MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS – 21st CENTURY ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

VU ON SUSTAINABLE DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS

@Large ResearchMassivizing Computer Systems



http://atlarge.science



Radu Nicolae





Dante Niewenhuis





Prof.dr.ir.

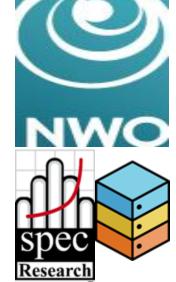
Alexandru losup



This work has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Research and Innovation Actions under Grant Agreement № 101093202 and from the NL 6G FNS Groeifonds-programma.

Lorentz Center, Oct'25











@L USIN 2 MINUTES

WE'RE MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEVS!

http://atlarge.science







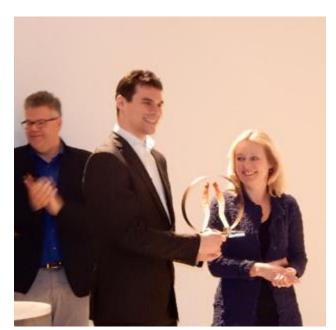


WE ARE A FRIENDLY, DIVERSE, LARGE GROUP, OF DIFFERENT VIEWS OF CULTURE, POLITICS, AND RELIGION. YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!

WHO AM I? PROF. DR. IR. CAV. ALEXANDRU IOSUP

- Education, my courses:
 - > Honours Programme, Computer Org. (BSc)
 - > Distributed Systems (MSc)
- Research, 15+ years in DistribSys:
 - > Massivizing Computer Systems (ecosystems)
 - > Chair NL IPN SIG Future Computer Systems and Networking
 - > Chair SPEC RG Cloud Group
- About me:
 - > I like to help... I train people in need
 - > VU University Research Chair + Group Chair
 - > NL ICT Researcher of the Year
 - > NL Higher-Education Teacher of the Year
 - > NL Young Royal Academy of Arts & Sciences
 - > Knighted in 2020









Massivizing Computer Systems

Research Group Bio

https://atlarge-research.com



Alexandru **IOSUP**









NETWORK

SERVICES

Matthijs **Daniele** Jesse Tiziano DE MATTEIS BONETTA DONKERVLIET **JANSEN**

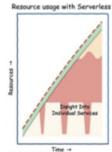
MASSIVIZER

Group Bio: CompSys | <u>Massivizing Computer Systems</u> group | National/EU projects, incl. NL Groeifondsprogramma 6G Future Network Services (€315M, 7 years), NL NWO OffSense, EU Horizon Graph-Massivizer (€5M), EU MCSA-RISE CLOUDSTARS

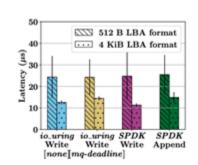
Serverless ± virtualized cloud environments: RM&S for workflow and serverless ops, back-end services, big data and graphs, aggregate and disaggregate resources, VM/contrainerization and JIT compiling, performance, availability, energy. Understand and experiment / analyze / benchmark ecosystems, design new parts, improve existing parts, share FAIR tools + Memex-like data.

Digital Twin: ICT infrastructure/datacenter simulation, Operational Data Analytics, DC cockpit, VR/XR ops.

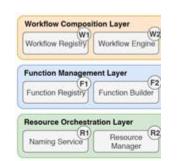
Relevant prior work (selection of tools and activities):

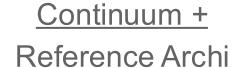


Serverless OpenDC simulator history + vision



K8s/Storage benchmark









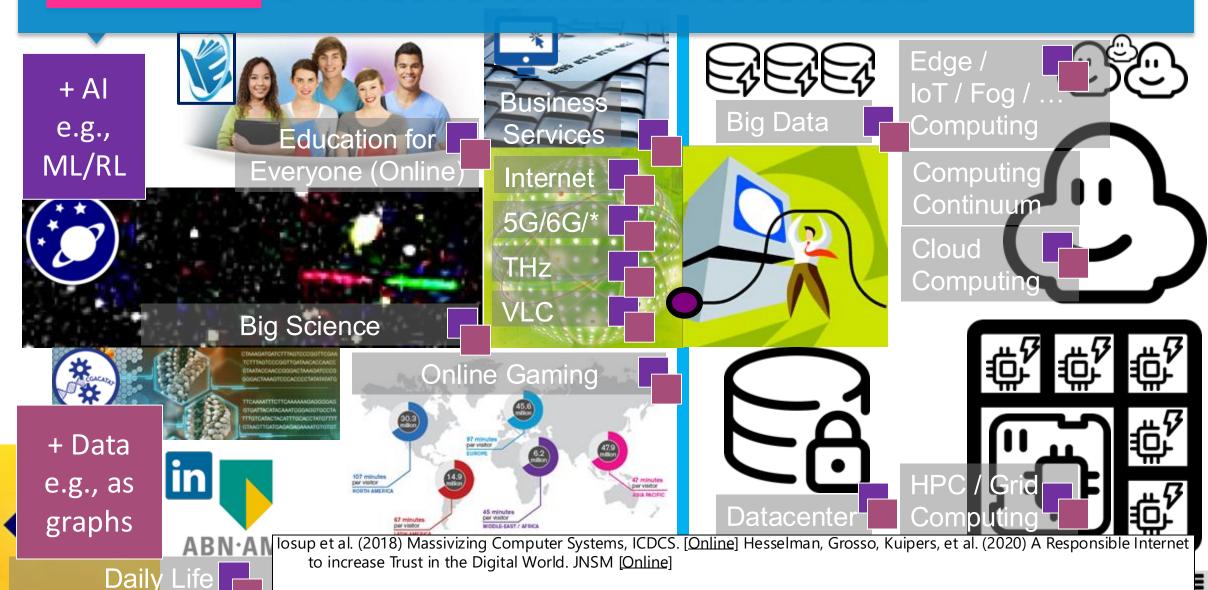
Benchmark Cloud Group

chair

Contact: info@atlarge-research.com

THISISIHE GOLDENAGE OF COMPUTER 1 ECOSYSTEMS

GENERALITY OF MASSIVE COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS





Message 1 This is the Golden Age of Distributed Ecosystems

BUTWE CANNOT TAKE the SUSTAINABILITY of this TECHNOLOGY

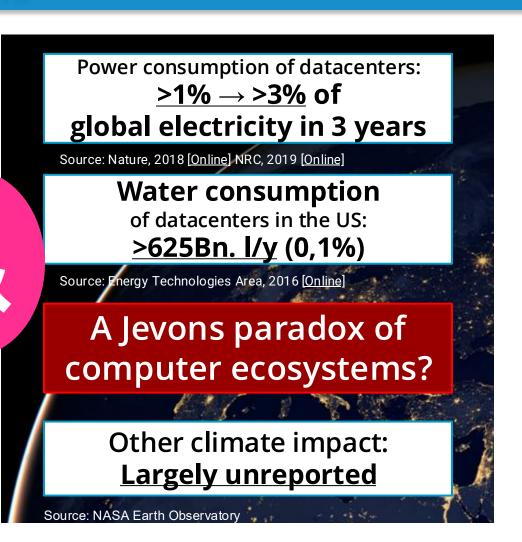
FOR GRANTED

(We need science to tackle the issues)

ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY OF MASSIVE COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS



Sources: Iosup et al., Massivizing Computer Systems, ICDCS 2018 [Online] / Dutch Data Center Association, 2020 [Online] / Growth: NL Gov't, Flexera, Binx 2020. Gartner 2019. IA 2017.



