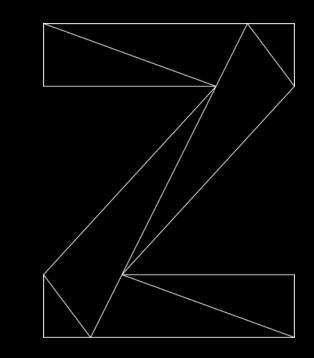
Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z -Performance Experiences, Hints and Tips

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Performance measurement and tuning approach
- Observations and recommendations
 - CPU-intensive workloads
 - Network-intensive workloads
- General tips for cloud-native applications
- Summary

Introduction

- Red Hat[®] OpenShift[®] is a *hybrid cloud*, enterprise *Kubernetes*[®] platform
 - OpenShift website: "...includes security, performance, and defect fixes, validated and tested integrations for third-party plugins, and enterprise lifecycle support"
- Since it's a *new technology* for many IBM Z[®] customers, it brings its own set of requirements, pitfalls, etc.
 - Normal for new technologies
- *Question*: Why is network performance *important* for applications running on OpenShift?
- Answer: The general expectation is that most applications on OpenShift will be cloud-native type of applications, which are typically very network-sensitive.
 - Highly componentized, built on *micro-services*, *distributed* across the cluster
 - What used to be a *function call* for traditional applications is often a *REST* call now

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High-level environment setup

- IBM z15[™]
- z/VM[®] LPAR
 - 3 master nodes
 - 5 worker nodes
- Bastion server LPAR
 - Software load balancer
- uperf target LPAR
 - Simulating an external system



- IBM DS8950F
- ECKD disks
- Model 9s for z/VM
- Extended Address Volumes (EAVs) for z/VM guests
- 5 x HyperPAV aliases for each z/VM guest

Approach

- First step was to install a *basic OpenShift cluster* with 3 master nodes and 5 worker nodes

 First OpenShift version was 4.2.x, which got upgraded many times
- Got familiar with both the OpenShift web console and the Command Line Interface (CLI)

 For "serious" work like scripting, etc., the CLI is much better suited
- Ran a selection of *microbenchmarks* that we typically use for a Linux[®] distribution evaluation

 CPU-intensive, network-intensive, disk I/O-intensive, crypto-intensive, etc.
- Pre-requisite for running microbenchmarks: *containerize* workloads
 In OpenShift, every application runs in one or more container(s)
- Used our Linux distribution evaluation results as a *baseline* for comparison

 When doing performance work, a solid baseline is extremely important

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Disclaimer

- The following is *important* please read it carefully
- The performance test results in the following charts were obtained in a *controlled lab environment*. The measured differences in performance – latency, throughput, etc. – might not be observed in real-life scenarios and customer production environments.
- All test runs were performed with IBM z15, z/VM 7.1, OpenShift 4.5.8, Red Hat[®] Enterprise Linux[®] CoreOS release 4.5, and uperf 1.0.3-beta. *Other* products and / or other product versions might produce different performance results.



CPU-intensive workloads

- Ran a selection of both CPU and memory-intensive workloads
 - Mostly Java®-based workloads
- Outcome: virtually *no overhead* compared to Linux distro baseline
 - Great result expectation was to see at least a small degradation
- No need for further investigation

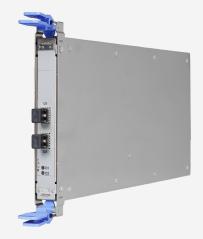


Agenda

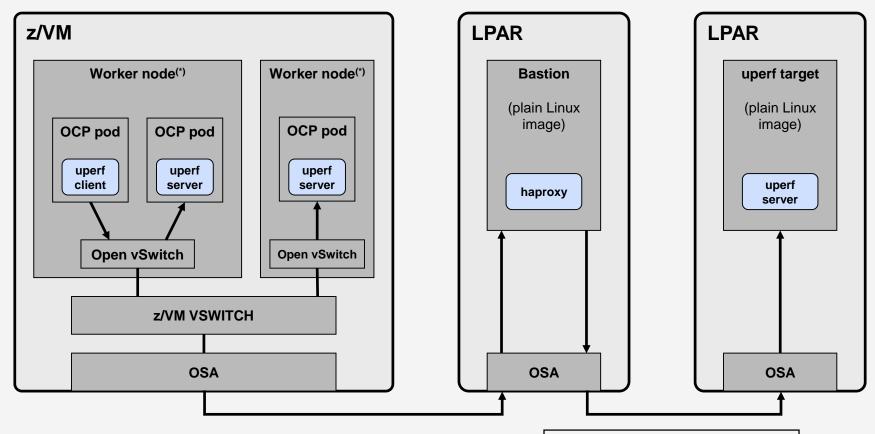
- Introduction
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Network-intensive workloads

