20230254

WIL620

Student Number: 20230254

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Exit Level Outcome 3

CTU training solutions
Private Tertiary Education Provider

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Contents

Introduction

For the completion of exit level outcome 3 (Identify, install, support and troubleshoot system and application software) I was tasked to implement network function virtualization on a fusion broadband SD-WAN edge node that has x86 hardware and support for virtualization. As for the virtual network function I will be installing open source OpenWRT, adding a router and firewall with limited system resource consumption. Before the practical deployment, I would like to start by reviewing some of the groundwork for terminologies such as virtualization and hypervisors.

Virtualization is achieved when hardware like a server is coordinated in such a way that the guest operating system can share the hardware without any guest operating (VM) system knowing that they are sharing hardware. (Golden, 2007)

Hypervisors allow for the creation of virtual machines and performs hardware coordination to allow multiple VMs to run concurrently. (Edgeworth, et al., 2019) Hypervisors can be placed into two main categories, namely type 1 and 2:

Type 1: Runs directly on the system hardware and is also known as bare metal. (Edgeworth, et al., 2019)

Type 2: Runs on a host OS. (Edgeworth, et al., 2019)

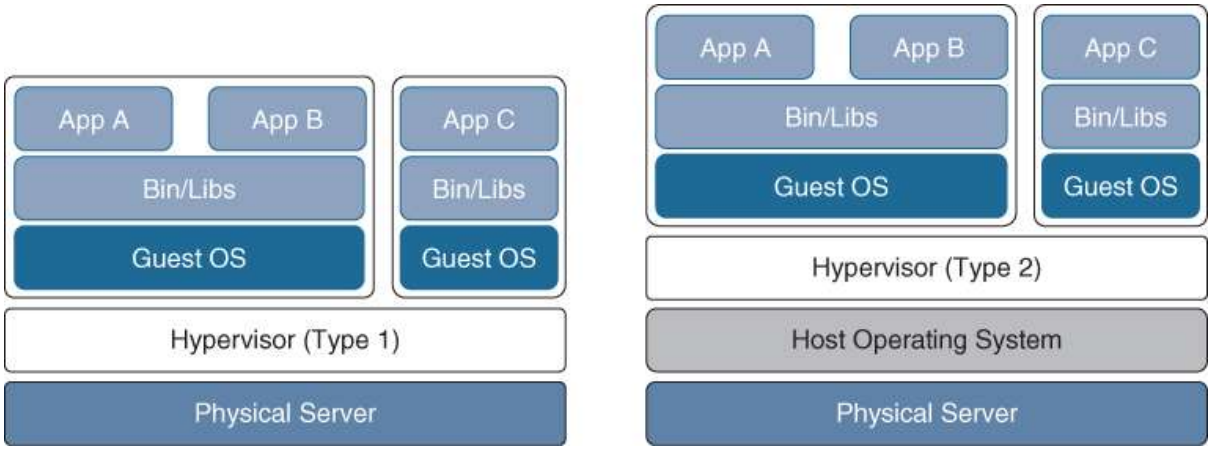


Figure 1 Hypervisor Types (Source: https://learning.oreilly.com/api/v2/epubs/urn:orm:book:9780135262047/files/graphics/27fig02.jpg)

Virtualization has opened the door for the virtualization of network functions such as routing or firewalls though the Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) framework. This approach allows for reduced costs and space requirements along with the ability to test and deploy services without having to first develop hardware.

To achieve the task at hand a type 2 hypervisor will be used more specifically the open-source solution Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) alongside QEMU and libvirt to provide an interface for management and provisioning.

To implement network function virtualization there are some requirements such as a processor supporting virtualization, and enough system resources that can maintain high

load, still maintaining performance (storage, ram and processing cores) for the host operating system and the guest operating systems.

Checklist

Having a good checklist is always a good idea, thus I have made a small high-level checklist to aid with the implementation of network function virtualization.

