TCSS 558: APPLIED DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING

Chapter 3 - Processes

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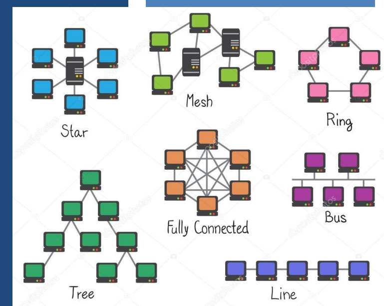


OBJECTIVES

- Homework 1
- Midterm 2/13
- Feedback

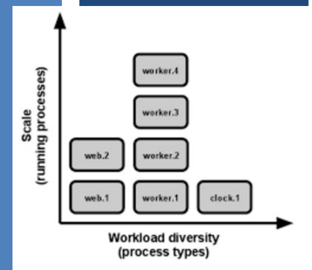
- Chapter 3 Processes
  - 3.1 Threads – cont'd
  - 3.2 Virtualization
  - 3.3 Clients
  - 3.4 Servers

FEEDBACK – 1/30

- **What does it mean if a multi-threaded (parallel) program is embarrassingly parallel?**
  - An embarrassingly parallel workload or problem requires little or no effort to separate the problem into parallel tasks.
  - One is example is workloads that operate on independent segments of a common shared data set in parallel
  - These operations are can occur independent of each other without any synchronization or communication between threads
  - MAP REDUCE jobs is an example
  - **MAP phase** – separate tasks into independent components
  - **REDUCE phase** – assemble results at the end
    - Reduce phase may involve aggregation of data, calculating statistics, etc.
- **What is another name for an embarrassingly parallel job?**
  - *Pleasingly parallel*

EXAMPLE OF DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS DESIGN GOAL - ACCESSIBILITY

- Design goal of distributed systems:
- ***Support for sharing resources (accessibility)***
- November 2018 – AWS now supports "inference" engine attachment to *ANY* EC2 virtual machine instance
- Called "Amazon Elastic Inference", the concept is essentially attaching a remote GPU (Graphics Process Unit) with a variable number of compute cores and capacity to any EC2 instance
  - Requires shared virtual private network (VPC)
- https://aws.amazon.com/machine-learning/elastic-inference/



CH. 3: PROCESSES

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CHAPTER 3

- Chapter 3 titled "processes"
- Covers variety of distributed system implementation details
- "Grab bag" of topics

- Processes/threads
- Virtualization
- Clients
- Servers
- Code migration

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THREADS

- For implementing a server (or client) threads offer many advantages vs. heavy weight processes
- What is the difference between a process and a thread?
  - Review from Operating Systems
- ***Key difference***: what do threads share amongst each other that processes do not…. ?
- What are the segments of a program stored in memory?
  - Heap segment (dynamic shared memory)
  - Code segment
  - Stack segment
  - Data segment (global variables)

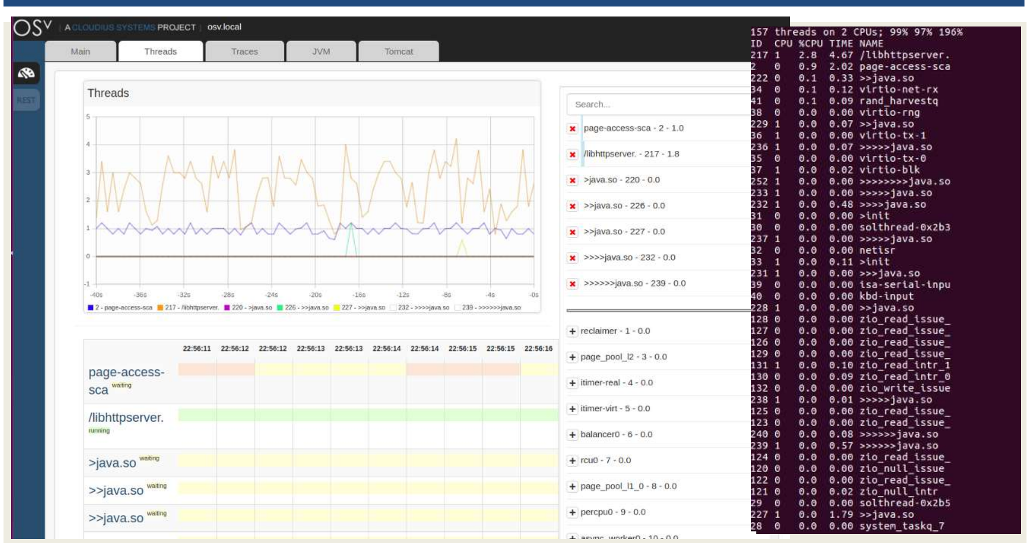
THREADS - 2

- Do several processes on an operating system share…
  - Heap segment?
  - Stack segment?
  - Code segment?
- Can we run multiple copies of the same code?
- These may be managed as shared pages (across processes) in memory
- Processes are isolated from each other by the OS
  - Each has a separate heap, stack, code segment

