



2494-5

Workshop on High Performance Computing (HPC) Architecture and Applications in the ICTP

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Managing HPC Clusters

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Managing HPC Clusters

Remote management • Monitoring • Job scheduling • Power/Cooling

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URL

https://sites.google.com/site/ictphpcworkshop2013/

Remote Management

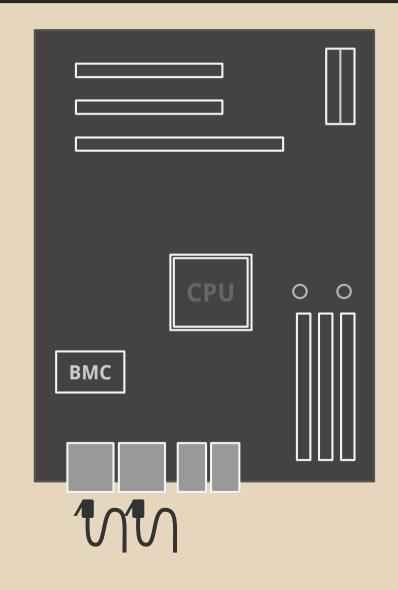
IPMI

Remote Management

- Remote management and HPC
 - Remote management can ease administration of large clusters
 - Can avoid the need for the administrator to be physically present in the datacenter
 - Two types of remote management
 - In-band
 - Remotely access features of a running operating system (OS)
 - Out-of-band
 - Management features provided by the platform hardware

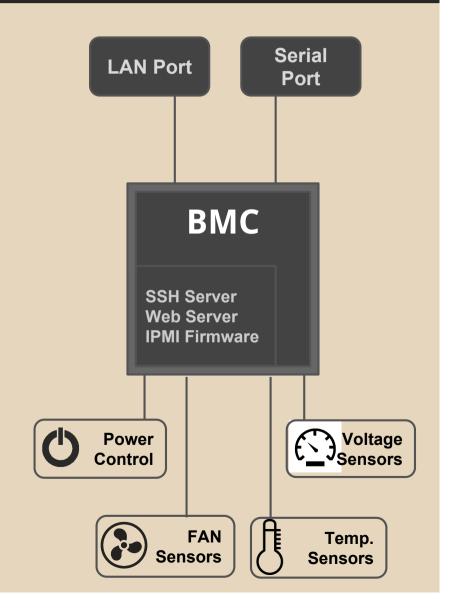
Out-of-band Management

- Monitor and control machines remotely
- Interface provided by dedicated hardware called Baseboard
 Management Controller
- Embedded microcontroller with flash storage



Out-of-band Management

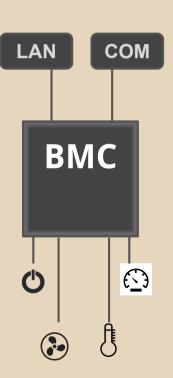
- Powered on as long as the machine is connected to a power supply
- Usually runs an embedded operating system (like embedded Linux)



BMC

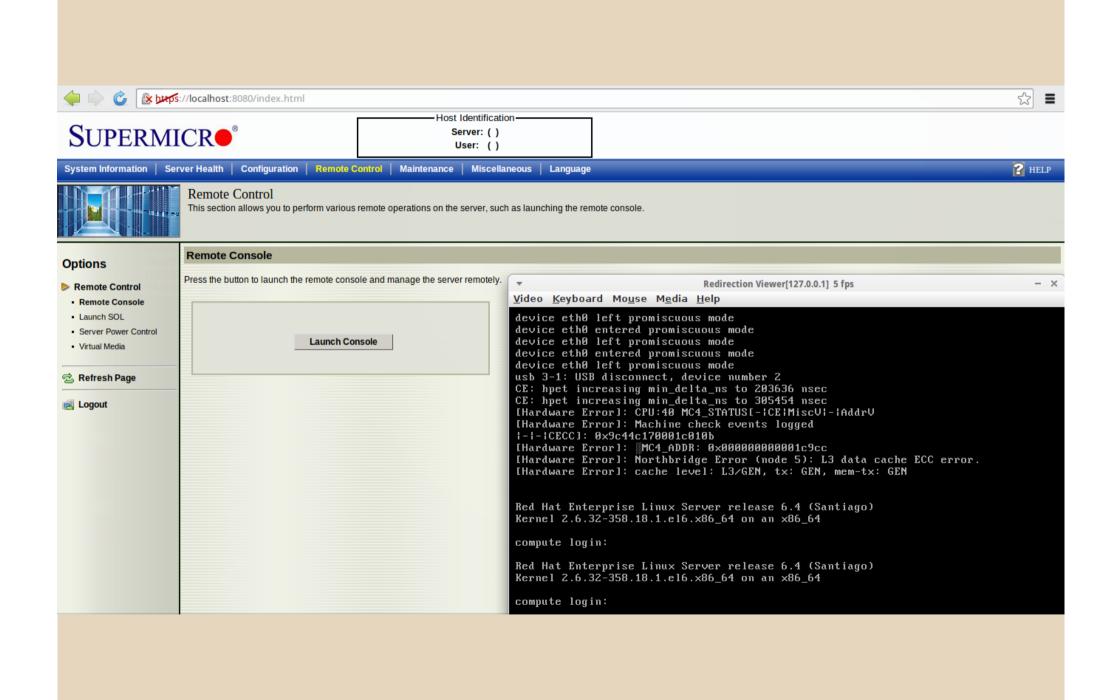
BMC hosts

- Web or shell interface that runs on the embedded OS (Embedded Web/SSH server)
- Some interfaces need to be accessed through vendor specific client software
- IPMI firmware
- BMCs can be accessed via a shared or dedicated management ethernet port or a serial port



BMC

- Web interface may also include Java based remote console
- Allows to view display, control mouse and keyboard through a browser with Java runtime
- Implemented using VNC protocol



Out-of-band Management

- Out-of-band management provides several practical advantages
- Allows administrator to perform operations such as
 - Remotely control power (on, off, reset, cycle)
 - Monitor health (voltages, temperatures, MCE, etc.)
 - Allow the operator to access a serial console over the LAN
 - Modify boot device order
 - Modify LAN port parameters
 - Blink indicator lights on chassis
 - o etc...

Configure BMC LAN Interface (IPMI over LAN Interface)

BIOS SETUP UTILITY

Advanced

LAN Configuration.

