Due to the large number of submissions responding to the Call for Papers on “Fog Computing and Networking,” the Guest Editors selected additional papers based on reviewer comments that are now published in Part 2. The overview provided by the Guest Editors in the form of Q&A was published in Part 1 in April. Here, in this August issue of the magazine, we continue to see a range of perspectives, some qualitative and others quantitative. Collectively, they expand the scope of edge research labs that started a decade ago to the current momentum in fog research and deployment and academia-industry collaboration such as the OpenFog Consortium. In the following, we briefly overview the articles in this issue.

In “Architectural Imperatives for Fog Computing,” the author presents an industry perspective on the use cases, requirements, and techniques for the fog-enabled Internet of Things (IoT). Driven especially by latency-sensitive applications, the author discusses a list of attributes that are useful for such fog networks. Some of these are natural advantages of fog: lower latency, reduced network bandwidth usage, enhanced security and privacy, geographic locality of control, data rich mobility, reliability and robustness, support for analytics and automation, hierarchical organization, energy efficiency, and so on, while others are desirable goals to achieve in designing fog networks: scalability, agility, modularity, and openness.

In “IoT Stream Processing and Analytics in the Fog,” the authors present the general models and architecture of fog data streaming services by analyzing the common properties of several typical applications. Based on the above considerations, they analyze the design space of streaming services by focusing on four essential dimensions: system, data, human, and optimization. In this respect, the article presents both the new design challenges and the issues that may arise when leveraging existing techniques, such as cloud stream processing, computer networks, and mobile computing.

“The Unavoidable Convergence of NFV, 5G, and Fog: A Model-Driven Approach to Bridge Cloud and Edge” argues that fog computing will become part of the convergence between IoT, network functions virtualization (NFV), and fifth generation (5G). As a consequence, the article introduces an architecture that offers uniform management of IoT services spanning the continuum from the cloud to the edge that is compliant with European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) management and orchestration (MANO). The proposed architecture also introduces the first YANG models for fog nodes for IoT services involving cloud, network, and/or fog, and expands the concept of “orchestrated assurance” to provision carrier-grade service assurance in IoT. Finally, the article discusses the application of the proposed model in a pilot in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

Also, “TelcoFog: A Unified Flexible Fog and Cloud Computing Architecture for 5G Networks” proposes a novel convergent architecture that targets the extreme edge of a wired/wireless network and is particularly suitable for low-latency services. The architecture includes a scalable computing node, operating at the edge of the network, and a controller, aimed at guaranteeing service assurance and based on YANG data models.

“A Fog Operating System for User-Oriented IoT Services: Challenges and Research Directions” presents the high-level introduction of a fog computing architecture for IoT services, FogOS. It is composed of service/resource abstraction, a resource manager, an application manager, and edge resource
identification/registration. The article further identifies some of the challenges facing IoT services and possible solutions through FogOS; notably, how the diversity and heterogeneity of IoT services and edge devices can be managed.

In “A Hierarchical Game Framework for Resource Management in Fog Computing,” the authors consider a scenario with three types of entities: fog nodes (FNs), authorized data service subscribers (ADSSs), and data service operators (DSOs). Resources in FNs are owned by independent users or providers. ADSSs request data from DSOs in the cloud, which communicate with FNs. This is a particular realization of fog-cloud interaction. The authors propose a three-layer hierarchical game, with three types of game theoretic models for each of the three pair-wise interactions, leveraging the specific nature of the interaction in each case. The goal is to obtain stable and optimal utilities for three parties in a distributed way.

Biographies

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