

Cloud Computing and Big Data

Containers and the evolution of PaaS

Oxford University
Software Engineering
Programme

Nov 2015



© Paul Fremantle 2015. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

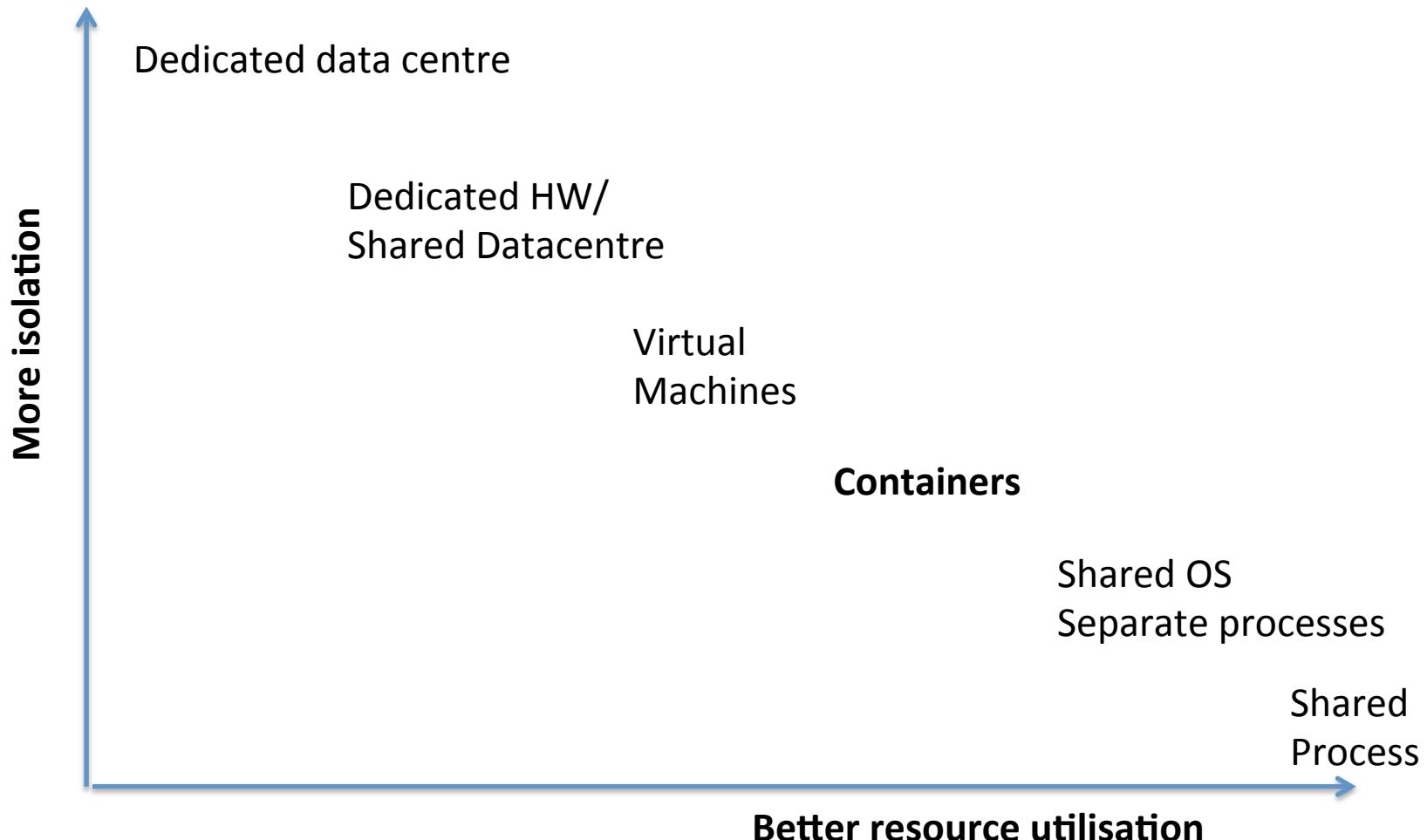
Contents

- Containers
- History and Approach
- Docker
- Docker ecosystem
- PaaS in a container model
- Futures



© Paul Fremantle 2015. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Sharing of resources vs Isolation



Lightweight Virtualization history

- **zSystems Virtual Servers from late 1990s**
 - (the mainframe really did do everything first)
- **Solaris Containers**
- **AIX Workload Partitions**
- **FreeBSD Jail**
- ...