Network Function Virtualization Checklist

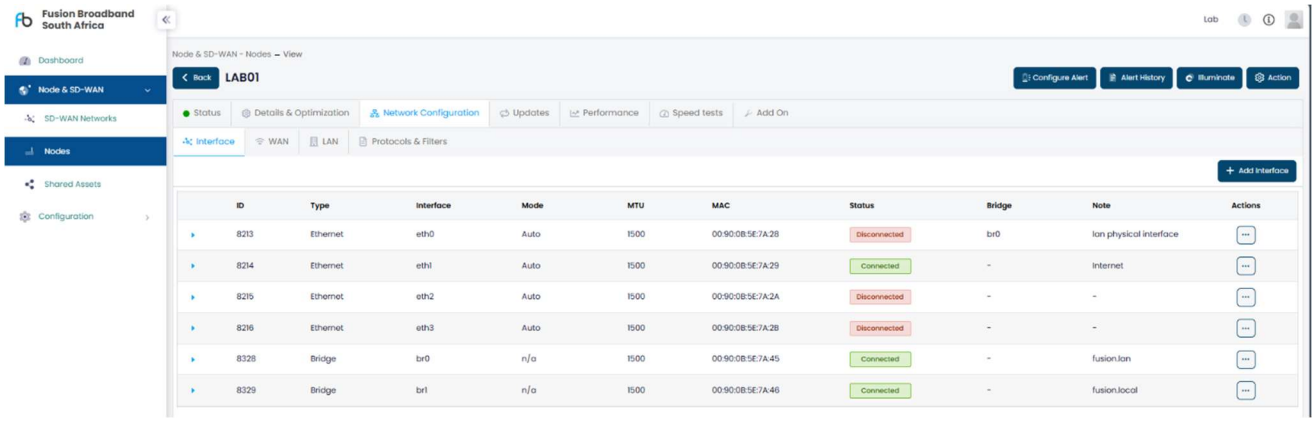
- ☐ 1. Identify the LAN and Primary Internet interface on the physical device.
- ☐ 2. Add two bridge interfaces to the device using the web-gui and bridge one port with the physical LAN interface.
- ☐ 3. The second bridge interface should be assigned a IP address.
- ☐ 4. Network Address Translation should be setup with the floating IP (public IP) being the source and the destination being the IP address assigned to the second bridge interface.
- ☐ 5. Optionally DHCP can be implemented on the second bridge interface to allow OpenWRT to receive its 'wan' IP address via dchp.
- ☐ 6. Libvirt should be installed on the edge node.
- ☐ 7. The openwrt image should be downloaded
- ☐ 8. The Virtual Machine should be created.
- ☐ 9. Any initial configuration should be implemented through the console connection. (change root password and ssh port to 22222)
- ☐ 10. Additional packages such as the Openwrt web gui should be installed.
- ☐ 11. Openwrt should start automatically when the edge node starts up.

