





# 6 years of CERN Cloud

## From 0 to 300k cores

HEPIX - San Diego - 2019

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on behalf of the CERN Cloud Team

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# Outline

- Early Virtualization attempts
- Finding the right Cloud Orchestrator
- CERN OpenStack Cloud
- Some Infrastructure Highlights
- What's next?

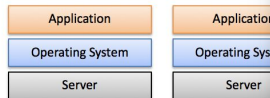
# 2009 - 2011

## Virtualization and Server Consolidation

# Why IaaS at CERN?

## “one server, one application”

- Low Infrastructure Utilization
  - Typically one application per server to avoid affecting the availability of another application
- Increasing Physical Infrastructure Costs
  - Power consumption, cooling and facilities costs
- Increasing IT Management Costs
  - Spend disproportionate time and resources on maintenance, and thus require more personnel
- Insufficient Failover and Disaster Protection
  - The threat of security attacks, natural disasters, and the importance of business continuity



## Public Procurement Purchase Model

Step	Time (Days)	Elapsed (Days)
User expresses requirement		0
Market Survey prepared	15	15
Market Survey for possible vendors	30	45
Specifications prepared	15	60
Vendor responses	30	90
Test systems evaluated	30	120
Offers adjudicated	10	130
Finance committee	30	160
Hardware delivered	90	250
Burn in and acceptance	30 days typical 380 worst case	280
<b>Total</b>		<b>280+ Days</b>

How can we address these challenges



Virtualization  
Cloud Computing

# LxCloud - Virtualize Batch Infrastructure

**PES** LxCloud – advantages... CERN IT Department

- The usual cloud advantages:
- Maintenance
  - Decoupling from the underlying hardware
  - Easy migration between OS / configurations
- Dynamic Environment
  - The composition of compute nodes can be rapidly adapted to optimize resources utilization
- Encapsulation
  - Virtual environment

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**PES** What is LxCloud? CERN IT Department

- LxCloud architecture:

The diagram illustrates the LxCloud architecture. At the top is the **Data Center Management System**, which includes Configuration Management, Network Management, and Monitoring. It connects to a **Local/Remote or Grid user** cloud. Below this is the **Virtual Machine Provisioning System**, which handles Configuration, Licensing, Policy, and Scheduling. This system interacts with an **Image Repository** (containing **Golden Nodes** and **Image Cache**) and **Cloud resources**. The provisioning system feeds into **Physical Resources**, which include **Image transfer Mechanism**, **Hypervisor Libraries**, and **Cloud instances**.

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CERN - IT - PES - PS

**Platform ISF** CERN IT Department

- Platform Computing;
  - Commercial license;
- Supported hypervisors: XEN, KVM, ESXi;
- Strong coupling with LSF (with Adaptive Cluster);
- Needs VMO agent in each computer node;
- Professional support;

- Scalability tests:
  - About 10000 VMs in about 500 computer servers;
- In production since December 2010 for lxbatch;
  - 6 Computer Servers running KVM;
  - 48 VMs;

**OpenNebula** CERN IT Department

- Open source
  - Apache license;
- Supported hypervisors: KVM, XEN, ESXi;
- Small installation footprint;
- Only requires installation of the cloud controller;
- Professional and community support;

- Scalability tests:
  - About 16000 VMs in about 500 computer servers;
- In production since December 2010 for lxbatch;
  - 6 Computer Servers running KVM;
  - 48 VMs;

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# CVI - CERN Virtual Infrastructure

**OIS** Reminder: what is CVI? CERN IT Department

- The CERN Virtual Infrastructure custom virtual machines in the CERN computer center
  - These VMs have a long-term lifetime of months/years
- User kiosk for requesting a VM in less than **30 mins**
- Based on Microsoft's System Center Virtual Machine Manager
  - Enterprise class centralized
  - Rich feature set:
    - Allows grouping of hypervisors administrative privileges
    - VM migration, High availability
    - **Checkpointing**
    - PowerShell Snap-In for admin


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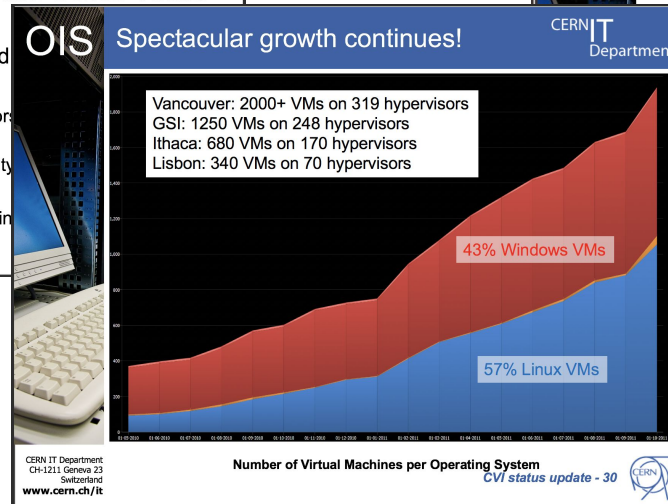
**OIS** Updates since Spring 2011 CERN IT Department

- CVI 2.0 running stably
- Integration Components for RHEL6/SLC6
  - Released by Microsoft in July
  - Working fine
  - Much improved packaging wrt RHEL5
    - Provided as RPMs
    - Source code is snapshot of upstream kernel drivers
      - Still in staging area ☹

Service grows by ~100 VMs per month

- New customers: IPv6 testing, 3D rendering farm

CVI status update - 29 



2011 - 2013

Cloud Prototype




# Agile Infrastructure Project

Year	What	Actions
2011		Agree overall principles
2012		Prepare formal project plan Establish IaaS in CERN CC Production Agile Infrastructure Monitoring Implementation as per WG Migrate Ixcloud Early adopters to Agile Infrastructure
2013	LSD 1 New Data Centre	Extend IaaS to remote CC Business Continuity Support Experiment App re-work Migrate CVI General migration to Agile with SLC6 and Windows 8
2014	LSD 1 (to November)	Phase out Quattor/CDB/...