SUSTAINABILITY MUST ADDRESS COMPLEXITY GROWTH

COMPLEX, DISTRIBUTED ECOSYSTEMS DO NOT ACT LIKE REGULAR COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Ecosystems don't have easily...

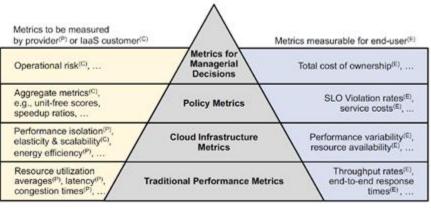
- Simplicity
- Maintainability
- Responsibility
- Sustainability
- Usability

which includes:

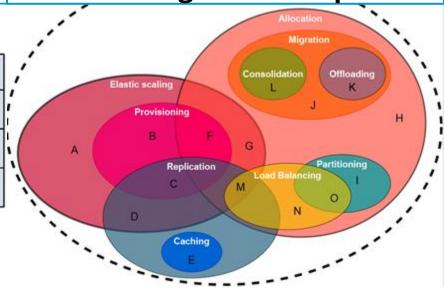
- Synchronization
- Consistency, consensus
- Performance
- Scalability, elasticity
- Availability, reliability
- Energy-efficiency

Iosup, Kuipers, Trivedi, et al. (2022)
<u>Future Computer Systems and Networking Research in the Netherlands: A Manifesto. CORR</u>

Operational goals are becoming more complex



Operational techniques are becoming more complex



N. Herbst, E. Van Eyk, A. Iosup, et al. (2018) Quantifying Cloud Performance and Dependability: Taxonomy, Metric Design, and Emerging Challenges. TOMPECS 3(4). Stijn Meijerink, Erwin van Eyk, Alexandru Iosup (2021) Multivocal Survey of Operational Techniques for Serverless Computing. White Paper.

SUSTAINABILITY vs. OPERATIONAL PHENOMENONA





Talluri et al. (2021) Empirical Characterization of User Reports about Cloud Failures. ACSOS. Best Artifact Award,

GRAPH DATA EVERYWHERE, UNPRECEDENTED SCALE



NEED TO MASSIVIZE GRAPH PROCESSING



Social / gaming network

~1 billion vertices ~100 billion connections Web graph

~50 billion pages

~1 trillion hyperlinks

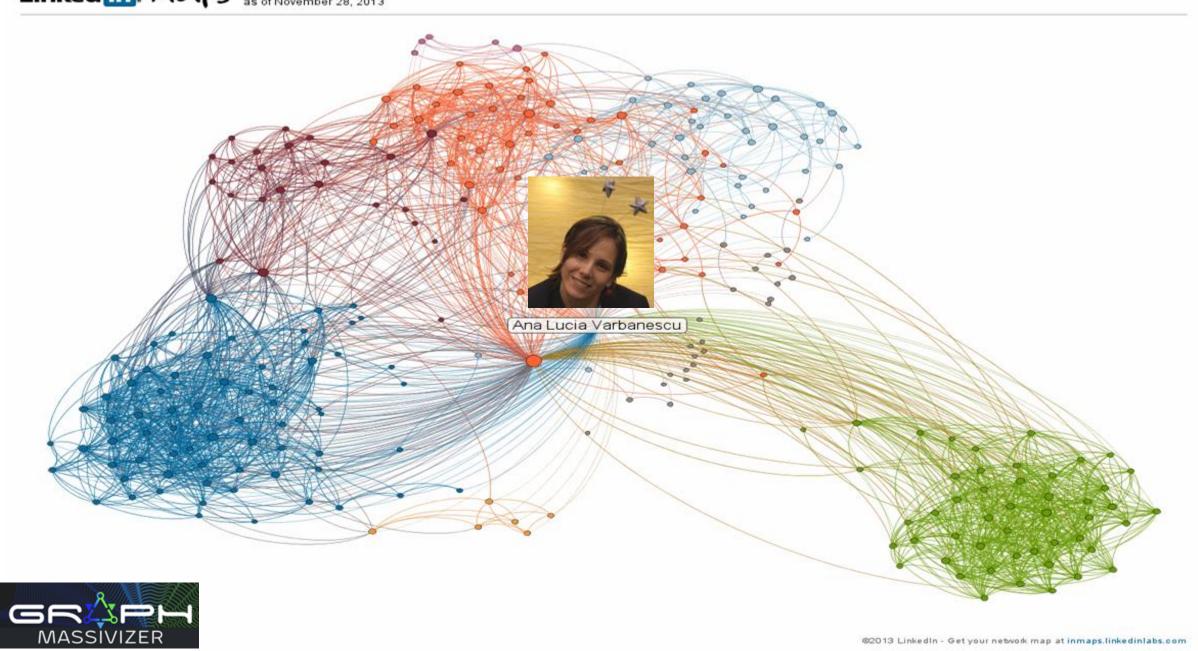


Brain network

~100 billion neurons

~100 trillion connections





PHENOMENON: PERFORMANCE IN CLOUD SERVICES

TECHNICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF APPS USING MASIVE COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS

What do you think will happen with LLMs and other generative Als?

Sorry, but your network is too large to be computed, we are working to increase the limit, stay tuned!

Feature discontinued!





Message 2 Much to discover and do until technology ready

OVER-ARCHING GOAL: WE'RE BUILDING 21st CENTURY ICT INFRASTRUCTURE





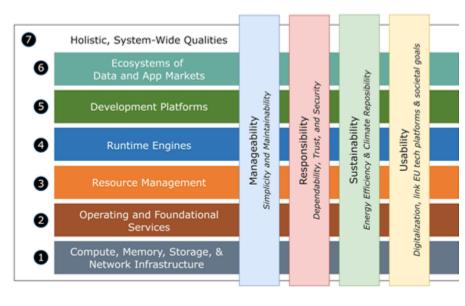
SIG FCSN + Manifesto on

Computer Systems and Networking Research Clear vision for the field in the NL, 2021-2035



Signed
50 Pls / Leads
07 universities
05 relevant societal
stakeholders





Available

Full version https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.03259
Who's Who in CompSysNL? https://bit.ly/CompSysNLWhosWho

