

Project Report

CS 441 – Distributed Objects for Cloud Computing

Provisioning Resources in Azure Cloud

Application Under Test: JPetstore

By:

Name: Krishna Madhur Philkhana

UIN: 651032229

Master's in Computer Science

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1. Introduction:

When applications are deployed in the cloud environment, the resources should be allocated based on the resource usage of the application. Hence the user will pay only for those resources which he/she will be using for hosting the application. So, it is very important for the user to performance test his/her web application thoroughly before deploying on the cloud platform.

Another important property of deploying applications on cloud platform is on demand network access to a shared pool of resources without much user intervention, in short auto-scaling. This can be achieved by writing provisioning rules in cloud.

The current project is to identify the potential provisioning rules that can be employed to reduce the performance bottlenecks of the AUT – JPetstore. This will increase the performance of the application.

2. Application Under Test (AUT) - JPetStore – A Pet Store Application :

a. Description:

JPetStore is a typical e-commerce web application used by customers to buy pets. The application uses HSQL database to store the data and is developed using java based web technologies using maven build system.

b. Motivation for choosing JPetStore:

I have done a similar project during my training in NTT Data Americas Company. At that time, I did not deploy it on any web server apart from the localhost. So, deployment of this selected AUT effectively on a cloud platform will complete the part that I left during my training. Also, it brings me one step closer towards becoming a full stack programmer.

3. Instructions to Build the AUT :

- a. Download the source code ZIP file from this link:
<https://github.com/mybatis/jpetstore-6>
- b. AUT uses Eclipse IDE for the build. Just import the zip file that is downloaded from the above link into the Eclipse IDE.

4. Deploy AUT in Microsoft Azure :

- a. Deploy it as a Cloud Service:
Azure plug-in should be installed in the eclipse using the resource:
WindowsAzurePlugin4EJ - <http://dl.msopentech.com/eclipse>

Once the plug-in is installed, right click on the JPetStore-6 folder in the projects section of the workspace. In the Options, please select 'Azure' -> 'Select New

Azure 'Publish to Azure'. After providing your subscription details, and selecting the configuration for the deployment, the application will be packaged and deployed in the cloud. The deployment of web application in the cloud is done as cloud service.

b. Which method I chose? Why?

I chose to deploy my web application as cloud service. My application under test (AUT) is a light weight application. The database used in the application is HSQL DB, a database for Java Eco System. So my application requires very low customization. Hence, it would not be ideal to deploy it using the IaaS service.

The application is not deployed as a web application because it gives minimal control over the application's software stack. Hence I found Azure's Cloud Service to be ideal deployment method. Also, this type of deployment is very easy and hence the concentration will be on improving performance rather than deployment of the application.

5. Objective and Methodology :

The objective is to arrive at a set of provision rules for the AUT- JPetStore, where the user can deploy his/her application in the cloud infrastructure optimally. The AUT's performance- availability, consistency and throughput should be increased after we apply the provision rules.

To perform the performance testing, we use JMeter to simulate users to create the load. We measure the amount of CPU usage from the cloud and throughput, response time and error rate for the requested input transactions from the JMeter results. We then formulate the provision rules to increase the throughput, decrease the error rate and minimize the response time.

6. Project Requirements:

- a. It requires a computer with a i5 or i7 processor running windows (7,8,10) or Ubuntu.
- b. It requires the installation of the load and stress testing tool called JMeter from jmeter.apache.org.
- c. The cloud environment in our case, it is Windows Azure.

7. JMeterScripts :

a. Building scripts :

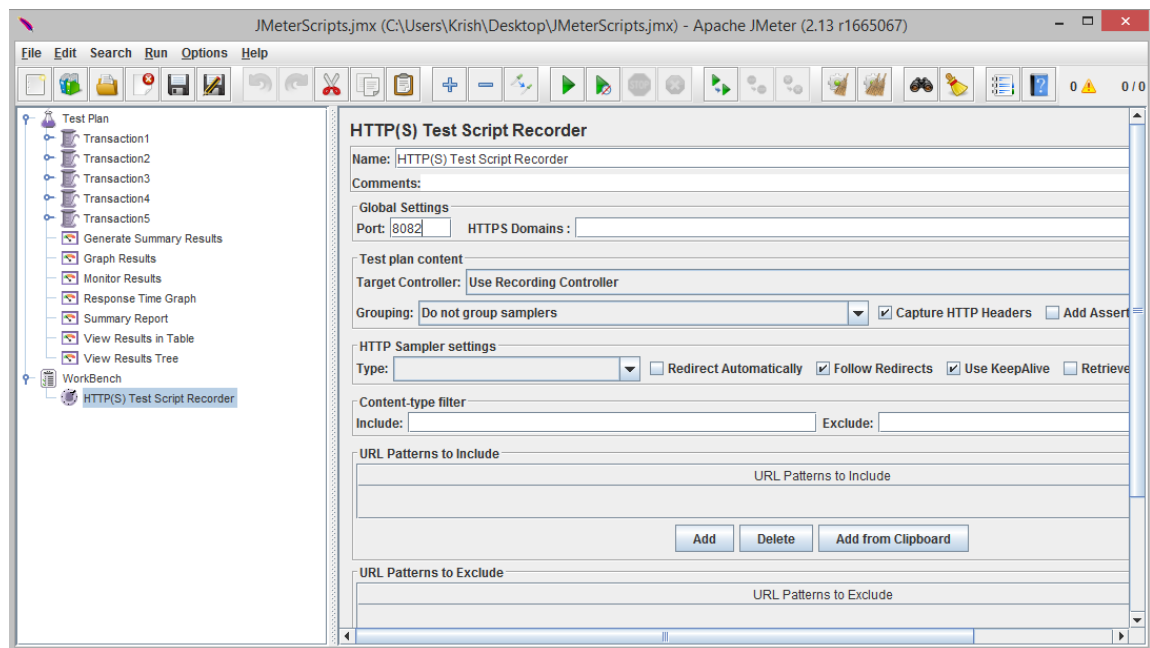
The JMeter scripts are very useful when we want to stress test an application. We need to provide the number of threads (users) that we want to hit the particular transaction with. A transaction here would be a set of URLs of the Application Under Test (AUT).

