

“EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PLATFORM AS A SERVICE USING ANDROID BASED CLOUD SERVER”

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Abstract: The number of Smartphone users and mobile applications are growing rapidly. Though smartphones are expected to have PC-like functionality, hardware resources such as CPUs, memory and batteries are still limited. To solve this resource problem, many researchers have proposed architectures to use server resources in the cloud for mobile devices. The system proposed a conceptual architecture of development of an Android cloud for efficient implementation of platform as a service, which enables multiple user Android applications on a cloud server via network. Though Android is mainly designed for physical smartphones, Android's other features are useful to construct a server platform. Android is an open-source product and runs on an x86 CPU. Android is an open-source mobile OS initiated by Google. The main reason to use Android as a server platform is that it is able to run not only for smartphones but also for the x86 platform included in servers. We show three types of multi-tenant architecture for an Android server platform and discuss the direction to take to reality.

Keywords: *Server platform, Cloud servers, Cloud computing, Multi-tenancy*

1. INTRODUCTION

The number of Smartphone users and mobile applications are growing rapidly. According to a report, 45 million people in the U.S. own smartphones and 234 million people subscribe to the mobile phone application stores

[1]. There are several mobile Operating Systems (OSs), such as Symbian, iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile. Because thousands of application developers construct many kinds of applications for these platforms, users can easily enjoy the individual Smartphone life style. Though smartphones are expected to have PC-like functionality, hardware resources such as CPUs, memory, and batteries are still limited. Therefore, many application developers are forced to take into account these limitations. To solve this resource problem, some

researchers have proposed using server resources in the cloud for smartphones.

From this background, we propose Android as a Server Platform that enables many users to use resources on remote cloud servers. The proposed system discusses our analysis of the process to adopt Android as a server OS as follows. Using a mobile OS enables the use of many mobile applications that is designed to be used on Smartphone interfaces, such as software keyboards, touch panels and many sensors. Since a solution of mobile OS is small, it is better to use remote application via a network than a desktop OS. Android is an open-source mobile OS initiated by Google. The main reason to use Android as a server platform is that it is able to run not only for smartphones but also for the x86 platform included

servers. The system proposes a multi-tenant architecture of Android as a Server Platform.

Cloud computing is the latest of computing paradigms. It promises to change the way people use computing resources. Using Internet as the backbone, cloud computing asserts that it is possible to provide computing as a “utility” to end users “as and when needed” basis. Cloud computing has a potential to serve users of all kinds: individual users, institutions, industry at large. Cloud computing is the use of computing resources such as hardware and software that are delivered as a service over a network typically in the form of internet. Cloud computing entrusts remote services with a user’s data, software and computation. Smartphone’s have evolved rapidly during the last three years. Now a day, the advances in processor, memory, flash storage, and mobile communication, and software, smart phones have enabled sophisticated applications for mobile users. The current leading brands for smart phones in the market are Google

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RELATED WORK

Integration of Mobile device and Cloud: Researches have proposed integration between mobile devices and cloud computing. Satyanarayan anetal. [3] outlined their vision of allowing mobile user to seamlessly use near by computer to obtain cloud-computing resources by instantiating a “cloud let” that rapidly synthesizes virtual machine on near by infrastructure that can be accessed through a Wireless LAN. Canepa et al. [4] presented a framework named “AdHoc cloud providers”. At this framework, mobile devices can execute their jobs using other device resources around them as if it is executed on one cloud server. Our approach is closely related to that of Chun and Maniatis [5]. They proposed the creation of clone Vmstore on mobile application as if they were running on mobile devices. They recognized five categories of augmented execution to speed up mobile applications, namely Primary, Background, Mainline, Hardware, and Multiplicity, and presented a search agenda to bring the vision into reality. Their project home page can be found in [6]. Our multi-tenant architecture for Android can be seen as a specific study of Multiplicity.

Android, Apple iPhone, Microsoft Window Mobile, Black-Berry RIM and all support applications such as multimedia playback, Internet browsing, email, voice mail, social networks and location-based Services. Still, the limited hardware resources and the constrained battery capacities have strongly impacted their user experiences. Today, many Smartphone users take advantage of low-cost or free cloud-based services. The combination of smart phone and cloud-based service has worked quite successfully and has become very popular, as it essentially offloads computational workload and data storage from the user’s smart phone. That way, an application could consume less power by having most of the application workload [2]. Related work describes the Integration of Mobile device and Cloud and the concept of Multi-tenancy. It also describes the Virtual Smartphone over IP. Analysis of process describes the using mobile applications running on a server.