THREADS - 3

- Threads avoid the overhead of process creation
- No new heap or code segments required
- What is a context switch?
- Context switching among threads is considered to be more efficient than context switching processes
- Less elements to swap-in and swap-out
- Unikernel: specialized single process OS for the cloud
- Example: Osv, Clive, MirageOS (see: http://unikernel.org/projects/)
- Single process operating system with many threads
- Developed for the cloud to run only one application at a time

OSV: ONE PROCESS, MANY THREADS



THREADS - 4

- Important implications with threads:
- (1) multi-threading should lead to performance gains
- (2) thread programming requires additional effort when threads share memory
  - Known as thread synchronization, or enabling concurrency
- Access to critical sections of code which modify shared variables must be mutually exclusive
  - No more than one thread can execute at any given time
  - Critical sections must run atomically on the CPU

BLOCKING THREADS

- Example: spreadsheet with formula to compute sum of column
- User modifies values in column
- Multiple threads:

1. Supports interaction (UI) activity with user
2. Updates spreadsheet calculations in parallel
3. Continually backs up spreadsheet changes to disk

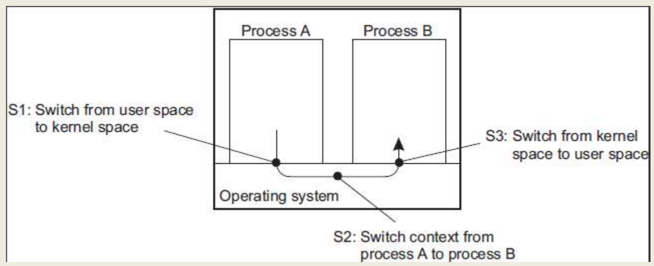
- Single core CPU
  - Tasks appear as if they are performed simultaneously
- Multi core CPU
  - Tasks *execute* simultaneously

INTERPROCESS COMMUNICATION

- IPC – mechanism using pipes, message queues, and shared memory segments
- IPC mechanisms incur context switching
  - Process I/O must execute in kernel mode
- **How many context switches are required for process A to send a message to process B using IPC?**

- **#1 C/S:** Proc A→kernel thread
-

  #2 C/S: Kernel thread→Proc B



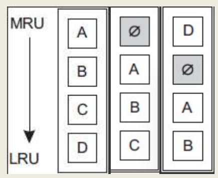
CONTEXT SWITCHING

- **Direct overhead**
  - Time spent not executing program code (user or kernel)
  - Time spent executing interrupt routines to swap memory segments of different processes (or threads) in the CPU
  - Stack, code, heap, registers, code pointers, stack pointers
  - Memory page cache invalidation

- **Indirect overhead**
  - Overhead not directly attributed to the physical actions of the context switch
  - Captures performance degradation related to the side effects of context switching (e.g. rewriting of memory caches, etc.)
  - ***Primarily cache perturbation***

CONTEXT SWITCH – CACHE PERTURBATION

- Refers to cache reorganization that occurs as a result of a context switch
- Cache is not clear, but elements from cache are removed as a result of another program running in the CPU
- 80% performance overhead from context switching results from this “**cache perturbation**”



THREADING MODELS

- <u>**Many-to-one threading:**</u> multiple user-level threads per process
- Thread operations (create, delete, locks) run in user mode
- Multithreaded process mapped to single schedulable entity
- Only run thread per process runs at any given time
- Key take-away: thread management handled by user processes

- <u>**What are some advantages of many-to-one threading?**</u>

- <u>**What are some disadvantages?**</u>

THREADING MODELS - 2

- **One-to-one threading**: use of separate kernel threads for each user process - also called ***kernel-level threads***
- The kernel API calls (e.g. I/O, locking) are farmed out to an existing kernel level thread
- Thread operations (create, delete, locks) run in kernel mode
- Threads scheduled individually by the OS
- System calls required, context switches as expensive as process context switching
- Idea is to have preinitialized kernel threads for user processes
- Linux uses this model…
- **What are some advantages of one-to-one threading?**
- **What are some disadvantages?**

