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SONiC Development and Deployment at Alibaba

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Alibaba Technology Stack



Digital Media Cloud Ant **AliExpress** Ads **TMall Taobao Data** Cainiao **Entertainment** Computing **Financial Business Platform** Security ML, Speech, NLP, Image & Video **Search Engine AD Engine** Algorithm platform **Computing platform** Data platform Productivity Graph / Stream / Batch OneID / OneData / OneService / GProfile Algorithm component / Deep learning framework / Visualization Storage Middleware **Operation System Database** High throughput Container/Virtualization **Software Anti-fraud** Cloud / Heterogeneous EDAS / MQ / ARMS Low latency **Privacy** Scheduling Server Operation **Data Center** Network Infrastructure Green Modular / Customization Available Scalable Intelligent



Alibaba Network OS

Alibaba Network Management and Monitoring Services L2/L3 Monitoring Management DB **System Process** Hardware Abstraction Switch Hardware



SONIC

- Focus on hyper-scale datacenters
- Open source and vibrant community
- Wide support from ODMs and ASIC vendors
- Linux software and integration

```
root@sonic:/home/admin# docker ps
CONTAINER ID
aa5fa0011f89
                   docker-dhcp-relay:latest
                   docker-syncd-brcm:latest
3e01376893d7
                   docker-orchagent-brcm:latest
0c96d186c9e8
                   docker-snmp-sv2:latest
d584c5899762
                   docker-platform-monitor:latest
109c3850483b
                   docker-teamd:latest
ef25a4354ee6
                   docker-lldp-sv2:latest
dc088adf1628
                   docker-fpm-quagga:latest
b066181f01dd
                   docker-database:latest
root@sonic:/home/admin#
```

```
root@sonic:/home/admin# ifconfig
Bridge Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:05:64:30:73:c0
    inet6 addr: fe80::70b8:ddff:feec:569d/64 Scope:Link
    UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
    RX packets:1173 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
    TX packets:1158 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
    collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
    RX bytes:96600 (94.3 KiB) TX bytes:112452 (109.8 KiB)

Ethernet45 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:05:64:30:73:c0
    UP BROADCAST MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
    RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
    TX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
    collisions:0 txqueuelen:10000
    RX bytes:0 (0.0 B) TX bytes:0 (0.0 B)
```



Community Participation

- Announce joining SONiC@OCP community at ONS 2017
- Expand ODM and ASIC vendor SONiC@OCP support
- Lead SONiC adoption in China
- Major contributor to SONiC



Feature Contribution

Release	Release Date	SAI version	Features Included
SONiC.201712	12/15/2017	1.0	SONiC Support SAI 1.0
			Fast Reload
			ConfigDB framework
			TACACS+
			LACP Fallback
			MTU Setting
			Vlan Trunk
			Dynamic ACL Upgrade
			SWSS Unit Test Framework

- Special thanks to
 - o Alibaba team for contribution on: VLan Trunk, TACACS+, MTU Setting, LACP Fallback
 - o Mellanox team for contribution on Dynamic ACL Upgrade
 - o LinkedIn and community on meticulous design reviews
 - Microsoft team for contribution on: SONiC Support for SAI 1.0, Fast Reload, ConfigDB framework and SWSS Unit Test Framework
 - $\circ \quad ASIC\ partners\ to\ provide\ SAI\ 1.0\ support$
 - o Platform partners to for platform driver support

