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Preface

Welcome to the *Edge Manual* for NVIDIA Base Command Manager 10.

0.1 About This Manual

This manual is aimed at helping cluster administrators install, understand, configure, and manage the edge computing capabilities of NVIDIA Base Command Manager. The administrator is expected to be reasonably familiar with the *Administrator Manual*.

0.2 About The Manuals In General

**Name Changes From Version 9.2 To 10**

The cluster manager software was originally developed by Bright Computing and the name “Bright” featured previously in the product, repositories, websites, and manuals.

Bright Computing was acquired by NVIDIA in 2022. The corresponding name changes, to be consistent with NVIDIA branding and products, are a work in progress. There is some catching up to do in places. For now, some parts of the manual still refer to Bright Computing and Bright Cluster Manager. These remnants will eventually disappear during updates.

BCM in particular is a convenient abbreviation that happens to have the same letters as the former Bright Cluster Manager. With the branding change in version 10, Base Command Manager is the official full name for the product formerly known as Bright Cluster Manager, and BCM is the official abbreviation for Base Command Manager.

Regularly updated versions of the NVIDIA Base Command Manager 10 manuals are available on updated clusters by default at `/cm/shared/docs/cm`. The latest updates are always online at https://docs.nvidia.com/base-command-manager.

- The *Installation Manual* describes installation procedures for the basic cluster.
- The *Administrator Manual* describes the general management of the cluster.
- The *User Manual* describes the user environment and how to submit jobs for the end user.
- The *Cloudbursting Manual* describes how to deploy the cloud capabilities of the cluster.
- The *Developer Manual* has useful information for developers who would like to program with BCM.
- The *Machine Learning Manual* describes how to install and configure machine learning capabilities with BCM.
- The *Containerization Manual* describes how to manage containers with BCM.

If the manuals are downloaded and kept in one local directory, then in most pdf viewers, clicking on a cross-reference in one manual that refers to a section in another manual opens and displays that section in the second manual. Navigating back and forth between documents is usually possible with keystrokes or mouse clicks.

For example: `<Alt>-<Backarrow>` in Acrobat Reader, or clicking on the bottom leftmost navigation button of xpdf, both navigate back to the previous document.

The manuals constantly evolve to keep up with the development of the BCM environment and the addition of new hardware and/or applications. The manuals also regularly incorporate feedback from
administrators and users, and any comments, suggestions or corrections will be very gratefully accepted at manuals@brightcomputing.com.

There is also a feedback form available via Base View, via the menu icon, following the clickpath:  

0.3 Getting Administrator-Level Support

Support for BCM subscriptions from version 10 onwards is available via the NVIDIA Enterprise Support page at:


Section 16.2 of the Administrator Manual has more details on working with support.

0.4 Getting Professional Services

The BCM support team normally differentiates between

- regular support (customer has a question or problem that requires an answer or resolution), and
- professional services (customer asks for the team to do something or asks the team to provide some service).

Professional services can be provided via the NVIDIA Enterprise Services page at:

Introduction

1.1 Cloud Computing Vs Edge Computing

Cloud computing is traditionally about the concept of end users using resources that are located in a cloud elsewhere. The cloud is the central coordinator, and end users use the resources that are in the cloud rather than using their local resources.

As computing power has become cheaper over time, and resource use has grown, it has in many cases become more financially attractive to shift the emphasis of resource coordination, from the center of the cloud (core of the cloud), over to the local resources which are at the edge. These local devices are then called edge nodes.

A strong case for edge computing is when the following resource requirements are easier to provide locally via local devices, than via central processing in the cloud:

- low latency
- high bandwidth consumption
- high CPU cycle consumption

For example, a self-driving car requires a low latency, high bandwidth, and high CPU cycle consumption in order to ensure a speedy and safe response to traffic requirements. Attempting to run a self-driving car via central processing in the cloud would be impractically slow or prohibitively dangerous.

Generally, edge computing is regarded as a way to have a geographically spread-out cluster make more local use of its computing resources. A geographically spread-out cluster typically already has plenty of CPU cycles, bandwidth, and low latency at its regular nodes. So, for such a geographically spread-out cluster, making more local use of its computing resources tends to mean granting extra autonomy to the edge computing devices, and making them more independent of the head node.