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APPLICATION EXAMPLES

- Google chrome: processes
- Apache tomcat webserver: threads
- Multiprocess programming avoids synchronization of concurrent access to shared data, by providing coordination and data sharing via interprocess communication (IPC)
- Each process maintains its own private memory
- **While this approach avoids synchronizing concurrent access to shared memory, what is the tradeoff(s) ??**
  - Replication instead of synchronization – must synchronize multiple copies of the data
- **Do distributed objects share memory?**

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MULTITHREADED CLIENTS

- Web browser
- Uses threads to load and render portions of a web page to the user in parallel
- A client could have dozens of concurrent connections all loading in parallel

- testFibPar.sh
- Assignment 0 client script (GNU parallel)

- Important benefits:
- Several connections can be opened simultaneously
- Client: dozens of concurrent connections to the webserver all loading data in parallel

MULTIPLE THREADS

- In Linux, threads also receive a process ID (PID)
- To display threads of a process in Linux:

- Identify parent process explicitly:

- top –H –p <pid>
- htop –p <pid>
- ps –iT <pid>

- Virtualbox process ~ 44 threads
- No mapping to guest # of processes/threads

PROCESS METRICS

CPU
- cpuUsr: CPU time in user mode
- cpuKrn: CPU time in kernel mode
- cpuIdle: CPU idle time
- cpuIoWait: CPU time waiting for I/O
- cpuIntSrvc: CPU time serving interrupts
- cpuSftIntSrvc: CPU time serving soft interrupts
- cpuNice: CPU time executing prioritized processes
- cpuSteal: CPU ticks lost to virtualized guests
- contextsw: # of context switches
- loadavg: (avg # proc / 60 secs)

Disk
- dsr: disk sector reads
- dsreads: disk sector reads completed
- drm: merged adjacent disk reads
- readtime: time spent reading from disk
- dsw: disk sector writes
- dswrites: disk sector writes completed
- dwm: merged adjacent disk writes
- writetime: time spent writing to disk

Network
- nbs: network bytes sent
- nbr: network bytes received

LOAD AVERAGE

- Reported by: `top`, `htop`, `w`, `uptime`, and `/proc/loadavg`
- Updated every 5 seconds
- Average number of processes using or waiting for the CPU
- Three numbers show exponentially decaying usage for 1 minute, 5 minutes, and 15 minutes
- One minute average: exponentially decaying average
- Load average = 1 ▪ (avg last minute load) – 1/e ▪ (avg load since boot)

- 1.0 = 1-CPU core fully loaded
- 2.0 = 2-CPU cores
- 3.0 = 3-CPU cores . . .

THREAD-LEVEL PARALLELISM

- Metric – measures degree of parallelism realized by running system, by calculating average utilization:

$$TLP = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} i \cdot c_i}{1 - c_0}$$

- Ci – fraction of time that exactly I threads are executed
- N – maximum threads that can execute at any one time
- Web browsers found to have TLP from 1.5 to 2.5
- Clients for web browsing can utilize from 2 to 3 CPU cores
- Any more cores are redundant, and potentially wasteful
- Measure TLP to understand how many CPUs to provision

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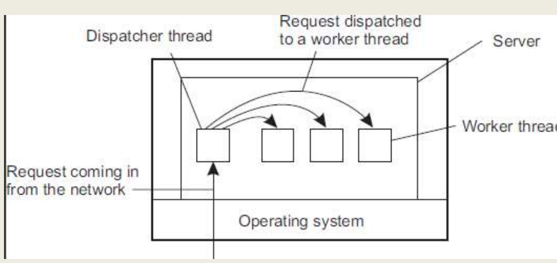
MULTITHREADED SERVERS

- Multiple threads essential for servers in distributed systems
- Even on single-core machines greatly improves performance
- Take advantage of idle/blocking time
- Two designs:
  - Generate new thread for every request
  - Thread pool – pre-initialize set of threads to service requests



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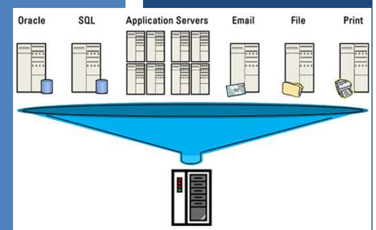
SINGLE THREAD & FSM SERVERS

