

Containers and Some Odds and Ends About Computational Infrastructure

DOSAR

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Follow Along at:

- https://osg-htc.org/dosar/ASP2022/ASP2022_Materials/

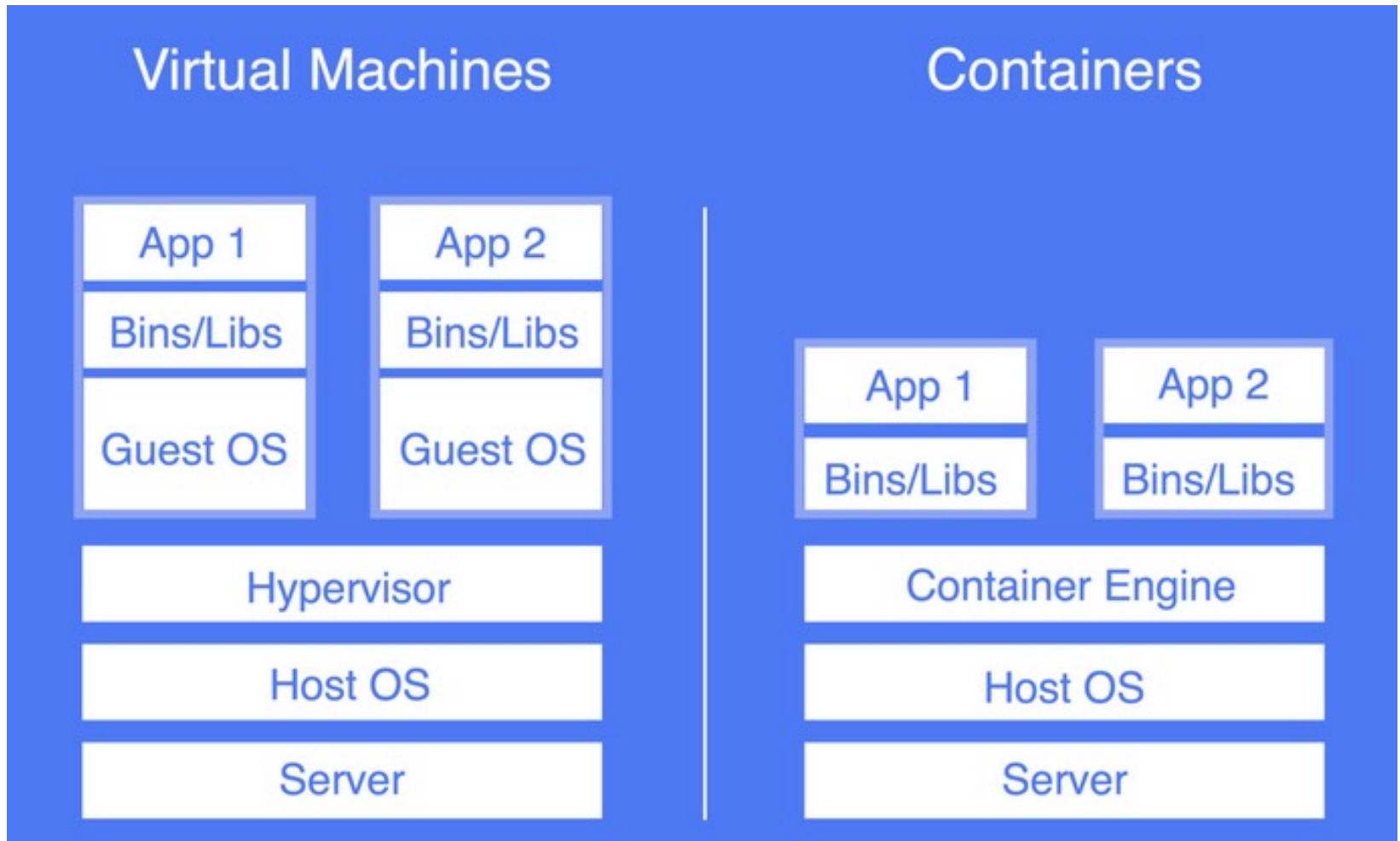
Containers



What are containers?

- Operating System Level Virtualization
 - Lightweight, providing the minimal level of overhead for the application to function properly.
 - Super minimalist VMs
 - No Hypervisor
 - Abstracts away the operating system and hardware
 - Share the OS Kernel with other containers
 - Container size is very small and therefore quick and easy to provision

How do they differ from VMs?



More differences...

- Size
 - Containers are usually 10s of MB
 - VMs can be several GB
- Shared hypervisor vs. shared kernel
- VMs have their own kernels so a deeper level of isolation
- Containers virtualize the OS while VMs virtualize the hardware

Container Advantages

- Size
- Less resource intensive
- Quick provisioning
- Easy allocation of resources
- Quicker development cycles
- Cost effective
- Very good for microservices

Container Disadvantages

- Security – shared kernel with root access
- Less flexibility in OS
- Networking can be tricky
 - Properly configuring sufficient networking resources is challenging

Container Software

- Docker
- Singularity
- LXC, LXD
- Solaris Zones
- RKT
- BSD Jails
- chroot

A quick review



Computing Infrastructures

- Local Laptop/Desktop – Short jobs with small data
- Local Cluster – Larger jobs and larger data but subject to availability
- HPC – Prime performance with parallelized code
- HTC – Sustained computing over a long period for serialized workflows
- Cloud – Need deeper permission on an OS and/or have deeper pockets

Some Examples of Academic CIs Worldwide

- HTC
 - EGI (formally European Grid Initiative)
 - OSG (Open Science Grid)
 - ASGI (Asia Pacific Grid Initiative)
 - NorduGrid
 - Earth System Grid (ESG)
 - Many other regional and national infrastructures

Some Examples of Academic CIs Worldwide

- HPC
 - XSEDE (eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment)
 - PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe)
 - Compute Canada
 - Greek Research and Technology Network (GRNET)
 - Centre for HPC (South Africa)
 - Many other national infrastructures

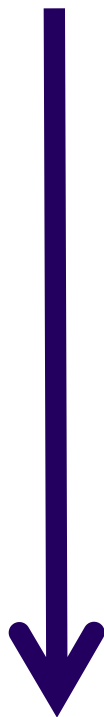
Some Examples of Academic CIs Worldwide

- Cloud
 - EGI Federated Cloud and EOSC
 - NeCTaR – National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources
 - Jetstream (Part of XSEDE)
 - SwissACC (Swiss Academic Computing Cloud)
 - Many other national cloud infrastructures

Let's take one step at a time

Small

Local



Large

Distributed

- Can you run one job on one computer?
- Can you run one job on another computer?
- Can you run 10 jobs on a set of computers?
- Can you run a multiple job workflow?
- How do we put this all together?

This is the path we'll take



Questions?

- Questions? Comments?
 - Feel free to ask us questions now or later:
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Exercises start here:
 - https://osg-htc.org/dosar/ASP2022/ASP2022_Materials/
- Presentations are also available from this URL.