We also add the Listeners to the Thread Groups that we create. These listeners capture all the important data that we would like to analyze. Summary Report gives us the details of the throughput values, error percentage, kb/sec and other metrics.

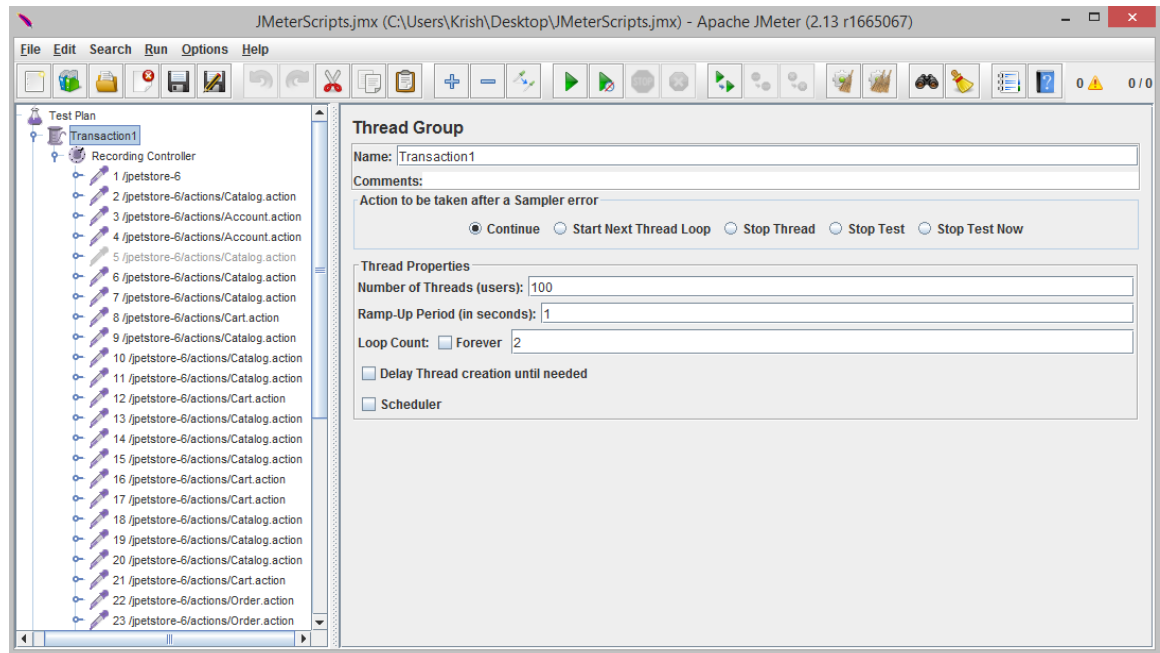
We will make use of the metrics that we get in the JMeter and the metrics we get in the Azure cloud to design the provisioning rules.

b. Recording Scripts :

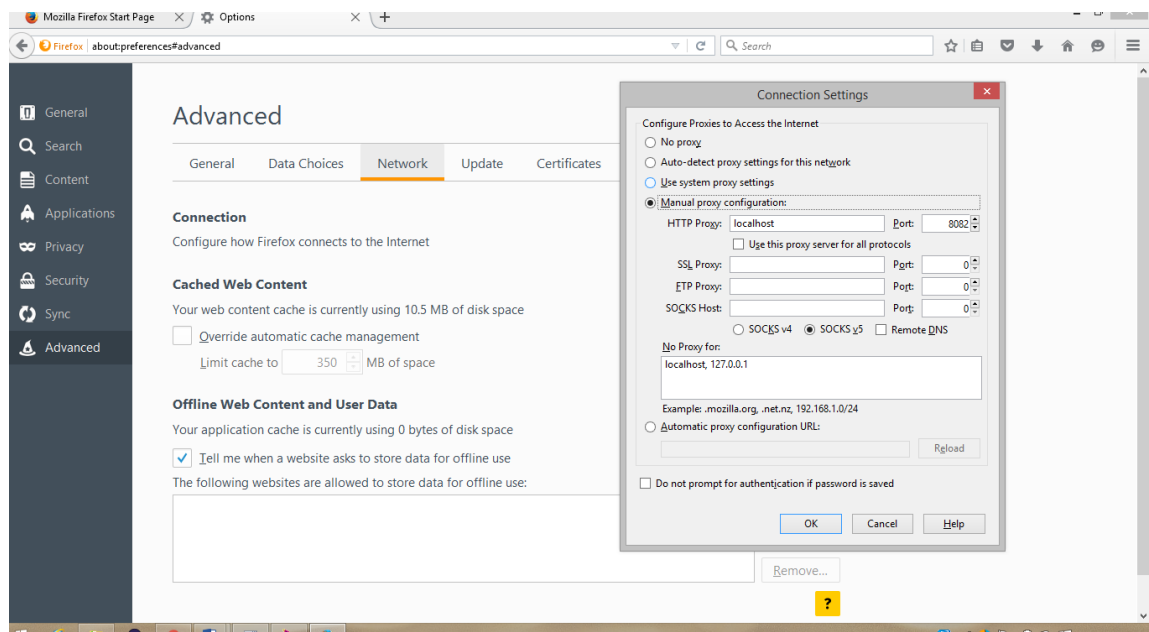
- I. Create a Non Test Element in the WorkBench- HTTP(s) Script Recorder. We need to start this recorder to start recording our scripts. Give the port number as 8082(Any unused port number can be given).