- Single thread server
  - A single thread handles all client requests
  - BLOCKS for I/O
  - All waiting requests are queued until thread is available
- Finite state machine
  - Server has a single thread of execution
  - I/O performing asynchronously (non-BLOCKing)
  - Server handles other requests while waiting for I/O
  - Interrupt fired with I/O completes
  - Single thread "jumps" back into context to finish request

SERVER DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

- A blocking system call implies that a thread servicing a request synchronously performs I/O
- The thread BLOCKS to wait on disk/network I/O before proceeding with request processing
- Consider the implications of these designs for responsiveness, availability, scalability. . .

Model	Characteristics
Multithreading	Parallelism, blocking I/O
Single-thread	No parallelism, blocking I/O
Finite-state machine	Parallelism, non-blocking I/O



CH. 3.2: VIRTUALIZATION

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VIRTUALIZATION

- Initially introduced in the 1970s on IBM mainframe computers
- Legacy operating systems run in mainframe-based VMs
- Legacy software could be sustained by virtualizing legacy OSes
- 1970s virtualization went away as desktop/rack-based hardware became inexpensive

- Virtualization reappears in 2000s to leverage multi-core, multi-CPU processor systems
- VM-Ware virtual machines enable companies to host many virtual servers with mixed OSes on private clusters
- Cloud computing: Amazon offers VMs as-a-service (IaaS)

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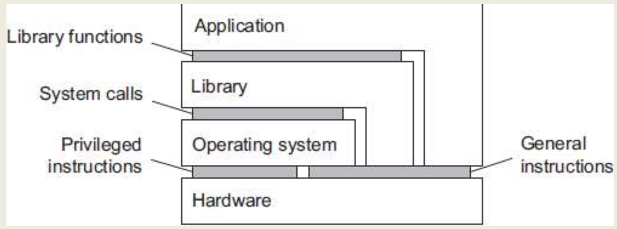
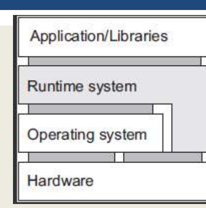
TYPES OF VIRTUALIZATION

- **Levels of instructions:**
- **Hardware**: CPU
  - Privileged instructions
    KERNEL MODE
  - General instructions
    USER MODE
- **Operating system**: system calls
- **Library**: programming APIs: e.g. C/C++,C#, Java libraries
- **Application**:
- **Goal of virtualization:**
  mimic these interface to provide a virtual computer

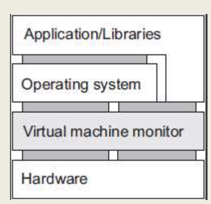


TYPES OF VIRTUALIZATION - 2

- **Process virtual machine**
  - Interpret instructions: (interpreters)
    (JavaVM) byte code → HW instructions
  - Emulate instructions: (emulators)
    (Wine) windows code → Linux code

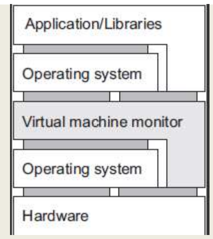


- **Native virtual machine monitor (VMM)**
  - Hypervisor (XEN): small OS with its own kernel
  - Provides an interface for multiple guest OSes
  - Facilitates sharing/scheduling of
    CPU, device I/O among many guests
  - Guest OSes require special kernel to interface w/ VMM
  - Supports **Paravirtualization** for performance boost to run code directly on the CPU
  - Type 1 hypervisor



TYPES OF VIRTUALIZATION - 3

- **Hosted virtual machine monitor (VMM)**
  - Runs atop of hosted operating system
  - Uses host OS facilities for CPU scheduling, I/O
  - Full virtualization
  - Type 2 hypervisor
  - Virtualbox



- *Textbook: note 3.5–good explanation of full vs. paravirtualization*
- **GOAL**: run all user mode instructions directly on the CPU
- x86 instruction set has ~17 privileged user mode instructions
- **Full virtualization**: scan the EXE, insert code around privileged instructions to divert control to the VMM
- **Paravirtualization**: special OS kernel eliminates side effects of privileged instructions

EVOLUTION OF AWS VIRTUALIZATION

From http://www.brendangregg.com/blog/2017-11-29/aws-ec2-virtualization-2017.html

