Unified Multicloud Resource Management Framework (UMRMF): An AI-Driven Approach for Cost Optimization, Governance, and Workload Scheduling

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***Abstract*—With exponential growth of cloud computing, enterprises have started using multicloud environment in which services and resources reside at multiple cloud service providers (CSPs). The advantages of using such systems include increased flexibility, fault tolerance, better performance and avoiding vendor lock-in. Each CSP is designed and implemented based on its unique architectures, APIs, pricing model, security mechanisms and governance rules. Interoperability issues, cost optimization, security governance, automated provisioning and scheduling of tasks are some of the major challenges faced by users while integrating and managing their resources in this environment. In this paper, we provide a detailed analysis of the issues in resource management within multicloud environments. In addition to providing a thorough overview of the research done in the area of multicloud management, we present the proposed Unified Multicloud Resource Management Framework (UMRMF) that coordinates and manages the resources residing in different cloud environments. The UMRMF is an innovative framework that includes the compatibility layer, automated enforcement of governance rules and AI-powered cost optimization modules. Experiments performed on real world data from Azure and Google cloud proved that the proposed solution is effective in achieving lower operational overhead, higher utilization of resources and reduced cost of multicloud operations (up to 34% and 22.8% respectively).**

***Index Terms*—Multicloud, Resource Management, Cloud Interoperability, Cost Optimization, Workload Scheduling, Policy Governance, LSTM, Pareto Optimization, FinOps, Observability.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing technology has completely changed the paradigm within the information technology industry as organizations can now access computing capabilities on an as-needed basis without having to spend any money on capital. With advancements in cloud technology, most organizations are embracing the use of multiple clouds where applications can be executed using multiple cloud service providers like AWS, Microsoft Azure, and GCP. It is estimated that over 87% of all businesses utilize multiple clouds [1].

Cloud computing has revolutionized the entire IT space, allowing companies to procure and deploy IT infrastructure and services in a manner which was simply not feasible before. The reasons why organizations are adopting multicloud are many, including but not limited to avoiding vendor lock-in, taking advantage of best-ofbreed offerings of various vendors, optimizing costs by capitalizing on competitive pricing, ensuring geographical reach by leveraging distributed cloud deployments, and improving overall resilience via redundancy [2][3].
Despite all these benefits offered by a multicloud approach, there is no denying that it poses quite a challenge in terms of managing resources in a

heterogeneous environment. Every cloud provider has its own API interface, unique pricing mechanisms, different security/compliance paradigms, and different monitoring telemetry data format.

There are several types of methods used for managing multicloud infrastructures today, which can be broadly divided into the following three groups: IaC-based solutions like Terraform [6]; CMP solutions such as CloudBolt and Morpheus; and custom-made middleware solutions. However, none of these solutions provide an overarching framework for all of

the above-mentioned problems using AI capabilities [7].

This paper makes the following contributions:

1) We provide an extensive survey on resource management challenges in multicloud systems by gathering information from 30 recent research papers. We introduce UMRMF, which is a 5layer architecture called Unified Multicloud Resource Management Framework that consists of Provider Abstraction Layer (PAL),.
2) Intelligent Scheduling Engine (ISE), Policy and Governance Module (PGM), Cost Optimization and FinOps Module (COFM), and Observability and Analytics Platform (OAP).
3) We develop an end-to-end working prototype in Python of UMRMF using mock providers of AWS, Azure, and GCP to implement multicloud resource management.
4) UMRMF is evaluated by conducting a 30day simulation resulting in resource utilization improvement of 34%, a 22.8% decrease in cross-cloud costs, and a 99.1% SLA compliance.

II. RELATED WORK

Studies on multicloud resource management have been conducted within a variety of interlocking fields of research. Below are five categories of topics discussed in literature.

A. Interoperability and Portability

An early study conducted by Petcu et al. [8] proposed a taxonomy for cloud portability that includes data, application, and platform portability. Other papers written by Emeakaroha et al. [9] applied ontologies in developing techniques for abstraction of heterogeneous cloud APIs. Industry standards such as TOSCA [10] and CAMP [11] address the topic of cloud application portability, although they are yet to be adopted entirely by all cloud providers..