- II. Create a Logic Controller->Recording Controller in the Test Group. The transactions done in the web browser will be stored in the controller here.



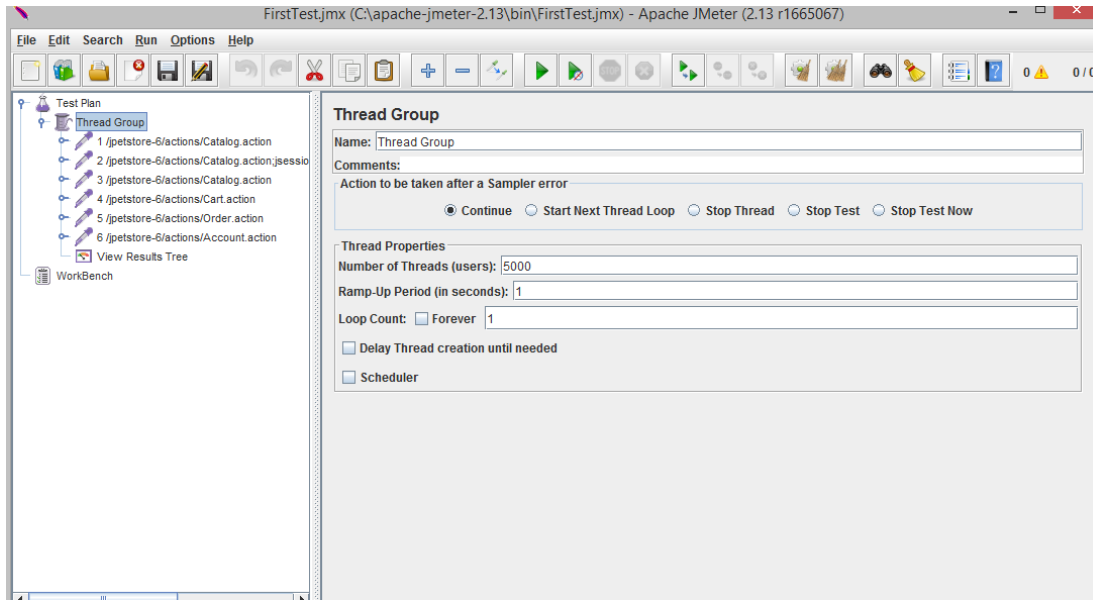
- III. In MozillaFirefox Browser, go to Options-> Advanced-> Networks-> Settings-> Connection Settings
 HTTP Proxy: localhost
 Port: 8082 (This must match with the port number given in the HTTP(s) Script Recorder in step 1.



8. Experiments:

Experiment 1: AUT deployed on the local host

The AUT is deployed on the local host. The JMeter script is run on the local host with one transaction with 5000 user threads. LocalHost is an i3 processor with 500GB permanent storage and 4GB RAM Storage.



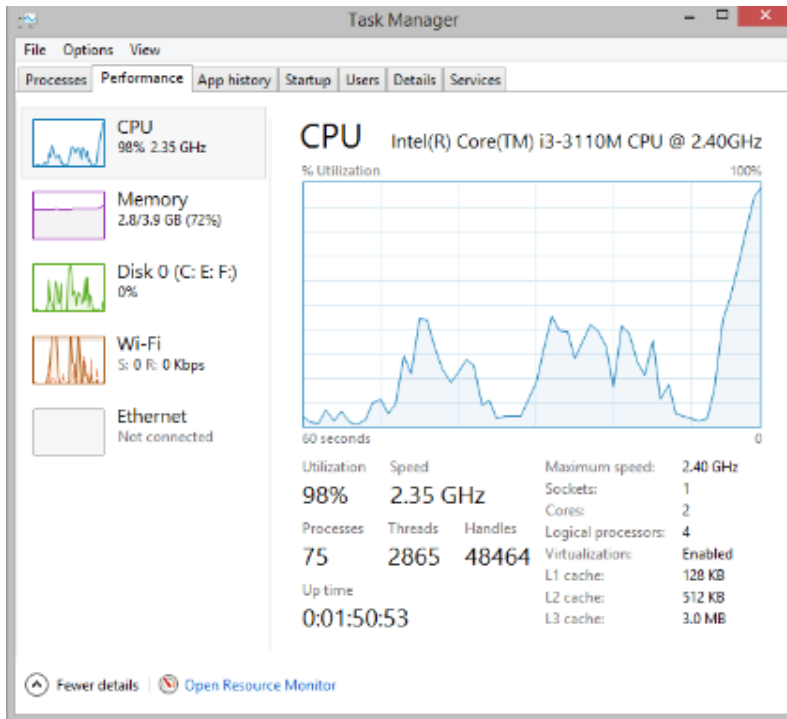
Results and Observations:

The CPU percentage crossed 95% immediately after I started my test. The hardware that my system has, is not at all sufficient to handle so many threads. Also, being a localhost, I do not have the option of scaling up my resources.

