Virtual Machines Cooperation for Impatient Jobs under Cloud Paradigm

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Abstract—The increase on the demand of IT resources diverts the enterprises to use the cloud as a cheap and scalable solution. Cloud computing promises achieved by using the virtual machine as a basic unit of computation. However, the virtual machine pre-defined settings might be not enough to handle jobs QoS requirements. This paper addresses the problem of mapping jobs have critical start deadlines to virtual machines that have predefined specifications. These virtual machines hosted by physical machines and shared a fixed amount of bandwidth. This paper proposed an algorithm that uses the idle virtual machines bandwidth to increase the quote of other virtual machines nominated as executors to urgent jobs. An algorithm with empirical study have been given to evaluate the impact of the proposed model on impatient jobs. The results show the importance of dynamic bandwidth allocation in virtualized environment and its affect on throughput metric.

Keywords—Insufficient bandwidth, virtual machine, cloud provider, impatient jobs.

I. INTRODUCTION

Many enterprises, organizations and governmental departments are responsible for time critical jobs and these jobs need to be served quickly. In addition to above, these agencies face IT problems because of the huge growth in applications, data and solution sizes.

Dave Murphy[1], senior vice president at performance testing vendor says "The cloud allows for large amounts of computing power over short periods of time - like during a disaster - so government agencies can respond to anything in the world". He also noted "The government could utilize the cloud compute power on an as-needed basis. All of a sudden - like with the oil spill off the coast of Louisiana - they would need to bring resources to bear, such as money, people and equipment. Part of the equipment is the computing power". This kind of urgent jobs where the time plays an essential role in their execution are called impatient jobs.

Impatient jobs are the jobs that need resources as soon as they enter the system and to be executed as soon as possible [2]. More recently, these jobs have a considerable amount of data to be staged in before execution and staged out after. Each job could have two deadlines in its QoS namely: start and finish deadlines, which are described in more details at section III.

Many experts proposed that cloud computing is a solution to these problems such that each agency can execute its jobs via the cloud and expand their requirements based on the situation.

The nearest cloud computing definition to our work is given by [3]: Clouds are a large pool of easily usable and accessible virtualized resources (such as hardware, development platforms and/or services). These resources can be dynamically reconfigured to adjust to a variable load (scale), allowing also for an optimum resource utilization. This pool of resources is typically exploited by a pay-per-use model in which guarantees are offered by the Infrastructure Provider by means of customized SLAs. From the above definition, cloud computing is based on virtualization [4], [5] in its infrastructure which can be described as an emerging IT paradigm that separates computing functions and technology implementations from physical hardware. One of the main reasons that clouds adopt virtualization is the configurability of Virtual Machine (VM) [6].

In cloud computing or more precisely in Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), each cloud provider has a set of predefined VMs images and the customer should select one of them for his job(s). However, the predefined bandwidth of the nominated VM might be not enough to meet the job start deadline, if it has huge data to be staged in before execution.

Several VMs can be installed on a physical machine and share its hardware components. These components can be CPU, memory, disk storage, or network bandwidth. It can be looked like a set of independent systems that sharing the same hardware [7]. While each physical machine has a fixed amount of bandwidth, each VM should have a share of that bandwidth to be used for its stage-in and stage-out processes. However, some VMs might have idle bandwidth if they are busy running their application. The idle bandwidth can be used while there is an ability to reconfigure the VMs setting. Some studies have shown that each VM may consume I/O bandwidth in unpredictable way [8], [9].

While IaaS builds of the idea of virtualization [10] or VMs images [11], and there is an ability to change or reconfigure the VM settings, we can use the idle bandwidth amount to speed up the stage-in process for the jobs that have critical start-deadlines or what we can called them impatient jobs.

This paper tackles the problem of insufficient bandwidth amount specified to a particular VM nominated as the best executor for impatient job from data location point of view. This work proposed an algorithm that computes the necessary bandwidth required to meet the job start deadline. The proposed algorithm maps the jobs with inspiration by Minimum Completion Time scheduling algorithm (MCT) under cloud environment. Problem and its formulations are described in more details in section III.

The main contributions of this work are:
- Divide the VM execution into periods and formulate the boundaries of these periods (Section III).
• Propose an algorithm that tries to find a donor VM, which is busy with execution its application (i.e., has finished stage-in process) to have some of its resources without overlapping (Section IV).
• Transplant the proposed algorithm in an adopted immediate mode scheduling algorithm and test both algorithms using cloudsim simulator (Section IV and V).

