

## NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

#### DIVISION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Efficient file sharing between host and unikernel

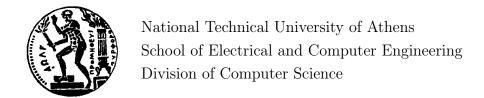
### DIPLOMA THESIS

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Professor, NTUA

Athens, October 2020



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## Abstract

Cloud computing is the dominant approach to compute infrastructure, established on the technology of virtualization. As the cloud expands, efficient utilization of its compute resources by software becomes imperative. One solution towards that are unikernels, operating system kernels specialized to run a single application, sparing resources compared to a general-purpose kernel. Efficient access from virtualized guests to the underlying host's resources is a substantial challenge in virtualization. In this aspect, virtio has been a significant contribution, as a specification of paravirtual devices enabling efficient usage of the host's resources. For host-guest file sharing, virtio-fs has been proposed, as a virtio device offering guest access to a file system directory on the host, providing high performance and local file system semantics.

This thesis is concerned with the implementation and evaluation of virtio-fs in the context of the OSvunikernel. We demonstrate that combining the two offers great benefits, both with regard to performance achieved, which is comparable to local file systems, and the operational aspect in a cloud context. Moreover, the above are carried out fully within the open-source project behind the unikernel we based our work on. This way, the resulting product gains practical value, being a useful contribution to the project, thus achieving a pivotal, non-technical goal. Furthermore, we explore how open-source software projects and the communities around them work, as we become active members of one.

## Keywords

virtualization, cloud, file system, unikernel, virtio, OSv, virtio-fs, QEMU

## Acknowledgements

For this work, signalling the completion of a long course, I would like to thank the members of the computing systems laboratory, under whose auspices it was carried out. Most of all, I want to thank them, as well as other members of the ECE school, for their teaching, their genuine interest and for cultivating the spirit of an engineer in me.

Moreover, I owe a big thank you to the people in the OSv and virtio-fs communities for their support, their guidance and their time, but more importantly for their openness, their spirit and work which sparked this contribution.

Finally, those I am most grateful for are my family and friends, who always stand on my side, bear with and support me and without whom nothing could be accomplished.

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