Channel Number [01]

Channel Number Status: Channel number is OK

IP Address Source [DHCP]

 IP Address
 [010.080.070.204]

 Subnet Mask
 [255.255.248.000]

 Gateway Address
 [010.080.064.003]

 Current MAC address in BMC:
 00.25.90.5A.0C.F4

Options

Static DHCP

↔ Select Screen

↑↓ Select Item

+- Change Option

F1 General Help

F10 Save and Exit

ESC Exit

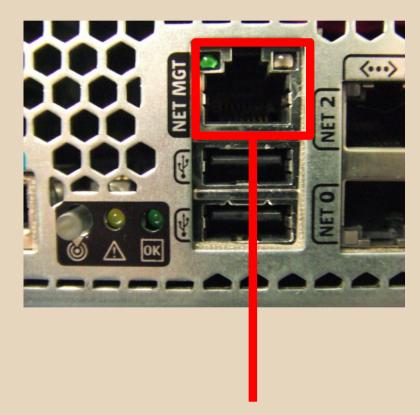
IPMI

- Intelligent Platform Management Interface
 - Is a standardized vendor neutral protocol for out-ofband management
 - IPMI client software is required to talk to a server that supports IPMI
 - Can communicate with the server
 - In-band (from within OS) or
 - Allows you to change the IPMI password if you forgot it for instance
 - out-of-band: (over the the network: IPMI over LAN)
 - Several client implementations exist
 - FreeIPMI, OpenIPMI, Ipmitool, Ipmiutil...

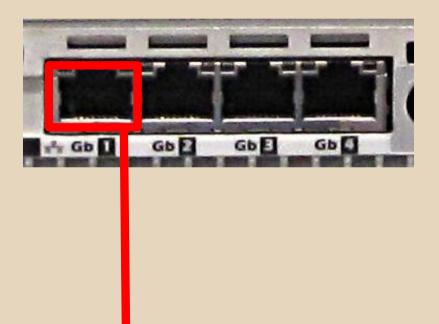
Configuring IPMI

- Enable IPMI on the node
 - Done from within the BIOS
 - Usually differs slightly between manufacturers
 - IPMI interface accessed through serial or LAN port
 - Some vendors require enabling IPMI over LAN
 - LAN port could be dedicated for management or shared with a Network Interface Card (NIC)
 - When ports are shared, management interface
 and NIC interface have different MAC addresses

Configuring IPMI



Dedicated Management Port



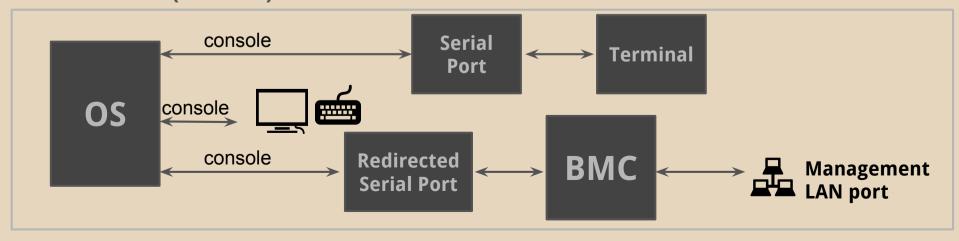
Shared Management Port (Shared with NIC1)

Configuring IPMI: Serial over LAN

- Ways to interact with the Linux console
 - Terminal: Display and Keyboard
 - Remote shell: Telnet, SSH, etc.
 - Serial device: Terminal emulator connected to serial port



 IPMI 2.0: Redirection of serial port to LAN (SOL)



BIOS SETUP UTILITY

Advanced

Configure Remote Access t	type .	and	parameters
---------------------------	--------	-----	------------

Remote Access [Enabled]

Serial port number CCUM3*1

Base Address, IRO [3E8h, 5]

Serial Port Mode [115200 R.n.1]

Flow Control [None]

Redirection After BIOS POST [Always] **FUT 1001**

Terminal Type

VT-UTF8 Combo Key Support [Enabled]

Sredir Memory Display Delay [No Delay] Select Remote Access type.

Select Screen

T1 Select Item

Change Option

General Help F1

F10 Save and Exit

ESC Exit

Configuring IPMI: Serial over LAN

- Note the baud rate and serial port (COM3)
- COM3 is special: This serial port is redirected to IPMI 2.0 Serial over LAN
 - Hardware dependent: different vendors redirect different serial ports to the networked interface
 - Check manual
- Linux and X terminals support VTxxx

- We need to use a client to communicate with the IPMI enabled server
- The client must be running on a machine that has connectivity to the target machine's management port
- Several implementations exist. Following examples use ipmitool

ipmitool options <command>

- Essential options
 - -I
- IPMI interface to use
- Usually 1an for IPMI 1.5 and 1anplus for IPMI2.0
- -H
- Hostname or IP address of management port

- ipmitool options <command>
- Essential options
 - -U
- Username (default depends on vendor)
- -P
- Password (default depends on vendor)
- Not recommended to specify password as command line option
- -a
- Prompt for password

Examples

Check power status of a machine

\$ ipmitool -I lanplus -H sp-h074 -U root -a power status
Password:
Chassis Power is on

Command categories

```
$ ipmitool help
Commands:
                  Send a RAW IPMI request and print response
    raw
   i2c
                  Send an I2C Master Write-Read command and print response
                  Print SPD info from remote I2C device
    spd
    lan
                  Configure LAN Channels
    chassis
                  Get chassis status and set power state
                  Shortcut to chassis power commands
    power
    event
                  Send pre-defined events to MC
                  Management Controller status and global enables
   MC
    sdr
                  Print Sensor Data Repository entries and readings
                  Print detailed sensor information
    sensor
                  Print built-in FRU and scan SDR for FRU locators
    fru
                  Read/Write Device associated with Generic Device
    gendev
```

Command categories and subcategories

```
$ ipmitool -I lanplus -H sp-h074 -U root -a chassis help
Password:
Chassis Commands: status, power, identify, policy, restart_cause,
poh, bootdev, bootparam, selftest
```

\$ ipmitool -I lanplus -H sp-h074 -U root -a chassis power help
Password:
chassis power Commands: status, on, off, cycle, reset, diag, soft

Configuring IPMI: Serial Over LAN

- Soon after boot, console is redirected to serial port if enabled in BIOS
- By default, the bootloader and Linux display their console only on the terminal screen
- Bootloader and Linux can be configured to display the console on a serial port
- For SOL, the selected serial port must match the port that is redirected

