# Cloud Computing Architecture

Semester project

March 29, 2024

## Overview

The semester project consists of four parts, two of which are described in detail in this handout. In this project, you will explore how to schedule latency-sensitive and batch applications in a cloud cluster. You will deploy applications inside containers and gain experience using a popular container orchestration platform, Kubernetes. Containers are a convenient and lightweight mechanism for packaging code and all its dependencies so that applications can run quickly and reliably from one computing environment to another.

You will work in groups of three students and submit a single report per group. Please submit your report in the format of the project report template. We will be assigning groups for the project, however you will have a chance to optionally let us know your preferences for teammates. If you know one or two other students in the class that you would like to work with on the project, please submit your group preference by March 7th, 2024. To do so, each student in your preferred group should sign up for the same group number in the Project Group Selection page on Moodle. We will notify you about final group assignments on March 11th and then you may redeem your cloud credits and begin working on the project.

## Important Dates

March 7th, 2024: Deadline to submit group preferences. Remember that you must either subscribe to a group or join the general group (Group 1) to be assigned randomly by us.

March 11th, 2024: Groups are assigned and announced. Start working on project.

March 29th, 2024 at 23:59: Deadline to submit Part 1 and 2 of the project.

May 17th, 2024 at 23:59: Deadline to submit Part 3 and 4 of the project.

We will release Part 3 and 4 of the project mid-April. Parts 3 and 4 are more open-ended and will require more time to complete than Part 1 and 2. Please plan your time accordingly.

## Cloud Environment and Credits

To run experiments for the project, you will use Google Cloud. We will provide you with Google Cloud credits for your project. To redeem your cloud credits, please follow the steps in Part 1 (Section ??), when your project group assignment is confirmed. Each group member should create

a Google Cloud account at <a href="https://accounts.google.com">https://accounts.google.com</a>. Please use your ETH email address to create the account.

## 1 Part 3

In Part 3 of the project, you will combine the input gained from the previous two parts. You will now co-schedule the latency-critical memcached application from Part 1 and all seven batch applications from Part 2 in a heterogeneous cluster, consisting of VMs with a different number of cores. Your cluster will consist of a VM for the Kubernetes master (same as in Part 1), 3 VMs for the mcperf clients (2 agents and 1 measure machine), and 3 heterogeneous VMs (with 2, 4, and 8 cores respectively) which will be labeled as node-a-2core, node-b-4core, node-c-8core, respectively, and used to run memcached and the batch applications. Note that these VMs also have different configurations (as you can see in the part3.yaml file): node-a-2core is of type n2d-highcpu-2, node-b-4core is of type n2d-highmem-4, and node-c-8core is of type e2-standard-8. The number of CPUs, the CPU platform, and the amount of memory differ in these VMs, which is something that you should take into account when designing your scheduling policy.

Your goal is to design a scheduling policy that will minimize the time it takes for all seven batch workloads to complete (their makespan), while guaranteeing a tail latency service level objective (SLO) for the long-running memcached service. It might be helpful to take into account the characteristics of the batch applications you noted in Part 2 of the project(e.g. speedup across cores, total runtime, etc.). For this part of the project, the memcached service will receive requests from the client at a steady rate, and you will measure the request tail latency. Your scheduling policy should minimize the makespan of all batch applications, without violating a strict service level objective for memcached of 1 ms 95th percentile latency at 30K QPS. You also must ensure that all seven batch applications complete successfully, as jobs may abort due to errors (e.g. out of memory). Use the native dataset size for all batch applications. At every point in time, you must use as many resources of your cluster as possible.

When designing and implementing your scheduling policy, you will experiment with different collocation and resource management strategies using Kubernetes mechanisms. Utilize the knowledge you gained about the performance characteristics of each application in Parts 1 and 2 of the project. This information will help you decide the degree of parallelism you should run each workload with, and which applications you should collocate on shared resources.

The project report template containing the questions and free space you should use to enter your results can be found here: template.

You may modify the YAML files provided, write a script for controlling the batch applications, or apply any other techniques you choose, as long as you describe them clearly in your report. You can choose which jobs to collocate, which degree of parallelism to use, and when to launch particular batch applications. You may use any Kubernetes mechanism you wish to implement your scheduling policy. You may find node/pod affinity and/or resource requests/limits particularly useful. You also may want to use taskset in the container command arguments to pin containers to certain CPU cores of a node. Keep in mind that a job may fail due to the lack of resources. You can use kubectl describe jobs to monitor jobs.

