

Institute for Computer Science / GWDG



Julian M. Kunkel

Lifting the user I/O abstraction to workflow level a possibility or in vain?

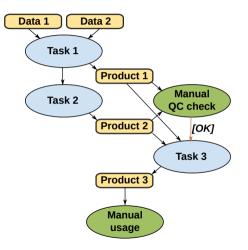


2021-08-16

Dagstuhl

Workflows: My personal definition

- Workflow: Steps from 0 to insight i.e. what users are interested in
 - Needs/produces data
 - Uses tasks
 - HPC and big data tools
 - Manual analysis
 - Spans across HPC system, cloud
 - May need months to complete
 - May involve mnual tasks
- Often partially described in scripts
- Would a proper description not support understandability?
 - Could potentially be exploited by (runtime) system?



Is the current abstraction level already good enough?

- Why do we still have to analyze I/O access patterns for POSIX?
 - It obfuscates the use-case / rationale behind the low-level I/Os
- Do we have enough insight about what workflows are executed in the DC?
 - Do we exploit this knowledge automatically or manually?
- Is HDF5 or ADIOS good enough to describe I/O in a single application?
- Are current workflow systems good enough to execute 0 to insight?

Can we lift the abstraction level higher?

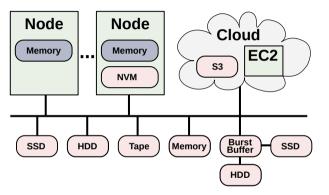
Exploiting Workflow Knowledge for Planning HPC Resources

Scientists deliver

- detailed but abstract workflow orchestration
- (containers with) all software
- data management plan with data lifecycle
- time constraints and budget
- Data centers and vendors
 - Simulate the execution before workflow is executed
 - Determine the best option to run
 - Rough estimates for: Costs, runtime, energy consumption
- Systems
 - Utilize the information to orchestrate I/O
 - Make decisions about data location and placement: Could trade compute vs. storage and energy/costs vs. runtime

Workflows 00000

Automatic: Coexistence of Storage/File Systems? Too far away?



We shall be able to use all compute/storage technologies concurrently

- > Without explicit migration etc. put data where it fits, compute where sensible
- Across vendor and system boundaries
- Administrators just add a new technology (e.g., hybrid) and users benefit

A Potential Approach in the Community?

I believe the community must lift abstraction to enable better analysis

Can we follow the MPI Forum and actually work toward standardization?

- **Standardization** of a high-level *data model* & *interface* & workflow spec
- Development of a reference implementation of a **smart runtime system**
- **Demonstration** of benefits on socially relevant data-intense apps