- First impression: network performance results were *below our expectations*
 - Caveat: in the beginning, we did not understand OpenShift network architecture well enough
- Had to invest *quite some time* in order to get familiar with OpenShift network concepts
 - Recommendation: set some time aside to read through the OpenShift <u>online</u> documentation



OpenShift network performance: the big picture



Some OpenShift network concepts

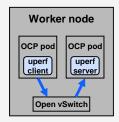
- OpenShift makes heavy use of the Software Defined Network (SDN) approach
 - One physical network device per pod would be way too much virtualized network is required
- Every *pod* has its own *virtual* network interface
 - Inside the pod, this is called eth0
- This virtual network interface is connected to an *Open vSwitch* not to be confused with z/VM VSWITCH – One Open vSwitch instance running per node
- Every Open vSwitch instance is configured based on *OpenFlow[™]* rules

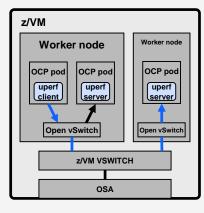
 Rules determine what packets are flowing where in the virtual network
- Network traffic that goes in and out of the cluster must pass through a load balancer of some form, which
 is the Bastion server in our test cluster
 - Load balancer can be either software-based or hardware-based

Network performance test scenarios

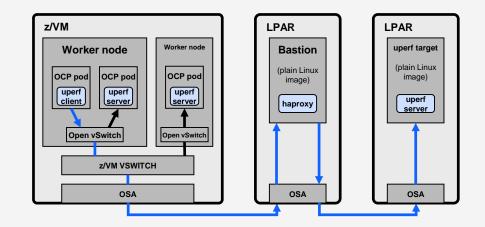
Scenario #1: pod-to-pod communication *inside the same* worker node

 Network traffic at the Open vSwitch layer only





- Scenario #2: pod-to-pod communication *across* worker nodes
 - In addition to scenario #1, z/VM VSWITCH is being used



- Scenario #3: pod-to-external communication
 - Traffic leaves the OpenShift cluster
 - All network layers are involved

Network performance evaluation basics

- Focus on *latency* and / or *throughput*
 - Different requirements high throughput doesn't necessarily mean low latency
- Small number of parallel connections versus large number of parallel connections
 - Single connection scenarios like backup, for example, versus online banking
- Transactional workloads ("ping-pong" type of communication) versus streaming workloads

 Small network packets versus large or very large network packets
- A *thorough* analysis should consider either all or at least most of the above aspects

Network performance tuning

- Our goal: *improve* OpenShift network performance and give both easy-to-understand and easy-to-implement *tuning hints and tips* to existing and prospective customers
- Tuning category #1: change network configuration at the *hardware level*
 - Exchange z/VM VSWITCH with direct-attached OSA card, HiperSockets, or RoCE card
- Tuning category #2: find *configuration parameters* that improve network performance
 - Much more complex, since there are literally hundreds of different configuration settings spread across the entire *network* and *virtualization* stack
 - Requires *deep technical knowledge* of different components of overall architecture (both virtualization and network)

Tuning category #1: hardware alternatives

Application (uperf)

Open vSwitch + OpenFlow rules

z/VM VSWITCH	
OSA	
03A	

Direct-attached OSA / HiperSockets / RoCE

Tuning category #2: network tuning options

- Finding and testing the below mentioned parameters and settings required an enormous amount of effort

