

Tencent's end user stories

Published Blog

Akraino Edge Stack Use Cases: Tencent's End User Story

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Original Content

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Tencent has been deploying [Tars](#) on [Connected Vehicle Blueprint](#) and validating on [IEC Type 4: AR/VR oriented Edge Stack for Integrated Edge Cloud \(IEC\) Blueprint Family](#).

Tars Microservice Framework

Tars is a key component for Connected Vehicle Blueprint and IEC Type 4 AR/VR Blueprint. So I introduce Tars Framework first prior to diving into the Akraino Blueprint.

Tars framework in general

Tars is a high-performance microservice framework, which supports C++, Java, Nodejs as well as PHP for now. Tars framework offers a set of efficient solutions for development, test, and maintenance. Tars framework integrates extensible components for encoding/decoding, high-performance RPC protocol, name service, monitor, statistics and configuration. Tars framework will be a great help for reliable distributed application development.

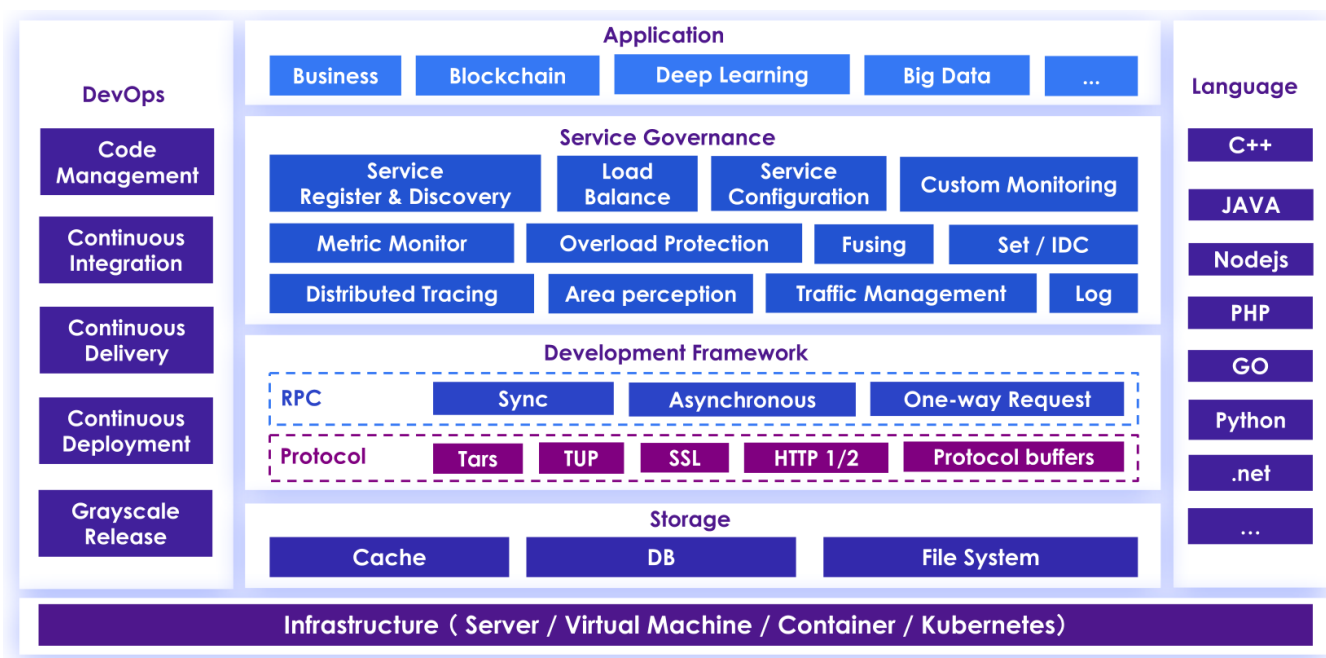
Tars framework has been used in Tencent since 2008. Nowadays it has already been used by hundreds of applications in Tencent, services developed on the Tars Framework run on 16 000 machines. The applications include but not limited to social networks, gaming, video, financial, telecom, education.

Tars architecture

The following picture depicts Tars' architecture. Tars can be deployed in multiple environments, including bare metal, virtual machines as well as the container.