The reset of this paper is organized as follows: section II gives the most related work are presented. Section III forms the problem in mathematical way and lists its objectives. Section IV illustrates the system model and the pseudo code of the proposed algorithm. Experiments and results are shown in section V while the section VI gives the conclusion and future work.

II. RELATED WORK

Foster et al. in his paper [12] proposed a model for predicting time overheads involved in using the VMs. In their work, they use the suspend/resume/migrate capability of VMs to support advance reservation. They showed that, using the suspend/resume/migrate capability of VMs allowed the advance reservations to be supported efficiently, without the utilization problems commonly associated with them. They implemented their work in lease management software called Haizea that gives better results with this model. Our work tries to borrow resources (i.e., bandwidth) from running VMs (i.e., the VMs that are currently busy in their execution). Like Foster, we have to respect the donor VM by predicting the execution periods to return back the lended resources.

Kuriakose in his paper [9] presented a command-line tool for Network bandwidth differentiation in Xen which is used as a virtualization hypervisor [13] in many cloud providers like Amazon, GoGrid, Flexiscale, and RightScale. Their tool xmsntbw can dynamically reconfigure the I/O bandwidth allocation to a VM to enhance the existing scheduler to offer weighted fair scheduling requested across VMs. Their experimental evaluation verified the correctness of their tool when I/O bandwidth is changed dynamically.

This work supports our idea by providing the needed tool to implement it in real system. A classic VM enables multiple independent and isolated operating systems to run on one physical machine, efficiently multiplexing system resources of the host machine [14]. It provides a secure and isolated environment for application execution [15]. Compared with a physical machine, it is highly customizable in terms of hardware (such as CPU, memory, and disk space) and software (such as operating system and applications) and can be easily check pointed and migrated to achieve host load balancing [16], [17], [18], [19]. Recent technical advances in VM development have made adaptive hardware configuration possible. For example, processors and/or memory can be dynamically added to or removed from a running system [20], [5]. All these characteristics make VMs highly manageable resource containers for applications in utility environments.

Immediate mode job scheduling is the mode of scheduling the jobs as soon as it received by the system. In other words, it is the scheduling of impatient jobs or the scheduling of VIP jobs that have deadline for their executions. Hak Du Kim and Jin Suk Kim [21] took the problem of scheduling independent jobs in Grid environment. They proposed an online scheduling technique and compared it with the other techniques using simulations. In their research, they did not take the input/output files in considerations. They based on job length (i.e., execution time).

Fatos Xhafa et al. [2] considered the problem of allocation jobs using immediate mode in grid environment. They implemented five scheduling methods and used four parameters to measure the performance of the system; namely, 1) makespan, 2) flow time, 3) resource utilization and 4) matching proximity. In this paper, they did not take the data-location in consideration of the scheduling process. They based on the job execution time.

S. Ghanbari and M. R. Meybodi [22] worked on online scheduling techniques in computation grids. They proposed four algorithms for scheduling jobs based on learning automata. They did a simulation to evaluate the performance of their system. The four algorithms use the job length as a factor for Comparison.

III. PROBLEM AND MODEL FORMULATION

We refer to [23], [24], [25], [26] for the proposed system topology.

Let cloud provider \( \mathcal{P} = \{D, \mathcal{V}\} \) consists of set of datacenters \( D \) and set of VM images \( \mathcal{V} \). Virtual machine \( v_q \) is described by set of specifications \(<CPU, RAM, BW,...>\). Each VM \( v_q \) is hosted by Physical Machine \((PM) p_k\) which is in turn represents the basic hardware unit of computation in the datacenter. Let \( B_{vq} \) is the PM \( p_k \) bandwidth and \( B_{vq} \) denotes the VM bandwidth quota, such that \( B_{vq} \geq B_{vq} \) if \( v_q \) is hosted by PM \( p_k \). The time needed to reconfigure the bandwidth quota for VM \( v_q \) is denoted by \( \mu \).

Let \( J \) is the set of independent dynamic arriving jobs. Each job \( j_e \) is described by a set of specifications, such that:

\[
\{L_e, at_e, sd_e, fd_e, Fin_e, Fout_e\}, \quad \text{where} \quad L_e = \text{the job length in MIPS}, \quad at_e = \text{the job arrival time}, \quad \text{sd_e} = \text{the job start deadline}, \quad \text{fd_e} = \text{the job finish deadline}, \quad \text{Fin_e} = \text{the set of input files}, \quad \text{Fout_e} = \text{the set of output files.} \]

Job deadlines have two hard constrains and should be respected by the scheduler. Formally 1) \( sd_e \geq \alpha_e \), which means job execution is useless if the job starting time \( \alpha_e \) is after the deadline \( sd_e \); 2) \( fd_e \geq \delta_e \), which ensures to complete the job before its finish deadline \( \delta_e \), where \( \delta_e \) is the job finish time. Now, let \( j_e \) has input size equal to \( L_e \) and can be assigned to a beneficiary VM \( v_b \) that has bandwidth equal to \( B_{v_b} \). Stage-in process \( s \) depends totally on the bandwidth and VM storage size. We assume that there is an enough storage for each VM. It is possible to speed up the stage-in process by increasing the amount of bandwidth for the nominated VM.