What is a Container?

- A **lightweight virtual server**
 - Running within an Operating System
 - Providing various levels of isolation and control
 - E.g. Disk isolation and control
 - Network isolation
 - CPU and memory controls



Containers at Google

- Every GMail session is a container
 - Try doing an export and then searching your email ☺
- “Everything runs in a container”
- 2 billion containers launched a week
- Borg
 - Any Google developer can instantiate their code in 10,000 instances any time they want
 - Takes about 5 minutes to start that many
 - Never exactly 10,000 because of failures



Linux Containers (LXC)

- Virtualization inside the Linux Operating System
 - Not the only Linux option, but the most popular
- Allows virtualization including CPU, memory, disk
- Simple and effective



A sample of LXC

- **apt-get install lxc**
- **lxc-create -t ubuntu -n cn-01**
- **lxc-start -n cn-01**
- **lxc-console -n cn-01**
- **lxc-freeze -n cn-01**



cgroups

- **Control of resources by process:**
 - blkio – this subsystem sets limits block devices such as physical drives
 - cpu - access to the CPU.
 - cpuacct – this reports on CPU usage
 - cpuset – this controls usage by CPUs in a multicore
 - devices – this denies or grants access to devices
 - freezer – suspends and resumes tasks
 - memory – controls and reports on memory usage
 - net_cls – tags network packets with ids for control
 - net_prio – priority of network traffic per interface.
 - ns – the namespace subsystem.



libcontainer and the Open Container Foundation

- A standardised interface into the container layer
 - Part of runC the open runtime from Docker
 - A key basis of the Open Container Foundation



Cloud Native Computing Foundation

- A new definition of “Cloud Native”
 - Container Packaged
 - Dynamically Managed
 - Micro-Service oriented



Docker on top of LXC

- Docker adds several things to LXC and containerization:
 - Copy on write filesystem
 - Layered images and the ability to extend machines easily
 - Simple textual config file
 - Portable deployment across machines
 - Creating an ecosystem of images
 - Application centric
 - Each VM is a process (roughly speaking)
 - Plus others (auto-build, etc)

