## Management & Orchestration of Service Function Chains

Shihabur R. Chowdhury



**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS** David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science











#### What's the Fuss About Middleboxes?

#### Expen\$ive: High CAPEX & OPEX

#### 

#### What's the Fuss About Middleboxes?

#### Express@largeheigh CLAPEX & OPEX

#### Proprietary & Vertically Integrated:Vendor lock-in



# As many middleboxes as routers and switches in enterprise networks\*

<sup>\*</sup> J. Sherry, S. Hasan, C. Scott, A. Krishnamurthy, S. Ratnasamy, and V. Sekar. Making middleboxes someone else's problem: network processing as a cloud service. ACM SIGCOMM 2012, pp. 13-24

Networks are full of vertically integrated and proprietary devices that slow down innovation and are expensive to buy and maintain

### Service Function Chain (SFC)

Network policies often require packets to traverse an ordered set of Network Functions



e.g., Service chain for a Web Service



e.g., Service chain for 3G Data Network

#### SFC with Hardware Middleboxes

# H/W Middleboxes have fixed locations

Fixed locations restrict routing optimization

### Network Function Virtualization (NFV)



#### Hardware Middleboxes

**NFV** 

#### Network Function Virtualization



#### Hardware Middleboxes vs. NFV

#### Hardware Middleboxes

NFV

Provisioned for peak traffic

# Fixed network attachment point

Limited traffic steering optimization

Provisioned on-demand

More flexible network attachment point

Optimized VNF\* placement and traffic steering

\*VNF = Virtual Network Function, i.e., the virtualized middlebox

#### **Our Contributions**

### VNF Orchestration: Coordinated compute resource allocation and traffic steering Service Function Chains\*

# nf.io: Management interface for deploying, configuring, and monitoring VNFs and chains\*\*

\* M.F. Bari, S.R. Chowdhury, R. Ahmed, R. Boutaba, and O. Duarte. Orchestrating Virtualized Network Functions. IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (To Appear)

\*\* M.F. Bari, S.R. Chowdhury, R. Ahmed, R. Boutaba. nf.io: A File System Abstraction for NFV Orchestration. IEEE NFV-SDN Conference 2015, pp. 135 - 141



(Servers, Switches, Links)

#### Determine

How Many VNFs to deploy?

Where to deploy the VNFs?

How to route traffic between VNFs?

Determine

How Many VNFs to deploy?

Where to deploy the VNFs?

How to route traffic between VNFs?

Determine

How Many VNFs to deploy?

Where to deploy the VNFs?

How to route traffic between VNFs?

Determine

How Many VNFs to deploy?

Where to deploy the VNFs?

How to route traffic between VNFs?

**Objective:** Minimize Operational Expenditure (OPEX)



### **Proposed Solution: Optimal**

**Combination of 3 Problems** 

Allocate Resource for VM/Containers

Assign VNFs to VMs

Route traffic between VNFs

### **Proposed Solution: Optimal**

NP-Hard: Reduction from Capacited Plant Location Problem with Single Source Constraint Integer Linear Program (ILP) model for optimal solution

#### **Proposed Solution: Heuristic**



### Proposed Solution: Heuristic (cont.)

Place location constraints on a grid



### Proposed Solution: Heuristic (cont.)

Create a multi stage graph (one stage for each VNF)



#### **Evaluation: Setup**

Real Data Center and WAN Topologies and Traffic Traces

Server energy ratings from datasheets

Hardware Middlebox data from a Manufacturer

#### **Evaluation: Key Result**

#### Hardware Middlebox

VS.

VNF-OP (Optimal)



VS.

**VNF-OP** (Heuristic)

**Evaluation: Key Result** 

#### Hardware Middlebox



VS.

**VNF-OP** (Optimal)



VS.

**VNF-OP** (Heuristic)

**Evaluation: Key Result** 

#### Hardware Middlebox



VS.

VNF-OP (Optimal)



VS.

**VNF-OP** (Heuristic)



#### nf.io: NFV Management and Orchestration API



#### nf.io:A Northbound Interface for NFV Management & Orchestration



NFV Management & Orchestration







- Infrastructure agnostic high level operations
- Resource specific drivers





### Why File System Abstraction?

Centralized view of a distributed system

noitten egilme...) ni trinceque triannagament avezianetic. antenacyó triannagament

### Why File System Abstraction?

Central ized view of a distributed system

#### Rich set of familiar tools

noitten egilme...) ni tri ceqque triamegament serie tettet. construction de la construction de la construction

### Why File System Abstraction?

Cantralized were of a distributed system.

Extensive management support in Configuration Management Systems

#### File System Model



### File System Model (cont.)



### File System Model (cont.)













### nf.io

#### More about nf.io: <u>http://watnfv.github.io/nf.io/</u>

nf.io Get Started Downloads Documentation Developers Credits

#### **Overview**

nf.io provides a file system abstraction for Virtual Network Function (VNF) management and Orchestration. It exposes the Linux file system interface as the northbound API, enabling user to manage and orchestrate VNFs by performing simple file and directory manipulation operations.

#### Architecture



A high-level view of the nf.io architecture is shown in the above figure. The nf.io File System is a virtual file system layered on top of the OS file system. VNF operations are triggered when a user writes special strings (e.g., 'activate', 'stop', etc.) in action files. nf.io performs these operations by using three resource drivers: (i) Hypervisor Driver, (ii) Network Driver, and (iii) Chain Driver. The hypervisor and network drivers manage the compute and network resources, respectively. The chain driver manages VNF chains by configuring traffic forwarding rules between VNFs.

#### Publications

- Md. Faizul Bari, Shihabur Rahman Chowdhury, Reaz Ahmed, and Raouf Boutaba, nf.io: A File System Abstraction for NFV Orchestration, IEEE NFV-SDN 2015, San Francisco, USA, 18-21 November, 2015. PDF PPT
- Md. Faizul Bari, Shihabur Rahman Chowdhury, Reaz Ahmed, and Raouf Boutaba, nf.io: A File System Abstraction for NFV Orchestration, ACM SIGCOMM 2015, London, UK, August 17-21, 2015: 361-362. PDF

#### Source Code

The source code is available at https://github.com/WatNFV/nf.io