 Had to verify whether all scenarios either benefit or are at least not impacted
- Tuning recommendation #1: *Receive Packet Steering* (RPS)
 - Allows multiple CPUs to participate in network packet processing
- Tuning recommendation #2: adding one or more *static route(s)* for external traffic
 - Depends on your network architecture
- Tuning recommendation #3: move network-intensive OpenShift components away from your regular worker nodes out to infrastructure nodes
 - Remedies performance imbalance / performance fluctuations across worker nodes

- RPS is controlled via a Linux sysfs entry called rps_cpus
 - Contents is a CPU mask
- Turned off:

[root@worker-0 ~]# cat /sys/devices/qeth/0.0.6000/net/enc6000/queues/rx-0/rps_cpus
00000000,00000000

• Turned on:

[root@worker-0 ~]# cat /sys/devices/qeth/0.0.6000/net/enc6000/queues/rx-0/rps_cpus
00000000,0000000ff

• Can be changed via a *udev* rule, for example

• Create a plain text file called enable-rps.txt with the following contents:

```
# turn on Receive Packet Steering (RPS) for all network interfaces
ACTION=="add", SUBSYSTEM=="net", KERNEL=="*", ATTR{queues/*/rps cpus}="ff"
```

- Question: How can I apply this to all my worker nodes?
- Answer: Make use of a Machine Config Object (MCO).
- Rule text has to be encoded like so:

```
cat enable-rps.txt |
python3 -c "import sys, urllib.parse; print(urllib.parse.quote(''.join(sys.stdin.readlines())))"
```

• Create a YAML file called enable-rps.yaml with the following contents:

```
apiVersion: machineconfiguration.openshift.io/v1
kind: MachineConfig
metadata:
  labels:
    machineconfiguration.openshift.io/role: worker
  name: 50-enable-rps
spec:
  config:
    ignition:
      version: 2.2.0
    storage:
      files:
      - contents:
          source: data:text/plain;charset=US-
ASCII, %23%20turn%20on%20Receive%20Packet%20Steering%20%28RPS%29%20for%20all%20network%20interfaces%0A
ACTION%3D%3D%22add%22%2C%20SUBSYSTEM%3D%3D%22net%22%2C%20KERNEL%3D%3D%22%2A%22%2C%20ATTR%7Bqueues/%2A
/rps cpus%7D%3D%22ff%22%0A
        filesystem: root
        mode: 0644
        path: /etc/udev/rules.d/71-net-tunings.rules
```

- Create a new MCO by running oc create -f enable-rps.yaml
- Double-check whether the MCO has been created: oc get machineconfigs

Sample output on our test cluster:

NAME	GENERATEDBYCONTROLLER	IGNITIONVERSION	CREATED
00-master	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
00-worker	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
01-master-container-runtime	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
01-master-kubelet	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
01-worker-container-runtime	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
01-worker-kubelet	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
50-enable-rps		2.2.0	5s
99-master-baa9a00d-7409-11ea-9cdc-02012c000005-registries	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
99-master-ssh		2.2.0	54d
99-worker-baaa415e-7409-11ea-9cdc-02012c000005-registries	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
99-worker-ssh		2.2.0	54d
rendered-master-782c5c9c34201d09133e3a83fa6db5bd	6e0df82cf15edec97b685e4e71f5385cebef50d2	2.2.0	54d
rendered-master-80ff9447b6f3bb017bace3eedf8e575d	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	54d
rendered-master-9d2e28683c6f08b8e3e9e7cb262abf5d	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	33d
rendered-worker-56ba8042a89644757398af2f22b39054	fac5a23280e6467ec95bb0237fae3ce387d04f0b	2.2.0	19d

• Check whether the MCO has been successfully applied on all matching nodes:

oc get machineconfigpools

• Sample output on our test cluster:

NAME	CONFIG	UPDATED	UPDATING	DEGRADED
master	rendered-master-9d2e28683c6f08b8e3e9e7cb262abf5d	True	False	False
worker	rendered-worker-7c4d650eee93c040333ffe2770ce720e	False	True	False

- Be *patient*: this process takes quite some time to complete
- You can check the current status of the nodes with the following command:

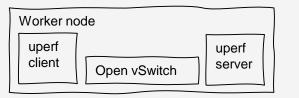
watch -n 5 oc get nodes

Sample output on our test cluster:

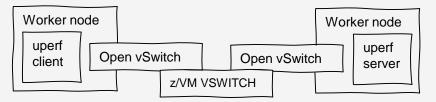
NAME master-0. <our_domain_name> master-1.<our_domain_name> master-2.<our_domain_name></our_domain_name></our_domain_name></our_domain_name>	STATUS Ready Ready Ready	ROLES master,worker master,worker master,worker	AGE 54d 54d 54d	VERSION v1.14.6-152-g117balf v1.14.6-152-g117balf v1.14.6-152-g117balf
worker-0. <our domain="" name=""></our>	Ready, SchedulingDisabled	worker	54d	v1.14.6-152-g117balf
worker-1. <our_domain_name></our_domain_name>	Ready	worker	54d	v1.14.6-152-g117balf
worker-2. <our_domain_name></our_domain_name>	Ready	worker	54d	v1.14.6-152-g117balf
worker-3. <our_domain_name></our_domain_name>	Ready	worker	54d	v1.14.6-152-g117balf
worker-4. <our_domain_name></our_domain_name>	Ready	worker	54d	v1.14.6-152-g117balf

Tuning recommendation #1 (RPS): results

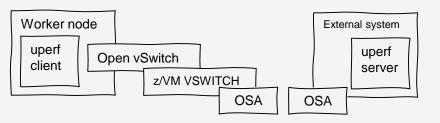
• Scenario #1: pod-to-pod, same worker



• Scenario #2: pod-to-pod, cross-worker



• Scenario #3: pod-to-external



• Enabling RPS is *not* recommended if your OpenShift network traffic is mostly within the same worker node, since both latency and throughput *degrade* with this option turned on

In this scenario, enabling RPS is *recommended*, since it improves (a) latency *up to 59%* and (b) throughput *up to 2.7x*, depending on the network connectivity and number of parallel connections

 In this scenario, enabling RPS is *recommended*, since it improves latency *up to 35%*, depending on the network connectivity and number of parallel connections; throughput is either equal or higher, except for two individual measurements

Tuning recommendation #2: adding one or more static route(s)

- During our performance evaluation, we noticed that all network traffic to our external uperf target system had to *pass through* the load balancer due to a different IP subnet (see next page)
 – One additional network hop
- For outgoing traffic, this is *not strictly required* Might be different in your environment
- Goal: allow the traffic to flow *directly* to the uperf target system
 Idea: avoid the additional hop by defining a static route
- RHEL systems: additional file in /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts called route-enc9000

A.B.D.0/24 dev enc9000

• Expectation: tuning recommendation applies to *pod-to-external* scenario only

Tuning recommendation #2: adding one or more static route(s), *continued*

• Before:

[root@worker-0 ~]# route -n					
Kernel IP routing table					
Destination	Gateway	Genmask	Flags	Iface	
0.0.0.0	A.B.C.101	0.0.0.0	UG	enc9000	
A.B.C.0	0.0.0.0	255.255.255.0	U	enc9000	
A.E.0.0	0.0.0.0	255.252.0.0	U	tun0	
172.x.0.0	0.0.0.0	255.255.0.0	U	tun0	

- This is the routing table on the *worker node*, not inside the pod
- IP address of the uperf target system: A.B.D.254
- Note that A.B.C.101 is the Bastion server, which acts as a gateway in our test cluster

• After:

[root@worker-0 ~]# route -n Kernel IP routing table						
	Destination	Gateway	Genmask	Flags	Iface	
	0.0.0.0	A.B. <mark>C.</mark> 101	0.0.0.0	UG	enc9000	
	A.B. D .0	0.0.0.0	255.255.255.0	U	enc9000	
	A.B. C. 0	0.0.0.0	255.255.255.0	U	enc9000	
	A.E.0.0	0.0.0.0	255.252.0.0	U	tun0	
	172.x.0.0	0.0.0.0	255.255.0.0	U	tun0	

- **Result**: no more traffic through the Bastion server in scenario #3
- Note that *incoming* traffic still has to flow through the load balancer

