



Virtualized messaging hypervisor analysis on Red Hat Kernel Virtual Machine running on the Dell PowerEdge R710 solution

Executive summary

Red Hat, Inc. (Red Hat) commissioned Principled Technologies (PT) to analyze the virtualized messaging performance of the Red Hat® Kernel Virtual Machine® (KVM) hypervisor with VMs running Advanced Message Queuing Protocol (AMQP).

We ran Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) with KVM on a Dell™ PowerEdge™ R710 with two 2.93GHz Intel® Xeon® Processor X5570s and 24 GB of RAM. We installed Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Beta (kernel-2.6.18-159.el5) as the host operating system and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Beta (kernel-2.6.18-159.el5) as the guest operating system.

For this analysis, we used the perftest and latencytest tools, which Red Hat includes with MRG Messaging, to compare both throughput and latency on the KVM hypervisor platform. We ran each test in both one- and two-guest configurations. Latencytest scores measure response times, making lower numbers better, while perftest scores measure number of messages transmitted successfully per second, making higher numbers better. The Workload section explains the perftest and latencytest workloads in greater detail.

Figure 1 shows the latencytest results of KVM with PCI passthrough while running one guest on the host. The KVM solution with PCI passthrough delivered a sub-200-microsecond response time at all message sizes except the largest one (1,024 bytes). In the Test results section, we discuss more results related to latencytest.

KEY FINDINGS

- While running one- and two-guest virtualized latencytest messaging workloads, the KVM solution delivered sub-200-microsecond latencies at one thousand messages per second between the client system and the Dell PowerEdge R710 at all but the largest message size. (See Figure 1.)
- While running two simultaneous virtualized perftest messaging workloads, the KVM solution delivered over one million messages per second at 16-byte and 32-byte message sizes, and delivered over 800 MB/s at larger message sizes. (See Figure 2).

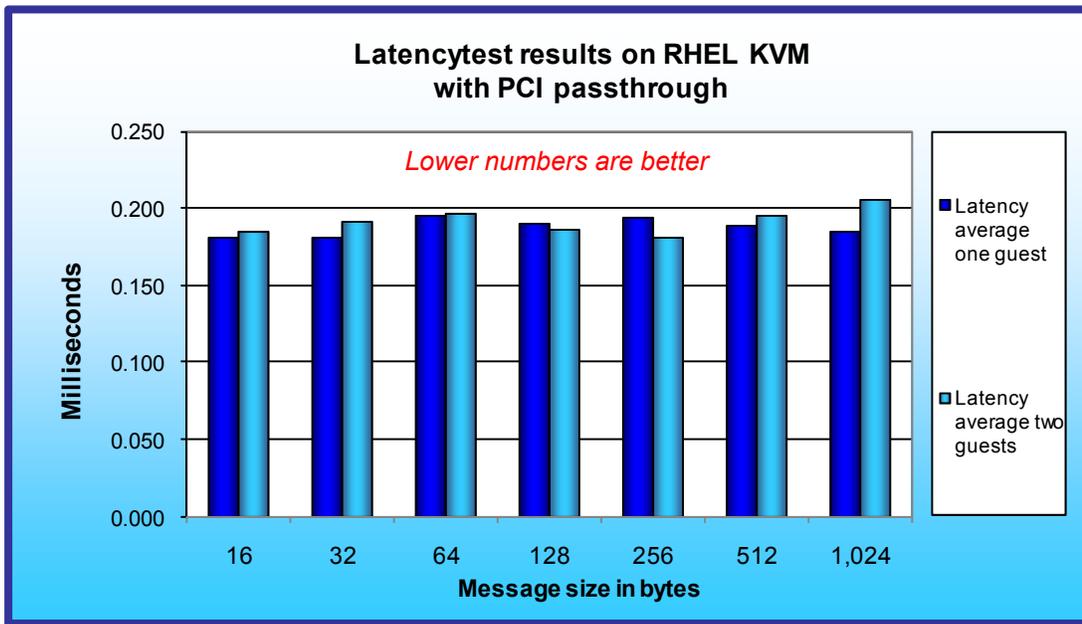


Figure 1: One- and two-guest latencytest results, in milliseconds, for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes. Lower numbers are better.

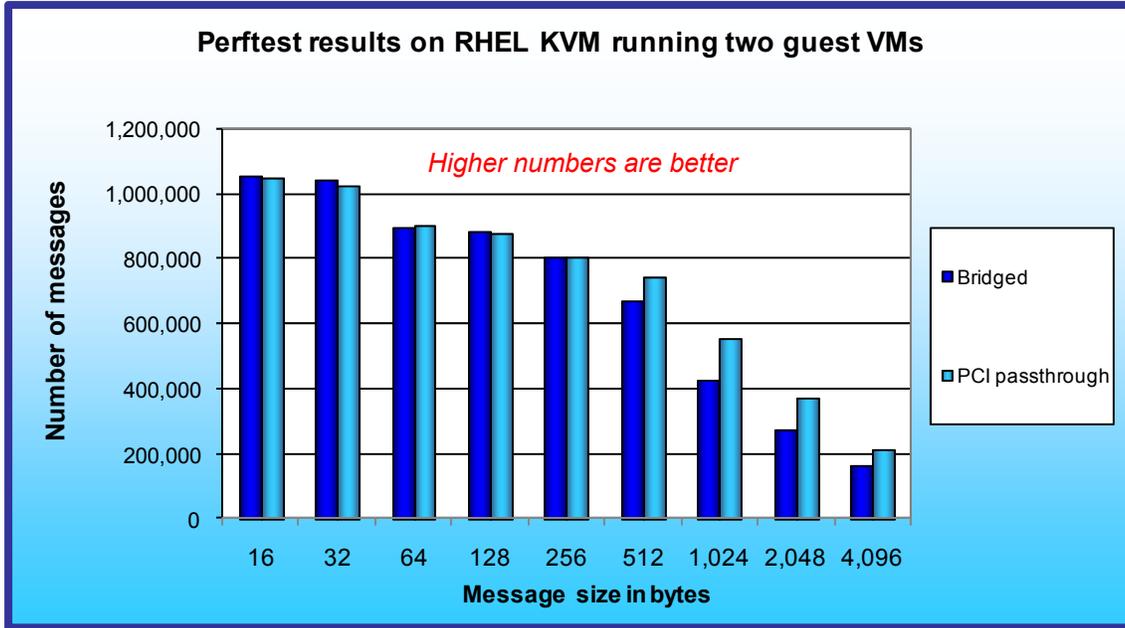


Figure 2: Two-guest perftest results for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes in bridged networking and PCI passthrough configurations. Higher numbers are better.

Figure 2 shows the perftest results of the KVM hypervisor using both bridged networking drivers and PCI passthrough while running two simultaneous workloads in two separate guests on the host. The KVM solution delivered a combined million-plus messages. In the Test results section, we discuss more results related to perftest.

All test configurations featured four virtual CPUs (vCPUs) and 8 GB of RAM on each guest. The boot partition was on the virtual IDE controller. We used no external storage for this test.

We installed and ran the perftest and latencytest workload from a physical client configured as follows: Intel® Xeon® E7450 2.4Ghz processors and 64 GB of RAM, two 10Gb Broadcom NICs, and two SAS 15K 73GB hard drives. We installed Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Beta (kernel-2.6.18-159.el5) as the operating system for the client system and cabled the NICs directly to the server under test in a peer-to-peer configuration.