# OpenStack at CERN - Early days

- Released on October 2010
- Created by Nasa and Rackspace
- Austin release (Nova, Swift)
- OpenSource (Apache 2.0)

**What is OpenStack?** CERN IT Department




OpenStack is a collection of open source technology projects that provides an operating platform for orchestrating clouds in a massively scale.

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**OpenStack history** CERN IT Department


- March 2010
  - Rackspace open source their cloud software;
- May 2010
  - NASA open source the Nebula software;
- June 2010
  - OpenStack formed;
- October 2010
  - “austin” release;
- February 2011
  - “bexar” release;



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**OpenStack industry support** CERN IT Department

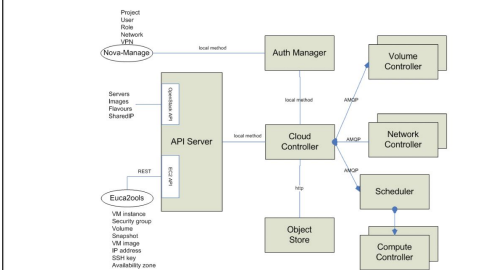
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**OpenStack compute – “nova”** CERN IT Department

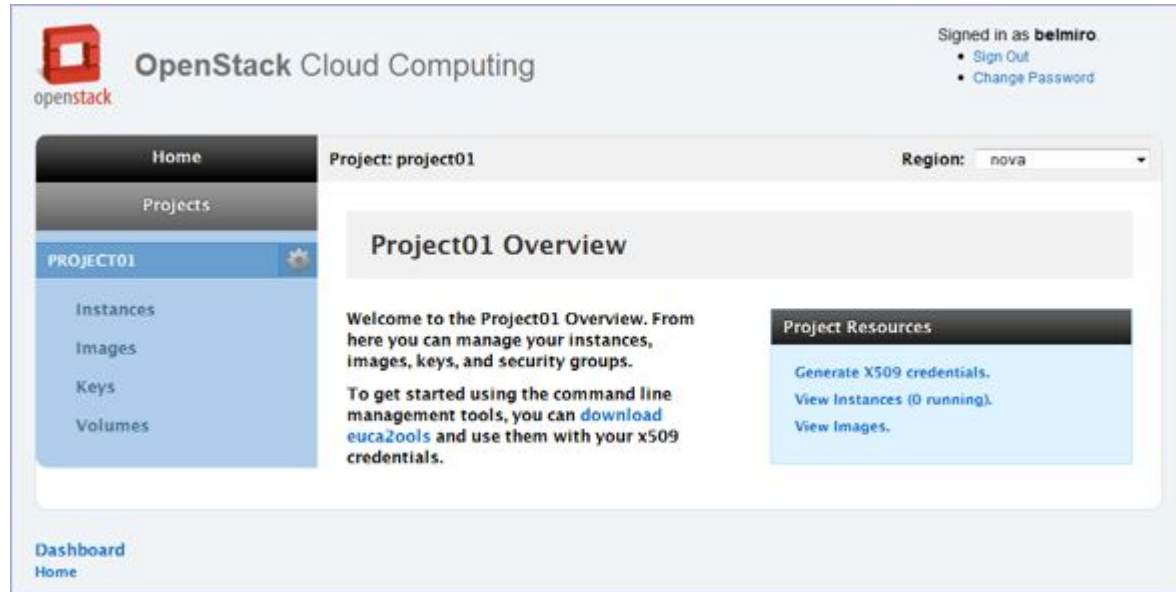
- Main components interactions:



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# OpenStack at CERN - Early days