So, if this application is hosted on a similar machine like mine, then the application would lose the availability and consistency properties that are needed for the web applications.

Choosing Cloud Storage for such e-commerce applications is very advisable because the traffic for such sites is very unpredictable. Also, paying huge money for the hardware when the application is not using is also not advisable.

It will be ideal if such e-commerce web applications are deployed in a cloud.

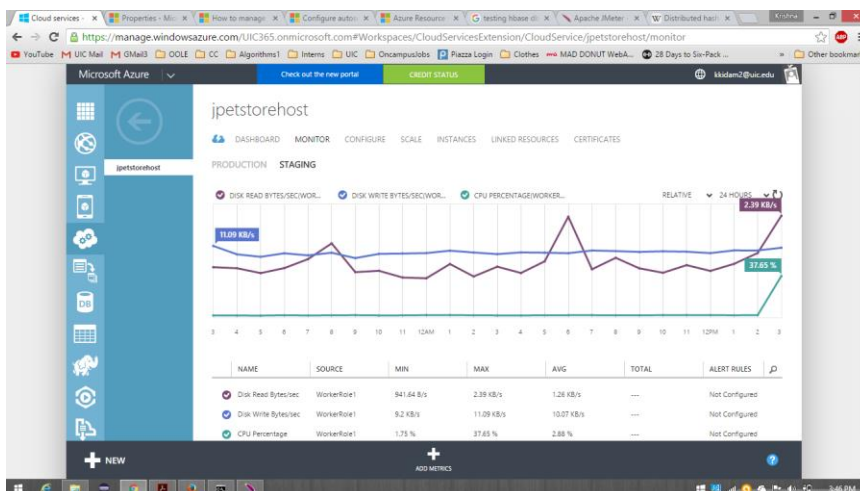


Experiment 2: On AUT deployed as Cloud Service -1

The AUT is deployed on the cloud. The link to the web application is:
fb13b39934f64ddb944a8c3d7f198165.cloudapp.net/jpetstore-6/

The JMeter script is run on the cloud host with one transaction with 5000 user threads. Script: FirstTest.jmx

Initial Metrics:



There were no errors in the Summary Report of the JMeter also.

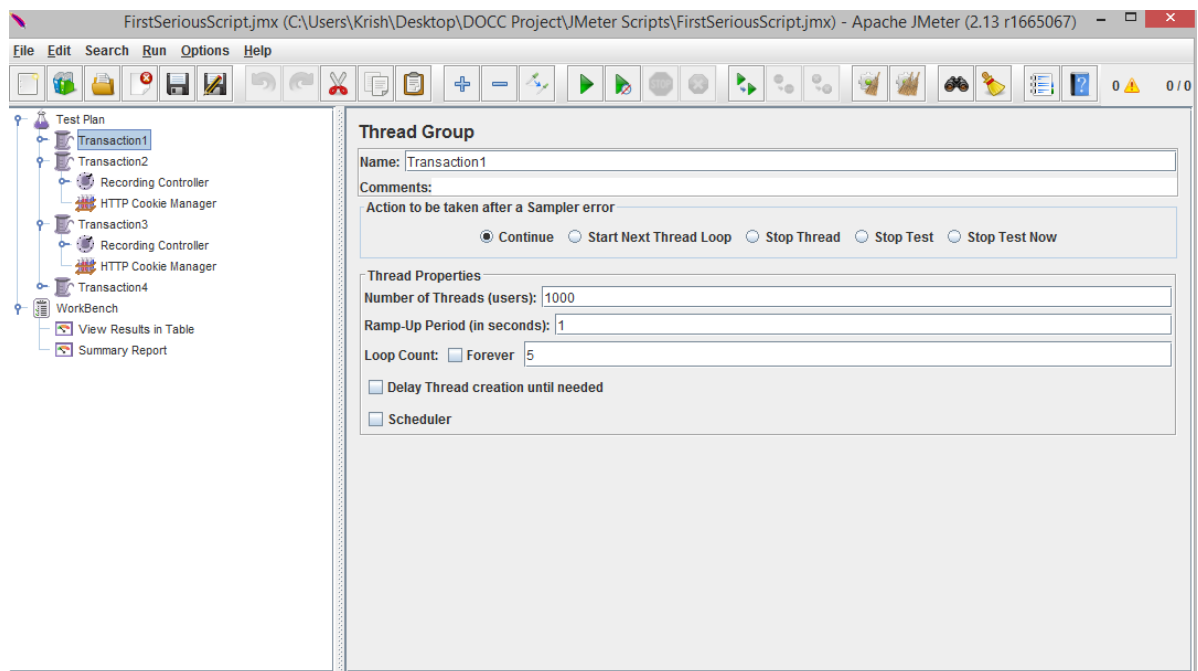
Results and Observations:

This states that there is no problem to the consistency and availability properties of the Application when put under such a load. So in the next experiment, I increased the number of transactions.