Let \( v_d \) denotes the donor VM that has bandwidth equal to \( B_{v_d} \) and computation capacity equal to \( \mathcal{S}_{v_d} \). The required bandwidth for stage-in process for job \( j_e \) is computed by 1 while the extra bandwidth amount required for \( v_b \) is computed by 2 as shown below.

\[
B_{total} = \frac{L_e}{sd_e - CT} \tag{1}
\]
B_{need} = B_{total} - B_{v_b} \quad (2)

where $B_{total}$ is the best bandwidth amount that can finish the stage-in process before the job’s start deadline. If $B_{total} \leq 0$ then it means the time is over and the start deadline can not be met. $CT$ is the current system time and $B_{v_b}$ is the predefined bandwidth quota for VM $v_b$.

The proposed algorithm finds the best VM to borrow some bandwidth from it for a while. Finding an idle bandwidth period for the donor VM is the challenge problem. Figure 1 depicts the proposed time line of job execution under VM with reconfiguration in its bandwidth size. It divides the execution process to periods each one has a start time as can be seen from 3 to 8.

\begin{align*}
\tau_0 &= v_d \text{ starting time} \\
\tau_1 &= \tau_0 + \sum_{f \in Fin_d} \frac{\text{Size}(f)}{\min(B_{v_d} + B_f^{pre})} \\
\tau_2 &= \tau_1 + 2 \cdot \mu \\
\tau_3 &= \tau_2 + \sum_{f \in Fin_{in}} \frac{\text{Size}(f)}{\min(B_{v_d} + B_{v_d} + B_f^{pre})} \\
\tau_4 &= \tau_1 + \frac{L_d}{S_{v_d}} \\
\tau_5 &= \tau_4 + \sum_{f \in Fin_{out}} \frac{\text{Size}(f)}{\min(B_{v_d}, B_f^{del})}
\end{align*}

The start time is denoted by $\tau_0$, which indicates the time of starting the stage-in phase for the donor VM. The stage-in phase finishes at time indicated by $\tau_1$ that is equal to $\tau_0$ plus the time needed to fetch all the input files as can be seen in 4, where $Fin_d$ denotes the list of input files attached with the job under the VM $v_d$ and $B_f^{pre}$ is the bandwidth value of the sites where the input files are located. This time is also the start time for reconfiguring the bandwidth size process. As aforementioned, $\mu$ is the time needed to reconfigure the donor VM by decreasing its bandwidth size or beneficiary VM by increasing its bandwidth size. The finish time of this process can be seen in 5 that is denoted by $\tau_2$. The time needed to fetch all the input files for the impatient job, which is denoted by $Fin_{in}$ is computed in 6. After fetching all the input files for the beneficiary VM, the bandwidth sizes should be returned back to the donor VM. $\tau_3$ gives the start time of reconfiguring the bandwidth sizes. At time $\tau_4$, which is computed using 7 everything should return back to its normal. In this time the donor VM $v_d$ finishes execution the job that has length $L_d$. The Last time is denoted by $\tau_5$ which is the finish time for the donor VM as can be seen in 8.

The time table of each job is save in a form of tuple $r = <v_d, p_j, \tau_0, \tau_1, \tau_4, \tau_5>$ in a special data structure called Time Line Registry table (TLR), which is used later in scheduling algorithm (section 4.2).

The proposed algorithm generates three events in three particular times, which are:

1) **Lending Event:** This event starts working after time $\tau_1$ and responsible for lending bandwidth from $v_d$ and pass it to $v_b$.
2) **Triggering event:** This event starts working at time $\tau_2$ and gives the trigger to $v_b$ VM to start its stage-in process.
3) **Roll back event:** This event starts working at time $\tau_3$ and returns the original configurations to its normal (i.e. to the state of configurations before time $\tau_1$).