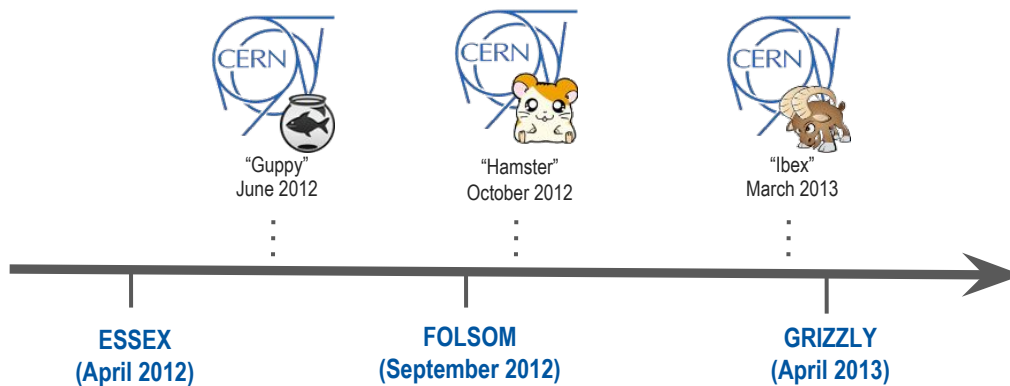
- First version of OpenStack Horizon



The screenshot displays the OpenStack Cloud Computing dashboard. At the top left is the OpenStack logo and the text "OpenStack Cloud Computing". At the top right, it indicates the user is signed in as "belmiro" with links for "Sign Out" and "Change Password". A navigation sidebar on the left includes "Home", "Projects", and "PROJECT01" (which is selected and has a gear icon). Under "PROJECT01", there are links for "Instances", "Images", "Keys", and "Volumes". The main content area is titled "Project01 Overview" and contains a welcome message: "Welcome to the Project01 Overview. From here you can manage your instances, images, keys, and security groups." Below this, it says: "To get started using the command line management tools, you can [download euca2ools](#) and use them with your x509 credentials." On the right side of the main area, there is a "Project Resources" section with links: "Generate X509 credentials.", "View Instances (0 running).", and "View Images." At the bottom left, there are links for "Dashboard" and "Home". A "Region" dropdown menu is set to "nova" and the "Project" is "project01".

# Prototyping CERN OpenStack Cloud

- Iterate Fast...
  - Build test infrastructures and open them to early adopters
  - Few hundred nodes available
  - 2 different virtualization technologies (KVM, Hyper-V)
  - Integration with other Agile Infrastructure projects (puppet, monitoring, ...)



# 2013 - 2019

From 0 to +300k cores

# CERN OpenStack Cloud - 2013

## OpenStack at CERN - grizzly release

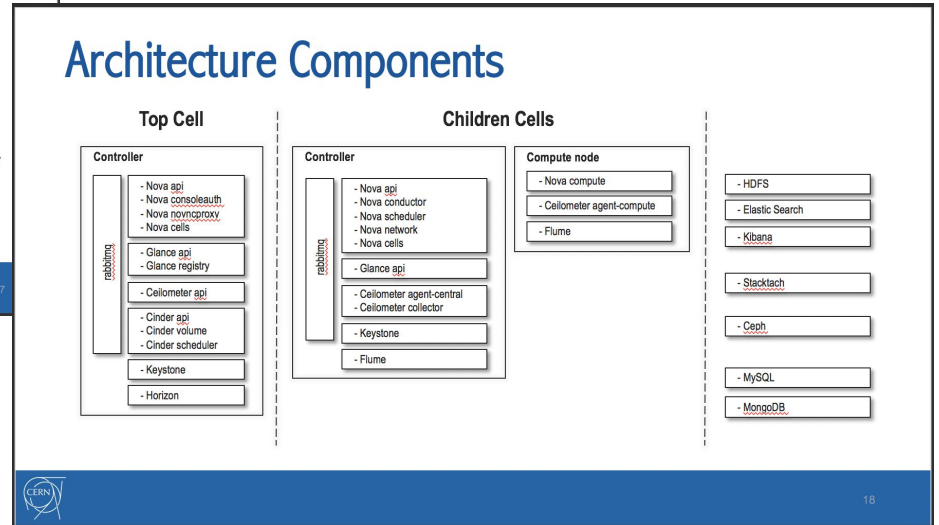
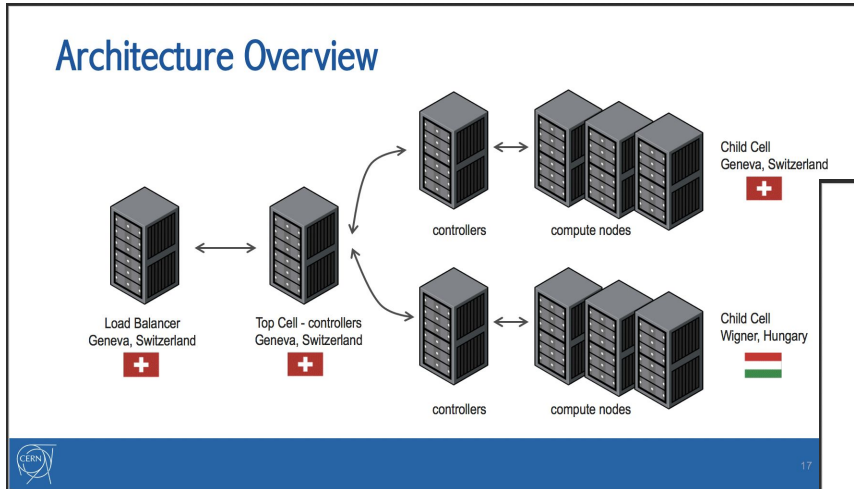
- +2 Cells – Geneva and Wigner Computer Centers
- HA+1 architecture
- Ceilometer deployed
- Integrated with CERN accounts and network
- Monitoring OpenStack components status
- Glance - Ceph backend
- Cinder tests - Ceph backend

## Infrastructure Overview

- HAProxy as load balancer
- Master and Compute nodes
  - 3+ Master nodes per Cell
  - O(1000) Compute nodes per Cell (KVM and HyperV)
  - 3 availability zones per Cell
- Rabbitmq
  - At least 3 brokers per Cell
  - Rabbitmq cluster with mirrored queues