In terms of RPC Tars supports Tars, Protocol Buffer, TUP, SSL, HTTP1/2. The customers can select any RPC protocol based on the application's requirement.

Beyond RPC call, Tars supports multiple languages and microservice governance functions, including Service Register/Discovery, Load Balance, Area Perception, Flow Control, Set Mode, Tracing and so on.



Tars Optimization for edge

To address the requirements of time-critical Application on the edge, some optimizations are itemized below:

- **High-Performance RPC:** Tars Framework supports a high-performance RPC Protocol, called Tars Protocol. To improve the performance, the Tars protocol re-design a brand new RPC protocol and make the transfer between "request" and "Binary stream" more efficiently. In terms of the detail of Tars protocol, refer to the Tars.h file in the <https://github.com/TarsCloud/Tars>.
- **Lightweight framework**
 1. To make Tars can be well deployed on the edge computing platform, we make the framework pluggable. The customer plugin the pluggable components when we really need it. Unnecessary components can be avoided.
 2. Rewrite some functions (like scale-out, monitor and so on) to reduce CPU consumption.
 3. Orchestrate no-urgent functions (like monitor data calculation and so on) from edge to DC (or higher level edge). Reduce resource consumption.

For more detail information for Tars, refer to <https://github.com/TarsCloud/Tars/blob/master/Introduction.md>.

Connect Vehicle Blueprint

For Connected Vehicle Blueprint, Connected Vehicle Blueprint focuses on establishing an open-source MEC platform, which is the backbone for the V2X application.

Sponsor Companies

Tencent, Arm, Intel, Nokia

Value Proposition

- Establish an open-source edge MEC platform on which each member company can develop its own v2x application.
- Contribute some use cases which help customers adopt V2X applications.
- Find some members who can work together to figure out something big for the industry.

Use Cases

From the use case perspective, the following are the potential use cases. More is possible in the future.

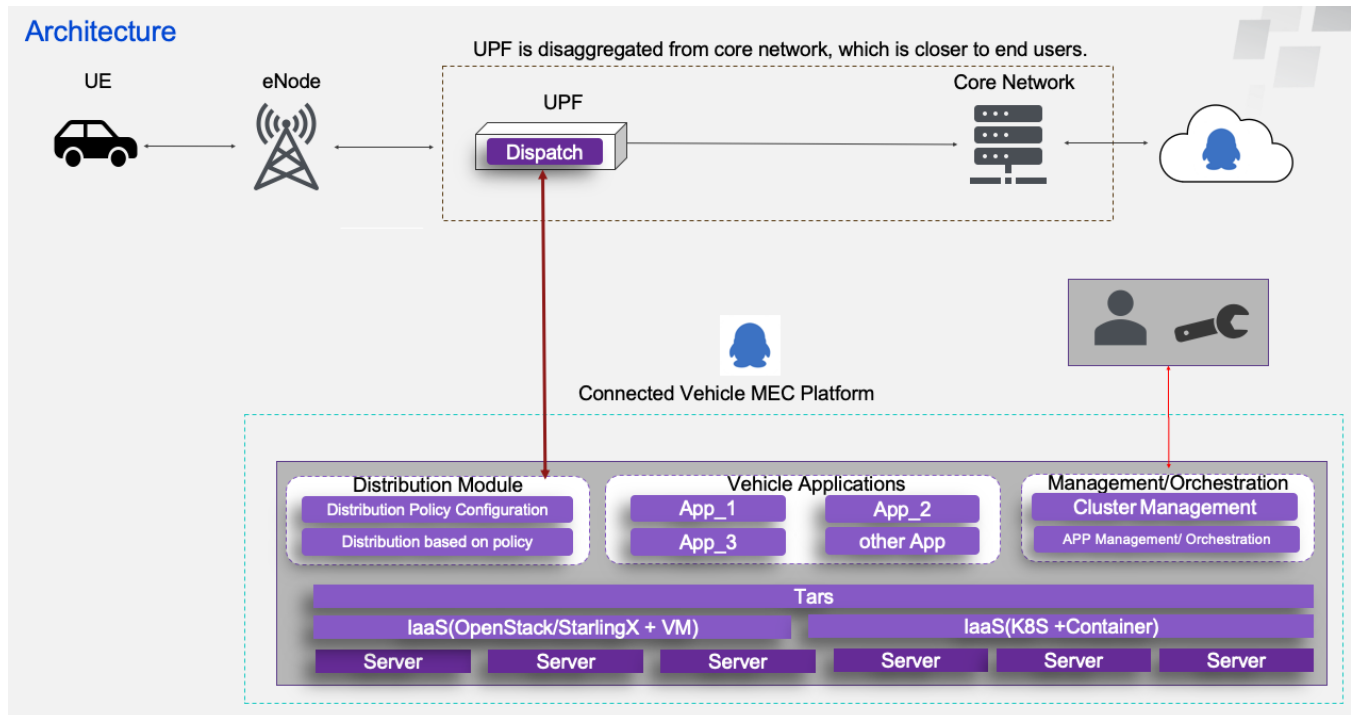
- **Accurate Location:** Accuracy of location improved by over 10 times than today's GPS system. Today's GPS system is around 5-10 meters away from your reallocation, <1 meter is possible with the help of Connected Vehicle Blueprint.