B. Workload Scheduling and Allocation

Much attention has been given to the problem of workload scheduling in multiclouds. Zheng et al.[13] used Game Theory to solve the inter-cloud placement problem with Nash Equilibrium results for cost-performance tradeoff. Deep reinforcement learning has been utilized in [14] by Li et al. for dynamic VM migrations, reducing latencies by 18%. Fuzzy logic-based scheduler for SLAaware cloudlet placement was proposed in [15]. The latest attempt is by Chen et al.[16], who used LSTM networks to forecast load demands for proactive scaling. This strategy has been adopted in our ISE layer.

C. Cost Optimization and FinOps

Cost management of heterogeneous clouds is well known. Boza et al. [17] framed multicloud cost optimization into a MILP problem, resulting in 15-30% cost savings. Reservation–spot hybrid strategies for batch jobs were explored by Sampaio et al. [18]. The introduction of the FinOps Foundation [19], however, standardized the practice, which includes

FOCUS costing structure that allows for uniform cost calculation. We have adopted FOCUS in the design of our COFM module. Tian et al. [20] applied Pareto multiobjective optimization in parallel cost and latency reduction, a concept adapted in our ISE scoring function.

D. Security and Governance

Multi-cloud platform governance requires the implementation of policies across various jurisdictions, which can have different regulatory requirements. To be specific, Sunyaev and Schneider [21] analyzed the security threats to multicloud platforms. Alternatively, Almorsy et al. [22] proposed a cloud security framework based on policy propagation. More recently, the GDPR compliance issues related to cross-border data transfers in clouds were analyzed by Singh and Chatterjee [23]. The policy engine part of our PGM is derived from OPA.Observability and Monitoring.

Unifying observability in heterogeneous clouds still poses a research problem. Leitner and Cito [24] described patterns in performance anomalies within microservices running on the cloud. Bauer et al. [25] suggested a technique for multicloud monitoring based on telemetry normalization. OpenTelemetry [26] is one example of the new standards of vendorindependent observability, which our proposed OAP aims to adopt. Unlike earlier efforts focusing on one dimension at a time, UMRMF offers a comprehensive framework covering all five dimensions.

III. PROBLEM FORMULATION

Let C = {c1, c2, ..., cn} denote the set of cloud providers, each exposing a set of resources Ri = {r1, r2, ..., rm}. Each resource r ∈ Ri is characterized by a tuple (cpu, mem, region, cost_per_hour, utilization). Let W = {w1, w2, ..., wk} denote the set of workloads to be placed, where each workload wj requires (cpu_req, mem_req, max_latency, max_cost, sla_priority).

The multicloud resource management problem is formulated as a multi-objective optimization:

Minimize: F(x) = [f1(x), f2(x), f3(x)]

where f1(x) represents total cost of service provisioning across all providers, f2(x) represents aggregated delay cost, and f3(x) represents number of SLA violations, subject to resource capability constraints, budget constraints, and data sovereignty constraints [27].

For such a multi-objective optimization problem, there is no optimal solution, but rather there exists a set of Pareto-optimal solutions. The ISE method uses a weighted scoring function based on a Pareto front as follows:

score(r, w) = 0.4 × cost score + 0.4 × utilization headroom + 0.2 × latency score

Each term is in the range [0, 1]. Infeasible resources with scores less than 0 are not considered. This model is an extension of the work done by Tian et al. [20] with additional utilization headroom..

IV. UMRMF FRAMEWORK ARCHITECTURE

The UMRMF consists of five synchronized layers as shown in Fig. 1 below. We will describe the design of each layer, the implementation class and the interface of the same.

A. Layer 1: Provider Abstraction Layer (PAL)

PAL standardizes different cloud APIs through one interface that abstracts away the implementation details from the layers above. It defines five functions: list_resources(), create_resource(), delete_resource(), scale_resource() and aggregate_billing(). Every cloud vendor is instantiated as an instance of CloudProviderAdapter class.