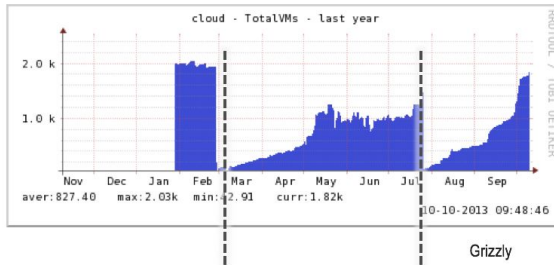
# CERN OpenStack Cloud - 2013



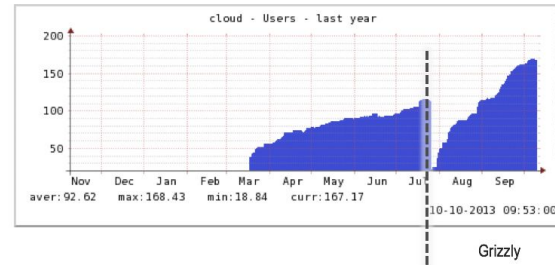
# CERN OpenStack Cloud - 2013

## CERN Cloud Infrastructure adoption

Number of VMs



Number of Users

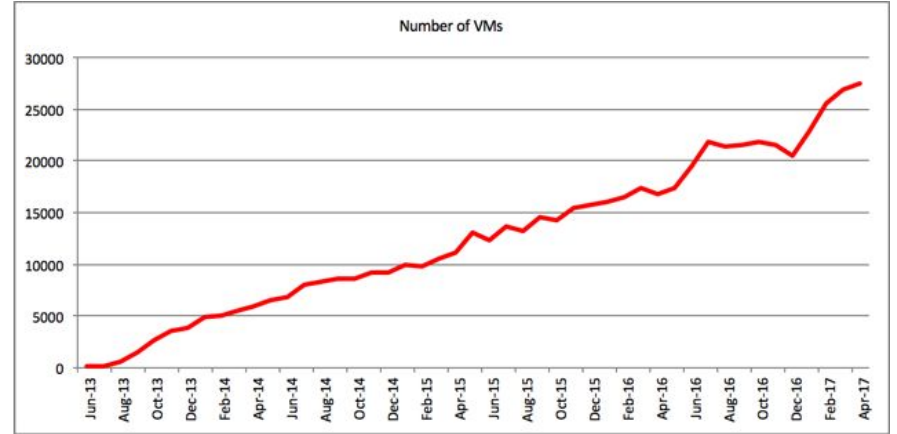
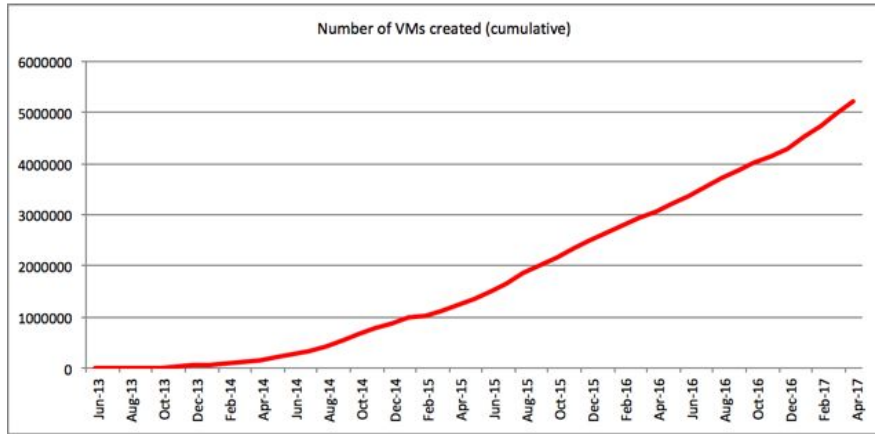


Cell	Nodes	Cores	RAM (GB)	Disk (TB)	VMs
Geneva	375	10976	21662	632	1438
Wigner	291	9312	18296	491	674
Total	666	20288	39958	1123	2112

(13/10/2013)

