ANALYSIS OF CLOUD PERFORMANCE USING CLOUD SIMULATORS FOR MULTI-SCALE APPLICATIONS

Abstract

Cloud Computing is most commonly adopted technology not only by the IT users but as well as researchers. Before deploying any application in real cloud, it is necessary to check with all possible input in order to audit and analyze expected outcome. IT users as well as researchers finds convenient to use the cloud simulation tools to test the developed applications and its scenarios. The most appropriate and accurate simulator gives detailed insight in application study and updating. Many simulators are available for all current technologies. This work aims at comparative analysis of three simulators which can be used for the simulation of multiscale applications. The analysis of these tools is performed using literature surveys and experimentation of multiscale applications. The detailed study shows that CloudAnalyst is most accurate tool currently for multiscale application still few challenges and issues faced in simulation, which need to be resolved. Further the table of analysis gives overall summary of the simulators, helps IT users and researchers to select appropriate tool for multiscale and related applications. The main contribution of this work is to unique view of classification in which, the classification, comparison and analysis is performed by analyzing the code and the actual experiment on the simulators. The proposed comparative analysis gives quick overview and knock to decision making of simulator selection to the cloud practitioners.

Keywords: Cloud Computing, Simulation tools, CloudSim, CloudAnalyst, Cloud Reports.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The cloud and the cloud computing are one of the most current development in the domain of computer technology. Now a day, IT infrastructure and software's are available to the end users as services using standard pay-as-per use such as infrastructure as service,

platform as service, software as service. Cloud computing become more popular as there is advancement in the technologies like utility computing, grid computing, virtualization, web computing and other many technologies. Algorithm and architectures are the major areas of research in the cloud computing domain [1]. It is very difficult in the real scenario to execute real time applications and design new algorithms. For executing real time applications, it is required to consider to security issues as well as performance of the system. To resolve such challenges, cloud computing simulators helps system implementation by considering real time scenarios. Simulators play a significant role in designing new methods like algorithms, observing the security threats, measuring quality and performance of the system. To get the correct environment for executing system in real time scenario, choosing the right simulator is a very tedious and challenging task. As per some cloud practitioners, it is necessary to test and analyze multi-scale applications in a simulated environment to avoid further complications and to get the accurate results. The simulated environment gives the clue to its users to think on what part of the problem they can work and can find better solution or resolve the problem. Testing and validation of such things on real cloud environment such as AWS or GPE is costly and time consuming and also requires special training which is product specific. Usage of simulators saves this cost, time and energy of the work and gives insight of the problems

1. To study and analysis of most commonly adopted simulations tools for multiscale cloud applications
2. To regulate most appropriate simulator for modeling and simulation of multiscale applications.

The remaining work is organized as section II discusses related works addressing the use of cloud simulators, section III elaborate the most commonly used three cloud simulators, section IV discusses the result and analysis.

II. RELATED WORKS

Many tools developed for simulation in cloud for numerous tasks from application modeling to data center modeling. Cloud simulators have been increasingly get used by many researchers for experimenting using different applications and algorithms [2]- [10]. Many researchers have explored the comparative analysis of different cloud simulators [11]- [13]. This section discussed various cloud simulators explored by researchers. On the other hand, this work does concentrate on detailed study about most commonly preferred cloud simulators. There are number of simulators available for cloud computing environment each of one having unique and different functionalities. These tools include Cloud Sim[14], Cloud Analyst[15], Green Cloud[16]-[18], Network CloudSim[19], Emusim[20], MDC Sim[21], I Can Cloud[22], Cloud Exp [23],Federated CloudSim[24], Dynamic Cloud Sim [25], Teach Cloud [26], Workflow Sim [27], Elastic Sim [28], MR-Cloud Sim[29], CloudSimSDN[30], CEP Sim [31], CDO Sim [32],Cloud Sched [33], sec Cloud Sim[34], GroudSim[35], MDC Sim[36], SimIC [37],SPECI[38], and many more. Recently, more sophisticated tools are also contributed by the researchers. Few of them are Cloud Sim Plus [39],PriDynSim[40] and ECS Net++[41].