- **Smarter Navigation:** Real-time traffic information update, reduce the latency from minutes to seconds, figure out the most efficient way for drivers.
- **Safe Drive Improvement:** Figure out the potential risks which can NOT be seen by the driver.
- **Reduce traffic violation:** Let the driver understand the traffic rules in some specific area. For instance, change the line prior to a narrow street, avoiding the opposite way drive in the one-way road, avoiding carpool lane when a single driver and so on.

Network Architecture

From the network architecture perspective, the blueprint can be deployed in both 4G and 5G networks. Two key points should be paid special attention to.

1. One is offloading data to edge MEC platform. The policy of data offload is configurable based on different applications.
2. The other is the ability that letting the edge talks to the other edges as well as the remote data center. In some use cases, the data in one edge can NOT address the application's requirements, we need to collect the data from different edges or send the data to the remote data center.



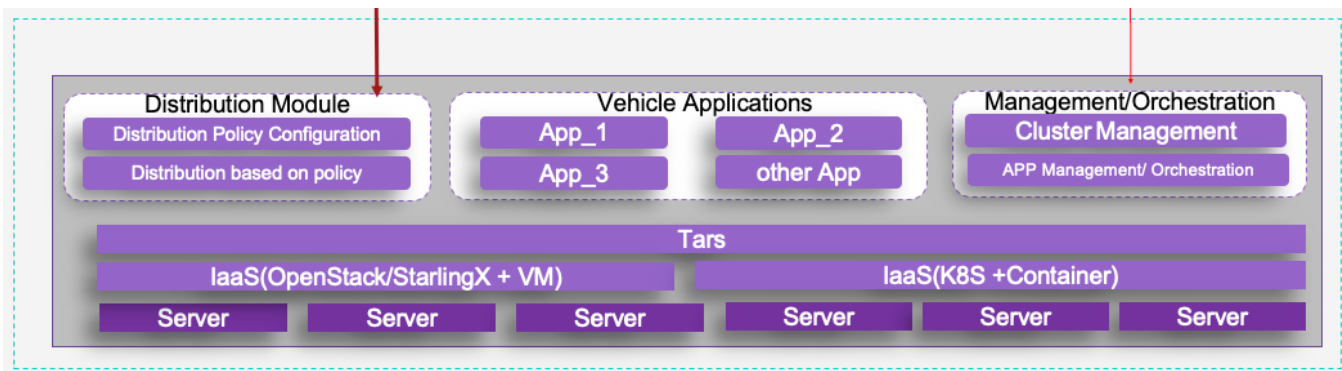
The general data flows are itemized below:

- Grab the traffic/vehicle information and circulate the information to the edge;
- Different types of information are distributed to the corresponding application based on the configurable policy;
- The corresponding edge applications process the information in a very fast speed and figure out the suggested action items for drivers;
- The suggested action items are sent back to the driver via the network.

MEC Development Architecture

From the MEC deployment perspective, the blueprint consists of three layers.

