



# How to fine tune an LLM with Argo Workflows and Hera

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## ABOUT US



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# OUTLINE

Motivation

Foundation models &  
fine tuning

Infrastructure

Walkthrough



# MOTIVATION

Show how to do scalable distributed fine tuning for LLMs

Target Audience:

Individuals, teams, and companies who want to use LLMs, but need additional customization

Teams interested in distributed model training



# FOUNDATION MODELS

- General, open-source models
- Very expensive to train
- Fine tune on your own data
- Good for ...
  - Domain-specific training  
(medical, support, etc.)
  - Training on private/ proprietary  
data sets



# FINE TUNING

- Transfer learning technique
- General guide:
  - Set up infrastructure
  - Take existing model
  - Feed it your own data



# INFRASTRUCTURE

Kubernetes cluster with GPUs

Custom Storage Class

GPUs

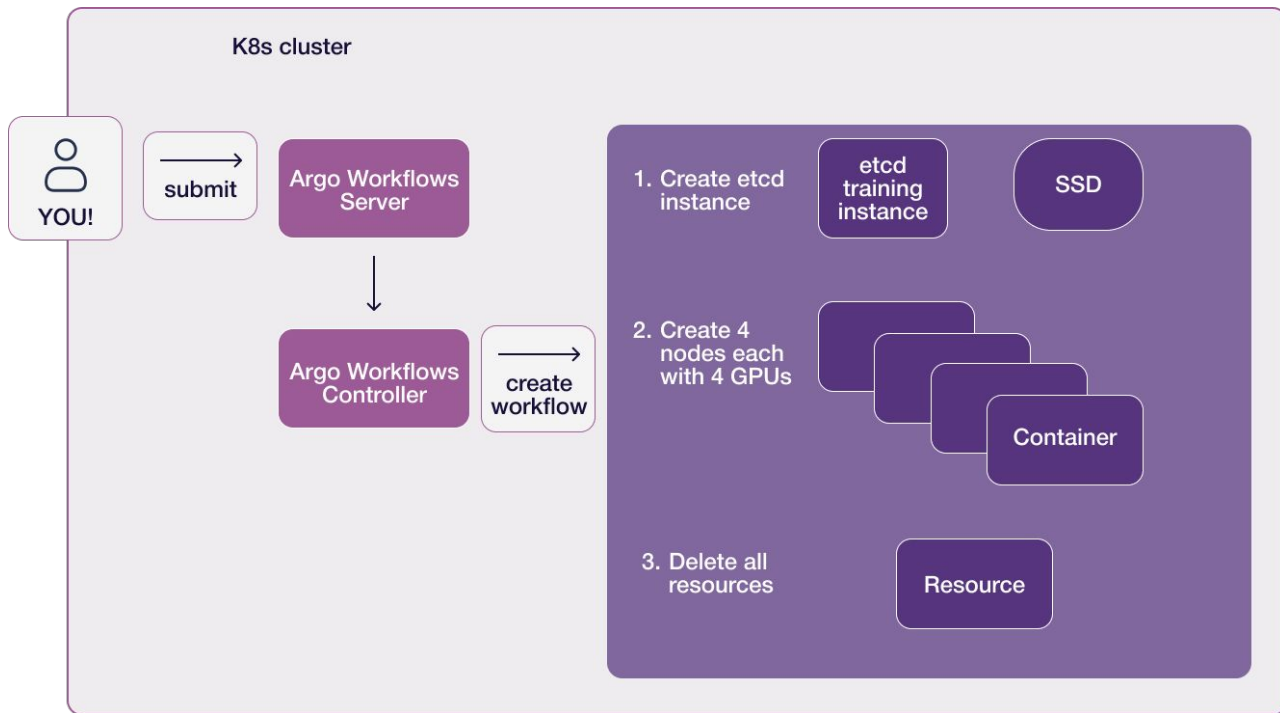
Argo Workflows  
installed

HuggingFace account

Approval from Meta that you can use llama



# ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAM





# DISTRIBUTED KEY-VALUE STORE

Problem: Track which shards of the model have been trained on which sections of the data set