Even though, 2009 was startup for the cloud simulators, a period of three years from 2012 to 2014 can be considered as revolutionary period in cloud simulation community as maximum tools developed during this period of time. Calheiros et. al [42] developed the well-known and widespread tool named CloudSim in 2009. This is first tool which support wide range of input and output parameters. Inspite of non-GUI support, the tool is still most favorite tool amongst the researchers. It is basically used for modeling and simulation of infrastructure of data center [43], basic cloud applications, cost-benefit analysis of resources and algorithmic solutions of Data center and Virtual Machines selection. Depending on the study by different authors cloud simulators categorized into General cloud modelling, Energy Aware Provisioning, Middleware Supervision, Economic Modelling and Application Modelling.

Table 1: Categorizations of cloud simulators

Reference No.	Simulator	Cloud Simulator Categories	Purpose
[15]	CloudAnalyst	General cloud Modelling	Modeling and simulations large scaled applications
[19]	NetworkCloud Sim	Application Modelling	Modeling and simulation of the parallel applications.
[20]	EMUSim	Application Modelling	Simulation and performance monitoring of Cloud Computing Applications
[22]	iCanCloud	General cloud Modelling	Simulation of pay-as-you-go scenarios and additional features of flexibility, scalability, performance and usability.
[23]	CloudExp	Application Modelling	Evaluating numerous components in cloud environment like processing cloud systems' elements, Service Level Agreement (SLA) constraints, web-based applications, Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) etc.
[25]	DynamicCloud Sim	VM Provising	Simulation of heterogeneous cloud data centers
[27]	WorkFlowSim	Application Modelling	Experimentation of scientific workflow in distributed systems,
[28]	ElasticSim	VM Provising	Workflow simulations in cloud with detailing of resources such as runtime auto-scaling and stochastic task execution times.
[29]	MRCloudSim	VM Provising	Modeling and simulation of MapReduce computing.
[31]	CEPSim	General cloud Modelling	Complex events processing in cloud environment
[32]	CDOSim	VM Provising	Simulating of cloud deployment
[33]	CloudShed	VM Provising	Real-time virtual machine allocation

			in a cloud data center
[34]	SecCloudSim	VM Provising	Experimentation of cloud security.
[35]	GroudSim	General cloud Modelling	Computational grids and clouds
[36]	MDCSim	Energy aware provising	Modeling and simulation for multi-tier data center for performance and power consumption monitoring.
[37]	SimIC	General cloud Modelling	Designing and experimenting inter-cloud simulation of large-scale resource management
[38]	SPECI	Middleware Supervision	Scalable data centers simulation
[39]	CloudSimPlus	General cloud Modelling	Simulation of software engineering principles for software improvement.
[40]	PriDynSim.	Application Modelling	Priority base I/O bound applications
[42]	ECSNet++.	VM Provising	Develop the tool for simulating Internet-of-things (IOT) applications using fog and cloud computing
[44]	EdgeNetwork CloudSim	VM Provising	Placement of Service Chains in Edge clouds.
[45]	FTCloudSim	Middleware Supervision	Service reliability enhancement mechanisms .
[46]	FederatedCloudSim	Middleware Supervision	Simulating experiments on resource and services by cloud brokers.
[47]	CloudSimSDN	Middleware Supervision	Modeling and simulation of software-defined cloud data centers.
[48]	Cloud2Sim	General cloud Modelling	Simulation of the concurrent and distributed cloud
[49]	GreenCloud	Energy aware Provising	Reduce data center power consumption, energy-aware cloud computing data centers.
[51]	DCSim	VM Provising	Evaluation of dynamic virtualized resource management
[51]	CloudReports	Energy aware Provising	Energy-aware cloud computing environments
[52]	DISSECT-CF	Energy aware Provising	Foster energy-aware scheduling in infrastructure in cloud
[53]	PICS	VM Provising	IAAS simulation experiments

Each tool is used for specific task testing and validation. There is no such tool which is used for all-task- validation. Hence according to our applicability, it is necessary to study the best simulator for multiscale applications study.

III. METHODOLOGY

For the study of multiscale applications with practical experimentation, three most commonly simulation tools are selected as CloudSim, CloudAnalyst and CloudReports

1. **CloudSim:** CloudSim is an open source software framework based on java which supports many features such as creation of CloudSim entities, queuing and processing of events, communication among components and regulation of the simulation clock, scheduling and provisioning. The cloudsim simulator screen after setting parameter is shown in the figure 1. The first step is to install cloudsim on your local system. Following steps discusses about the simulation workflow.