Multi-tenancy: Royonetal. Proposed multi-user, multi-service execution environment named “virtual service gateway” [7]. They classified existing multi-application environment approaches by modifying Java runtime, and proposed an overlay approach to run virtually original application. As modifying approach has advantages of performance and isolation, overlay approach has advantages of usability on a standard Java Virtual Machine. Bezemer discussed the direction of multi-tenancy [8]. This new concept of providing software service is generally known as SaaS (i.e., Software as a Service). However, the adaptation of such a model necessitates that the applications which are required to be provided as a service should be generalized for users or groups of users. The users or user groups ordinarily correspond to a company or group of companies/businesses and are termed as tenants. In this regard, the architecture of SaaS applications needs to be customized to support certain characteristics — e.g., configurability, maintainability and scalability — to support diverse number of users [9]. They recognized five features of a multi-tenant platform, namely Performance, Scalability, Security, Zero-Down time and

Maintenance, to prevent maintenance nightmare. The proposed System discusses and evaluates a proposed architecture based on some of these features.

Virtual Smartphone over IP : Beyond constructing a mobile application platform, the system has previously proposed a proof of concept prototype implementation named “Virtual Smartphone over IP” [10]. An overview of the implementation is shown in Figure 1. In this prototype, Android-X86 [11] is adopted on a mobile server OS running on a hypervisor. The client program installed on a physical Smartphone can remotely interact and control Android-x86 images. The client program transmits various events from the physical device not only the keyboard but also the touch screen and various sensors such as GPSs, accelerometer, and the thermometers, to the mobile server OS and receives graphical screen updates from it via Virtual Network Computing (VNC). These programs enable to use

server side virtual mobile OS applications as if it is running on a physical Smartphone.

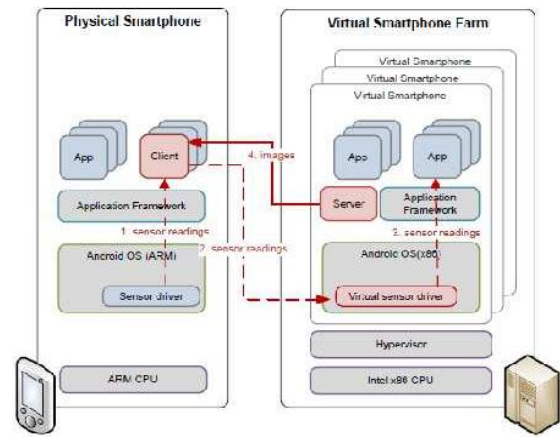


Figure 1: Overview of Virtual Smartphone over IP System.

The performance evaluation using a common Smartphone and servers shows that our virtual Smartphone on a server is at least 10 times faster than a physical Smartphone.

3. ANALYSIS OF PROBLEM

Mobile Application Platform on Cloud Server

As a number of service providers such as Dropbox [12] and Zmodo drive [13] provide online storage services, the architecture for remotely using mobile application on server has many benefits for users. This approach, called Mobile Application Platform on Cloud Server, intends to handle not only user data but also user applications in a cloud server [14]. This approach changes the application lifecycle as follows. “Write once, run everywhere. Install once, use everywhere.” Figure 2 illustrates an overview of the concept. By executing a mobile application in the cloud server, users and developers are freed from device limitations such as CPU power, memory, and battery, and from device software environments such as OS or version. Moreover, once a user installs an application on the cloud server, she/he can use the application anywhere, on any device.

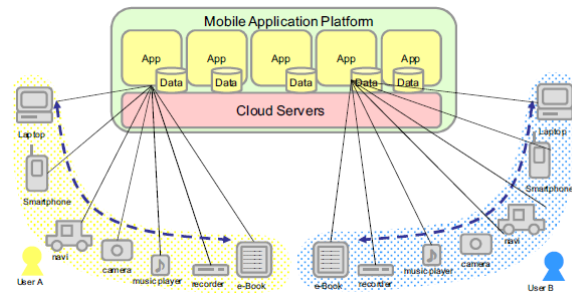


Figure 2. Mobile Application Platform.

Multitenant for Android

: Multi-tenancy, which means that software running on a server provides services to many users, is one of the important features for cloud computing. From the viewpoint of both the economy and ecology, it is beneficial to share hardware resources among users. Using a mobile OS would be more effective than using a desktop OS because the resource requirements of mobile OSs are smaller. However, to the best of our knowledge, there is still no service that uses Android as a multi-tenant system. The proposed system discusses the multi-tenant architecture for Android and how to construct it.

