Unshackle the Cloud!



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IaaS Clouds Offer Diverse Features

- Popular IaaS clouds are becoming feature-rich
 - Integrated monitoring
 - VM migration
 - CPU bursting
- Hypervisor-level innovations are emerging
 - Availability (e.g. Remus [Cully et al., NSDI 2008])
 - Security (e.g. Revirt [Dunlap et al., OSDI 2002])
 - Efficiency (e.g. Overdriver [Williams et al., VEE 2011])

Users Don't Control Features

- Large cloud users with 100's or 1000's of VMs need control
- Must rely on provider to expose hypervisorlevel features
- Tools and features lead to lock-in

• Users can't implement hypervisor-level features themselves

Unshackle the Cloud with Extensible Clouds: xClouds

• Bring **extensibility** into IaaS clouds

 Allow users to run or implement their own hypervisor-level services

Avoid lock-in with user-centric homogenization

- Users are isolated
- VMM composed of modules



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 (U) / P)



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 (/)
- Some modules access hardware



Design Alternatives

Download VMM Extensions

e.g SPIN, VINO

Providers must adopt new VMM



Design Alternatives

Download VMM	Expose Hardware
Extensions	Through VMM
e.g SPIN, VINO	e.g. Exokernel
Providers must	Providers must
adopt new VMM	adopt new VMM



Design Alternatives

Download VMM Extensions	Expose Hardware Through VMM	Add Another VMM
e.g SPIN, VINO	e.g. Exokernel	e.g. Turtles Project
Providers must adopt new VMM	Providers must adopt new VMM	Turtles needs VMM support, but



Nested Virtualization can be Deployed Today!

- Use PV or BT for user-controlled VMM
- No provider cooperation necessary



Provider-Controlled VMM (e.g. Amazon EC2)

Evaluation: Will xClouds Perform?

- Compared single and nested setups with Xen (PV) as the second-layer hypervisor
- Microbenchmarks
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- Device I/O benchmarks
 - Xen is not designed to run on PV hardware
 - Nested PV is essential for device I/O



xClouds Work Today!

- Nested paravirtual device drivers
- Xen on EC2 HVM instance
- Ongoing work



"Nature is a mutable cloud which is always and never the same"

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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