Figure 1: CloudSim after Parameter Setting

- Simulation Workflow:
- Main method
- Assigning the Number of users such that user count= number of brokers
- Initialize the simulation (with current time, number of users and trace flag)
- Create datacenter
- Create datacenter broker
- Create Virtual Machine
- Submit virtual machine to datacenter broker
- Create Cloudlet(s)
- Submit Cloudlets to Datacenter broker
- Send call to start simulation
- Stop simulation (no events to run
- Print the status
- PrintCloudletList()

2. **Cloud Analyst:** Cloud Analyst framework based on CloudSim framework, designed for verifying the performance of large scale applications used over several data centers. CloudReports can be used for implementing IaaS framework with based authentication for evaluation of cloud security [52]. The CloudAnalyst screen is shown in the figure 2.

Figure 2: Cloud Analyst Screen

Simulation Workflow:

- Define the number of users using Configure Simulation Screen
- Define hardware and assign the data centers
- Assigning virtual machines for the multi-scale applications using configuration screen.
- In configuration screen select the advanced tab for fine tuning the parameters using advanced tab
- Run Simulation

3. **Cloud reports:** CloudReport [51] is an extension for the CloudSim simulator which supports elasticity to create virtual machines with custom-build configurations, datacenters and hosts also helps to generate reports in the form of charts. CloudReport core components include data center, customer, host, virtual machines, storage area networks and networks as shown in figure 3.

   Simulation Workflow:

   - Selection of random number of data centers
   - Host on data centers configured as per different parameters like RAM size, processing power, network bandwidth and so on.
   - Cloudlets are modeled using parameters like length of input, output files, bandwidth, memory and so on

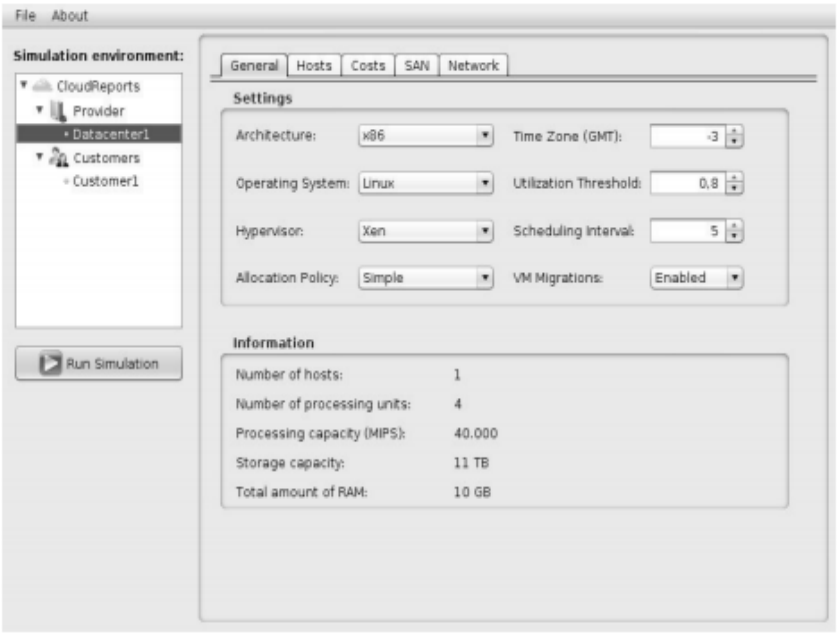

Figure 3: Cloud Report Screen

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For detailed study, the selected tools are analyzed theoretically first and then by performing various experiments in it. Analysis of the simulation frameworks completed using different methods like conjectural analysis,

1. **Conjectural analysis:** The tools are studied by exploring their functionality, code complexity, tool availability theoretical complexity is analyzed on the basic of their performance by space and time complexity

2. **Simulator practice utilization analysis:** First challenge is to determine which tools are more popular amongst the researchers and what is their scope of functionality. The practice utilization analysis of such tools is checked at preliminary task using google scholar which has further result as shown in Table 2