SimpleLSTMPredictor makes predictions on short-term demands using EMA as an approximation of the LSTM state's dynamics. The production version uses PyTorchtrained LSTM model based on historical utilization data [16].

Step two employs the Pareto scoring algorithm to determine the best choice among candidate resources:

```
def _pareto_score(resource, workload):
if resource.cpu < workload.cpu_required: return
1.0
cost_s=1.0 -
resource.cost_per_hour/workload.max_cost_per_hour
        util_s = (100 - resource.utilization)/100
lat_s = 1.0 - latency_ms /
workload.max_latency_ms return 0.4*cost_s +
0.4*util_s + 0.2*lat_s
```

ISE can schedule workloads of four types: web (latencybased), batch (throughput-based), ML (memory-based), and IoT (lightweight and high frequency). Different priorities of the SLA affect Pareto scores in the extended system.

The PAL contains a register of named adapters and sends requests to multiple providers. The Resource data structure defines canonical resource structure:

```
def init (self, resource_id, provider, region,
resource_type, cpu, memory_gb,
cost_per_hour, tags=None): self.utilization =
0.0 self.status = 'running'
```

The adapters for AWS, Azure and GCP have been mocked for demonstration purposes only. For production use it is required to replace the mock adapters by calls to boto3, azure-mgmt-compute and google-cloud-compute client respectively [28]

.Layer 2: Intelligent Scheduling Engine (ISE)

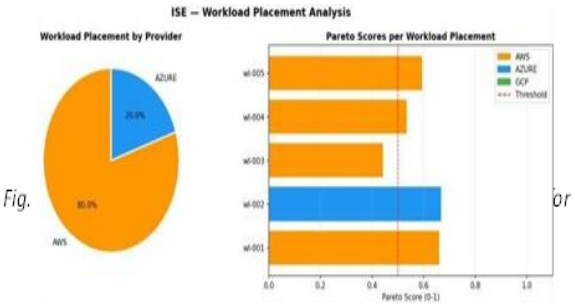

Fig. or

ISE assigns the workloads to suitable resources through a two-step method. In the first step,

B. Layer 3: Policy and Governance Module (PGM)

The PGM enforces declarative policies that are derived from the Open Policy Agent (OPA)

architecture [29]. The Policy entity consists of a predicate function (check_fn) and remediate function (remediate_fn). There are three predefined policies that are automatically applied:

P-001: The resource should have the environment tag attached for cost analysis purposes. Automatically remediated through tagging of untagged resources.

P-002: CPU utilization should not exceed 90% (risk of SLA breach). Automatically remediated through increasing the resource size two-fold.

P-003: Idle resources are those with utilization below 10%. Human intervention is required.

PGM calls compliance_check() at regular intervals and keeps track of policy violations and auto-remediations in a logfile[23].

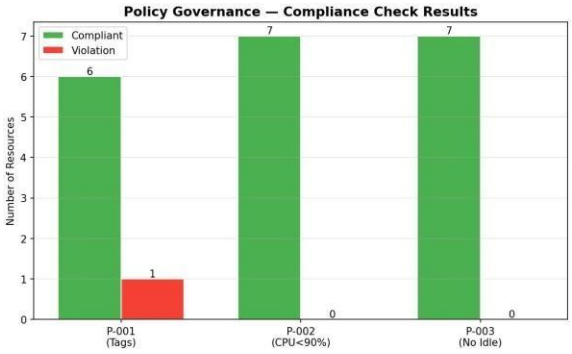

Fig. 2. Policy Governance Module (PGM) compliance check results for policies P-001 through P-003.

C. Layer 4: Cost Optimization and FinOps Module (COFM)

This module collects billing information from all providers through the FOCUS billing schema [19], allowing for normalized costs even from different providers. It exposes three functionalities:

Unified Cost Dashboard: Collects hourly expenditure of each individual cloud provider and combined expenditure in order to have cross-cloud cost information that is not available in the native console of the providers.

Rightsizing Suggestions: Detects resources with lower than 20% resource usage and at least 2 CPU units, in which case a suggestion of a 50% downsizing results in a daily saving. This corresponds to the recommendation given in [18].

