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Reducing the power consumption of data centers: the Watcher project by b<>com selected by the OpenStack community

The mission of the OpenStack community: providing a cloud computing platform that meets the needs of public and private clouds. Its members are also investing in lowering the power consumption of data centers, a major challenge for the coming years. Watcher, which was intended to provide a resource consumption optimization solution for data centers, was accepted as an official OpenStack project on May 31, 2016.

Watcher's entry into the OpenStack "big tent*" confirms b<>com's desire to become an essential player in this open source community. The strength of the IRT, which initiated this project, was to create and unite an international community of 25 contributors, including IBM and Intel, which joined the project in September 2015. Developed over the past 18 months, Watcher is an infrastructure optimization tool for OpenStack, the famous open-source cloud "infrastructure manager".

Watcher uses infrastructure optimization strategies intended for operators, who can build their own strategy by using plug-ins:
* By continuously analyzing the state of the infrastructure (number of virtual machines, resource consumption, etc.)
* By regularly proposing optimizations that make it possible to lower power consumption, eliminate data center's hot spots, or consolidate virtual machines onto a smaller number of physical machines.

Being able to utilize cloud computing technologies is a major strength for b<>com. **Antoine Cabot, Watcher Technical Project Leader (PTL) and Head of the Cloud Computing Lab at b<>com** says: *"We are now the first French contributor to the world's largest open-source project! The community, which includes 2336 contributors for the latest version, called Mitaka, who are mostly Americans, is booming right now. In April, 6 years after it was created, 7500 people were at the last edition of the OpenStack Summit in Austin."*

The OpenStack Technical Committee, which checks that a project has an open-source approach and mission, saw Watcher's promise: improving the OpenStack infrastructure manager through the optimization of virtual machine placement. As the initial virtual machine placement was often highly disparate, Watcher aims to reorganize them via full knowledge of the infrastructure and its history. The algorithm uses prediction mechanisms to identify future processing and keep the contractual commitments set between the cloud provider and its client.

Entering the OpenStack "big tent" will make it possible to improve the OpenStack distribution with Watcher because it will be included by official distributors of open-source solutions. Many new contributors have also indicated their desire to join the project (Walmart, OVH, etc.). Additionally, Watcher will benefit from additional resources for its development as well as a point of contact for industrial companies.

* "Big tent" Principles implemented by the OpenStack community 18 months ago to approve a project's mission and ensure it is in line with the mission of OpenStack.

Have a look at Watcher presentation by Antoine Cabot :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxN7Pi13ppk

About b<>com

With its innovations, the Institute of Research and Technology (IRT) b<>com is taking part in the European digital transformation. Its 230 researchers develop tools, products, and services that make everyday life easier. They focus on two fields of research: Hypermedia (ultra-high definition images, 3D sound, smart content, virtual and augmented reality) and more agile ultra-high speed networks (cloud, cybersecurity, ultra-high speed mobile, network resilience, Internet of Things). Of the many fields of application for these technologies, e-health has allowed b<>com to participate in the digital revolution going on in medicine. Founded through a public/private partnership, the IRT gathers the best experts from industry and academia at its campus in Rennes, and at its sites in Lannion and Brest. www.b-com.com

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