

Performance effects of building ZtoCs with different values of span size

Summary

This document presents the results of running the performance test from the benchmarking framework for container images having several Soci indices built with different span size configurations. Based on <https://github.com/awslabs/soci-snapshotter/commit/1628d6eac6cb9383f9538d0bb85de8a007b4f9a3>, the initial span size was set to 4 MiB. There was a question if that's enough. This document tries to answer this question. For that, we look at the span sizes of 4, 8, 16 and 32 MiB to see if increasing the span size positively affects the total time to run the container workload to ready line.

The data was collected in the following way:

1. For every image in the Benchmarking results table 3 additional indices were built with span sizes 8, 16 and 32 MiB respectively.
2. For each image and span size, the performance test was executed using 10 samples (`make benchmarks`).

Looking at the data considering network calls to S3 (next section) it is evident, that for most of the workloads increasing the span size to 8 MiB is beneficial and improves the mean time to get to ready line by 1.75-10% (exceptions: gcchellocompile and rabbitmq) and max time to get to ready line by 1.85-26% (exceptions: gcchellocompile, mongo, glassfish, rabbitmq). gcchellocompile appears to be an extreme case, where increasing span size negatively affect the performance (the difference is under 2s for 8MiB).

tensorflow cpu is the only image, where increasing the span size all the way to 32MiB shows the biggest gains.

Therefore, we can conclude that increasing the default span size to 8MiB will benefit most of the workloads with minimal harm to gcchellocompile, mongo, glassfish, rabbitmq.

For tensorflow image only it can be recommended to build an index with span size of 32MiB, since it produces the most benefits (29.3% improvement in mean time to ready line and 25.18% improvement in max time to ready line).

However, if we eliminate network latency (and in the case of ECR, the latency to download data from S3), the results are pretty different and there's a strong correlation between increasing the span size and worsening the performance. For the details on the approach, please refer to Appendix B.

Considering that there's a plan to put some effort into optimizing S3 gets, and given that the baseline performance with network latency eliminated is the best for span size 4MiB, it is recommended to keep the default span size as 4MiB and reevaluate the performance after S3 optimizations are complete.

Benchmarking results

1. BENCHMARKING WITH ACCOUNTING FOR NETWORK CALLS TO S3


```
REGISTRY_IMAGE=ghcr.io/oci-playground/registry:v3.0.0-alpha.1
docker run -d -p 5000:5000 --restart always --name registry $REGISTRY_IMAGE
```

Push every image in the local registry:

```
ECR_IMAGE=<image from csv list>
IMAGE=localhost:5000/<image name>
sudo docker pull $ECR_IMAGE
sudo docker tag $ECR_IMAGE $IMAGE
sudo docker push $IMAGE
```

Build indices for every image in the local registry and push them there:

```
sudo ctr i pull $IMAGE --plain-http
sudo out/soci create $IMAGE --span-size <desired span size>
sudo out/soci push $IMAGE --plain-http
```

Note: benchmarking framework will not work with the local registry out of the box, so I made some changes to make it work.
The changes can be found as the part of the following commit: <https://github.com/vkuznet/soci-snapshotter/commit/11b4eced6230c3922df1646ccf23f6a9ce00108b>

After applying the patch outlined above, just update `/benchmarks/singleImage.csv` with the references on the newly created images (starting with `localhost:5000/`) and execute `make benchmarks`.