procedural code, with mutable servers, so as your codebase, infrastructure, and team grow, maintenance can become more difficult.

Provisioning plus server templating

Example: Terraform and Packer. You use Packer to package your apps as VM images. You then use Terraform to deploy servers with these VM images and the rest of your infrastructure, including the network topology (i.e., VPCs, subnets, route tables), data stores (e.g., MySQL, Redis), and load balancers, as illustrated in Figure 1-10.

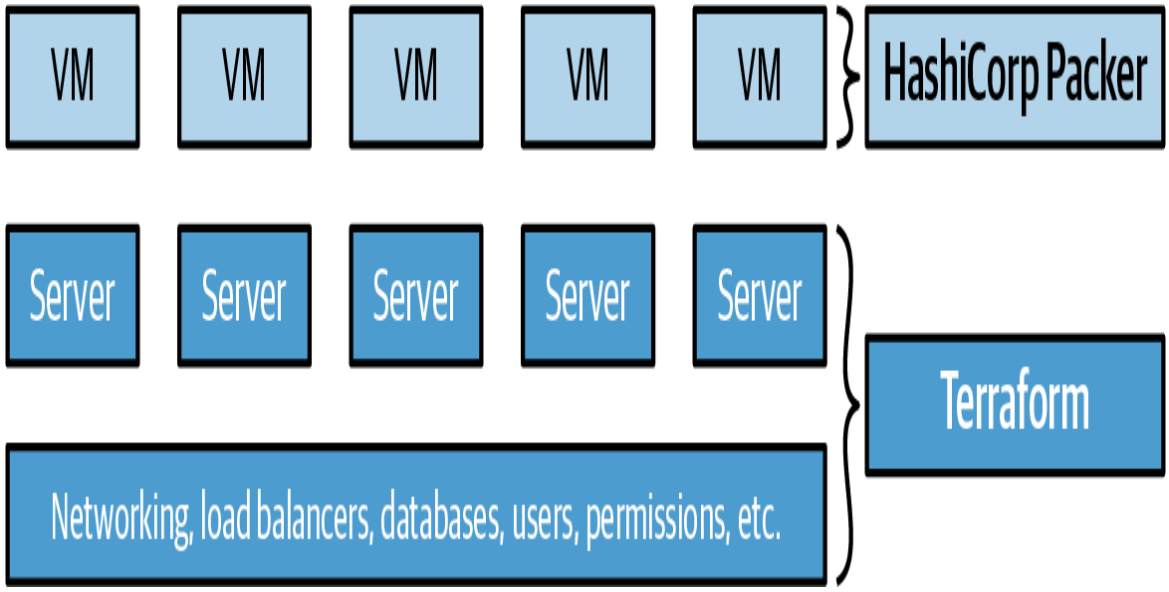

Figure 1-10. Terraform deploys the infrastructure, including servers, and Packer creates the VMs that run on those servers.

This is also an easy approach to get started with, because there is no extra infrastructure to run (Terraform and Packer are both client-only applications), and you'll get plenty of practice deploying VM images using Terraform later in this book. Moreover, this is an immutable infrastructure approach, which will make maintenance easier. However, there are two major drawbacks. First, VMs can take a long time to build and deploy, which will slow down your iteration speed. Second, as you'll see in later chapters, the deployment strategies you can implement with Terraform are limited (e.g., you can't implement blue-green deployment natively in