Workload

We conducted our testing using the software Red Hat includes in Enterprise MRG Messaging technology. The perftest and latencytest applications test throughput and latency, respectively, using MRG Messaging as the underlying software.

MRG Messaging enables the creation of distributed applications in which programs exchange data via sending and receiving messages. An organization can distribute a single application over a network, irrespective of differing operating systems, network protocols, or languages. In the MRG messaging model, the producer is any program that sends messages, the consumer is any program that receives them, and a broker is a messaging hub that routes messages from the publisher to their appropriate consumer (see Figure 3). The producer sends messages to exchanges, while consumers subscribe to queues to receive the messages. Exchanges use routing and binding information to decide which queue to deliver a message to (see Figure 4). Thus, the procedure is as follows: the producer sends a message to the exchange, where the exchange then assesses the bindings and places the message in the correct queue. The consumers then retrieve the messages from the correct queues.

Red Hat MRG Messaging uses the Advanced Message Queuing Protocol (AMQP) protocol, an open-source messaging protocol, and is based on Apache Qpid (Qpid), a multi-platform messaging implementation of the

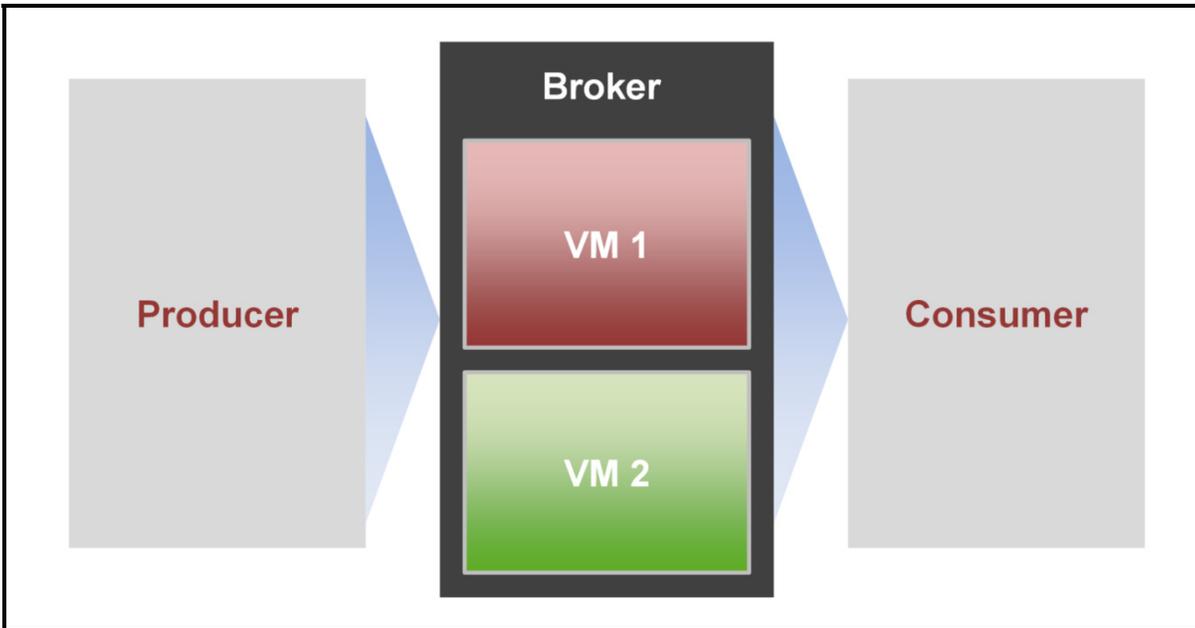


Figure 3: High-level view of the MRG messaging model. The producer is any program that sends messages, the consumer is any program that receives them, and a broker is a messaging hub that routes messages from the publisher to their appropriate consumer.

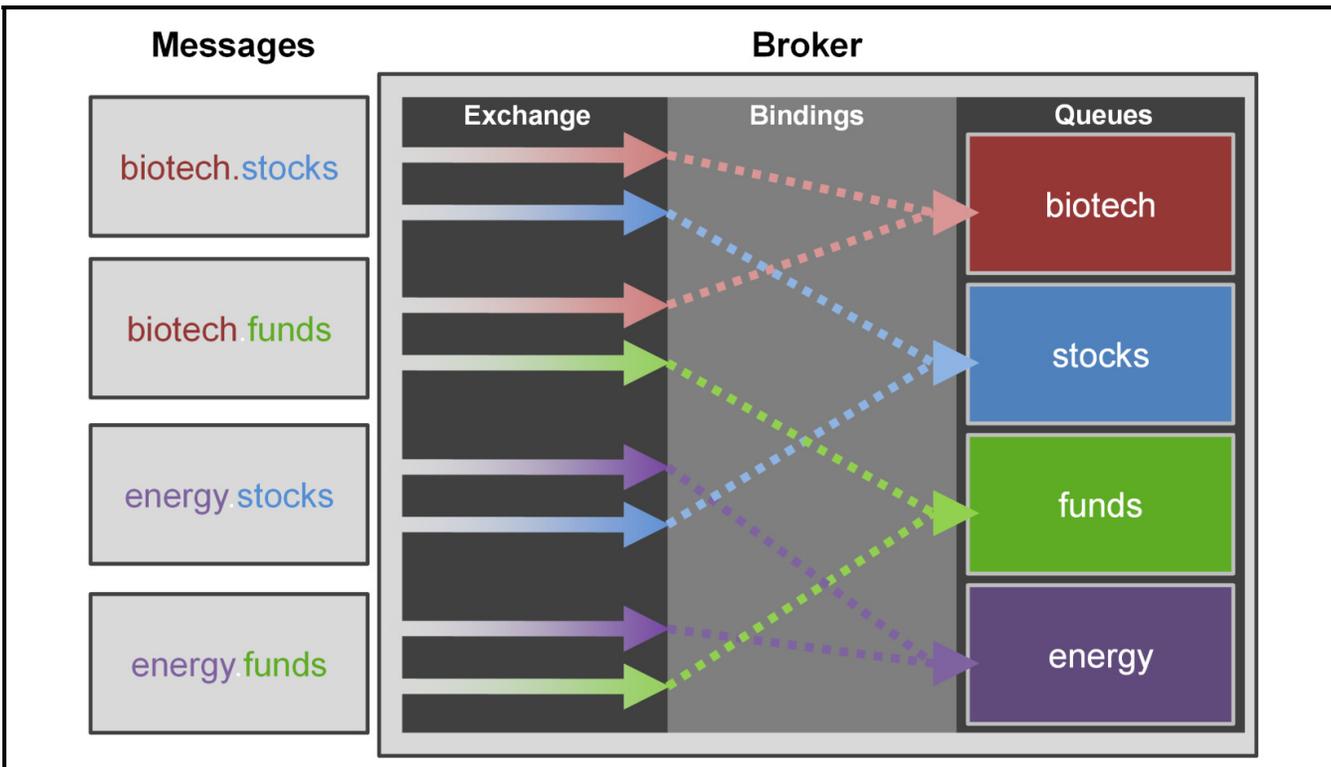


Figure 4: How the MRG messaging model broker handles messages. The producer sends messages to exchanges, while consumers subscribe to queues to receive the messages. Exchanges use routing and binding information to decide which queue to deliver a message to.

AMQP protocol. Red Hat Enterprise MRG Messaging adds to Qpid by implementing certain message persistence and durability options, Linux kernel optimizations, clustering and failover options, support for transactions, and additional OS services.

