

EcoCloud e-newsletter

October 2014

In this Issue:

Welcome Message In the News New Members New Projects Visiting Scholars Awards Publications

Welcome Message from the Executive Committee

Welcome to EcoCloud's Electronic Newsletter! We are pleased to announce that EcoCloud Newsletter will be semiannual henceforth. In this issue, you will learn about new additions to our team, the latest about our research, accomplishments and outreach, and our visiting scholars this year. Last but not least, we are truly excited to announce in this newsletter the arrival of EcoCloud's new Deputy Director.

In the News

Annual Event 2014

EcoCloud held its annual event on June 5th and 6th 2014 at the Lausanne Palace. The event kicked off with the Keynote from Doug Burger from Microsoft Research who unveiled Catapult, the first industrial-scale web acceleration technology using FPGAs on Thursday evening. A poster session that showcased the diverse portfolio of EcoCloud research followed the keynote. Five industrial speakers from Mellanox, Microsoft Research, Cisco Systems, IBM, and Maxeler joined twelve EcoCloud researchers to cover topics on big data, databases, data center systems, scalability, performance and efficiency. 144 people attended the event including most of our industry affiliates and other industry partners. The event was very successful with 98% of surveyed attendees saying that we met our objectives of "showcasing activities of the center and enabling networking opportunities between EcoCloud researchers and industry partners.

Ed Bugnion appointed Professor

Ed Bugnion, co-founder of VMware and Nuova Systems (acquired by Cisco), was appointed Adjunct Professor by the ETH Board. Ed Bugnion joined EPFL in 2012. His research is focused on Data Center Systems including scale-out NUMA, domain-specific operating systems and virtual data planes.

IEEE Micro Special Issue on Big Data

Babak Falsafi from EPFL and Boris Grot from University of Edinburgh have highlighted the challenges and opportunities of system designs in the era of Big Data in the IEEE Micro July/August 2014 edition. You can find it here.

Winter School on Data-centric Systems

EcoCloud hosted and co-sponsored the **CUSO Winter School on Data-centric Systems** from January 27th to 31st 2014 in Veysonnaz, Switzerland. The event covered a series of lectures on emerging technologies to address the energy challenges faced by data centers due to IT

services demands. Speakers from around the world from both academia and industry lectured on new hardware and software technologies that help bridge the gap between big data and big energy to 40 Ph.D. students.

Workshop on Design for 3D Silicon Integration (D43D)

EcoCloud co-sponsored the 6th Workshop on Design for 3D Silicon Integration (D43D) on June 23-24 as part of its outreach program. The workshop welcomed technical experts from around the world to discuss 3D IC technological challenges and explore this "promising approach to extend Moore's law, overcome pin bandwidth limitations, and improve digital platform density and cost beyond a single chip."

New Members

Ousmane Diallo

We welcome Ousmane Diallo as the new Deputy Director for EcoCloud. Ousmane joined us with a wealth of experience in innovation, leadership development, global program management and chip design from Intel Corporation. Ousmane was responsible for the top innovation program that seeded new technology ideas over few months and presented successful one to the CEO and Executive staff.

New Affiliates

EcoCloud welcomes VMware, the industry-leading virtualization software company and Cisco Systems, the worldwide networking leader. Both companies will be key partners in streamlining operations and driving energy efficiency in datacenters.

New Projects

DIVIDEND: Vertically-Integrated Datacenters

The DIVIDEND project addresses the data center energy efficiency bottleneck through vertical integration, specialization, and cross-layer optimization by presenting heterogeneous data centers, combining CPUs, GPUs, and task-specific accelerators, as a unified entity to the application developer and let the runtime optimize the utilization of the system resources during task execution.

Scale-Out NUMA: Rack-Scale In-Memory Computing

Ed Bugnion and Babak Falsafi in collaboration with Boris Grot at University of Edinburgh have developed Scale-Out NUMA, a new architecture, programming model, and communication protocol for low latency distributed-in-memory processing. soNUMA layers an RDMA-inspired programming model directly on top of a NUMA memory fabric via a stateless messaging protocol. To facilitate interactions between the application, OS, and the fabric, soNUMA relies on the remote memory controller – a new architecturally-exposed hardware block integrated into the node's local coherence hierarchy. The results based on cycle-accurate full-system simulation show that soNUMA performs remote reads at latencies that are within 4x of local DRAM, can fully utilize the available memory bandwidth, and can issue up to 10M remote memory operations per second per core. Scale-Out NUMA is a Microsoft Research funded project.