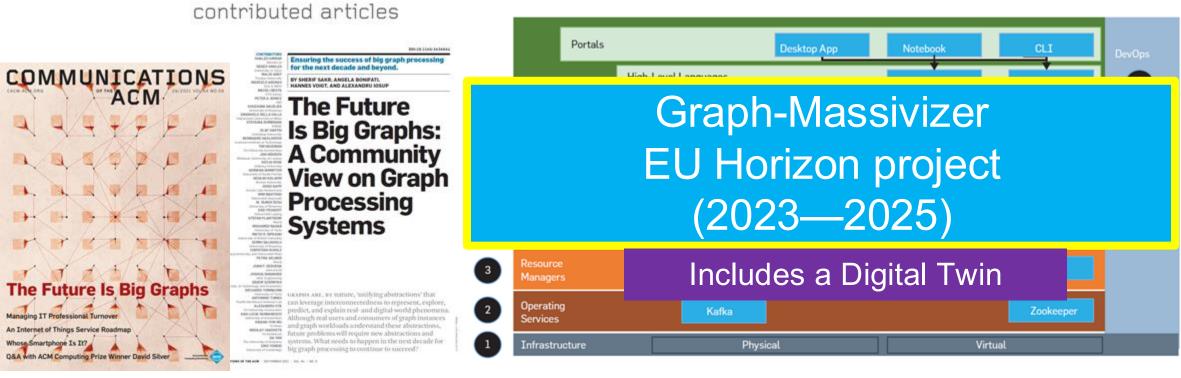


ONE PROJECT TO MENTION...



Big Graph Processing: Used in Al/ML FinTech ICT Infra., Industry 4.0, Energy Mgmt.*, etc.

Vision: Massivizing computer systems approaches are key to enable big graph ecosystems



CACM Cover/Featured article, Sep 2021

(*) Digital twin for datacenters, with partners including CINECA



6G FUTURE NETWORK SERVICES

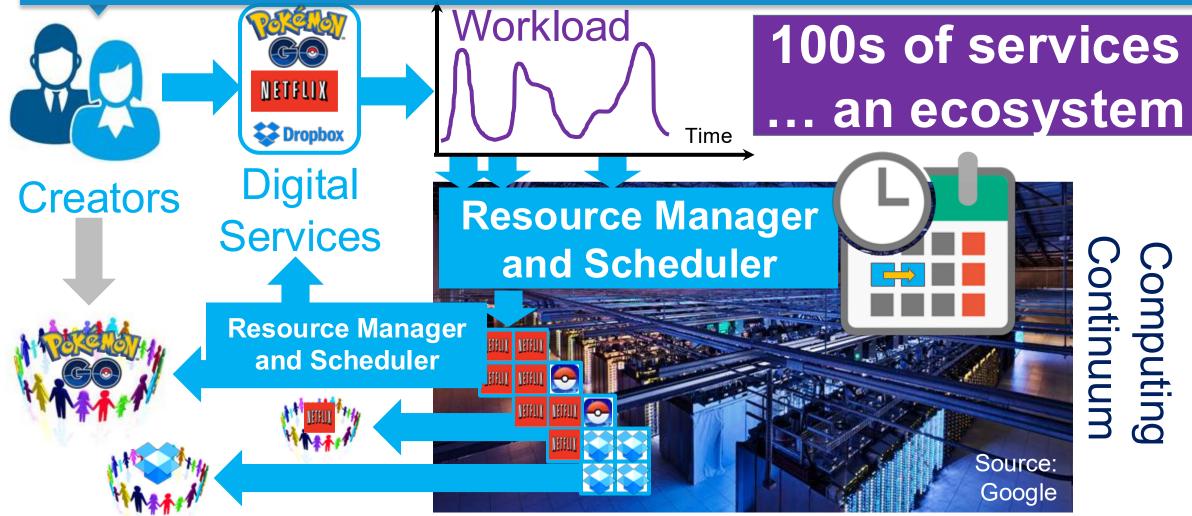




A new science, of complex, smart computer ecosystems, ensuring operational simplicity for the <u>user</u>. (From here on, it's all details.)

4

ECOSYSTEM = SERVICES + COMPUTING + SMARTS + GOALS



AN ANALOGY: MASSIVIZING CLIMATE SCIENCE

TAKE A HOLISTIC VIEW, BASED ON COUPLED NATURAL SYSTEMS



* In climate science, issues are often linked.

The same occurs in massive computer (eco)systems.

Today: Five Ideas, Building toward a Program where Sustainability Is a First-Class Citizen

- 1. How to model the system? A: Reference architectures
- 2. How to automate improvement processes? A: Digital Twins
- 3. Which requirements? A: A pyramid of metrics
- 4. How to manage? A: RM&S frameworks
- 5. How to improve observability? A: ODA + Memex

All toward: An R&D&I program, with 8 pillars, on massivizing computer systems that enables sustainability



Massivizing in 8* "easy" steps...

- (*) Computer scientists often use 8 as their "round" number
- 1. Applications: From single app to workflows, from workflows to development and operation of long-term, interacting pipelines; new techniques and devices to control operation, including VR devices and Metaverses
- 2. Automated deployment and execution for complex applications and services, leveraging resources including accelerators and multi-party services to ensure functional and non-functional properties as needed
- 3. Resource management and scheduling as first-class citizens, able to smartly combine diverse techniques across all operational layers and to improve (optimize) operation across user and operator goals
- 4. In-flight service management, smartly providing desirable operational properties including consistency and provenance, according to dynamic, adjustable, application-driven needs with serverless principles
- 5. Digital Twin on the side, smartly providing clear insights for on-going operations, and trusted and comparative analysis leading to superior short- and long-term decisions
- 6. From mere monitoring to Operational Data Analytics, and from logs to an ICT Infrastructure Memex
- Toward highly desirable (sustainable, performant, scalable, available, efficient, flexible, secure, etc.) combination of ecosystems in the digital continuum and reproducible and comparable
- A coherent view on apps, services, and resources where everything is dynamic, interacting, autonomous, and viable long-term from everything discardable to guarantees, attribution, and sovereignty for the entire 21st century



Idea:



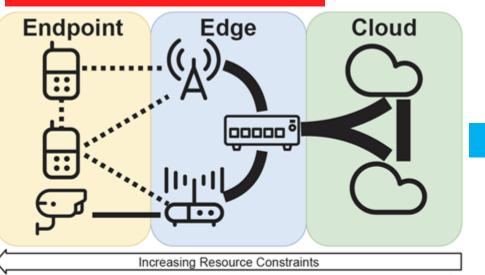
Model the world through reference architectures

38

ALL RUNNING ON CONTINUUM RESOURCES & SERVICES

Consider sustainability across the continuum, not only a single element

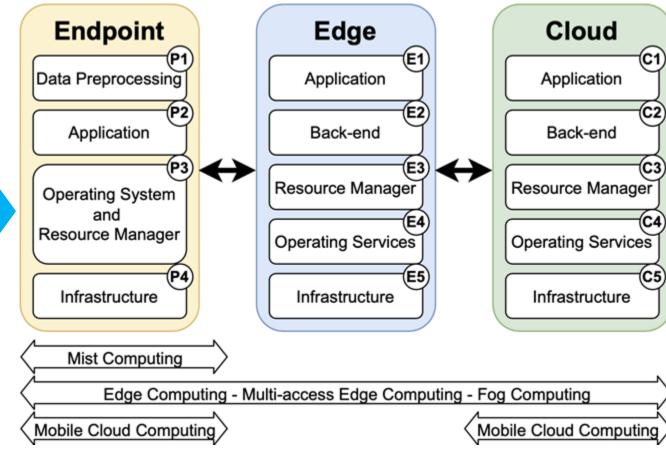
ISSUES: COMPLEXITY, **NON-TECHNICAL**



Increasing Scale, Bandwidth and Communication Latency to Endpoints

Owned by Users Owned by Service Providers

Trivedi, Wang, Bal, Iosup (2021) Sharing and Caring of Data at the Edge. HotEdge.