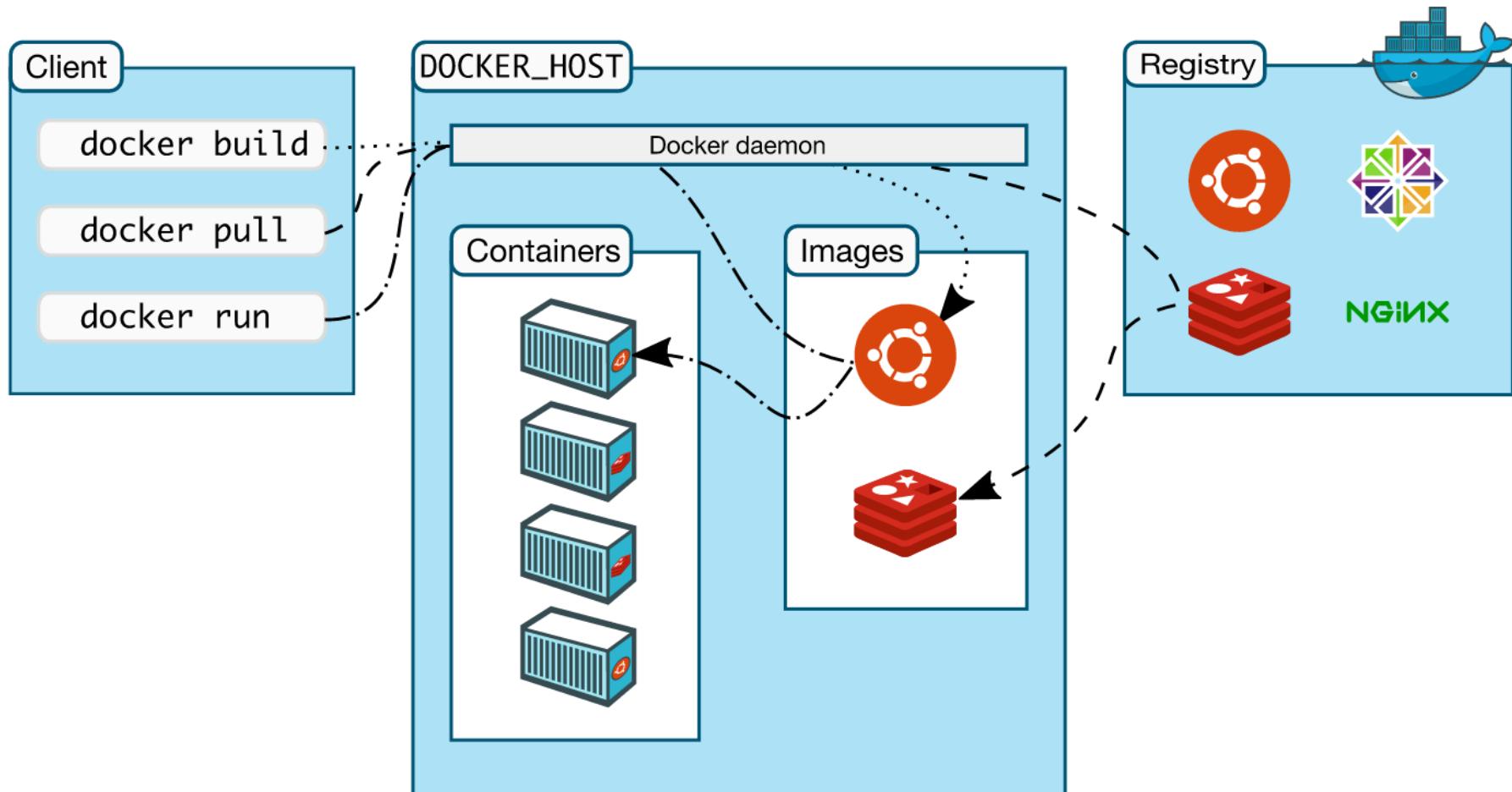


Why Docker?

- The *ecosystem* has created a *network effect*
- Metcalfe's Law states
 - the value of a telecommunications network is proportional to the square of the number of connected users of the system
- There is surely a corollary for ecosystems



How does Docker work?