Implementation

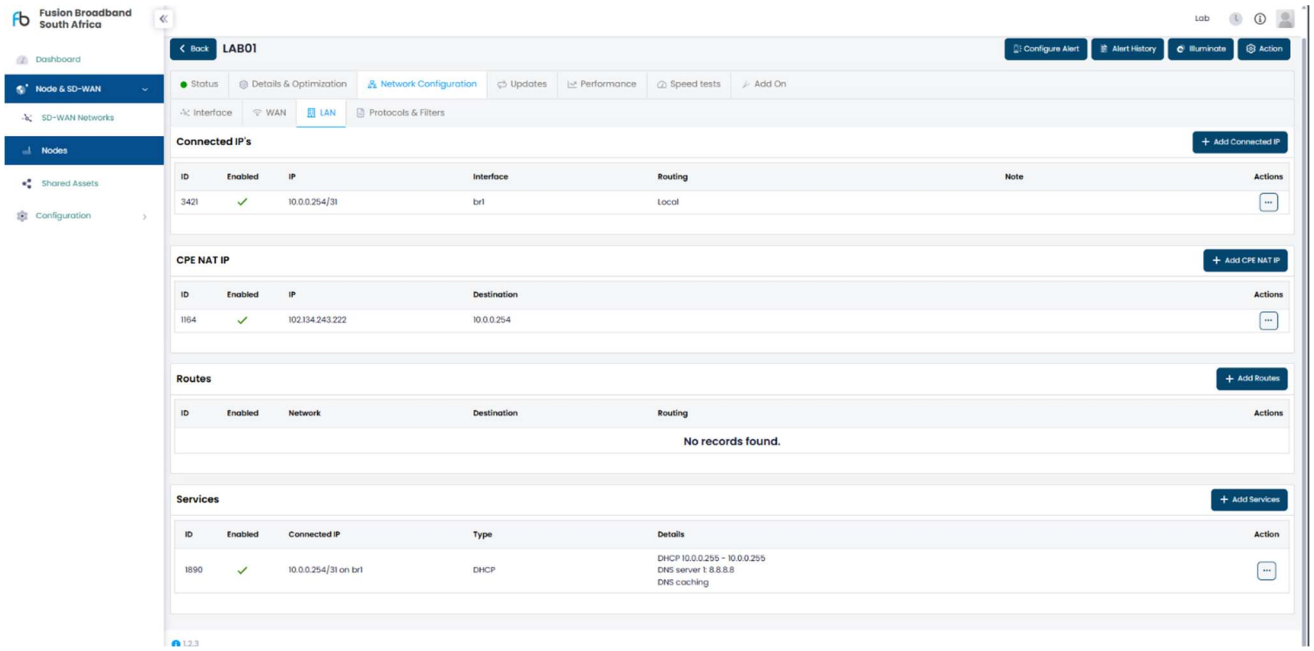
Interface configuration

As per the first item on the checklist to identify the LAN and Primary internet Interface being used, I looked at the status lights on the node. With the interfaces being mapped clearly, I identified eth0 as the LAN interface and eth1 as the primary internet interface that is currently in use.

To add the bridge interfaces that to allow openwrt to communicate I logged in to the Fusion Broadband partner's exceptionally user-friendly web-gui using my credentials and two factor authentication code. Using the + add interface button I added two bridge type interfaces, giving it a note and assigning a MAC address. I then performed an action on eth0 to bridge with br0.



Next up I navigated to the LAN tab where I completed checklist items 3,4 and 5. A added an IP address to the second bridge interface, configured NAT and dhcp for the openwrt 'wan' interface.



Libvirt Installation

Taking 6 from the list I performed and apt update and upgrade, after which I installed libvirt and other required packages. I also needed to disable some default configurations.

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo apt-get update
```

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo apt-get upgrade
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$
```

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo apt-get install qemu-kvm libvirt-daemon-system libvirt-clients virtinst cpu-checker libguestfs-tools libosinfo-bin -y
```

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo virsh net-autostart --disable default
Network default unmarked as autostarted
```

Openwrt VM Creation

To create the virtual machine I first needed to download the image.

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ wget https://downloads.openwrt.org/releases/23.05.3/targets/x86/64/openwrt-23.05.3-x86-64-generic-ext4-combined-efi.img.gz
--2024-07-16 11:30:39--  https://downloads.openwrt.org/releases/23.05.3/targets/x86/64/openwrt-23.05.3-x86-64-generic-ext4-combined-efi.img.gz
Resolving downloads.openwrt.org (downloads.openwrt.org)... 151.101.2.132, 151.101.66.132, 151.101.130.132, ...
Connecting to downloads.openwrt.org (downloads.openwrt.org)|151.101.2.132|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 11523599 (11M) [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: 'openwrt-23.05.3-x86-64-generic-ext4-combined-efi.img.gz'
```

After downloading the image I had to unzip the image.

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ gunzip *.gz

gzip: openwrt-23.05.3-x86-64-generic-ext4-combined-efi.img.gz: decompression OK, trailing garbage ignored
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$
```