Jansen, Al-Dulaimy, Papadopoulos, Trivedi, Iosup (2023) The SPEC-RG Reference Architecture for the Edge Continuum. CCGRID. Open access: https://doi.org/10.48550/ARXIV.2207.04159

REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE: FITS AI/ML, BIG DATA, SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING, BUSINESS CRITICAL, ONLINE GAMING, OTHER APPS

CPU

GPU

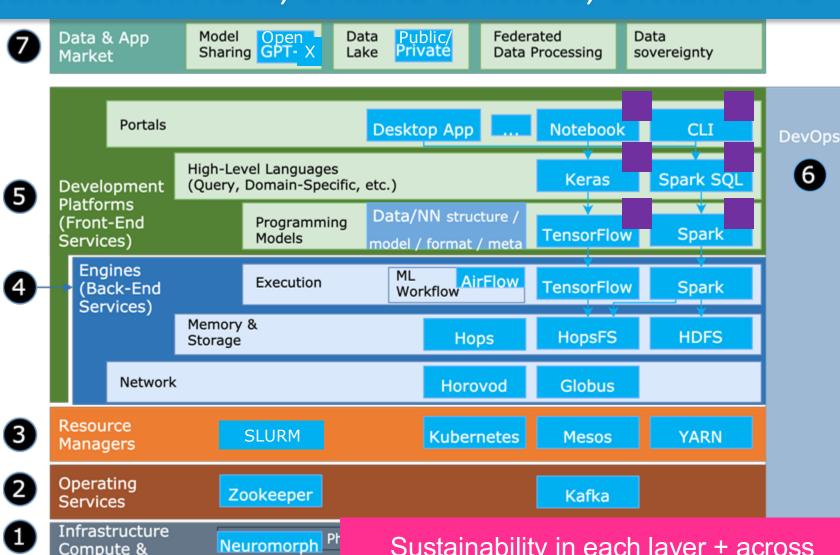
Compute & Storage

ML app is a small part, but now we can do complex workflows

Rest is systems, HW+SW, including HPC

Adapted from:

Sakr, Bonifati, Voigt, Iosup, et al. (2021) The Future Is Big Graphs! CACM.



Sustainability in each layer + across

Continuum

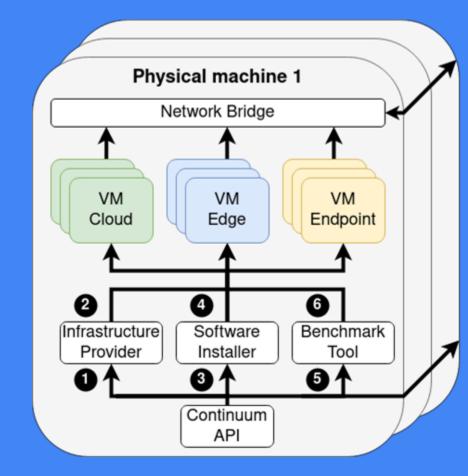


Automate cloud-edge infrastructure deployment and benchmarking in the compute continuum



https://github.com/atlarge-research/ continuum

Can be used to conduct sustainability experiments in each layer + across, and across the continuum



Matthijs Jansen, Linus Wagner, Animesh Trivedi, and Alexandru Iosup (2023) Continuum: Automate Infrastructure Deployment and Benchmarking in the Compute Continuum. ACM/SPEC ICPE Companion.

Matthijs Jansen, Auday Al-Dulaimy, Alessandro V. Papadopoulos, Animesh Trivedi, and Alexandru Iosup (2023) <u>The SPEC-RG Reference Architecture for the Compute Continuum</u>. IEEE/ACM CCGRID.

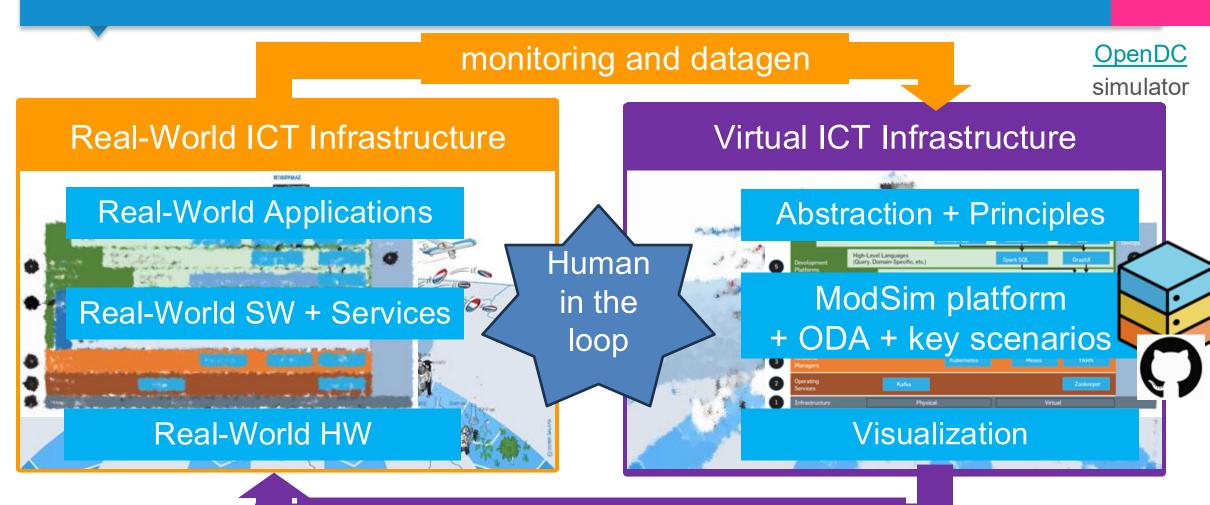
Idea:



Automate processimprovement through Digital Twins

HELPED BY A DIGITAL TWIN FOR ICT INFRASTRUCTURE







goal-oriented steering, RM&S decisions

OpenDC Datacenter Simulation



OpenDC: SIMULATION PLATFORM FOR ICT INFRASTRUCTURE



... SHORT-TERM: X or Y? WHERE TO PUT Z? LONG-TERM: CAN WE AFFORD A? WHAT IF B HAPPENS?

OpenDC¹ is an open source platform for datacenter simulation developed by

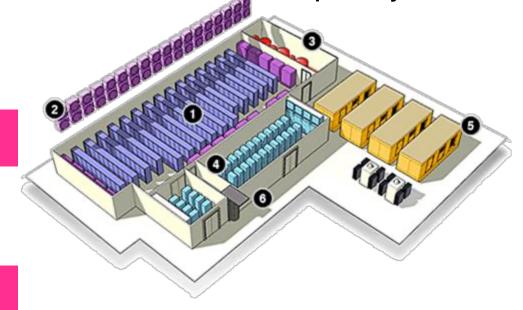
AtLarge Research²

Goals:

Teach about sustainability!