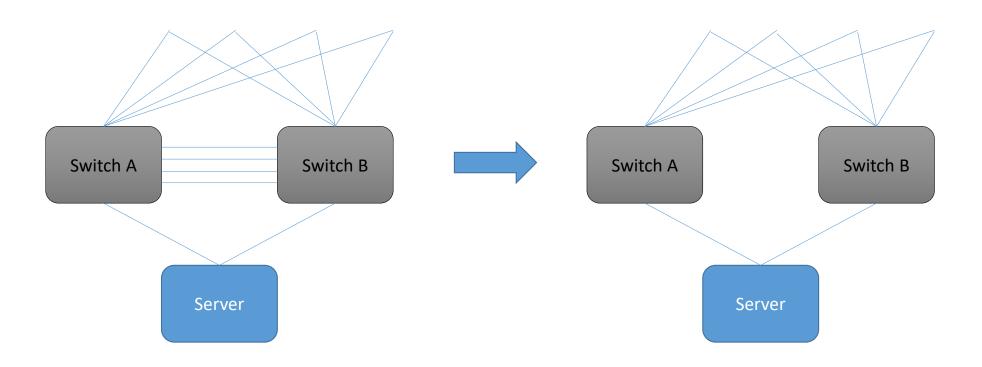


Alibaba Network OS





Support dual uplinks



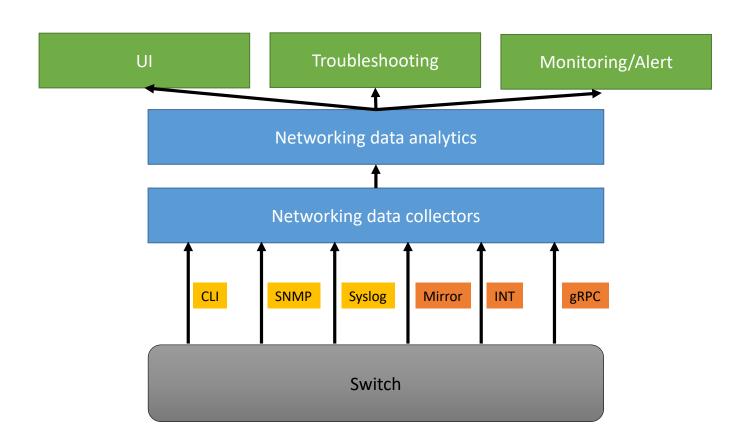


BGP Enhancements

- Announce low priority routes for graceful device restart
- RFC7911 enhancement to support multipath advertisement
- Enable ECMP member de-active on data plane before route removal
- Replace periodic timer with event trigger for faster response and lower CPU