VS: Virtualization In software

P: Paravirtual

VH: Virtualization In Hardware

H: Hardware

AWS EC2 Virtualization Types

Importance: Most → Least

Bare-metal performance
Near-metal performance
Optimized performance
Poor performance

	#	Tech	Type	With	CPU, Memory	Network I/O	Local Storage I/O	Remote Storage I/O	Interrupts, Timers	Motherboard, Boot
	1	VM	Fully Emulated		VS	VS	VS	VS	VS	VS
Old	2	VM	Xen PV 3.0	PV drivers	P	P	P	P	VS	VS
	3	VM	Xen HVM 3.0	PV drivers	VH	P	P	P	VS	VS
	4	VM	Xen HVM 4.0.1	PVHVM drivers	VH	P	P	P	P	VS
	5	VM	Xen AWS 2013	PVHVM + SR-IOV(net)	VH	VH	P	P	P	VS
	6	VM	Xen AWS 2017	PVHVM + SR-IOV(net, stor.)	VH	VH	VH	P	P	VS
	7	VM	AWS Nitro 2017		VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VS
New	8	HW	AWS Bare Metal 2017		H	H	H	H	H	H
			Bare Metal		H	H	H	H	H	H

VM: Virtual Machine. HW: Hardware.
VS: Virt. in software. VH: Virt. in hardware. P: Paravirt. Not all combinations shown.
SR-IOV(net): ixgbe/ena driver. SR-IOV(storage): nvme driver.

AWS VIRTUALIZATION - 2

- **Full Virtualization - Fully Emulated**
  - Never used on EC2, before CPU extensions for virtualization
  - Can boot any unmodified OS
  - Support via slow emulation, performance 2x-10x slower
- **Paravirtualization: Xen PV 3.0**
  - Software: Interrupts, timers
  - Paravirtual: CPU, Network I/O, Local+Network Storage
  - Requires special OS kernels, interfaces with hypervisor for I/O
  - Performance 1.1x – 1.5x slower than "bare metal"
  - Instance store instances: 1ST & 2nd generation- m1.large, m2.xlarge
- **Xen HVM 3.0**
  - Hardware virtualization: **CPU**, **memory** (CPU VT-x required)
  - Paravirtual: network, storage
  - Software: interrupts, timers
  - EBS backed instances
  - m1, c1 instances

AWS VIRTUALIZATION - 3

- **XEN HVM 4.0.1**
  - Hardware virtualization: CPU, memory (CPU VT-x required)
  - Paravirtual: network, storage, **interrupts**, **timers**
- **XEN AWS 2013** *(diverges from opensource XEN)*
  - Provides hardware virtualization for CPU, memory, **network**
  - Paravirtual: storage, **interrupts**, **timers**
  - Called Single root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV)
  - Allows sharing single physical PCI Express device (i.e. network adapter) with multiple VMs
  - Improves VM network performance
  - 3rd & 4th generation instances (c3 family)
  - Network speeds up to 10 Gbps and 25 Gbps
- **XEN AWS 2017**
  - Provides hardware virtualization for CPU, memory, network, **local disk**
  - Paravirtual: remote storage, **interrupts**, **timers**
  - Introduces hardware virtualization for EBS volumes (c4 instances)
  - Instance storage hardware virtualization (x1.32xlarge, i3 family)

AWS VIRTUALIZATION - 4

- **AWS Nitro 2017**
  - Provides hardware virtualization for CPU, memory, network, **local disk, remote disk, interrupts, timers**
  - All aspects of virtualization enhanced with HW-level support
  - November 2017
  - Goal: provide performance indistinguishable from "bare metal"
  - 5th generation instances – c5 instances (also c5d, c5n)
  - Based on KVM hypervisor
  - Overhead around ~1%

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CH. 3.3: CLIENTS

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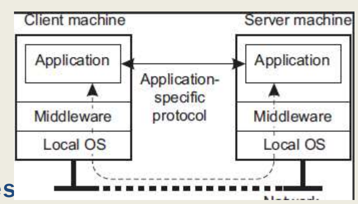
TYPES OF CLIENTS

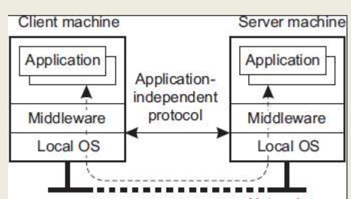
- Thick clients
  - Web browsers
    - Client-side scripting
  - Mobile apps
  - Multi-tier MVC apps
- Thin clients
  - Remote desktops/GUIs (very thin)