- a. Enable Cloud computing education
- b. Support research into datacenters

Sustainability studies!

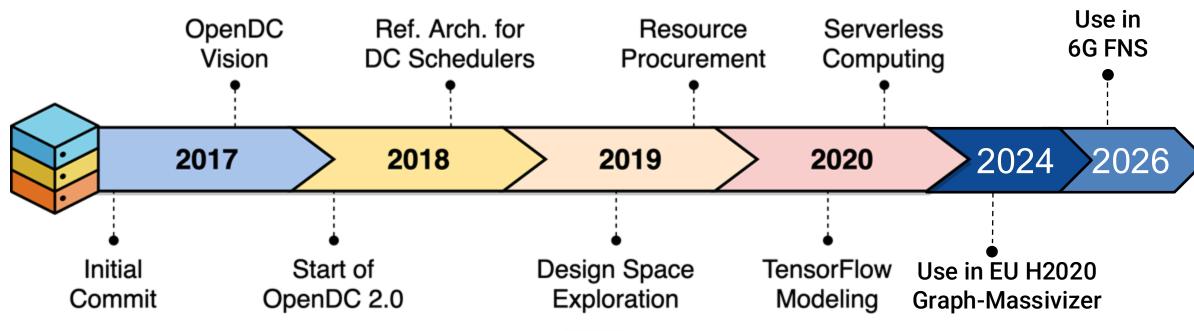




The development of OpenDC



From humble beginnings to large scale projects



https://github.com/atlarge-research/opendc



Learn more: opendc.org





OpenDC Projects



CAPELIN: FAST DATA-DRIVEN DC CAPACITY PLANING

WE SURVEYED AND ANALYZED 89 USE-CASES

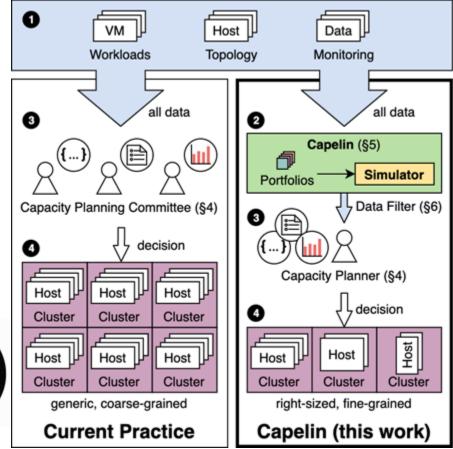
- High-impact problem
- Long-term effects
- Difficult to predict

Our work: Capelin + OpenDC

- Sophisticated approach
- Based on validated simulator
- Work with major NL hoster







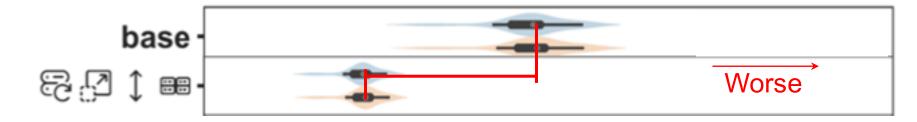
Example: Horizontal vs. Vertical Scaling



CPU Overcomm.

base - 1532 PFLOP
3063 PFLOP
Worse

Power consumption



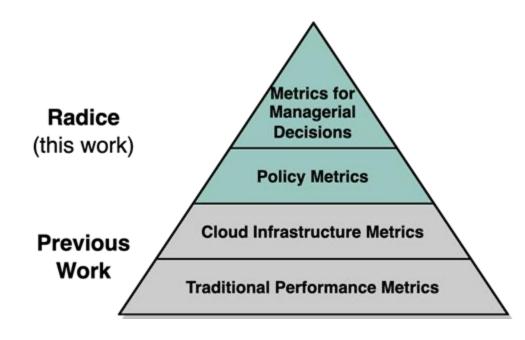
Slides by Georgios Andreadis, with input from Alexandru losup et al. Capelin enables complex **trade-off exploration**, e.g., **power** vs. **performance**





Radice: Data-driven Risk Analysis of Sustainable Cloud Infrastructure using Simulation

- Utilize metrics collected in datacenters
- Risk represented as a portfolio of risk factors
- Risk factors composed of:
 - SLO (Service Level Objective)
 - Compliance Period
 - Cost function
- Three categories: customer-facing risks, company-facing risks, society-facing risks
- Cost expressed as financial impact (e.g., euros)



Slides by Fabian Mastenbroek, with input from Alexandru Iosup et al.





Downscaling to save electricity?



Downscaling results in lower risk amid soaring electricity prices

but

Datacenter operators must compromise between lower topology scale and higher SLA compliance

Google Average Low 40,000 Risk per Month (€) 30,000 20,000 10,000 0.0x 0.5x 3.0x 1.0x 1.5x 2.5x 3.5x 4.0x Topology Scale

Energy Efficiency of Datacenter

Slides by Fabian Mastenbroek, with input from Alexandru losup et al.





50,000

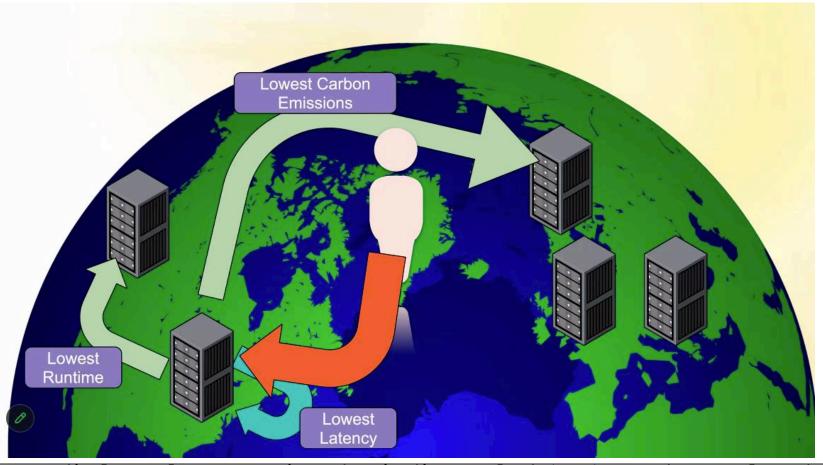
Idea:



Understand requirements through a pyramid of metrics (or: beyond traditional metrics)

4.3

Different Performance Goals for Different Stakeholders Practical Example



Robert Cordingly, Jasleen Kaur, Divyansh Dwivedi, Wes Lloyd (2023) Towards Serverless Sky
Computing: An Investigation on Global Workload Distribution to Mitigate Carbon
Intensity, Network Latency, and Cost. IC2E 2023: 59-69