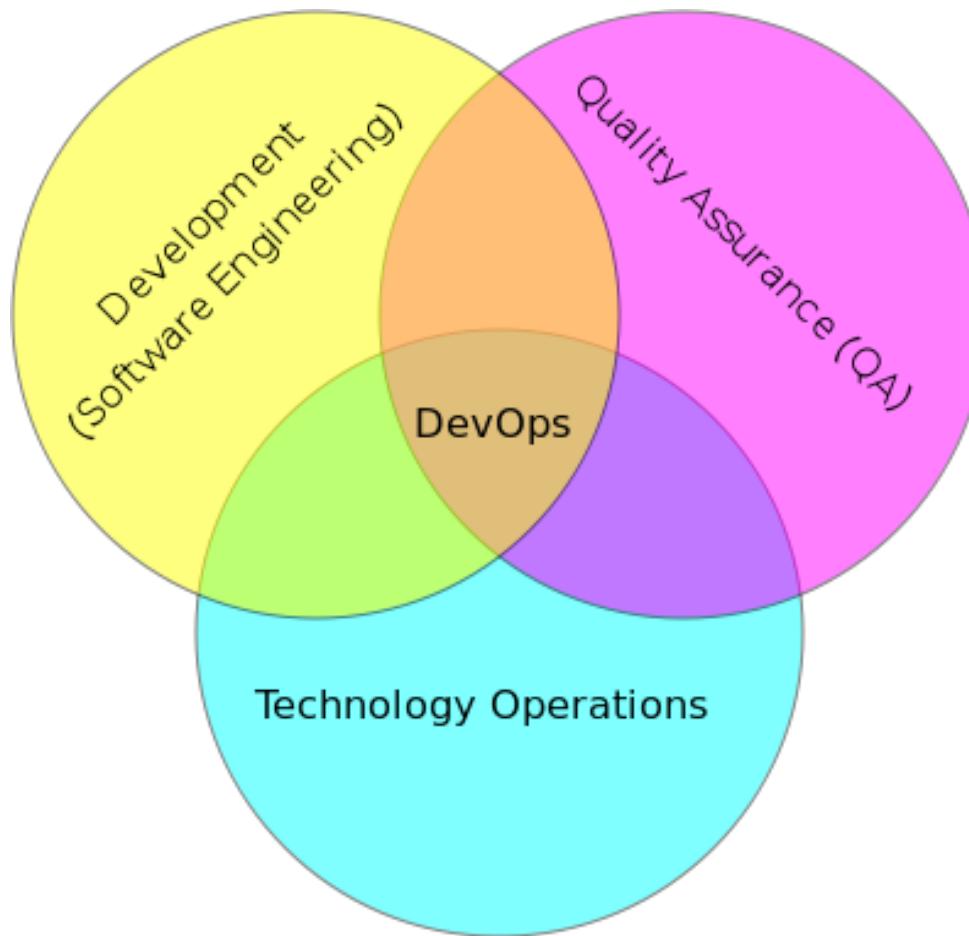


Some simple Docker commands

- `apt-get install docker.io`
- `docker pull ubuntu`
- `docker run -t -i ubuntu /bin/bash`
- `docker ps`
- `docker commit funky_freo image`
- `docker push image`



DevOps



DevOps

- DevOps is the codification of the interface between Development and Operations
 - Agile
 - Repeatable
 - Collaborative
 - Versioned
 - Automated



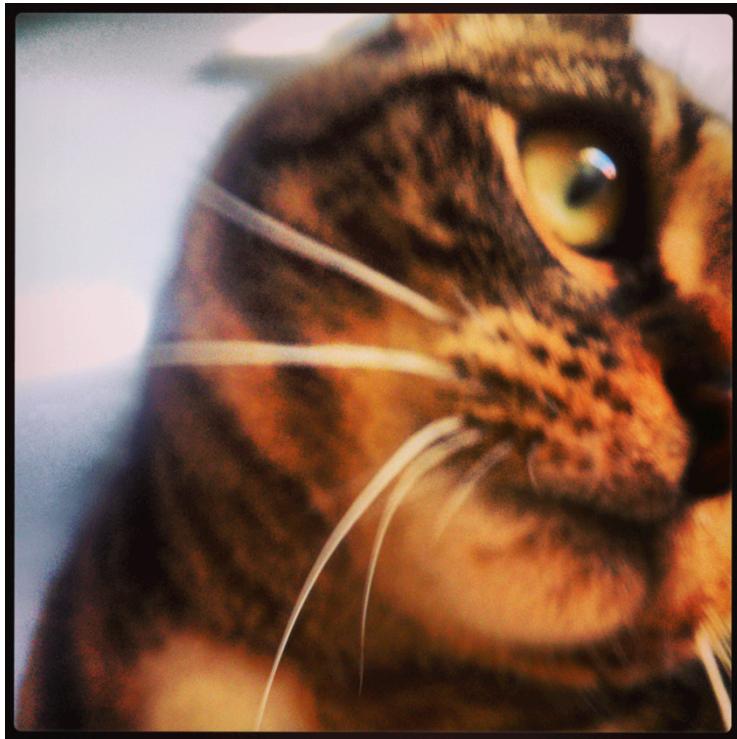
Cloud and DevOps

- It could be argued strongly that the rise of DevOps is tied to the rise of Cloud
 - Clear requirement for automated, repeatable configuration and deployment
 - Reducing the hardware provisioning time has highlighted the challenges



