

ECE 495/595 – Web Architectures/Cloud Computing

Module 5, Lecture 2: Web Application Security – Authentication

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What is Capistrano?

Capistrano is a distributed system management framework.

It supports:

- Distributed deployments.
- Command distribution.
- General large-scale system management.

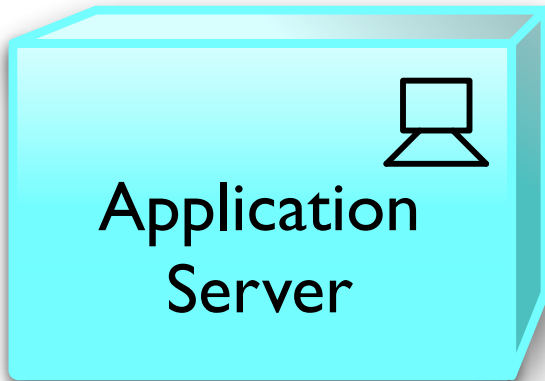
So what?

Starting out...

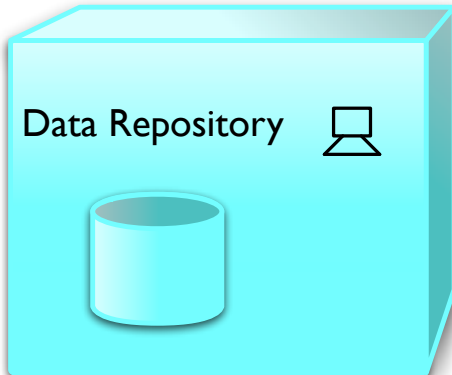


Application

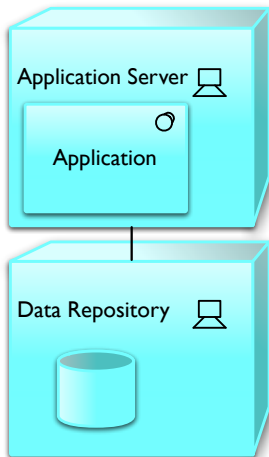
...where to put it?



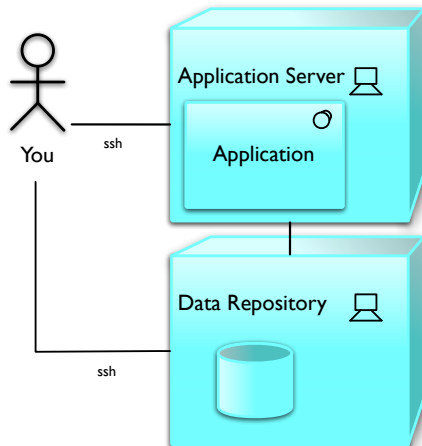
...and how to store stuff?



...now linking it together...



...and this is how you manage it.



Is this sufficient?

Well, probably okay for:

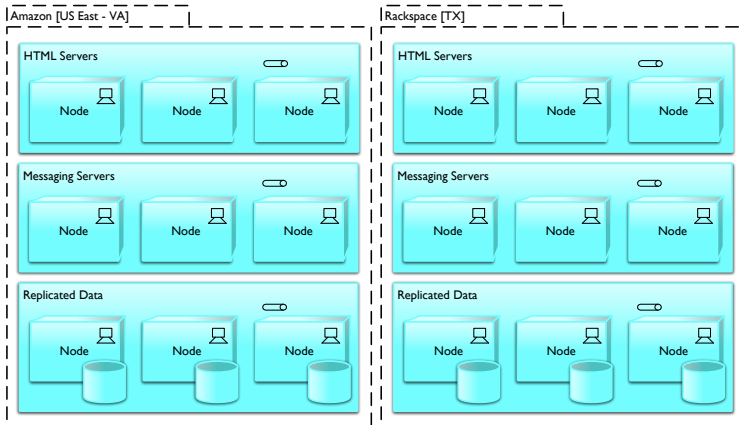
- School
- Departments
- Small organizations

But honestly, not very real world. Systems with any kind of availability requirements or volume usually have:

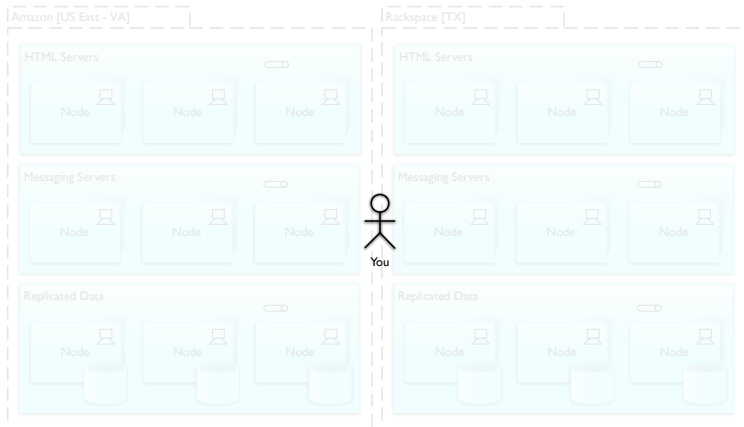
- More systems
- Specialized systems
- More providers

Really? Well, why not?

Typical small deployment...



...and you're responsible for it.



So how do you do it?

Well, you don't want to log into each system to administer manually. And why is that?

- **Scalability** You don't scale. Sorry.
- **Reproducibility** It's very difficult to recreate the same sequence of actions and configurations across multiple systems, so you'll generally script it. Which is what Capistrano does, in a distributed way.
- **Human Error** You make lots of mistakes too. If you can tell a machine what to do, it'll do a better job than you can.

**So figure out how to tell machines to configure themselves.
Or, use a system built by somebody else to tell machines to
configure themselves, like Capistrano.**

What you need to do first...

Capistrano can help you deploy applications, but it needs systems first.

You need to have systems set up and configured for use.

- **Chef, Puppet**
- **Vagrant**

They need to have supporting infrastructure installed, like **ruby**, **capistrano**, **bundler**, **rvm**, and **git**.

Setup isn't turnkey, but future use of Capistrano is.

Starting Out

Now, install Capistrano on your workstation:

```
$ gem install capistrano
```

Or use bundler, with a gem file:

```
source :rubygems  
gem 'capistrano'
```

Now initialize the project:

```
$ cd <project directory>  
$ capify .
```

This creates, in the project directory, a `config` directory containing a `deploy.rb` file, and a file in the project root named `Capfile`.

How do these files work?

Capfile:

```
load 'deploy'  
load 'config/deploy'
```

config/deploy.rb:

```
set :application, "set your application name here"  
set :repository,  "set your repository location here"  
  
set :scm, :subversion  
  
role :web, "your web-server here"  
role :app, "your app-server here"  
role :db,  "your primary db-server here", :primary => true  
role :db,  "your slave db-server here"
```

What does this give you?

```
$ cap -T
cap deploy                # Deploys your project.
cap deploy:check           # Test deployment dependencies.
cap deploy:cleanup        # Clean up old releases.
cap deploy:cold            # Deploys and starts a 'cold' application.
cap deploy:create_symlink  # Updates the symlink to the most recently deployed...
cap deploy:migrate        # Run the migrate rake task.
cap deploy:migrations     # Deploy and run pending migrations.
cap deploy:pending        # Displays the commits since your last deploy.
cap deploy:pending:diff   # Displays the 'diff' since your last deploy.
cap deploy:restart        # Blank task exists as a hook into which to install...
cap deploy:rollback       # Rolls back to a previous version and restarts.
cap deploy:rollback:code  # Rolls back to the previously deployed version.
cap deploy:setup          # Prepares one or more servers for deployment.
cap deploy:start          # Blank task exists as a hook into which to install...
cap deploy:stop           # Blank task exists as a hook into which to install...
cap deploy:symlink        # Deprecated API.
cap deploy:update         # Copies your project and updates the symlink.
cap deploy:update_code    # Copies your project to the remote servers.
cap deploy:upload         # Copy files to the currently deployed version.
cap deploy:web:disable    # Present a maintenance page to visitors.
cap deploy:web:enable     # Makes the application web-accessible again.
cap invoke                # Invoke a single command on the remote servers.
cap shell                 # Begin an interactive Capistrano session.
```

Capistrano is Biased

Nice! But Capistrano was developed expressly to deploy distributed Rails applications and carries baggage around from this heritage.

Unless you're deploying Rails, you'll want to get around this — **railsless-deploy** to the rescue!

Other Useful Plug-ins