CloudKon DTS

Distributed Task Scheduling in Cloud

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**ABSTRACT**

Predictions are that by the end of this decade, we will have exascale system with millions of nodes and billions of threads of execution [1]. Task Scheduling and execution of tasks over these large scale, distributed systems plays an important role in achieving good performance and high system utilization. Many Task computing paradigm[2] aims to bridge the gap between High Performane Computing and High Throughput Computing . Tasks may be small or large, uniprocessor or multiprocessor, compute-intensive or [data-intensive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data-intensive_computing) but MTC tasks include loosely coupled communication intensive tasks. Today’s jobschedulers have centralized Master/Slaves architecture (e.g. Slurm, Condor, PBS,SGE), where a centralized server is in charge of the resource provisioning and job execution. This architecture has worked well in modest scales and coarse granular workloads, but it has poor scalability at the extreme scales of petascale systems with fine granular MTC workloads. The goal of this project is to provide a efficient light weight and scalable distributed execution framework built on built on open source stack[HazelCast,Cassandra] to address MTC workloads deployed over Amazon Ec2 instance in cloud environment

**Index Terms**— Cloud Computing, Many Task Computing, Distributed Scheduling, Task Execution

# INTRODUCTION

The goal of an execution fabric is to effectively utilize the execution system aiming towards high throughput and provide efficient results for executed tasks. Today’s workload involves many fine granular workloads with execution times in seconds. Centralized schedulers are optimized towards high computational massive tasks where the complex decision policy and architecture of the schedulers play a major role. However, they tend to add considerable overhead while scheduling these lots of small tasks. Moreover, the centralized architecture tends to be a bottleneck in scheduling and execution. The solution to this problem is to have a decentralized and simple architecture. A decentralized architecture avoids the single point of failure, while a simple architecture reduces the considerable overhead involved in decision making for scheduling.

An execution fabric requires lot of computing resources to address the ever-growing workload of today’s world. Clouds seem to be a viable solution to this problem. Our solution is to build a loosely coupled compact and distributed execution fabric over public cloud (Amazon Ec2 instance) with distributed building blocks such as Cassandra [3] and HazelCast [4]. The motivation behind using open source stack in favor of extensive use of AWS [Amazon Web Services] is to decouple the fabric from AWS and provide easier transition to private cloud environment.

Recent studies suggest that clouds were not suitable candidates for scientific HPC computing [5][6][7][8].The problems listed were largely because of following the same approach involved in traditional clusters and grids. Clouds differ a lot from HPC applications as they are based on virtualization and shared resources.Our work involves running applications optimized for cloud environment. Traditional workloads can also be run on our execution fabric but with suitable decomposition of the workload at the client side.

In this project we implement a scalable distributed task execution framework. We have made extensive use of HazelCast , a highly scalable data distribution platform which acts as the reliable storage for the executable tasks . Our next building block is Cassandra, a distributed NoSQL store offering scalability and high availability for monitoring of the entire system. We also leverage the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) to manage virtual resources.

Today’s data analytics are moving towards shorter jobs with higher throughput and shorter latency. More applications are moving towards running higher number of jobs in order to improve the application throughput and performance. The focus is shifting towards Many Task Computing paradigm. Many task computing includes loosely coupled applications that are generally communication intensive.

We propose CloudKon as a job management system that achieves good load balancing and high system utilization. The heart of the CloudKon is the distributed queuing service. We have used HazelCast to facilitate this purpose. HazelCast performs the role of a highly available and reliable distributed pool of tasks to perfection. Worker Nodes are not adminstered by a centralized dispatcher or scheduler. Our work proposes an efficient pull architecture i.e worker nodes pull the tasks from the pool if they are idle. The system is loosely coupled and each component can be scaled based on the needs.

