MOVING FROM VIRTUAL MACHINES TO CLOUD-NATIVE CONTAINERS

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About Us

University of California:
• 10 Campuses - undergraduate/graduate
• 6 Academic Health Centers
• 3 National Laboratories

University of California, Office of the President (UCOP):
• Systemwide infrastructure services
• Local infrastructure services
• > 50 cloud accounts

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Amazon Elastic Container Service (ECS)
AMAZON ECS ON FARGATE | OVERVIEW

• What is it?
  – https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonECS/latest/developerguide/Welcome.html
  – ECS is a fully managed container orchestration service that helps you easily deploy, manage, and scale containerized applications.

• What problem did it fix for us?
  – Deploy & Manage Applications
    • Focus on building and operating your application
    • Avoid the operational overhead of scaling, securing, and managing servers
  – Security Isolation
    • Each pod runs on dedicated kernels
    • Do not share CPU, memory, or network resources
    • Uses encrypted images
  – Right-Sized Resources
    • Launch and scale the compute to match the right-sized resource
Why did we choose ECS over other tools?

- **Scalability**: ECS automatically scales your applications based on demand, allowing you to easily handle changes in traffic or workload.

- **High availability**: ECS provides built-in availability and fault tolerance, ensuring that your applications are always up and running.

- **Cost-effective**: ECS enables you to optimize your infrastructure costs by scaling resources based on demand and only paying for what you use.

- **Integration**: ECS integrates with other AWS services such as ECR, Fargate, CloudWatch, load balancer, and IAM.

- **Security**: ECS provides a secure environment to run your applications, with features such as IAM roles for tasks, VPC isolation, and encryption at rest.
How do we secure containers?

- **Identity and Access Management (IAM):** Rule-based policies for authentication and authorization
- **Network Security:** Encryption-in-transit, network segmentation, and isolation
- **Secrets Management:** API keys and database credentials are stored in secrets manager
- **Logging and Monitoring:** Sending all log information to CloudWatch Logs and S3 in a separate account.
- **Container Storage:** Are encrypted by KMS
- **Image Vulnerabilities:** Images are regularly scanned by Amazon Inspector
- **Read-Only Root File Systems:** Root file systems are set to read-only to reduce security attack vectors
- **Monthly Patching:** All containers are rebuilt monthly to get the latest security patches
- **Web Application Firewall (WAF):** All Load Balancers are behind WAF
AMAZON ECS | FEATURES

Which ECS features do we use?

- **AWS Fargate**: Let our developers focus more on development and less on cluster configuration, provisioning, and patch management.
- **Blue/Green Deployments**: Reduces downtime during application deployments and updates.
- **Integration**: It integrates with the AWS load balancer to distribute traffic.
- **Native Docker Support**: Amazon ECS supports Docker out of the box, allowing developers to package applications locally and deploy them at scale without configuration changes.
- **Programmatic Control**: Allows developers to integrate and extend their service through APIs.
- **Container Auto-Recovery**: Automatically recover failed containers.
- **Scheduling**: Containers can be scheduled to deploy at a specific time and date.
AMAZON ECS | MIGRATIONS

How many applications we migrated?

- 19 out of 37 Prod Application
- 24 out of 37 QA Applications
- 27 out of 37 Dev Applications
How do we use it?