### 1.1 Setup

Run the following command to create a Kubernetes cluster with 1 master and 6 nodes. Make sure to update the part3.yaml file with the name of your project and your ConfigBase.

```
$ export KOPS_STATE_STORE=<your-gcp-state-store>
$ PROJECT='gcloud config get-value project'
$ kops create -f part3.yaml
```

You are now ready to deploy the cluster by executing:

\$ kops update cluster --name part3.k8s.local --yes --admin

Your cluster should need around 5-10 minutes to be deployed. You can validate the cluster with the command:

\$ kops validate cluster --wait 10m

The command will terminate when your cluster is ready to use. Afterwards, you can run:

\$ kubectl get nodes -o wide

to get the status and details of your nodes as follows:

NAME	STATUS	ROLES	AGE	VERSION	INTERNAL-IP	EXTERNAL-IP
client-agent-a-d81z	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.222	35.234.120.124
client-agent-b-xpt7	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.224	34.107.4.82
client-measure-x1xw	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.223	35.242.212.158
master-europe-west3-a-cdp2	Ready	master	24m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.225	34.89.196.131
node-a-2core-qtrb	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.221	34.89.217.203
node-b-4core-gq6s	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.220	34.107.20.21
node-c-8core-3kz9	Ready	node	23m	v1.19.7	10.156.15.226	34.107.23.202

To connect to any of the machines you can run:

Modify the memcached and batch applications YAML files from Parts 1 and 2 of the project and use the **kubectl create** commands to launch the workloads in the cluster. You may want to write automated scripts to launch the jobs. Automated scripts are not a requirement in this part of the project, but we encourage you to use them here as they will be compulsory in Part 4. The memcached job must start first and continue running throughout the whole experiment, while receiving a constant load of 30K QPS from the **mcperf** client. After making sure you have started memcached and the client load, you can start the batch jobs in the desired order. Your goal is to minimize the time from the moment the first batch job was started, to the moment the last batch job completes, while also ensuring that the 95th percentile latency for memcached remains below 1ms.

For Part 3 and Part 4, you must use a modified version of mcperf. It provides two features: it adds two columns that contain the start and end time for each measurement, and it allows variable traces (needed for Part 4 of the project). To install the augmented version of mcperf on client-agent-\* and client-measure, follow the instructions below:

```
$ sudo sh -c "echo deb-src http://europe-west3.gce.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ jammy main \
    restricted >> /etc/apt/sources.list"
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install libevent-dev libzmq3-dev git make g++ --yes
$ sudo apt-get build-dep memcached --yes
$ git clone https://github.com/eth-easl/memcache-perf-dynamic.git
$ cd memcache-perf-dynamic
$ make
```

Instead of sweeping the request throughput, as in Part 1, you now want to generate load at a constant rate of approximately 30K QPS, while periodically reporting latency (e.g. every 10 seconds). To do this, run the following command on the client-agent-a machine:

### \$ ./mcperf -T 2 -A

and the following command on the client-agent-b machine:

### \$ ./mcperf -T 4 -A

and the following command on the client-measure VM:

You can get the execution time of each batch job by parsing the JSON output of the **kubect1** command that returns information about the jobs, including their start and completion time. To do this, run the following command after all jobs have been completed:

```
$ kubectl get pods -o json > results.json
$ python3 get_time.py results.json
```

where **get\_time.py** is a python script that you can find here.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: you must delete your cluster when you are not using it! Otherwise, you will easily use up all of your cloud credits! When you are ready to work on the project again, you can easily re-launch the cluster with the instructions from above.

To delete your cluster, use the command:

```
$ kops delete cluster --name part3.k8s.local --yes
```

## 1.2 Questions

Use the report template to answer the questions and submit your results for Part 3 of the project.

#### 1.3 Submission

For Part 3 of the project, we expect you to submit:

- The PDF file containing the answers to the posed questions, in the form of the filled project report template.
- All YAML files you have modified or newly created.
- All scripts you have used for automation (if you used any).
- All other scripts or files you used, and consider useful for the understanding of your scheduling policy.
- Your measurement output files, in the format explained below:
  - Your submission **must** contain the measurements for the results described in your report.