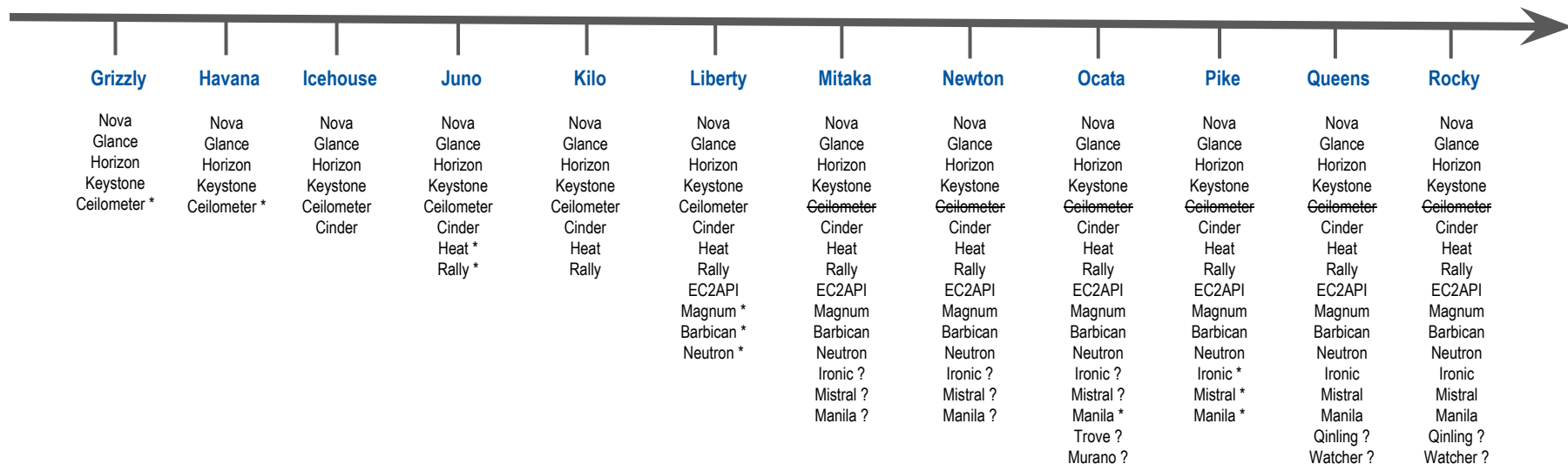


# CERN OpenStack Cloud - Growth



# CERN OpenStack Cloud - Growth

- OpenStack projects available in the CERN Cloud over releases



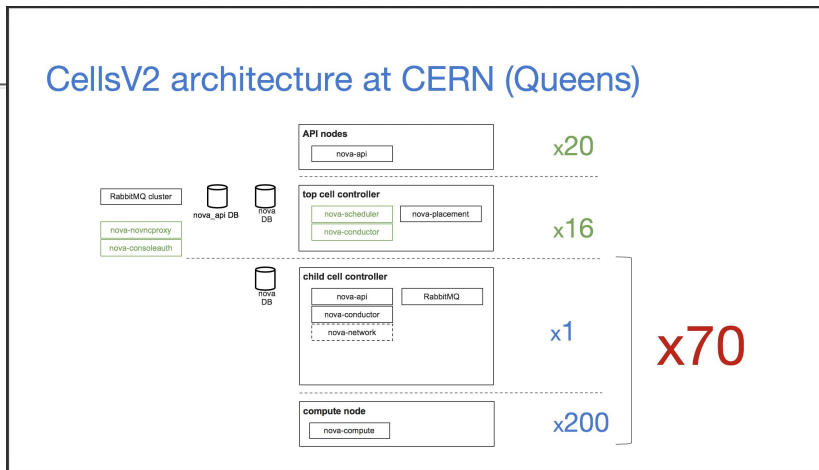
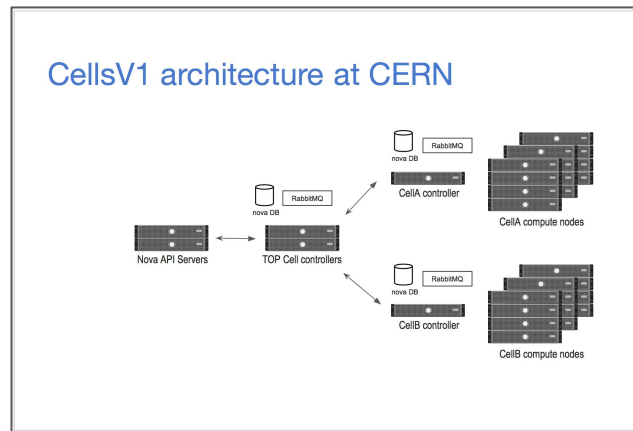
\* - Pilot service

? - Trial service

# Milestone Highlights

# Nova - Cells

- Allows Nova to scale to thousands of compute nodes
- Biggest Nova Cells deployment
- Moved from 2 cells to +70 cells
- Upgrade from CellsV1 to CellsV2 in 2018



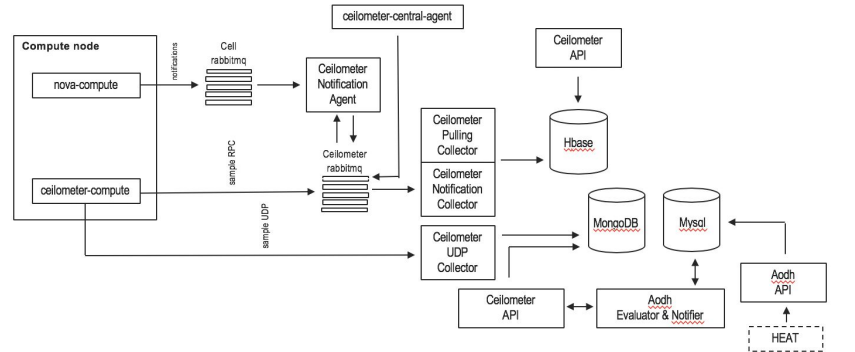
# Ceilometer - The Rise & Fall

- OpenStack Ceilometer deployed
- Removed after run it for 3 years. Not scalable and difficult to retrieve data

## Ceilometer

- Users are not directly billed
  - Metering needed to adjust Project quotas
- mongoDB backend – sharded and replicated
- Collector, Central-Agent
  - Running on “children” Cells controllers
- Compute-Agent
  - Uses nova-api running on “children” Cells controllers

## Ceilometer Deployment at CERN



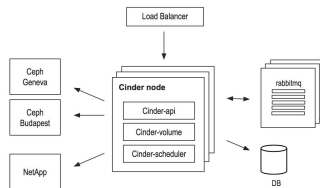
# Storage - Cinder, Manila, S3

- OpenStack Cinder with Ceph backend (2014)
  - Several volume types available
- OpenStack Manila (Fileshare service). Backed by CephFS (2017)
- S3 available (end 2018)

## Cinder

- Ceph and NetApp backends
- Extended list of available volume types (QoS, Backend, Location)
- Cinder nodes are VMs
- Active/Active?
  - When a volume is created a "cinder-volume" node is associated
    - Responsible for volume operations
  - Not easy to replace cinder controller nodes
    - DB entries need to be changed manually
- More about CERN storage infrastructure for OpenStack:
  - <https://www.openstack.org/summit/vancouver-2015/summit-videos/presentation/ceph-life-of-a-petabyte-scale-block-storage-service>

