Red Hat Leftovers

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Part 2: How to enable Hardware Accelerators on OpenShift, SRO Building Blocks [2]

In Part 1: How to Enable Hardware Accelerators on OpenShift we gave a high-level overview of the Special Resource Operator (SRO) and a detailed view of the workflow on enabling hardware accelerators.

Part 2 will go into detailed construction of the enablement, and explain which building blocks/features the SRO provides to make life easier.

The most important part is the DriverContainer and its interaction with the cluster during deployment and updates. We will show how we can handle multiple DriverContainer vendors, and how SRO can manage them.

Storage infrastructure for everyone: Lowering the bar to installing Ceph [3]

The last few years have seen Ceph continue to mature in stability, scalability and performance to become a leading open source storage platform. However, getting started with Ceph has typically required the administrator learning automation products like Ansible first. While learning Ansible brings its own rewards, wouldn’t it be great if you could simply skip this step and just get on with learning and using Ceph?

Red Hat Ceph Storage 4 introduces a GUI installation tool built on top of the Cockpit web console. Under the covers, we still rely on the latest iteration of the same trusted ceph-ansible installation flows that have been with us since 2016.

Hacking the video stream for BlueJeans on Linux [4]
Like most of the rest of the world, I'm working from home and stuck inside. I saw some folks who had virtual backgrounds setup on Zoom, and I wondered if something like that was possible for the videoconferencing service that my employer (Red Hat) uses, BlueJeans. The short answer is: No. Bluejeans has no native support for anything other than a regular video cam stream.

But this is Linux. We don't stop at the short answer.

I started thinking, surely, it has to be possible to "man in the middle" the video stream. And indeed, it is. I did all of this on Fedora 32 (x86_64), but it should work anywhere else.

*Talking about containers, virtual machines, and orchestration* [5]

Throughout the two episodes, we explored my own personal history in coming to work with containers. From the bare metal cloud to virtual machines, to starting to use Docker, to delving into cloud environments. And, as Docker became the basic environment for both desktop and server environments, I clearly saw how everything became standardized for us in or by containers.

With the growth of microservices, the management of containers becomes nearly impossible. The orchestration of containers becomes a thing. So, the niche for Kubernetes and other systems like it come to light. Even while Kubernetes has seen very good adoption rates over the past two years, as developers start to tune their own microservices mesh, they notice a lack of functionality in the vanilla Kubernetes. Then, here comes Istio.

Companies like Google, IBM, and Lyft founded Istio. Istio answers some of the requirements for dealing with mesh, such as advanced load balancing methods, A/B testing, canary deployments, versioning, enforcing policies, or just simply monitoring the services.

Next up in the history of containers and solving some of the issues with microservices mesh based applications is OKD, the Origin Community Distribution of Kubernetes. They are also looking into the advantages of simplified streamlined deployment, management, operations, and security provided by maintained version of Kubernetes. And, finally, merging Kubernetes with all of the above capabilities we have Red Hat OpenShift.

If you are interested in containers (and Docker, Kubernetes, Istio, or Kubernetes on Red Hat OpenShift), join Marek and other IBM Developer Advocates in their webinars and other events.

*Harish Pillay 9v1hp: No, Internet voting is still a No Go.* [6]

I was asked by a friend why is it that we can't do voting over the Internet. With all of the digitisation being done globally, and the ongoing COVID-19 issue, shouldn't Singapore? the
Smart Nation? have the general elections (which is due no later than April 2021) be done over the Internet?

One word answer: No.

Yes, you have done plenty of Internet banking transactions. You?ve sent money to phone numbers, you?ve received monies etc. You?ve bought stuff using your credit card over the Internet and received the goods. And yes Amazon, Alibaba, Paypal, eBay etc are multi-billion businesses that accept payments over the Internet. It is safe and it works.

Why? Because of the simple transaction involved: you know what you paid ? you can check the ledger and the recipient can check as well. E-commerce sites can see the transactions just as clearly as those involved in the transactions.

There is no secrecy within a transaction here. There is secrecy across all transactions, but each participant in a transaction knows all the details.

When you transfer $100 to a bank account over the Internet, you can check that it was delivered/received. You can check that your account was reduced by $100 and the recipient?s increased by $100.

But if you are NOT part of a transaction, you have no idea what happened. So, global secrecy is enforced and that?s all well (hence money laundering, bribery etc thrives).

The democratic process of voting has one critical thing that is different from the usual electronic transactions: the participants of the transaction DON?T KNOW WHAT TRANSPRIRED because of vote secrecy.

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