Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Containers & Cloud

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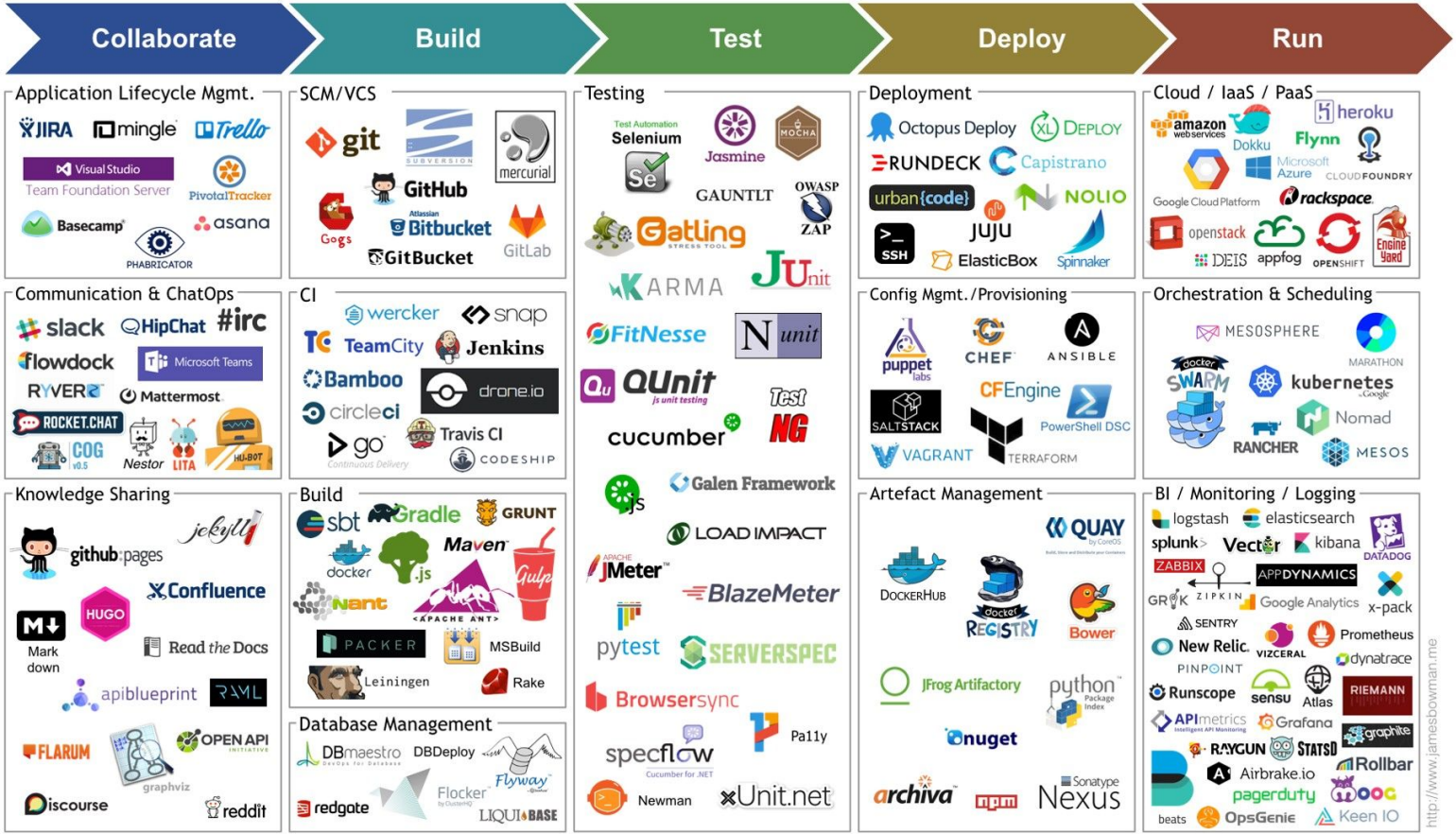
Lecture 24 Quiz

On Canvas, password: “devops”

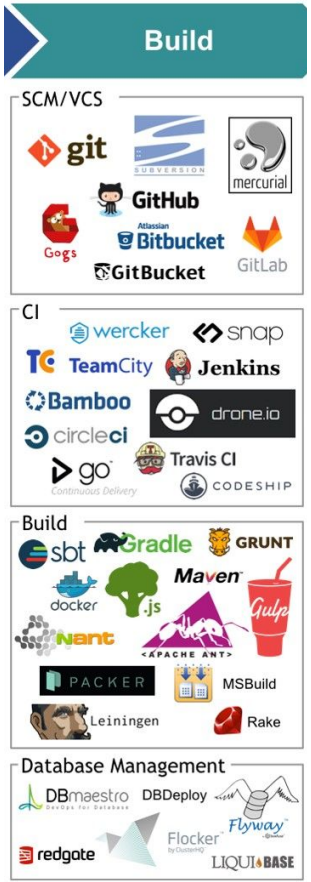
Administrative

- Frameworks 6c deadline on Friday
  - Don’t push to the main repo :)
- Final on Thursday next week
  - The final is **cumulative**. We’ll release *additional* sample questions to cover the space since midterm 2. Otherwise, use midterm 1 & 2 (samples) to prep.

Recall Programming Reality



Deeper into Docker



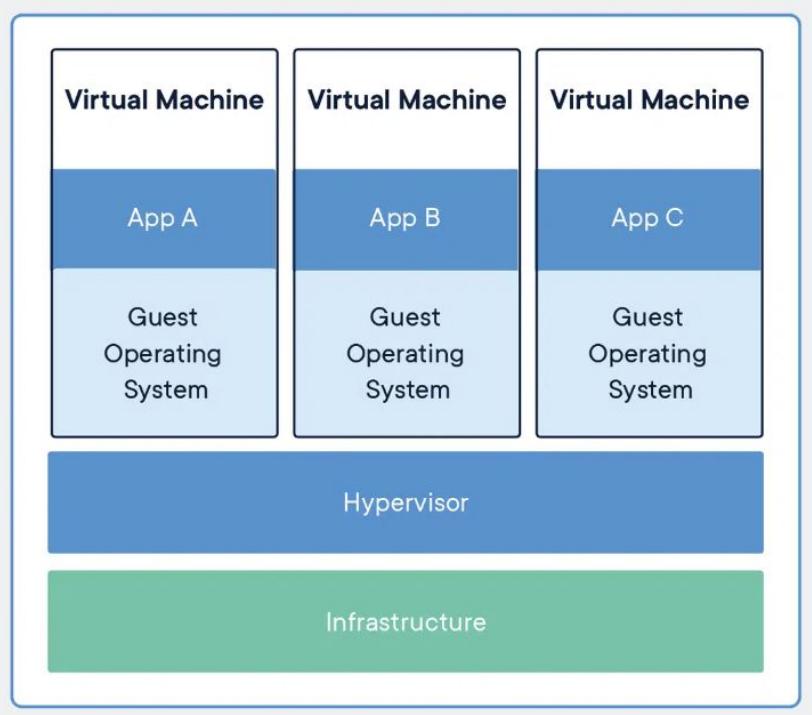
Virtual Machines offer Machines as Code

Multiple VMs can sit on one server

VMs provide complete isolation

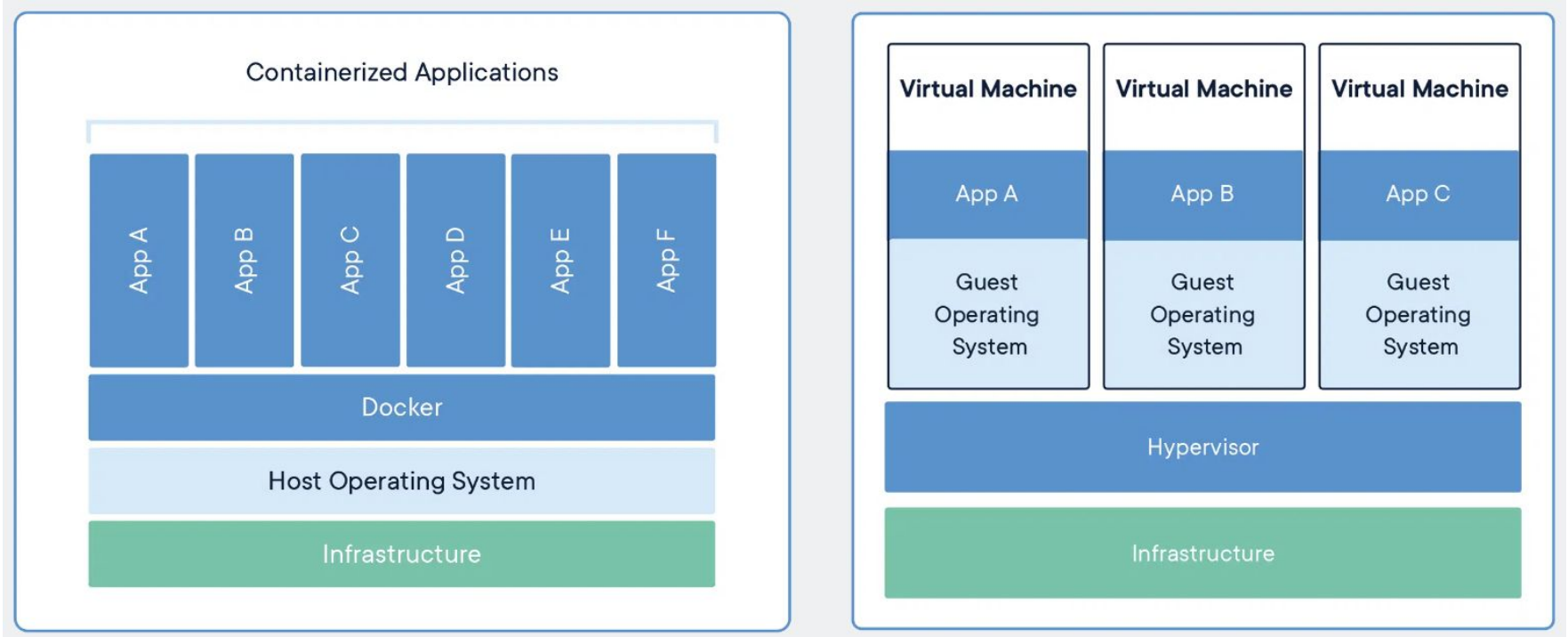
But, “translation” from guest OS to host is slow, clunky