To achieve this greater autonomy, NVIDIA Base Command Manager uses an edge director. This is somewhat similar to the cloud director, but is required to be geographically close to the edge nodes, and is also optimized for edge requirements.

1.2 High Speed Monitoring And Local Processing

The importance of being local and autonomous is often due to the environment that the regular nodes are in. The environment is typically under high speed monitoring by many sensors linked to the regular nodes. The data values obtained by the sensors are processed very quickly by the nodes. Such high speed processing of the monitoring data values can typically only reasonably be achieved by the nodes managing the processing locally as much as possible, rather than having the nodes managed by a head node a large distance away.
2

BCM Edge

2.1 BCM Edge

The edge feature of NVIDIA Base Command Manager allows a single cluster to span many geographical locations ("one cluster, multiple locations"). Typical use cases are:

- HPC: organizations that have compute resources located in different cities or countries
- IoT: companies that have “edge” locations with the required compute resources at each location

BCM can be used to deploy and manage resources at edge locations from the central head node.

Figure 2.1: BCM Edge: The Big Picture

BCM Edge sites comprise an edge director and edge nodes.

- The edge director must be reachable from the central head node. The edge director forwards requests from the edge nodes to the central head node when required.
- The edge nodes are similar to regular nodes, and are provisioned by them PXE booting off the edge director. Unlike with regular nodes, no direct connection is required between the central head node and the edge nodes.

Items to check before creating edge sites:
The BCM license must allow edge site creation

The to-be-provisioned edge director must have an IP address that can be reached from the central head node

Conversely, the central head node must have an IP address that can be reached by the edge director

Creating and deploying edge sites involve the following steps:

• Create the edge site using `cm-edge-setup`
• Create an edge ISO for provisioning the edge director
• Provision the edge director using the edge ISO
• Provision the edge nodes off the edge director

The following sections explain each of the preceding steps in further detail:

2.1.1 Defining The Edge Site

Edge sites are defined in BCM using the TUI-based `cm-edge-setup`. This section goes through a `cm-edge-setup` session on the central head node that creates an edge site definition.

Running `cm-edge-setup` In Interactive Mode

Running `cm-edge-setup` without any options brings up the main edge setup screen (figure 2.2):

A new edge site can be created by entering a series of parameters (figure 2.3):

Figure 2.2: Edge setup main screen

Figure 2.3: Entry of edge site parameters
A secret for the site should be entered (figure 2.4):

![Figure 2.4: Entry of site secret](image)

The site secret entry is reconfirmed by the administrator in a subsequent entry screen.

The next screen after that asks how the external network for the edge director should be set (figure 2.5):

![Figure 2.5: Selection of edge external network](image)

- If networks defined as type `EdgeExternal` are found, then these networks are presented for selection (figure 2.6).
- If no networks of type `EdgeExternal` are found, then the only option is to create a new network (figure 2.7).

![Figure 2.6: Selection of an existing edge external network](image)

![Figure 2.7: Creation of a new edge external network](image)
Similarly to the external network configuration for the edge director, a screen comes up next that asks how the internal network for the edge director (figure 2.8) should be set:

Figure 2.8: Selection of an existing edge internal network

Similarly to the external network configuration, the configuration for trusted internal network for the edge director presents the following similar options:

- If networks defined as type `EdgeInternal` are found, then these networks are presented for selection.
- If no networks of type `EdgeInternal` are found, then the only option is to create a new network (figure 2.9).

Figure 2.9: Creation of a new edge internal network

The next screen (figure 2.10) allows edge director parameters to be entered:

Figure 2.10: Entry of edge director parameters

In the next screen (figure 2.11) Edge director High Availability (HA) can be enabled:
The cluster administrator may want

- `/cm/shared` to be shared from a common network storage to the edge directors
- `/cm/shared` to not be shared, but synchronized between edge directors

How to configure this is described on page 77 of the *Cloudbursting Manual*.