Table 2: Analysis of Cloud Simulator popularity

Tool	Main Citations (Source: google scholar, as on 15th Jan 2020)	Search results
CloudSim	1192+4107+491	14100
CloudAnalyst	605+202	1690
CloudReports	26+11	475

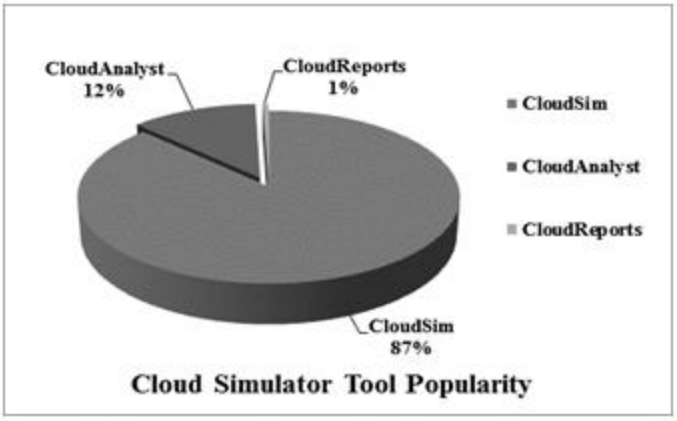

Figure 4: Cloud Simulator Popularity

The above data is represented using pie-chart as shown in figure 4. This shows that CloudSim is most popular amongst the researchers though it is generic tool and generally not used for cloud application simulation. Hence next popular tool after CloudSim is CloudAnalyst, which is extension of CloudSim further, gives more detailed results for multiscale applications.

3. **Experimental performance analysis:** For the experimental result and analysis, the multiscale applications have been simulated on three selected tools CloudSim, CloudAnalyst and CloudReports. A multiscale application in cloud is that one which operates on multiple segments. It can be viewed as the application which consists of multiple requests of variable data type and data size, such application and its typical minor parameters are experimented in using three tools. For the experimental setup, all these tools are executed on Windows 7 platform. The experimental parameters used in the experiment are same. Following Table-3 is the list of parameters considering multiscale application and Table-4 is list of parameters used for data center setup in the experiments.

Table 3: Parameters Tune for Multiscale Application

Parameter	Value
Cloudlet length (number of requests)	50,000
File Size	500 Bytes
No. of users /customers	1000

Based on following selected criteria, the tools can be ranked on the basis of quality of selected parameters given by each tool. These qualities are represented by numerical values where lowest values indicate highest rank.

Table 4: Parameters Tune for Data Centers

Parameter	Value
Image Size	1000
Processing Elements	1
RAM	512
Bandwidth	100000
Priority	1
Hypervisor	Xen
Scheduling	Dynamic
Policy	Workload
Data Center Broker Policy	Round Robin

Based on following selected criteria, the tools can be ranked on the basis of quality of selected parameters given by each tool. These qualities are represented by numerical values where lowest values indicate highest rank.

Table 5: Ranking number given to the simulator with respect to comparison parameter

Tools ⟶	**Rank to the tools**		
Parameter	**CloudSim**	**CloudAnalyst**	**CloudReports**
Citations and popularity	3	2	1
User Friendliness	1	3	2
GUI Support	2	3	3
Open Source	3	3	3
Coding Updation	2	3	2
Modification of GUI, Layout	1	3	3
Compactness	1	2	2
Ease of understanding	1	3	3
Complexity	1	2	3
Performance w.r.t. response time	2	3	1
Output parameters	3	2	1

Table 6: Parameters of consideration for simulators comparison

Parameter	CloudSim	CloudAnalyst	CloudReports
User friendliness	Less	More	More
GUI Support	No	Yes	Yes
VM Allocations Algorithms	Round robin	Round Robin Active Monitoring	Round Robin
DC Selection Algorithms	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin
Input Parameters with respect to multiscale applications	File size	Data Size	File size Number of customers
Output Parameters	Resource utilization	Response time	Resource utilization, CPU Utilization