Configuring GRUB for Serial

- /etc/default/grub must be edited to enable interaction via serial in both Grub and the Linux kernel
- Variables that need to be modified are

GRUB_TERMINAL
GRUB_SERIAL_COMMAND
GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX

- Serial over LAN (SOL)
- To activate serial over LAN session

```
$ ipmitool -I lanplus -H sp-h074 -U root -a sol activate
Password:
[SOL Session operational. Use ~? for help]

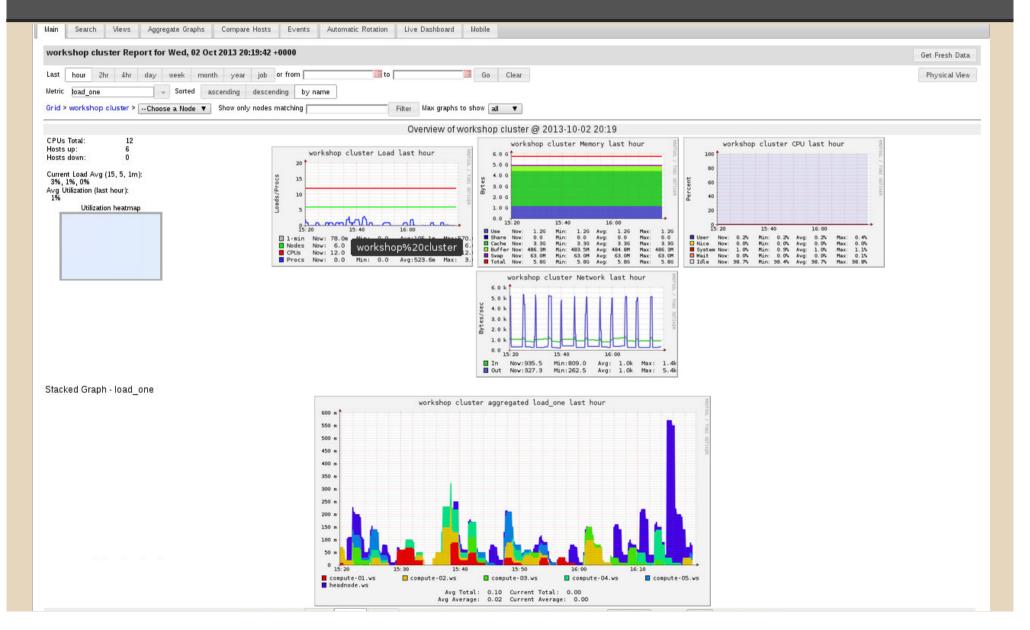
Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server release 6.2 (Santiago)
Kernel 2.6.32-71.18.2.el6.x86_64 on an x86_64

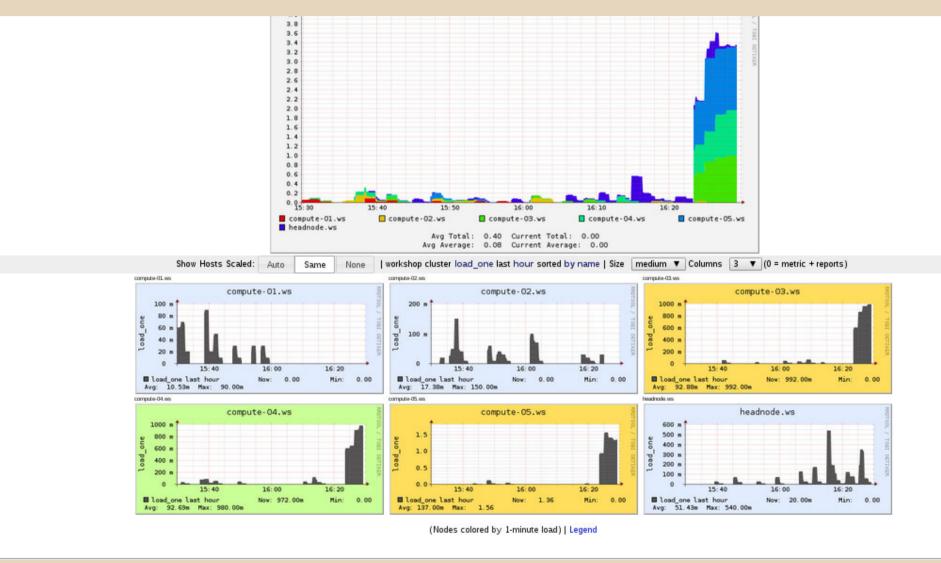
h074 login:
```

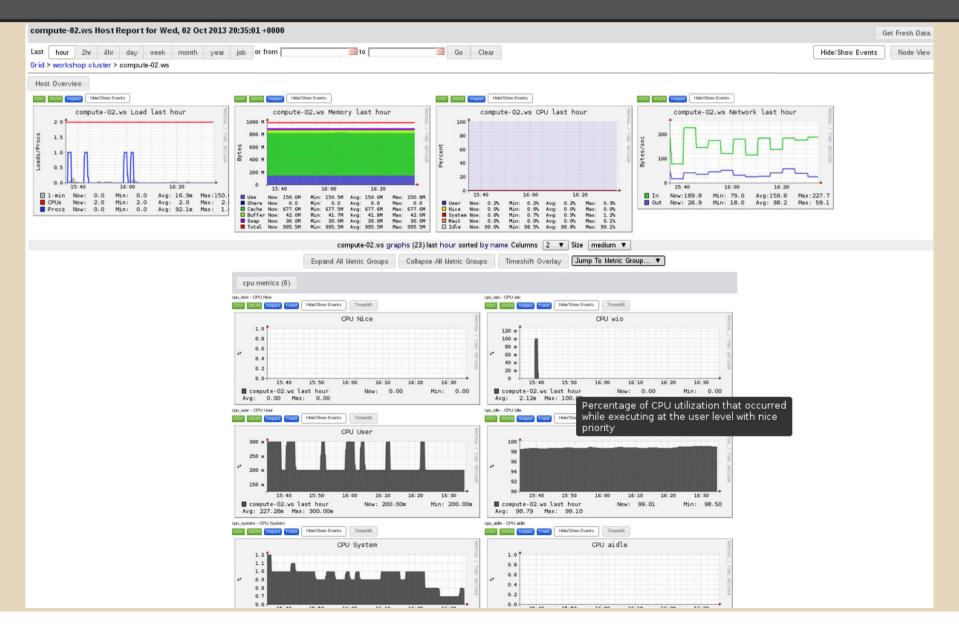
~? to see a list of escape sequences

Ganglia

- A cluster monitoring system can provide an administrator with a high level view of the status of the cluster
- Admin doesn't need to issue commands or check status of individual machines
- System allows a unified view of...
 - Status of all nodes (up, down, error condition)
 - Cluster load and utilization
 - Utilization of the various networks within the cluster
 - Resource use (memory, swap, disk etc..)
 - Historical data for all monitored variables