Summary Report: JMeterReports\FirstTestReport.csv

Experiment 3: On AUT deployed as Cloud Service-2

I used a new JMeter script with increased number of transactions and the loop counts for each of these transactions. Script used: FirstSeriousScript



Results and Observations:

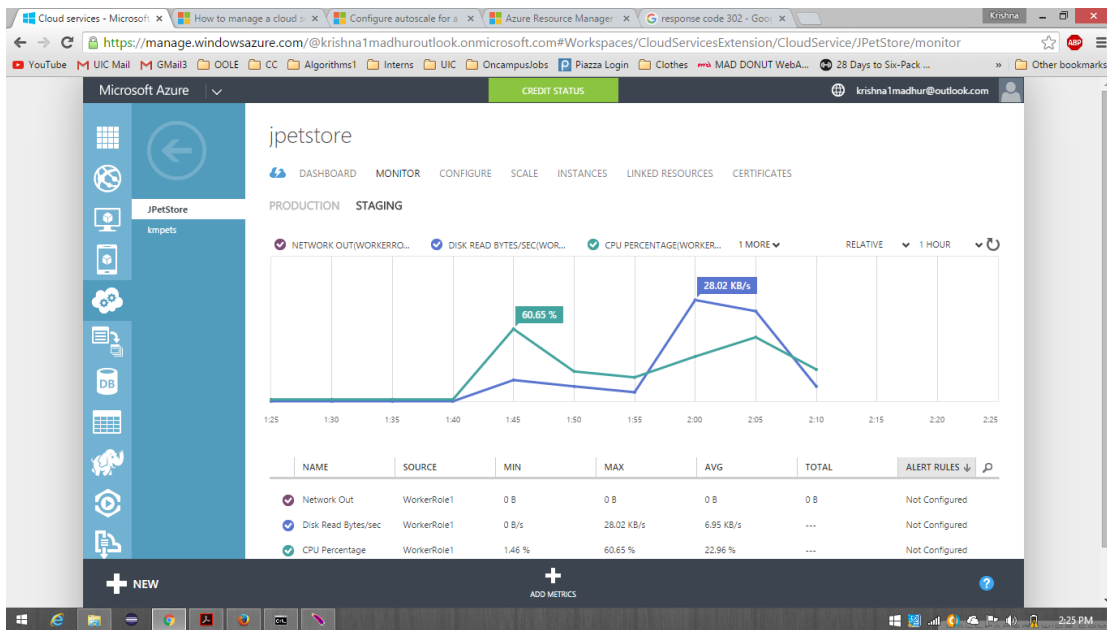


Fig: 2:10PM

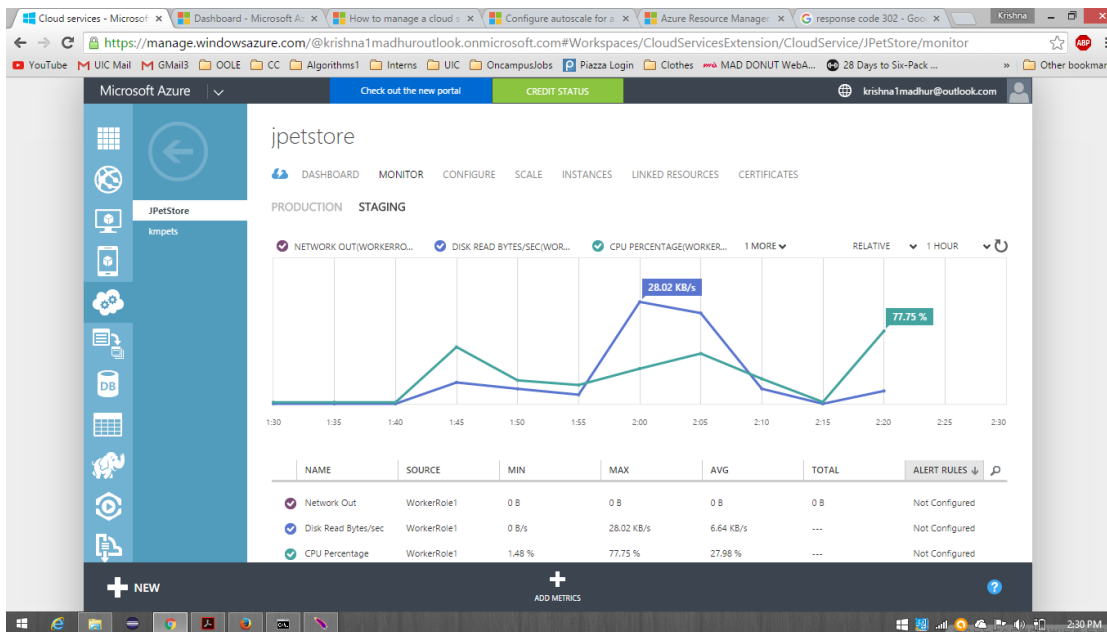


Fig: 2:20PM

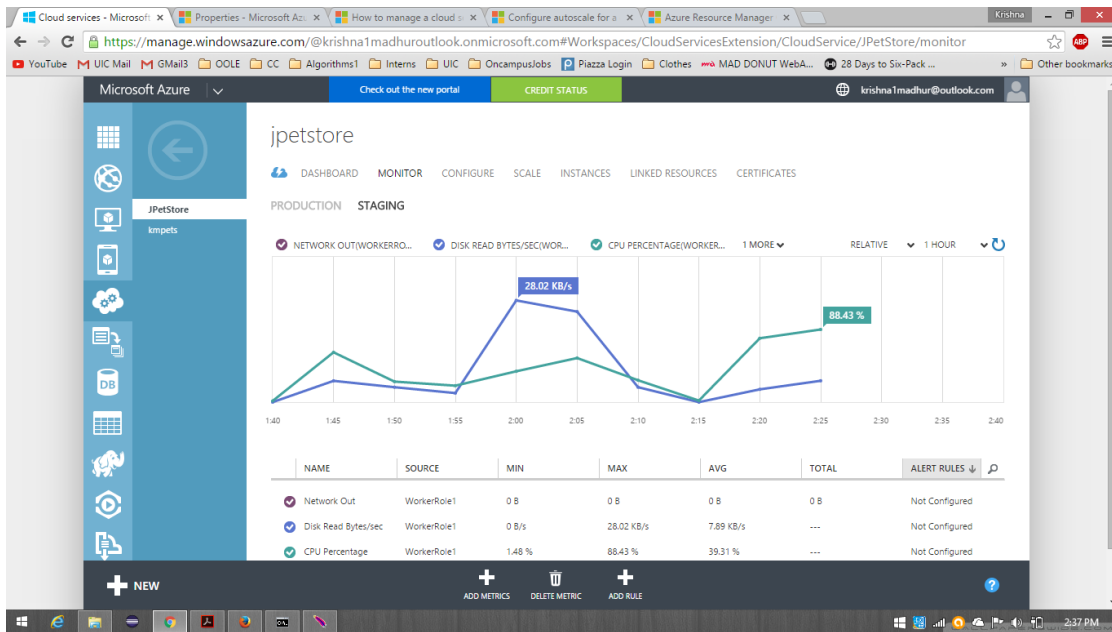
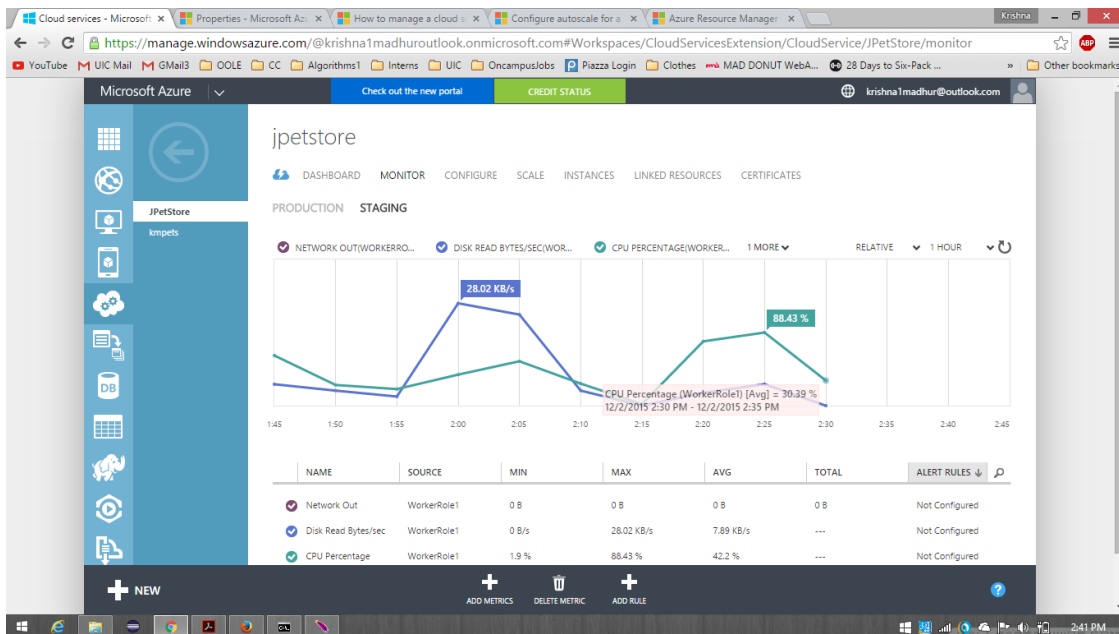


Fig: 2:25PM



If you observe from the screens above, the CPU percentage is increasing gradually. In my JMeter Summary Reports, I observed that many URLs of my transactions are encountering huge errors after the CPU percentage has gone past 45%. Also, throughput of my application decreased and it is **30.7 per minute**. The response time has gone to **~160000ms**. So the consistency and the availability properties of the web application have been down. This is a loss to the Web Application Provider.

The CPU percentage has gone past 88%. Then my JMeter crashed. And rightly so, my web application's CPU percentage has come down.

