Holistic Performance Analysis of Large-Scale Distributed Systems

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Problem statement

The analysis of distributed systems is extremely challenging because:

Distributed systems are built atop multiple heterogeneous third-party components.

There is a lack of knowledge regarding the inter-component interactions.

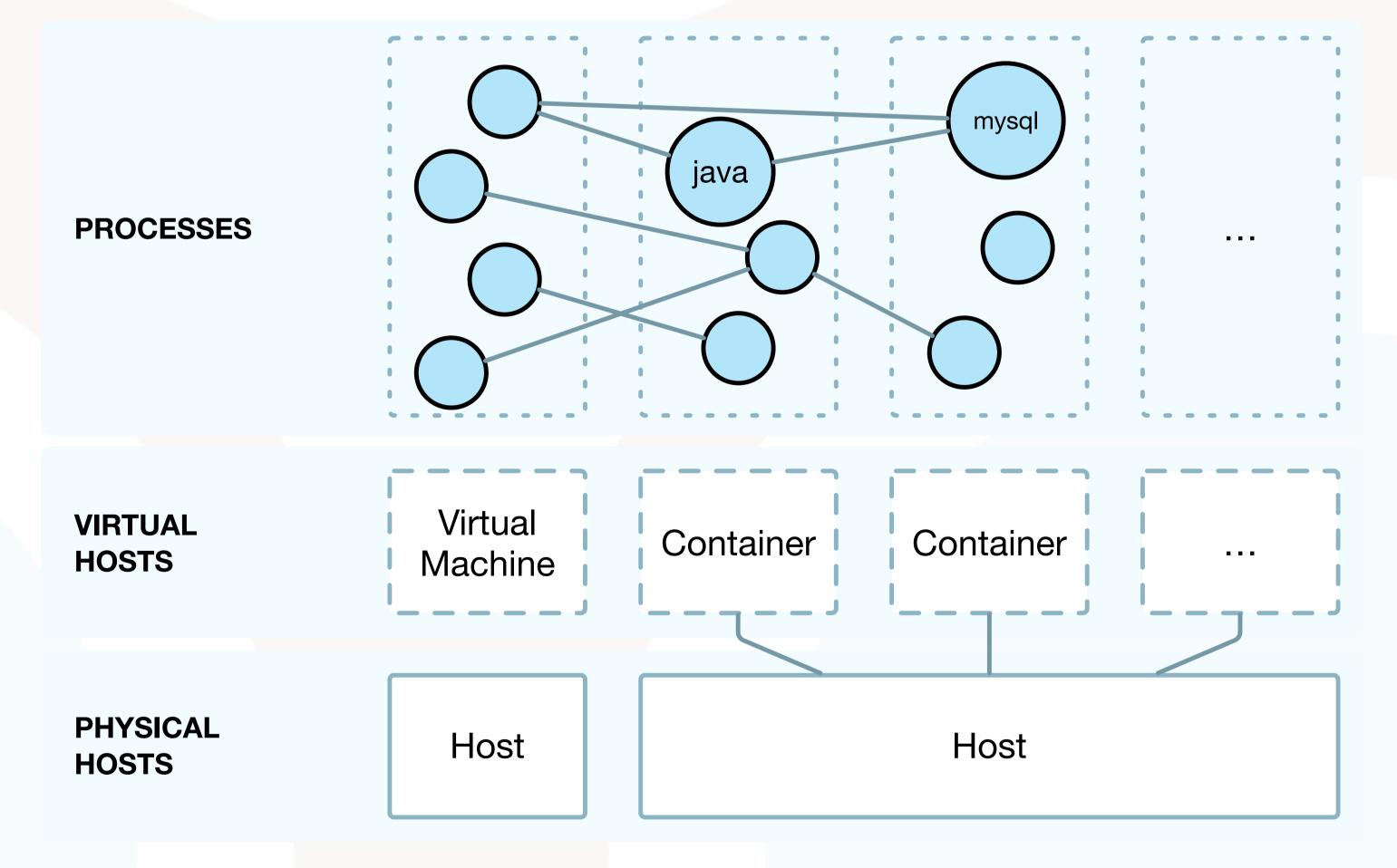
Motivation

- The analysis of the behaviour of a system as a whole, including the interactions between its components, eases the effective reasoning about performance improvements.
- The existing tools are not suitable to address this issue as they focus on single components and thus inter-component interactions remain hidden.

Research Direction

Develop a black-box approach for discovering and monitoring the behaviour of a system.

Black-box stands for operating without instrumenting the application's components.



Representation of the architecture and interactions between components of a distributed system. The graph of processes illustrates the interactions of running processes.

The resulting monitoring system:

- Leverages the data captured by existing OS-level tracing tools.
- Coherently combines the collected data according to the system's runtime behaviour.
- Provides a unified and extensible API for querying the collected data.

With this monitoring system, we are able to answer questions as follows:

- What is the energy consumption of the complete stack used by an application?
- What services should be affected by a shutdown of the air conditioning system in a given datacenter hall?

