AMS 2016: UniCloud, Docker at Unidata LDM, TDS, and RAMADDA on Microsoft Azure VM

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Contents

Preamble								
Quick Start								
Preliminary Setup on Azure								
3.1	Install docker-machine	4						
3.2	Create a VM on Azure	4						
3.3	Configure Unix Shell to Interact with New Azure VM	4						
3.4	Restart Azure VM	4						
3.5	ssh into VM with docker-machine	5						
3.6	Install Package(s) with apt-get	5						
3.7	Add ubuntu User to docker Group and Restart Docker	5						
3.8	Install docker-compose on VM	5						
LD	M and TDS Configuration	6						
4.1	Background	6						
	4.1.1 Unidata-Dockerfiles	6						
	4.1.2 TDSConfig	6						
4.2	git clone Repositories	6						
4.3	Configuring the LDM	7						
	4.3.1 LDM Directories on Docker Host	7						
	4.3.2 LDM Configuration Files	7						
	4.3.3 Upstream Data Feed from Unidata or Elsewhere	9						
4.4	Configuring the TDS	10						
	4.4.1 Edit TDS catalog.xml Files	10						
	Qui Pre 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 LDI 4.1	Preliminary Setup on Azure 3.1 Install docker-machine 3.2 Create a VM on Azure. 3.3 Configure Unix Shell to Interact with New Azure VM. 3.4 Restart Azure VM 3.5 ssh into VM with docker-machine 3.6 Install Package(s) with apt-get 3.7 Add ubuntu User to docker Group and Restart Docker 3.8 Install docker-compose on VM LDM and TDS Configuration 4.1 Background 4.1.1 Unidata-Dockerfiles 4.1.2 TDSConfig 4.2 git clone Repositories 4.3 Configuring the LDM 4.3.1 LDM Directories on Docker Host 4.3.2 LDM Configuration Files 4.3.3 Upstream Data Feed from Unidata or Elsewhere 4.4 Configuring the TDS						

5	Sett	ing up	Data Volumes	10							
	5.1	Check	Free Disk Space	11							
	5.2	Create	data Directory	11							
6	Ope	ening Ports									
7	Tomcat Logging for TDS and RAMADDA										
8	Star	Starting the LDM TDS RAMADDA TDM									
		8.0.1	RAMADDA Preconfiguration	12							
		8.0.2	Final Edit to docker-compose.yml	13							
		8.0.3	Pull Down Images from the DockerHub Registry	13							
		8.0.4	Start the LDM, TDS, TDM, RAMADDA	13							
9	Che	ck Wh	at is Running	13							
	9.1	Docker	r Process Status	14							
	9.2	TDS a	and RAMADDA URLs	14							
			ng Data with the IDV	14							
		9.3.1	Access TDS with the IDV	14							
		9.3.2	Access RAMADDAA with the IDV	14							
10	App	endix		15							
	10.1	1 Common Problems									
			Certificate Regeneration								
			Size of Image is not Large Enough								

1 Preamble

This guide describes how to configure the LDM¹, TDS², and RAMADDA³ on a Microsoft Azure VM⁴. The document assumes you have access to Azure resources though these instructions should be fairly similar on other cloud providers (e.g., Amazon). They also require familiarity with Unix, Docker, and Unidata technology in general. You must have sudo priviliges on the Azure host which will hopefully be available you. You must be comfortable entering commands at the Unix command line. We will be using Docker images defined at the Unidata-Dockerfiles repository⁵ in addition to a con-

¹http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/ldm/

²http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/thredds/current/tds/

³http://sourceforge.net/projects/ramadda/

⁴https://azure.microsoft.com

⁵https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles

figuration specifically planned for an AMS 2016 demonstrations project⁶.

2 Quick Start

In order to best understand this configuratation process, it is recommmended to read the complete contents of this document and follow the instructions starting in the next section. If there are problems you will be able to reason about the errors. However, if you are eager to get started, you can follow this quick start section.

- git clone https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles
- Download and install⁷ docker-machine
- Run the Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/unicloud-1.sh script (this will take few minutes) to create the Docker host on Azure. See the section on Azure for more information.

For example,

Now you are ready to do additional configuration on the new Docker host:

```
docker-machine ssh <azure-host> "bash -s" < \
    Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/unicloud-2.sh</pre>
```

ssh into new Docker host with docker-machine ssh <azure-host>. See the section below about editing the ldmfile.sh to correctly handle logging. Run ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/unicloud-3.sh. See the section on checking what you have done.