- In the root of your submission archive, place a directory called part\_3\_results\_group\_XXX, where XXX is your group number represented with 3 digits (e.g. for group 1, XXX equals 001).
- In that directory, place 6 files 3 .json and 3 .txt files. The .json files must be named pods\_1.json, pods\_2.json and pods\_3.json. The .txt files must be named mcperf\_1.txt, mcperf\_2.txt and mcperf\_3.txt.
- Each .json file should contain the full output of the get pods command of the corresponding run.
- Each .txt file should contain the output of the mcperf execution for the corresponding run. You can find an example of the expected mcperf output format here. In the general case, copying from the console should be sufficient to match the required format. But, it is your responsibility to make sure that the format of all your .txt files matches the one in the example given above.
  - **Note:** Trailing new lines and whitespaces are ignored. You can use either Unix-like line endings  $(\n)$  or Windows-like line endings  $(\n)$ .
- Please follow the instructions stated above. Divergence from the required format can lead to subtraction of points.

There are no additional requirements regarding the structure of the other requested files.

## 2 Part 4

In Part 4 of the project you will co-schedule the batch applications on a single 4-core server running memcached. In contrast to Part 3, the load on the long-running memcached service will now be dynamically varied, such that the number of cores needed by the memcached service to meet the tail latency SLO will range from 1 to 2 cores. Your goal is to design a scheduling policy that grows and shrinks the resource allocation of memcached and opportunistically uses (temporarily) available cores to complete the batch jobs as quickly as possible. Your scheduling policy must guarantee a memcached tail latency SLO of 1ms 95th percentile latency. For this part of the project, you will be using a cluster consisting of 4 nodes: a 2-core VM cluster master, a 4-core high memory VM for the memcached server and batch jobs, a 16-core VM for the mcperf agent, and a 2-core VM for the mcperf measurement machine.

You are required to implement your own controller to launch jobs and dynamically adjust their available resources based on your scheduling policy. In this part of the project, we will not be using Kubernetes because it does not provide an API to change a container's resource allocation during runtime. Instead, you will use Docker to launch containers and run the batch workloads, and to dynamically adjust their resources. For memcached, we provide instructions for installing and running it directly on the VM (rather than in a Docker container) and for using the taskset command to dynamically adjust its resources. The reason why we do not use Docker to run memcached in this part of the assignment is that we have observed that memcached's resources are not effectively constrained with docker --cpuset-cpus. This occurs due to the fact that most of the processing in memcached is network packet processing, which executes in kernel threads. Your controller should monitor CPU utilization and/or other types of resources and metrics to decide if resources need to be adjusted to meet the SLO. Your controller should make dynamic resource allocation decisions, such that the batch jobs are completed as quickly as possible, while still enforcing memcached's SLO.

For this part of the project you should also use the augmented version of mcperf, which is capable of generating random loads on the memcached server, as well as specific load traces. Refer to the instructions provided in Part 3 to install this version.

#### Implementing the controller and the scheduling policy

We recommend implementing your controller in python and using the Docker Python SDK to manage containers. Alternatively, you may implement the controller in Go using the Docker Go SDK. You can find examples of managing containers using the Docker SDK, for both Python and Go. If you plan on using such an SDK, you might find it useful to use the shell command sudo usermod -a -G docker <your-username>. This will allow you to use the SDK programmatically, without encountering permission errors. You will also be able to run docker commands without using sudo.

In addition to running containers, you will also need to update containers while they are running. Updating a container refers to dynamically adjusting the properties of the container, such as the CPU allocation. You can read more about updating containers in the Docker update command documentation. You can update docker containers using Docker SDK commands. In case you find it helpful, you can also pause and unpause containers. This is an option you may explore, but it is not required. Pausing a container has the effect of temporarily stopping the execution of the processes in the container (i.e. releasing CPU resources), while retaining the container's state (i.e. keeping the container's memory resources). Unpausing a container resumes the execution of the

processes in that container.

Your controller should run on the 4-core high memory memcached server and monitor the CPU utilization. The controller should then use the CPU utilization statistics to make dynamic scheduling decisions. You can monitor CPU utilization on the server by reading and post-processing data from /proc/stat files on the VM. There are also language specific options for monitoring metrics, such as psutil for Python.