And each VM has entire OS, filesys



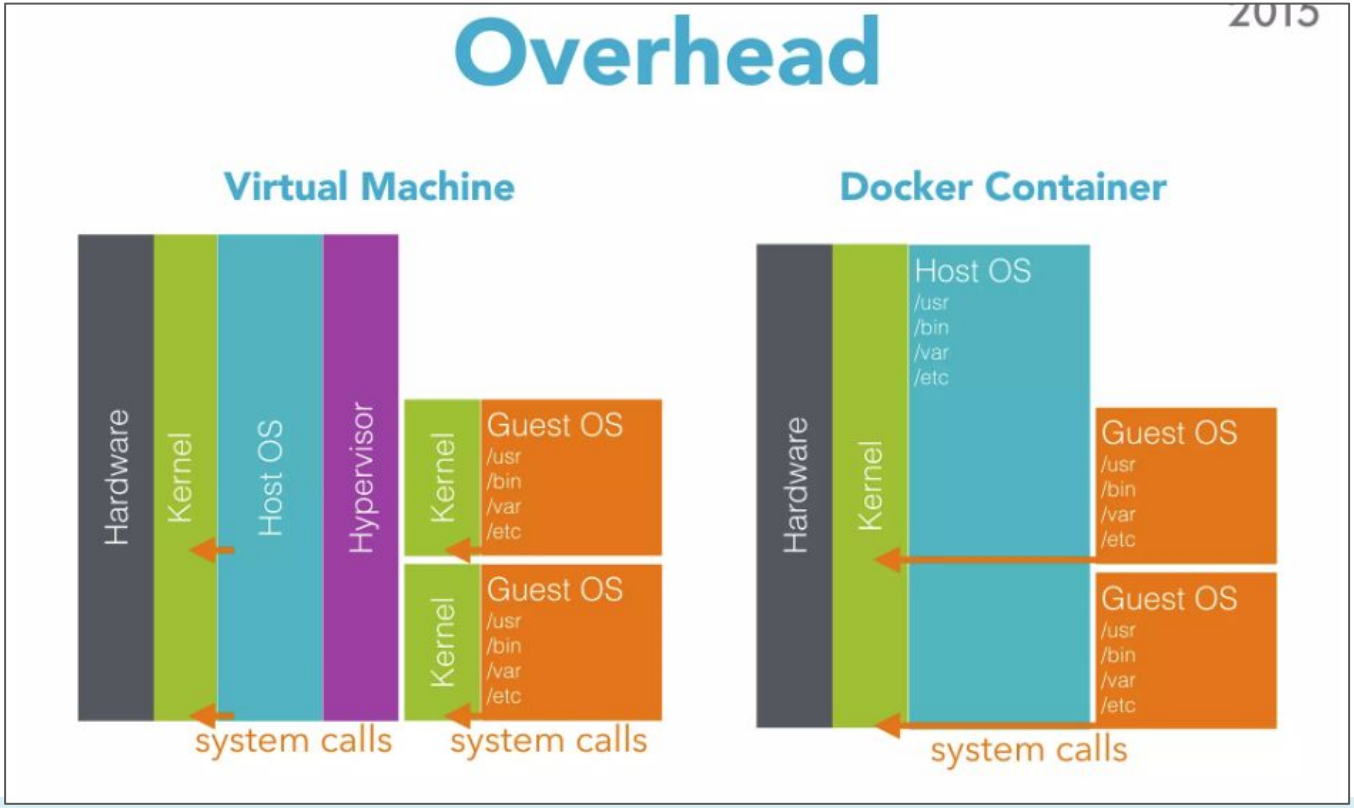
https://www.docker.com/resources/what-container/

Containers offer Virtualization on the OS



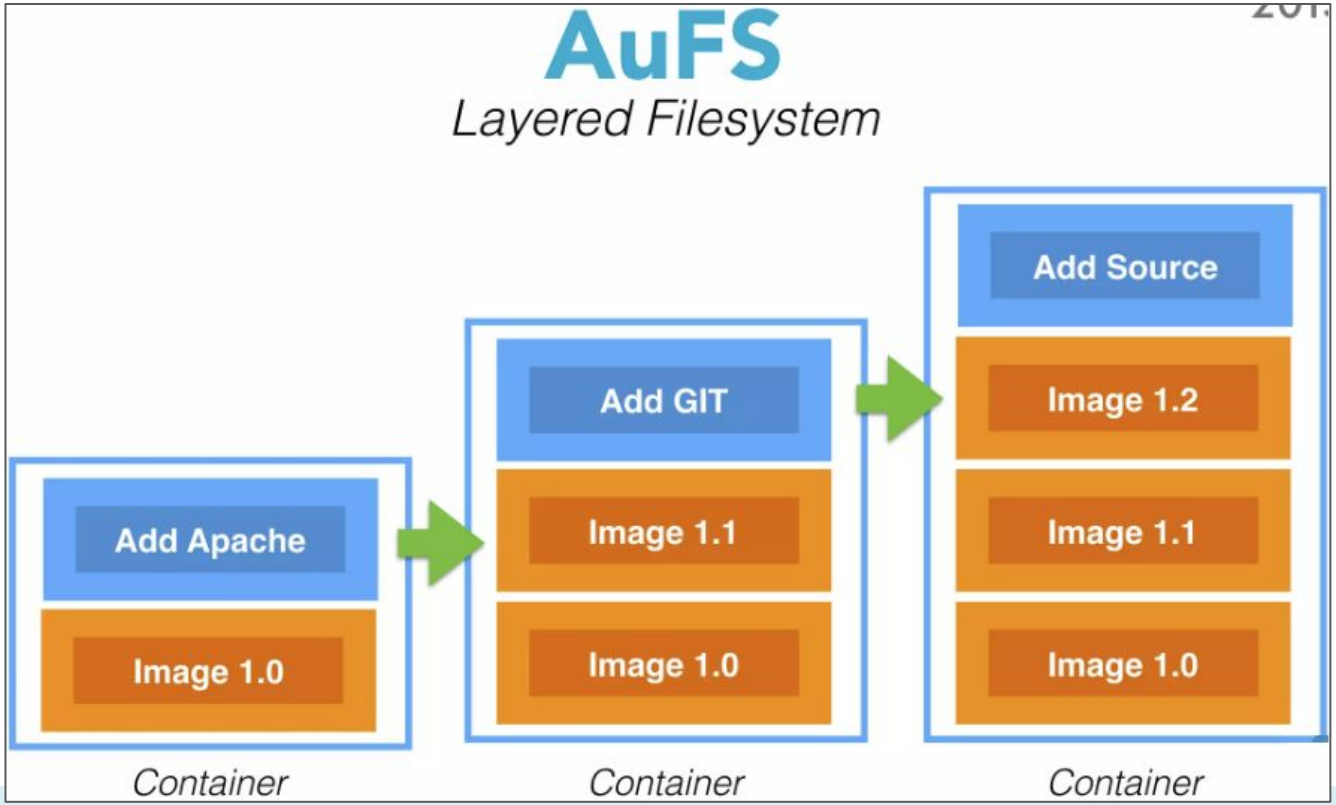
https://www.docker.com/resources/what-container/

In More Depth



https://www.slideshare.net/FabioFerrari31/docker-containers-talk-linux-day-2015

The Key: Layered file Systems



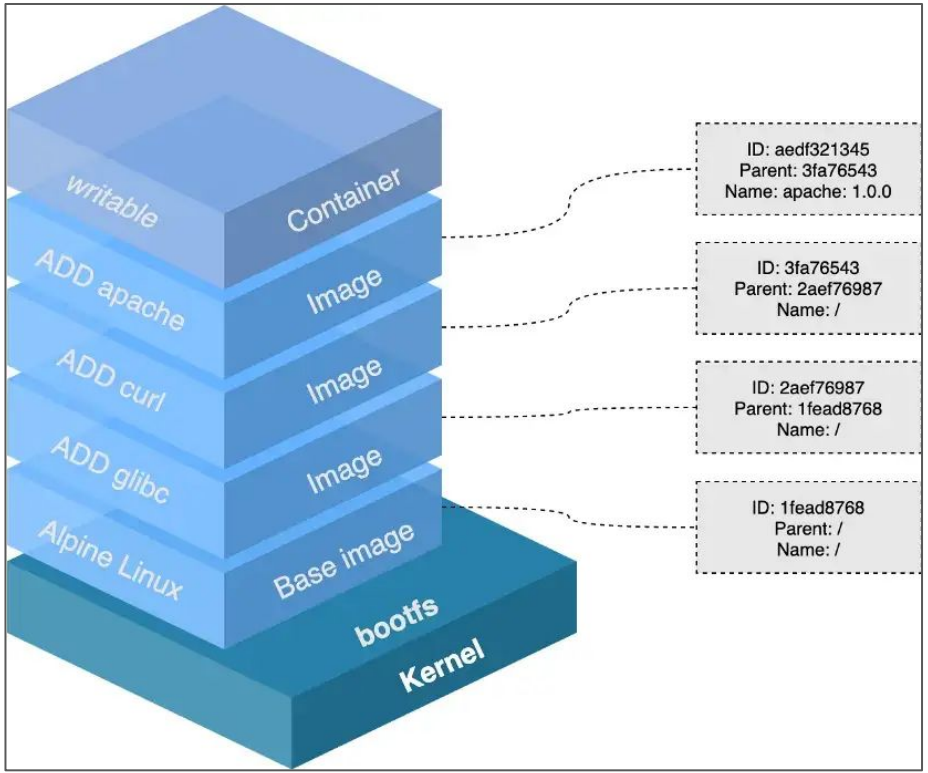
Quick Tangent: What's the "downside"?

Docker images are *layers*

- Each action yields a new layer
- The base layer is typically an OS
  - E.g., “ubuntu:20.04”
- Data from previous layers is “copy-on-write”

Consequences:

- Layer-stacks are easily reused making images very light
- Security via IO permissions

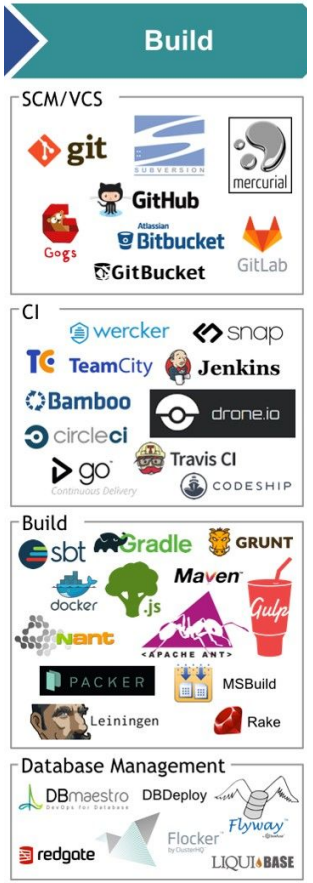


https://ragin.medium.com/docker-what-it-is-how-images-are-structured-docker-vs-vm-and-some-tips-part-1-d9686303590f