Slide by Robert Cordingly, presented to SPEC RG Cloud on Oct 31, 2023

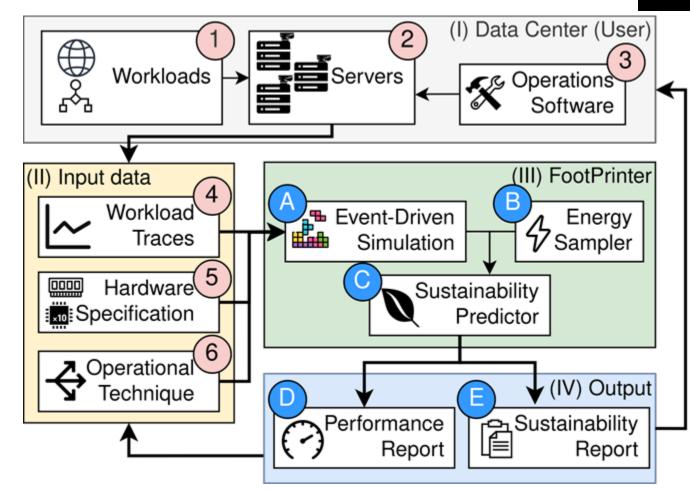
FOOTPRINTER



FootPrinter: Quantifying the Carbon Footprint

- (I) Gather data
- (II) Convert to input data
- (III) Run FootPrinter
- (IV) Analyze performance and

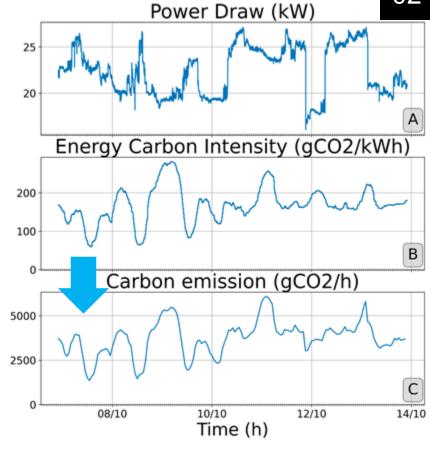
sustainability reports & act



The carbon footprint is determined:

- A. Determine power draw
- B. Collect the carbon intensity (e.g., ENTSO-E)
- C. Calculate carbon emissions

Carbon emission is primarily influenced by carbon intensity

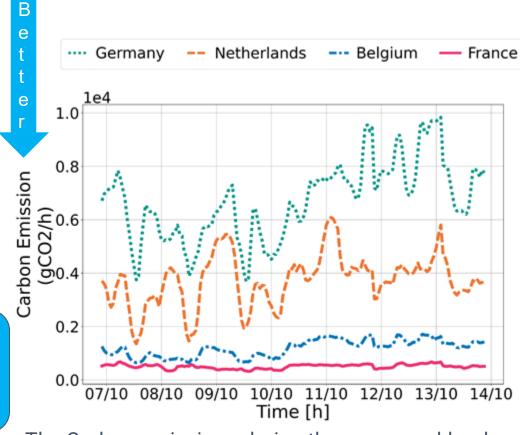


The Carbon emissions of a data center for a specific workload and RM&S policy

Use Case 2: Compare location

- Run the same workload
- Change data center <u>location</u>
- Compare carbon footprint

The location of a data center has significant effect on its carbon footprint

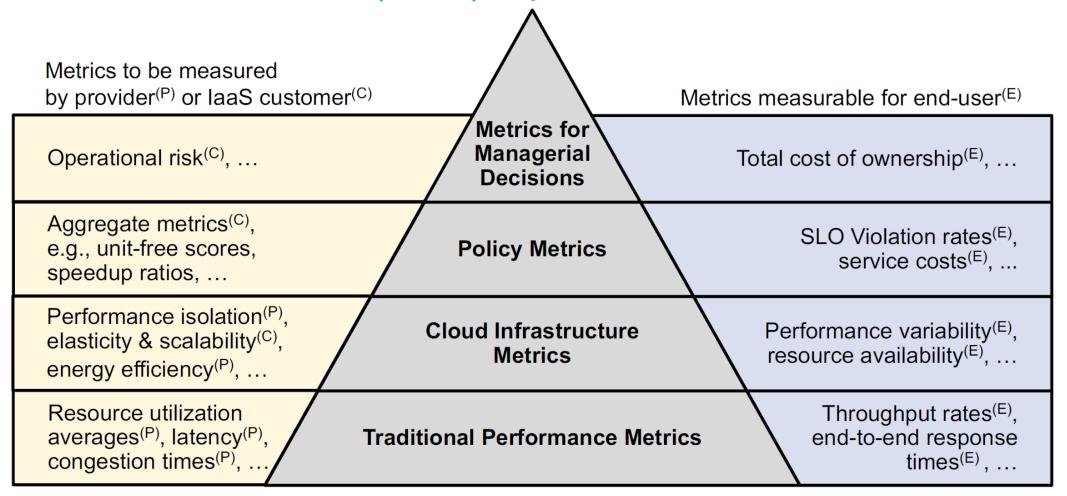


The Carbon emissions during the same workload on different locations





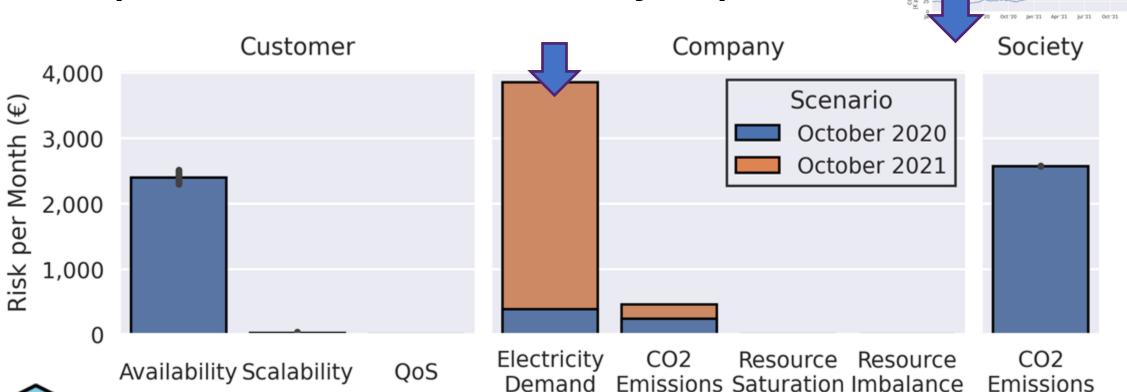
Different Performance Goals for Different Stakeholders A Framework for (New) Operational Metrics





N. Herbst, A. Bauer, S. Kounev, G. Oikonomou, E. Van Eyk, G. Kousiouris, A. Evangelinou, R. Krebs, T. Brecht, C. L. Abad, A. Iosup: Quantifying Cloud Performance and Dependability: Taxonomy, Metric Design, and Emerging Challenges. TOMPECS 3(4): 19:1-19:36 (2018)

Example: Evolution of Electricity Expenses









An unusual metric: The cost of *making* decisions Real-world experiments are very expensive! An Environmental Perspective

112

8,600,000,000

Core-hours

Core-hours

2.1

116,000,000,000

kWh

kWhDelft \rightarrow \rightarrow Rotterdam

In Simulation

x 55 billion!

