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COEN 241: Cloud Computing

Homework 1

System vs OS Virtualization

Configurations of the Experimental Setups:

I planned to run the VM and the Container in 3 different setups:

* 2GB of memory, 1 CPU cores, 1 thread per core
* 2GB of memory, 2 CPU cores, 1 thread per core
* 4GB of memory, 4 CPU cores, 1 thread per core

Configs 1 and 2 were meant to test the effect of an additional CPU core while 3 was meant to test the effect of double the resources in comparison to config 2.

How to run QEMU VM:

QEMU requires the following steps to run a VM:

1. Get QEMU and the desired VM image
2. Make sure you have the correct admin privileges
3. Set up you environmental variables if applicable
4. Create the QEMU image
   1. e.x. qemu-img.exe create ubuntu.img 10G -f qcow2
5. Run the install of your VM image
   1. e.x. qemu-system-x86\_64.exe -hda .\ubuntu.img -boot d -cdrom .\ubuntu-16.04.7-server-amd64.iso -m 2046 -boot strict=on
6. Boot into the VM using a modified version of the previous command
   1. e.x. qemu-system-x86\_64.exe -hda .\ubuntu.img -boot d -m 2046 -boot strict=on
7. Go through all the setup steps and finally boot into your desired VM

* Notes on possible resource flags in command
  + -m
    - Changes the amount of memory your VM has allocated
  + -smp
    - Changes the cpu configuration
  + -accel
    - Changes the form of acceleration your VM will use
* My commands for the 3 different configurations
  + qemu-system-x86\_64.exe -hda .\ubuntu.img -boot d -m 2G -boot strict=on
  + qemu-system-x86\_64.exe -hda .\ubuntu.img -boot d -m 2G -smp 2,sockets=2,maxcpus=2 --accel tcg,thread=single -boot strict=on
  + qemu-system-x86\_64.exe -hda .\ubuntu.img -boot d -m 4G -smp 4,sockets=4,maxcpus=4 --accel tcg,thread=single -boot strict=on

Screenshots of QEMU VM:

Graphical user interface, text

Description automatically generated

Text

Description automatically generated

How to run Docker Container:

Docker requires the following steps to run a VM:

1. Download/Install Docker
2. Pick the image you would like to use from the online repo or elsewhere and download it
3. Use the run command with the required arguments and flags to boot your container
   1. e.x. docker run -itd [IMAGE] bash
      1. -d means the container will stay running in the background
      2. “bash” at the end makes the CLI open after you run the command assuming the container didn’t instantly quit

* Notes on possible resource flags in command
  + --memory
    - Changes the amount of memory your VM has allocated
  + --cpus
    - Changes the cpu configuration
* My commands for the 3 different configurations
  + docker run --name sysbench --memory="2g" --cpus 1.0 --privileged -itd csminpp/ubuntu-sysbench bash
  + docker run --name sysbench --memory="2g" --cpus 2.0 --privileged -itd csminpp/ubuntu-sysbench bash
  + docker run --name sysbench --memory="4g" --cpus 4.0 --privileged -itd csminpp/ubuntu-sysbench bash

Screenshots of Docker Container:

Text

Description automatically generated

Text

Description automatically generated

Text

Description automatically generated

Data/Measurments:

The script (pasted later in this document) filtered and feed the data of each config into a .txt file from which I moved the data to excel. Here are the tables:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | QEMU 1 | QEMU 2 | QEMU 3 | Docker |
| CPU 5000 Run 1 | 5.1210 | 5.2257 | 5.2136 | 2.3276 |
| CPU 5000 Run 2 | 5.1339 | 5.2020 | 5.3371 | 2.3304 |
| CPU 5000 Run 3 | 5.1939 | 5.2034 | 5.4107 | 2.3239 |
| CPU 5000 Run 4 | 5.1406 | 5.1651 | 5.4265 | 2.3222 |
| CPU 5000 Run 5 | 5.1565 | 5.1703 | 5.2203 | 2.3265 |
| CPU 5000 Avg | 5.1492 | 5.1933 | 5.3216 | 2.3261 |
| CPU 10000 Run 1 | 12.5998 | 12.7124 | 12.7133 | 6.0213 |
| CPU 10000 Run 2 | 12.6058 | 12.6202 | 13.1793 | 6.0066 |
| CPU 10000 Run 3 | 12.5690 | 12.6644 | 12.7381 | 6.0075 |
| CPU 10000 Run 4 | 12.5482 | 12.6476 | 13.2559 | 6.0225 |
| CPU 10000 Run 5 | 12.5829 | 12.7417 | 13.0310 | 6.0527 |
| CPU 10000 Avg | 12.5811 | 12.6773 | 12.9835 | 6.0221 |
| CPU 20000 Run 1 | 31.6840 | 31.2162 | 32.1740 | 15.5328 |
| CPU 20000 Run 2 | 31.3436 | 31.2764 | 31.2879 | 15.5063 |
| CPU 20000 Run 3 | 31.3811 | 31.3725 | 32.0950 | 15.5198 |
| CPU 20000 Run 4 | 31.2209 | 31.1514 | 31.4477 | 15.5339 |
| CPU 20000 Run 5 | 31.0576 | 31.2730 | 32.5930 | 15.5279 |
| CPU 20000 Avg | 31.3374 | 31.2579 | 31.9195 | 15.5241 |
| FileIO 2G Run 1 | 6.7332 | 11.4627 | 0.6213 | 0.0669 |
| FileIO 2G Run 2 | 8.8622 | 12.7997 | 0.4923 | 0.0798 |
| FileIO 2G Run 3 | 9.9212 | 16.7610 | 1.0974 | 0.0816 |
| FileIO 2G Run 4 | 12.3063 | 17.6150 | 0.7046 | 0.0775 |
| FileIO 2G Run 5 | 12.1168 | 18.4183 | 0.8099 | 0.0838 |
| FileIO 2G Avg | 9.9879 | 15.4113 | 0.7451 | 0.0779 |
| FileIO 4G Run 1 | 27.1652 | 40.4482 | 0.9527 | 0.4138 |
| FileIO 4G Run 2 | 28.0483 | 40.7813 | 0.5343 | 0.4103 |
| FileIO 4G Run 3 | 31.8298 | 40.1434 | 0.7297 | 0.4175 |
| FileIO 4G Run 4 | 31.8566 | 43.0382 | 0.5430 | 0.4151 |
| FileIO 4G Run 5 | 32.6931 | 44.1430 | 0.6336 | 0.4267 |
| FileIO 4G Avg | 30.3186 | 41.7108 | 0.6787 | 0.4167 |

Analysis and Discussion of the Results:

Averages of all the runs:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | QEMU 1 | QEMU 2 | QEMU 3 | Docker |
| CPU 5000 Avg | 5.1492 | 5.1933 | 5.3216 | 2.3261 |
| CPU 10000 Avg | 12.5811 | 12.6773 | 12.9835 | 6.0221 |
| CPU 20000 Avg | 31.3374 | 31.2579 | 31.9195 | 15.5241 |
| FileIO 2G Avg | 9.9879 | 15.4113 | 0.7451 | 0.0779 |
| FileIO 4G Avg | 30.3186 | 41.7108 | 0.6787 | 0.4167 |

If we plot all the averages for the CPU, we get the following:

This trend doesn’t make sense for the QEMU lines as QEMU 1 had 1 core, QEMU 2 had 2 cores, and QEMU 3 had 4 cores. The lines should space out relatively proportional to this however this isn’t seen in the slightest.

The weird trends with QEMU continued into the FileIO tests as well as 1 was faster than 2 and 3 was unreasonably fast compared to the other QEMU FileIO tests.