## Cinder Deployment at CERN



## Manila

- Fileshare service Manila
- Pilot since Q4 2016
- CephFS as the backend
- Off-the-shelf integration with Kubernetes, Swarm...
- Need for a highly available FS ( to replace NFS filer service)
- Collaboration with FILER service
- Share configuration, certificates, etc




# Container Orchestration - Magnum

- OpenStack Magnum service available since 2016
- Extremely popular service, +500 clusters


## What's new? Magnum

- OpenStack project to treat orchestration engines as 1<sup>st</sup> class resources
  - Docker Swarm, Kubernetes, [Mesos](#) and DC/OS
- Current release is in Newton (with cherry-pick from master)
- Timeline



The timeline shows the following milestones:

- 11/2015: Container investigations
- 02/2016: Magnum tests
- 02/2016: Pilot service
- Upstream development
- Mesos support
- 10/2016: Production service

 HEPiX Spring 2017 – CERN Cloud Service Update


## Containers

Container service (magnum):

- Support many versions of kubernetes (1.9.x and 1.10.x in prod)
- Simplify user interface
- Support for traefik ingress
- RBAC for kubernetes, possible to federate with external clusters

Use cases:

- REANA/RECAST for reusable analysis
- Continuous Integration
- Spark on Kubernetes
- Interactive analysis

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## Container improvements

Lifecycle operations on container clusters:

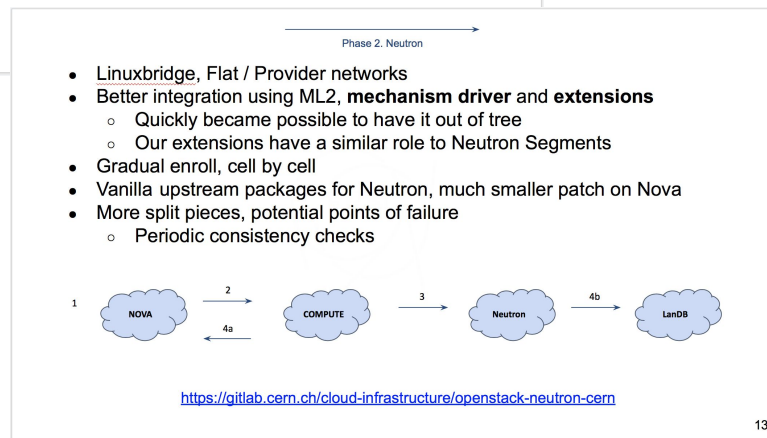
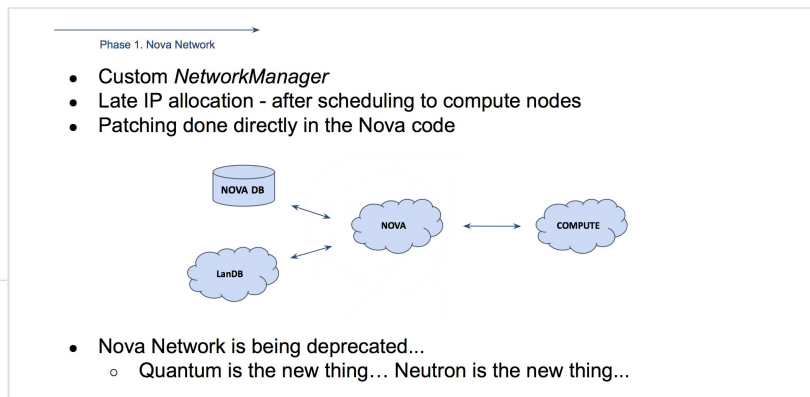
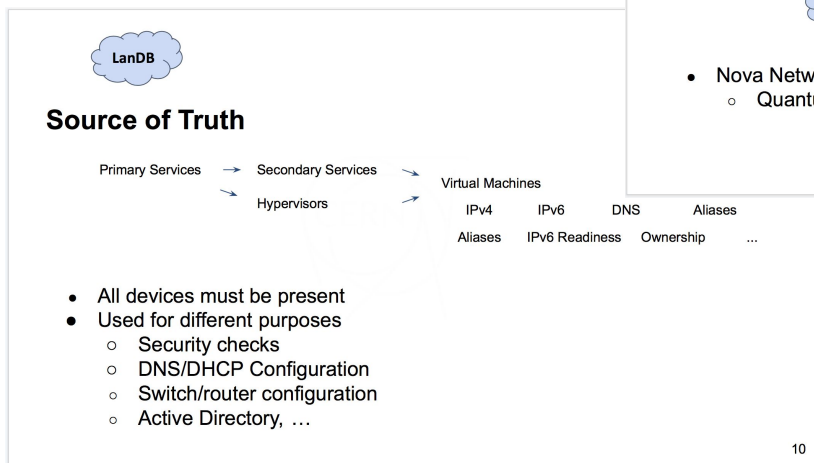
- Host upgrades, OS and container orchestrator
- auto-healing of faulty nodes

Storage and containers:

- csi-cephfs integration, users will be able to create and mount cephfs volumes to kubernetes pods (create only with admin creds)
- manila provisioner, end users will:
  - create shares with cephfs as backend
  - mount them to pods with csi-cephfs

 HEPiX Spring 2018 – CERN Cloud Service Update 18

# Networking - Nova-network to Neutron





# Baremetal Provisioning - Ironic

- In production since 2018
- All new hardware is enrolled using Ironic. +1700 nodes managed by Ironic
- Existing hardware will be enrolled into Ironic during 2019