CLIENTS

- Application specific protocol
  - Thick clients
  - Clients maintain local data
  - Middleware (APIs)
  - Clients synchronize data with remote nodes
  - Example: shared calendar application



- Application independent
  - Thin clients
  - Client acts as a remote terminal
  - Provides interface to user (GUI / UI)
  - Server houses entire application stack



X WINDOWS

- Layered architecture to transport UI over network
- Remote desktop functionality for Linux/Unix systems
- X kernel acts as a server
  - Provides the X protocol: application level protocol
  - Xlib instances (client applications) exchange data and events with X kernels (servers)
  - Clients and servers on single machine → Linux GUI
  - Client and server communication transported over the network → remote Linux GUI

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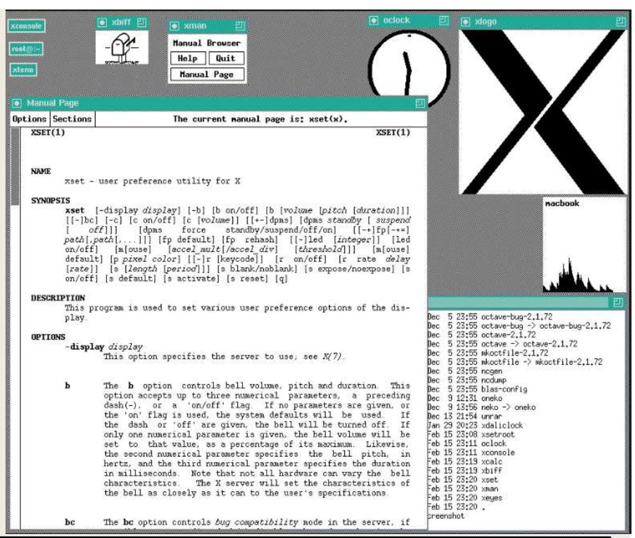
X WINDOWS - 2

- Window manager:
  - Application running atop of X-windows which provides flair
  - Many variants
  - Without X windows is quite bland



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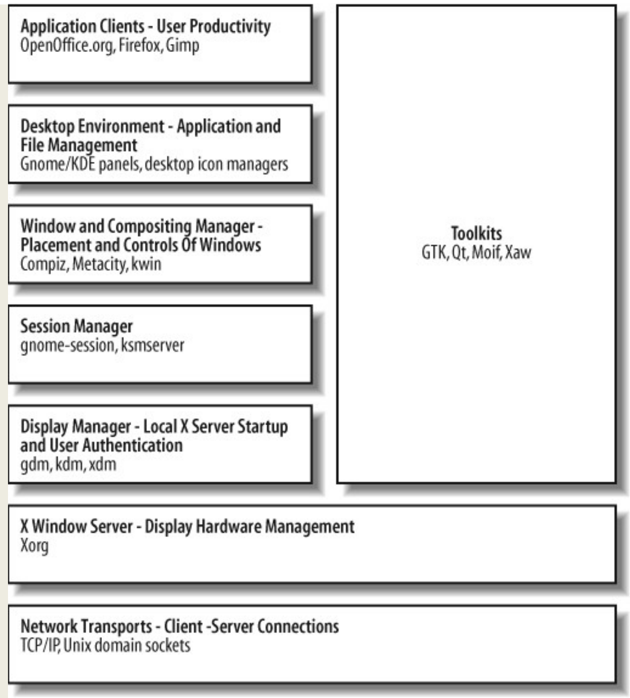
- Layered architecture
- X-kernel: low level interface/APIs for controlling screen, capturing keyboard and mouse events (X window Server)
- Provided on Linux as Xlib
- Provides network enabled GUI
- Layering allows for use for custom window managers



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EXAMPLE: VNC SERVER

- How to Install VNC server on Ubuntu EC2 instance VM:
- `sudo apt-get update`

- `# ubuntu 16.04`
- `sudo apt-get install ubuntu-desktop`
- `sudo apt-get install gnome-panel gnome-settings-daemon metacity nautilus gnome-terminal`

- `# on ubuntu 18.04`
- `sudo apt install xfce4 xfce4-goodies`

- `sudo apt-get install tightvncserver  # both`

- Start VNC server to create initial config file
- `vncserver :1`

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EXAMPLE: VNC SERVER – UBUNTU 16.04