Toward Resource Efficient Datacenters

Florin Dinu received a Microsoft grant to enable data-parallel, big data applications to efficiently use data center resources. Based on an in-depth understanding of the resource requirements of big data applications, the project focuses on designing scalable and efficient scheduling techniques that can achieve and maintain high resource utilization while ensuring that performance goals of big data applications are met.

Visiting Scholars

Our visiting scholars' program continues to strive as we hosted Panagiota Fatourou from the University of Crete from March to June. Subhasish Mitra visited us from Stanford University from the end of June to the mid of September. We are pleased to announce that Sarita Adve and Vikram Adve are currently visiting us from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for an academic year.

Awards

Conference Awards

Katerina Argyraki received the NSDI 2014 best paper award for "Software Dataplane Verification". The paper introduces a verification tool that enable developers to check whether their software dataplanes destabilize established networks or not, thus ensuring smooth network operation.

Ed Bugnion received the OSDI 2014 Jay Lepreau best paper award for "IX: A Protected Dataplane Operating System for High Throughput and Low Latency". The paper presents IX, a dataplane operating system that provides high I/O performance, while maintaining the key advantage of strong protection offered by existing kernels by using hardware virtualization to separate the management and scheduling functions of the kernel from network processing.

Christoph Koch received the VLDB 2014 best paper award for "Building Efficient Query Engines in a High-level Language". The paper advocates a radical rethinking of the database systems design by leveraging high-level programing without paying a price in efficiency.

John Thome received the 2014 ASME Journal of Electronic Packaging best paper award for "Modeling of Two-Phase Evaporative Heat Transfer in 3-Dimensional Microcavity High Performance Microprocessor Chip Stacks". The paper describes a 3-D heat transfer model for 3D-IC computer chip stacks with interlayer cooling.

"Clearing the Clouds" appeared in IEEE Micro's Top Picks in Computer Architecture in 2014. The paper identifies the key micro-architectural needs of cloud applications, calling for a change in the trajectory of server processors that would lead to improved computational density and power efficiency in data centers.

Faculty Awards

George Candea has won the 1st Eurosys Jochen Liedtke Young Researcher Award for outstanding contribution in the field of computer science.

David Atienza was named IEEE CASS Distinguished Lecturer for the period January 2014 to December 2015 for his work on "Thermal-Aware Design of 2D/3D MPSoC Architectures".

Student Awards

Cansu Kaynak has won the prestigious Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship award for 2014-2015. The Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship "encourages women to excel in computing and technology, and become active role models and leaders in this field."

Cansu Kaynak received the prestigious and highly competitive IBM Ph.D. Fellowship award. The IBM Ph.D. Fellowship Awards Program is an intensely competitive worldwide program, which honors exceptional Ph.D. students who have an interest in solving problems that are important to IBM and fundamental to innovation in many academic disciplines and areas of study.

Ioannis Alagiannis has won the prestigious Symantec Fellowship award. Ioannis is the only European winner this year. The Symantec Fellowship Program funds innovative research with real world-value in areas where Symantec conducts businesses from outstanding Ph.D. Students around the world.

Onur Koçberber has won the Google Ph.D Fellowship award for 2014-2015. The Google European Doctoral Fellowship is awarded to outstanding doctoral students doing exceptional research in Computer Science or closely related areas.

Publications:

Analytics

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 A. S. N. Uttama Nambi, M. Vasirani, R. V. Prasad and K. Aberer, ACM International Workshop on Wireless and Mobile Technologies for Smart Cities (WiMobCity).
- C3P: Context-Aware Crowdsourced Cloud Privacy,
 H. Harkous, R. Rahman and K. Aberer, 14th Privacy Enhancing Technologies
 Symposium (PETS 2014), Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 16–18, 2014.
- Decentralizing the Cloud: How Can Small Data Centers Cooperate?
 H. Zhuang, R. Rahman and K. Aberer, IEEE Peer-to-Peer Computing conference P2P14, London, UK, September 8-12,2014.
- Decentralized Planning of Energy Demand for the Management of Robustness and Discomfort,
 - E. Pournaras, M. Vasirani, R. Kooij and K. Aberer, IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, 2014.
- Measuring and Controlling Unfairness in Decentralized Planning of Energy Demand,
 - E. Pournaras, M. Vasirani, R. E. Kooij and K. Aberer, The 3rd IEEE International Energy Conference (EnergyCon'14), Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 2014.
- Memo-it: Don't Write your Diary,
 - K. Aberer, M. Catasta, G. Christodoulou, I. Gavrilovic, F. Hrisafov et al, 2014 ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp 2014).
- Open Support Platform for Environmental Research (OSPER)-tools for the discovery and exploitation of environmental data,
 - N. Dawes, M. Lehning, M. Bavay, S. Sofiane, I. Iosifescu et al, AGU Fall Meeting.
- Pattern-wise Trust Assessment of Sensor Data.