Multi-tenant architecture for Android

This section discusses the process to construct multi-tenant architecture for Android based on related work. The proposed system discusses the three types of approach, hypervisor-layer, kernel-layer, and framework-layer, for multi-tenant architecture.

1. Hypervisor: The hypervisor-layer approach uses the Virtual Smartphone over IP system as already stated in related work. Each user owns their/his Android OS image on a server and freely runs their/his application in a separate VM. Multi-tenancy is achieved by running multiple users VMs on a server via a hypervisor.
2. Kernel-layer: The second approach implements multi-tenant function in kernel-layer. This approach changes Android OS to run multiple user applications in separate processes. This approach is similar to an ordinary thin client server running multiple user applications in a server. The main challenge is that original Android supports only one display and keypad device since Android is mainly designed to work on a Smartphone.
3. Framework-layer: Another approach is to create a multi-tenant function at framework-layer, similar to existing a Java-based multi-tenant framework. This approach remodels Android the framework and APIs to support multiple user applications. The main challenge is how to run existing Android applications in modified framework.

The quantitative evaluation of these three types of architecture as, the hypervisor-layer, approach is feasible and good for maintenance [10]. However, it has a scalability limitation caused by a hypervisor. Because each VM tries to separately maintain their resources, it is difficult to control unused resources. The other two approaches have advantages in scalability but have disadvantages in maintenance because they change the Android OS. From the viewpoint of running existing applications, the kernel-layer approach is better because it does not change the Android runtime environment. Moreover, we assume that the kernel-layer approach is easy to develop because Android is implemented based on the Linux kernel so that it can support multiple displays,

keypads, and application.

4. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

We propose Android as a Server Platform that enables many users to use resources on remote cloud servers. The main reason to use Android as a server platform is that it is able to run not only for Smartphone but also for the x86 platform including servers. The system proposes a multi-tenant architecture of Android as a Server Platform. We have three Android systems which are connected to Android control server as shown in the figure. When a client sends any request to server, the server will check if any system is available. Those that don't have any workload at that current time, will provide the result to client. If such system is available it will provide the result to client according to its request. The advantages of the proposed work are:

1. By using this methodology the system will increase the resources.
2. Lots of Android systems are used at a time for their respective tasks on server to increase the processing power of their system or device.
3. If the user connects to server through the network, and at the same time it uses one or more applications then the server reduces the response time of the device.
4. By using this Android system the overall system efficiency will improve.

5. EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PLATFORM

A pair of VNC-based server and client program is implemented. Server program resides in each Android-x86 image that runs on top of VMWARE ESXi while the client program is installed in the physical Android device. The client program enables a user to remotely interact and control Android-x86 images. The client program transmits various events from the physical device to the virtual Smartphone and receives graphical screen updates from the virtual Smartphone. A virtual sensor driver can be implemented in the Android-x86 image. Most modern Smartphones are equipped with various sensor devices such as GPS, accelerometer and thermometers. While VNC itself supports only keyboard and mouse as the primary input devices,

client program can be extended to transmit sensor readings (accelerometer, orientation, magnetic field and temperature etc) to the virtual sensor driver in the Android-x86 image. The virtual sensor driver can be implemented in such a way that the sensor readings from the physical Android device would appear to come from the Android-x86 image itself. This is an important feature as it allows Android applications in an Android-x86 image to obtain sensor readings from the physical Smartphone without any modification.

In the functional overview of this multi-tenant architecture two new functions are defined for enabling multi-tenant for Android. The first function is the multiple application controller installed in an Android OS, and the second is the user area manager located in a host OS. The multiple application controller enables running of multiple applications as if each application is running on independent physical Smartphone. It is an important requirement to decrease implementation cost for Android OS because of maintenance about OS version update problem. The user area manager controls server resources and act as an interface between a terminal and the multiple application controller.

6. CONCLUSION

The proposed system Development of Android cloud for efficient implementation of platform as a service, system that enables the use of sharing server-side Android OS among multiple users. The system also showed the technical difficulty and approach related to multi-tenant architecture for Android OS, which is originally designed to use single user. The proposed Android architecture is planning to develop a prototype system about multi-tenant. The system believes that proposed architecture shows high performance on virtual image-based virtualization for mobile application.

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