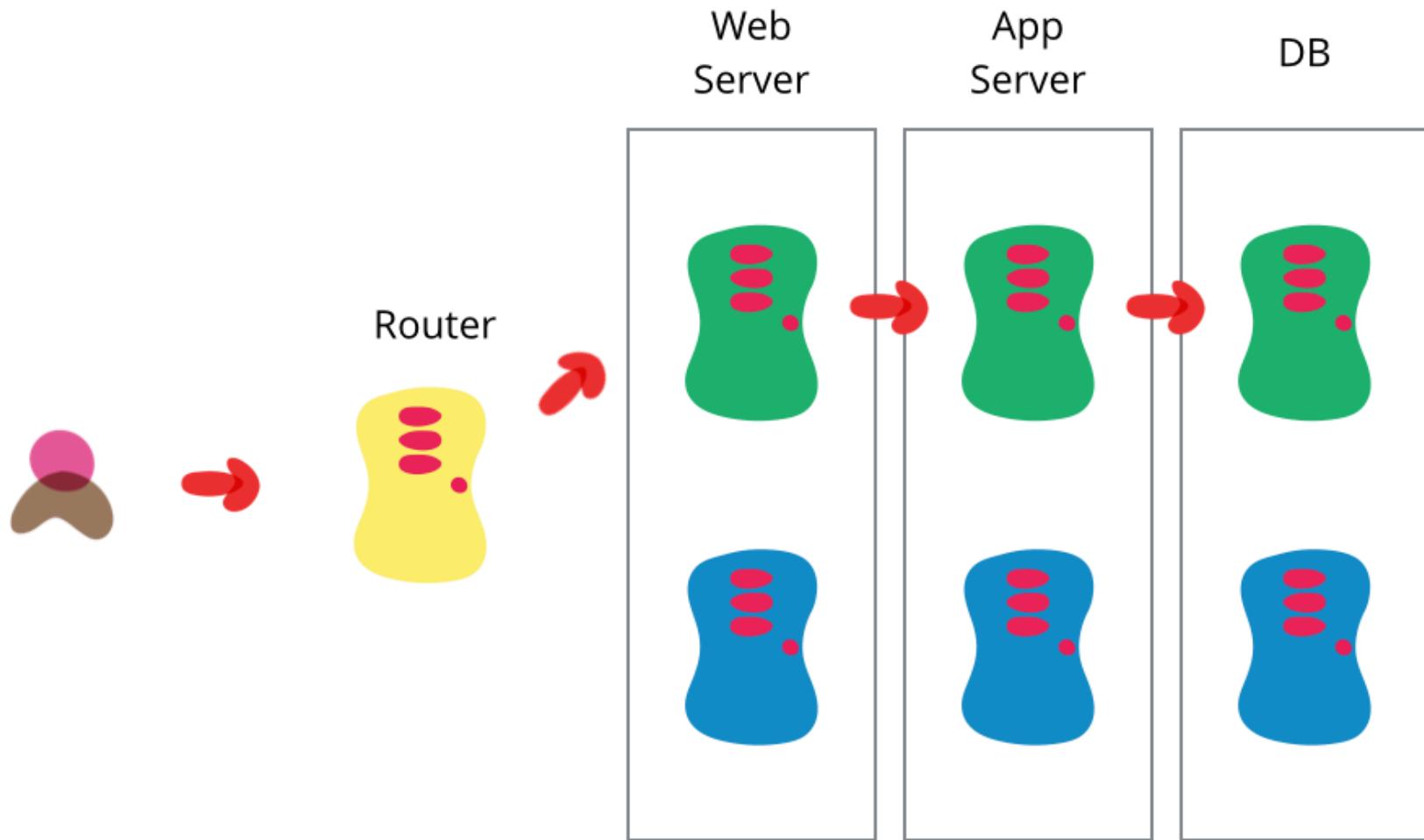
Kittens vs Cattle

(An unpleasant but effective analogy)



© Paul Fremantle 2015. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Blue Green Deployment



<http://martinfowler.com/bliki/BlueGreenDeployment.html>



Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

DevOps tools

- Puppet, Chef
 - Automated configuration and deployment tools
 - Allow complex infrastructures to be re-configured automatically
- Vagrant
 - Create VMs instantly
- Plus many many more!