Our MRG Messaging configuration involves two systems: the client system (producer/subscriber) and the server under test (broker). Acting as producer, the client system generates messages that it sends to the broker in virtual machines on the server under test. The brokers inside the virtual machines contain exchanges that then route these messages to the subscriber, which in our case, was, again, the client system.

Perftest measures throughput as the total number of messages reliably transferred, divided by the time it took to transfer those messages. To run each test, perftest creates a control queue and manages the send-receive message process. When the message transfers are complete, perftest then records a timestamp and calculates the transfer rate for the messages. Perftest measures throughput in megabytes per second (MB/s) as well as in messages per second.

Latencytest measures latency as the total time it takes the producer (client system) to send messages to the broker (server under test) and for the exchange inside the broker (server under test) to route the message back to the subscriber (client system). The client system reports the minimum, maximum, and average reporting interval time when using a rate, and reports all the sent messages when using a count. Latencytest specifies a message count and timestamps all messages. Latencytest measures latency in milliseconds (ms). We ran all latencytest configurations for 60-second durations. For latencytest, we ran each configuration nine times, then chose the run which corresponded to the median standard deviation. We report the results from that run for each configuration.

For perftest, the goal was to see how many messages could complete in a certain time and for latencytest the goal was to get the quickest response possible. We ran the following message sizes for each workload: 16, 32, 64, 128, 512, and 1,024 bytes. For perftest specifically, we also ran two larger message sizes: 2,048 and 4,096 bytes.

For each workload, we ran two virtual networking configurations: the first configuration was a typical bridged scenario, while the second configuration used PCI passthrough, where a guest directly drives the PCI device. For this, we used Intel's Virtualization Technology for Directed I/O, otherwise known as VT-d. We did not run the PCI passthrough configuration on Hyper-V, as Hyper-V does not support PCI passthrough.

Test results

In this section, we review the test results for both latencytest and perftest. For each configuration, we ran nine iterations of the workload at that configuration to achieve a reliable median result. For latencytest, we ran each configuration nine times, then chose the run which corresponded to the median standard deviation. We report the results from that run for each configuration. For perftest two-guest results, we summed the results for each guest and provide the median.

Latencytest Latencies

Figure 5 shows the average latencies, in seconds, for the one-guest configuration and the averaged latencies for both guests running in the two-guest scenario. Both configurations were running with PCI passthrough. All message sizes except for the largest—1,024 bytes—delivered average latencies in the sub-200-microsecond range. For Figure 5, we averaged the latencies of each guest and report that average.

Message size in bytes	Latency average one guest	Latency average combined two guests
16	0.18101	0.18578
32	0.18150	0.19144
64	0.19575	0.19753
128	0.19082	0.18702
256	0.19420	0.18177
512	0.18906	0.19558
1,024	0.18520	0.20616

Figure 5: One- and two-guest latencytest results, in milliseconds, for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes. Lower numbers are better.

In Figure 6, we show the full 60 seconds of data for this particular test.

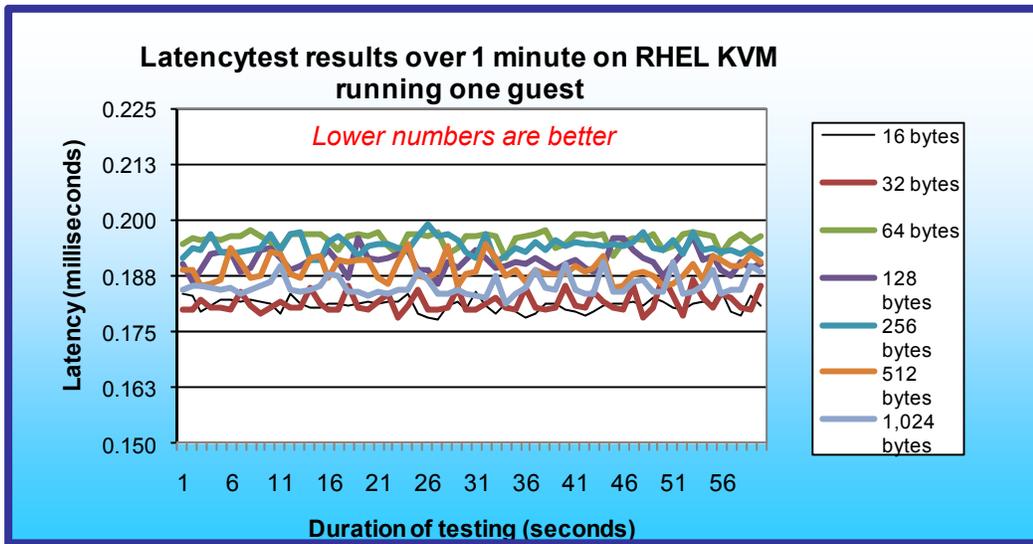


Figure 6: One-guest latencytest results for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at different message sizes. Lower numbers are better. Note: The Y-axis does not start at zero.

Standard deviation

When we ran with PCI passthrough on the KVM platform, all message sizes exhibited extremely stable latencies, with the standard deviation remaining below 0.0035 for all message sizes throughout the 60-second test. In Figure 7, we show the standard deviation plot of a one-guest 16-byte message latencytest running with PCI passthrough.

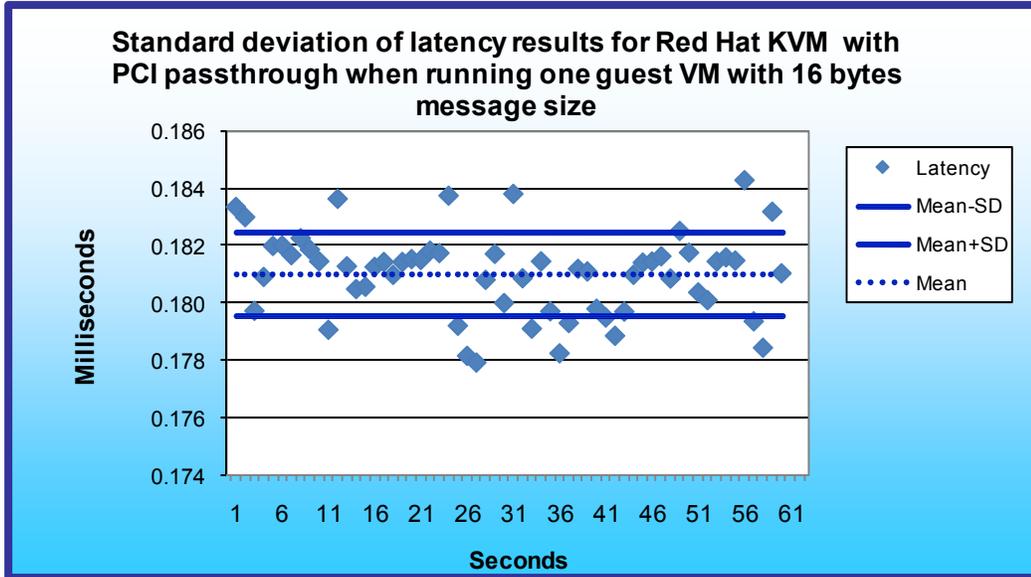


Figure 7: Standard deviation of 16-byte one-guest latency response times for Red Hat KVM with PCI passthrough. Lower numbers are better. Note: The Y-axis does not start at zero.

In Figure 8, we show the median latencies and standard deviations of all message sizes, for both one-guest configurations and two-guest configurations with PCI passthrough.