In addition to CPU utilization, you can also use other inputs for your scheduling policy if you wish to do so. This is not required, but may let you implement an even better scheduling policy. Make sure that your project report contains explanations of any additional controller inputs you choose to consider in your scheduling policy.

## Evaluating the scheduling policy

You will evaluate your scheduling policy with a dynamic mcperf load trace we provide (see instructions below). You should use mcperf to investigate the performance of your scheduling policy with various load traces (e.g. try different random seeds and time intervals). Experimenting with various load traces will allow you to analyze when and why does your policy perform well and to understand in which scenarios the policy does not adapt appropriately.

## Generating the plots

In this part of the project you will be asked to generate some plots which often require you to aggregate data gathered from different VMs. This can be challenging, since you'll need to temporally correlate data across different VMs. A straightforward way to do this is to save the Unix time whenever you log an event, as this time is roughly synchronized across VMs. You can further use other information such as dynamic mcperf's --qps\_interval or -t parameter (see documentation here). Our dynamic mcperf version should also print the simulation's start and end Unix times in the output logs by default. Another alternative is to use the shell command date +%s. These times can then be used when generating the plots to synchronize events that take place on different VMs.

## 2.1 Setup

#### 2.1.1 Installation

Run the following command to create a kubernetes cluster with 1 master and 3 nodes.

```
$ export KOPS_STATE_STORE=<your-gcp-state-store>
$ PROJECT='gcloud config get-value project'
$ kops create -f part4.yaml
```

You are now ready to deploy the cluster by running:

```
$ kops update cluster --name part4.k8s.local --yes --admin
```

Your cluster should need around 5-10 minutes to be deployed. You can validate the cluster with the command:

```
$ kops validate cluster --wait 10m
```

The command will terminate when your cluster is ready to use. Afterwards you can run:

#### \$ kubectl get nodes -o wide

to get the status and details of your nodes as follows:

NAME	STATUS	ROLES	AGE	VERSION	INTERNAL-IP	EXTERNAL-IP
client-agent-bf7q	Ready	node	111s	v1.19.7	10.138.0.33	35.230.78.193
client-measure-5v6m	Ready	node	116s	v1.19.7	10.138.0.32	35.227.161.236
master-us-west1-a-kh69	Ready	master	3m23s	v1.19.7	10.138.0.34	35.247.63.197
memcache-server-qmql	Ready	node	111s	v1.19.7	10.138.0.31	34.83.56.78

You will first need to manually install memcached on the memcache-sever VM. To do so, you must first use the following commands:

```
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt install -y memcached libmemcached-tools
```

To make sure the installation succeeded, run the following command:

#### \$ sudo systemctl status memcached

You should see an output similar to the one pasted underneath:

You will need to expose the service to the outside world, and increase its default starting memory. To do so, open memcached's configuration file using the command:

#### \$ sudo vim /etc/memcached.conf

To update memcached's memory limit, look for the line starting with -m and update the value to 1024. Similarly, to expose the memcached server to external requests, locate the line starting with -1 and replace the localhost address with the internal IP of the memcache-server VM. In this file you can also specify the number of memcached threads by introducing a line starting with -t, followed by the number of threads. After entering all of the desired changes, save the file, and then execute the next command to restart memcached with the new configuration:

#### \$ sudo systemctl restart memcached

Running sudo systemctl status memcached again should yield an output similar as before, but you should see the updated parameters in the command line. If you completed these steps successfully, memcached should be running and listening for requests on the VMs internal IP on port 11211.

On client-agent and client-measure machines, install the augmented version of mcperf following the instructions from Part 3.

On the client-agent VM, you should then run the following command to launch the mcperf memcached client load agent with 16 threads:

#### \$ ./mcperf -T 16 -A

On the client-measure VM, run the following commands to first load the memcached database with key-value pairs and then to query memcached with a dynamic load generator, which will produce a random throughput between 5000 and 100000 queries per second during each interval. The throughput target will change and will be assigned to another QPS value for the next time interval. Note that, in contrast from before, the output appears only at the end of the measurement. In the example below the interval duration is set to 2 seconds, whilst the overall execution time is 10 seconds, this will result in five different QPS intervals:

The INTERNAL\_MEMCACHED\_IP and INTERNAL\_AGENT\_IP are the internal IPs of the memcache-sever and client-agent retrieved from the output of kubectl get nodes -o wide.