3 Preliminary Setup on Azure

The VM we are about to create will be our **Docker Host** from where we will run Docker containers for the LDM, TDS, and RAMADDA.

 $^{^6 \}mathtt{https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles/tree/master/ams2016}$

⁷https://docs.docker.com/machine/install-machine/

3.1 Install docker-machine

Install⁸ docker-machine on your local computer. docker-machine is a command line tool that gives users the ability to create Docker VMs on your local computer or on a cloud provider such as Azure.

3.2 Create a VM on Azure.

The following docker-machine command will create a Docker VM on Azure for running various Unidata Docker containers. Replace the environment variables with your choices. This command will take a few minutes to run (between 5 and 10 minutes). You will have to supply azure-subscription-id and azure-subscription-cert path. See the Azure docker-machine instructions⁹, if you have questions about this process. Also set the size of the VM¹⁰ (e.g., Small, ExtraLarge) and supply the name of the Azure Docker host.

3.3 Configure Unix Shell to Interact with New Azure VM.

Execute the following eval command on your local computer shell environment to ensure that docker commands will be run with the newly created Docker host.

```
# Ensure docker commands will be run with new host
eval "$(docker-machine env $AZURE_HOST)"
```

3.4 Restart Azure VM

Mysteriously, when you ssh (see next section) into the fresh VM, you are immediately told to restart it so let's preempt that message by doing that now.

⁸https://docs.docker.com/machine/install-machine/
9https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/
virtual-machines-docker-machine/

10https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/
virtual-machines-size-specs/

```
# immediately restart VM, according to Azure
docker-machine restart $AZURE_HOST
# Again, ensure docker commands will be run with new host
eval "$(docker-machine env $AZURE_HOST)"
```

3.5 ssh into VM with docker-machine

docker-machine ssh \$AZURE_HOST

3.6 Install Package(s) with apt-get

At the very least, we will need unzip on the Azure Docker host.

```
# update and install package(s)
sudo apt-get -qq update
sudo apt-get -qq install unzip
```

3.7 Add ubuntu User to docker Group and Restart Docker

```
# Add ubuntu to docker group sudo usermod -G docker ubuntu
```

```
# Restart docker service
sudo service docker restart
```

In Unix, when adding a user to a group, it is simply easiest to logout and log back in for this change to be recognized. Do that by exiting the VM and logging back in with docker-machine ssh command.

3.8 Install docker-compose on VM

docker-compose is a tool for defining and running multi-container Docker applications. In our case, we will be running the LDM, TDS, TDM (THREDDS Data Manager) and RAMADDA so docker-compose is perfect for this scenario. Install docker-compose on the Azure Docker host. You may have to update version (currently at 1.5.2).

4 LDM and TDS Configuration

4.1 Background

We have done the preliminary legwork to tackle the next step in this process. We will now want to clone two repositories that will allow us to configure and start running the the LDM, TDS, and RAMADDA. In particular, we will be cloning:

- github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles¹¹
- github.com/Unidata/TdsConfig¹²

4.1.1 Unidata-Dockerfiles

The Unidata-Dockerfiles repository contains a number of Dockerfiles that pertain to various Unidata technologies (e.g., the LDM) and also projects (e.g., ams2016). As a matter of background information, a Dockerfile is a text file that contains commands to build a Docker image containing, for example, a working LDM. These Docker images can subsequently be run by docker command line tools, or docker-compose commands that rely on a docker-compose.yml configuration file. A docker-compose.yml file is a text file that captures exactly how one or more containers run including directory mappings (from outside to within the container), port mappings (from outside to within the container), and other information.

4.1.2 TDSConfig

The TDSConfig repository is a project that captures THREDDS and LDM configuration files (e.g., catalog.xml, pqact.conf) for the TDS at http://thredds.ucar.edu. Specifically, these TDS and LDM configurations were meant to work in harmony with one another. We can re-use this configuration with some minor adjustments for running the TDS on the Azure cloud.

4.2 git clone Repositories

With that background information out of the way, let's clone those repositories by creating ~/git directory where our repositories will live and issuing some git commands.