Tuning recommendation #2: adding one or more static route(s), *continued*

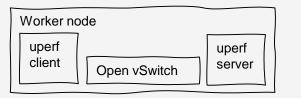
• Create a YAML file called add-static-route.yaml with the following contents:

```
apiVersion: machineconfiguration.openshift.io/v1
kind: MachineConfig
metadata:
  labels:
    machineconfiguration.openshift.io/role: worker
  name: 51-add-static-route
spec:
  config:
    ignition:
      version: 2.2.0
    storage:
      files:
      - contents:
          source: data:text/plain;charset=US-ASCII,A.B.D.0/24%20dev%20enc9000%0A
        filesystem: root
        mode: 0644
        path: /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/route-enc9000
```

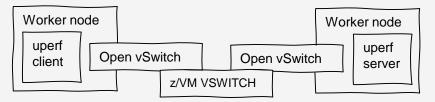
• Activate this configuration with oc create -f add-static-route.yaml

Tuning recommendation #2 (static route): results

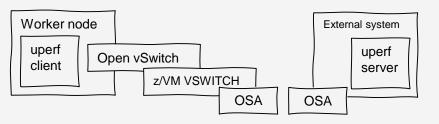
• Scenario #1: pod-to-pod, same worker



• Scenario #2: pod-to-pod, cross-worker



• Scenario #3: pod-to-external



 Result: *neutral* – as expected, configuring a static route doesn't impact this scenario. Or in other words: it doesn't hurt, but it doesn't help either.

 Result: *neutral* – as expected, configuring a static route doesn't impact this scenario. Or in other words: it doesn't hurt, but it doesn't help either.

 In this scenario, configuring a static route is recommended, since it further improves (a) latency up to 51% and (b) throughput up to 52%, depending on the network connectivity and number of parallel connections

Tuning recommendation #3: relocate heavy components

- In our performance analysis, we noticed that both latency and throughput were *varying heavily*, depending on which exact worker node was selected for running the uperf tests
- Goal: achieve the same network performance on all worker nodes
 - Idea: use dedicated *infrastructure* nodes
- Relocating components is a 2-step process:
 - First, define infrastructure nodes
 - Second, tell OpenShift to move network-heavy components out to infra nodes

Tuning recommendation #3: relocate heavy components

• Turn a worker node into an *infra* node with oc edit node <name_of_the_node> and change:

```
metadata:
   labels:
    node-role.kubernetes.io/worker: ""
to:
metadata:
   labels:
    node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
```

• You might want to add worker nodes to your cluster before converting worker nodes

Tuning recommendation #3: relocate heavy components, *continued*

• Create a YAML file with the following content:

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: cluster-monitoring-config
  namespace: openshift-monitoring
data:
  config.yaml: |+
    alertmanagerMain:
      nodeSelector:
        node-role.kubernetes.jo/infra: ""
    prometheusK8s:
      nodeSelector:
        node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
    prometheusOperator:
      nodeSelector:
        node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
    grafana:
      nodeSelector:
        node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
```

```
... (continued on the right) ...
```

 \dots (continued from the left) \dots

```
k8sPrometheusAdapter:
nodeSelector:
node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
kubeStateMetrics:
nodeSelector:
node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
telemeterClient:
nodeSelector:
node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
openshiftStateMetrics:
nodeSelector:
node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
```

- All components are related to *monitoring*
- Activate this configuration with

oc create -f <your_file_name_here>.yaml

Tuning recommendation #3: relocate heavy components, *continued*

• You can check the current *placement* of the corresponding pods with the following command:

watch -n 5 oc get pods -n openshift-monitoring -o wide

• Sample output on our test cluster after applying this configuration:

NAME alertmanager-main-0 alertmanager-main-1 alertmanager-main-2	READY 5/5 5/5 5/5	STATUS Running Running Running	NODE worker-4. <our_domain_name> worker-4.<our_domain_name> worker-4.<our_domain_name></our_domain_name></our_domain_name></our_domain_name>
… grafana-dc7ff648b-dx2rj	2/2	Running	worker-4. <our_domain_name></our_domain_name>
 prometheus-k8s-0 prometheus-k8s-1	7/7 7/7	Running Running	worker-4. <our_domain_name> worker-4.<our_domain_name></our_domain_name></our_domain_name>

Note: some columns were cut in the above output in order to make it fit the page

Tuning recommendation #3: relocate heavy components, *continued*

• Move the *router* with oc edit ingresscontroller default -n openshift-ingress-operator -o yaml and change:

```
spec:
    nodePlacement:
    nodeSelector:
    matchLabels:
    node-role.kubernetes.io/worker: ""
```

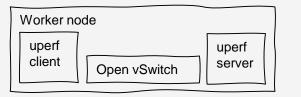
to:

```
spec:
    nodePlacement:
    nodeSelector:
    matchLabels:
    node-role.kubernetes.io/infra: ""
```

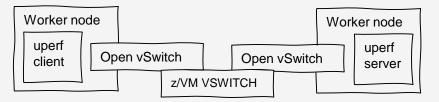
• If nodePlacement is missing, add it to the spec section

Tuning recommendation #3 (relocate components): results

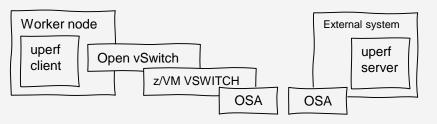
• Scenario #1: pod-to-pod, same worker



• Scenario #2: pod-to-pod, cross-worker



• Scenario #3: pod-to-external

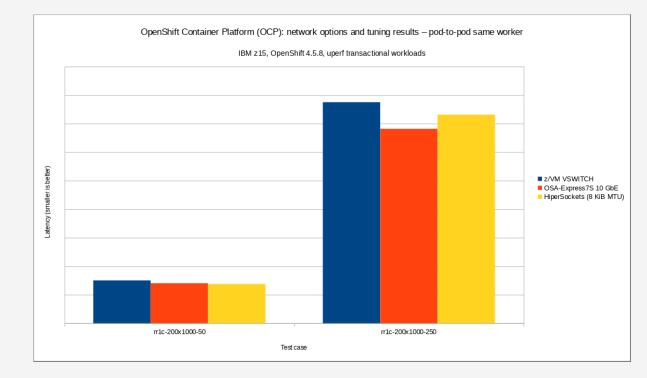


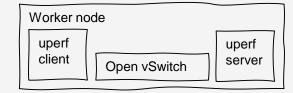
- Relocating the mentioned network-heavy components is *recommended* for all three scenarios
- Without this tuning recommendation, we measured latency differences between worker nodes of *up to 87%*, despite the fact that all worker nodes were configured equal regarding CPU and memory

Key takeaways

- Network connectivity option z/VM VSWITCH, OSA, or HiperSockets – only marginally impacts latency in the pod-to-pod, same worker scenario
- Enabling RPS is *not* recommended
- Static route doesn't impact performance in this scenario

Scenario #1: *latency* results

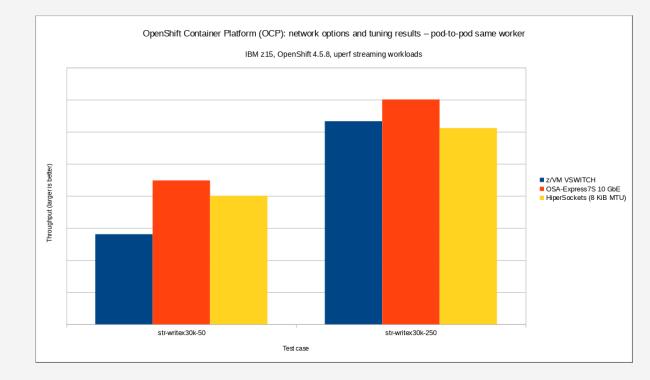


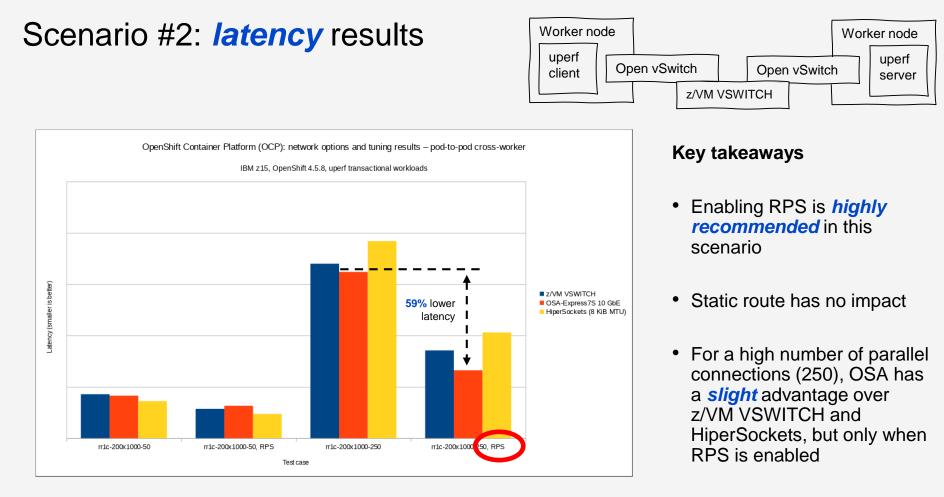


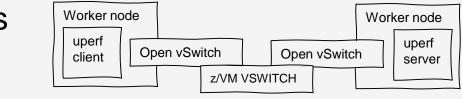
Key takeaways

- Network connectivity option only marginally impacts throughput in the pod-to-pod, same worker scenario
- Enabling RPS is not recommended
- Static route doesn't impact performance in this scenario

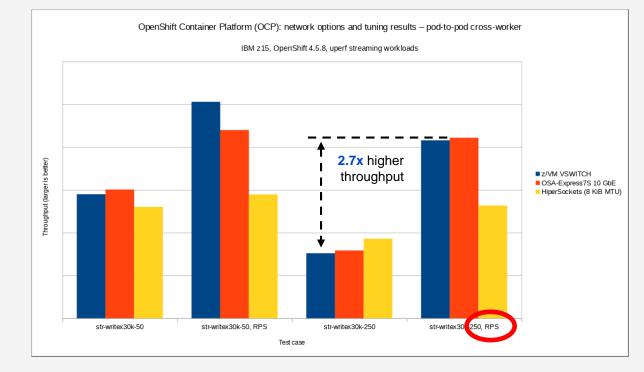
Scenario #1: *throughput* results





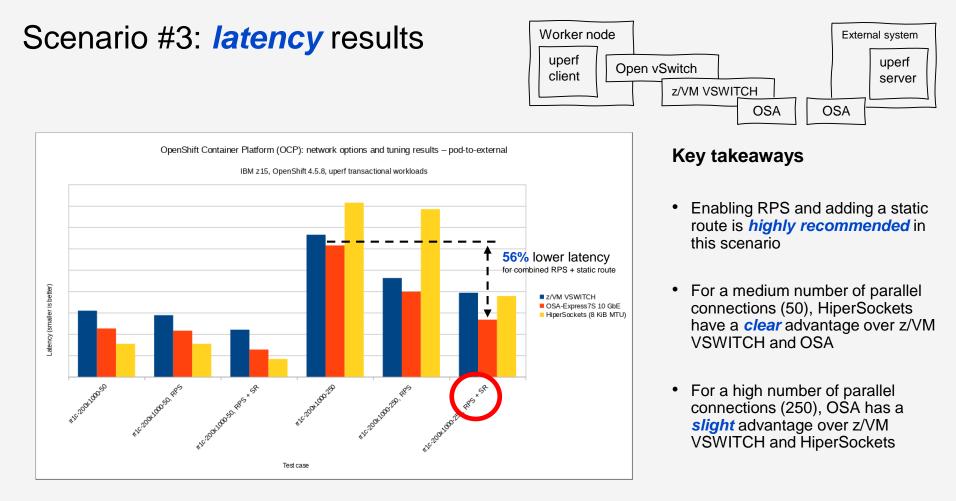


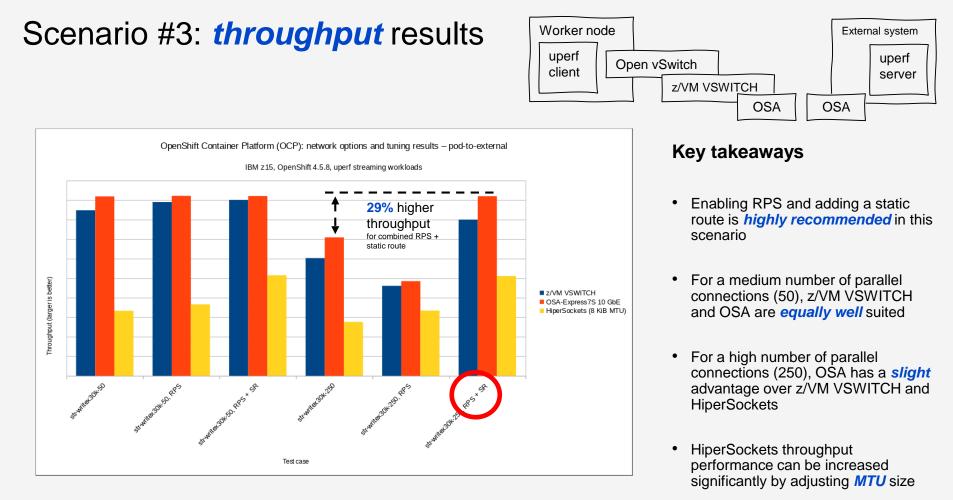
Scenario #2: *throughput* results



