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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

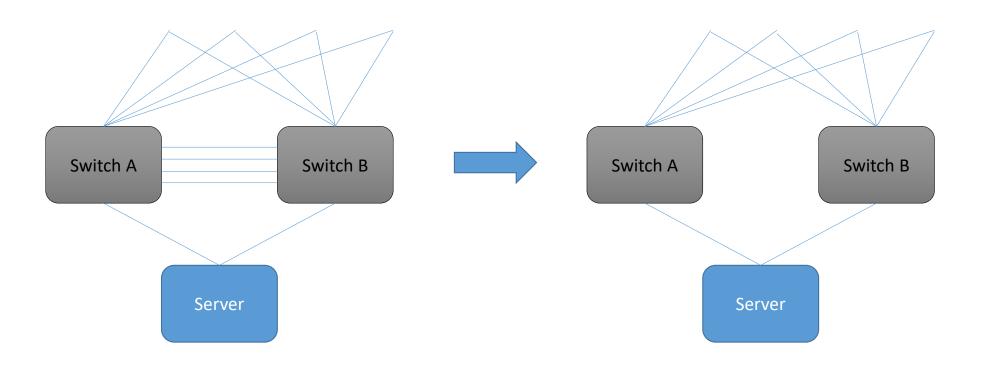


#### Alibaba Network OS





## Support dual uplinks



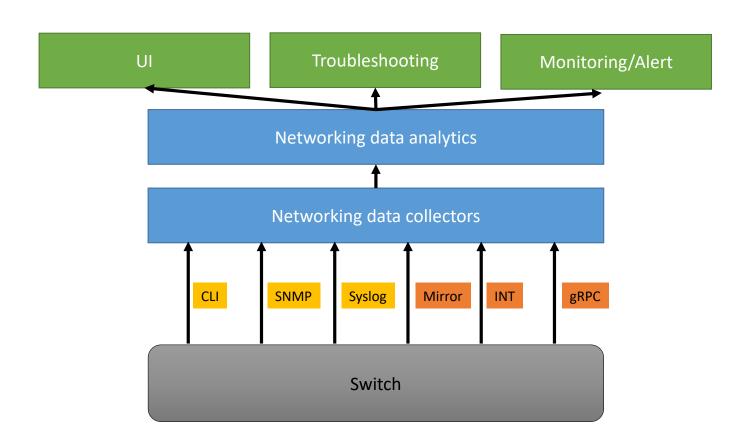


#### **BGP** Enhancements

- 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

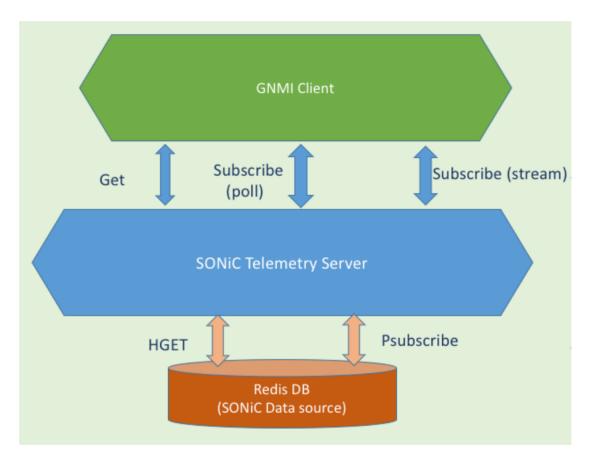