Hence,

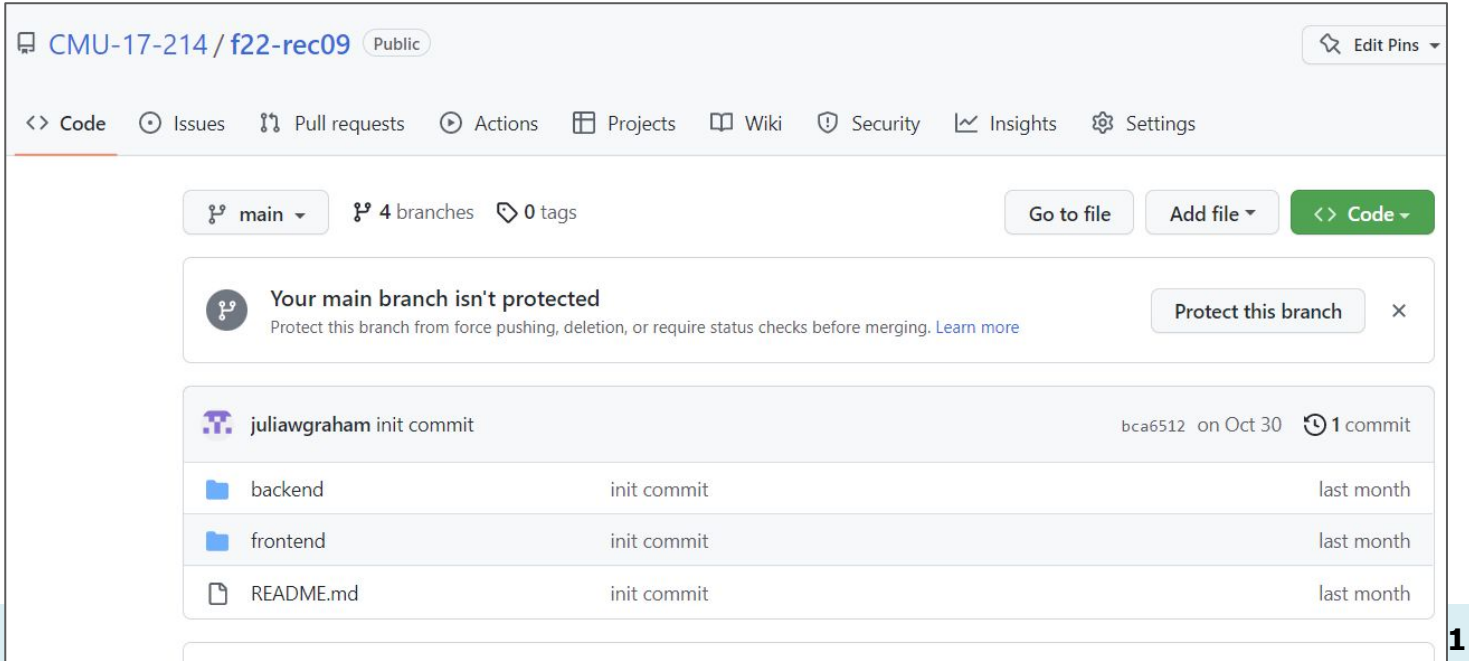
A virtual machine, but:

- Lightweight virtualization
- Sub-second boot time
- Shareable virtual images with full setup incl. configuration settings
- Used in development and deployment
- Separate docker images for separate services (web server, business logic, database, …)



Let's Take a Look

Remember the good old days?
→ Let's containerize this



First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- This one was added to ‘frontend’

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- FROM: the base “layer”
  - Doesn’t need to be an OS! Very often isn’t → reuse
  - Note: large layers can take a while to download

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- COPY: duplicate file system data into image
  - Why?

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- COPY: duplicate file system data into image
  - We can run many instances of an image, called *containers*
  - None of those will have access to the host file system!
  - We can either COPY data into them, or “mount” an external directory
    - For the latter, can use `readonly` or allow edits – use carefully!

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- WORKDIR: tell the builder to move into said directory

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- RUN: execute a command now
  - This will create another layer (as did COPY)
  - Only happens on build, not when running a container

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

First, A Dockerfile

Instructs Docker how to build the image

- CMD: command to execute *when launching a container*
  - This does not happen when we build
  - Can also provide an ENTRYPOINT script

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > frontend > Dockerfile >

```
1   FROM node
2
3   COPY . /frontend
4   WORKDIR  /frontend
5
6   RUN npm install
7   CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
8
```

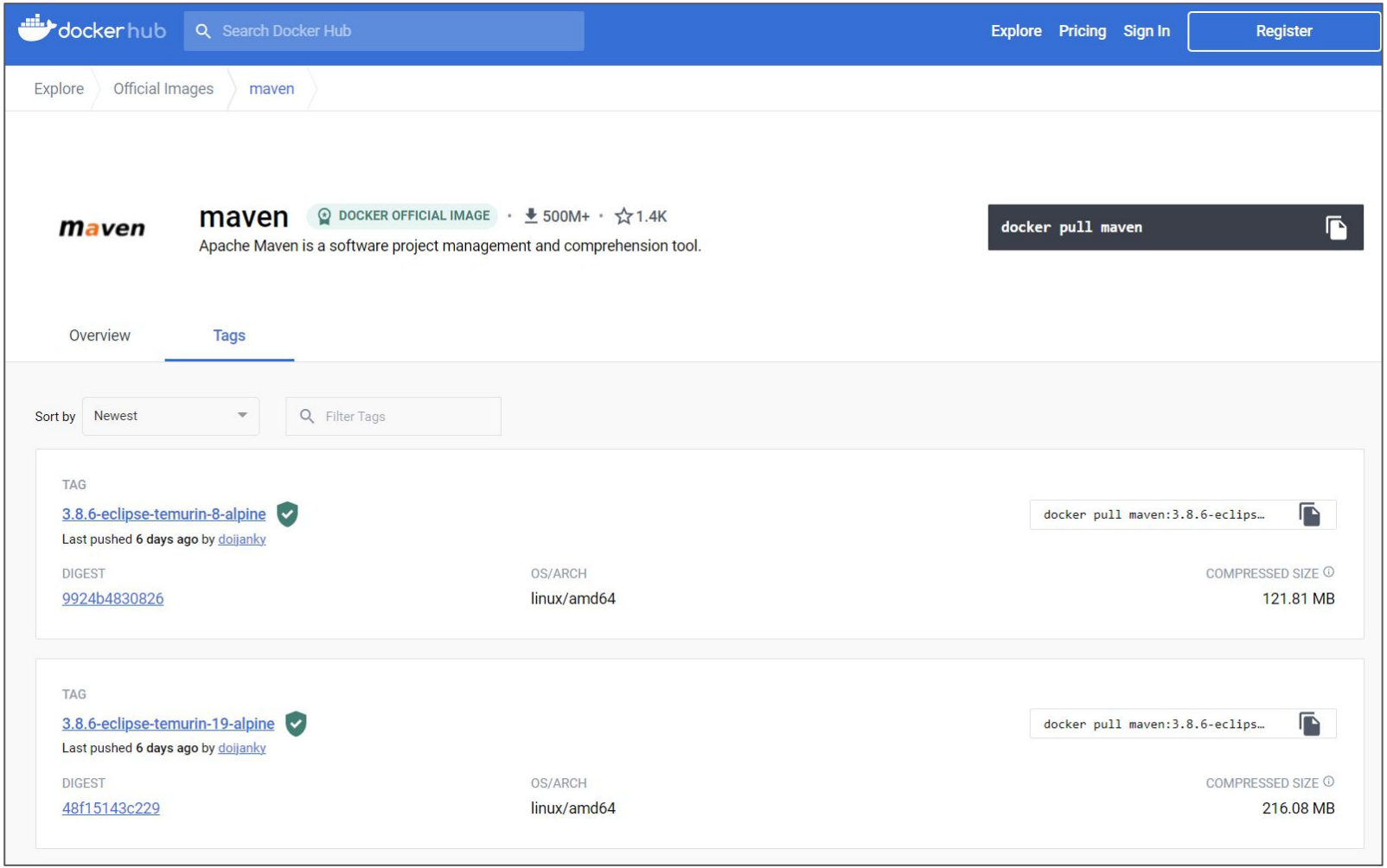
Same for the Backend

Note how the FROM image can have detailed *tags*

- These come from Dockerhub.

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09 > backend > Dockerfile

```
1  FROM maven:3.8.3-openjdk-17
2
3  COPY . /backend
4  WORKDIR /backend
5
6  RUN mvn install
7
8  CMD [ "mvn", "exec:exec" ]
9
```


docker hub
Search Docker Hub
Explore
Pricing
Sign In
Register
Explore
Official Images
maven
maven
DOCKER OFFICIAL IMAGE
500M+
1.4K
Apache Maven is a software project management and comprehension tool.
docker pull maven
Overview
Tags
Sort by
Newest
Filter Tags
TAG
3.8.6-eclipse-temurin-8-alpine
Last pushed 6 days ago by doijanky
docker pull maven:3.8.6-eclips…
DIGEST
9924b4830826
OS/ARCH
linux/amd64
COMPRESSED SIZE
121.81 MB
TAG
3.8.6-eclipse-temurin-19-alpine
Last pushed 6 days ago by doijanky
docker pull maven:3.8.6-eclips…
DIGEST
48f15143c229
OS/ARCH
linux/amd64
COMPRESSED SIZE
216.08 MB

Side note on DockerHub

We can push too!

- Just like GH, make an account and push images
  - Most images are formatted as `org/name:tag`
  - Tag is like a release; you must tag each image
- There are many other container registries. Most cloud providers have their own

What Now?

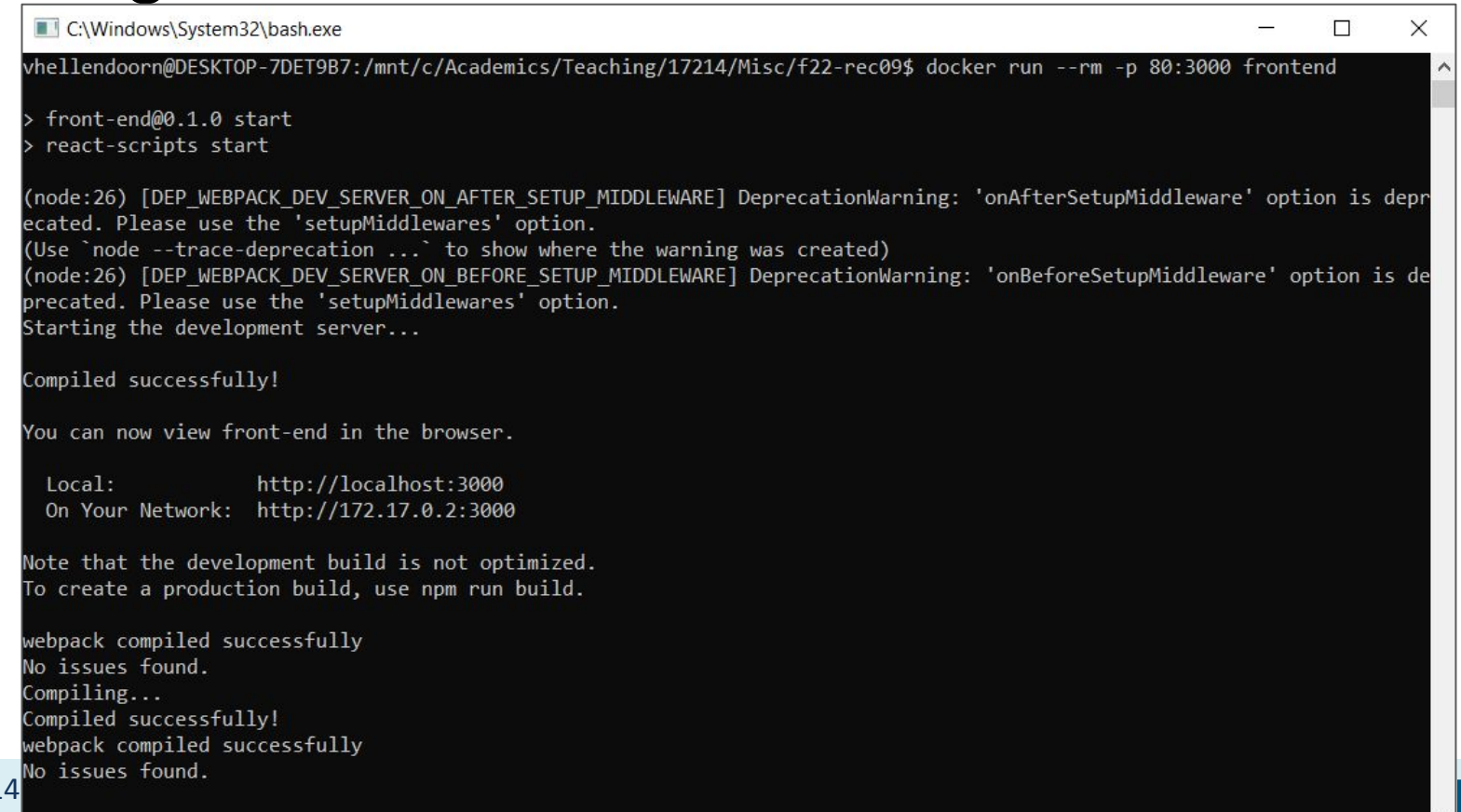
We've packaged frontend and backend as separate images

- Actually, why separate?