Message size in bytes	One guest		Two guests combined	
	Average latency	Standard deviation	Average latency	Standard deviation
16	0.18100503	0.00145423	0.18577773	0.00691402
32	0.18150385	0.00214534	0.19144319	0.00405827
64	0.19574787	0.00150639	0.19753483	0.00285718
128	0.19081721	0.00226990	0.18702274	0.00517912
256	0.19420390	0.00182762	0.18176977	0.00261789
512	0.18906207	0.00253000	0.19558269	0.00583502
1,024	0.18520098	0.00217688	0.20616418	0.00910833

Figure 8: One- and two-guest latency test results and standard deviations for Red Hat KVM running AMQP with PCI passthrough at differing message sizes. Lower numbers are better.

Perftest

In this section, we show results from both the bridged networking configuration and from the PCI passthrough configuration.

In Figure 9, we show the combined perftest results, in messages per second, from our two-guest configuration running the Virtio, or bridged networking configuration. The left Y-axis shows number of messages per second, while the right Y-axis shows number of megabytes per second. As message size increases, the number of messages goes down, but raw throughput of megabytes per second increases.

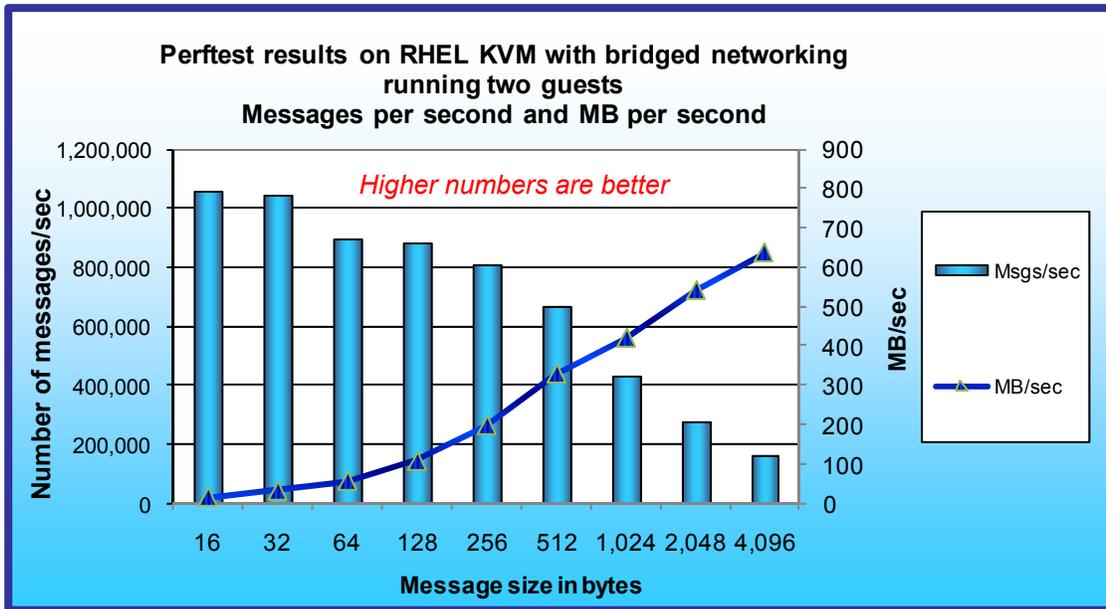


Figure 9: Two-guest perftest results for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes with bridged networking. Higher numbers are better. The left Y-axis shows messages per second, while the right Y-axis shows megabytes per second.

In Figure 10, we show the combined perftest results, in messages per second, from our two-guest configuration running the PCI passthrough networking configuration. Again, the left Y-axis shows number of messages per second, while the right Y-axis shows number of megabytes per second. As message size increases, the number of messages goes down, but raw throughput of MB/second increases. We show similar numbers of messages with PCI passthrough, but overall throughput in megabytes per second is higher than with bridged networking.

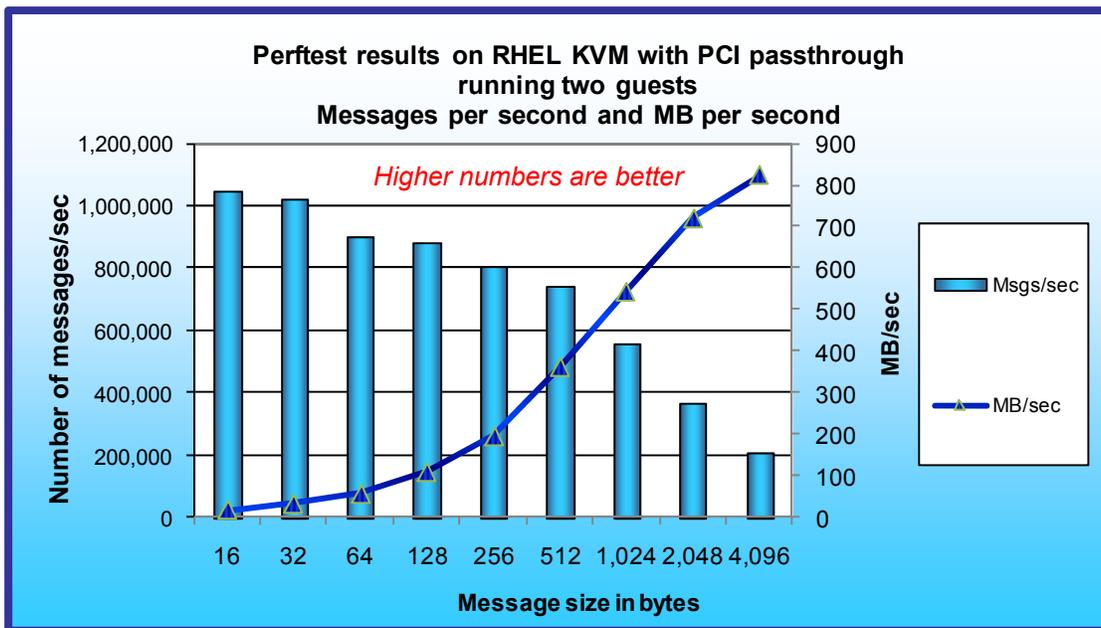


Figure 10: Two-guest perftest results for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes with PCI passthrough. Higher numbers are better. The left Y-axis shows messages per second, while the right Y-axis shows megabytes per second.

Figure 11 shows the two-guest perftest results, in messages per second and MB per second for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes with bridged networking and PCI passthrough. Higher numbers are better.

Message size in bytes	Bridged networking		PCI passthrough	
	Transfer/sec	MB/sec	Transfer/sec	MB/sec
16	1,057,827	16.141	1,046,081	15.962
32	1,042,740	31.822	1,023,869	31.246
64	898,794	54.858	902,689	55.096
128	885,153	108.051	880,965	107.540
256	807,626	197.174	804,045	196.300
512	668,605	326.467	741,297	361.961
1,024	428,724	418.676	555,465	542.446
2,048	276,970	540.956	369,145	720.985
4,096	163,204	637.515	210,634	822.790

Figure 11: Two-guest perftest results for Red Hat KVM running AMQP at differing message sizes with bridged networking and PCI passthrough. Higher numbers are better.

Test methodology

Adjusting BIOS settings

We enabled the virtualization feature in the BIOS for our virtualization testing. We disabled C-states and set Power Management to Maximum Performance for this testing.

Setting up the host server with Red Hat 5.4 Beta with KVM

For the Red Hat KVM configuration, we installed kernel-2.6.18-159.el5 of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Beta on the host server, and then installed the packages necessary for KVM and AMQP.