In Reality

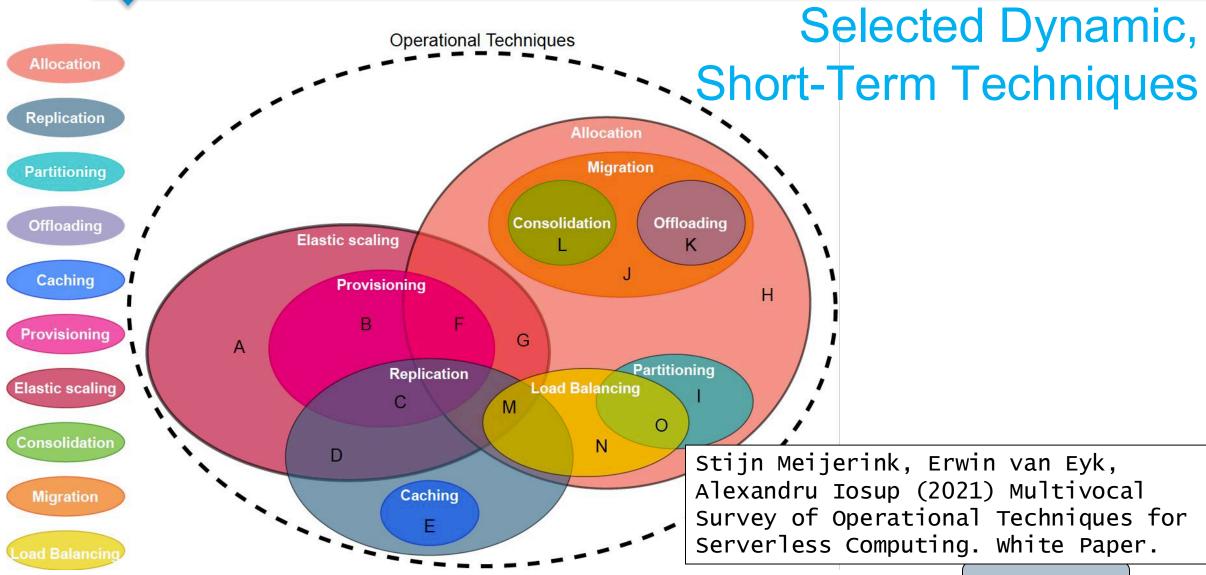
Exact numbers confidential, depend on topology

Idea:



Manage resources and workloads effectively through RM&S frameworks (or: beyond 4.4 intuitive best-effort)

WHICH SHORT-TERM DECISIONS CAN THE ECOSYSTEM TAKE?



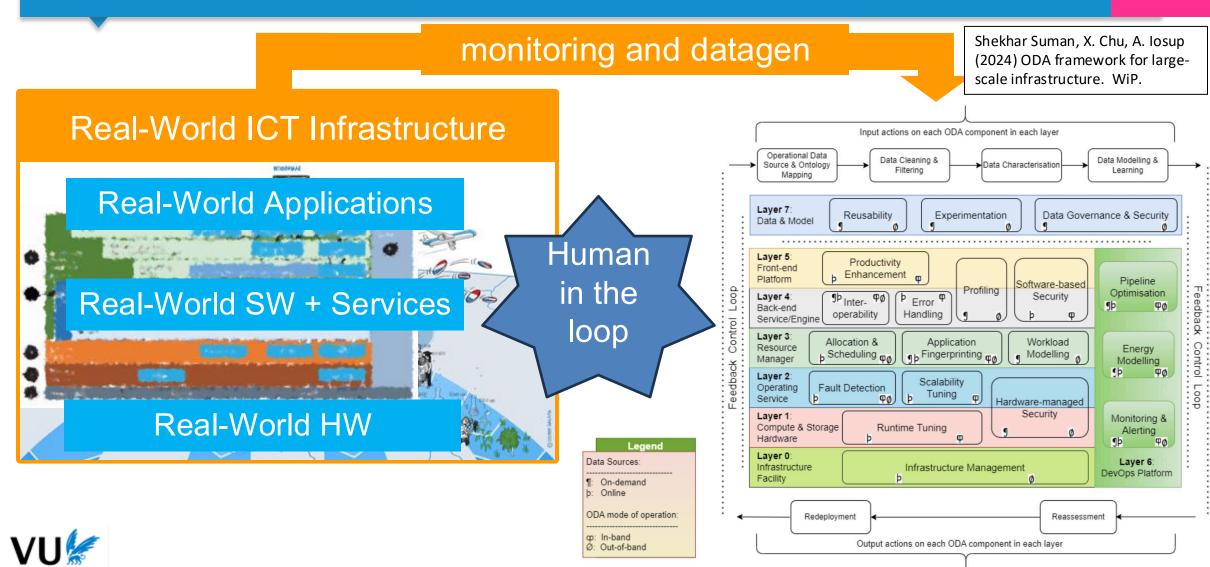
Idea:



Improve observability through Operational Data Analytics and the computing continuum Memex

4.5

OPERATIONAL DATA ANALYTICS



LLM-assisted

Dataset

Interaction

LLM-assisted

OPERATIONAL DATA ANALYTICS

monitoring and datagen

Shekhar Suman, X. Chu, A. Iosup (2024) ODA framework for large-scale infrastructure. WiP.

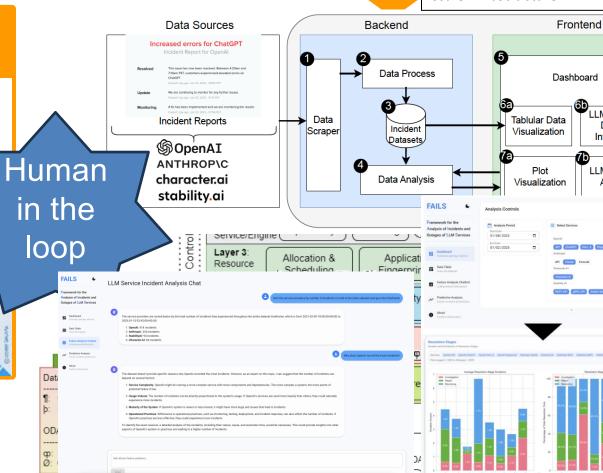
Real-World ICT Infrastructure

Real-World Applications

Real-World SW + Services

Real-World HW

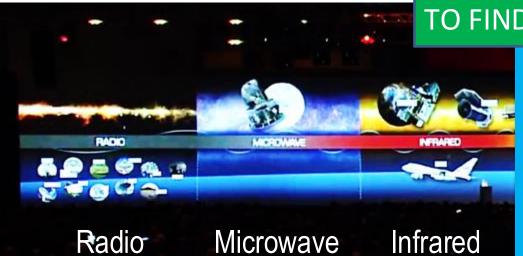
Sándor Battaglini-Fischer, Nishanthi Srinivasan, Bálint László Szarvas, Xiaoyu Chu, Alexandru Iosup (2025) FAILS: A Framework for Automated Collection and Analysis of LLM Service Incidents. ICPE.



