

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF VM PLACEMENT AND MIGRATION ALGORITHMS IN VM CONSOLIDATION

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**Abstract:** With the increasing number of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, data centers are experiencing immense augmentation in the hardware devices with an increase in the traffic to the cloud infrastructures. To handle this growth and to satisfy users demand, data centers require more energy. The IoT devices produce vast data which needs to be handled properly by the data centers which in turn is responsible for increase in the power consumption at the data centers Management and reduction of this energy is quite a challenging task for the managers and the designers of the data centers as increasing cost of data centers is posing a major hindrance.. One major aspect that needs to be taken into consideration is the sharing of the data center resources which is fundamentally achieved by the consolidation of the resources. The analysis done will conclude that consolidation plays an important role in the reduction of energy consumption of a data center.

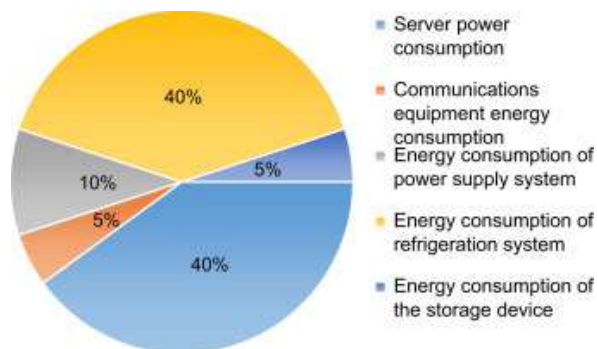
## Introduction

With the rapid advancement in the technology, the IOT technology is also growing at an immense pace, as it offers marvellous opportunities across several fields such as public transport, personal vehicles and smart houses etc. The argument behind this is that the IOT prototype has improved our lives by providing smart solutions with prediction oriented capabilities [6]. Cloud computing is one among the several tools that guarantees the proper functioning of the IOT devices by ensuring their high performances, storage framework and processing of the IOT data in real time. Before the involvement of cloud in the computing, the computing services were managed by centralized servers. With the development and requirement, then comes the era of distributed computing where the consumer can access unlimited services at any place and at any time. Some IOT devices such as mobile devices continuously access

the internet which produces large amount of data at the end of the network [7], which in turn increases the burden on the data centers. The applications that require response and processing in real time encounter the problem of more transmission delay due to the remote distance between the cloud data centre and the mobile devices. This problem is interpreted by the commencement of the edge computing which is introduced between the data center and the end devices. The edge computing can be characterized as the advancement over the cloud computing inspite of being alternator to the cloud computing. With the maturity of cloud computing technology, requirement of large data centers is also initiated. In the past decade, data centers had become the conventional source of providing IT services and internet services. The cloud computing service providers such as Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, Google etc. are organising a number of data centers worldwide. In general a data center is referred as a single entity, but in actuality it is the combinations of three independent categories i.e. computation, storage and networking. These categories include a number of computational devices and servers which consume a staggering amount of power and also raise the operational cost of data centers.

According to a report generated by Research and Markets (World's largest market research store) on December 6, 2019 data centers markets are expected to grow up from \$1,062.3 million in 2018 to \$1,950.0 million by 2025.

In this paper focus is on the power consumption parameter of the data centers and analysis of various techniques applied in different modules to reduce the overall power consumption of the data centers. Power consumption in a data center primarily depends on the consumption by the IT equipments such as servers and the cooling system. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of the energy consumed by a data center.



**Figure 1:** energy consumption by a data center

According to the Research and Markets report power and cooling segment of Indian data center this market is estimated to be \$623.3 million in 2019 and is expected to reach \$1,0655.5 million by 2025. Researchers have suggested various ways of energy efficient consumption in a data center such as application scheduling, workload scheduling, resource scheduling, reducing the number of active networking switches, task scheduling etc.

A data center comprises a large number of physical machines (PMs) which are either arranged in various clusters or individual that can be homogenous or heterogeneous on the basis of resource configuration of the coming workload to the data centers which varies with time and with the type of application. A virtualized environment is embedded along with the PMs in the data center. Virtualization includes virtual resources such as CPU, memory storage that are configured with the operating system of the PMs. These virtual resources are termed as virtual machines (VMs) which are a type of software and are an emulation of a computer system based on computer architecture to provide functionality of a physical computer. The functioning and execution of VMs is same as of PMs. Every cloud service provider provides computing resources and services in the form of VM on the basis of Service Level Agreement (SLA). The main advantage of virtualization is that the client can change the resource utilisation according to their need as well as service providers can change their clients based on their usage in a pay-as-you-go-scheme [30]. Virtualization of resources in one or more data centers forms an efficient and a flexible resource pool that helps in reducing the infrastructure cost, reduction in the time to expend data centers also provide reliability to deal with changing business needs [5].