The objectives of this algorithm can be described as:

- **Maximize Virtual Machine Bandwidth Utilization:**
  This work tries to improve the bandwidth share for each VM such that it uses the idle period if the VM busy executing. Bandwidth utilization formula is given in 9.

\[
U_v = \frac{T_v x 100}{B_v x \psi_v} \quad (9)
\]

where $U_v$ is the bandwidth utilization for VM $v$, and $B_v$ is the bandwidth quota, $\psi_v$ is the duration which is the VM life time and it is equal to the VM release time to the VM creation time, and $T_v$ is the amount of data transferred during the VM life.

- **Maximize Throughput:** The number of successful job execution is called throughput. It is computed using 10.

\[
Throughput = \sum_{j \in J} X_j \quad (10)
\]

where $X_j$ is a condition veritable indicates the execution if the job as shown in 11.

\[
X_j = \begin{cases} 
1, \text{ job } j \text{ has finished execution} \\
0, \text{ otherwise}
\end{cases} \quad (11)
\]

- **Minimize Job Failure ratio:** The main objective of this work is to provide enough resources to meet the jobs requirements. This objective computes the number of failed jobs as shown in equation 12.

\[
F = \sum_{j \in J} (1 - X_j) \quad (12)
\]

Several constraints have been taken in account with this work. These are:

1) $B_{p_k} \geq \sum_{v \in p_k} B_{v} \forall v \in p_k$
2) $\tau_0 \leq \tau_1 < \tau_2 = \tau_1 + \mu \leq \tau_3 < \tau_4 = \tau_3 + \mu \leq \tau_5$
Bandwidth sharing between VMs is formulated in the first constraint, which means the summation of allocated bandwidth to all VMs that are hosted by PM $p_k$ should be not more than the PM bandwidth. The second constraint ensures the sequence of events while the third constraint ensures the lent bandwidth is enough to meet the start deadline.

IV. SYSTEM MODEL

Cloud providers use datacenters as an infrastructure to serve their customers. The proposed model consists of set of datacenters connected to the internet. Each datacenter has set of physical machines that are used to host the virtual machines. Each set of virtual machines share the amount of bandwidth of the host physical machine.

The user sends his/her urgent job through cloud broker to the cloud exchange. The cloud exchange has the list of cloud providers and their offers and current states that is updated by the cloud coordinators. The cloud exchange maps the request to the best cloud provider that can meet the client QoS requirements.

The proposed algorithm tries to find a donor VM to take some bandwidth from its share and adds it to the needed VM. It registers the VM time line that is described earlier in a registry to be used later by the scheduler. This registry is updated with each VM creation and leasing.

With each arrival job the algorithm finds the amount of bandwidth that can staged in its input files within the deadline. Then it checks the available VMs images to find the suitable image. If the current VM image has bandwidth amount not enough to meet the start deadline for the current job, it tries to lend bandwidth from the available running VMs.

Algorithm 1 illustrates the main steps for the proposed algorithm. This algorithm at step 1 scans all the received jobs and tries to map them to resources. Step 2 computes the total bandwidth needed for the job $j$ to meet its starting constraint. Step 3 collects the available free (i.e. unused) bandwidth and named it $\varphi$. A temporary value $minvalue$ is used to find the minimum execution time offered from all available virtual machines. The for loop statement at step 5 scans all the available VM. Initially it checks if this VM $v$ has an enough bandwidth for the job $j$; if so, then go to step 17 and computes the estimated time to complete. Otherwise, checks if adding the free bandwidth is enough (step 9); if not then checks all the running VMs that have entries in the time line registry $TLR$. If the available entry (i.e. VM) is suitable to be a donor VM, then nominate it. Steps 18-21 computes the job completion time while step 23 maps the job to the nominated VM if there is an enough bandwidth for it. Step 24 starts the lending event at time $CT$, which is equal to the job arrival time or $\tau_1$ as shown in 4. The stage-in process for job $j$ is triggered after $2 \times \mu$ from the $CT$ as shown in step 25. Last events is the rollback event, which is starts at time $j.\tau_3$ and explained formally in 6.

This algorithm calculates the completion time for each job on each VM image and assigns the job to the VM that gives the earliest completion time. This algorithm uses (13) to estimate the total time needed to finish executing a job on a selected virtual machine.
code to the nominated VM $v$. Each virtual machine needs a particular time for installing, booting, and loading. This time is represented in $\mathbb{R}$. Job execution time, which is equal to job length divided by VM speed is represented by $P_{j,v}^{\text{out}}, x^{\text{out}}_j,v$ represents the time needed to send all the output files for the job $j$ to their destinations.

This algorithm has been improved to keep pace with the significant growth in jobs data by taking the application, input and output files locations in account. VM ready time is added to total completion time to fit the characteristics of intercloud paradigm.

V. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In the absence of real traces from real cloud providers, we generate the input workload randomly. Casazza et al. [27] present a workload methodology to characterize the performance of servers exploiting virtualization technologies to consolidate multiple physical servers. They combine the workload of web server, an email server, and a database application to reflect the variation of application that can be run on cloud computing. We generate synthetic data distributions workload as we now describe.

As described in section III, we assume a certain number of users, jobs, and cloud providers. Jobs workload are selected randomly [28] with uniform distribution between 500 MB to 2000 MB. Each job has set of input and output files selected randomly between 1 and 6. Job length is a function to the total input size for 300D if we assume D is the total input size. Simulation is the process of imitation of the real system. Because of the difficulty in testing the proposed system in a real system, a simulation evaluation has been conducted on four datasets. CloudSim [29] is a discrete event simulator that is used to simulate cloud environments. Cloudsim has the ability to create data centers, virtual machines and physical machines and configure system brokers, system storage, etc. The proposed algorithm has been tested and evaluated on the two real datasets.

Table I specifies the simulation parameters used for our study. Two performance metrics have been used to evaluate the proposed model. Virtual machine bandwidth utilization is computed using 9. It computes the percentage of utilizing VM bandwidth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE I</th>
<th>CloudSim Configurations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of data centres</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VM</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CPU/VM</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU Speed/VM</td>
<td>1GHz, 2GHz, 2.5GHz, 3GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of jobs</td>
<td>100, 200, 300, 400, 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several experiments have been done to test the impact of the proposed system on executing impatient jobs under cloud paradigm.

The first set of experiments using the cloudsim simulator is done to evaluate the impact of the proposed algorithm on bandwidth utilization.

Fig. 3 depicts Virtual Machine Average bandwidth Utilization (VMAU) with bandwidth lending and without. The variety in datasets sizes allows the experiments to evaluate the system with multiple loads. This figure depicts the bandwidth utilization for the VMs that finish executing their jobs or in another words for the jobs that meet their requirements. As discussed earlier, the job size is a function to the size input files and while we assumed the current jobs are huge in data size, we can see the utilization is low. This is because of the most of the time is spent in execution while the bandwidth is idle. The same reason can explain the small difference in bandwidth utilization when the lending algorithm is active. In the same figure, there are some experiments have very small difference in bandwidth utilization for example in dataset with job number 5, 70, 200. The reason is the random generation for the jobs does not give many job in need for high bandwidth.

Fig. 4 depicts the number of jobs that failed in finding proper VM. The generation of datasets are done to have a ratio of urgent jobs. This figure depicts the same number of experiments that are done on the previous figure. It is quite clear to see the difference in number of failed jobs. In the ordinary mapping system (i.e. the mapping without bandwidth lending) many jobs fail to find the proper VM that can meet the requirement. The proposed algorithm checks the start deadline and then the finish deadline of the each job by estimating the data transfer time and the job execution time. For the failed jobs, either they do not meet the start deadline or the finish deadline.

From the figure, its quite clear to see that the number of failed jobs increases as the number of jobs in each set increases. This is because of increase the number of jobs that need fast attention.

In the same figure, it is possible to see some failure even while the bandwidth lending algorithm is active. This is because of a small limitation in the proposed algorithm. The algorithm needs some VM in running state to borrow or lend bandwidth from them. So, in the random generation, if the impatient jobs came in the beginning which means they have the nearest arrival time. The algorithm cannot find a donor VM to lend bandwidth from it.

Fig. 5 shows the throughput of each dataset. Actually, the throughput is the reflection of number of job failure. It is computed using equation 10. In this figure, its clear to
see the improvement in the number of job execution. As aforementioned in the previous paragraph, there is some failure even in the lending algorithm and again this is because of the random generation which put the impatient jobs in the beginning.

![Number of failed jobs](image1)

**Fig. 4.** Number of failed jobs

![Total System Throughput](image2)

**Fig. 5.** Total System Throughput

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a bandwidth lending algorithm is proposed. The algorithm takes the impatient jobs as its scope and tries to allocate more bandwidth than the predefined size for each VM to speed up the stage-in process which implies to meet their QoS requirements. This algorithm divides the job execution time into periods and tries to predict the best VM that can donate its bandwidth while it is busy with execution. Simulation is done on two real datasets to test the performance of the proposed algorithm that is compared with adopted algorithm to cloud environment. The results show that BWLMCT can provide better system performance if the jobs have restrict and hard deadlines.

Future work is going on to improve the proposed algorithm by allowing it to check more than one virtual machine simultaneously. Current pricing methods are not fair with this method for both sides: the donor and the recipient.

**REFERENCES**


