

Job pilot features and job isolation

Maxim Storetvedt | ALICE Tier-1/Tier-2 Workshop 2024 | Seoul, Korea | 16/04/2024



Background: job pilots and WNs





Job pilots and WNs

- Each JAliEn pilot consists of three components:
 - JAliEn **JobRunner**¹: Resource/multicore handler
 - JAliEn JobAgent²: Job matcher/monitoring handler
 - JAliEn JobWrapper²: Payload executor
- Started by script generated by JAliEn CE, which
 - Prepares environment
 - Loads pilot using libraries and Java from CVMFS
 - System agnostic
- The JobWrapper runs on a separate JVM
 - Handles payload that can be several cores per job slot
 - Automatically put in an isolated container by JobAgent





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 - Handles payload that can be several cores per job slot
 - Automatically put in an isolated container by JobAgent
 - When possible, also wraps the payload in a container for process control





Job containers & environment

- All Grid jobs must now be wrapped by a top-level container
 - Provides a tried-and-tested environment across sites/nodes
 - Additional isolation from WN host
- Images located located in CVMFS
 - /cvmfs/alice.cern.ch/containers/fs/singularity
 - Build recipe available on Gitlab
 - PRs possible for package requests
- Specific image selected by JAliEn based on required packages for job
 - Can be CentOS 7, Alma 8 or Alma 9
 - Override possible by site in "container.properties"
- When multiple containers used, the same image is propagated down
- GPUs are **supported** across the multiple layers
 - Compatibility check done by JAliEn, with flags/mounts added as needed



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Notable job-pilot changes

- Re-enabled idle timeout for jobs
 - Jobs that do nothing for longer durations will be killed
 - I.e. never once surpassed 10% cputime within 15 min
- All WNs without AVX support are now blocked from production jobs
- Failed jobs that never reach a RUNNING state are automatically **resubmitted**
 - But only up to three times
- New Job states
 - ERROR_A: Job matched, but unable to continue
 - ERROR_VN: Validation failed to start
- Option provided to **skip** check for **corefiles**
- Option provided to manually set WN architecture
- Alternative architectures
- Cgroups v2 for enforcing resource constraints



Alternative architectures

Alternative architectures

- Aarch64 supported as of JAliEn 1.7.9
 - Hardcoded x86 paths removed
 - Automatic matching of binaries
 - JAliEn CE and job-pilots
 - Automatic matching of containers
 - Corresponding aarch64 versions of platforms requested by job
 - Monitoring adjusted to work across architectures
 - Updated ML script for aarch64 voboxes
- Changes kept as generic as possible
 - Allows us to easily slot-in support for more architectures in future (e.g. RISC-V)





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- Changes kept as generic as possible
 - Allows us to easily slot-in support for more architectures in future (e.g. RISC-V)
- But, for now, jobs with aarch64 builds must **manually** be submitted to aarch64 sites
 - To be changed with new brokering service by Kalana Wijethunga (link)
 - Allows aarch64 sites to transparently run and match jobs just as any other x86 site
 - Enabled by new Optimizer by Haakon André Reme-Ness (link)







Improving job isolation with Cgroups v2



Improving job isolation with Cgroups v2

- Cgroups v2 allows for fine-grained resource control per job
 - Controllers for CPU, memory, IO...
 - In theory, can be used **unprivileged** perfect for integrating with job pilot
 - Can be automatically handled by Apptainer, but...
- ... unprivileged Cgroups v2 forced to run on user.slice*
 - Apptainer insists on moving its processes there
 - Outside of original slot cgroup!
 - And only possible for an interactive user with a session
 - Or, if **lingering** for a user is enabled
 - Must be done in advance by site admin



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However, moving outside of the slot cgroup also means **no more slot limits**



Working around unprivileged limitations

- Fully unprivileged cgroups generally use user.slice
 - Set up automatically upon user login
- But, other cgroups can be handed to unprivileged users
 - If prepared in advance by a privileged user
- Specifically, a user must be given ownership of
 - The **cgroup** i.e. its top-level directory in /sys/fs/cgroup
 - The **cgroup.procs** file to allow moving processes in/out of it
 - The **cgroup.subtree_control** file to allow delegation of controllers to subgroups

...but should this not already done by CE/LRMS when slot cgroup is constructed?

Status of unprivileged cgroups v2 in common CEs

- Behaviour of both SLURM and HTCondor checked, i.e.
 - How cgroup is created for each slot
 - What ownership/permissions given

• SLURM

- New cgroup dir created on each new job for slot
- Cgroup ownership set to that of the executing user Great!
- ...but only cgroup ownership. All files inside still owned by root
 - Can unprivileged create new cgroups, but not move anything there
 - No unprivileged delegation of controllers

• HTCondor

- New cgroup dir created on each new job for slot
- But all files/directories owned by root







Workaround: a custom cgroups v2 plugin (1)

- Proof of concept Cgroups v2 plugin created for SLURM (22.05)
 - Existing setup already "halfway there"
 - Simple to extend functionality
 - Sets the appropriate permissions, and checks for subgroups in cleanup
- Upon building the cgroup
 - Check for given privileges
 - Attempt creating subgroups, move processes and apply limits
 - Attempt breaking limit

https://github.com/SchedMD/slurm/compare/slurm-22.05...zensanp:slurm:slurm-22.05







Workaround: a custom cgroups v2 plugin (1)

<pre>[root@alieevee-wn-5 u /sys/fs/cgroup/system [root@alieevee-wn-5 u tatal 0</pre>	user]# pwd m.slice/slurmstepd.scope/job_214324/step_0/user user]# ls -ltr	
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Upstreaming?