The driving factors behind our implementation of CloudKon are:

1. Design and architect a light-weight task execution framework for MTC workloads
2. Design a simple execution framework with a no frills user interface
3. Design a robust framework which can easily switch between public and private cloud environments
4. Design an extremely scalable execution framework
5. Design a loosely coupled framework to support future enhancements
6. Evaluate CloudKon with other state-of-the-art task execution systems
7. Deliver excellent throughput with <5% codebase of the job management systems

The remaining sections of this paper are as follows. Section 2 provides more background about the systems and the concepts that are related to this project and are necessary to know about. Section 3 discusses about the design and implementation details of CloudKon. Section 4 evaluates the performance of the CloudKon in different aspects using differentmetrics. Section 5 studies the related work in the area of task execution systems. Finally section 6 discusses about the limitations of the current work, and covers the future directions of this work.

# Background

## Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)

Cloud computing services are broadly categorized into three layers

* Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)
* Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)
* Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

The focus of this project is on IaaS since the scientific computing community mostly focuses on IaaS because of the need for compatibility with legacy applications and systems. Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) [6] is a web service that provides resizable compute capacity in the cloud. It is designed to make web-scale computing easier for developers. Amazon EC2 presents a true cloud hosting service for users. It allows users to use web service interfaces to launch instances with a variety of operating systems, load them with custom application environment, manage network’s access permissions, and run the image using as many systems as desired.

Amazon uses XEN hypervisor [7] as a middleware to run multiple Virtual Machines on their physical infrastructure. EC2 provides a web service that allows anyone to run their own applications on Amazon’s computing infrastructure, by letting customers “rent” computing resources by the hour. Clients are given access to an “unlimited” source of compute capacity, which is delivered through what is known as EC2 instance. An instance is a running virtual machine on Amazon’s cloud platform. Each of these instances are deployed with an Amazon Machine Image (AMI), which is just a pre-configured operating system and some bundled application software.

There exist several types of instances, each of them with different compute capacities, memory size, I/O performance and storage. Users launch one or more instances by specifying the instance type. Then the instances will be deployed on the server and user can connect to them via SSH using their public IP address. Amazon guarantees the availability rate of 99.95% in its Service Level Agreement. That means the instances are guaranteed to be available 99.95% of the time.

Considering the ways we can have access to these instances, we can categorize them in three different types:

* **Reserved instances:** Amazon allows us to pay upfront per each instance that we want to use during a given period, and in exchange, they give us a lower hourly cost for each of them. Along with the savings, with these instances we make sure that we will have availability through all the period that we paid for.
* **On demand instances:** these are the most common type of instances. You only pay for what you use, allowing easy allocation and deallocation of resources, depending on your capacity requirements. Customers are billed at the end of each month.
* **Spot instances:** This is a very interesting concept. In order to achieve a better utilization of their infrastructure, Amazon allows us to bid on unused EC2 capacity and run instances until the current spot instance price exceeds our bid. Amazon based on the available capacity sets the spot price and load of their systems and it is updated in a 5-minute period. The prices of these instances are much lower than what you pay for On-demand instances. As a drawback, the availability of you instances is only assured while the spot price is under bid. As previously stated, Amazon automatically terminates those instances whose bid is exceeded by the spot price. Besides, one cannot stop a spot instance and use it later as it happens with on-demand or reserved instances. Spot instances can only be terminated or rebooted.

Among these types, the spot instances seem to be the most appropriate for running short-term applications under certain conditions, since they provide the same capacity and features as the other instances at a lower rate. These include scientific applications, which usually run for a predictable amount of time, lowering the costs per experiment.

## Many Task Computing (MTC)

Many-Task Computing (MTC) was introduced by Raicu et al. [11][12] in 2008 to describe a class of applications that did not fit easily into the categories of traditional high-performance computing (HPC) or high-throughput computing (HTC). Many MTC applications are structured as graphs of discrete tasks, with explicit input and output dependencies forming the graph edges. In many cases, the data dependencies will be files that are written to and read from a file system shared between the compute resources; however, MTC does not exclude applications in which tasks communicate in other manners.

MTC applications often demand a short time to solution, may be communication intensive or data intensive, and may comprise of a large number of short tasks. Tasks may be small or large, uniprocessor or multiprocessor, compute-intensive or data-intensive. The set of tasks may be static or dynamic, homogeneous or heterogeneous, loosely coupled or tightly coupled. The aggregate number of tasks, quantity of computing, and volumes of data may be extremely large. For many applications, a graph of distinct tasks is a natural way to conceptualize the computation. Structuring an application in this way also gives increased flexibility. For example, it allows tasks to be run on multiple different supercomputers simultaneously; it simplifies failure recovery and allows the application to continue when nodes fail, if tasks write their results to persistent storage as they finish; and it permits the application to be tested and run on varying numbers of nodes without any rewriting or modification.