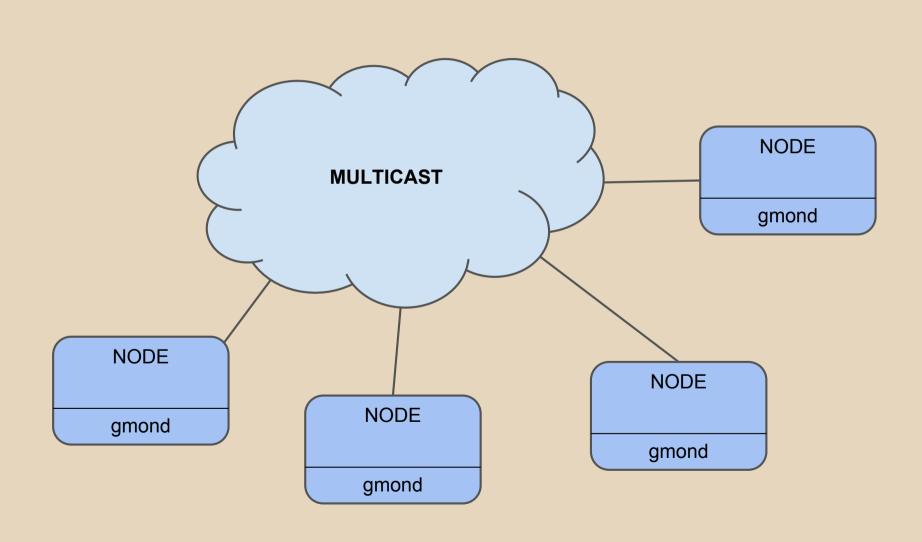
Cluster Monitoring: Ganglia

- Ganglia is open-source and began as a project at University of California, Berkeley
- Designed to scale to a large number of nodes
- Consists of the following main components
 - Data collection daemon (gmond)
 - Data aggregator daemon (gmetad)
 - Web GUI scripts

Ganglia Model

- A gmond process runs on every node of a cluster and obtains statistics
- By default all gmond's join the same multicast group
- That is metrics are exchanged among all running gmond daemons
- Each gmond has complete state information for the entire cluster

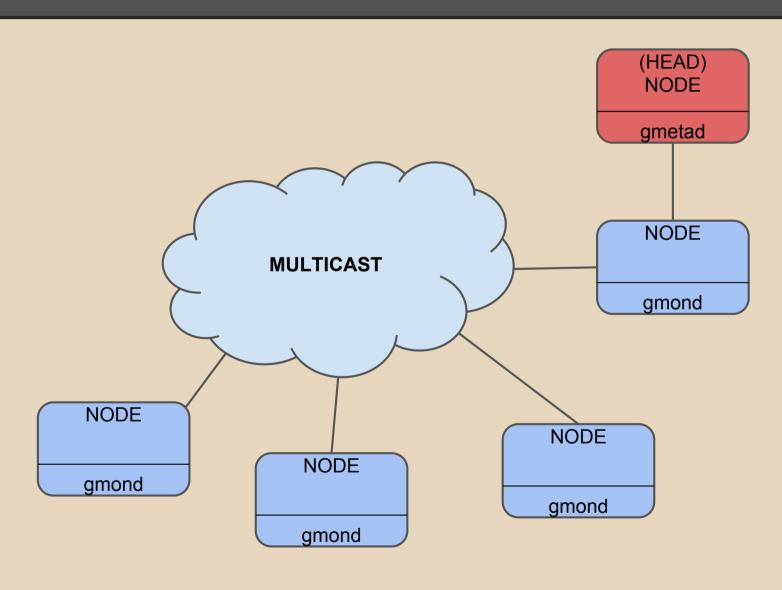
Ganglia Model



Ganglia Model

- For each cluster, a gmetad daemon collects and aggregates metrics into a database
- gmetad queries one of the gmond daemons to collect metrics for the entire cluster
- The gmetad daemon can run on a machine external to the cluster. Or on one of the nodes of the cluster (i.e gmond and gmetad can run on the same machine)

Ganglia Model



RRD Database

- The gmetad daemon logs metrics in RRDtool databases
- RRDtool is specialized system for logging and graphing time series data
- RRD databases (RRD) consist of
 - Data sources (DS)
 - constant storage archives (RRA)
- RRA's consolidate the data that is collected from each source

RRD Example

```
rrdtool create temperature.rrd --step 300 \
   DS:temp:GAUGE:600:-273:5000 \
   RRA:AVERAGE:0.5:1:1200 \
   RRA:MIN:0.5:12:2400 \
   RRA:MAX:0.5:12:2400 \
   RRA:AVERAGE:0.5:12:2400
```

Data Source:
Data point collected every 300 sec

RRA: 100 hrs of data at 300s resolution

RRA: 300 * 12 * 2400 sec (100 days) of data at 1 hour resolution. each datapoint is MIN of 1hour data

Same as above. Each datapoint is MAX of 1hr data

Same as above. Each datapoint is AVERAGE of 1hr data

Ganglia Model

- Ganglia provides PHP scripts which are placed in the path of a PHP capable web server (apache2)
- This runs on the same server as gmetad and has access to the RRD database files
- These PHP scripts translate the data into the web interface to the Ganglia monitor

Setting up Ganglia

- Hands-on task
- Install and configure Ganglia from source onto virtual cluster

Batch Processing

Torque Resource Manager

Batch Processor

- HPC systems are expected to provide an environment that
 - Supports multiple (simultaneous) users
 - Supports deferred execution of programs (called a job)
 - Automatically schedules the execution of programs to
 - Ensure that only as many of them execute at a time as for which resources are available (CPUs, memory, etc.)
 - Enforce an administrator defined policy by prioritizing jobs based on certain criteria

Batch Processor

- Batch processing function is provided by a software layer
- Sometimes divided into two interacting components
 - Resource manager
 - Scheduler

Batch Processor

Resource manager

- A centralized service that keeps track of the state of resources including
 - Availability: Is it currently busy?
 - Capabilities: For example: how many CPUs are installed, memory available, connection to high speed interconnect
 - Error conditions
- Also
 - Monitors progress of executing jobs
 - Maintains history of completed jobs
 - Launches jobs on designated resources (remote execution)

Scheduler

- A simple scheduler is the FIFO queue
 - Jobs are launched in the order in which they were submitted
 - Scheduler launches jobs until there are not enough resources. Resumes when resources are available
- Practical schedulers are more sophisticated
 - Allow complex policy based scheduling decisions
 - Fair share scheduling to prevent a user/group from monopolizing resources
 - Run jobs out-of-order to maximize utilization (minimize idle resources)

Some Examples

- Some batch processing systems are
 - Open source:
 - SLURM, PBS/TORQUE (plus Maui), Openlava, Open Grid Scheduler...
 - Commercial
 - Platform LSF, Oracle Grid Engine, Moab...