DevOps and Docker

- Docker is a key DevOps tool
- Speeds up the creation of repeatable deployments
- Consistency between development, test and production
- Versioned repository
- Works with Chef, Puppet, etc



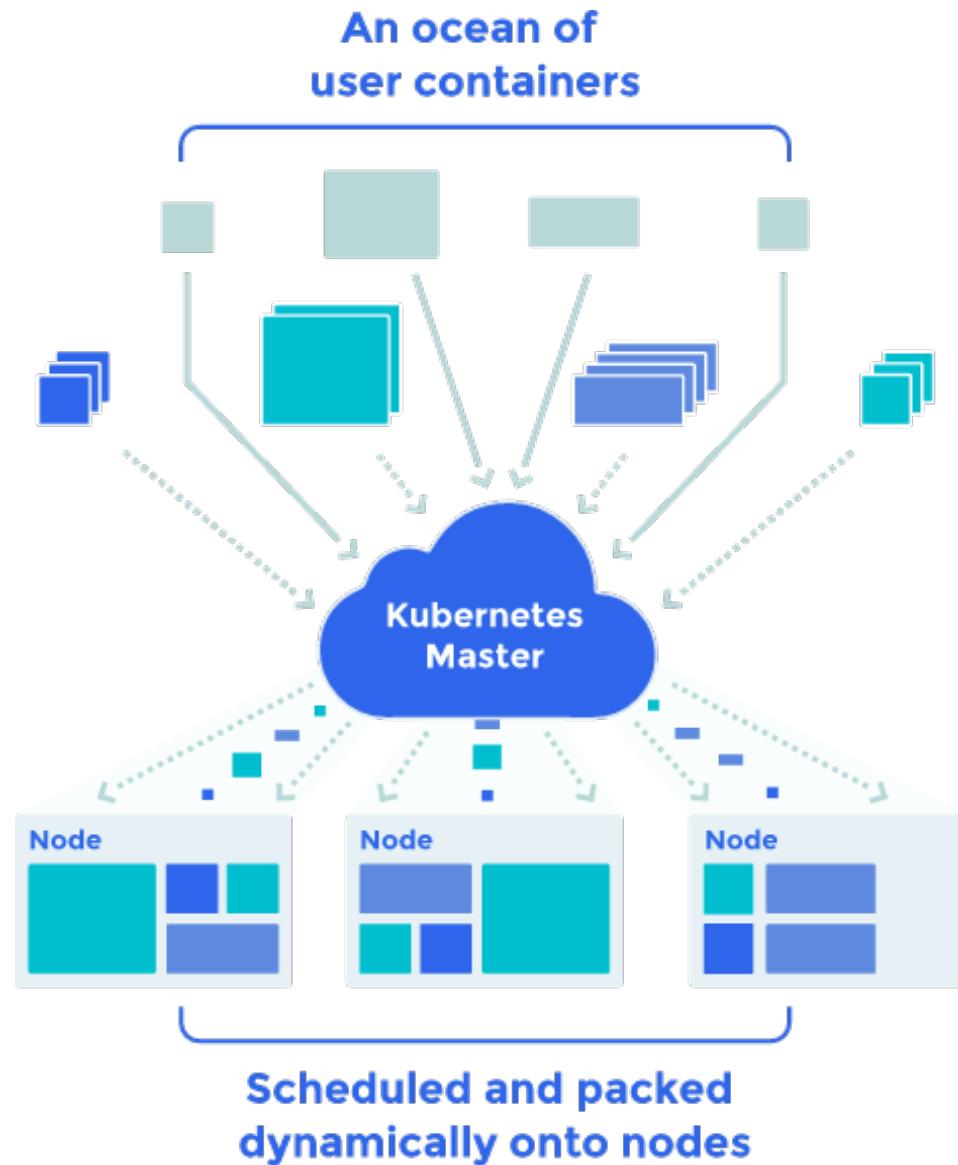
Challenges with Docker and Solutions

- Networking
 - It is very complex to connect different containers, even on a single machine
 - Weave Networks
 - SocketPlane (bought by Docker)
- Clustering
 - Docker Swarm
 - Google Kubernetes
 - CoreOS
 - Apache Mesos
- Lack of mutable file system
 - Flocker



Kubernetes

- Open Source cluster management of containers
- From Google, but separate from the Borg project



Docker ecosystem



Summary

- Docker and the Container model
 - Lightweight virtualization and repeatability
 - Blue Green deployment
 - “Warehouse Scale” computing



© Paul Fremantle 2015. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>