Installing Red Hat 5.4 Beta

1. Insert and boot from the Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Install DVD.
2. Press Enter to install using graphical mode.
3. At the media test screen, select Skip.
4. At the Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 title screen, click Next.
5. At the Choose a Language screen, select English, and click Next.
6. At the Keyboard Type screen, select U.S. English, and click Next.
7. At the Installation Number pop-up screen, enter no Installation number, and click OK.
8. At the Installation requires partitioning screen, click Next.
9. If a warning appears, click Yes.
10. At the hard drive layout screen, click Next.
11. At the Boot loader screen, click Next.
12. At the Network Devices screen, click Edit, and deselect Enable IPv6. Click OK.
13. Under Hostname, select manually, and set the hostname to `##.domain.com`, where `##` is the name of your domain. Click Next. If you receive any warnings, click Continue.
14. At the Time zone selection screen, select the appropriate time zone, and click Next.
15. Enter the root password in the root password and confirm fields, and click Next.
16. At the default installation screen, leave the customized items unchecked, and click Next.
17. Click Next to begin the installation.
18. At the Congratulations screen, click Reboot.
19. After the system reboots and the Welcome screen appears, click Forward.
20. Agree to the EULA, and click Forward.

21. At the Firewall screen, select Disabled from the Firewall drop-down menu, and click Forward.
22. If a warning pop-up screen appears, click Yes.
23. At the SELinux screen, select Disabled from the SELinux Setting drop-down menu, and click Forward.
24. If a warning appears, click Yes.
25. At the Kdump screen, uncheck Enable Kdump, and click Forward.
26. At the Date and Time screen, set the time and date, and click Forward.
27. At the Set Up Software Updates screen, select No, I prefer to register at a later time, and click Forward.
28. If a pop-up screen appears asking if you are sure, click No thanks.
29. At the Finish Updates Setup, click Forward.
30. At the Create User Screen, click Forward.
31. If a warning appears, click Continue.
32. At the Sound Card screen, click Forward.
33. At the Additional CDs screen, click Finish.
34. At the pop-up screen, click OK.
35. At the logon screen, type `root` for the user, enter the root password, and press Enter.

Installing the KVM packages in RHEL 5.4 Beta

1. Copy the RHEL 5.4 ISO image, and mount it at `/mnt/rhel54/`.
2. Create a text file at `/etc/yum.repos.d/rhel-54-dvd.repo` with the following contents:

```
[rhel-54-beta-dvd]
name=Red Hat Enterprise Linux $releasever - $basearch - DVD
baseurl=file:///mnt/rhel54/Server/
enabled=1
```

```
[rhel-54-vt-beta-dvd]
name=Red Hat Enterprise Linux $releasever VT - $basearch - DVD
baseurl=file:///mnt/rhel54/VT/
enabled=1
```

3. Install the two GPG keys located on the Red Hat ISO by typing the following commands in a command prompt:

```
rpm --import /mnt/rhel54/RPM-GPG-KEY-redhat-beta
rpm --import /mnt/rhel54/RPM-GPG-KEY-redhat-release
```

4. Type the following command to install KVM packages:

```
# yum groupinstall kvm
```

Setting up the network adapters

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to edit the network configuration settings, where X is the relevant host NIC to modify:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-ethX &
```

3. Modify the following lines to set the static IP address and netmask, where X is the remaining parts of the relevant IP address:

```
BOOTPROTO=static
IPADDR=192.168.XXX.XXX
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
```

4. Save the file, and exit gedit.
5. Type the following command to modify the remaining network settings:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network &
```

6. Modify the following lines to disable IPv6 and set the hostname, where “hostname” is the hostname of this server:

```
NETWORKING=yes  
NETWORKING_IPV6=no  
HOSTNAME=hostname.local.domain
```

7. Save the file, and exit gedit.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 for the remaining NICs.
9. Type the following command to restart the network services:

```
# service network restart
```

Installing tuna on the host

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to install the tuna utility:

```
# yum install tuna
```

Setting up the client with Red Hat 5.4 Beta with KVM

For the Red Hat client to drive the workloads, we installed kernel-2.6.18-159.el5 of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4 Beta on the server, and then installed the packages necessary for AMQP. Follow the identical steps above for installing Red Hat MRG Messaging on the client machine.

Completing configurations in the Red Hat KVM host

Disabling unneeded services

1. Disable the following services:

```
chkconfig auditd off  
chkconfig avahi-daemon off  
chkconfig anacron off  
chkconfig qpidd off  
chkconfig smartd off  
chkconfig crond off  
chkconfig haldaemon off  
chkconfig opensmd off  
chkconfig openibd off  
chkconfig yum-updatesd off  
chkconfig collectd off  
chkconfig bluetooth off  
chkconfig cups off  
chkconfig isdn off  
chkconfig kudzu off  
chkconfig mcstrans off  
chkconfig mdmonitor off  
chkconfig messagebus off  
chkconfig restorecond off
```

```
chkconfig rhnsd off
chkconfig rpcgssd off
chkconfig setroubleshoot off
```

Installing the systat package for system monitoring

1. Insert the RHEL 5.4 DVD into the host machine.
2. At the command line, browse to the DVD drive.
3. Find the systat package under the Server directory by typing the following command (note the resulting file in the list):

```
# ls systat*
```

4. Install the package by typing the following command, where rpmpackage is the name we noted in Step 3 above:

```
# rpm -i rpmpackage
```

Enabling huge pages memory functionality in Red Hat KVM

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to edit the system configuration settings:

```
# gedit /etc/sysctl.conf &
```

3. Add the following lines to the bottom of the file to reserve approximately 17GB for VM huge pages, with each page at 2,048 KB:

```
vm.nr_hugepages = 9000
```

4. Type the following command to edit the rc.local file:

```
# gedit /etc/rc.local &
```

5. Add the following lines to the bottom of the file:

```
mkdir -p /mnt/libhugetlbfs
mount -t hugetlbfs hugetlbfs /mnt/libhugetlbfs
chmod 777 /mnt/libhugetlbfs
```

Setting up the bridged network for Red Hat KVM

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to create a configuration file for the bridged network device:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-br0 &
```

3. Add the following lines to the file. Note that, in the below example, "X" signifies a placeholder:

```
# NIC details - copy from ifcfg-ethX file
DEVICE=br0
BOOTPROTO=none
IPADDR=192.168.XX.XXX
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
```

```
ONBOOT=yes
TYPE=Bridge
USERCTL=no
IPV6INIT=no
DELAY=0
```

4. Save the file, and exit.
5. Type the following command to edit the ifcfg-ethX file, where “X” is the number of the NIC you are using for your bridge:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-ethX &
```

6. Modify the file to point to the bridge device:

```
# NIC details
DEVICE=eth0
HWADDR=00:1B:21:29:CE:74
BRIDGE=br0
```

7. Save the file, and exit.
8. Create the file /etc/qemu-ifup.
9. Modify the contents as follows:

```
#!/bin/sh
/sbin/ifconfig $1 0.0.0.0 up
/usr/sbin/brctl addif br0 $1
```

10. Save the file, and exit.
11. Repeat for each 10Gb NIC, and once for a management NIC.
12. Restart the network by typing the following:

```
# service network restart
```

Setting the elevator=deadline option in the grub.conf file

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to edit the grub configuration settings:

```
# gedit /etc/grub.conf &
```