The hardware of current and future large-scale HPC systems, with their high degree of parallelism and support for intensive communication, is well suited for achieving low turnaround times with large, intensive MTC applications. The MTC paradigm has been defined and built with the scalability of tomorrow’s systems as a priority and can address many of the HPC shortcomings at extreme scales.

## HazelCast

HazelCast is a distributed in-memory data-grid that provides fast access to large amounts of data distributed across a cluster of machines. HazelCast allows you to easily share and partition your application data across your cluster. HazelCast is a peer-to-peer solution (there is no master node, every node is a peer) so there is no single point of failure. HazelCast is pure Java. JVMs that are running HazelCast will dynamically cluster. Although by default HazelCast will use multicast for discovery, it can also be configured to only use TCP/IP for environments where multicast is not available or preferred. Communication among cluster members is always TCP/IP with Java NIO beauty. Default configuration comes with a single backup so if one node fails, no data will be lost. It is as simple as using java.util.{Queue, Set, List, Map}

HazelCast’s Queue service is used as the queuing component in our implementation of CloudKon. It provides reliable and persistent data storage. HazelCast distributed queue is an implementation of java.util.concurrent.BlockingQueue HazelCast allows you to load and store the distributed queue entries from/to a persistent datastore such as relational database via a queue-store. If queue store is enabled then each entry added to queue will also be stored to configured queue store. When the number of items in queue exceed the memory limit, items will only persisted to queue store, they will not stored in queue memory. Here the queue store configuration options:

* Binary: By default, HazelCast stores queue items in serialized form in memory and before inserting into datastore deserializes them.
* Memory Limit: This is the number of items after which HazelCast will just store items to datastore. For example if memory limit is 1000, then 1001st item will be just put into datastore. This feature is useful when you want to avoid out-of-memory conditions.
* Bulk Load: At initialization of queue, items are loaded from QueueStore in bulks. Bulk load is the size these bulks

HazelCast is highly fault tolerant. It handles failure of nodes gracefully and the data can be replicated across the nodes by specifying the replication factor. HazelCast provides a flexible configuration model providing fine-grained control over each aspect.

After continuous evaluation for its fault tolerance and reliability, we chose HazelCast as the distributed queuing component for our execution fabric. The intent behind choosing HazelCast over Amazon’s distributed queue SQS are

* Fine Grained configuration control
* Support for complex types – object store[In SQS only string support]
* Control on resource allocation and pricing model[Abstraction in case of SQS]
* Flexibility to deploy on private clouds and clusters
* Follows FIFO policy – Message delivery is guaranteed to be in insertion order.
* In Memory Processing delivering efficient speeds
* Highly fault tolerant even in case of multiple node failures

## Cassandra

Apache Cassandra is a No SQL data Store with scalability and high availability without compromising performance. Linear scalability and proven fault-tolerance on commodity hardware or cloud infrastructure make it the perfect platform for mission-critical data. Cassandra's support for replicating across multiple datacenters is best in class, providing lower latency for users and the ability to withstand failures.

Cassandra's data model offers the convenience of column indexes with the performance of log-structured updates, strong support for denormalization and materialized views, and powerful built-in caching

Cassandra incorporates a number of architectural best practices that affect performance

**Fully distributed**- Every Cassandra machine handles a proportionate share of every activity in the system. With each node the same, Cassandra is far simpler to install and operate. There are also no single points of failure and network bottlenecks.

**Log-structured storage engine**- A log-structured engine that avoids overwrites to turn updates into sequential I/O is essential both on hard disks (HDD) and solid-state disks (SSD). On HDD, because the seek penalty is so high; on SSD, to avoid write amplification and disk failure.

**Database Level Locking** - Cassandra uses advanced concurrent structures to provide row-level isolation without locking. Cassandra even eliminated the need for row-level locks for index updates.