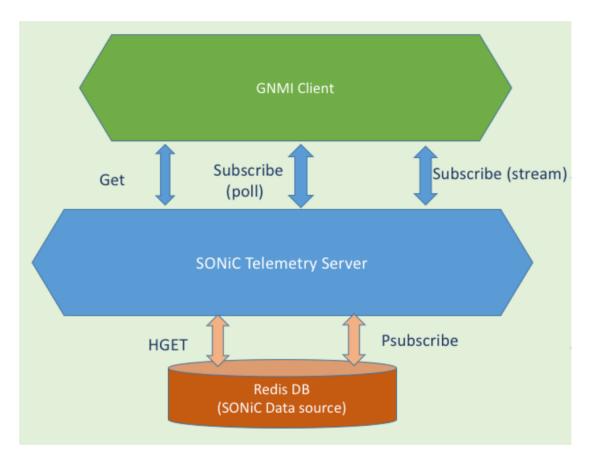


Networking Telemetry





Telemetry via gRPC



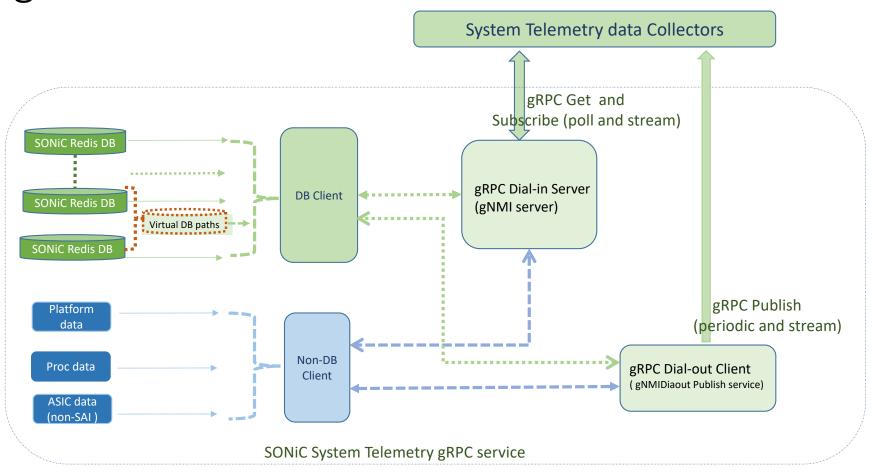
Efficient collection stack

Change only mode

Push instead of poll

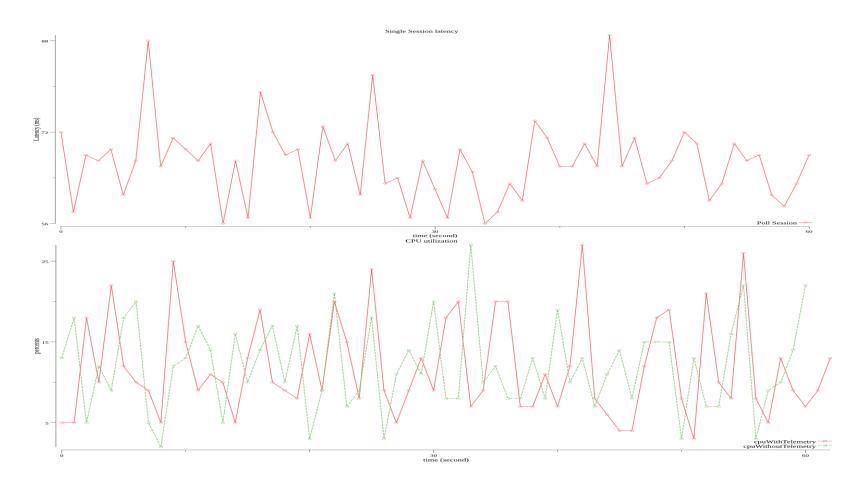


gRPC Architecture



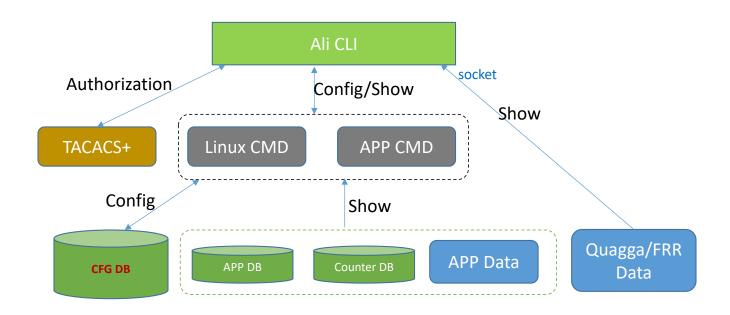


gRPC Performance





Unified CLI for Operation



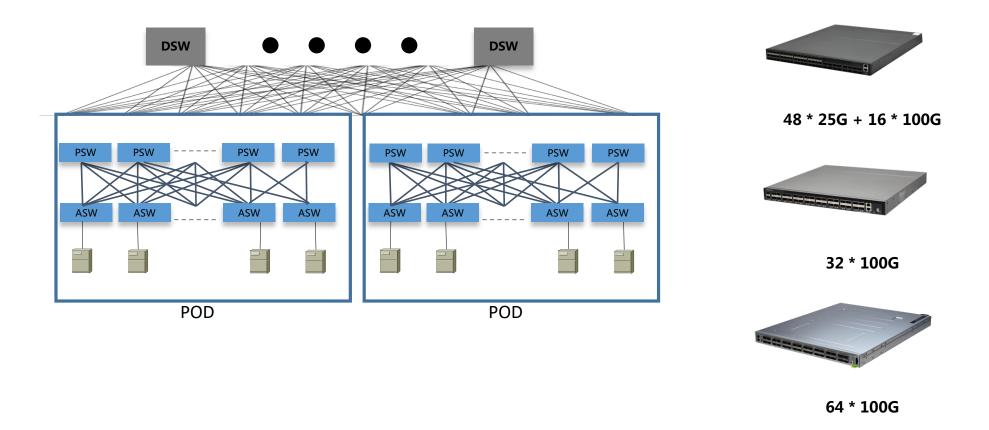


Get Ready for Production

- Feature development and customization
- Testing
 - Automate regression with Robot framework
 - Add test topology to align with Alibaba network architecture
- Operation
 - Integrate with network management and monitoring systems
 - Customized zero touch provision
 - Unified CLI for network operation team



Alibaba Data Center Network Deployment





Challenges

- Multi-vendor hardware troubleshooting
- Interoperability of INT metadata across multi-vendor devices



Summary

- Alibaba has became a key contributor to SONiC community
- Tremendous progress of developing and deploying NOS at Alibaba
- Future work
 - 10X deployment scale
 - Expand to more device roles
 - Programmable network