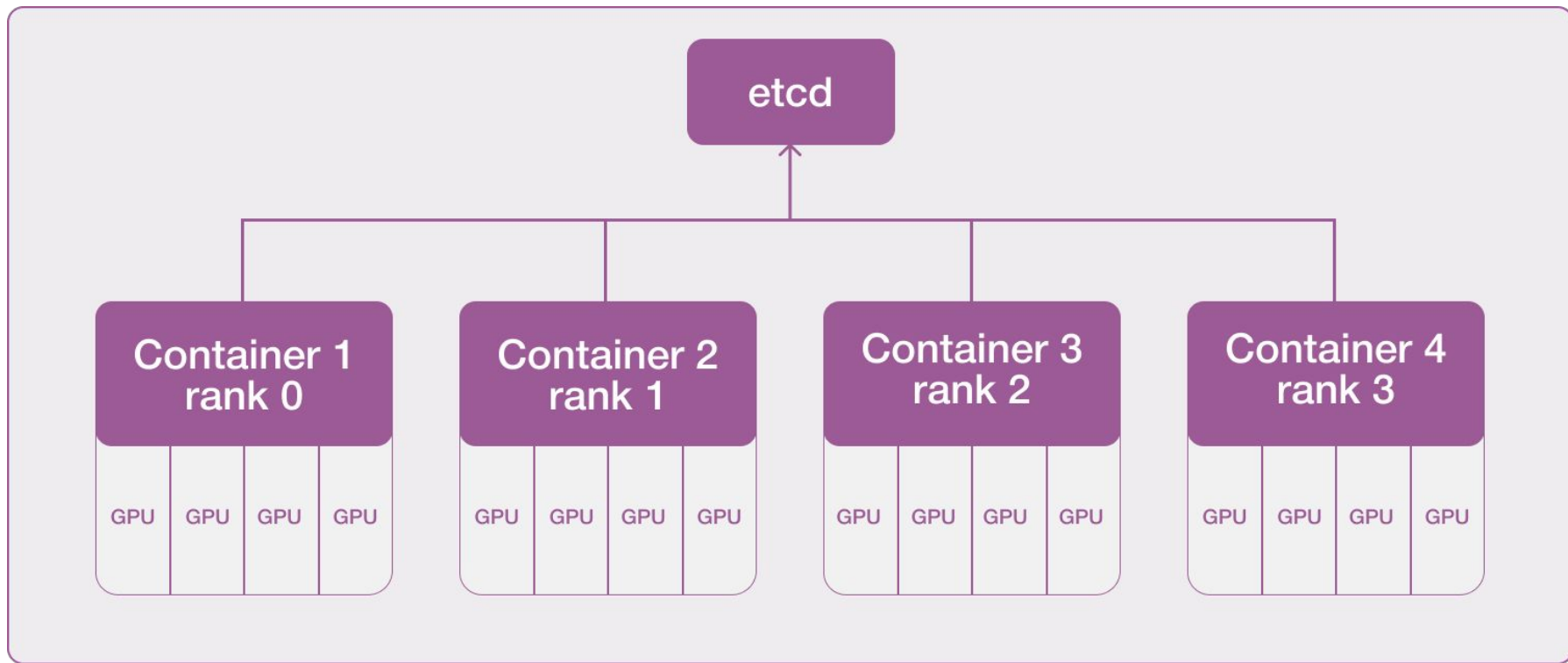
Solution: Use a distributed key-value store