¹¹https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles

¹²https://github.com/Unidata/TdsConfig

```
# Get the git repositories we will want to work with
mkdir -p /home/ubuntu/git
git clone https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles \
    /home/ubuntu/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles
git clone https://github.com/Unidata/TdsConfig /home/ubuntu/git/TdsConfig
```

4.3 Configuring the LDM

4.3.1 LDM Directories on Docker Host

For anyone who has worked with the LDM, you may be familiar with the following directories:

- etc/
- var/data
- var/logs
- var/queue

The LDM etc directory is where you will find configuration files related to the LDM including ldmd.conf, pqact files, registry.xml, and scour.conf. We will need the ability to easily observe and manipulate the files from outside the running LDM container. To that end, we need to find a home for etc on the Docker host. The same is true for the var/data and var/logs directories. Later, we will use Docker commands that have been written on your behalf to mount these directories from outside to within the container. The var/queues directory will remain inside the container.

```
# Create LDM directories
mkdir -p ~/var/logs
mkdir -p ~/etc/TDS
```

var/data is a bit different in that it needs to be mounted on data volume on the Docker host. We will be handling that step further on.

4.3.2 LDM Configuration Files

There is a generic set of LDM configuration files located here ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ldm/etc/. However, we will just grab netcheck.conf which will remain unmodified.

```
# Copy various files for the LDM.
cp ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ldm/etc/netcheck.conf ~/etc
```

The rest of the LDM configuration files will come from our ams2016 project directory.

Also, remember that these files will be used **inside** the LDM container that we will set up shortly. We will now be working with these files:

- ldmd.conf
- registry.xml
- scour.conf
- 1. ldmd.conf

```
cp ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/ldmd.conf ~/etc/
```

This ldmd.conf has been setup for the AMS 2016 demonstration serving the following data feeds:

- 13km Rapid Refresh¹³
- NESDIS GOES Satellite Data¹⁴
- Unidata NEXRAD Composites

For your information, and for future reference, there is a ~/git/TdConfig/idd/pqacts/README.tx file that may be helpful in writing a suitable ldmd.conf file.

2. registry.xml

cp ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/registry.xml ~/etc/

This file has been set up for the AMS 2016 demonstration. Otherwise you would have to edit the registry.xml to ensure the hostname element is correct. For your own cloud VMs, work with support-idd@unidata.ucar.edu to devise a correct hostname element so that LDM statistics get properly reported. Here is an example hostname element: unidata-server.azure.unidata.ucar.edu.

3. scour.conf

You need to scour data or else your disk will full up. The crontab entry that runs scour is in the LDM Docker container¹⁵. Scouring is invoked once per day.

¹³http://rapidrefresh.noaa.gov/

¹⁴http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/imagery_data.html

¹⁵ https://github.com/Unidata/Unidata-Dockerfiles/blob/master/ldm/crontab

```
cp ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/scour.conf ~/etc/
```

4. pqact.conf and TDS configuration

In the ldmd.conf file we copied just a moment ago there is a reference to a pqact file; etc/TDS/pqact.forecastModels. We need to ensure that file exists by doing the following instructions. Specifically, explode ~/git/TdsConfig/idd/config.zip into ~/tdsconfig and cp -r the pqacts directory into ~/etc/TDS. Note do NOT use soft links. Docker does not like them.

```
# Set up LDM and TDS configuration
mkdir -p ~/tdsconfig/
cp ~/git/TdsConfig/idd/config.zip ~/tdsconfig/
unzip ~/tdsconfig/config.zip -d ~/tdsconfig/
cp -r ~/tdsconfig/pqacts/* ~/etc/TDS
```

5. Edit ldmfile.sh Open the etc/TDS/util/ldmfile.sh file in the editor of your choice. As the top of this file indicates, you must edit the logfile to suit your needs. Change the

```
logfile=logs/ldm-mcidas.log
```

line to

logfile=var/logs/ldm-mcidas.log

This will ensure ldmfile.sh can properly invoked from the pqact files.

4.3.3 Upstream Data Feed from Unidata or Elsewhere

The LDM operates on a push data model. You will have to find someone who will agree to push you the data. If you are part of the American academic community please send a support email to support-idd@unidata.ucar.edu to discuss your LDM data requirements.