Now to make them talk

- Not quite obvious: containers isolate *everything*

Running Docker Containers

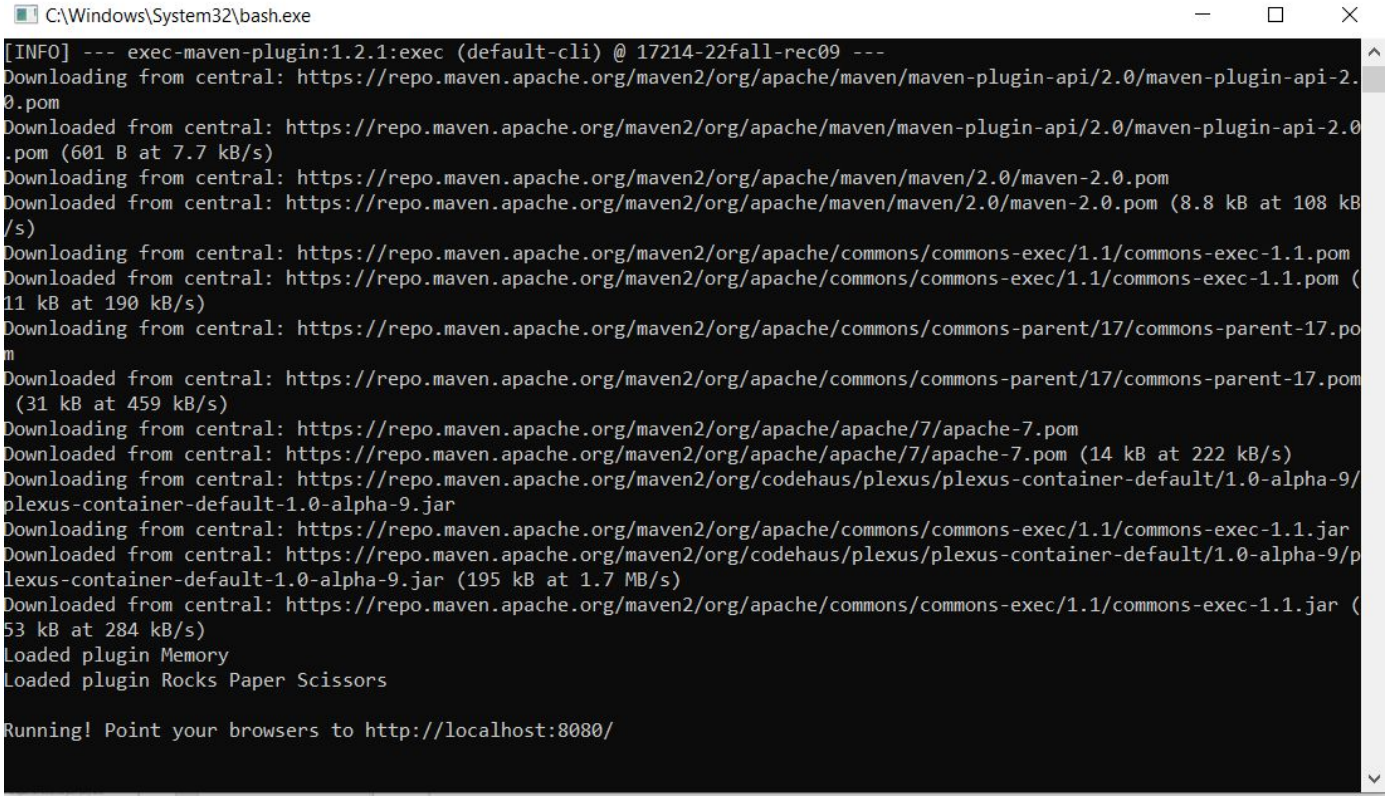


Running Docker Containers

We ran: `docker run --rm -p 80:3000 frontend`

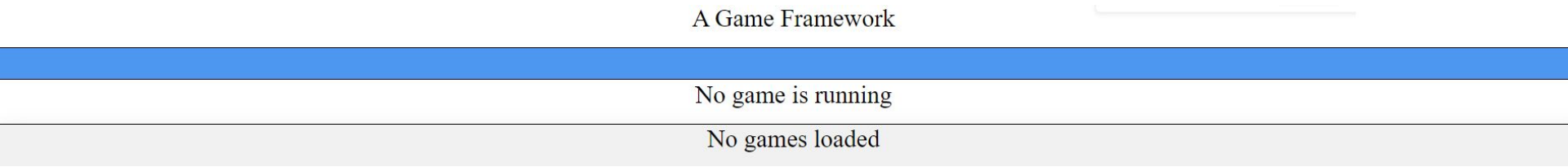
- `--rm`: removes the container after shutdown
  - Important! Docker keeps machines around indefinitely otherwise
  - Containers can hold quite a bit of data
- `-p 80:3000`: instruct Docker to open an external port (80) and forward requests there to the internal one (3000)

Start the Backend too, go to localhost:80, and…



It doesn’t work!?

The frontend loads, but can’t talk to the backend




```
Proxy error: Could not proxy request /favicon.ico from localhost to http://backend:8080.
See https://nodejs.org/api/errors.html#errors_common_system_errors for more information (ENOTFOUND).

Proxy error: Could not proxy request /start from localhost to http://backend:8080.
See https://nodejs.org/api/errors.html#errors_common_system_errors for more information (ENOTFOUND).
```

Remember: containers means isolation

Networks are also virtual

- Each container subscribes to ‘bridge’ by default
- Containers are assigned unique IPs within each network
- We *could* make this work by (a) starting backend, (b) finding its IP on ‘bridge’, (c) rebuilding frontend with that IP hard-coded in package.json, and (d) launching frontend (trust me, I tried).
  - Not great; imagine running a website that way

Docker Compose

We need container management tools

- Lowest level: docker compose
  - Specify images, networks & ports, links, etc.
  - Can launch many copies of each image

docker-compose.yml C:\...\f22-rec09 U

C: > Academics > Teaching > 17214 > Misc > f22-rec09

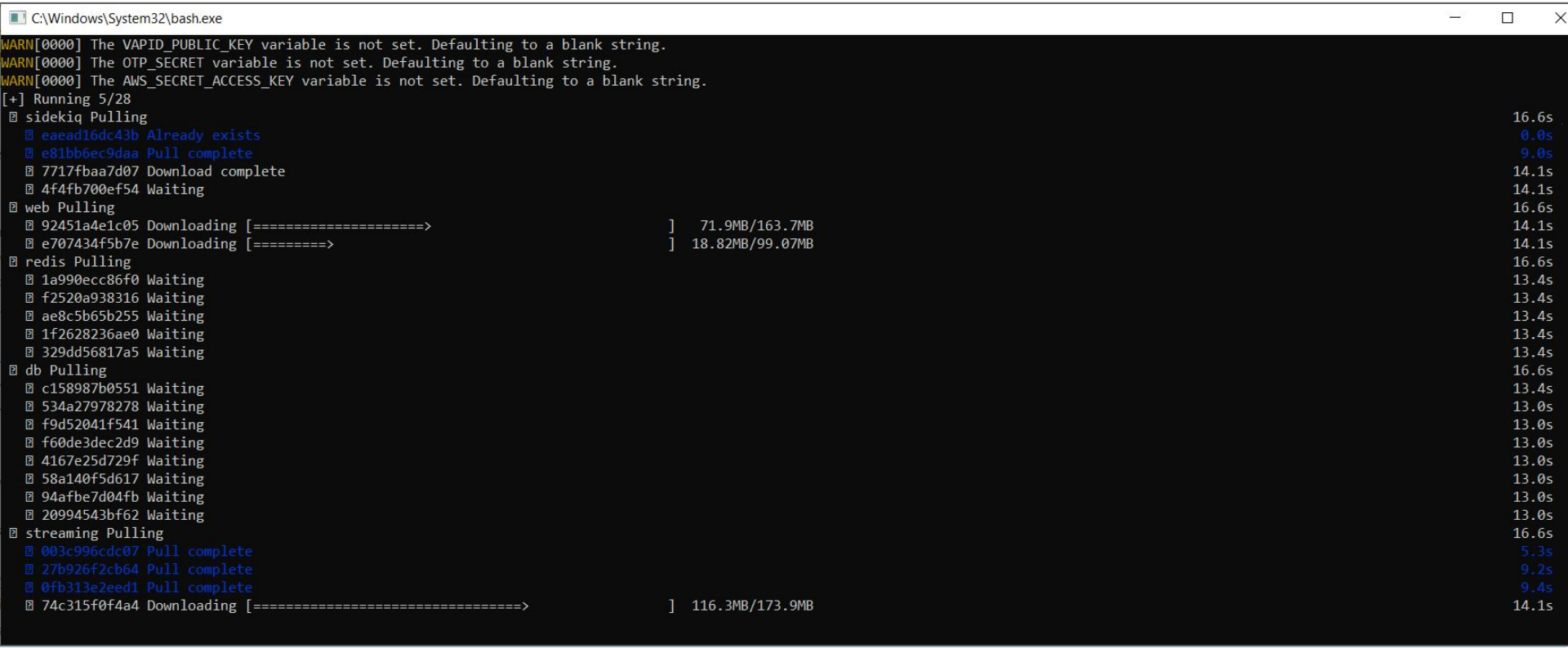
```yaml
version: '3'
services:
  frontend:
    image: frontend
    networks:
      - internal_network
      - external_network
    ports:
      - "80:3000"
    expose:
      - "80"

  backend:
    image: backend
    networks:
      - internal_network
      - external_network
    ports:
      - "8080:8080"

  nginx:
    image: nginx-img
    networks:
      - internal_network
    links:
      - backend

networks:
  external_network:
  internal_network:
    internal: true
```

E.g., Launching five images (for Mastodon)