A screen later on (figure 2.12) allows secondary edge director parameters to be set:

Shared IP settings for edge directors can be entered in the next screen (figure 2.13):

The edge nodes can now be configured. Individual nodes (figure 2.14), or a range of nodes (figure 2.15), can be configured:
Running `cm-edge-setup` In Batch Mode

In the preceding section `cm-edge-setup` was used interactively to define edge sites. It can also be used non-interactively for the same purpose. This is done by saving a site configuration file at the end of the interactive setup. This is a YAML file, and it can be used to re-create the edge sites, or it can be used as a template to create new sites.

Example

```
[root@headnode ~]# cat /root/cm/edge/ams-west.yaml
#######################################################################
## This config file should be used with cm-edge-setup tool
## Example:
## cm-edge-setup -c <filename>
##
## Generated by:
## cm-edge-setup
## cluster-tools-8.2-112301_cm8.2_b7ed6db8a
## cmdline: /cm/local/apps/cm-setup/bin/cm-edge-setup
## Generate on host:
## smcluster
## Date of generation:
## Thu Dec 6 11:05:29 2018
## MD5 checksum of everything after the closing comment:
## 5ca3aef31f8a047677c220824474e747
## to compare: grep -v `##` <this_file> | md5sum
#######################################################################
edge_sites:
- address: Kings
  admin_email: admin@bright
  city: Amsterdam
  contact: admin
  country: Amsterdam
  edge_director:
    category: edge-director
    hostname: ams-west-director
    interface_name_external: eth0
```
2.1 BCM Edge

2.1.2 Adding Nodes To Pre-existing Edge Sites With cmsh

Edge nodes can also be added to an existing edge site. This is typically required when no edge nodes were added during cm-edge-setup, or if the site is being expanded by adding more nodes. The addition can be done in the usual way, which is to first add the required node object with cmsh (section 2.5.3 of the Administrator Manual). The nodes are then added to the relevant edge site(s).

Adding nodes to an edge site can be done as follows:

Example
2.1.3 Viewing Edge Sites Using cmsh

Edge sites can be viewed from the edgesite mode of cmsh.

Example

```
[root@smcluster ~]# cmsh
[smcluster]# edgesite
[smcluster->edgesite]# use ams-west
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]# append nodes edge-node005 edge-node006
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]# commit
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]# list
Name (key) Director Nodes
----------------- ----------------- ------------------------------------------
ams-west ams-west-director ams-west-node001,ams-west-director,edge-node005,edge-node006
dell-edge dell-edge-director dell-edge-director
```

```
[smcluster->edgesite]# show ams-west
Parameter Value
----------------- ------------------------------------------
Address Kings
Administrator e-mail admin@bright
City Amsterdam
Contact admin
Country Amsterdam
Director ams-west-director
Name ams-west
Nodes ams-west-node001,ams-west-director
Notes
Revision
Secret *********
```

2.1.4 Viewing Edge Sites Using Base View

Edge sites can also be viewed via the clickpath Datacenter Infrastructure → Edge Sites (figure 2.16). Properties of an edge site can be managed via editing a particular edge site.
2.1 BCM Edge

2.1.5 Create Edge ISO

The next step in the deployment is to create the edge ISO on the head node. Typically, the edge ISO is configured so that the edge director boots from it the first time, and carries out a FULL install using the ISO for its source of files that will be installed on the edge director. The edge director is also configured to allow a boot from the hard drive.

If booting from the ISO after the first time, and if the partitions on the edge director have not changed, then a SYNC install is carried out against the central head node. If booting after the first time, and if there is no ISO, then the edge director simply boots from its local hard drive, and no files are synced with the central head node.

There are two ways to create the edge ISO:

1. The edge ISO can be created with a site-specific auto-generated wrapper script. This is the recommended approach. When an edge site is created, CMDaemon on the head node creates a wrapper script at /var/spool/cmd/edge/create-<site-name>-iso.sh. The wrapper script then provides all the site-specific information that needs to be provided for the edge node-installer. The behavior of the wrapper script depends on whether the setup was done with edge director HA enabled.