3. Add the following text to the end of kernel line:

```
elevator = deadline
```

4. Save the file, and exit.

Setting system start parameters in the /etc/sysctl.conf file

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to edit the system configuration settings:

```
# gedit /etc/sysctl.conf &
```

3. Add or modify the following lines:

```
kernel.msgmni = 16384
kernel.sem = 250 32000 32 2048
kernel.msgmax = 65535
kernel.msgmnb = 1310724

fs.file-max = 65536
net.core.rmem_max = 8388608
net.core.wmem_max = 8388608
net.core.rmem_default = 262144
net.core.wmem_default = 262144
net.ipv4.tcp_rmem = 65536 4194304 8388608
net.ipv4.tcp_wmem = 65536 4194304 8388608
net.core.netdev_max_backlog = 10000
net.ipv4.tcp_mem = 262144 4194304 8388608

net.ipv4.conf.vnet3.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet2.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet1.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet0.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.br6.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.br5.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.br4.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth6.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth5.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth4.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.lo.arp_filter = 0
net.ipv4.conf.default.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.all.arp_filter = 0
```

4. Save the file, and exit.

Setting up VT-d in the Red Hat Host (VT-d configuration only)

For all bridged NICs used in testing, perform the following steps.

1. Log into the host, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following command to edit the network configuration settings, where X is the relevant host NIC to modify:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-ethX &
```

3. Modify the following lines to change the boot behavior:

```
ONBOOT=no
```

4. Save the file, and exit gedit.
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 for the remaining NICs you use for VMs.

6. Repeat steps 2 through 4 for the `ifcfg-brX` files, where X is the bridge number.
7. Type the following command:

```
# gedit /etc/modprobe &
```

8. Comment out the following lines, where X is the NIC number relevant to VT-d configuration.

```
# alias ethX ixgbe
```

9. Add the following lines:

```
blacklist ixgbe
```

10. Save the file, and exit.
11. Type the following command to edit the grub configuration settings:

```
# gedit /etc/grub.conf &
```

12. Add the following text to the end of the kernel line:

```
intel_iommu=on
```

13. Save the file, and exit.
14. Reboot the server.
15. Add the relevant parameter to the VM start script (see the below section).

Creating and configuring the VMs

Creating the virtual machine using the Virtual Machine Manager

1. Log into the RHEL 5.4 host.
2. Click Applications, System Tools, Virtual Machine Manager.
3. Click New.
4. Click Forward.
5. Choose a name for the VM. Click Forward.
6. Keep the default of Fully virtualized, choose the CPU architecture, and choose kvm as the hypervisor.
7. Assuming you have copied the RHEL 5.4 beta media to the host machine, choose Local install media, Linux as the OS Type, and Red Hat Enterprise 5 as the OS Variant. Click Forward.
8. Click Browse to browse to the ISO Linux location.
9. Locate the ISO file, select it, and click Open. Click Forward.
10. Choose File (disk image), and specify the location where you wish to store the IMG file. In our case, we chose the default location.
11. Specify 8192MB for the size of the IMG file, and uncheck and recheck the Allocate entire virtual disk now checkbox. Click Forward.
12. Choose Shared physical device, and select the management NIC.
13. Set Max memory size and Startup memory size to 8192MB, and set the number of Virtual CPUs to 4. Click Forward.
14. Review the summary information, and click Finish.

Installing the guest operating system

1. Double-click the new VM to connect to the console.
2. On the Hardware tab in Virtual Machine Manager, specify the ISO image on the host machine as the CD drive of the VM. Right-click the VM, and choose Run.

3. Power on the VM.
4. Click Enter to enter the graphical Red Hat installation.
5. At the media test screen, select Skip.
6. At the Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 title screen, click Next.
7. At the Choose a Language screen, select English, and click Next.
8. At the Keyboard Type screen, select U.S. English, and click Next.
9. At the Installation Number pop-up screen, choose to skip Installation Numbers, and click OK. Click Yes to proceed if the installer prompts you again.
10. At the Installation requires partitioning screen, click Next.
11. If a warning appears, click Yes.
12. At the hard drive layout screen, click Next.
13. At the Time zone selection screen, select the appropriate time zone, and click Next.
14. Type `Password1` in the root password and confirm fields, and click Next.
15. At the default installation screen, choose Customize Now, and click Next.
16. Choose Servers, and select MySQL server.
17. Choose Development, select Development Libraries and Development tools, and click Next.
18. Click Next to begin the installation.
19. At the Congratulations screen, click Reboot.
20. After the system reboots and the Welcome screen appears, click Forward.
21. Agree to the EULA, and click Forward.
22. At the Firewall screen, select Disabled from the Firewall drop-down menu, and click Forward.
23. If a warning pop-up screen appears, click Yes.
24. At the SELinux screen, select Disabled from the SELinux Setting drop-down menu, and click Forward.
25. If a warning appears, click Yes.
26. At the Kdump screen, uncheck Enable Kdump, and click Forward.
27. At the Date and Time screen, set the date and time, and click Forward.
28. At the Set Up Software Updates screen, select No, I prefer to register at a later time, and click Forward.
29. If a pop-up screen appears asking if you are sure, click No thanks.
30. At the Finish Updates Setup, click Forward.
31. At the Create User Screen, click Forward.
32. If a warning appears, click Continue.
33. At the Sound Card screen, click Forward.
34. At the Additional CDs screen, click Finish.
35. At the pop-up screen, click OK.
36. At the logon screen, type `root` for the user and `Password1` for the password, and press Enter.
37. Right-click the RHEL desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
38. Type the following command to edit the `/etc/grub.conf` file:

```
# gedit /etc/grub.conf &
```

39. Add the following to the end of the kernel line:

```
divider=10
```

40. Save the file, and exit gedit.
41. Restart the VM.

Configuring networking in the VM

1. Power on the VM, and open the console.
2. Log into the VM, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
3. Type the following command to edit the network configuration settings:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth0 &
```

4. Modify the following lines to set the static IP address and netmask, where XXX is the remaining portion of your IP Address:

```
BOOTPROTO=static
IPADDR=192.168.XXX.XXX
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
```

5. Save the file, and exit gedit.
6. Type the following command to modify the remaining network settings:

```
# gedit /etc/sysconfig/network &
```

7. Modify the following lines to disable IPv6 and set the hostname:

```
NETWORKING=yes
NETWORKING_IPV6=no
HOSTNAME=VM1.local.domain
```

8. Save the file, and exit gedit.
9. Repeat steps 3 through 8 for eth1, the 10Gb NIC reserved for testing.

Installing the sstat package for system monitoring

Follow the procedures we describe above in the Installing the sstat package for system monitoring section to install the sstat monitoring package inside the VM.

