CS 461 - Fall 2016 - Design Document

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Abstract

This document outlines the design considerations for the implementation of Open vSwitch and other networking technologies in the Cloud Integrated Advanced Orchestrator (Ciao). It describes the various techniques, structure, and technology choices that will be used in the execution of our project.

1

CONTENTS

I	Introduction	2
II	High-level considerations	2
III	Conclusion	2
IV	Glossary	2
Refe	References	

I. Introduction

Our project is to first switch the Linux-created GRE tunnel implementation in Ciao to use GRE tunnels created by Open vSwitch. From that point we will switch the actual tunneling implementation from GRE to VxLAN/nvGRE based on performance measurements of each on data center networking cards. After this is completed, a stretch goal is to replace Linux bridges with Open vSwitch switch instances. This document outlines the steps, techniques, and methodology we will utilize to achieve each goal.

II. HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Our software defined network will be written in the Go programming language and fully integrated in to the Cloud Integrated Advanced Orchestrator (Ciao) [1]. The Go programming language was selected for several reasons, including the efficiency of the language regarding both speed and memory, the concurrency capabilities, and the ease of implementation. Go was compared against C and Python as alternatives, and prevailed in every criteria except for availability of the language.

This network mode will be written as a standalone networking mode for Ciao as an additional option to the standard Linux bridges available now. For this reason it must be fully integrated with the Ciao networking framework as it currently exists [2].

III. CONCLUSION

We have outlined the steps and design strategy we will take for each goal. Our design methodology is incremental design, starting with the first goal (Open vSwitch-created GRE tunnels) and incrementing through each feature until all goals are achieved.

IV. GLOSSARY

Bridge Software or hardware that connects two or more network segments.

Ciao is a cloud orchestrator that provides an easy to deploy, secure, scalable cloud orchestration

system which handles virtual machines, containers, and bare metal apps agnostically as generic workloads. Implemented in the Go language, it separates logic into "controller", "scheduler" and "launcher" components which communicate over the "Simple and Secure Node Transfer

Protocol (SSNTP)" [1].

Cloud A huge, amorphous network of servers somewhere [3].

Cloud Orchestration A networking tool designed to aid in the deployment of multiple virtual machines, containers,

or bare-metal applications [1].

CNCI Virtual Machines automatically configured by the ciao-controller, scheduled by the ciao-scheduler

on a need basis, when tenant workloads are created [2].

Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE)

Encapsulation of an arbitrary network layer protocol so it can be sent over another arbitrary

network layer protocol [4].

Linux Bridge Configurable software bridge built into the Linux kernel [5].

Network Node (NN) A Network Node is used to aggregate network traffic for all tenants while still keeping individual

tenant traffic isolated from all other the tenants using special virtual machines called Compute

Node Concentrators (CNCIs) [2].

nvGRE Network Virtualization using Generic Routing Encapsulation [6].

Open vSwitch Open source multilayer software switch with support for distribution across multiple physical

devices [7].

OVS Open vSwitch [7].

Packet Acceleration Increasing the speed of the processing and transfer of network packets.

Packet Encapsulation Attaching the headers for a network protocol to a packet so it can be transmitted using that

protocol [8].

SSNTP The Simple and Secure Node Transfer Protocol (SSNTP) is a custom, fully asynchronous and

TLS based application layer protocol. All Ciao components communicate with each others over

SSN IP [9].

Tunnel Point to point network connection that encapsulates traffic between points [8].

VxLAN Virtual Extensible Local Area Network [10].

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