Demo: Launching Rec09

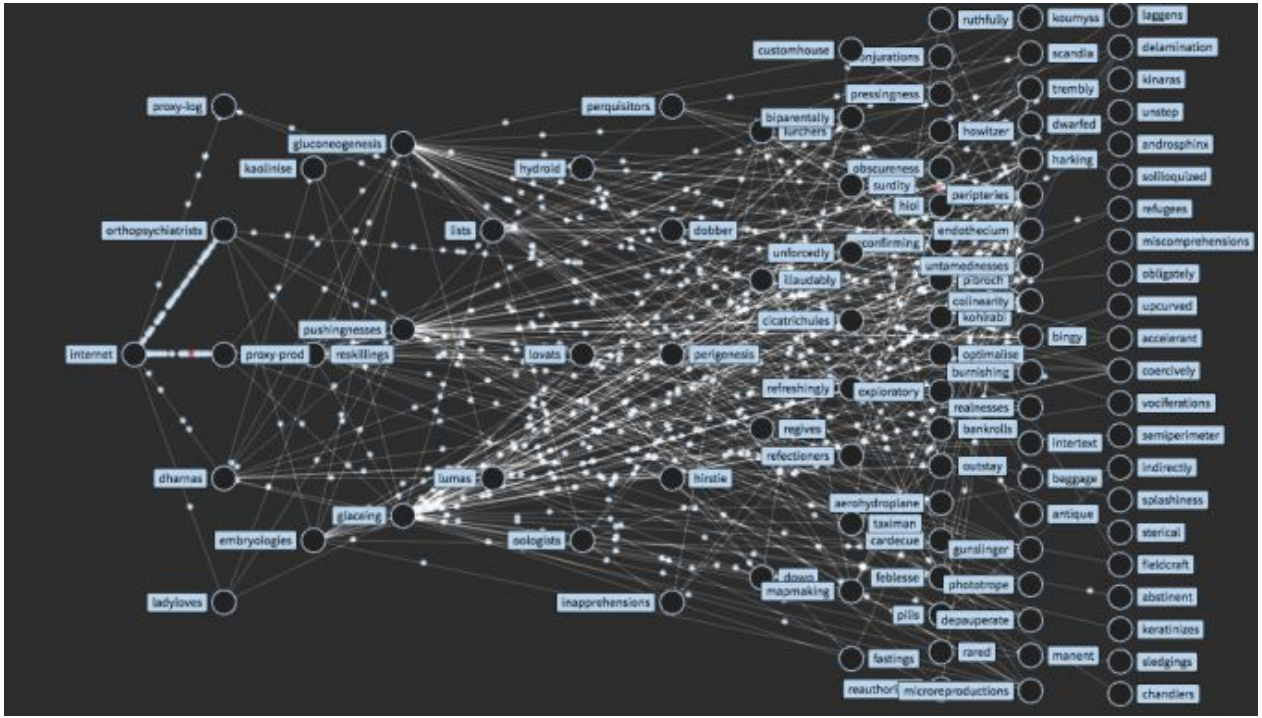
root@30c8340218dd: /

```
vhellendoorn@DESKTOP-7DET9B7:/mnt/c/Academics/Teaching/17214/Misc/f22-rec09$ docker-compose up
Creating network "f22-rec09_internal_network" with the default driver
Creating network "f22-rec09_external_network" with the default driver
Creating f22-rec09_frontend_1 ... done
Creating f22-rec09_backend_1  ... done
Creating f22-rec09_nginx_1    ... done
Attaching to f22-rec09_frontend_1, f22-rec09_backend_1, f22-rec09_nginx_1
backend_1   | [INFO] Scanning for projects...
frontend_1  |
frontend_1  | > front-end@0.1.0 start
frontend_1  | > react-scripts start
frontend_1  |
backend_1   | Downloading from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/exec-maven-plugin/1.2.1/exec-maven-plugin-1.2.1.pom
frontend_1  | (node:26) [DEP_WEBPACK_DEV_SERVER_ON_AFTER_SETUP_MIDDLEWARE] DeprecationWarning: 'onAfterSetupMiddleware' option is deprecated. Please use the 'setupMiddleware
s' option.
frontend_1  | (Use `node --trace-deprecation ...` to show where the warning was created)
frontend_1  | (node:26) [DEP_WEBPACK_DEV_SERVER_ON_BEFORE_SETUP_MIDDLEWARE] DeprecationWarning: 'onBeforeSetupMiddleware' option is deprecated. Please use the 'setupMiddlewa
res' option.
frontend_1  | Starting the development server...
frontend_1  |
Downloaded from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/exec-maven-plugin/1.2.1/exec-maven-plugin-1.2.1.pom (7.7 kB at 5.2 kB/s)
backend_1   | Downloading from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/mojo-parent/28/mojo-parent-28.pom
Downloaded from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/mojo-parent/28/mojo-parent-28.pom (26 kB at 300 kB/s)
backend_1   | Downloading from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/codehaus-parent/3/codehaus-parent-3.pom
Downloaded from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/codehaus-parent/3/codehaus-parent-3.pom (4.1 kB at 65 kB/s)
backend_1   | Downloading from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/exec-maven-plugin/1.2.1/exec-maven-plugin-1.2.1.jar
Downloaded from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/codehaus/mojo/exec-maven-plugin/1.2.1/exec-maven-plugin-1.2.1.jar (38 kB at 402 kB/s)
backend_1   | [INFO]
backend_1   | [INFO] ----------------------< groupId:17214-22fall-rec09 >----------------------
backend_1   | [INFO] Building 17214-22fall-rec09 1.0-SNAPSHOT
backend_1   | [INFO] --------------------------------[ jar ]---------------------------------
backend_1   | [INFO]
backend_1   | [INFO] --- exec-maven-plugin:1.2.1:exec (default-cli) @ 17214-22fall-rec09 ---
backend_1   | Downloading from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/apache/maven/maven-plugin-api/2.0/maven-plugin-api-2.0.pom
Downloaded from central: https://repo.maven.apache.org/maven2/org/apache/maven/maven-plugin-api/2.0/maven-plugin-api-2.0.pom (601 B at 9.2 kB/s)
```

Where are we now?

- We've discussed Docker as a build tool, DockerHub for deployment
- Something is off about our app

Remember this?



http://christophermeiklejohn.com/filibuster/2021/10/14/filibuster-4.html

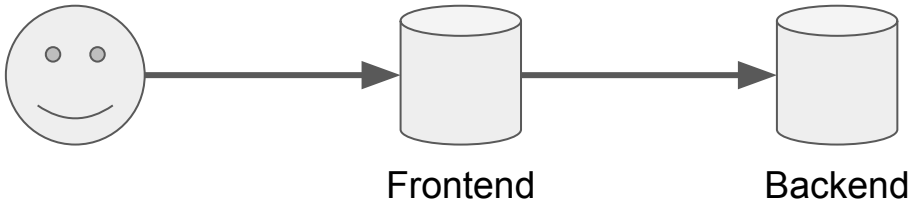
Towards Distributed Systems

- Docker compose helps us set up local systems
  - The result could be microservice or a larger app
  - Often very useful: enables modular development with all the ease of docker images for deployment
- But in our case, backend and frontend are both microservices
  - Why might we not want just one of each, hard-coded to talk to each other?

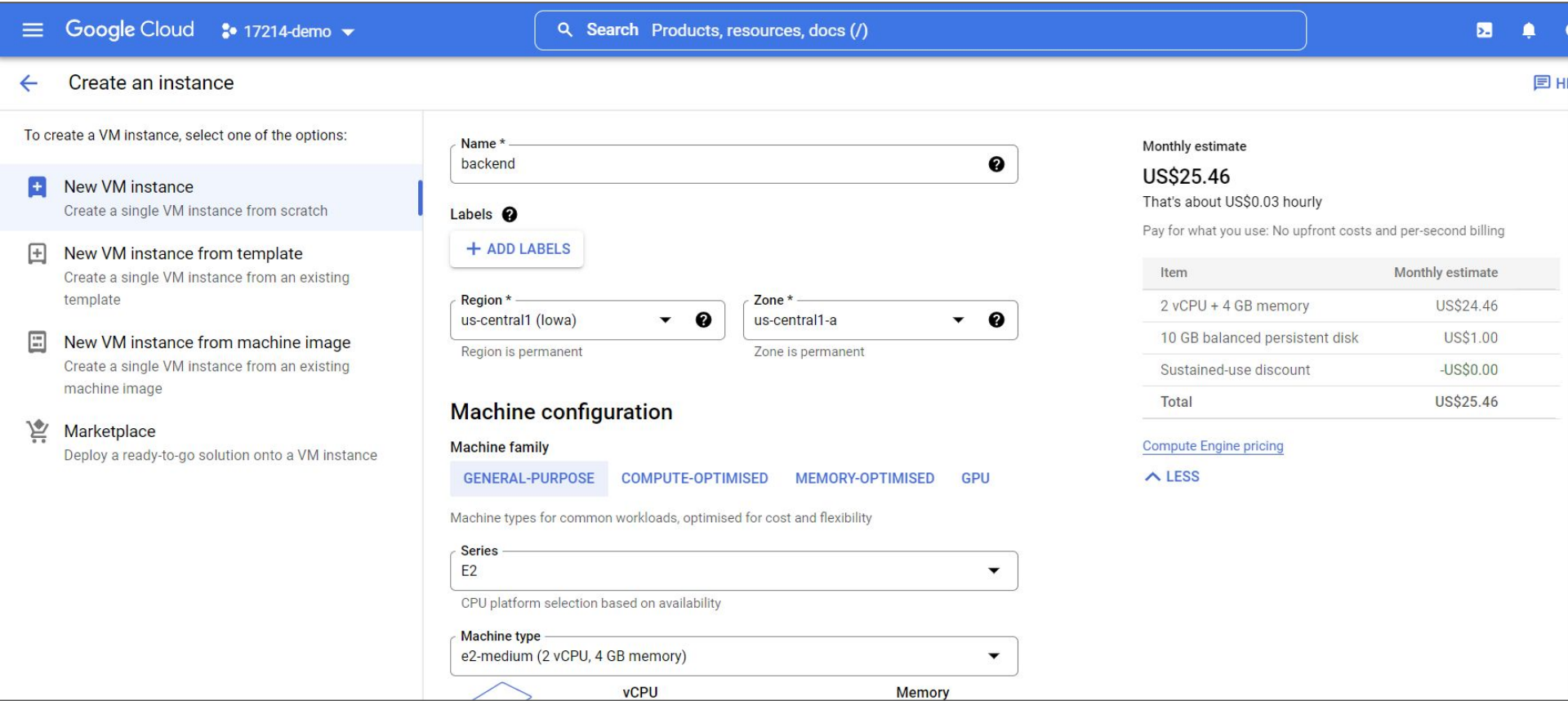
Towards Distributed Systems

Let’s start with:

- Put up two VMs in the cloud, deploy one image on each
- Tell ‘frontend’ where to find ‘backend’ by IP