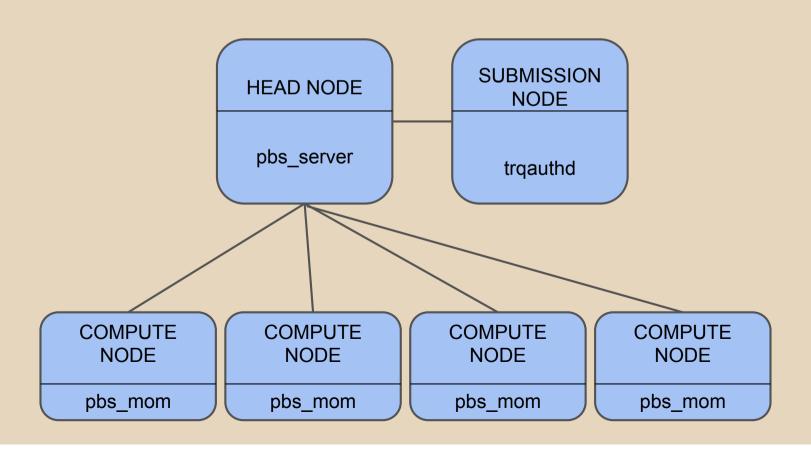
TORQUE resource manager

- TORQUE is and open source project of Adaptive Computing
- It is a fork of the original OpenPBS
- Widely used
- Can be interfaced with schedulers such as Maui

Torque daemons

- o pbs_server
 - Main controlling daemon
 - Maintain state information in a database
- O pbs_mom
 - Runs on all compute nodes
 - Communicates nodes status to pbs_server
 - Agent that launches executable on node on behalf of pbs_server and monitors execution
- o trqauthd
 - User authentication daemon
 - Runs on nodes that execute client commands

Torque architecture



Torque architecture

Daemons need not be on different hosts

NODE

pbs_server trqauth pbs_mom

Installing Torque

- Configure and build
- Install startup scripts
- Initialize Torque database
- Initialize directories on compute nodes
- Start services

Configuring Torque

- Configure Torque using qmgr
- Add nodes
- Set node properties
- Check nodes-server communication

Installing Torque

- Queues are required to accept jobs
- Multiple queues may be created, each with differing policies
 - Example
 - Queues with different priorities with access granted to specific accounts or groups
 - Queues mapping to different sets of hardware
- Create queues
- Set queue attributes
 - Example: Set maximum allowable job walltime.
 Shorter time limits improve job turnaround time
 - Therefore better balance between users

Installing Torque

- Torque includes a basic job scheduler.
 - started by executing the pbs_sched command which starts the scheduling daemon
- pbs_sched has basic support for backfill, fairshare and other scheduling features
- Jobs will not start without scheduling being enabled in the Torque server

```
# qmgr -c 'set server scheduling = True'
```

Torque features

- prologue and epilogue scripts run before and after a job executes respectively
- Scripts must be present in directory

On our test server

```
/var/spool/torque/mom_priv
```

And must be available on all compute nodes

Torque features

- prologue/epilogue scripts are executed on the first node of an allocation as root user
- Script files named prologue and epilogue /var/spool/torque/mom_priv/prologue /var/spool/torque/mom priv/epilogue

Torque features

- Prologue scripts can be used to prepare nodes before a job runs
 - Create scratch directories
 - Clear processes that may have been left behind by a previous job
- Epilogue scripts can be used to clean up nodes after a job completes
 - Clear temporary files
 - Kill processes left behind
- Script only runs on first node on allocation
- Therefore script needs to loop over nodes and execute commands remotely with ssh

Submitting a Job

- Create a job script
- As a regular user

```
#!/bin/sh
#PBS -l walltime=0:30:00
#PBS -N mytestjob
#PBS -q batch
#PBS -l nodes=1:ppn=2
cd $PBS_O_WORKDIR
./myexecutable input_$mynum > myoutput
```

Submitting a Job

- qsub options are specified as #PBS lines
- Commands in the script are executed on the first node in a multi-node allocation

Submitting a Job

Submit the job

\$ qsub testjob.sh

Check status

\$ qstat Job ID	Name	User	Time Use S Queue
17.localhost	mytestjob	ebasheer	0 R batch

Submitting an Interactive Job

- Use I option to qsub
- Example

```
$ qsub -I -q batch -lnodes=1:ppn=2
```

- Will allocate a node and launch a shell on the first node of the allocation
- stdin, stdout, and stderr of executable is connected to terminal where qsub was run

Submitting an Interactive Job

Example

```
$ qsub -I -q batch -lnodes=1:ppn=2
qsub: waiting for job 123.headnode.ws to start
qsub: job 123.headnode.ws ready

[testuser@compute-05 ~]$
```

Torque considerations

- Care needs to taken when using programs that launch parallel executables. Like mpirun
- Unless integrated with Torque: They launch executables in a way that cannot be reliably controlled / monitored by the resource manager
 - Resource usage accounting may be incorrect
 - Processes may not be reliably killed when a job is terminated

Torque considerations

- Some MPI libraries support Torque integration (example OpenMPI)
- Build time option
- Launches executables using the Torque TM (Task Manager) API

Torque commands

- pbsnodes
 - Examine node statistics
 - Set node state
 - Take node offline
- qsub
- qalter
 - Modify attributes of job in queue
- qstat
 - View status of jobs, queues and server
- pbsdsh