Fix: I started my next JMeter test by borrowing one of my colleague's laptop system which has an Intel i7 processor. The JMeter performance was better in the new system.

PROVISIONING RULE: R: Increase the CPU instances to 2, when the CPU percentage crosses over 45%.

sinst(a,i) when CPU percentage crosses 45%

Here, a is the 'WorkerRole1' and i is '1'.

Experiment 4: On AUT deployed as Cloud Service-3

This time I increased the number of transactions on the AUT in such a way that:

Transaction1- Only one insert operation performed on checkout - 27URLs.

Transaction2- Insert after every item purchase. This will increase the database interactions of the transactions which would further result in the increase of CPU processing time - 47URLs.

Transaction3- Search for an object and then check out. Only one insert but multiple search operations on the database - 43URLs.

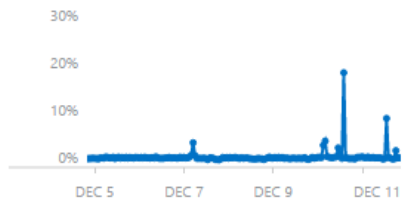
Transaction4- Search and checkout simultaneously. Multiple search and insert operations – 32 URLs.

Transaction5- Update operations on the database - 36URLs.

Script: JMeterScripts\JMeterScripts.jmx

We will apply the provisioning rule that is mentioned above and then continue the experiment.