Tangent: deploying in the Cloud

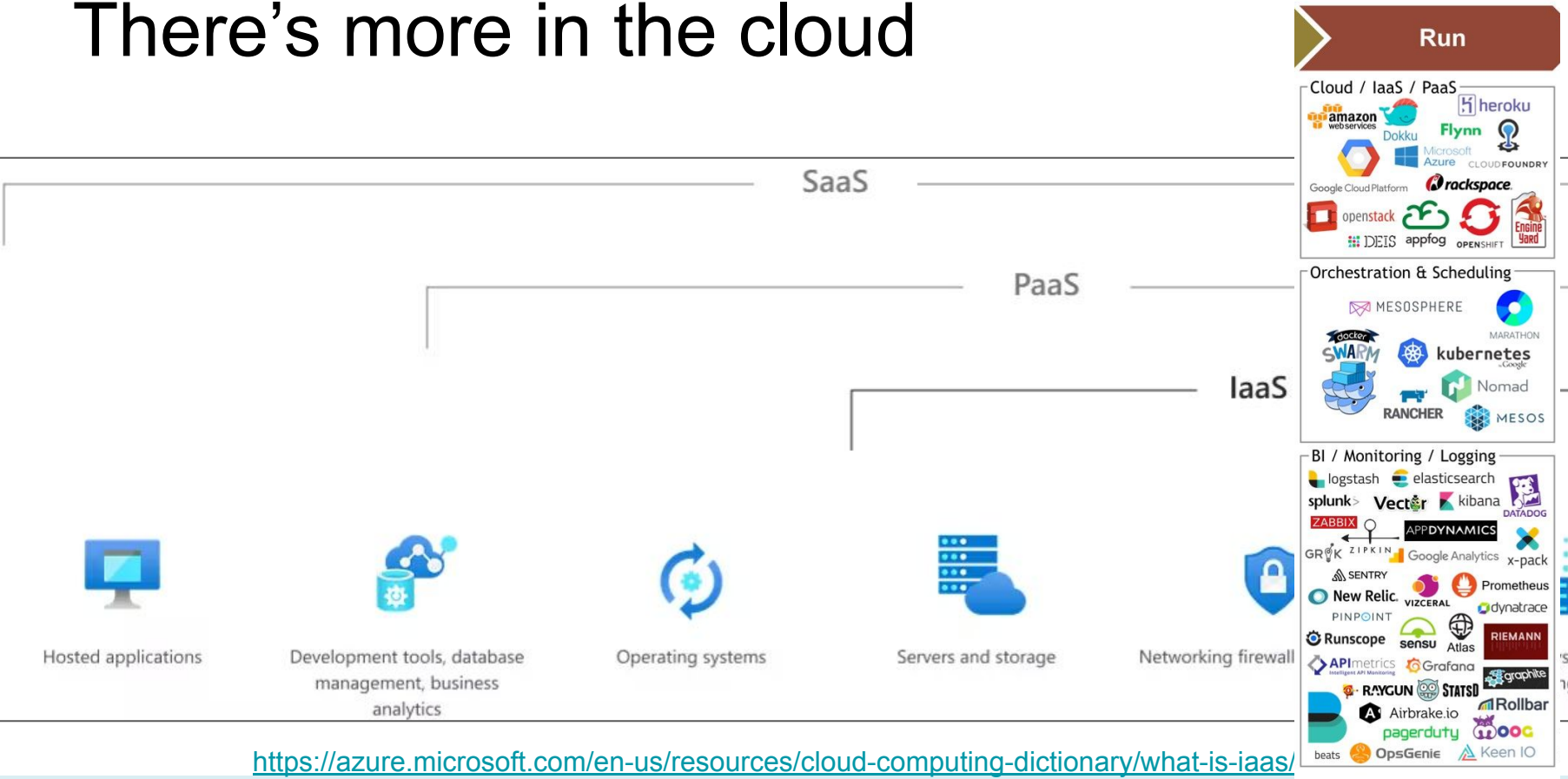


Deploying in the Cloud

Many types of cloud services are available

- Most natural: Infrastructure as a Service (IAAS)
  - Provision Virtual Machines (VMs) of a given size
    - That's right, virtualization on top of virtualization
  - Or databases, firewalls, entire clusters – anything that would go in building your own data center

There's more in the cloud



https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/resources/cloud-computing-dictionary/what-is-iaas/

Note: not everyone thinks of these as nested categories

PaaS: why install your own software?

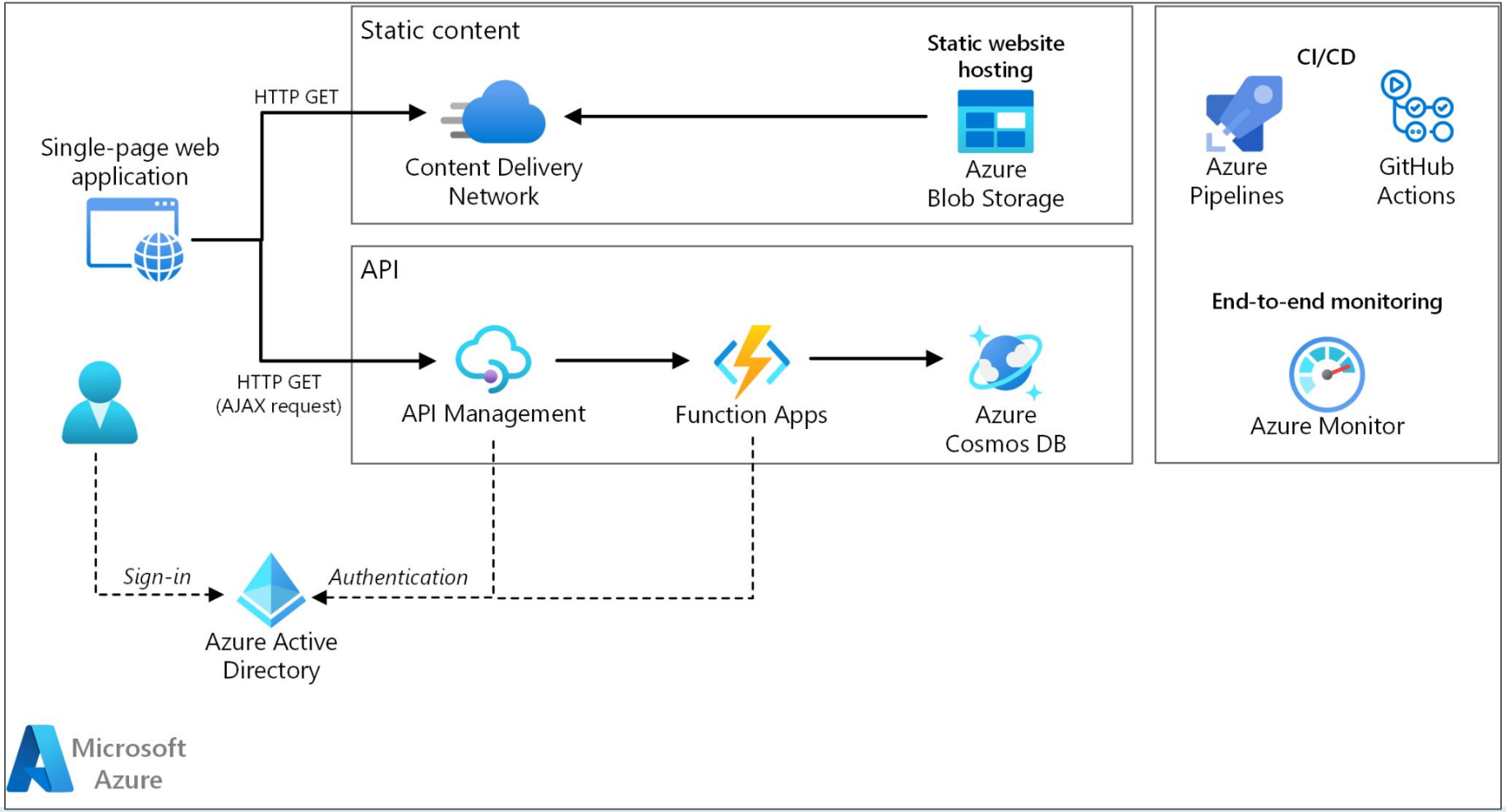
- Don’t just rent machines, rent systems
  - Distributed systems have many common components
    - Like design patterns!
  - Platform as a Service provides preconfigured machines, orchestrators
- Very handy for startups, small teams
  - Managing large distributed systems is hard.

SaaS: why think about machines at all?

- Rent apps, don't think about where they run
  - Common example: email
  - GMail, Google Docs, Colab, etc. are all SaaS
- Very common use-case, major benefits
  - Leaves it to cloud provider to manage infrastructure and deployment. Often a win-win – they benefit from scale.
  - Seriously, don't discount this as an option!
    - Obviously not always applicable, but if you can avoid building your own email client, you should, no matter how easy it seems to develop. A huge chunk of the cost is "hidden" in ops.

Recently Popular: Serverless Computing

- Doesn’t mean “no servers”, just “developers won’t see the servers”
  - Recall PaaS: time not spent managing ops is a big win
- Several instatiations:
  - Functions (e.g., AWS Lambda) – event-driven services that are scaled by the cloud provider (sometimes called **FaaS**)
  - Workflow orchestrators – low/no-code system design
  - Databases – data stores that resize seamlessly (part of **BaaS**)


Static content
Static website hosting
CI/CD
HTTP GET
Content Delivery Network
Azure Blob Storage
Azure Pipelines
GitHub Actions
Single-page web application
API
End-to-end monitoring
HTTP GET (AJAX request)
API Management
Function Apps
Azure Cosmos DB
Azure Monitor
Sign-in
Authentication
Azure Active Directory
Microsoft Azure

Cloud Computing: Getting to the Point

We talk a lot about how good design benefits from reuse

- Of familiar patterns, of libraries, of your own code

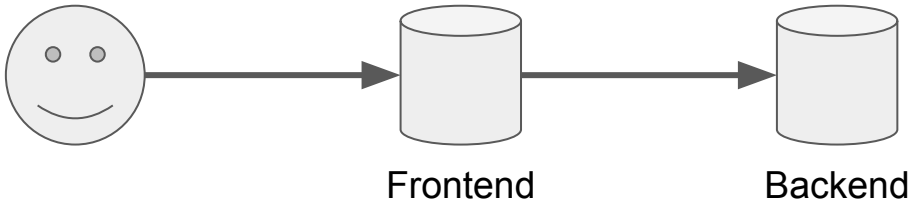
\+ This isn't a distributed systems course

= Take advantage of existing components unless you're really sure what you are doing

Towards Distributed Systems

How about:

- Put up two VMs in the cloud, deploy one image on each
- Tell ‘frontend’ where to find ‘backend’ by IP
- Problems?



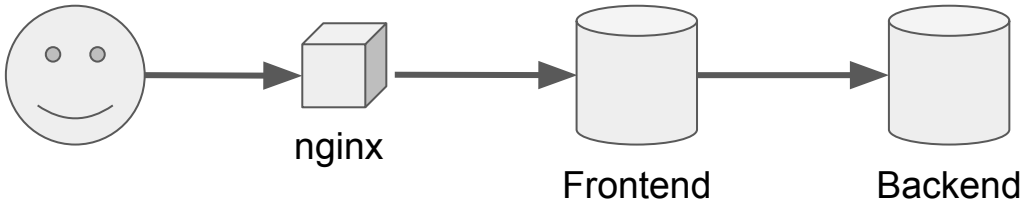
Things to consider in distributed systems

- How will VMs know where other VMs are?
- How will VMs know they can trust incoming messages?
- What parts of your topology may change?
- How will you change the topology without interruptions?
- Where will you need replication?
- How will clients find your application?

nginx

Is a reverse proxy*

- A reverse proxy does for servers what a regular proxy does for users – provide decoupling
  - Good for security, performance, robustness to system changes, ...