#### **VM Consolidation**

Multiple VMs can be embedded on a single PMs to achieve better resource utilisation and also to reduce the power consumption of data center by the consolidation of the VMs. The idea behind the consolidation of the VMs is to reduce the active PMs in the data center which can be achieved either statically or dynamically. In static VM consolidation, prior to the arrival of a workload the placement of

VMs over PMs is decided and cannot be changed over time whereas in dynamic VM consolidation, a VM can be reallocated or migrated among several PM based on their requirement. This leads to the better utilization of the resources and also in reducing the power consumption of the data center.

The dynamic consolidation process is classified under into 4 major subcategories:-

1. State of resources: This fundamentally aims towards the availability and requirement of physical as well as virtual resources by an assigned workload.
2. Selection of VM: Based on the configuration of PM, a VM is elected among various assigned VM to consolidate.
3. Placement of VM: After choosing a VM, it needs to be placed on a PM called host. Placement of a VM depends on the physical resources as CPU and storage. It can be either automatic or manual.
4. Migration of VM: VM migration is initiated when the VM placement shows inefficiency in reducing the power consumption or unavailability of resources or increase of overhead over the PM. Hence forth, placement of a VM is an initial part of VM migration.

This analysis includes the commonly used placement and migration algorithms which converge towards the efficiency of the energy.

Rest of the paper will briefly discuss the subcategories of dynamic VM consolidation and focus towards the few of placement and migration algorithms as well as characterization based on some widely used parameters of VM consolidation.

#### **Dynamic VM consolidation**

##### **State of resource scheme**

Data center can be abbreviated as a compound of heterogeneous PMs which possess heterogeneity in their resource requirement and inbuilt configuration. Thus power consumption of a PM is not constant and depends on its specification as well as on the load carried out by it. Therefore the state of physical resources before and after initial assignment of the VMs plays an important role in dynamic VM consolidation. Resource allocation is done by the scheduler to allocate the resources to fulfill a task from the queue of tasks. Scheduler on a system operates all tasks and resources and on the basis of the requirement, the scheduler decides either to provision a new VM to a PM or to allocate resources to an existing VM.

##### **Selection of VM**

It is a process of electing a VM from the pool of VMs that have been allocated to the servers, which need to be reallocated to the other servers in the data center. The purpose of reallocation is either to minimize the number of VMs or to minimize the number of PMs by switching the power off of inactive or unused PMs. Selection procedure comes into existence when

the PM become overload or underload, in both the cases, the power consumption is reduced.

#### **VM placement**

Selection of VM is followed by its placement over a PM. This mapping between the VM and PM is many to one, where every VM will have only one host PM, but a PM can have multiple VM embedded over it. This mapping is done to maximize the utilization of the resources and to efficiently use the power consumed by the data center by shutting down the unused PMs. When the mapping between the VM and the PM is fixed during the lifetime of the VM then it is known as static VM placement. While the initial placement of the VM can be changed according to the requirement or to revert from the undesired state of power, load and system performance is called dynamic VM placement.

Various researchers have suggested various algorithms either based on some problem in VM placement or on the optimization of the VM placement algorithms. About hundreds of VM placement algorithms have been suggested and each of the algorithm focuses on a different issue of placement. In this paper, focus is on few of the algorithms and their tabularization according to the proposed algorithm along with merit and demerit of the suggested algorithms.

T.Renugadevi et al.[10] had formulated the objective function with energy cost of both servers and cooling devices. Renewable-aware algorithms were evaluated with different parameters to determine the

carbon intensity. Trfan Mohiuddin et al. [6] proposed WAVMCM ( Workload Aware VM Consolidation Method) to reduce the number of active PMs by consolidating VM to less number of PM. Zolten Mann et al. [18] experimentally compared the performance of seven different VM placement algorithms by contemplating parameters such as energy efficiency, characteristic of PMs, load prediction etc. Kansal et al.[19] emphasized on the resource allocation which affect much the need of consolidation although QoS (Quality of standards) gets satisfied. Wang et al. [17] suggested an Auction Based policy for VM allocation to the PM. Wangel et al. [20] highlighted the issue of unpredictable workload and proposed a ECRASP (Energy Conserving Resource Allocation Scheme with Prediction) for the allocation of VM. Vasu et al. [14] discussed load balancing and proposed the use of reliability record at server end but did not mention the implication of maintaining such record. Ali et al. [11] highlighted an energy efficiency algorithm and dealt with large data centers but this approach was not applicable on data centers with different sizes. Yanggratoke et al. [12] proposed a heuristic solution by taking load pattern into account for VM consolidation, but this solution was not effective in all sort of environment. Jha et al. [13] proposed a power and load aware VM allocation policy which was implemented and concluded without computational time required by the strategy. Table 1 lists some VM placement algorithms or approach with their merits and demerits that had been proposed by the earlier researchers.