Scale rule



* Resource

JPetStore/Staging/WorkerRole1 (domainN... ▼

* Metric name

CPU percentage ▼

* Operator

Greater than or equal to ▼

Threshold

45 ✓

Duration (minutes)

5 ✓

Scale rule

* Resource

JPetStore/Staging/WorkerRole1 (domainN... ▼

* Metric name

CPU percentage ▼

* Operator

Greater than or equal to ▼

Threshold

45 ✓

Duration (minutes)

5 ✓

Time aggregation

Average ▼

* Action

increase count by ▼

Value

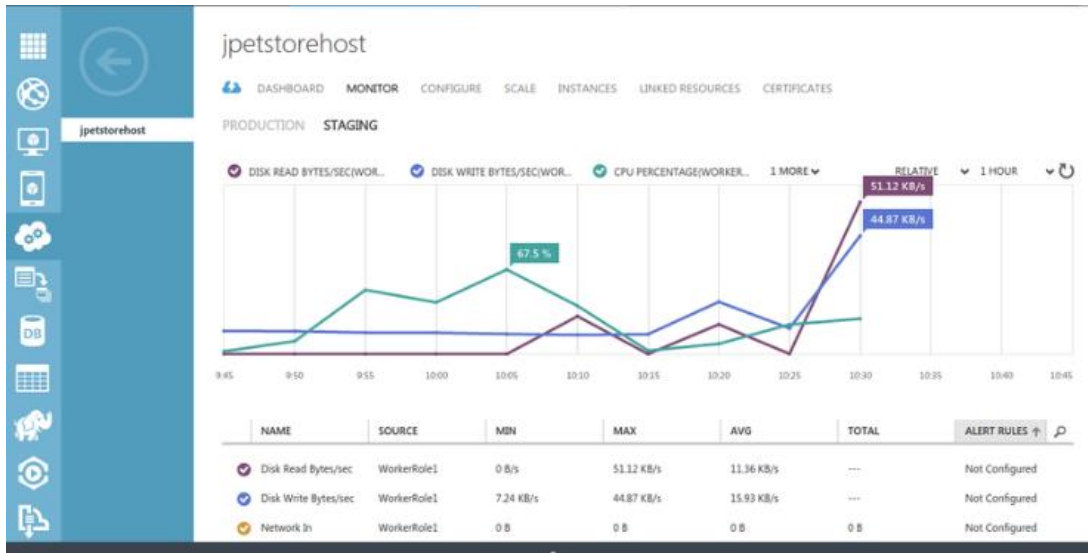
1

Cool down (minutes)

5

OK

Results and Observations:



New instances of the VM are created when CPU percentage goes past the 45%. These are shown in the figures below.

jpeteststorehost

DASHBOARD MONITOR CONFIGURE SCALE INSTANCES LINKED RESOURCES CERTIFICATES

PRODUCTION STAGING

TRANSITIONING The deployment is transitioning.
2 Instances: 1 Busy, 1 Waiting for the status

NAME	STATUS	ROLE	SIZE	UPDATE DOMAIN	FAULT DOMAIN
WorkerRole1_PV_0	Busy (Waiting for role to start... A...	WorkerRole1	Standard_A1	0	0
WorkerRole1_IN_1	Waiting for the status	WorkerRole1	Standard_A1	1	1

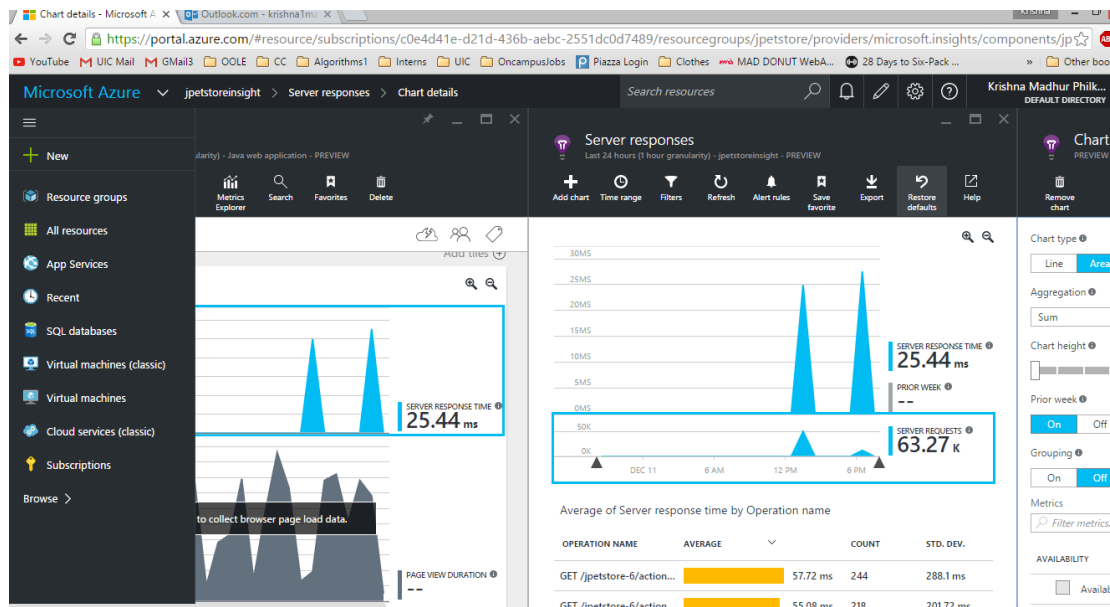
Experiment 5: Application Insights

I wanted to get the other metrics like the Server response Time and RAM memory usage etc.

So I employed the Applications Insight that is provided by the Microsoft Azure.