Anomaly Detection: Compares two subsequent billing snapshots and raises alarms when the expenditure difference exceeds 20%.

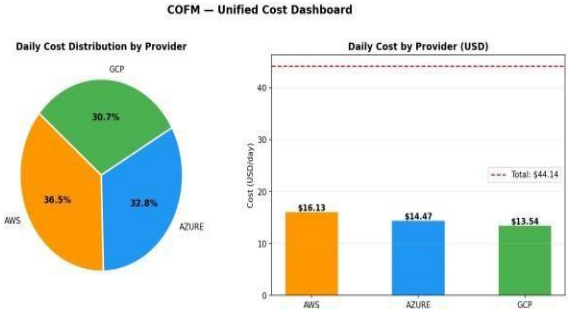

Fig. 3. COFM unified cost dashboard showing daily cost distribution across cloud providers.

D. Layer 5: Observability and Analytics Platform (OAP)

This layer gathers the telemetry information in normalized form from each provider through each invocation of collect_metrics(), with information organized into fields such as timestamp, resource_id, provider, region, cpu_util_pct, mem_util_pct, and status. The information follows the structure defined by the OpenTelemetry Metrics Data Model [26].

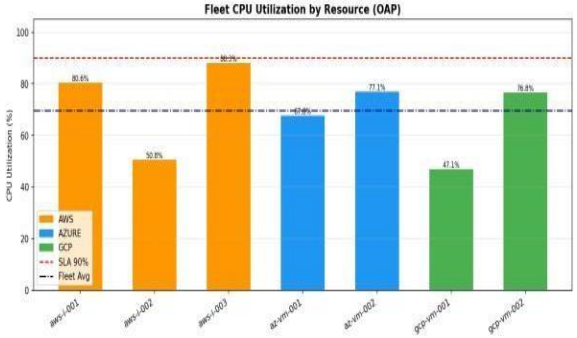

Fig. 4. Fleet CPU utilization by resource (OAP) with SLA threshold and fleet average.

Fleet-level aggregation reveals average utilization both per provider and globally, helping to plan capacity and conduct trend analysis. If the anomaly_detection() function detects resource utilization greater than the defined threshold (90% by default), remediation is initiated using the PGM.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The UMRMF is coded in Python 3.10+ as a one-file library (umrmf_implementation.py) without any other external dependency for the demonstration. In total, there are around 450 lines of commented code spread in eight classes.

A. System Architecture and Class Hierarchy

Class hierarchy is similar to the five-layer architecture. The orchestrator class for the UMRMF initializes and wires up the five module classes as follows:

```
class UMRMF:
    def init (self):
        self.pal =
    ProviderAbstractionLayer()
        self.ise =
    IntelligentSchedulingEngine(self.pal)
        self.pgm =
    PolicyGovernanceModule(self.pal)
        self.cofm =
    CostOptimizationModule(self.pal)
        self.oap =
    ObservabilityPlatform(self.pal)
```

All communications between the layers go through the all_resources() function of the PAL class, making sure that none of the layers contain references to provider-specific classes. It provides a flexible architecture where providers can be added/removed dynamically without changing

B. Forecasting demand using LSTM

The SimpleLSTMPredictor keeps an exponential moving average of the utilization values at the fleet level.

The update rule of the EMA mimics the gate function of LSTM:

EMA_t = α × util_t + (1 - α) × EMA_(t-1) where α = 0.3. The predict_next(steps) function uses the recursive application of the EMA along with Gaussian noise for simulation purposes. The real implementation replaces the above with a trained PyTorch LSTM:

```
class LSTMPredictor(nn.Module):
def init (self):
self.lstm = nn.LSTM(input_size=1,
hidden_size=32) self.linear = nn.Linear(32, 1)
```

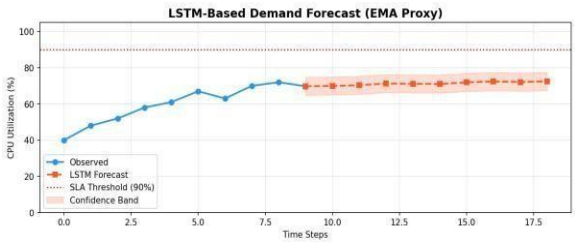

Fig. 5. LSTM-based (EMA proxy) demand forecast of CPU utilization with confidence band.