Reference	Algorithm/ Approach	Improvement criteria	Demerit
[14]	FUSD (Fast Up Slow Down) algorithm	Maximum utilization	CPU, storage and virtualized environment was not considered
[16]	MBFD (Modified Best Fit Decreasing) algorithm	Energy Efficiency	
[17]	Auction strategy of VM allocation	Energy Efficiency	No improvement was shown in dynamic environment over other algorithms
[18]	DSAP (Dynamic Server Allocation Problem)	Energy Efficiency and reduction in server damage	Estimation of migration overhead is not correct
[19]	Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm	Energy Efficiency and less execution time	Workload of nodes is not considered
[20]	ECRASP (Energy Conservation Resource Allocation Scheme with Prediction)	Improvement in Performance	Only theoretical concept was proposed but not implemented
[11]	EE (Energy Efficient algorithm)	Performance Improvement	Given algorithm need to be compared with existing algorithms
[12]	GRMP (Generic Gossip protocol for Resource Management )	Energy Efficiency	No comparison with other existing algorithms
[13]	Power and Load aware VM allocation policy	Improvement in performance	Load Balancing was not considered
[22]	MWFDVP (Modified Worst Fit Decreasing VM placement) algorithm	Energy Efficiency	Single algorithm was considered for comparing with other algorithms
[22]	Practical Swarm Optimization algorithm	Energy Efficiency	No comparison
[23]	A Gossip Protocol	Energy Efficiency	Resource Allocation system is bounded to 100000 machines
[24]	Energy Aware Resource Provisioning Frame algorithm	Energy Efficiency	Only cloud providers were taken into account
[33]	Distributed and Time-Hierarchical resource management	Minimizes SLA violation and reduces energy consumption	Storage and memory was not considered
[39]	Green Load Balancing policy	Load Balancing and Energy Efficiency	No concept of Virtualized environment was used

**Table 1:** Various VM placement algorithms

**VM Migration**

VM migration is the process of shifting VM from one PM to another PM either to increase the resource capability of the available resources or to minimize the active number of PMs so that the overall power consumption of the data center can be reduced. Recent technologies accomplish the conception of seamless or live migration of VMs as they allow exclusive short downtime and migration time upto tens of millisecond [25]. Down time is the time taken to respond to a service and migration time is the time taken by the VM to migrate from a PM to the other PM.

Xiaodong Wu [29] et al. presented a scheduling algorithm based on combination of VM selection

policy and strategy of utilization of threshold as well as experimentally evaluated that number of VM migration were reduced, thus lower energy consumption by the data center. Hiroki Shiranyangi et al. [27] highlighted an energy efficient network topology named Honeyguide which combines VM consolidation with bypass links. Using simulator tool, it was proved that this strategy result in less power consumption. Srinivas Byatarayanapura Venkataswamy et al. [26] proposed an optimized VM migration algorithm named ChicWhale by considering factors like load, resource availability, and energy consumed and migration cost.

The proposed algorithm was advised to use at medical Image Quality Enhancement System etc. Li et al. [31] explained Dynamic VM consolidation based on multi-resource energy efficient model. It emphasized on distributing the load among the computing servers to fulfil the user requirement. Geo et al. [34] proposed a multiobjective Ant Colony System algorithm by keeping power consumption and resource utilization under consideration but showed poor results when the data sets were large. Yermolovich et al. [38] discussed an optimizing trace – based VM policy which depends on the execution paths of the VMs that were stored and used for other VMs for migration but results in magnification of processing time. Patel et al. [36] proposed a Dolphin Echolocation technique which reduces the power consumption and

wastage of resources but increases the migration overhead. Narantuya et al. [37] presented Service-Aware strategy for C2C migration, that focused on reducing the service downtime. This strategy did not mention about the destination where the VM is being migrated. Paulraj et al. [35] proposed a resource-aware VM migration technique and experimentally concluded that this technique reduces the downtime, end to end delay and migration time. Table 2 list some VM migration algorithms or approaches along with their merits and their demerits.

Reference	Algorithm/Approach	Improvement criteria	Demerit
[31]	Dynamic energy efficient VM migration and consolidation algorithm	Energy Efficiency	Increases the service downtime
[32]	2-tier VM placement algorithm	Resource utilisation and energy efficiency	More storage requirement as VM size increases
[34]	Ant Colony System algorithm	Resource utilisation and energy efficiency	Fails on large data sets
[35]	Resource-Aware VM migration technique	Less migration time, downtime and end to end delay	Algorithm is not optimized
[37]	Service-Aware strategy for C2C migration	Less service downtime	Destination host of VM is not mentioned
[38]	Optimizing trace based VM	Stores the execution path of VM	Requires more processing time
[36]	Dolphine Echolocation Technique	Energy Efficiency and Resource utilization	Migration cost overhead

**Table 2:** Various VM migration algorithms

**Conclusion and Future Scope**

Based on the analysis don so far, it is not appropriate to justify the best algorithm for VM placement and VM migration as each algorithm has its own merit and demerit. Every algorithm uses a different criterion for placement and migration of the VMs and those algorithms which uses the same criteria shows

improvement in distinct parameters of the data center. In future this analysis will be followed either by combining the two techniques for VM placement and migration or by introducing a new technique that aim towards the reduction of power consumption of the data center. Also while placing and migration of VM, configuration of PM will also be considered as

it plays a vital role during the entire consolidation process.

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