I then moved the image to a created directory in /var/lib/machines/openwrt

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo mv *.img /var/lib/machines/openwrt/openwrt.img
```

For the creation of the VM I used this command specifying the system resources, network interfaces and the path to the image that should be used.

sudo virt-install --os-type=generic --virt-type=kvm --name=openwrt --ram=512 --vcpus=2 --virt-type=kvm --hvm --network bridge=br0,model=virtio --network bridge=br1,model=virtio --connect qemu:///system --disk path=/var/lib/machines/openwrt/openwrt.img,bus=ide --import --wait 0

After creation I verified that it is running.

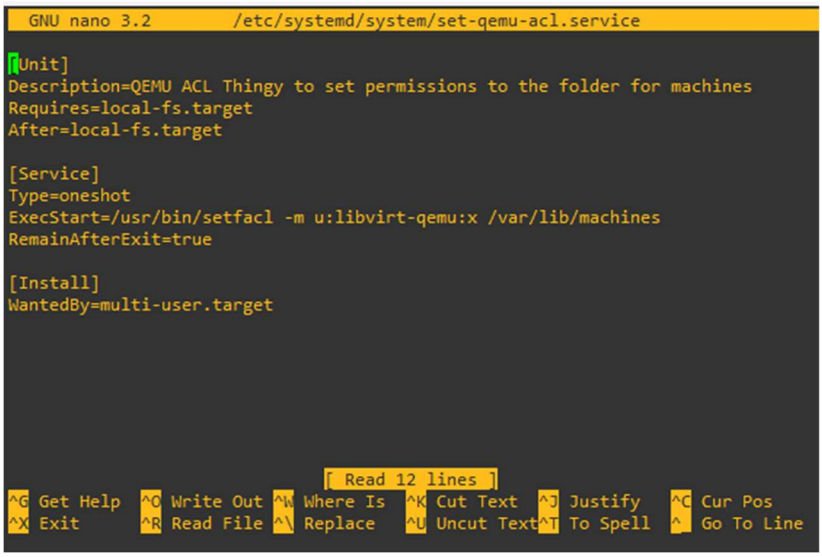
```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo virsh list
 Id   Name      State
-------------------------
 2    openwrt   running