For more information on the dynamic load generator, and the available options it provides, check the guide in the README.md of the public repository.

Batch jobs can be started using Docker. For instance, one can start the **blackscholes** job on core 0 (--cpuset-cpus="0" parameter) and with 2 threads (-n 2 parameter) using the following command:

```
docker run --cpuset-cpus="0" -d --rm --name parsec \
    anakli/cca:parsec_blackscholes \
    ./run -a run -S parsec -p blackscholes -i native -n 2
```

Feel free to inspect the YAML files for the batch jobs, provided in the previous parts of the project, to further understand their command line arguments. You can find the rest of the docker images here. Make sure to use the native datasets for the jobs and the following image versions:

- blackscholes: anakli/cca:parsec\_blackscholes
- canneal: anakli/cca:parsec\_canneal
- dedup: anakli/cca:parsec\_dedup
- ferret: anakli/cca:parsec\_ferret
- freqmine: anakli/cca:parsec\_freqmine
- radix: anakli/cca:splash2x\_radix
- vips: anakli/cca:parsec\_vips

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: You must delete your cluster when you are not using it! Otherwise, you will easily use up all of your cloud credits! When you are ready to work on the project again, you can easily re-launch the cluster using the instructions above.

To delete your cluster, use the following command:

```
$ kops delete cluster --name part4.k8s.local --yes
```

## 2.1.2 Setting resource limits

taskset is an essential command used for setting the process CPU affinity. For instance, running taskset -a -cp 0-2 <pid> will bind all threads (-a switch) of the running process indicated by <pid> (-p parameter) to the CPUs 0, 1 and 2 (-c parameter). One can also use this command when starting up processes. More information on taskset can be obtained here.

For Docker, the --cpuset-cpus parameter is used to set the cores a container is able to use. This parameter can be set when spinning up a container (e.g. sudo docker run --cpuset-cpus="0-2" ...) or updated when a container is already running (e.g. docker container update --cpuset-cpus="0-2" CONTAINER).

You are also free to use other methods to dynamically adjust resource allocation for your jobs. This can refer to resources other than CPU cores.

## 2.2 Questions

Use the report template to answer the questions and submit your results for Part 4 of the project.

#### 2.3 Submission

For part 4 of the project, we expect you to submit:

- The PDF file containing the answers to the posed questions, in the form of the filled project report template.
- The script you used to automate the scheduler.
- All other scripts or files you used, and consider needed/useful for the script above.
- Your measurement output files, in the format explained below:
  - Your submission **must** contain the measurements for the results described in your report.
  - In the root of your submission archive, place two directories called part\_4\_3\_results\_group\_XXX and part\_4\_4\_results\_group\_XXX, where XXX is your group number represented with 3 digits (e.g. for group 1, XXX equals 001).
  - Each of the directories should have 6 files inside. They must be named jobs\_1.txt,
     jobs\_2.txt, jobs\_3.txt and mcperf\_1.txt, mcperf\_2.txt, mcperf\_3.txt.
  - Each mcperf\_i.txt file should contain the output of the mcperf execution for the corresponding run. You can find an example of the expected mcperf output format here. In the general case, copying from the console should be sufficient to match the required format. But, it is your responsibility to make sure that the format of all your mcperf\_i.txt files matches the one in the example given above.

**Note:** Trailing new lines and whitespaces are ignored. You can use either Unix-like line endings  $(\n)$  or Windows-like line endings  $(\n)$ .

- The jobs\_i.txt files should contain the container execution log for the corresponding run.
  - \* Since you are not expected to use Kubernetes for this part, you have to produce a text-based log.

