

how and why we deploy OpenStack virtual environments

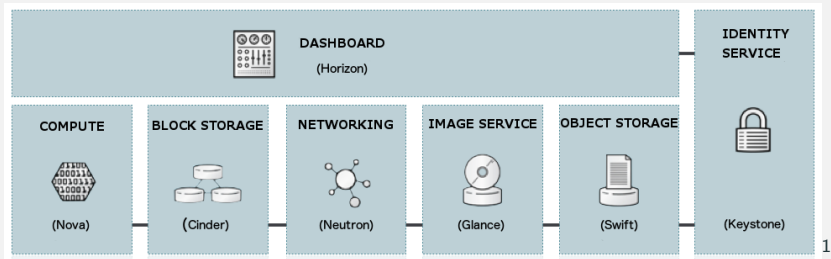
Benedikt Trefzer

`benedikt.trefzer@cirrax.com`

Cirrax GmbH

- Cirrax GmbH running an OpenStack cloud since grizzly release (2013)
- using Debian and the packages provided by Debian
- configuration with puppet manifests
- unhappy with release cycle (Debian: years, OpenStack: months)
- upgrades where a pain
 - ▶ dependency constraints
 - ▶ vendor repositories versus main/backport repository
 - ▶ debian specific reconfiguration mechanism

!time to evaluate a better approach!



- consist of many projects (nova, neutron, cinder, oslo ...)
- separate projects for services, (python-) libraries and clients
- projects use API calls to talk to each other
- written in python

¹OpenStack service overview by OpenStack is licensed under CC-BY 3.0

OpenStack releases

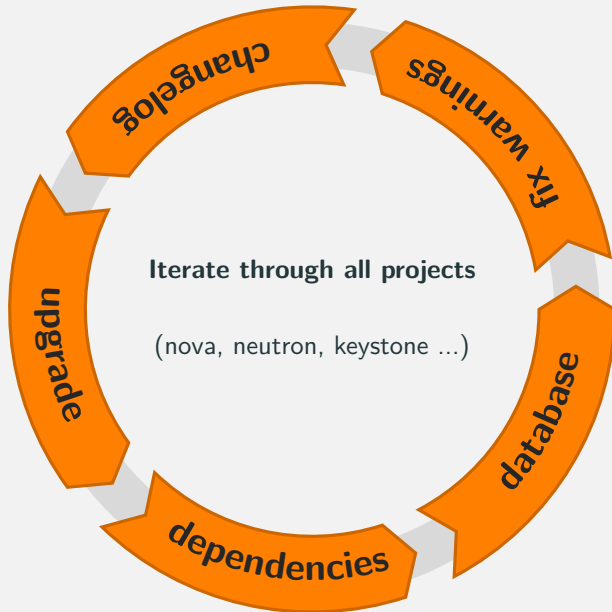
Series	Status	Initial Release Date	Next Phase	EOL Date
Rocky	Development	2018-08-30 <i>estimated</i> (schedule)	Maintained <i>estimated</i> 2018-08-30	
Queens	Maintained	2018-02-28	Extended Maintenance <i>estimated 2019-08-25</i>	
Pike	Maintained	2017-08-30	Extended Maintenance <i>estimated 2019-03-03</i>	
Ocata	Maintained	2017-02-22	Extended Maintenance <i>estimated 2018-08-27</i>	
Newton	End Of Life	2016-10-06		2017-10-25

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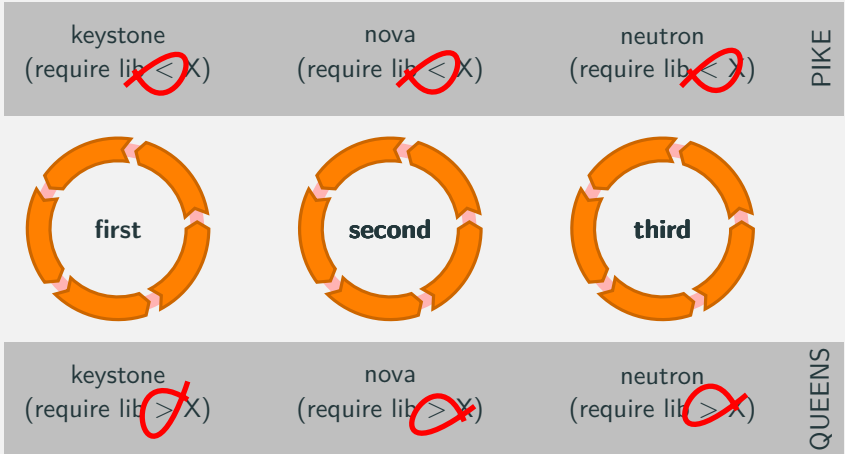
- 6-month release cycle
- only $n+1$ upgrades for database
- currently: discussions about LTS release and $n+x$ upgrades

²<https://releases.openstack.org>

Openstack typical upgrade for one project



dependencies



!! troubles if a node uses more than one project !!