- **IaaS Layer** Connected Vehicle Blueprint can be deployed on community hardware, virtual machine as well as the container. Both the Arm and x86 platforms are BOTH well supported.
- **PaaS Layer** Tars is the microservice framework of Connected Vehicle Blueprint. Tars can provide high-performance RPC calls, deploy microservice in larger scale-out scenarios efficiently, provide easy-to-use service management features.
- **SaaS Layer** The latest v2x application depicted in the foregoing use case perspective.



For more information about Connected Vehicle Blueprint, please refer to:

[Connected Vehicle Blueprint\(Aka CVB\)](#)

[CVB Release 2 Documents](#)

[Slide Deck](#)

IEC Type 4: AR/VR oriented Edge Stack for Integrated Edge Cloud(IEC) Blueprint Family

Integrated Edge Cloud(IEC) is an Akraino approved blueprint family and part of Akraino Edge Stack, which intends to develop a fully integrated edge infrastructure solution, and the project is completely focused on Edge Computing. This open-source software stack provides critical infrastructure to enable high performance, reduce latency, improve availability, lower operational overhead, provide scalability, address security needs, and improve fault management. The IEC project will address multiple edge use cases and industry, not just the Telco Industry. IEC intends to develop solution and support of carrier, provider, and the IoT networks.

IEC Type 4 is focused on AR VR applications on the edge. In general, the architecture consists of three layers: IaaS(IEC Type2), PaaS(Tars), SaaS(AR /VR Application).

Sponsor Companies

Tencent, Arm, HTC, IBM, MobileedgeX, Visby, UC Irvine, Juniper, PSU, Orange

Value Proposition

- Establish an open-source edge infrastructure on which each member company can develop its own AR/VR application.
- Contribute some use cases which help customers adopt ARVR applications.
- Find some members who can work together to figure out something big for the industry.

Use Cases

The combination of IEC Type2 and Tars provides high performance and high availability infrastructure for AR/VR applications. The AR/VR application includes but not limited to operation guidance, virtual classroom, sports live, gaming as so on.

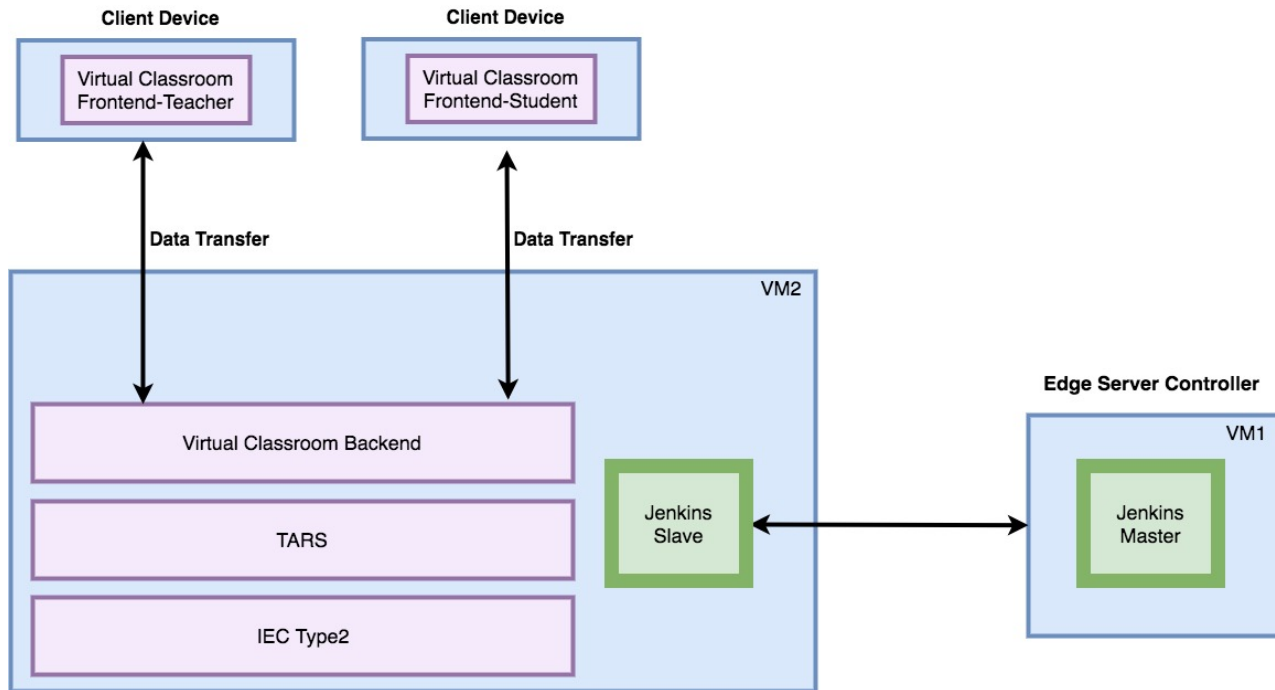
For Release 2, we focus on building the infrastructure and virtual classroom application (Highlighted in dark purple color). Virtual Classroom is a basic app that allows you to live a virtual reality experience simulating a classroom with teachers and students.

