

CLAIMS

1. A system, comprising:
one or more computer systems, each computer system of the one or more
5 computer systems including one or more processors coupled to one or more memories,
the one or more memories having computer-executable instructions stored thereupon
which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the system to:
expose a public web service application programming interface (API)
comprising executable code configured to execute a command within a virtual
10 machine (VM) instance, the command included in data identifying the
commands that can be executed within the VM instance;
receive a call to execute the command within the VM instance; and
cause a request to execute the command to be transmitted to a software
component executing in the VM instance, the software component configured to
15 execute the command in the VM instance in response to receiving the request.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more memories having further
computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to log the execution of the command
in the VM instance.
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3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the public web service API further
comprises executable code configured to request the data identifying commands that
can be executed within the VM instance.
- 25 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the one or more memories having further
computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to:
receive a call requesting the data identifying the commands that can be executed
within the VM instance; and

cause a request to be transmitted to the software component executing in the VM instance for the data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM instance.

5 5. The system of claim 3, wherein the one or more memories having further computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to:

 cause a request to be transmitted to the software component executing in the VM instance for the data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM instance;

10 receive the data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM instance;

 store the data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM instance in a cache; and

 utilize the data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM
15 instance stored in the cache to respond to calls requesting data identifying commands that can be executed within the VM instance.

 6. The system of claim 3, wherein the one or more memories having further computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to utilize the data identifying the
20 commands that can be executed within the VM instance to generate a user interface (UI) configured to display UI controls for executing the commands within the VM instance.

 7. The system of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the public web service API further comprises executable code configured to obtain a status of the
25 execution of the command within the VM instance.

 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the one or more memories having further computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to:

 receive a call to obtain a status of the execution of the command within the VM
30 instance; and

cause a request to be transmitted to the software component executing in the VM instance for the status of the execution of the command within the VM instance.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the one or more memories further having
5 computer-executable instructions stored thereupon to determine that a user associated with the call is authorized to perform the command prior to causing the request to execute the command to be transmitted to the software component executing in the VM instance.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the command comprises one or more of a
10 command for restarting a process on the VM instance, a command for flushing a cache, a command for performing a backup operation, a command for configuring the VM instance, or a command for performing a test on the VM instance.

11. A computer-implemented method for executing a command within a
15 virtual machine (VM) instance, comprising:

publicly expose an application programming interface (API) within a service
provider network, the API comprising a method for executing a command within a
virtual machine (VM) instance executing within the service provider network, the
20 command included in data identifying the commands that can be executed within the VM instance;

receive a call to the method for executing the command within the VM instance;
and

cause a request to execute the command to be transmitted to a software
25 component executing in the VM instance, the software component configured to execute the command in the VM instance in response to receiving the request.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein the API further
comprises a method for requesting the data identifying commands that can be executed
30 within the VM instance.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 or 12, wherein the API further comprises a method for obtaining a status of the execution of the command within the VM instance.

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14. The computer-implemented method of any one of claims 11 to 13, further comprising determining that a user associated with the call to the method for executing the command is authorized to perform the command prior to causing the request to execute the command to be transmitted to the software component executing
10 in the VM instance.

15. The computer-implemented method of any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the command comprises one or more of a command for restarting a process on the VM instance, a command for flushing a cache, a command for performing a backup
15 operation, a command for configuring the VM instance, or a command for performing a test on the VM instance.