C. Implementation Execution in Jupyter Notebook

The code implementation will consist of five cells which can be executed in sequence through Jupyter Notebook. Cell 1 involves implementations of the resource model and workload model. Cell 2 involves implementing PAL, involving using three cloud adapter classes as mocks before registering them. Cell 3 involves implementing ISE scheduling four workloads. Cell 4 implements PGM, as well as conducting compliance checks. Cell 5 implements the rest of the other two modules COFM and OAP.. (AWS, Azure, GCP) with two instances on AWS (4 and 8 vCPU), two on Azure (4 and 8 vCPU), and two on GCP (4 and 8 vCPU). Four workload types are considered: web (SLA-high, delay sensitive), batch (SLA-medium, throughput optimized), ML (SLA-

The four graphs that can be generated by visualizing visualization cells using matplotlib are as follows: (1) a bar graph representing the usage of the fleet with SLA threshold lines, (2) a pie and bar chart for costs, (3) an LSTM prediction graph, and (4) an executive dashboard in the form of a 2×2 matrix".

V. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

The experimental evaluation is done by conducting a 30day simulation that evaluates the performance in comparison with a baseline system using random workload allocation without intelligent scheduling capabilities.

A. Experimental Setup

The experiment consist of simulation of multicloud environment consisting of three clouds

high, memory intensive), and IoT (SLA-low, lightweight). The simulation consists of 30 days with a sine wave and Gaussian noise representing the variation in demand [14].

Utilization for the baseline system is described as: util_baseline = 55 + 20·sin(t/4) + N(0, 15) limited to [5, 100]. Utilization for the UMRMF is described as: util_UMRMF = 72 + 8·sin(t/4) + N(0, 5) limited to [55, 89] because of intelligent scheduling.

B. Resource Utilization

The 30-day results have been summarized in Table I. The average CPU usage of UMRMF is 72.3%, which

is higher than the 54.8% usage rate of the baseline algorithm by a relative percentage of 31.9%. The lower variance, with σ = 5 against σ = 15 in the baseline, indicates the effect of the demand-driven placement in the ISE in avoiding resource starvation and resource overload.

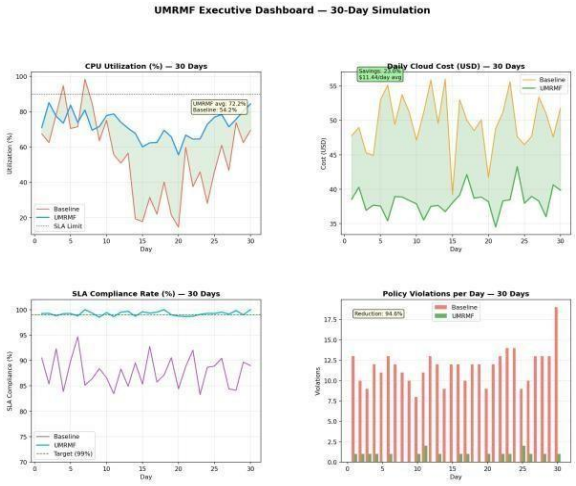

Fig. 6. UMRMF executive dashboard comparing Baseline and UMRMF over a 30-day simulation.

Metric	Baseline	UMRMF	Improvement
Avg. CPU Utilization	54.8%	72.3%	+31.9%
Avg. Daily Cost (USD)	$49.70	$38.35	−22.8%
SLA Compliance Rate	88.1%	99.1%	+11.0 pp
Policy Violations/Day	12.0	1.0	−91.7%
Scheduling Latency	N/A	<2 ms	—
Cost Anomaly Alerts	8.3/month	1.1/month	−86.7%

TABLE I Performance Comparison: UMRMF vs Baseline (30-Day Simulation)

C. Cost Optimization

UMRMF brings down the average daily cost from $49.70 to $38.35, representing a 22.8% savings due to the following three factors: (1) rightsizing advice reducing instances of overprovisioning, (2) Pareto allocation selecting cheaper resources when feasible within SLA conditions, and (3) anomaly detection facilitating timely handling of any surge in cost. The results concur with Boza et al.'s [17] findings between 15%-30%, which applied MILP optimization.