willie@cxza27-lab01:~$
```

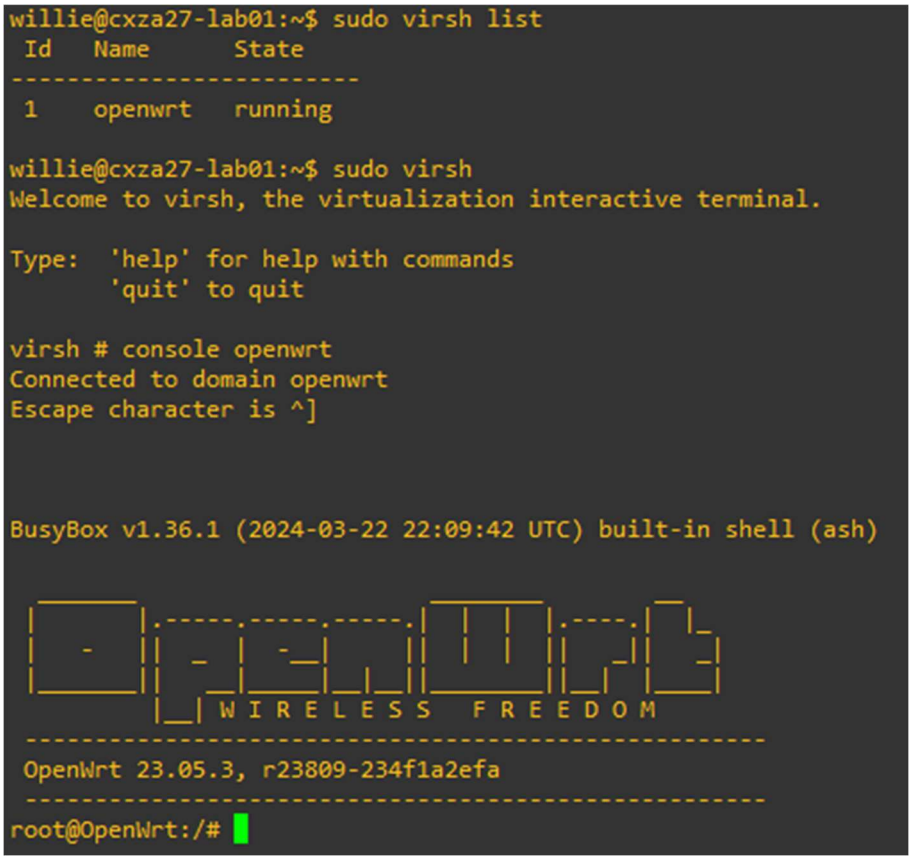
Troubleshooting directory permissions

In my case there were issues with the libvirt-qemu user that made the /var/lib/machines directory non accessible. I solved this problem by the implementation of a startup service.

Implementing it as a service will prevent the permission changes from going away after a reboot.

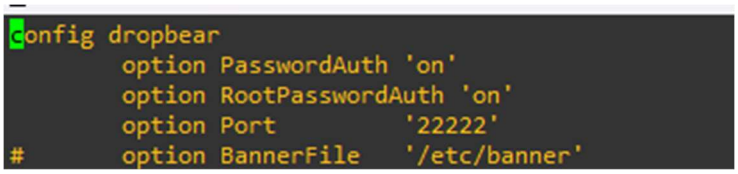


After this I used a console connection to the machine to allow me to make some basic changes.

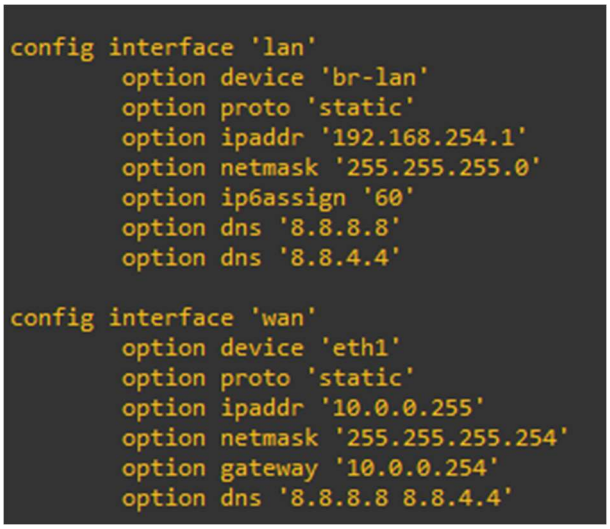


First basic change that I made was add a root password and set the ssh port to 22222 in /etc/config/dropbear using vim editor. A quick important sidenote, to exit vim make use of

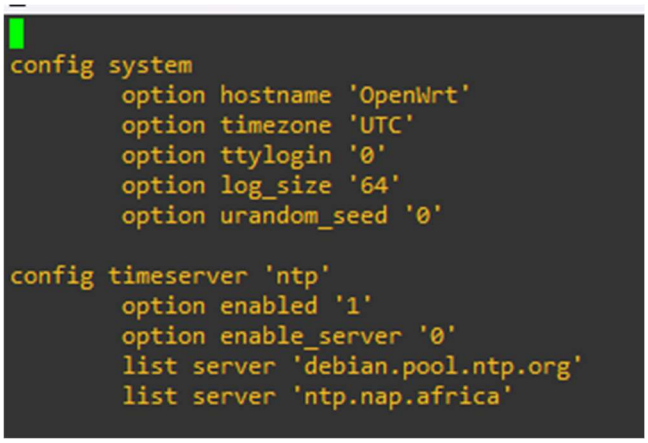
the escape key and then press :wq to write quit alternatively :q to discard changes and just quit.



Within the network configuration file (/etc/config/network) , I changed the lan addressing and added static addressing for wan since I experienced technical difficulties with receiving addressing from dhcp. I used Google's DNS servers instead of custom ones for testing purposes.



I added two ntp servers to the openwrt system configuration found in /etc/config/system



I also installed the argon theme using these commands:

wget https://github.com/jerrykuku/luci-theme-argon/releases/download/v2.3.1/luci-theme-argon_2.3.1_all.ipk -O $(basename https://github.com/jerrykuku/luci-theme-argon/releases/download/v2.3.1/luci-theme-argon_2.3.1_all.ipk)

wget https://github.com/jerrykuku/luci-app-argon-config/releases/download/v0.9/luci-app-argon-config_0.9_all.ipk -O $(basename https://github.com/jerrykuku/luci-app-argon-config/releases/download/v0.9/luci-app-argon-config_0.9_all.ipk)

opkg update

opkg install luci-compat

opkg install luci-lib-ipkg

opkg install luci-theme-argon*.ipk

opkg install luci-app-argon-config*.ipk

opkg update && opkg install bash && wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/dylanaraps/neofetch/master/neofetch && bash neofetch

Openwrt on startup

I added a few changes to the unit section of the libvirtd service to allow openwrt to have functioning interfaces on startup.