Batch Processing

Maui Job Scheduler

Maui Job Scheduler

- pbs_sched
 - Allows simple configurations beyond the basic FIFO algorithm. Suffices when
 - Complex policies are not required
 - Resources are not heavily oversubscribed
 - Job resource requirements not very diverse
 - Does not allow fine grained control over the scheduling algorithms
- Torque can interface to a job scheduler
 - Scheduler decides which jobs should run during each scheduling cycle and directs torque based on policy settings

Installing Maui 3.3.1

- Download Maui from Adaptive Computing and extract
- Maui requires one of the source files to be patched to work with Torque 4.x
- Configure and build
 - Very important to pass the -fno-strict-aliasing option to gcc compiler
 - Spool directory must be specified where configuration, logs and accounting in maintained
- Edit start-up script templates and install

Maui Definitions

Job

- A request for a set of resources with requirements or constraints
- Example:
 - 5 nodes of 8 cores each
 - nodes must have gigabit connectivity
 - Expected to run for 2 hours

Advance reservation

- A list of resources reserved for a particular period of time and attached to a job or user(s)
- Example
 - Nodes n1, n2, n4 reserved for job 24 for a duration of 12 hours beginning Sep 19, 11:47

Maui Scheduling Iteration

- Determine if job is eligible for consideration in scheduling decision
- Priority assigned for each job based on several weighted factors. time in queue, amount of resources requested, owner, ...
- Begin with highest priority jobs
- Determine if resources are available and place a reservation
- Communicate to resource manager to start jobs on reserved resources

Configuring Maui

- /var/spool/maui/maui.cfg
- PARAMETER VALUE pairs
- System wide parameters
 - RMCFG[name]
 - Specify resource manager
 - SERVERHOST
 - Host where maui daemon runs
 - used by clients to locate server daemon
 - ADMIN1 user1 user2 ...
 - user1 is user as which maui should be run
 - ADMIN1 users must be Torque server managers and operators

Configuring Maui

- Some parameters
 - SERVERMODE
 - TEST allows to evaluate maui behavior without affecting the active scheduler
 - NORMAL for live scheduling

Configuring Scheduling

- Maui dynamically decides job priority based on based on job factors
- Scheduling can be tuned by assigning weights to components and subcomponents
- Priority change calculation usually of form

```
CW * (SCW1*val1 + SCW2*val2 + ...)
where,
CW -> component weight
SCW -> subcomponent weight
```

Configuring Maui

- If no weights are specified
- Only subcomponent with non-zero weight is QUEUETIMEWEIGHT
- Effectively makes Maui behave as a FIFO scheduler with backfill enabled

Configuring Scheduling Fairshare

- Fairshare takes into account usage history for a user/group for priority calculation
- For example: Jobs of a user who had run more jobs in the past weeks gets a lower priority than jobs of one who hasn't run any in the same period
- Balances out usage: avoids monopolization
- Different user/groups can be assigned varying weights in the fairshare.
 - Allows utilization to be steered towards defined targets

Configuring Scheduling Fairshare Global Settings

FSPOLICY DEDICATEDPES

 Base usage history on utilized, processorequivalents. Roughly, the number of processors held up due to a job

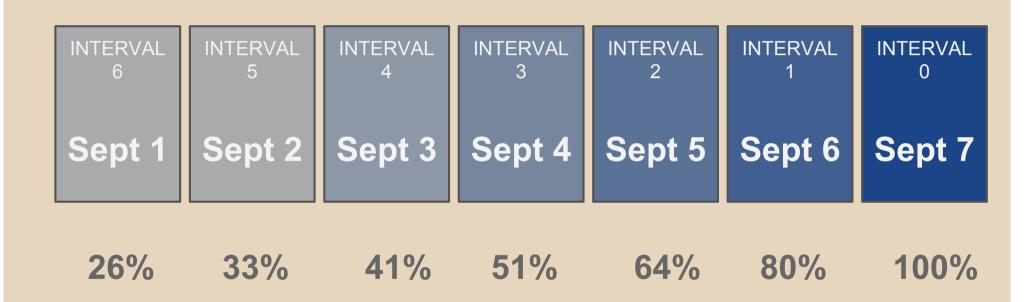
FSINTERVAL

FSDEPTH

FSDECAY

 Maui keeps track of historical usage for a duration of FSINTERVAL * FSDEPTH with a decay of FSDECAY ^ N for interval N

Configuring Scheduling Fairshare Global Settings



- With FSDEPTH=7 FSINTERVAL=86400 FSDECAY=0.80
- Fairshare history maintained for 7 24-hour periods
- Oldest interval contributes only 26% to the current fairshare usage calculation
- Latest interval contributes 100% to the calculation

Configuring Scheduling Fairshare

Priority change calculation

```
FSWEIGHT * (FSUSERWEIGHT * user-usage +
             FSGROUPWEIGHT * group-usage +
             ...)
where
user-usage: Is difference between real usage
            and target set for that user
group-usage: same as above for groups
```

Configuring Scheduling Fairshare

- FS target is percentage system utilization
- Target per user or group can be set

```
USERCFG[john] FSTARGET=10.0
GROUPCFG[staff] FSTARGET=50.0
```

Configuring Scheduling Prioritization by Job Size

- Job priority can be weighted by resources requested by job
- Priority change calculation

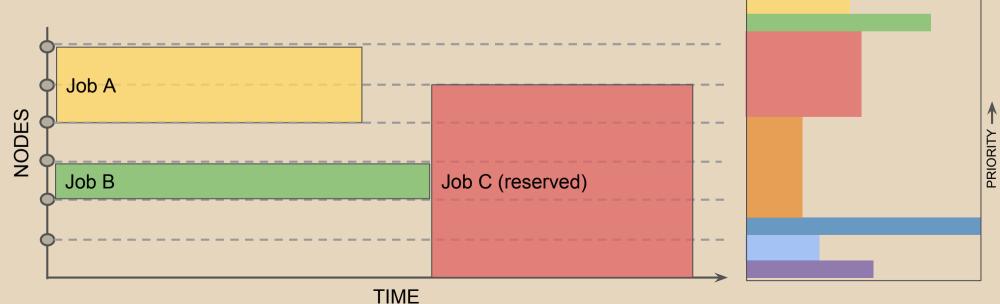
```
RESWEIGHT * (NODEWEIGHT * node-reqest + PROCWEIGHT * proc-request + ...)
```

 Maui determines earliest that highest priority job can start based on walltime limits and resources requested