## Networking Telemetry





## Telemetry via gRPC



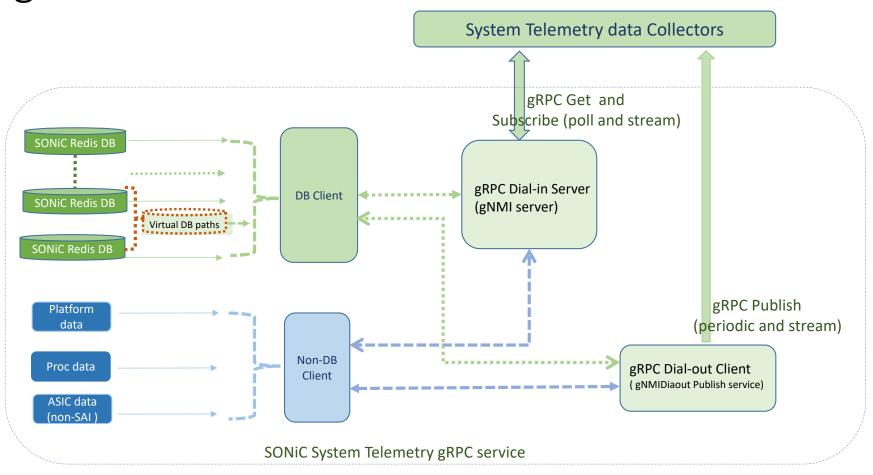
Efficient collection stack

Change only mode

Push instead of poll

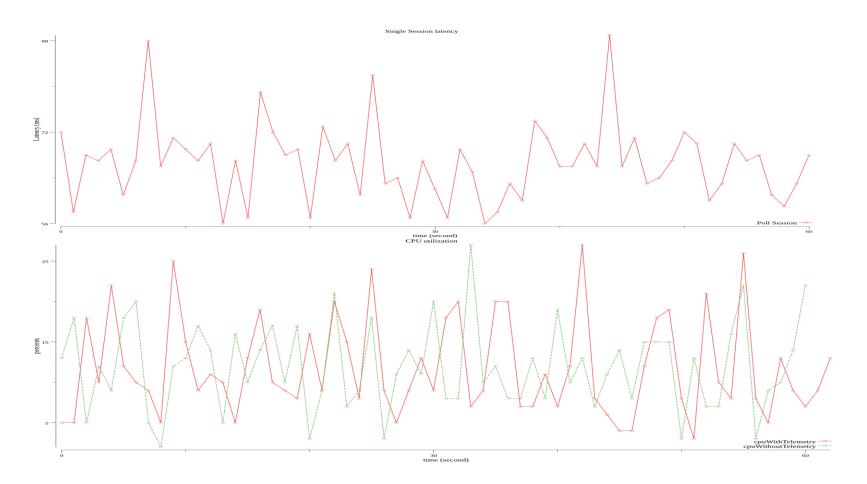


## gRPC Architecture



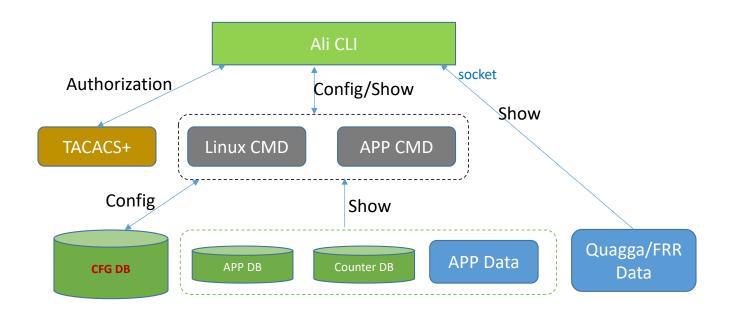


# gRPC Performance





#### Unified CLI for Operation



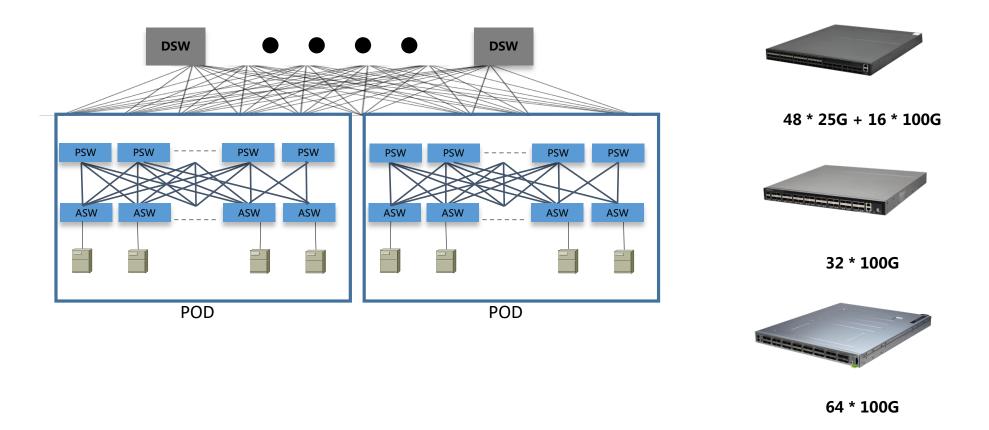


## Get Ready for Production

- 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