Key takeaways

- Enabling RPS is *highly* recommended in this scenario
- Static route has no impact
- For a medium number of parallel connections (50), z/VM VSWITCH has a *slight* advantage over OSA and HiperSockets, but only when RPS is enabled
- HiperSockets throughput performance can be increased significantly by adjusting *MTU* size





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- Introduction
- Performance measurement and tuning approach
- Observations and recommendations
 - CPU-intensive workloads
 - Network-intensive workloads
- General tips for cloud-native applications
- Summary

General tips for cloud-native applications

- Stay current with OpenShift releases even minor updates can improve performance significantly

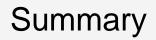
 Minor updates: 4.x.y ⇒ 4.x.y+1
- When using ECKD disks for your z/VM guests, define *HyperPAV* aliases
 - Not using HyperPAV aliases can turn into a bottleneck for disk I/O-intensive workloads
- For *production* environments, use a *hardware-based* load balancer
 - Software-based load balancers can also work, but need much more fine-tuning

General tips for cloud-native applications, continued

- Don't use OpenJDK[™] V8 with HotSpot, since it doesn't contain a Just-In-Time (JIT) compiler
 Up to 100x slower than a Java SDK that contains a JIT
- For best performance on Linux on IBM Z, use latest / greatest IBM Java V8
- If you have a strict requirement for OpenJDK, use OpenJDK with OpenJ9
 - OpenJ9 is the Open Source version of IBM Java
 - Doesn't matter whether your requirement is for V8 or V11
- If it really *has* to be HotSpot for some reason, then use OpenJDK V11
 - On IBM Z, OpenJDK V11 with HotSpot contains a JIT compiler sponsored by SAP[®]