*Technically it's a web server that is really easy to set up as a reverse proxy server

Nginx Configuration Example

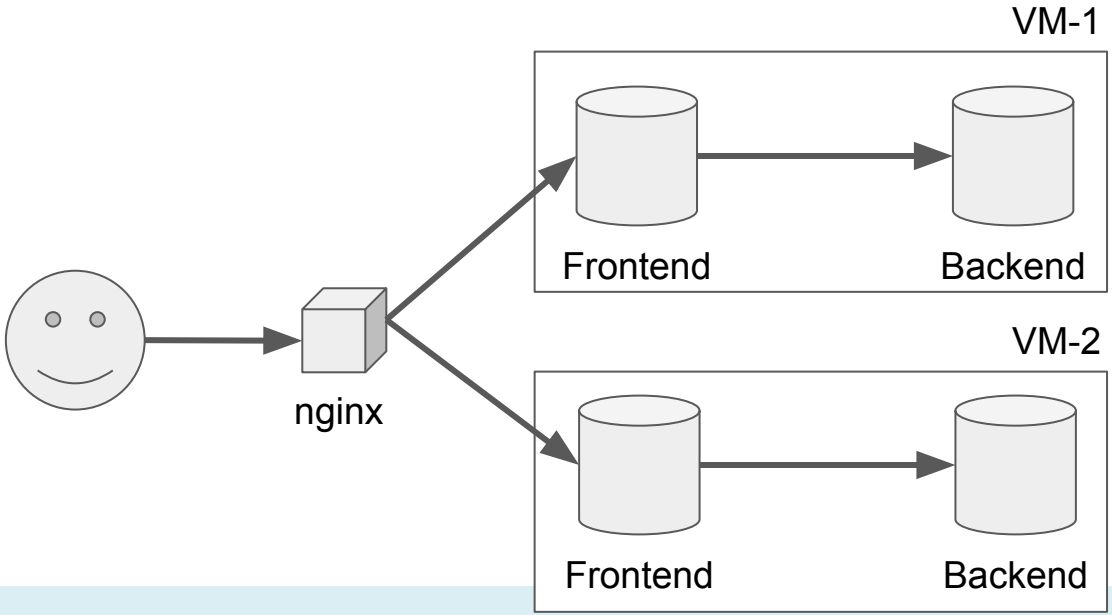
- Handles up to 1024 clients
- ‘upstream’ is the server being proxied for
  - There can be many
- ‘server’ is the proxy server
  - Listens on port, passes messages to upstream

Note: here the proxy is between the frontend and backend

```
1   load_module /usr/lib/nginx/modules/ngx_stream_module.so;
2   worker_processes  1;
3
4   events {
5     worker_connections  1024;
6   }
7
8   stream {
9     upstream backend {
10      server backend:8080;
11    }
12
13    server {
14      listen 8081 so_keepalive=on;
15      proxy_pass backend;
16    }
17  }
```

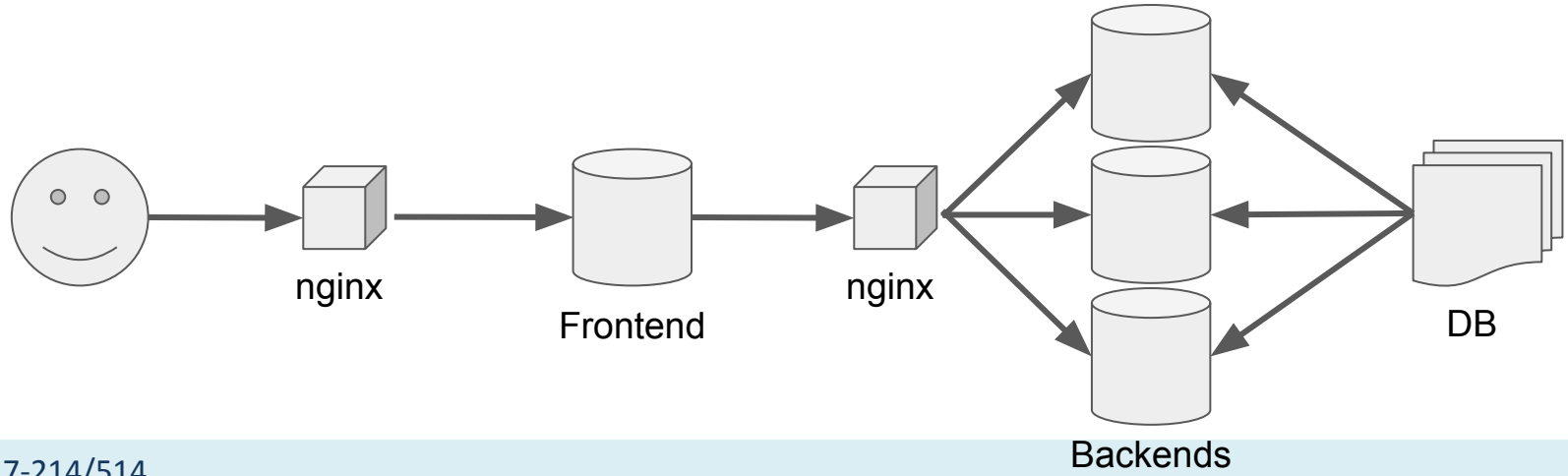
Load Balancing

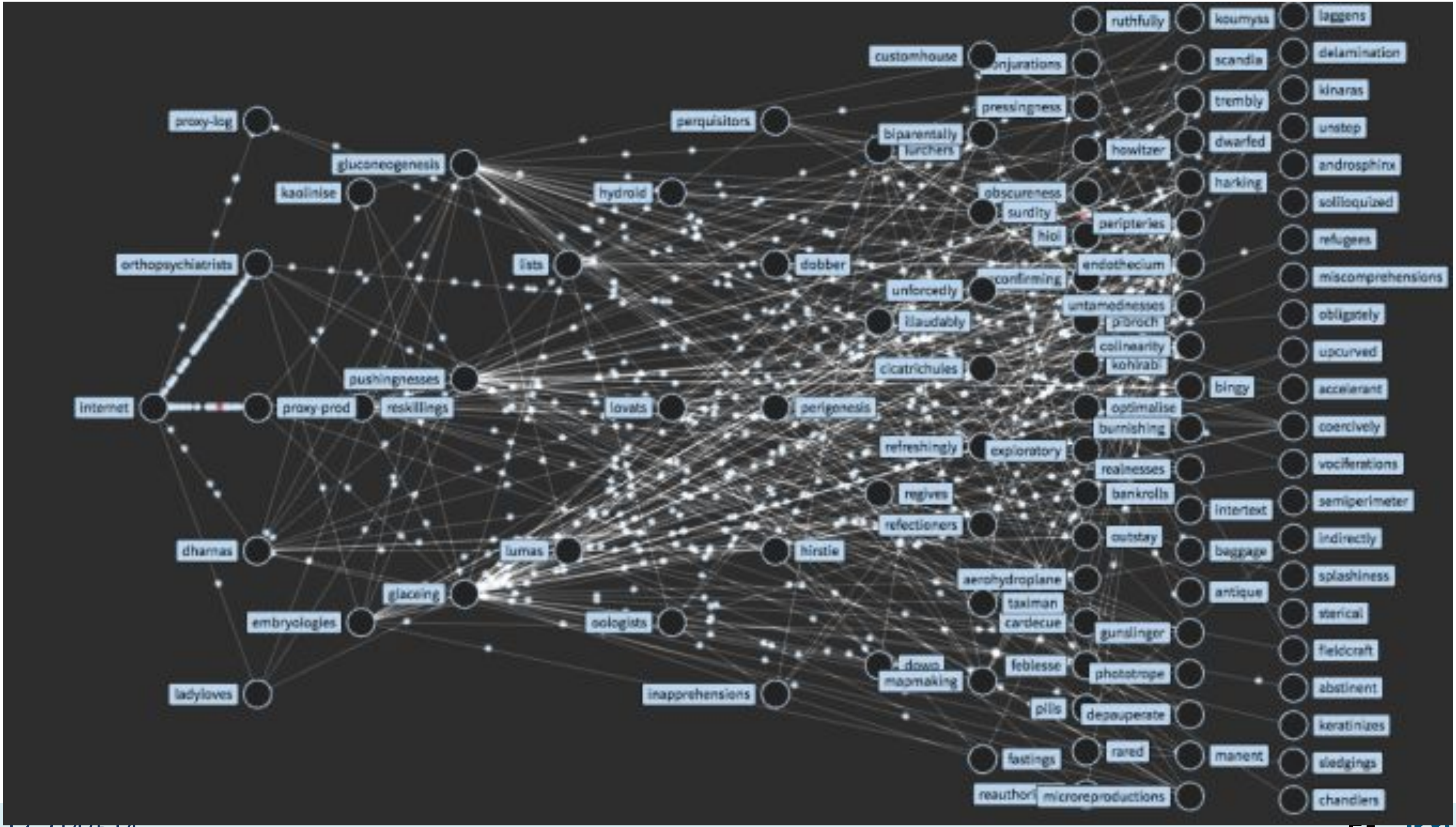
- Reverse proxies make it easy to divide web traffic
  - Nginx uses round robin if you give it multiple ‘upstreams’



Combine Creatively

- Not sufficient, but very helpful for:
  - Performance, through replication
    - Nginx server is often very powerful
  - Robustness, handle failing nodes via indirection

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Let’s see Nginx in action

- Demo with replicated backends

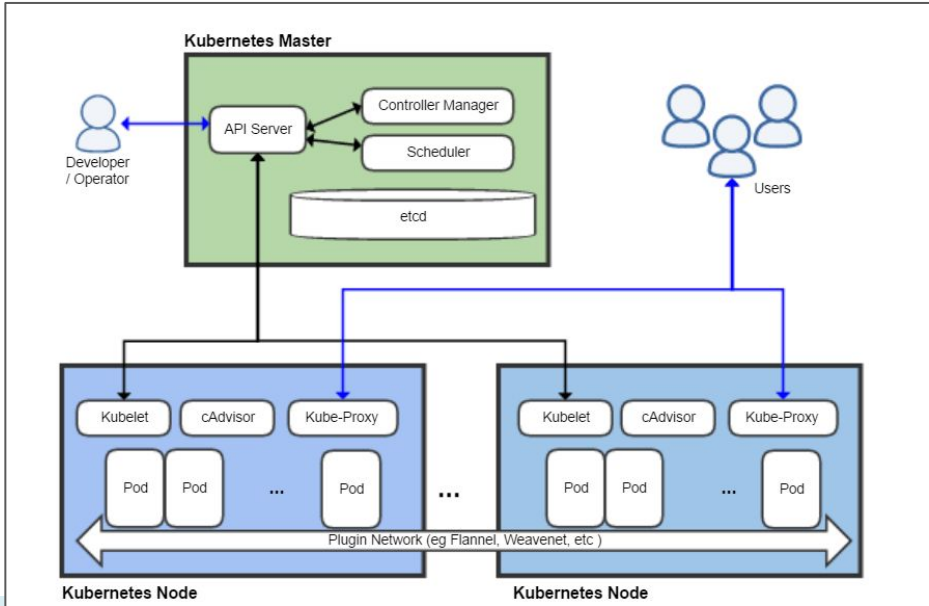
Who tells the proxies what to do?