4.4 Configuring the TDS

4.4.1 Edit TDS catalog.xml Files

The catalog.xml files for TDS configuration are contained within the ~/tdsconfig directory. Search for all files terminating in .xml in that directory. Edit the xml files for what data you wish to server. See the TDS Documentation 16 for more information on editing these XML files. Let's see what is available in the ~/tdsconfig directory.

find ~/tdsconfig -type f -name "*.xml"

/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/idd/forecastModels.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/idd/radars.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/idd/obsData.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/idd/forecastProdsAndAna.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/idd/satellite.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/CS039_L2_stations.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/CS039_stations.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/RadarNexradStations.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/RadarTerminalStations.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/RadarL2Stations.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/radar/radarCollections.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/catalog.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/threddsConfig.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/threddsConfig.xml
/home/ubuntu/tdsconfig/wmsConfig.xml

5 Setting up Data Volumes

As alluded to earlier, we will have to set up data volumes so that the LDM can write data, and the TDS and RAMADDA can have access to that data. The /mnt has lots of space, but the storage is considered ephemeral so be careful! Azure makes no effort to backup data on /mnt. For the LDM this should not be too much of a problem because real time data is coming in and getting scoured continuously, but for RAMADDA you may wish to be careful as there is the potential to lose user data. There is more information about this topic here¹⁷.

 $[\]overline{^{16}} {\rm http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/thredds/current/tds/catalog/index.}$ html

¹⁷https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/ virtual-machines-linux-how-to-attach-disk/

5.1 Check Free Disk Space

Let's first display the free disk space with the df command.

df -H

Filesystem	Size	Used	Avail	$\mathrm{Use}\%$	Mounted	on
$/\mathrm{dev/sda1}$	31G	2.0G	28G	7%		
none	4.1k	0	4.1k	0%	$/\mathrm{sys}/\mathrm{fs}/\mathrm{cgroup}$	
udev	7.4G	8.2k	7.4G	1%	$/\mathrm{dev}$	
tmpfs	1.5G	394k	1.5G	1%	/run	
none	5.3M	0	5.3M	0%	$/\mathrm{run/lock}$	
none	7.4G	0	7.4G	0%	$/\mathrm{run/shm}$	
none	105M	0	105M	0%	/run/user	
none	66k	0	66k	0%	/etc/network/interfaces.dynamic.d	
$/\mathrm{dev/sdb1}$	640G	73M	607G	1%	$/\mathrm{mnt}$	

5.2 Create /data Directory

Create a /data directory where the LDM can write data soft link to the /mnt directory. Also, create a /repository directory where RAMADDA data will reside.

```
# Set up data directories
sudo ln -s /mnt /data
sudo mkdir /mnt/ldm/
sudo chown -R ubuntu:docker /data/ldm
sudo mkdir /mnt/repository/
sudo chown -R ubuntu:docker /data/repository
```

These directories will be used by the LDM, TDS, and RAMADDA docker containers when we mount directories from the Docker host into these containers.

6 Opening Ports

Ensure these ports are open¹⁸ on the VM where these containers will run.

¹⁸ https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/virtual-machines-set-up-endpoints/

Service	External Port
HTTP	80
TDS	8080
RAMADDA	8081
SSL TDM	8443
LDM	388

Note the TDM is an application that works in conjunction with the TDS. It creates indexes for GRIB data in the background, and notifies the TDS via port 8443 when data have been updated or changed. See here ¹⁹ to learn more about the TDM.

7 Tomcat Logging for TDS and RAMADDA

It is a good idea to mount Tomcat logging directories outside the container so that they can be managed for both the TDS and RAMADDA.

```
# Create Tomcat logging directories
mkdir -p ~/logs/ramadda-tomcat
mkdir -p ~/logs/tds-tomcat
```

Note there is also a logging directory in ~/tdsconfig/logs. All these logging directories should be looked at periodically, not the least to ensure that log files are not filling up your system.

8 Starting the LDM TDS RAMADDA TDM

8.0.1 RAMADDA Preconfiguration

When you start RAMADDA for the very first time, you must have a password.properties file in the RAMADDA home directory which is /data/repository/. See RAMADDA documentation²⁰ for more details on setting up RAMADDA. Here is a pw.properties file to get you going. Change password below to something more secure!