**Data Modification** - Cassandra’s storage engine only appends updated data, it never has to re-write or re-read existing data. Thus, updates to a Cassandra row or partition stay fast as your dataset grows.

**Replication** – Control over synchronous or asynchronous replication for each update favoring performance over consistency. Highly available asynchronous operations are optimized with features like Hinted Handoff and Read Repair.

**Scalability** - Read and write throughput both increase linearly as new machines are added, with no downtime or interruption to applications.

**Fault** **Tolerant** - Data is automatically replicated to multiple nodes for fault-tolerance. Replication across multiple data centers is supported. Failed nodes can be replaced with no downtime

Cassandra provides an efficient storage mechanism to store the snapshot of the CloudKon execution environment. It provides a simplified interface for persistence of frequent snapshots of the system.

# Design and Implementation of CloudKon

## Execution Model

The key design principles involved in our implementation of CloudKon are

**Component Based Design –** Our implementation of CloudKon involves components such as client, worker, dynamic dispatcher and monitor. Our design is structured in such a way that all the components are loosely coupled. Unavailability of a particular component does not affect the overall execution of the system. Monitoring component, Client, Worker and Dynamic Dispatcher interact via the distributed queuing service. The endpoints of the various components are also configuration driven to ensure flexible execution even in case of complete failure of a component, The CloudKon processing overhead is very low due to efficient cloud services. The client and worker components do not have a heavy program to run. Many parts of their program calls are the calls to the cloud services, so they are being processed on the third party services. Having totally independent workers and clients, CloudKon does not need to keep any information of its nodes such as the IP address or any other state of its nodes.

**Pull Approach -**  Traditional Job Management system have advocated a centralized scheduler, which schedules tasks on the worker nodes. Here tasks are being posted to the scheduler. This introduces a huge overhead of scheduling decision in the scheduler component. We propose to use a pull approach where each worker pulls the tasks from the queue once it is ready for execution. It distributes the decision making role from one central node to all of the workers in the system. It also requires less communication than the pushing. In the pushing approach the decision maker has to communicate with the workers periodically to update their status as well as distributing the jobs among the workers. On pulling approach the only communication required is pulling the jobs. This approach provides for efficient load balancing across the worker nodes.

**Dual Queuing –** Our implementation of CloudKon utilizes two levels of queuing –one local to the client and another a distributed queue. The intent behind utilizing a twofold model is to ensure coupling of execution of client tasks with a particular worker, i.e. the worker tries to execute all the tasks of a particular client before polling the distributed queue for work from other clients

## Architecture

This section explains about the system design of CloudKon with explanation on individual components involved in the design of CloudKon. All the components are deployed across Amazon EC2 instance.

Figure 1. CloudKon Architecture

The individual components of CloudKon are explained as follows

**Client –** Client is responsible for scheduling tasks to the execution fabric of CloudKon. Client maintains two local queues one for request and another for response respectively. Local Queue service is provisioned via HazleCast. We also evaluated the queue service via ActiveMq but found HazleCast to be more flexible during our evaluations.

Client starts reading tasks from the file or via interactive input and starts queuing the tasks to local queue. Each task is an executable java object, which is converted as object message and queued. Here we explored the possibility of batching a configurable number of tasks equal to the worker threads. Considering the worker threads as 10, we bundled 10 tasks into a single task and scheduled to the local queue. Once all the tasks are queued in the request, Client advertises task messages in the distributed queue. The number of advertising messages is computed by the formula NT/NW where NW is the number of workers and NT is the number of tasks.

In this model during execution of multiple clients, client starvation occurred since all workers were busy executing the workload of previously scheduled clients. This led to us a configurable parameter for advertising tasks. Each client starts advertising the task when 10% [Configurable] of its tasks are queued in the local queue. This ensured that each client’s task is executed as soon as it is queued.