- Note that Nginx doesn't solve most of our problems!
  - How will VMs know where other VMs are?
  - How will VMs know they can trust incoming messages?
  - What parts of your topology may change?
  - *How will you change the topology without interruptions?*
  - Where will you need replication?
  - How will clients find your application?

Managing Distributed Topologies is Hard

So don’t do it (yourself)!

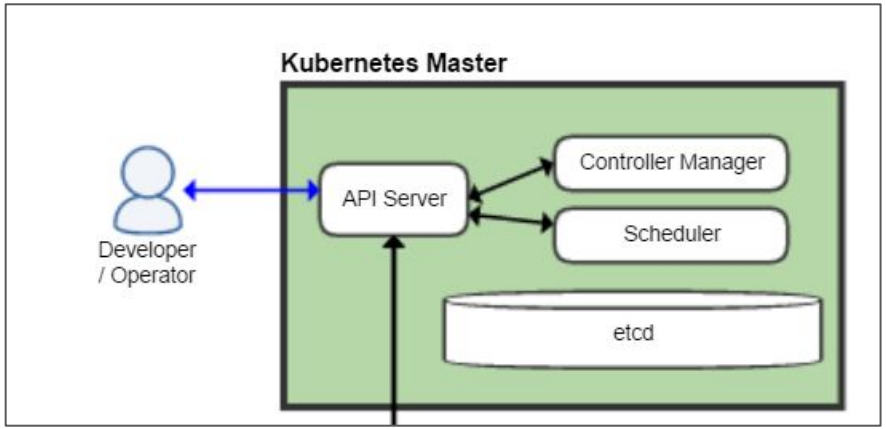
- Kubernetes (K8s), built by Google, manages containers
- Many now-familiar ideas; let’s inspect them



Managing Systems with Kubernetes

The Master:

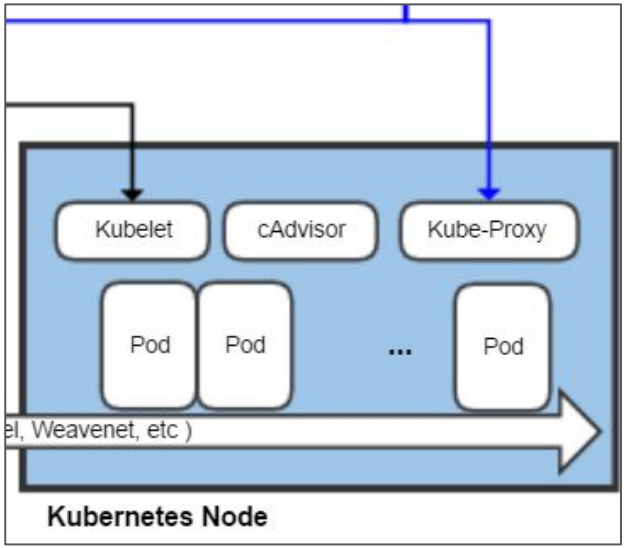
- Tracks global system state in etcd
- Scheduler tracks resource availability, assigns work to hardware
- Controllers plan services to meet demands, goals
- API for monitoring, updating



Managing Systems with Kubernetes

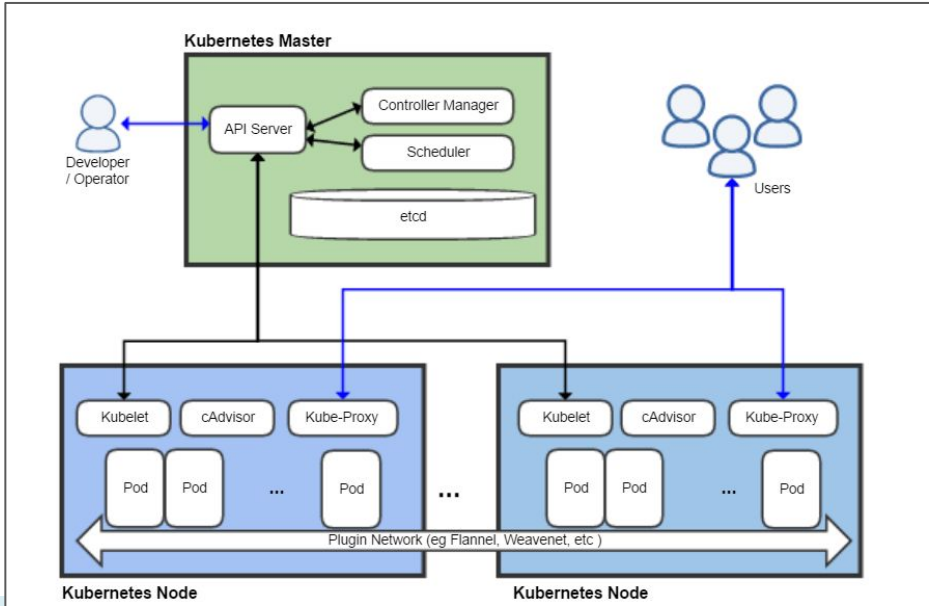
The workers

- Each node is a machine
- Pods consist of connected container(s)
  - Conf., a docker-compose system
  - In fact, containers are usually Docker
- Kubelets monitor the pods, can reprovision
  - Connected to the master
- Kube-proxy provides routing, load balancing
  - Conf., nginx



Managing Systems with Kubernetes

- Note how much this decouples the client from the code
  - In our previous systems, the client talked directly to the frontend
  - Now, to a data center, which talks to a proxy, to a pod, to a container, to code



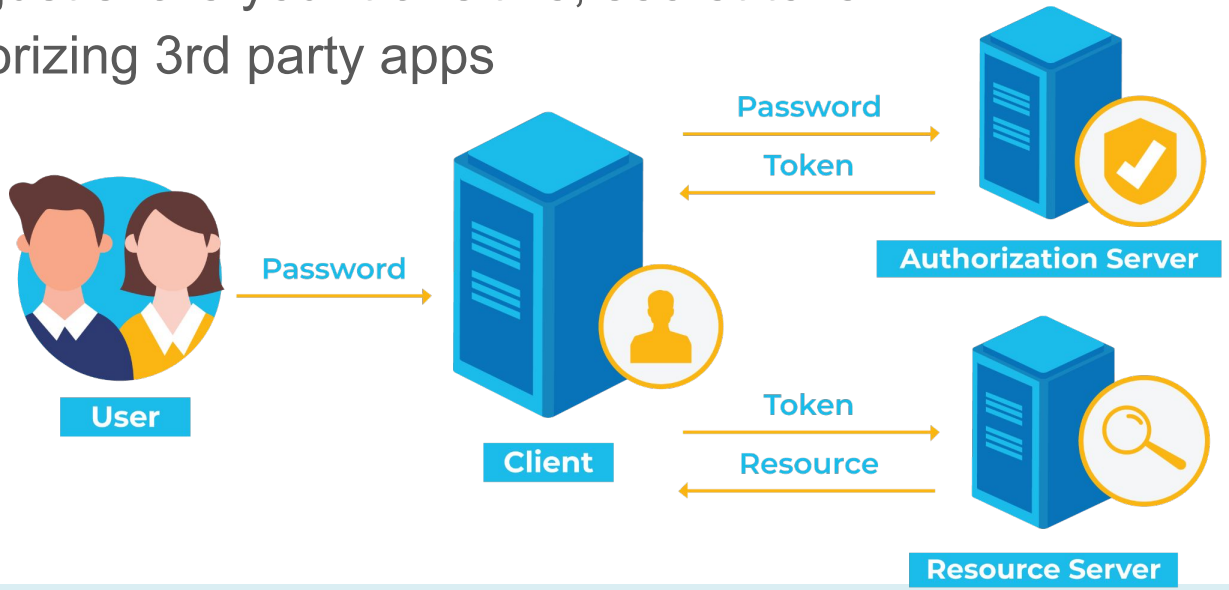
Addresses several questions

- **How will VMs know where other VMs are?**
- *How will VMs know they can trust incoming messages?*
- **What parts of your topology may change?**
- **How will you change the topology without interruptions?**
- Where will you need replication?
- How will clients find your application?

In Brief: Secure Communication

Auth tokens reign supreme these days

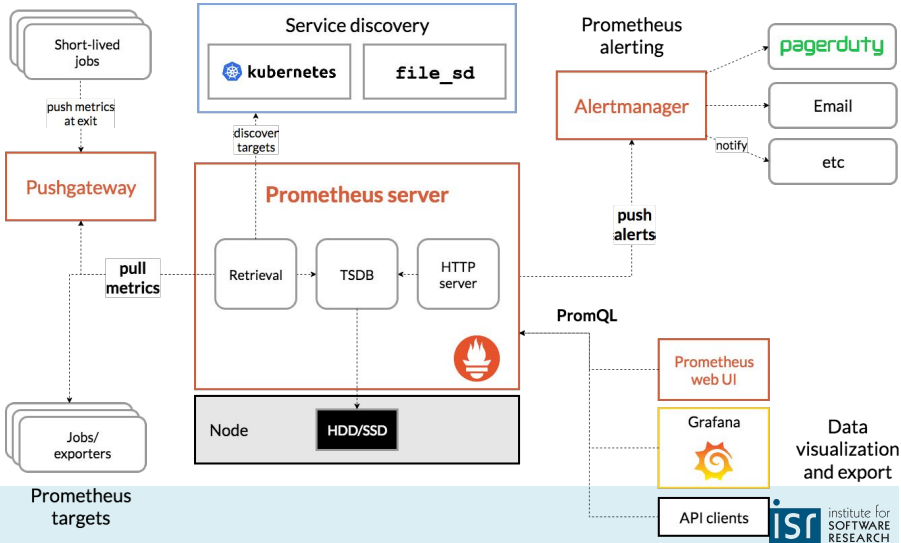
- Single sign on, then just share your transitive, secret token
- Also popular in authorizing 3rd party apps
  – see OAuth(2)



In Brief: Where to Replicate?

Complicated decision, but monitoring helps

- Cloud providers & tools like Kubernetes provide tons of telemetry
- Other tools tap into this to offer insight
- Of course, also financial aspects, legal considerations (geography), forecasting (nothing is ever instant)



Finally, is the Cloud right for you?

- You're borrowing someone else's computer
  - That comes at a big premium
    - Hosting on-prem can be many times cheaper
    - I recall a thread where a Twitter engineer said their AWS bill would be $100M+/month if they went that way
  - Also fewer guarantees
    - Some VMs are rarely available
    - Allocating large nrs of any kind almost certainly requires discussion
- Still worth it if you:
  - Are a small team, can't spare cycles for system ops
  - Are growing quickly, won't know your computing needs far out

Summary

- Containers provide isolation
  - Lighter than VMs, built with layers
  - Managed hierarchically, via configuration-as-code
- Proxies provide decoupling
  - Good for performance, robustness, security
  - Kubernetes takes this to massive scale
- Think carefully about how you put your app in the cloud
  - Consider tradeoffs between IaaS, PaaS, …
  - Also consider cost; cloud bills pile up fast