UseCases	Value Proposition
Operation Guidance	Predict the next step for the operations(like assembling Lego blocks, cooking sandwiches, etc) and help people to achieve a goal.
Virtual Classroom	Simulating a virtual classroom, which improves online education experiences for the teachers and students.
Sports Live	Augment and simulate the sports live, which gives the audiences an amazing immersive watching experience.
Gaming	Augment and simulate the game scenario, let players enjoy an immersive game world.

Architecture

The whole architecture, shown below, consists of two parts: the front end and the backend.

- For the front end, the minimal requirements are two clients, one for the teacher and the other one for the student. The client device could be a cellphone, tablets, wearable devices, personal computers, etc. The client collects information from the real world and transfers the data to the backend for calculation. Beyond data transfer and calculation, render is another function running on the front end client-side.
- For the backend, we deploy the backend in two virtual machines in the Cloud.
 1. To make the VR backend work well, we deploy IEC in the IaaS Layer, Tars framework in PaaS Layer, Virtual Classroom Backend in SaaS Layer.
 2. To make CI/CD available, we deploy Jenkins Master in one Virtual Machine. The Jenkins master issues command to trigger the script run on the dedicated VM.



For more information about IEC Type 4, please refer to:

[Release 2 Documentation](#)

Leader's Statements

"Open Source is Tencent's core strategy. Tencent, as a platinum member and board of Linux Foundation, continuously promotes network innovation from application perspectives. We believe that application-drive-network will bring tremendous benefits to our customers and stakeholders. After the Tars project in 2018 and recent Akraino blueprints, Tencent will contribute new open-source Foundation and projects in the future. Welcome more Linux member companies get involved!"

- Xin Liu, General Manager of Future Network Lab, Tencent

"Tencent has been ready for open source and joined the Linux Foundation to become a platinum member. Tencent also donated TARS to Linux Foundation, a multilingual microservice development framework that has been used for ten years. Tars has been a mature project in Linux Foundation and is currently providing mature infrastructure for projects in LF Edge. At present, TARS has become the unique microservice development framework in the connected vehicle and AR / VR blueprint of Akraino, improving the necessary conditions for high availability, high performance, and service governance of applications. We will continue to develop the TARS project and Akraino project in edge computing. Tencent will establish an open-source foundation with more partners and contribute more projects to the open-source industry in the future. Welcome to join us!"

- Mark Shan, Chairman of Tencent Open Source, Board Chair of TARS Foundation, Akraïno TSC member

Guoxu Liu, Tencent

In Tencent buildings in Shenzhen, [ELIOT AIoT in Smart Office Blueprint](#) has been deployed. The development of this blueprint helps enterprises increasing the efficiency of management and decrease the overall cost of managing offices and meeting rooms. At the same, employees can reserve and use meeting rooms more easily and conveniently.

Recently, Tencent is planning to deploy this blueprint in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and many other cities in China.

Wei Chen, Tencent; Xuan Jia, China Mobile

China Mobile provides 5G MEC/Slice to Tencent, so that Tencent can deploy [5G MEC/Slice System to Support Cloud Gaming, HD Video and Live Broadcasting Blueprint](#).