Scope of simulation	1.Large scale data centers Virtualization 2. Application containers 3. Energy-aware computational resources 4. Data center network topologies 5.Message-passing applications 6. Federated clouds 7. User-defined policies	1.Large scale data centers 2.Large scale applications 3.Cost benefit analysis of large applications 4. Social networking applications	1.Infrasture as a Service 2. Green Computing 3.Hardware Scaling 4.Experiments based on server and data center components in detail
t Algorithm Addition Opportunity in	Service Broker Policy, VM, Scheduler Policy	Service Broker Policy, VM Scheduler Policy, Load Balancing Policy	Service Broker Policy, VM Scheduler Policy, Load Balancing Policy, CPU Utilization Policy, RAM Utilization Policy, Bandwidth Utilization Policy
Strengths	Generalized Simulation	Generalized Simulation	Generalized Simulation
Limitations considering multiscale applications	File type is not considered	Data type is not considered	Data type and number of requests per user is not considered
Lacking Parameters	Data type, no. of requests per user, response time per request, throughput, number of requests processed	Data type, throughput, number of requests processed	Data type, no. of requests per user, response time per request, throughput, number of requests processed
Size on Disk	63.9 MB	7.35 MB	33.4 MB
No. files in tool	12,291	398	774

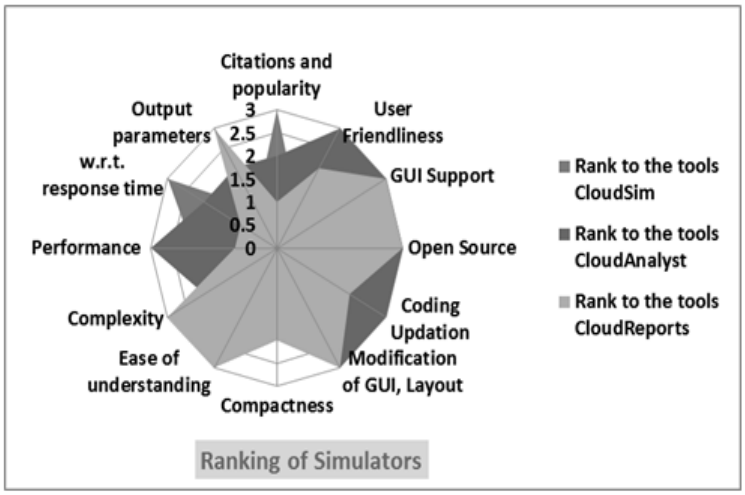

Figure 5: Ranking of Cloud Simulators with Respect to Simulation of Multiscale Applications

Figure 5 represents by plotting data using radar chart, it is observed that most of the area covered by CloudReports and CloudAnalyst, hence these two simulators are best at the moment for multiscale applications. CloudAnalyst has occupied maximum area, hence CloudAnalyst is best player in these three simulators game of multiscale applications.

Following are the research Challenges noted in selected simulation tools:

1. **Need to incorporate more input parameters:** There are many parameters in multiscale applications such as data type, data size, file extensions etc. In this case data type is not at all considered in any of the tool. Hence the tool can be updated with the parameter also other parameters such as file extension can be considered. In simulation of cloud applications various types of applications are considered which further need to be extended for more modern and sophisticated applications.

2. **Need to incorporate more output parameters:** Currently all the simulators have focused on various response times. Along with this there are many other factors, based on which performance can be analyzed. Along with response time, waiting time turnaround time, throughput also plays important role in performance analysis.

3. **Modeling SAAS Layer:** There is need to model and simulate entire SAAS layer in simulator. Detailed SAAS layer should include simulation of all requirements of applications hosted on cloud systems and their experimentation should be given as nearer realistic results.

4. **Direct Support to multiscale applications:** Currently no simulator is dedicated for multiscale applications. Multiscale applications are the real time applications that are being used by majority of cloud users, which further need to study for better and effective utilization. For better development of such applications and their deployment, for such applications study, dedicated tools are necessary.

V. CONCLUSION

In this work, three simulation tools have been studied namely CloudSim, CloudAnalyst and CloudReports. These simulators are generally used for large scaled applications modeling. The detailed comparative analysis using theoretical as well as experiment of multiscale applications has performed by considering different paramerters. This work analyzed that none of the tool is perfect for multiscale applications, but CloudAnalyst is best tool at the moment for multiscale applications. There are still many issues and challenges yet need to be analyzed using cloud simulation tool. Also, it is necessary to develop new simulation environment tool explicitly for multiscale applications.

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