Even after running lscpu and lshw to check the CPU and memory stats in the VM and confirming that they were correct for the QEMU configs, the performance did not show this. I am unsure why QEMU behaved like this even after all the sysbench commands and dropcache’s worked correctly. Docker had many issues with getting the configuration correct as the core count and the memory amount were always identical to the base system and never were affected by the altering of flags like –memory and –cpu or even adjusting the .wslconf file for WSL 2 windows 10. This is why docker was so much faster than the other QEMU tests as it was running with 20 cpus and 24GiB of memory. All these mishaps together mean that there are no solid findings that can be represented however with a bit more time for debugging the resource allocation issues this would work.

Script for running experiments:

This script worked in both setups of Linux (the VM and the container) but it requires the installation of packages/commands like lshw, lscpu, and sysbench. This script takes in one command line argument of output file name (e.g. bash script.sh output.txt).

outputFile=$1

sync; sudo sh -c "echo 3 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches"

touch $outputFile

> $outputFile

runCPU(){

number=$1

shift

for i in {1..5}; do

sysbench --test=cpu --cpu-max-prime=$number run | tail -n 2 | head -n 1 >> $outputFile

done

}

runFileIO(){

size=$1

mode=$2

shift

for i in {1..5}; do

sysbench --num-threads=16 --test=fileio --file-total-size=$size --file-test-mode=rndrw prepare

sysbench --num-threads=16 --test=fileio --file-total-size=$size --file-test-mode=rndrw run >> $outputFile

sysbench --num-threads=16 --test=fileio --file-total-size=$size --file-test-mode=rndrw cleanup

sync; sudo sh -c "echo 3 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches"

done

}

echo "CPU Config" >> $outputFile

sudo lscpu | tee >(grep 'CPU(s):' >> $outputFile) >(grep 'Socket' >> $outputFile) >(grep 'Thread' >> $outputFile)

sleep 3

echo "RAM Amount" >> $outputFile

sudo lshw -c memory | grep capacity >> $outputFile

echo "---CPU Tests---" >> $outputFile

echo "-----5000" >> $outputFile

runCPU 5000

echo "-----10000" >> $outputFile

runCPU 10000

echo "-----20000" >> $outputFile

runCPU 20000

echo "---------------------------------------------" >> $outputFile

echo "---File IO Tests---" >> $outputFile

echo "-----2G 128Files 16Threads" >> $outputFile

runFileIO 2G

echo "-----4G 128Files 16Threads" >> $outputFile

runFileIO 4G

Usage of performance tools:

The tool we used to collect and show performance data of a virtualized space is the sysbench tool for the Linux environment.

* The sysbench commands used
  + sysbench –test=cpu [FLAGS] run
    - --cpu-max-prime=N
      * Prime generator test for cpu
  + sysbench –test=fileio [FLAGS] [prepare|run|cleanup]
    - --file-num=N
      * Number of files, default amount is 128
    - --file-total-size=SIZE
      * Size of all files combined
    - --file-test-mode=STRING
      * Type of FileIO test: seqwr, seqrewr, seqrd, rndrd, rndwr, or rndrw

If the resource allocation of both environments were the same then much could be said about how CPU utilization differs in the user-space vs the kernel space however due to the erratic nature of my configurations we cannot make these connections. The fileIO throughput can be seen in the kb/sec measurement, the latency would be seen if you compare the “total time taken by event execution” of 2 different systems, and the disk utilization can be calculated by taking the total operations performed and dividing that by the “total time taken by event execution” resulting in a disk operations per second measurement.

Final Thoughts/Feedback:

Setting up virtualization for an assignment should be done in a controlled environment set up by the school where students can follow clean and organized instructions so that they can learn how to setup VMs and containers without having to waste time heavily debugging. Students’ personal machines varied in architecture and OS therefore making the setup process vastly different from everyone else. This stifled peer-to-peer review and analysis of bugs and resulted in very confusing rabbit holes of online solutions. Not many of my configurations worked well and I spent 2-3 days debugging trying to figure out why but most online sources conflict and its hard to relay these kinds of bugs on piazza. All-in-all if this were to be done again, I would highly prefer a controlled environment where I can spend more time learning about different types of virtualization and less time on debugging to no avail.

Github Repo:

<https://github.com/gaganSCU/COEN241_HW1>