## Why Bare-Metal Provisioning? (1)

- VMs not suitable for 100% of our use cases
  - Benchmarking, storage nodes, boot strapping, critical network equipment, specialised network setups, HPC clusters, ...
- Complete our service offerings
  - Physical nodes (in addition to VMs and containers)
  - OpenStack UI as the single pane of glass
- Simplify hardware provisioning workflows
  - For users: `openstack server create/delete`
  - For procurement: initial on-boarding, server re-assignments



## Why Bare-Metal Provisioning? (2)

- Consolidate accounting & bookkeeping
  - Resource accounting input will come from less sources
  - Machine re-assignments will be easier to track
- Enable new use cases
  - Containers on bare metal

Doesn't change the overall policy ☺  
The reasons why we introduced virtual machines have not gone away!




# Meltdown/Spectre/L1TF

- Reboot campaigns and performance impact


## Patching the Cloud

- Upgrade/reboot of hypervisors *and* virtual machines required
  - ◆ ~8'500 hypervisors, ~36'000 virtual machines
- Patching of non-batch hypervisors (a.k.a. shared/service cells)
  - ◆ ~1'400 hosts, ~18'000 guests (⇒ your personal and service VMs)
  - ◆ Hypervisor reboots will be staged by [availability zone](#)
  - ◆ Your VMs will be rebooted during the hypervisor patching campaign!
- Given the severity of the vulnerability and the size of the cloud deployment, there won't be much room for schedule discussions
- Schedule and updates will be available from the [Cloud SSB entry](#)




Arne Wiebalck: Spectre/Meltdown - Impact on CERN Cloud Users (ASDF, 11 Jan 2018) 3


## Patching the Cloud: Service Hypervisors

- All availability zones have been rebooted!  
(~1'100 hypervisors with ~11'500 virtual machines) 
- ◆ 'cern-geneva-a'
- ◆ 'cern-geneva-b'
- ◆ 'cern-geneva-c'
- ◆ critical area
- ◆ 'cern-wigner-a'
- ◆ 'cern-wigner-b'

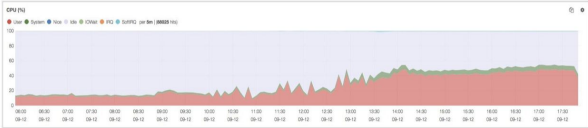
- Wed Sep 12: AVZ 'cern-geneva-a'
- Mon Sep 17: AVZ 'cern-geneva-b'
- Tue Sep 18: AVZ 'cern-geneva-c'
- Wed Sep 19: AVZs 'critical', 'cern-wigner-a,b'

- Batch not affected this time
  - ◆ Trusted VMs







## Review: Performance Impact



- 'l1tf=full' means unconditional flushing and SMT off
- Performance impact assessed for "HS06-like" workloads
  - ◆ "Impact on services unknown, but we have enough head room."
- Overcommit depends on hardware type
  - ◆ Hypervisors with a lot of RAM severely impacted → "SMT on" again





# Operations - Rundeck and Mistral

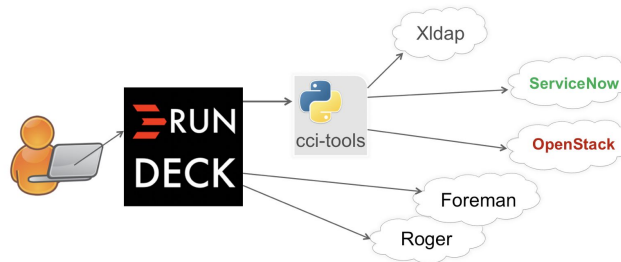
- OpenStack Mistral
- Rundeck

## RUNDECK

- Friendly and easy interface from where we can organize and launch jobs on our hosts
- Sharing of sensitive tasks to other groups without exposing credentials or procedures
- Use Cases
  - **SysAdmins:** Workflows related to hypervisor maintenance (h/w intervention, notify users...)
  - **Cloud-Operations:** Project creation, Health reports, Quota update



## Rundeck Integration



## Mistral

- Workflow service Mistral  **MISTRAL**  
an OpenStack Community Project
- Will simplify operations
- Already deployed with testing workflow prototypes
- Will play along with Rundeck for workflows

# Operations

- Experience growing/managing the Infrastructure during the last 6 years
- Several upgrades during this journey
  - OpenStack release cycle is every 6 months!
  - SLC6 to CC7 upgrade
  - CC7 upgrades
- Supported for few years KVM and HyperV in the same infrastructure
  - Migrated CVI VMs to OpenStack HyperV and then to OpenStack KVM
- Security updates required reboot of all cloud
- Most user management operations are automated
  - project creation; quotas; ...
  - VM expiration

2019 - ...

What's next?

# Splitting the Infrastructure into 2 Regions

<https://techblog.web.cern.ch/techblog/post/region-split/>

## CERN Cloud Infrastructure

- (2013) We decided to offer only one region!
  - Wigner datacentre was exposed to users as 2 AVZs
  - Direct project mapping for the compute use-case
- (2013) Why?
  - At that time was important to offer only one endpoint to users (Still is...)
  - **It's more simple to manage one small cloud than 2 small clouds**
  - Cells allows to scale Nova to thousand of nodes
  - No real advantage in having another region...