To Configure:

1. Create an Application Insight in the portal. Name it as JPetStoreApplicationInsight.
2. Give the resource name as 'JPetStore'
3. Go to the Eclipse from where you deployed the project. Right click on the application. Azure-> ApplicationInsights
4. Now Add the Instrumentation Key by copying the key from the portal. This will help the JPetStore cloud service to link the new metrics to the application.
5. Publish your project again. Refresh the portal. We can see the new metrics that come up in the application insight- JPetstoreApplicationInsight.



On these application insights, we can specify ALERT rules.

The alert rules notify the administrator and whoever else is configured about the threshold alerts that the administrator places on these metrics.

The Application will not auto scale using these metrics. But these metrics are very useful for the maintenance of the web applications in Microsoft Azure cloud.

They help the user to reduce their costs and help them maintain their web application consistent.

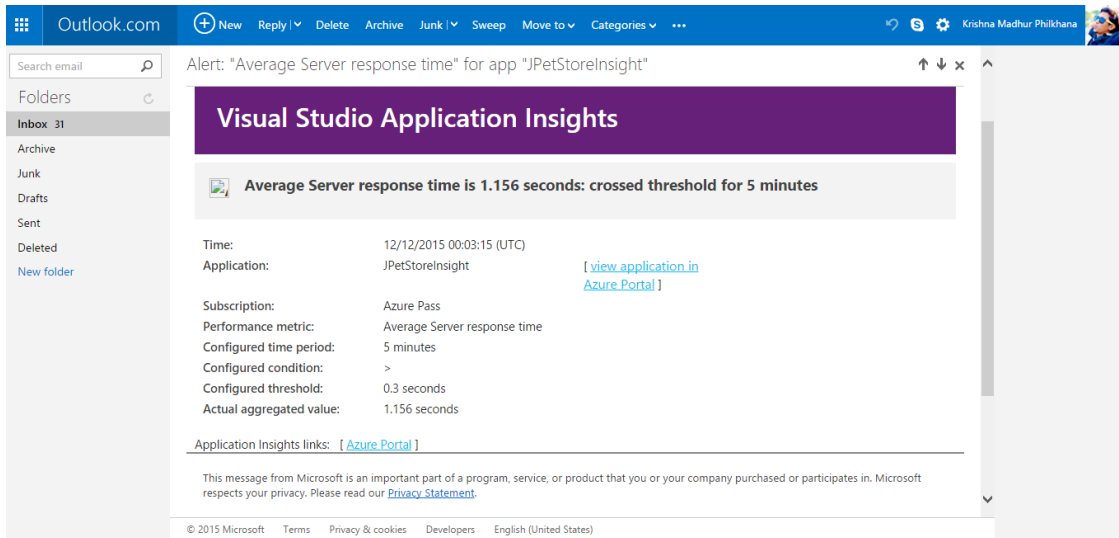
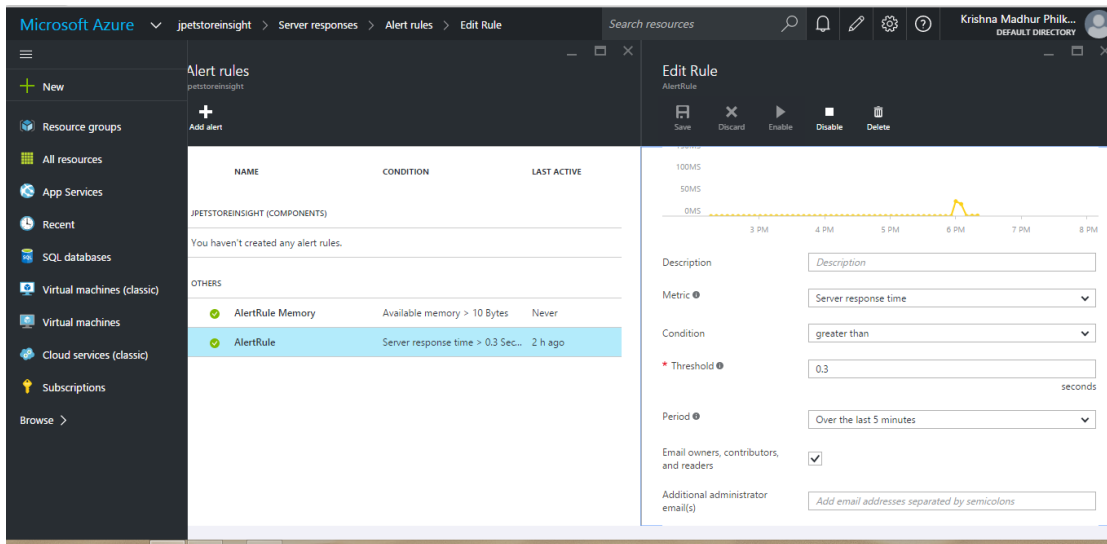


Fig: Alert on Average Response Time

9. Conclusions:

The provisioning rule that we developed will result in the increase in availability and consistency of the JPetStore web application.

PROVISIONING RULE: R: Increase the CPU instances to 2, when the CPU percentage crosses over 45%.

sinst(a,i) when CPU percentage crosses 45%

Here, a is the 'WorkerRole1' and i is '1'.

Also, the alerts would greatly help the user who deploys his/her applications in the cloud platforms.

10. Learnings from the Project:

1. Deploying Web Applications in cloud
2. Concept of Performance Testing
3. JMeter
4. Azure Portal
5. Practical implementation of Elasticity of Cloud