- Proof-of-concept working as expected
 - Tested on the *Eevee* cluster (ALICE::CERN::Eevee)
- But changes only useful if they can be upstreamed
 - Unlikely sites willing install external plugins/rpms
 - Unofficial changes prohibited on sites subscribed to SLURM paid support
- Request sent via the **slurm-users** mailing list...
 - No permissions to do PRs / report issues on public repository
 - No other official channels (aside from paid)
 - Archive: https://groups.google.com/g/slurm-users/c/v7e5DSUvPPw
- ... but **no response**

A custom cgroups v2 plugin (2)

- Proof-of-concept Cgroups v2 features added for **HTCondor (v23)**
 - Similar as for SLURM
 - Sets the appropriate permissions/ownership when building the group
- As before
 - Check for given privileges
 - Attempt creating subgroups, move processes and apply limits
 - Attempt breaking limit

https://github.com/htcondor/htcondor/compare/main...zensanp:htcondor:main



Software Suite





Upstreaming!

- Proof-of-concept working on HTCondor as for SLURM
 - Also tested on Eevee as before
- Likewise, only useful if same changes can be added upstream
 - Availability to increase as sites upgrade their versions
- Request sent via the **condor-users** mailing list...
 - ...and almost immediate response!
 - Interest from Condor devs
 - Experimented with this earlier, but not quite working
 - Potential use-case with GlideInWMS
 - Included in test branch within 2 weeks
 - Big thanks to Greg Thain!
 - Still some missing features*

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- Included in test branch within 2 weeks
 - Big thanks to Greg Thain!
- Still some missing features*

Merged to main and included in HTCondor 23.1!





New cgroups v2 features within the job pilot

- Previous cgroups v2 implementation used containers/containerizer
 - Built-in features of Apptainer
- Not compatible with the cgroup given by new HTCondor/SLURM
 - Apptainer always insists on moving processes
- Cgroup setup and management must now be done **manually** by **the job pilot**
- Logic adjusted to accommodate the changes:
 - Top level slot cgroup creation and delegation of controllers
 - Via JobRunner
 - Job cgroup creation and limits
 - Via JobAgent





slot_0 ----





































JobRunner/JobAgent cgroup creation

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runner	
-278501 /bin/bash /extra/scratch/tmp/agent.startup.1448512_1699533762880	
-278599 /cvmfs/alice.cern.ch/java/JDKs/x86_64/jdk-latest/bin/java -client -Xms16M -Xmx128M -Djdk.lang.Process.launchMechanism=vfork -XX:+UseSerialGC -cp /extra/scratch/alieevee-shared/alien-users.jar alien.site.JobRun	er
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-286340 /bin/bash /extra/scratch/workdir/alien-job-2955975296/sampleMemoryConsumer.sh	
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287152 /bin/bash /extra/scratch/workdir/alien-job-2955975434/sampleMemoryConsumer.sh	
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JobRunner/JobAgent cgroup creation

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-186616 Apptainer runtime parent
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-193264 /cvmfs/alice.cern.ch/java/JDKs/x86_64/jdk-latest/bin/java -client -Xms50M -Djdk.lang.Process.launchMechanism=vfork -XX:+UseSerialGC -XX:0nOutOfMemoryError=echo 'Process %p has run out of memory' > ./2955963228.com -Djobagent.vmid=29559
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Site requirements for cgroups v2

Site requirements for cgroups v2

- Must be an OS with support for Cgroups v2, e.g.
 - EL 9 (Recommended)
 - EL 8* (Needs extra workaround if on Slurm)
- Must be enabled (default on EL9)
- HTCondor 23.2 (i.e. not LTS)
- Or, Slurm 22.05+
 - For now, still with custom plugin for setup
 - Alternatively, can also be done via Slurm prolog/epilog scripts
 - Additional workaround needed for EL 8
 - Kernel missing "cgroups.kill" feature, used for cleanup
 - If cleanup fails, WN will go into drain state

Site requirements for cgroups v2

- Must be an OS with support for Cgroups v2, e.g.
 - EL 9 (Recommended)
 - EL 8* (Needs extra workaround if on Slurm)
- Must be enabled (default on EL9)
- HTCondor 23.2 (i.e. not LTS)
- Or, Slurm 22.05+
 - For now, still with custom plugin for setup
 - Alternatively, can also be done via Slurm prolog/epilog scripts
 - Additional workaround needed for EL 8
 - Kernel missing "cgroups.kill" feature, used for cleanup
 - If cleanup fails, WN will go into drain state

In other words, if already on **HTCondor 23.2** and **EL 9**, no action needed!

Summary and outlook

- JAliEn job pilot is becoming more flexible
 - Agnostic setup
 - Automatic matching of
 - Platform/containers
 - Packages
 - Architectures
 - ... including aarch64
- New isolation features, such as layered containers and cgroups v2
 - ... but needs changes to how CE/LRMS construct/clean cgroups
 - HTCondor all set from v23.2
 - **SLURM** TBD
 - Custom plugin or prolog needed for now
- Nevertheless, functionality in place for when support becomes available!

Thank You [Questions, comments]? email: mstoretv@cern.ch