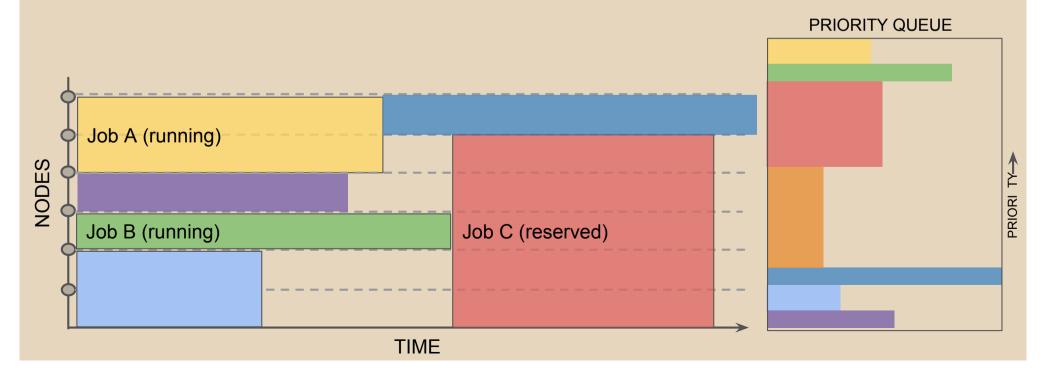
PRIORITY QUEUE

Places a reservation for that job

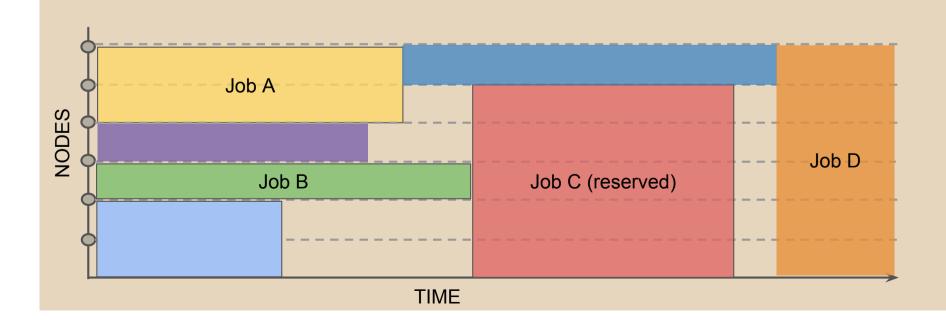




- Backfill enables Maui to consider lower priority jobs
 - Without affecting the reservation for the highest priority job

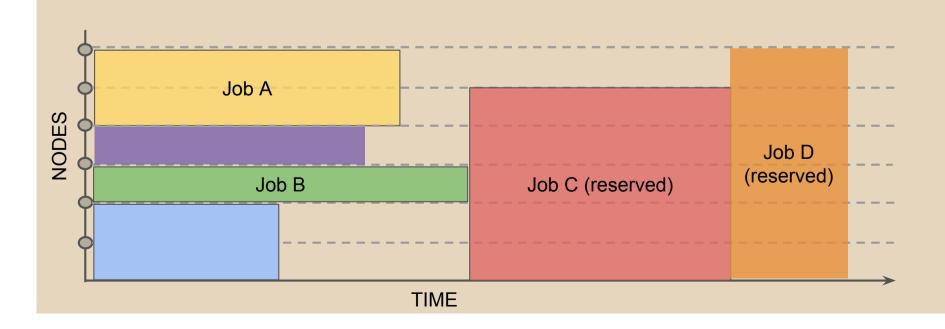


 Can sometimes cause high priority jobs for which there is no reservation to be delayed
 Job D in figure

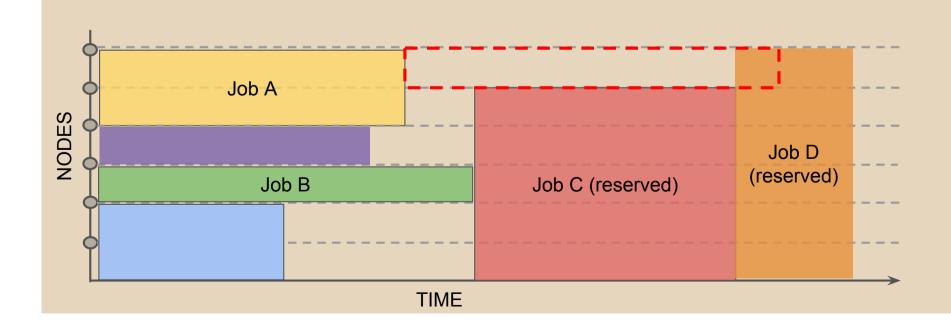


- Depth in the priority queue to make reservations can be set (default is 1)
- Example

RESERVATIONDEPTH 2



But, may lower utilization by reducing backfill aggressiveness



Maui Commands

- checknode
 - Information about nodes
 - Jobs running, reservations
- checkjob
- showstats
- mdiag
 - Diagnostics
- showq
- setres, releaseres
 - Place administrative reservations
- showbf

Configuring Scheduling Job-Exclusive Access

- By default Maui allows multiple jobs to launch on a node
 - When each of the jobs requests less than the available resources on the node
 - Example: A two jobs with nodes=1:ppn=1 can launch on the same node that has np=2
- Default interpretation of PBS specification of nodes=<x>:ppn=<y> is
 - Allocate <x>*<y> tasks with at-least <y> tasks per node

Configuring Scheduling Job-Exclusive Access

- The above behavior means that nodes are jobs are not given exclusive access to nodes by default
- On multi-core machines, it is generally best to allow exclusive access to nodes
 - That is only one job can run on a node regardless of the resources requested/utilized
 - Multiple jobs on a multi-core node may cause contention for resources and reduce performance
 - This also allows nodes to be correctly allocated for single processes that spawn multiple threads

Configuring Scheduling Job-Exclusive Access

- Maui can be configured to allocate exactly
 <x> nodes with <y> tasks per node
- Set

JOBNODEMATCHPOLICY EXACTNODE

 And prevent multiple jobs from launching on a single node

NODEACCESSPOLICY SINGLEJOB

Configuring Scheduling Shared Access

- Shared node access is the default
- Scheduling can be tuned to evaluate node availability based on actual memory utilization
 - Prevent jobs from being launched if available memory < requested memory Even if processors are available
 - Caveat is that currently, Torque cannot enforce resident memory limits, but only virtual memory
 - Limiting virtual memory can cause programs to be terminated even though there is sufficient physical memory available