OpenStack dependency management

- git repo with OpenStack global requirements for all projects³
- ensures library versions across projects per release
- used for testing by OpenStack gates
- dependencies are included in operating system packages
- updates in stable branch for security issues

³<https://github.com/openstack/requirements>

solution 1: use deb/rpm packages from vendor

use deb/rpm packages from vendor, needs BigBang for upgrade

pros:

- usage of operating system packages (security upgrade etc.)
- established vendor upgrade procedure
- established devops tools can be used (puppet manifests)

cons:

- high risk since all projects are in transition at the same time
- all projects need to be on the same version (no per project upgrade)
- dependency of OpenStack and distribution releases

solution 2: Separate container for each project

separate OpenStack projects into container and or docker images

pros:

- no dependency constraints that block per project upgrades
- possibility to use operating system packages

cons:

- difficult for compute/network nodes (interaction with network, libvirt and ceph)
- adaptation for puppet needed
- additional upgrade chain for docker/container

solution 3: python VirtualEnvs

use pip to install OpenStack into python virtual environments

pros:

- no dependency constraints that block per project upgrades

cons:

- needs build dependencies on all nodes (compiler etc)
- additional upgrade mechanism (pip)
- difficulty to reinstall same virtual environment (eg. for test, production)
- need adaptation of puppet manifests (no package installation)

solution 4: python VirtualEnvs in operating system packages

use pip to install an OpenStack project into a python virtual environments and pack the virtual environment into a deb/rpm package

pros:

- no dependency constraints that block per project upgrades
- use of established system package management
- no build dependencies on nodes
- easy reinstall of same environment
- established puppet manifests can be used

cons:

- need to create lots of packages

details for VirtualEnvs in deb packages

1. create requirements package (one per release)
 - ▶ compiles all requirements of release
 - ▶ creates a wheel (binary) repository suitable for pip to install from
 - ▶ squeeze repository into deb package
2. install a virtualenv for project
 - ▶ debian helper for virtualenvs (dh-virtualenv⁴)
 - ▶ no compilation since binaries are in requirements package
 - ▶ no need to download from <https://pypi.org/>
 - ▶ gives a reproducible build
3. create a package containing the virtual environment with links
4. automated tests
5. add package to staging repository (reprepro)

⁴<https://dh-virtualenv.readthedocs.io>

automated using buildbot⁵

The screenshot displays the Buildbot web interface for a project named 'Cirrax GmbH'. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Waterfall View, Console View, Build, Builders, Last Changes, Build Masters, Schedulers, Workers, About, and Settings. The main area shows the build details for 'openstack-cloudkitty-build-stretch' (build 6). The build status is 'Finished 4 hours ago' and '5:15 build successful'. The build steps are listed in a table with their status, duration, and output.

Step	Status	Duration	Output
0	Successful	5:15	build successful
1	git checkout	2 s	updating branch: debian/stretch-queens
2	show tree (before build)	1 s	'tree'
3	tree size before build	1 s	tree size 3576 KB
4	git add empty commit with rebuild reason	2 s	'git commit ...'
5	git push release a new debian version	3 s	'git push ...'
6	show debian changelog	2 s	'dpkg-parsechangelog: n 2' Source: venv-cloudkitty Version: 90:7.0.0.2
7	get original source	0 s	'debian/rules get-orig-source'
8	start build (chroot: stretch)	4:22	'cat .../disc'
9	commit and tag the version	1 s	'git commit ...'
10	Lintian Check	12 s	Lintian (warnings)
11	create directory for upload	0 s	'mkdir -p ...'
12	copy build for upload	0 s	'find -maxdepth ...'
13	git push branch	1 s	'git push ...'
14	git push tag	1 s	'git push ...'
15	upload file to master	1 s	uploading debian
16	Update Debian repo	1 s	Ran directory: www.debian/openstack-cloudkitty/debian/stretch-queens
17	tree size after build	0 s	tree size 36516 KB
18	show tree (after build)	1 s	'tree'
19	cleanup (remove)	0 s	Deleted

⁵<https://buildbot.net/>

lessons learned

- upgrades are less painfull, dependencies problem is solved
- puppet manifests needed minimal adaptation (usage of venv for wsgi⁶)
- OpenStack projects are quite equal (if one project is done, the others are similar)
- automation with buildbot
- minor upgrades are auto triggered
- new major version are implemented fast
- independent upgrade of OpenStack and operating system

⁶https://review.openstack.org/#/q/topic:add_wsgi_process_override



Contact:

Cirrax GmbH

<https://cirrax.com>

benedikt.trefzer@cirrax.com