Configuring additional tuning options in the VM

1. Log into the VM using Virtual Machine Manager, or using an ssh client, such as Putty.
2. Modify the following lines to /etc/sysctl.conf:

```
kernel.msgmni = 16384
kernel.sem = 250 32000 32 2048
kernel.msgmax = 65535
kernel.msgmnb = 1310724

fs.file-max = 65536
net.core.rmem_max = 8388608
net.core.wmem_max = 8388608
net.core.rmem_default = 262144
net.core.wmem_default = 262144
net.ipv4.tcp_rmem = 65536 4194304 8388608
net.ipv4.tcp_wmem = 65536 4194304 8388608
net.core.netdev_max_backlog = 10000
net.ipv4.tcp_mem = 262144 4194304 8388608

net.ipv4.conf.vnet3.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet2.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet1.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.vnet0.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.br6.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.br5.arp_filter = 1
```

```
net.ipv4.conf.br4.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth6.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth5.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.eth4.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.lo.arp_filter = 0
net.ipv4.conf.default.arp_filter = 1
net.ipv4.conf.all.arp_filter = 0
```

3. Save the file, and exit.
4. Disable the following services:

```
chkconfig auditd off
chkconfig avahi-daemon off
chkconfig anacron off
chkconfig qpid off
chkconfig smartd off
chkconfig crond off
chkconfig haldaemon off
chkconfig opensmd off
chkconfig openibd off
chkconfig yum-updatesd off
chkconfig collectd off
chkconfig bluetooth off
chkconfig cups off
chkconfig isdn off
chkconfig kudzu off
chkconfig mcstrans off
chkconfig mdmonitor off
chkconfig messagebus off
chkconfig restorecond off
chkconfig rhnsd off
chkconfig rpcgssd off
chkconfig setroubleshoot off
```

Creating VM Startup Shell scripts to use huge pages

You must create shell scripts to start the VMs on the RHEL KVM platform in order to utilize the huge pages functionality.

1. Log into the host.
2. Start the Virtual Machine Manager.
3. Start the first VM by right-clicking and choosing Run.
4. Right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
5. Type the following command to show VM specific parameters:

```
# ps -ef | grep qemu
```

6. Using the parameters we showed in the output from Step 5 above, create the below scripts to start VM1 and VM2 under a bridged network scenario. You must modify the VM-specific items, such as uuid and MAC address. To run one VM, execute only the first script. To run two VMs, execute both scripts:

```
#START OF VM1 START SCRIPT
cp -f $0 start_VM1.sh
```

```

VM_ETH=eth4

service irqbalance stop
tuna -c 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15 -C -i
sleep 1
taskset -c 9,11,13,15 /bin/nice -n -20 /usr/libexec/qemu-kvm --mem-path
/mnt/libhugetlbfs -m 8192 -smp 4 -name MRG-VM1 -cpu qemu64,+sse2 -uuid
19d770ca-bb34-5333-8f03-303ebe2a4131 -monitor pty -boot c -drive
file=/var/lib/libvirt/images/MRG-VM1.img,if=ide,index=0,boot=on -drive
file=,if=ide,media=cdrom,index=2 -net
nic,macaddr=54:52:00:1a:ba:8f,vlan=0,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br6,vlan=0,ifname=vnet0 -net
nic,macaddr=54:52:00:4a:46:42,vlan=1,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br4,vlan=1,ifname=vnet1 -serial none -parallel none -usb -usbdevice
tablet -vnc 127.0.0.1:1 -k en-us &

sleep 1
tuna -c 7 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $VM_ETH | awk -F "/" '{ printf
"%i,", $4 }'` -m

wait

#START OF VM2 START SCRIPT
cp -f $0 start_VM2.sh

VM_ETH=eth5

service irqbalance stop
sleep 1
tuna -c 2,4,6,8,10,12,14 -C -i
sleep 1
taskset -c 8,10,12,14 /bin/nice -n -20 /usr/libexec/qemu-kvm --mem-path
/mnt/libhugetlbfs -m 8192 -smp 4 -name MRG-VM2 -cpu qemu64,+sse2 -uuid
864346cd-62a8-0f1b-a47a-f0af90a27f43 -monitor pty -boot c -drive
file=/var/lib/libvirt/images/MRG-VM2.img,if=ide,index=0,boot=on -drive
file=,if=ide,media=cdrom,index=2 -net
nic,macaddr=00:16:36:69:5f:74,vlan=0,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br6,vlan=0,ifname=vnet2 -net
nic,macaddr=00:16:36:23:b5:cd,vlan=2,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br5,vlan=2,ifname=vnet3 -serial none -parallel none -usb -usbdevice
tablet -vnc 127.0.0.1:2 -k en-us &

sleep 1
tuna -c 6 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $VM_ETH | awk -F "/" '{ printf
"%i,", $4 }'` -m

wait

```

7. Using the parameters we showed in the output from Step 5 above, modify the below scripts to start VM1 and VM2 under a VT-d network scenario. To find the pcidevice number, type `lspci` :

```
cp -f $0 start_VM1.sh
```

```
VM_ETH=kvm_assigned_msix_device
```

```
service irqbalance stop
sleep 1
tuna -c 7,9,11,13,15 -C -i
#tuna -S 0 -C -i
sleep 1
taskset -c 9,11,13,15 /usr/libexec/qemu-kvm --mem-path /mnt/libhugetlbfs -m
8192 -smp 4 -name MRG-VM1 -cpu qemu64,+sse2 -uuid 19d770ca-bb34-5333-8f03-
303e2a4131 -monitor pty -boot c -drive file=/var/lib/libvirt/images/MRG-
VM1.img,if=ide,index=0,boot=on -drive file=,if=ide,media=cdrom,index=2 -net
nic,macaddr=54:52:00:1a:ba:8f,vlan=0,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br6,vlan=0,ifname=vnet0 -pcidevice host=06:00.0 -serial none -parallel
none -usb -usbdevice tablet -vnc 127.0.0.1:1 -k en-us &

sleep 60
find /proc/irq/ | grep $VM_ETH | awk -F "/" '{ printf "%i,", $4 }' >
vm1_irqs.txt
tuna -c 7 -C -q `cat vm1_irqs.txt` -m
wait
rm -f vm1_irqs.txt
```

```
cp -f $0 start_VM2.sh
```

```
VM_ETH=kvm_assigned_msix_device
```

```
service irqbalance stop
sleep 1
tuna -c 6,8,10,12,14 -C -i
sleep 1
taskset -c 8,10,12,14 /usr/libexec/qemu-kvm --mem-path /mnt/libhugetlbfs -m
8192 -smp 4 -name MRG-VM2 -cpu qemu64,+sse2 -uuid 864346cd-62a8-0f1b-a47a-
f0af90a27f43 -monitor pty -boot c -drive file=/var/lib/libvirt/images/MRG-
VM2.img,if=ide,index=0,boot=on -drive file=,if=ide,media=cdrom,index=2 -net
nic,macaddr=00:16:36:69:5f:74,vlan=0,model=virtio -net tap,script=/etc/qemu-
ifup-br6,vlan=0,ifname=vnet2 -pcidevice host=07:00.0 -serial none -parallel
none -usb -usbdevice tablet -vnc 127.0.0.1:2 -k en-us &

sleep 60
tuna -c 6 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $VM_ETH | awk -F "/" '{ printf
%i,", $4 }'` -m
sleep 1
```

```
tuna -c 7 -C -q `cat vm1_irqs.txt` -m  
wait
```

AMQP setup

Installing AMQP on the host VMs

1. Log into the VM, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. Type the following commands to install AMQP packages:

```
# yum groupinstall 'MRG Messaging'  
# yum install qpcid-perftest  
# yum install tuna
```

3. Repeat for the other VM.

Creating the additional VMs on the host server

After installing and configuring the initial VM, we created the additional VM by using virt-clone on the RHEL platform.

Cloning the VMs on RHEL

Run the following command to clone VM1 to the area reserved for VM2:

```
# virt-clone --connect qemu:///system --original VM1 --name VM2 --file  
var/lib/libvirt/images/MRG-VM2.img --nonsparse
```

Configuring the additional VMs after cloning

Modify the IP addresses in each VM as we discuss in the above section, Configuring networking inside the VM.