Advance Reservations

- Resources can be reserved for a period of time
 - To make available to certain users, or...
 - To prevent jobs from running on them, so that maintenance can be carried out
 - A "system reservation" can be made by the admin to keep the entire system free of jobs for a period of maintenance

Advantages

- Does not require stopping of job submission
- Jobs held in queue
- Jobs can be backfilled until reservation begins

Power and Cooling

Uninterruptible Power Supplies

Uninterruptible Power Supplies

- Two broad scenarios
- Site with generally reliable power supply
 - Such sites can afford to maintain backup only for headnodes and storage nodes
 - Compute nodes don't require backup
 - Objective of maintaining data integrity
- Site with an unreliable primary supply and backup supply such as generators
 - Provide backup during the switch-over phase
 - Condition power to protect equipment from overvoltages, brown-outs, phase-reversals etc.
 - Backup all IT equipment including network infrastructure

UPS sizing

- Determine your IT equipment load that needs to be protected in Watts
- Manufacturers may provide data sheets that estimate power consumption
 - Actual consumption depends whether node is Idle or under heavy computational load
 - Ratings stamped on power supplies show the maximum load that it can handle
 - Not useful for determining server load
 - Power factor of the server power supply needs to be noted
 - Power data can also be collected through IPMI or

UPS sizing

- UPS capacities usually sized in kVA
- Server load given in Watts can be converted to VA with

VA = Watts / powerfactor

- Rule of thumb: UPSes should not operate at more that 80% capacity. Inefficient
- UPS backup time depends on size of battery packs
- UPS manufacturer quotes backup time for particular load

UPS considerations

- For UPS capacity plan for future expansion of IT equipment
- Cooling equipment do not usually have back up power
 - Servers may shut down before battery runs out
- Time for backup power supply generators must be taken into account
- Or, time for a graceful shutdown
- UPS batteries wear out reducing the backup time.
 This much be taken into account with periodic inspection and replacement of batteries

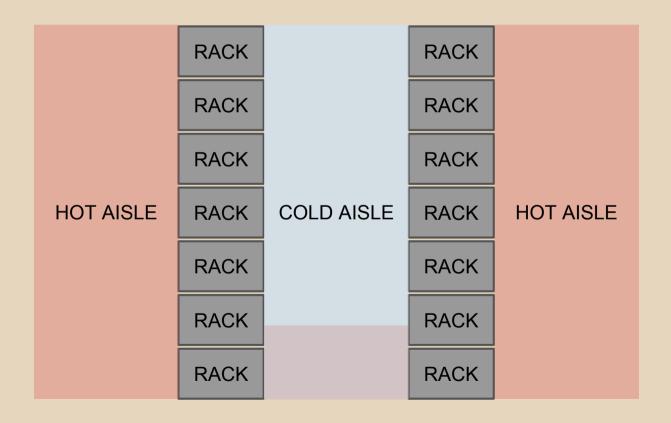
Cooling

- Cooling capacity for air conditioners (called CRACs) usually measured in BTU/hr
 - Tons commonly used in some countries
- Manufacturers usually specify thermal load for servers in BTU/hr
 - Or can be calculated with

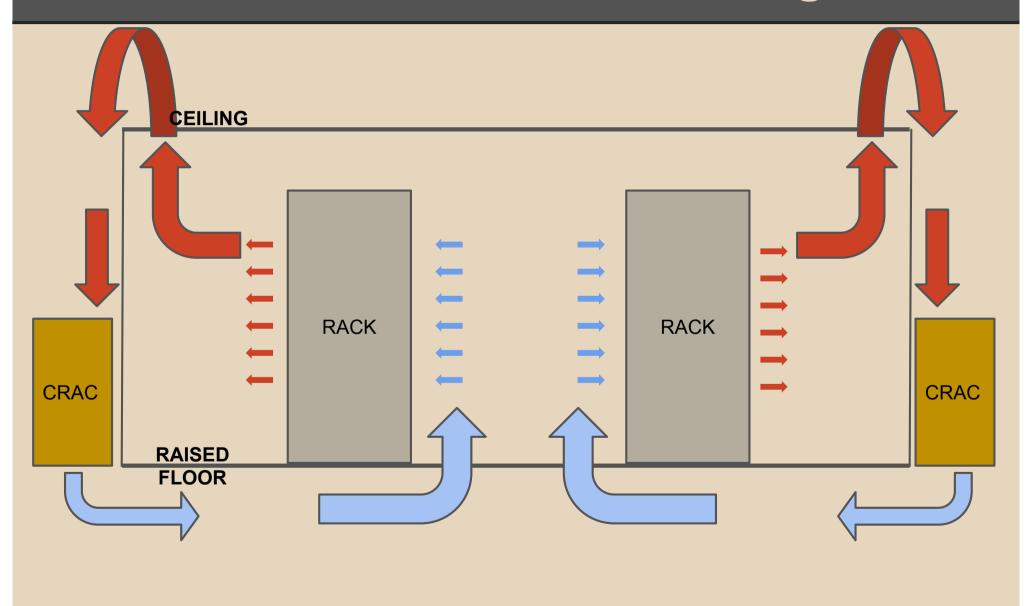
BTU/hr = load in Watts x 3.41

- Rack mount servers have front to back airflow facilitated by fans
- Common datacenter arrangement is Hot aisle/cold aisle separation
- Cold air blown through perforated tiles in raised floor
- Rows of racks with
 - Front of racks facing each other, enclosing cold air in the aisle
 - Back of racks facing each other and enclosing hot server exhaust

TOP VIEW



CRAC UNIT



Considerations

- Too much air velocity from floor tiles may cause air to blow past the servers and directly into hot air ducts
 - Tiles with lesser perforations in these cases to slow down air flow
 - Tiles adjusted according to cooling load required in that vicinity
- Racks near the CRAC units could be prone to low pressure of cold air due to the high velocity of the air close to the CRAC outlet.

Considerations

- Too much air velocity from floor tiles may cause air to blow past the servers and directly into hot air ducts
 - Tiles with lesser perforations in these cases to slow down air flow
 - Tiles adjusted according to cooling load required in that vicinity
- Prevent mixing of air in cold/hot aisle
 - No gaps must be left in between racks in the rows
 - Unpopulated parts of racks must be closed off

- Considerations
 - Depending on capability of cooling systems and power dissipation
 - Rack may need to to filled less densely
 - Example: Every other position left unpopulated
- Raised floor height depends on thermal load and the rate at which cold air needs to be moved