```
[Unit]
BindsTo=sys-devices-virtual-net-br0.device
BindsTo=sys-devices-virtual-net-br1.device
After=sys-devices-virtual-net-br0.device
After=sys-devices-virtual-net-br1.device
```

The following commands were used to enable the libvirt service on start-up, define and set the openwrt machine to start automatically.

sudo virsh define /etc/libvirt/qemu/openwrt.xml

sudo virsh autostart openwrt

sudo apt-get install ebtables

sudo systemctl enable libvirtd

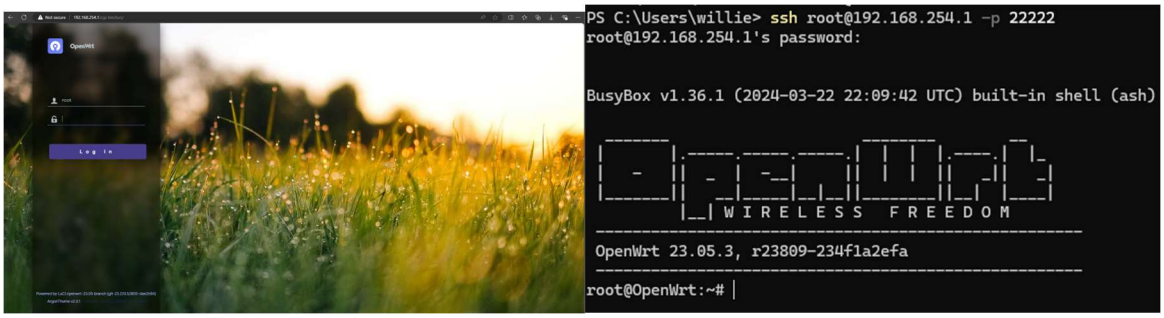
Verification

I am verifying that everything is working as I have set it up. Issuing the command below allowed me to view the operational status of the virtual machine created. I performed a reboot on the edge node and the vm started up as it should.

```
willie@cxza27-lab01:~$ sudo virsh list
 Id   Name      State
------------------------
 1    openwrt   running

willie@cxza27-lab01:~$
```

Verifying ssh access and web-gui access



Verifying internet connectivity

```
PS C:\Users\willie> ping google.com

Pinging google.com [142.251.47.110] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 142.251.47.110: bytes=32 time=6ms TTL=118
Reply from 142.251.47.110: bytes=32 time=6ms TTL=118
Reply from 142.251.47.110: bytes=32 time=6ms TTL=118
Reply from 142.251.47.110: bytes=32 time=12ms TTL=118

Ping statistics for 142.251.47.110:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
    Minimum = 6ms, Maximum = 12ms, Average = 7ms
PS C:\Users\willie>
```

Conclusion

During the task assigned to me for exit level outcome 3 I learned that the implementation of virtualization and network function virtualization allows for reduced costs and space requirements along with the ability to test and deploy services without having to first develop hardware. As an added use case it allows for the creation of lab environments with tools such as eve-ng and gns3.

My source for configuration: (Bartels, 2024)

Bibliography

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[Accessed 16 07 2024].

Edgeworth, B., Rios, R. G., Gooley, J. & Hucaby, D., 2019. *CCNP and CCIE Enterprise Core ENCOR 350-401 Official Cert Guide | Chapter 27. Virtualization //Hypervisor Types.* [Online]
Available at: https://learning.oreilly.com/library/view/ccnp-and-ccie/9780135262047/ch27.xhtml#:-:text=Type%201%3A%20This,metal%E2%80%9D%20or%20%E2%80%9Cnative.%E2%80%9D
[Accessed 09 07 2024].

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n%20concurren
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Golden, B., 2007. *Virtualization For Dummies | Virtualization: A Definition.* [Online] Available at: https://learning.oreilly.com/library/view/virtualization-for-dummies-r/9780470148310/ch01.html#:-:text=Virtualization%20refers%20to,anything%20at%20all. [Accessed 09 07 2024].