- \* We provide a utility class in Python that does exactly that. Feel free to re-implement this class in any language you decide to use, but the output must adhere to the format of the provided Python class.
- \* Each line in the file represents an event. It starts with a date in the ISO format (e.g. 2023-04-12T09:52:37.019688), followed by the event name (start, end, update\_cores, pause, unpause, or custom), and the job name (memcached, blackscholes, canneal, dedup, ferret, frequine, radix, vips, scheduler).
- \* A start event must be followed by two more elements that represent: 1) the list of CPU cores ([0, 1, 2, 3]) the process was assigned at the beginning and 2) the number of (software) threads it is started with.
- \* An update\_cores event has an additional argument that represents the new list of assigned cores.
- \* A **custom** event has an arbitrary string (that is *URL-encoded*) as the last parameter. Use this event if you are applying different techniques, that are not supported by the logger, or if you want to add comments to the trace.
- \* Trailing whitespaces and newlines are ignored, you can use either Unix-like line endings (\n) or Windows-like line endings (\r\n).
- \* The file must start with a start event for the scheduler, and end with an end event for the scheduler. These two events should not have a core assignment specified.
- \* Remember that each PARSEC job that you start must eventually end.
- \* Remember that memcached needs a start event, but it doesn't necessarily need an end. If memcached is already running, log the start memcached event just after the start scheduler event.
- \* Refer to this file for an example.
- Please follow the instructions stated above. Divergence from the required format can lead to subtraction of points.
- Please make sure your files are complete and that the measurement files match the plots and descriptions used in your project report. Divergence from these instructions can lead to subtraction of points.

There are no additional requirements regarding the structure of the other requested files.

## 3 FAQ

- When running kops create:
  - if you get the following error: failed to create file as already exists: gs://cca-eth-2024-group-XXX-ethzid/part1.k8s.local/config. error: error creating cluster: file already exists, you need to delete the contents of your Google Cloud storage bucket, the recreate it with the following commands:

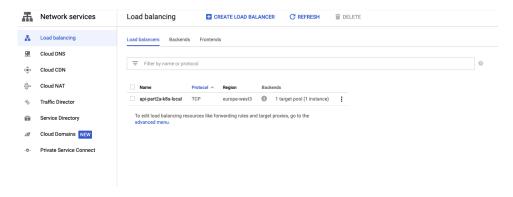
```
$ gsutil rm -r gs://cca-eth-2024-group-XXX-ethzid/
$ gsutil mb gs://cca-eth-2024-group-XXX-ethzid/
```

- if you get the following error: Error: error creating cluster: error writing Cluster "part1.k8s.local": error from acl provider "k8s.io/kops/acl/gce": error querying bucket "...": googleapi: Error 404: The requested project was not found., notFound, make sure you have set the credentials correctly:
  - \$ gcloud auth application-default login
- When ssh-ing into a cluster node, if you get an error like
  WARNING: REMOTE HOST IDENTIFICATION HAS CHANGED!
  ...
  Offending ED25519 key in /Users/username/.ssh/known\_hosts:9
  ...

Host key verification failed

then you need to run ssh-keygen -R < host> where < host> is the IP address of the server you want to access.

- If kubectl commands prompt you for a username and password, or if kops validate says Unauthorized, first try to re-export the k8s credentials configuration using kops export kubecfg --admin. If it still does not work, delete the cluster and recreate it from scratch.
- If for any reason you cannot delete the cluster with the kops command do the following:
  - Go to console.cloud.google.com
  - Type in the search bar the term "Load balancers". You should be redirected to a page similar to the one below:



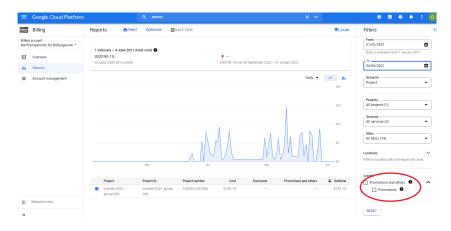
- Select and delete the load balancer.
- Then type in the search bar the term "Instance groups". You should be redirected to a page similar to the one below:



- Select and delete all the instance groups.
- Delete your Google Cloud storage bucket by typing:
  - \$ gsutil rm -r gs://cca-eth-2024-group-XXX-ethzid/
- Also under "External IP addresses" check there are no charges for left over static IPs.
- If your Google Cloud Credits are disappearing even though no charges appear on your Billing Overview, make sure you have unselected "Promotions"
  - Go to console.cloud.google.com
  - Type in the search bar the term "Account Overview". Select "Go to linked billing account" if prompted. You should be redirected to a page similar to the one below:



- Click on "View report".
- Make sure you unclick "Promotions and Other" as shown below and select a reasonable To/From time range:



• If you run out of credits for your project, please email cloud-arch-ta@lists.inf.ethz.ch to request additional cloud credits.					