- On the VM: edit config file: `nano ~/.vnc/xstartup`
- Replace contents as below (Ubuntu 16.04):

```
#!/bin/sh

export XKL_XMODMAP_DISABLE=1
unset SESSION_MANAGER
unset DBUS_SESSION_BUS_ADDRESS

[ -x /etc/vnc/xstartup ] && exec /etc/vnc/xstartup
[ -r $HOME/.Xresources ] && xrdb $HOME/.Xresources
xsetroot -solid grey

vncconfig -iconic &
gnome-panel &
gnome-settings-daemon &
metacity &
nautilus &
gnome-terminal &
```


EXAMPLE: VNC SERVER – UBUNTU 18.04

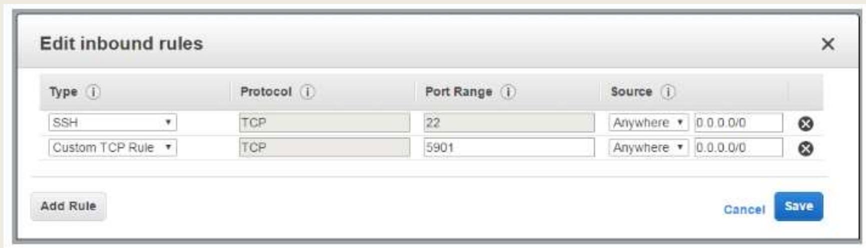
- On the VM:
- Edit config file: `nano ~/.vnc/xstartup`
- Replace contents as below (Ubuntu 18.04):

```
#!/bin/bash
xrdb $HOME/.Xresources
startxfce4 &
```

EXAMPLE: VNC SERVER - 3

- On the VM: reload config by restarting server
- `vncserver -kill :1`
- `vncserver :1`

- Open port 22 & 5901 in EC2 security group:



EXAMPLE: VNC CLIENT

- On the client (e.g. laptop):
- Create SSH connection to securely forward port 5901 on the EC2 instance to your localhost port 5901
- This way your VNC client doesn't need an SSH key

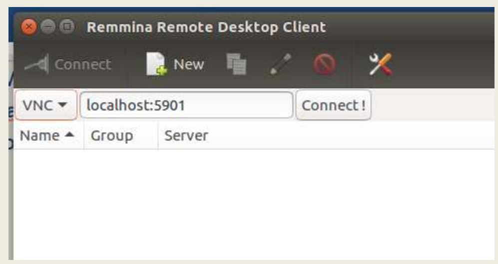
```
ssh -i <ssh-keyfile> -L 5901:127.0.0.1:5901 -N
-f -l <username> <EC2-instance ip_address>
```

- For example:

```
ssh -i mykey.pem -L 5901:127.0.0.1:5901 -N -f -
l ubuntu 52.111.202.44
```

EXAMPLE: VNC CLIENT - 2

- On the client (e.g. laptop):
- Use a VNC Client to connect
- Remmina is provided by default on Ubuntu 16.04
- Can “google” for many others
- Remmina login:
- Chose “VNC” protocol
- Log into “localhost:5901”



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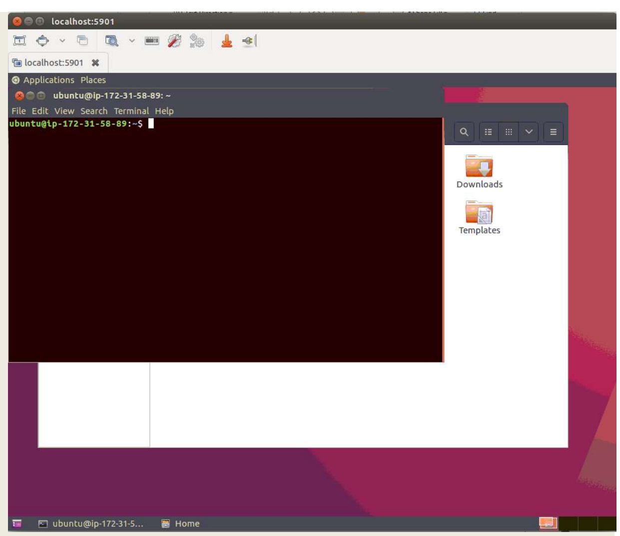
REMOTE COMPUTER IN THE CLOUD

- EC2 instance with a GUI. . .!!!



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QUESTIONS