## CERN Cloud Infrastructure

- What changed?
  - **It's more simple to manage two small clouds than 1 large cloud**
    - Deploy a new configuration change
    - Upgrades
    - High impact/visibility when something goes wrong
  - Nova-network -> Quantum -> Neutron
    - Neutron is not Nova cell aware
    - Neutron relies in a single RabbitMQ cluster
    - Challenge to scale!
  - Use cases are now very well defined
    - Compute VS services

# Preemptible Instances

- Public Clouds
  - Based on different pricing/SLA considering resource availability
  - Reserved instances vs spot-market
- Private Clouds
  - Quotas are hard limits. Leads to a reduction in resource utilization
  - Preemptible instances
    - Projects that exhausted their quota can continue to create instances
      - Opportunistic workloads
      - Low SLA
- Preemptible Instances Workflow in OpenStack Nova
  - The creation of a non preemptible VM fails because there aren't available resources
  - Instances that fail with "Nova Valid Host", go to "PENDING" state instead of "ERROR"
  - The Reaper service is notified and it tries to free the requested resources
    - Rebuild the instance
    - Or change instance state to "ERROR"

# Other Challenges

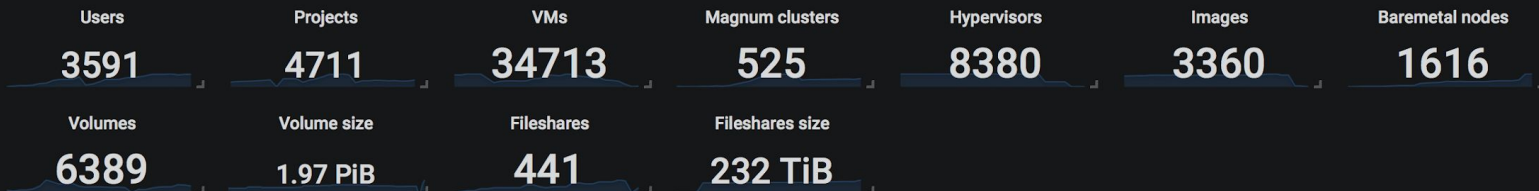
- Leveraging Container Orchestration to deploy OpenStack control plane
- Re-enroll existing physical resources into OpenStack Ironic
- Introduce SDN
- Dynamic resource provisioning based in Compute Nodes load



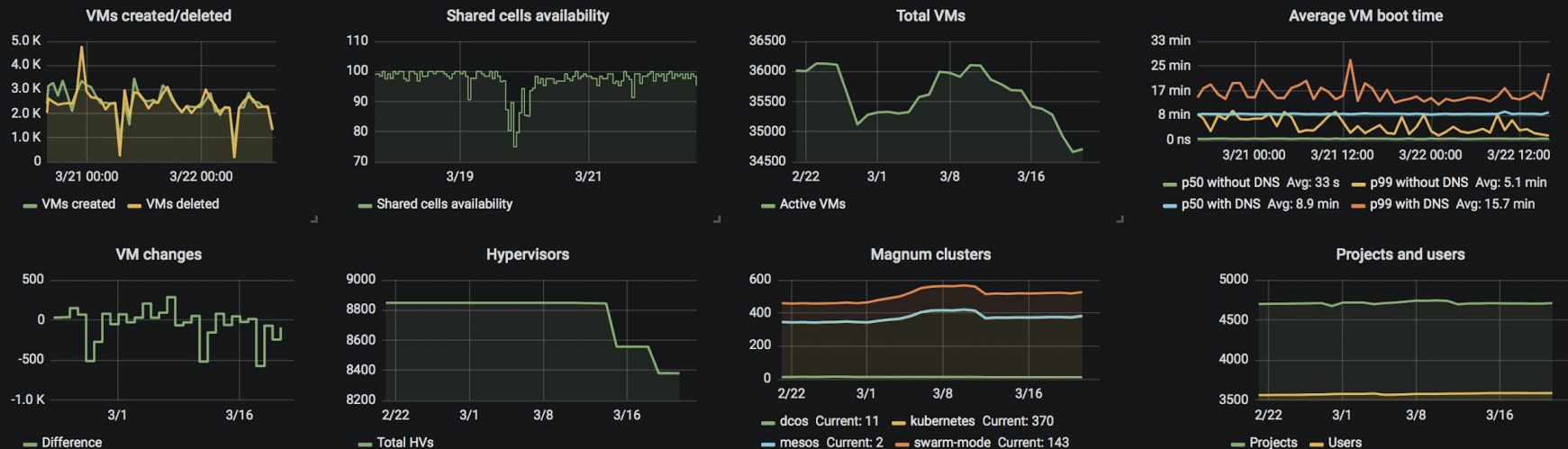
Cloud resources



Openstack services stats



Resource overview by time



# Summary

- During the last 10 years, resource management and deployment model changed completely
  - From Virtualization and Server consolidation to a Cloud Infrastructure
  - From Baremetal to VMs, to managed Baremetal to Containers
- Continue to adapt the Infrastructure to the new technologies and requirements
  - Iterative approach to introduce new services, new functionality
  - Continue to explore new approaches to deploy/manage a large infrastructure
    - Control Plane managed by kubernetes
    - New regions
    - SDN

Is serverless the new model?



<https://openstackdayscern.web.cern.ch>

 @belmiromoreira



[www.cern.ch](http://www.cern.ch)

# Credits

- Used slides from several authors
  - Arne Wiebalck
  - Belmiro Moreira
  - Domenico Giordano
  - Jan Van Eldik
  - Luis Pigueiras
  - Ricardo Rocha
  - Spyridon Trigazis