Once all tasks have been posted to the client queue, client starts a response thread, which periodically polls the response queue for the execution results. Since it polls the local queue, communication costs are low. On a configurable period, client checks if all its tasks have been executed failing which it starts advertising one more message to the distributed queue. Client logs the result execution to a output file for examination by users. Client is multithreaded to provide efficient simultaneous execution of all the activities

**Worker –** Worker is the execution part of our implementation. During initialization of the worker, it fetches the distributed queue details from the configuration. After initialization of worker, it starts polling the distributed queue. Worker fetches the first advertised message from the queue. Based on the advertisement it connects to the appropriate client request queue. Worker starts dequeuing each task from the request queue.

Worker is intelligent enough to identify the batched tasks and submits each task to the executor pool. The executor pool holds all the tasks for execution within the worker node and it is a configurable parameter, which corresponds to the worker threads. Once the configured amount of jobs is completed, workers start batching the response to a single object, which is posted to the response queue.

Worker continuously polls the client queue till all the jobs in the client queue are executed. When all the jobs are complete, worker starts polling the distributed queue for further advertisements. Worker implementation is multithreaded to ensure parallel execution of the various maintenance and execution activities. Each worker thread before executing the thread sends a message to the monitoring component to record the snapshot of the worker.

**Queue Component -**  Distributed queue component serves as the backbone of our implementation. A distributed queue decouples different components of the system. Different components can operate independently with the queue component in the middle to decouple different parts of the framework from each other. That makes our design compact, robust and easily extendable.

HazelCast is a highly scalable service that can provide all of the features required to implement a scalable job scheduling system. Using this service, we can achieve the goal of having a system that perfectly fits in the cloud environment and runs on its resources optimally

HazelCast ensures reliable storage for each queued task. Its high scalability and fault tolerance provides efficient support for our implementation. During the course of our evaluation we had terminated nodes of HazelCast cluster and have observed its failover strategy.

Once the HazelCast cluster is set up, the client can continuously advertise the tasks to the queue which worker acts up on. HazelCast is also implemented as a local queue service i.e. single node cluster within the client.

## Dynamic Provisioning

One of the main goals in the cloud environment is the cost-effectiveness. The affordable cost of the resources is one of the main reasons for the users to approach the cloud environment. Therefore it is very important for this project to keep the costs at the lowest possible rate. In order to achieve the cost-effectiveness we have implemented the dynamic provisioning system. Dynamic provisioner is responsible for assigning and launching new workers to the system in order to keep up with the incoming workload.

Amazon CloudWatch provides monitoring for AWS cloud resources and the applications customers run on AWS. Users can use it to collect and track metrics and react immediately. We had to develop a solution similar to Amazon CloudWatch. The problem with using Cloud Watch in our system is that it is coupled with Amazon stack while our aim is to build a execution framework decoupled as possible from AWS. Therefore we decided to implement our own dynamic provisioner.

The dynamic provisioner takes care of launching new worker instances in case of resource shortage. The application checks the queue length of the distributed request queue periodically and compares the queue length with its previous size. If the difference was more than the allowed threshold, it launches a new instance. Both checking interval and the size threshold are configurable parameters.

In order to use the resources efficiently, we have added a feature to the worker nodes. During worker initialization , a termination thread is kicked off in the background The purpose of termination daemon thread kicked during initialization is to identify if the worker is idle. If worker remains idle during the configurable lease period, it is terminated by sending the termination request. EC2 instances are charged on an hourly basis and hence idle instances are terminated near the lease period. In Private cloud environment, the timeout can be configured to a lesser period to ensure better utilization of resources

## Monitoring

## Implementation Details

We have implemented all of the CloudKon components in Java. Our implementation is multithreaded in both Client and Worker component codes. Many of the features in both of these systems such as Monitoring, Consistency, number of threads and message packing size can be enabled, disabled or modified as input argument of the program.

We have used some open source libraries in our implementation. The libraries include:

* AWS Java SDK library, for communicating with different AWS services [13]
* HazelCast library for queuing and dequeuing tasks[14]
* Cassandra library for storing and retrieving the system snapshot[15]
* Cassandra columnar database engine[15]
* Dependent open source libraries

### Configuration

Our implementation supports a versatile configuration driven application. The configurable parameters are listed below

# EVALUATION

# RELATED WORK

# FUTURE WORK

The heading of a section should

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