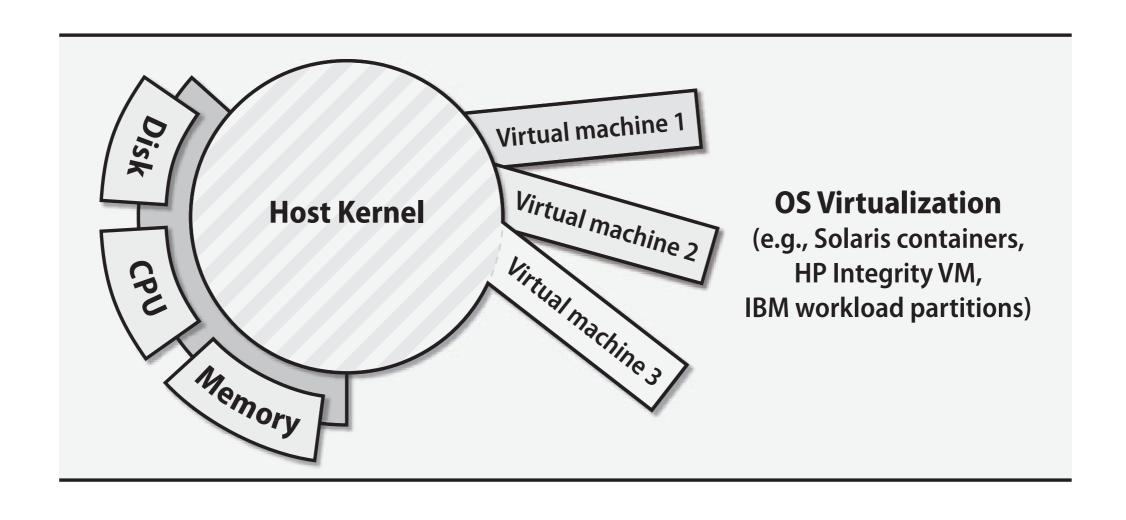


Search and read what paravirtualization is.

Paravirtualization

- Each guest OS kernel must be modified, so that sensitive CPU instructions can be translated using "hypercalls"
- Less overhead
- Due to the modification requirements, support for non-open-source kernels (e.g., Windows) is scant.

OS virtualization



OS virtualization

- Multiple, isolated application environments that references the same kernel
- No translation or virtualization layer exists —> very low overhead
- Cannot use multiple OS'es sharing of a single kernel
- DOCKER! (container)
 (Read about the difference between Docker & VM)

Native virtualization

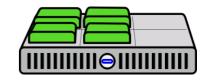
- Intel & AMD offer CPUs that support virtualization with hardware-assisted (native) virtualization
- No need for translation layer in full/paravirtualization
- Most solution utilizes them today

Benefits

• Cost:



New project: new VM instead of new hardware



- Cooling: major cost saving
- Lower data center cost: rack space, maintenance, etc.



- Better utilization of multi-core servers
- Business continuity: live migration for disaster recovery

Benefits

- Manageability
 - Use script for boot, shutdown, migration (or even temporarily assign more memory / CPU to a VM - automation!)
 - Software for legacy hardware can be run on new hardware
- Development, test, staging can be separated from production environments

When virtualization shouldn't be used

- Resource intensive backup servers or log hosts
- High-bandwidth applications (e.g., IDS)
- Busy I/O-bound database servers
- Proprietary applications with hardware-based copy protection
- Applications with specialized hardware needs
- Read more: https://www.techrepublic.com/blog/10-things/ 10-things-you-shouldnt-virtualize/

Good candidates for virtualization

- Internet-facing web servers that query middleware systems / databases
- Under-used stand-alone application servers
- Developer systems, e.g., build / version control servers
- Quality assurance test hosts and staging environments
- Core infrastructure systems, e.g., LDAP, DHCP, DNS, time servers, SSH gateways

Other applications of virtualization

- Mobile virtualization
 - Cheap phone run mobile OS & baseband signal processing software
 - Dual usage phone run two OS, one for personal use and one for business use
- Desktop virtualization thin clients, virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)
- Nested virtualization running hypervisor inside another hypervisor
 - OS starts to gain hypervisor functionality e.g., Windows 7 can run Windows XP VM.
 - Moving already existing virtualized environment into the cloud...