We chose to provision a replicated etcd instance

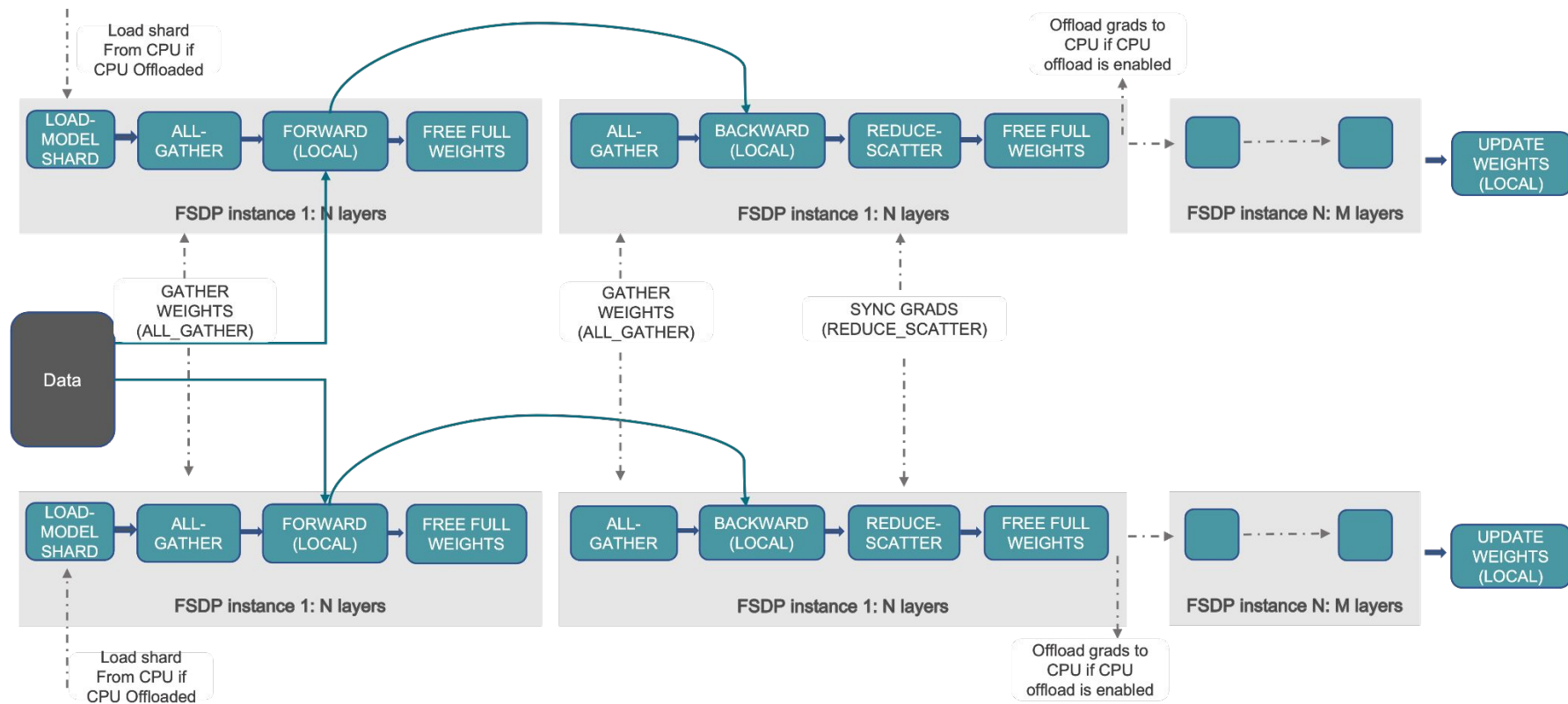
This is separate from the existing etcd instance that Kubernetes uses



# Workflow steps for distributed training



# PyTorch Fully Sharded Data Parallel (FSDP)



# TEAR DOWN

A

The training etcd instance is torn down at the end of the workflow run using an Exit Handler in Hera/Argo Workflows

B

The cluster autoscaler tears down the GPUs, as they are no longer needed

C

This allows us to ensure tear down regardless of success or failure of the workflow run itself

D

As a general rule, workflow runs should be as ephemeral as possible

# Walkthrough of Hera code

[https://github.com/flaviuvadan/kubecon\\_na\\_23\\_llama2\\_finetune](https://github.com/flaviuvadan/kubecon_na_23_llama2_finetune)



# Acknowledgements / Resources

- <https://hera.rtf.d.io/>
- <https://argoproj.github.io/workflows/>
- <https://github.com/etcd-io/etcd>
- [https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/FSDP\\_tutorial.html](https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/FSDP_tutorial.html)
- <https://github.com/facebookresearch/llama-recipes>
- <https://huggingface.co/meta-llama/Llama-2-7b-hf>

**Share your feedback and check out the code**



<https://s.pipekit.io/argo-llm>

# Chat more with us about Argo & LLMs



<https://s.pipekit.io/chat-argo-llm>