THE CONTINUUM MEMEX = LARGE-SCALE, LONG-TERM STUDY

UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF OUR UNIVERSE, PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL





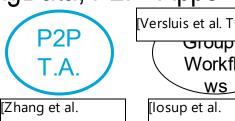
Cloud, Grid, One aspect: Sci.&Eng. BigData, P2P Edge, Fog, etc. Apps+Sys.

CoNext'101



FGCS'081

[losup et al.



[Versluis et al. TPDS'21] Groups, Workflo

IFFF IC'111



Consumer Apps+Sys.



NIETC AMEC'121

Ultraviolet Enterprise Sys. ness Criti

CCGRID'151

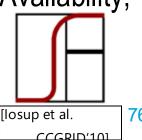
[Shen et al.

Systems, **Ecosystems**



CCGRID'1/1

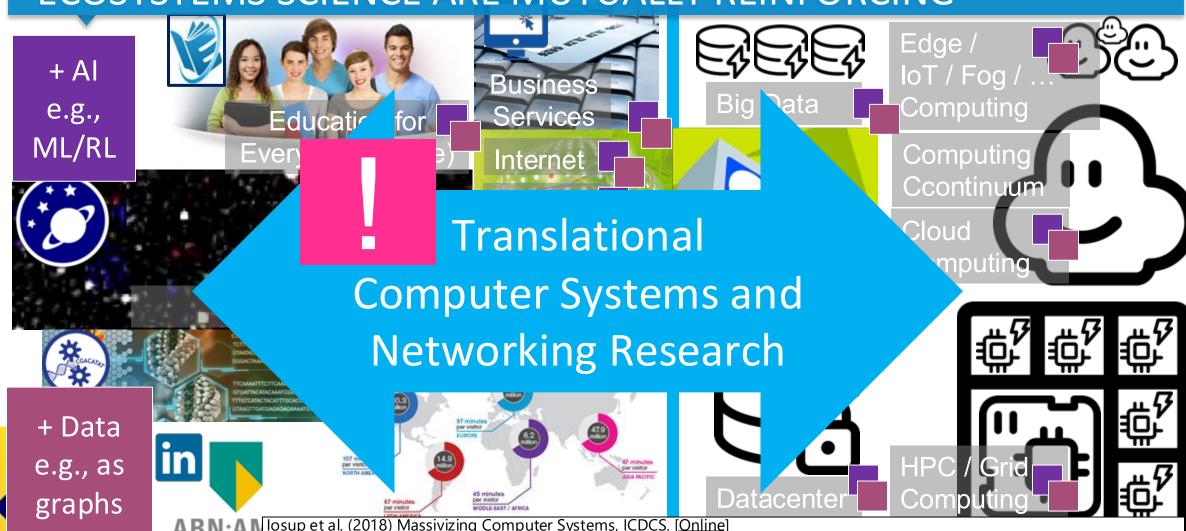
Performance, Availability,



TO FIND AND ERADICATE ISSUES

X-Ray Gamma Ray

NEW PROCESS – APPLICATION DOMAINS AND COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS SCIENCE ARE MUTUALLY REINFORCING



losup et al. (2018) Massivizing Computer Systems, ICDCS. [Online]

Daily

Hesselman, Grosso, Kuipers, et al. (2020) A Responsible Internet to increase Trust in the Digital World. JNSM [Online]

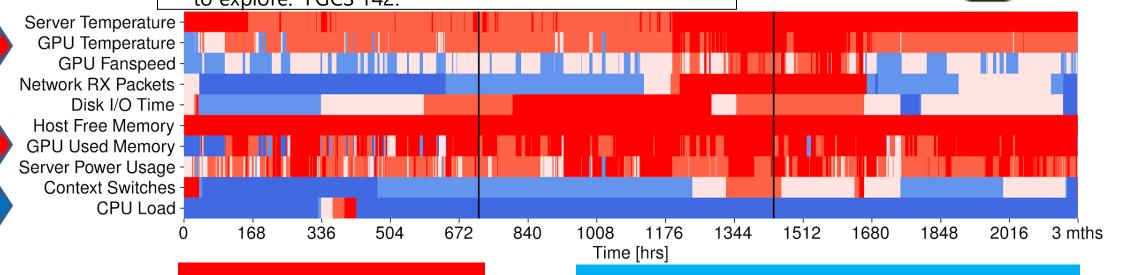
APPROACH: COMBINE MANY METRICS FOR HOLISTIC INSIGHT



Uta et al., Beneath the SURFace (2020) An MRI-like View into the Life of a 21st-Century Datacenter. USENIX; login.

Versluis et al. (2023) Less is not more: We need rich datasets to explore. FGCS 142.







Cold CPUs*

* when GPUs



Could use less powerful, less expensive CPUs



-0.8

-0.6

-0.4

-0.2



An R&D&I program on massivizing computer systems that enables sustainability, with 8 pillars

Massivizing in 8* "easy" steps...

- (*) Computer scientists often use 8 as their "round" number
- 1. Applications: From single app to workflows, from workflows to development and operation of long-term, interacting pipelines; new techniques and devices to control operation, including VR devices and Metaverses
- 2. Automated deployment and execution for complex applications and services, leveraging resources including accelerators and multi-party services to ensure functional and non-functional properties as needed
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- 5. Digital Twin on the side, smartly providing clear insights for on-going operations, and trusted and comparative analysis leading to superior short- and long-term decisions
- 6. From mere monitoring to Operational Data Analytics, and from logs to an ICT Infrastructure Memex
- Toward highly desirable (sustainable, performant, scalable, available, efficient, flexible, secure, etc.) combination of ecosystems in the digital continuum and reproducible and comparable
- A coherent view on apps, services, and resources where everything is dynamic, interacting, autonomous, and viable long-term from everything discardable to guarantees, attribution, and sovereignty for the entire 21st century



WANT TO READ

FURTHER?



MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS

FURTHER READING

https://atlarge-research.com/publications.html

- 1. (*) Alexandru Iosup, Fernando Kuipers, Ana Lucia Varbanescu, Paola Grosso, Animesh Trivedi, Jan S. Rellermeyer, Lin Wang, Alexandru Uta, Francesco Regazzoni (2022) Future Computer Systems and Networking Research in the Netherlands: A Manifesto. CoRR abs/2206.03259.
- 2. (+) Fabian Mastenbroek, Tiziano De Matteis, Vincent van Beek, Alexandru Iosup (2025) RADiCe: A Risk Analysis Framework for DataCenters. FGCS. Editor's Choice, nominated for 2025 Best Paper Award.
- [+] Sacheendra Talluri, Nikolas Herbst, Cristina L. Abad, Tiziano De Matteis, Alexandru Iosup (2024) ExDe: Design space exploration of scheduler architectures and mechanisms for serverless data-processing. Future Gener. Comput. Syst. 153: 84-96.
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Legend: (*) High impact in the field [+] FAIR data or software