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- Network performance is *extremely important* for good overall performance of an OpenShift cluster
 - Due to the nature of cloud-native applications
- There are some easy-to-implement *tuning recommendations* that will boost network performance
 - Receive Packet Steering, adding one or more static route(s), relocation of network-heavy components
- Before applying any of the changes, please *double-check* your environment for *workload patterns*
 - Transactional vs. streaming workloads
 - Small amount vs. large amount of parallel connections
- Improvements speak for themselves
 - Up to 59% lower latency
 - Up to 2.7x higher throughput



Thank you!

Resources

- Linux on IBM Z and IBM LinuxONE
 - Official homepage: http://www.ibm.com/systems/z/os/linux
 - Documentation: http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/linuxonibm/liaaf/Inz_r_lib.html
 - Tuning hints and tips: http://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/linuxonibm/liaag/tuning/tuning.htm
- Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform Documentation <u>https://docs.openshift.com/container-platform/4.5/welcome/index.html</u>
- Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z Installation Guide <u>http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5605.html</u>
- Relocating OpenShift infrastructure components <u>https://docs.openshift.com/container-platform/4.5/machine_management/creating-infrastructure-machinesets.html</u>
- IBM Java SDK Downloads <u>https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/java-sdk-downloads</u>
- OpenJDK 8 with OpenJ9 on AdoptOpenJDK <u>https://adoptopenjdk.net/releases.html?variant=openjdk8&jvmVariant=openj9</u>