Testing procedure

Starting AMQP

1. Log into the VM, right-click the desktop, and choose Open Terminal.
2. For Perftest
 - a. Type the following commands to start AMQP:

```
# qpidd --auth=no --mgmt-enable=no --worker-threads=4
```

3. For Latencytest
 - a. Type the following commands to start AMQP:

```
# qpidd --auth=no --mgmt-enable=no --tcp-nodelay --worker-threads=1
```

To perform the test, we used a series of shell script in the VMs, the client machine, and the host machine, which we executed via ssh.

The testing procedure consisted of the following steps:

1. Power on the client machine and the host machine.
2. Execute VM start scripts to boot the VM.
3. Start qpidd on each guest involved in the test.
4. Execute perftest or latencytest on the client.
 - a) Perftest. Specify the relevant size where appropriate:

```
CLIENT1_ETH=eth4  
CLIENT2_ETH=eth5  
service irqbalance stop  
sleep 1
```

```

tuna -S 2,3 -C -i
sleep 2
tuna -c 2 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $CLIENT1_ETH | awk -F "/" '{
printf "%i,", $4 }'` -m
tuna -c 3 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $CLIENT2_ETH | awk -F "/" '{
printf "%i,", $4 }'` -m
sleep 1

#When running 1 guest
cpu_mask=0x444444
#When running 2 guests
cpu_mask=0x888888

taskset $cpu_mask /usr/bin/time -f "%e" perftest -b $mrg_host --count
500000 --nsubs 1 --npubs 1 --qt 4 --size $size --bounds-multiplier
102400 --summary

```

b) Latencytest. Specify the relevant size where appropriate:

```

CLIENT1_ETH=eth4
CLIENT2_ETH=eth5
service irqbalance stop
sleep 1
tuna -S 2,3 -C -i
sleep 2
tuna -c 2 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $CLIENT1_ETH | awk -F "/" '{
printf "%i,", $4 }'` -m
tuna -c 3 -C -q `find /proc/irq/ | grep $CLIENT2_ETH | awk -F "/" '{
printf "%i,", $4 }'` -m
sleep 1

#When running 1 guest
cpu_mask= 0x000004
#When running 2 guests
cpu_mask=0x000008

$cpu_mask latencytest -b $mrg_host --rate 1000 --queues 1 --size $size
--bounds-multiplier 1 --tcp-nodelay -csv

```

Appendix A – Server configuration information

Figure 12 provides detailed information about the Dell PowerEdge R710 server configuration.

System	Dell PowerEdge R710
General dimension information	
Height (inches)	3.50
Width (inches)	17.50
Depth (inches)	27.00
U size in server rack (U)	2
Power supplies	
Total number	2
Wattage of each (W)	870
Cooling fans	
Total number	5
Dimensions (h x w) of each	2.5" x 2.5"
Voltage (V)	12
Amps (A)	1.60
General processor setup	
Number of processor packages	2
Number of cores per processor package	4
Number of hardware threads per core	2
System power management policy	Maximum performance
CPU	
Vendor	Intel
Name	Xeon X5570
Stepping	5
Socket type	LGA1366
Core frequency (GHz)	2.93
L1 cache	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)
L2 cache	1 MB (4 x 256 KB)
L3 cache	1 x 8 MB
Platform	
Vendor and model number	Dell PowerEdge R710
Motherboard model number	PWBYN967
Motherboard revision number	X08
BIOS name and version	Dell 1.1.4
BIOS settings	Virtualization enabled, C-states disabled, Maximum Performance Power Management
Memory modules	
Total RAM in system (GB)	24
Number of types of memory modules	1
Vendor and model number	Crucial CT51272BB1339
Type	PC3-10600 DDR3

System	Dell PowerEdge R710
Speed (MHz)	1,333
Speed in the system currently running @ (MHz)	1,333
Timing/latency (tCL-tRCD-iRP-tRASmin)	9-9-9-24
Size (GB)	4
Number of RAM modules	6
Chip organization	Double-sided
Hard disk	
Vendor and model number	Seagate ST973451SS
Number of disks in system	2
Size (GB)	73
Buffer size (MB)	16
RPM	15,000
Type	SAS
Operating system	
Name	Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4
Build number	kernel-2.6.18-159.el5
File system	Ext3
Language	English
Network card/subsystem	
First network card/subsystem	
Vendor and model number	Intel 10 Gigabit AT Server Adapter EXPX9501AT
Type	Discrete
Second network card/subsystem	
Vendor and model number	Intel 10 Gigabit AT Server Adapter EXPX9501AT
Type	Discrete
Third network card/subsystem	
Vendor and model number	Broadcom NetXtreme II BCM5709 Port Ethernet Controller x 4
Type	Integrated
Optical drive	
Vendor and model number	TEAC DV-28S-VDB
USB ports	
Number	4
Type	2.0

Figure 12: Detailed system configuration information for the test server.

Appendix B – Client configuration information

Figure 13 provides detailed configuration information about the Dell PowerEdge R900 server we used as the client system.

System	Dell PowerEdge R900
General	
Number of processor packages	4
Number of cores per processor package	6
Number of hardware threads per core	1
System Power Management Policy	Maximum Performance
CPU	
Vendor	Intel
Name	E7450
Stepping	1
Socket type	PGA604
Core frequency (GHz)	2.4
Front-side bus frequency (MHz)	1,066
L1 cache	32 KB instruction 32 KB data
L2 cache	9 MB shared
L3 cache	12 MB shared
Platform	
Vendor and model number	Dell PowerEdge R900
Motherboard model number	CN-0947H-13740-87N-000P
Motherboard revision number	X00
BIOS name and version	Dell BIOS 1.1.10
BIOS settings	Maximum Performance Power Management
Memory module(s)	
Vendor and model number	Samsung M395T5750EZ4-CE65
Type	PC2-5300F
Speed (MHz)	667
Speed in the system currently running @ (MHz)	667
Timing/Latency (tCL-tRCD-tRP-tRASmin)	5-5-5-15
Size (GB)	2
Number of RAM modules	32
Chip organization	Double-sided
Hard disk	
Vendor and model number	Seagate ST973451SS
Number of disks in system	2
Size (GB)	73
Buffer size (MB)	16
RPM	15,000
Type	SAS/Serial Attached SCSI
Controller	PERC 6/i
Controller driver	megaraid_sas (00.00.04.08-RH1)
Operating system	
Name	Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.4
Build number	kernel-2.6.18-159.el5

System	Dell PowerEdge R900
File system	Ext3
Graphics	
Vendor and model number	ATI ES 1000
Driver	Radeon
Network card/subsystem	
Vendor and model number	Broadcom NetXtreme II BCM57710 10 Gigabit PCIe
Type	2 x Discrete
Driver	bnx2x 1.48.53
Additional card information	Broadcom NetXtreme II BCM5708 Gigabit Ethernet
Additional card type	4 x Integrated
Additional card driver	bnx2 1.8.5b
Optical drive	
Vendor and model number	Toshiba Samsung TS-L333A
USB ports	
# of ports	4
Type of ports (USB1.1, USB2.0)	USB 2.0

Figure 13: Detailed system configuration information for the client server.

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Our founders, Mark L. Van Name and Bill Catchings, have worked together in technology assessment for over 20 years. As journalists, they published over a thousand articles on a wide array of technology subjects. They created and led the Ziff-Davis Benchmark Operation, which developed such industry-standard benchmarks as Ziff Davis Media's Winstone and WebBench. They founded and led eTesting Labs, and after the acquisition of that company by Lionbridge Technologies were the head and CTO of VeriTest.



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