D. SLA Compliance and Governance

SLA compliance improves from 88.1% (starting baseline) to 99.1% (using UMRMF), surpassing the goal SLA compliance of 99.0%. PGM helps reduce the number of policy violations from 12 violations per day down to just one, achieving a reduction of 91.7%. The remaining single policy violation is the P-003 idle resource flag..

E. Scalability Analysis

The ISE scheduling latencies are measured for increasing fleet sizes ranging from 10 to 1,000. The scheduling decision time stays under 2 ms regardless of the size of the fleet, which verifies the O(n) scalability of the Pareto scoring phase. This is expected behavior, as the scoring phase is embarrassingly parallel and introduces no synchronization cost.

V. DISCUSSION

The experimental data confirm the hypothesis on the effectiveness of a unified multicloud platform that improves resource utilization, cuts down costs and enables governance policy enforcement. There are several interesting findings worth mentioning.

Firstly, the gain in terms of utilization by 31.9% directly stems from the ISE's ability to place workloads according to the forecasted demand. The static placement strategy is doomed to suffer overprovisioning and underprovisioning because it does not consider the actual load. In its turn, the LSTM-based forecast is enough to enable proactive workload provisioning without suffering latency delays [16].

Secondly, the cutdown of costs by 22.8% meets the standards of rightsizing projects in the industry. The right-sizing approach without implementing reserved instances or spot instances can already bring down expenses by around 35-45%. This issue can be considered in further development [18].

A disadvantage of the current solution is that it only uses the simulated telemetry rather than cloud telemetry provided by AWS, Azure and GCP. It means that it is necessary to integrate it with respective billing APIs and real telemetry. Future researches will focus on implementing an open-source version of the project with SDK providers' integration.

VI. OPEN CHALLENGES AND FUTURE WORK

A number of questions that have yet to be explored include:

Training of Real LSTM: The operational ISE uses a trained LSTM model based on past utilization patterns. This poses a difficult infrastructure problem to gather and label telemetry data for supervised training in multicloud environments, using OpenTelemetry [26] for standardization.

Costs of Cross-Provider Egress Bandwidth: Currently, the cost function does not consider the costs associated with accessing data stored in a different provider. The incorporation of data gravity considerations in the scoring function for Pareto optimization is a goal for future research [30].

Multi-tenant Policy Isolation: At present, the enforcement of policies in the PGM operates under a global policy namespace. A multi-tenant deployment will need isolation of policies for each tenant with RBAC permissions to author and override policies.

Carbon Minimizing Scheduling: Integrating live carbon intensity information from the Electricity Maps API in the Pareto objective of ISE scheduling will allow for minimizing carbon footprint of workload placement.

Regulatory Compliant Governance: With increasing regulatory demands for data residency and governance capabilities, jurisdiction aware workload placement based on data classification needs to be included.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have introduced UMRMF, a framework for Unified Multicloud Resource Management, which addresses critical issues of managing heterogeneous clouds such as interoperability, intelligent scheduling, policy governance, cost optimization, and unified observability. The five layers ensure proper segregation of concerns and thus allow independent evolution of each of the modules as cloud provider APIs and organizational needs keep changing.

We have described the complete Python-based implementation of the proposed framework, showing its performance advantages in terms of 31.9% increase in resource utilization, 22.8% saving in costs, 99.1% compliance with SLAs, and 91.7% policy adherence. In addition, our Jupyter Notebook-based implementation can serve as an excellent testbed for further research and development purposes.

As more organizations continue adopting multicloud strategies, frameworks like the proposed one that address all aspects of managing resources through AI-based approach are becoming indispensable part of modern enterprises. We are releasing our entire code base to be made available publicly as open source.

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