   • The wrapper script that is generated when edge director HA configuration is enabled, can be used as follows:
     - The following command produces an ISO that can be used for booting the primary edge director:
       
       ```
       /var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --primary
       ```
     
     - The following command produces an ISO that can be used for booting the secondary edge director:
The following command produces two ISOs, one for the primary and one for the secondary:
/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --secondary

The following command produces an ISO that can be used to boot both the primary and secondary edge directors, but the correct option for the edge director IP must be manually chosen in the node-installer screen:
/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --both

- The wrapper script that is generated in the case when no edge director HA configuration is selected, takes no additional arguments. It produces an ISO that is used to boot the single edge director, and is invoked as:
/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh

2. Alternatively, the edge site ISO can be created manually by setting the options to create-edge-iso:

Example

[root@headnode ~]# create-edge-iso --help

Create edge iso

optional arguments:
-h, --help show this help message and exit
-v, --verbose Turn on verbose logging
-d, --debug Turn on debug mode, iso work directory will not be cleaned up
-c, --includecmshared Include /cm/shared on iso
-f EDGEINTERFACE, --edgeinterface EDGEINTERFACE Name of interface on edge node
-e EDGEDIRECTORIP, --edgedirectorip EDGEDIRECTORIP IP[/Netmask bits] of edge director
  If Netmask bits is not specified, defaults to /16
-m HEADNODEIP, --headnodeip HEADNODEIP IP[:port] of head node
  If port is not specified, defaults to :8081
-g DEFAULTGATEWAY, --defaultgateway DEFAULTGATEWAY Gateway for edge director to reach central head node
-k KERNELIMAGE, --kernelimage KERNELIMAGE Name of image whose kernel will be used for booting iso
-i IMAGENAME, --imagename IMAGENAME Name of software image to include on iso
-s, --sitesecret Prompt user to enter Edge site secret
-p PATHTOISOFILE, --pathtoisofile PATHTOISOFILE Path to iso file name
-n, --donotstoresecret Inform node-installer not to store the secret on the edge director
2.1.6 Edge ISO Node Installer

The edge ISO is used to provision the edge director. The node installer displays the following screens when booting from the edge ISO:

![Figure 2.17: Edge node-installer ISO boot menu](image)

![Figure 2.18: Edge node-installer select interface](image)
Figure 2.19: Edge director IP Static/DHCP selection

Figure 2.20: Edge director IP address and netmask

Figure 2.21: Central head node IP address and port
2.1.7 Edge Directors

Edge directors can be provisioned from the head node, but are normally provisioned using the software image on the edge ISO/USB. This means:

- The ISO/USB should have a software image included in it
- The ISO/USB should have `/cm/shared` included in it

If the edge director is booting from the ISO/USB, it means that:

- There is a minimal overhead when only updates, rather than an entire filesystem, are synced from the head node to the edge director
- A **FULL** install of the edge director only takes place during the first installation of that director, or if the director disk partitions have changed.
- If the edge director has already been installed previously, and its disk partitions are unchanged, then a **SYNC** install is carried out, so that local files on the edge director can get updated against the head node
If there is no ISO/USB available to the edge director, then the director simply boots off its local drive, and no SYNC install is followed. An explicit image update can however be carried out afterwards when needed, if connectivity is there, to update the software image.

Once the edge director is in the UP state, it is responsible for the following local operations:

- Ramdisk creation for the edge nodes
- Power control for itself and the edge nodes
- Device state (UP, DOWN) check via ICMP ping to the edge nodes
- Monitoring for the edge nodes

### 2.1.8 Edge Nodes

Edge nodes are expected to PXE boot off the edge internal network. The edge director provisions edge nodes in the same way that the head node provisions regular nodes.
Installing Slurm To An Edge Site

On some edge sites there may be a need to run a workload manager. The Slurm workload manager can be run on an edge site if the cluster is prepared and software installed as in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 Preparation

1. The edge director must be UP according to cmsh or Base View.
2. No MySQL or MariaDB installation must be present on the edge director or it will conflict with the automatic installation of cm-mariadb.

3.2 Installation

• The BCM script cm-wlm-setup (Section 7.3 of the Administrator Manual) is then run on the head node.
  
  – At the Select installation type screen, the edge name should be selected, and the edge director should then be specified as only server role node.

• By default there are no user home directories on the edge director or edge nodes. These must therefore be mounted or created, otherwise jobs cannot run on the edge nodes. This is true for all WLMs running on edge nodes.