- R. Gwadera, M. Riahi and K. Aberer, IEEE MDM 2014 15th IEEE International Conference on Mobile Data Management, Brisbane, Australia, July 15-18, 2014.
- Performance Analysis of Data Processing Architectures for the Smart Grid,
 A. S. N. Uttama Nambi, M. Vasirani, R. V. Prasad and K. Aberer, 5th IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies (ISGT) European Conference.
- Privacy Enhanced Demand Response with Reputation-based Incentive Distribution,
 - M. Vasirani, T. K. Wijaya, G. Liassas and K. Aberer, International Workshop on Demand Response, June 10, 2014.
- Reconciling Schema Matching Networks Through Crowdsourcing,
 Q. V. H. Nguyen, T. Nguyen Thanh, Z. Miklos and K. Aberer, accepted in Transactions on Collaborative Computing.
- SmartD: Smart Meter Data Analytics Dashboard,
 A. Jarrah Nezhad, T. K. Wijaya, M. Vasirani and K. Aberer, The 5th ACM International Conference on Future Energy Systems (e-Energy'14), Cambridge, UK, June 11-13, 2014
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 A. Wierzbicki, P. Adamska, K. Abramczuk, T. Papaioannou, K. Aberer et al, in Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, vol. 17, num. (3) 6, 2014.
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- Towards Enabling Probabilistic Databases for Participatory Sensing,
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 Conference on Collaborative Computing: Networking, Applications and
 Worksharing, Miami, Florida, United States, October 22–25, 2014.
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 B. Agir, T. G. Papaioannou, R. Narendula, K. Aberer and J.-P. Hubaux,
 Geoinformatica, vol. 18, num. 1, p. 165-191, 2014.
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- XGSN: An Open-source Semantic Sensing Middleware for the Web of Things, J.-P. Calbimonte, S. Sarni, J. Eberle and K. Aberer, 7th International Workshop on Semantic Sensor Networks, Riva del Garda, Trentino, Italy, October 19, 2014.

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- Adaptive Query Processing on RAW Data,
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 P. Tözün, I. Atta, A. Ailamaki and A. Moshovos, 41st International Conference on Very Large Databases, Waikoloa, Hawaii, USA, August 31 - September 4, 2015.
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- D. Porobic, E. Liarou, P. Tözün and A. Ailamaki, 30th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering, Chicago, IL, USA, March 31 Apr 4, 2014.
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 A. Aravkin, S. Becker, V. Cevher and P. Olsen, 30th Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI) 2014, Quebec City, Quebeck, Canada, July 23-27, 2014.
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 M. Athanassoulis and A. Ailamaki, 41st International Conference on Very Large Databases, Waikoloa, Hawaii, USA, 31 August- 4 September 2015.
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 H. Q. V. Nguyen, X. H. Luong, Z. Miklos, T. T. Quan and K. Aberer, On The Move (OTM) Federated International Conference.
- Constrained convex minimization via model-based excessive gap, Q. Tran Dinh and V. Cevher, Conference of Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Foundation 2014, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, December 8-11, 2014.
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 V. Cevher, S. Becker, and M. Schmidt, IEEE Signal Processing Magazine Volume 31
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 March 24-28, 2014.
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- OCTOPUS: Efficient Query Execution on Dynamic Mesh Datasets,
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 - I. Psaroudakis, F. Wolf, N. May, T. Neumann, A. Böhm et al, Sixth TPC Technology Conference on Performance Evaluation & Benchmarking (TPCTC 2014), Hangzhou, China, September 1-5, 2014.
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