Create RAMADDA default password
echo ramadda.install.password=changeme! > /data/repository/pw.properties

 $^{^{19} {\}rm https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/thredds/current/tds/reference/collections/TDM.html}$

²⁰http://ramadda.org//repository/userguide/toc.html

8.0.2 Final Edit to docker-compose.yml

When the TDM communicates to the TDS concerning changes in data it observes with data supplied by the LDM, it will communicate via the tdm tomcat user. Edit the docker-compose.yml file and change the TDM_PW to MeIndexer. This is not as insecure as it would seem since the tdm user has few privileges. Optimally, one could change the password hash for the TDM user in the tomcat-users.xml file.

8.0.3 Pull Down Images from the DockerHub Registry

You are almost ready to run the whole kit and caboodle. But first pull the relevant docker images to make this easier for the subsequent docker-compose command.

```
# Docker pull all relavant images
docker pull unidata/ldmtds:latest
docker pull unidata/tdm:latest
docker pull unidata/tds:latest
docker pull unidata/ramadda:latest
```

8.0.4 Start the LDM, TDS, TDM, RAMADDA

We are now finally ready to start the LDM, TDS, TDM, RAMADDA with the following docker-compose command.

```
# Start up all images
docker-compose -f ~/git/Unidata-Dockerfiles/ams2016/docker-compose.yml up -d
```

9 Check What is Running

In this section, we will assume you have created a VM called unidata-server. You should have these services running:

- LDM
- TDS
- TDM
- RAMADDA

Next, we will check our work through various means.

9.1 Docker Process Status

From the shell where you started docker-machine earlier you can execute the following docker ps command to list the containers on your docker host. It should look something like the output below.

docker ps --format "table {{.ID}}\t{{.Image}}\t{{.Status}}"

CONTAINER	ID	IMAGE	STATUS	
4ed1c4c18814	unidata/ramadda: latest	Up	17	seconds
bdfcf5590bc6	unidata/ldmtds: latest	Up	18	seconds
aee044cf8e66	unidata/tdm:latest	Up	20	seconds
4d0208f85b22	unidata/tds:latest	Up	21	seconds

9.2 TDS and RAMADDA URLs

Verify what you have the TDS and RAMADDA running by, for example, navigating to: http://unidata-server.cloudapp.net/thredds/catalog. html and http://unidata-server.cloudapp.net:8081/repository. If you are going to RAMADDA for the first time, you will have to do some RAMADDA set up²¹.

9.3 Viewing Data with the IDV

Another way to verify your work is run the Unidata Integrated Data Viewer²².

9.3.1 Access TDS with the IDV

In the IDV Dashboard²³, you should be able to enter the catalog XML URL: http://unidata-server.cloudapp.net/thredds/catalog.xml.

9.3.2 Access RAMADDAA with the IDV

RAMADDA has good integration with the IDV and the two technologies work well together. You may wish to install the RAMADDA IDV plugin²⁴ to publish IDV bundles to RAMADDA. RAMADDA also has access to the /data/ldm directory so you may want to set up server-side

²¹http://ramadda.org//repository/userguide/toc.html

²²https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/idv/

 $^{^{23} \}verb|https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/idv/docs/userguide/data/choosers/CatalogChooser.html$

²⁴http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/idv/docs/workshop/savingstate/

view of this part of the file system²⁵. Finally, you can enter this catalog URL in the IDV dashboard to examine data holdings shared bundles, etc. on RAMADDA http://unidata-server.cloudapp.net:8081/repository?output=thredds.catalog.

10 Appendix

10.1 Common Problems

10.1.1 Certificate Regeneration

When using docker-machine may see an error message pertaining to regenerating certificates.

Error running connection boilerplate: Error checking and/or regenerating the certs: The You can attempt to regenerate them using 'docker-machine regenerate-certs name'. Be advised that this will trigger a Docker daemon restart which will stop running contains.

ERROR: Cannot start container ef229d1753b24b484687ac4d6b8a9f3b961f2981057c59266c45b9d54

In this case:

docker-machine regenerate-certs <azure-host>
eval "\$(docker-machine env <azure-host>)"

Like the error message says, you may need to restart your Docker containers with docker-compose, for example.

10.1.2 Size of Image is not Large Enough

If you see your containers not starting or error messages like this:

it is nessible you did not exects a sufficiently large VM. Two increasing the

it is possible you did not create a sufficiently large VM. Try increasing the size of the $\rm VM^{26}$.

Ramadda.html

 $^{^{25} {\}tt http://ramadda.org//repository/userguide/developer/filesystem.html}$

 $^{^{26} \}rm https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/documentation/articles/virtual-machines-size-specs/$