ExPERT: Pareto-efficient task replication on grids and clouds

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Grid+Cloud BoT Deployment
BoTs (bags of asynchronous tasks) are often run on unreliable grids. To cope with unreliability, users replicate tasks and use expensive reliable resources: clouds. Different users want to optimize different utility functions: cost, makespan (time needed to complete an entire BoT), or any function of the two. ExPERT finds efficient task replication strategies which are the best for any user utility function.

The NTD_M_r Strategy Space
- N – Number of task instances sent to the grid. A final instance (N+1) is sent to the cloud.
- T – Timeout (min wait time between instances)
- D – Deadline after which a result is ignored.
- M_r – Reliable pool's Max concurrent size (fraction of the unreliable pool's size).

User parameters
- Cost per time on reliable, unreliable pools.
- Average task runtimes.
- M_r^max – Hard limit on pool size ratio (cloud/grid).

BoT Execution

Reliable Pool

Unreliable Pool

User
Scheduler

The NTD_M_r space is sampled. Each strategy is Monte-Carlo simulated to estimate cost and makespan. Inefficient strategies are filtered out.

Decision Making
The best strategy on the Pareto frontier is chosen according to any user preference.

Pareto Frontier vs. Static Strategies
NTDM, Pareto frontier is more efficient than most strategies.

Cost X Time
Cost X time of ExPERT-recommended strategy is 25% lower than second-best and at least 72% lower than third-best.

Limiting Clouds
The free parameter M_r enables efficient strategies with lower costs for the same makespan. It makes tasks wait in a queue, where they may be canceled.

Conclusion
- The NTD_M_r strategy space is vast enough to provide user preference flexibility.
- ExPERT recommended strategies finish in two-thirds of the time and cost a quarter of commonly-used static strategies.
- Using ExPERT means you do not waste time or money, and you optimize your own utility function!