
Foreword

Hadoop got its start in Nutch. A few of us were attempting to build an open source web search engine and having trouble managing computations running on even a handful of computers. Once Google published its GFS and MapReduce papers, the route became clear. They'd devised systems to solve precisely the problems we were having with Nutch. So we started, two of us, half-time, to try to re-create these systems as a part of Nutch.

We managed to get Nutch limping along on 20 machines, but it soon became clear that to handle the Web's massive scale, we'd need to run it on thousands of machines, and moreover, that the job was bigger than two half-time developers could handle.

Around that time, Yahoo! got interested, and quickly put together a team that I joined. We split off the distributed computing part of Nutch, naming it Hadoop. With the help of Yahoo!, Hadoop soon grew into a technology that could truly scale to the Web.

In 2006, Tom White started contributing to Hadoop. I already knew Tom through an excellent article he'd written about Nutch, so I knew he could present complex ideas in clear prose. I soon learned that he could also develop software that was as pleasant to read as his prose.

From the beginning, Tom's contributions to Hadoop showed his concern for users and for the project. Unlike most open source contributors, Tom is not primarily interested in tweaking the system to better meet his own needs, but rather in making it easier for anyone to use.

Initially, Tom specialized in making Hadoop run well on Amazon's EC2 and S3 services. Then he moved on to tackle a wide variety of problems, including improving the Map-Reduce APIs, enhancing the website, and devising an object serialization framework. In all cases, Tom presented his ideas precisely. In short order, Tom earned the role of Hadoop committer and soon thereafter became a member of the Hadoop Project Management Committee.

Tom is now a respected senior member of the Hadoop developer community. Though he's an expert in many technical corners of the project, his specialty is making Hadoop easier to use and understand.

Given this, I was very pleased when I learned that Tom intended to write a book about Hadoop. Who could be better qualified? Now you have the opportunity to learn about Hadoop from a master—not only of the technology, but also of common sense and plain talk.

—Doug Cutting, April 2009
Shed in the Yard, California

Preface

Martin Gardner, the mathematics and science writer, once said in an interview:

Beyond calculus, I am lost. That was the secret of my column's success. It took me so long to understand what I was writing about that I knew how to write in a way most readers would understand.¹

In many ways, this is how I feel about Hadoop. Its inner workings are complex, resting as they do on a mixture of distributed systems theory, practical engineering, and common sense. And to the uninitiated, Hadoop can appear alien.

But it doesn't need to be like this. Stripped to its core, the tools that Hadoop provides for working with big data are simple. If there's a common theme, it is about raising the level of abstraction—to create building blocks for programmers who have lots of data to store and analyze, and who don't have the time, the skill, or the inclination to become distributed systems experts to build the infrastructure to handle it.

With such a simple and generally applicable feature set, it seemed obvious to me when I started using it that Hadoop deserved to be widely used. However, at the time (in early 2006), setting up, configuring, and writing programs to use Hadoop was an art. Things have certainly improved since then: there is more documentation, there are more examples, and there are thriving mailing lists to go to when you have questions. And yet the biggest hurdle for newcomers is understanding what this technology is capable of, where it excels, and how to use it. That is why I wrote this book.

The Apache Hadoop community has come a long way. Since the publication of the first edition of this book, the Hadoop project has blossomed. “Big data” has become a household term.² In this time, the software has made great leaps in adoption, performance, reliability, scalability, and manageability. The number of things being built and run on the Hadoop platform has grown enormously. In fact, it's difficult for one person to keep

1. Alex Bellos, “[The science of fun](#),” *The Guardian*, May 31, 2008.

2. It was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2013.

track. To gain even wider adoption, I believe we need to make Hadoop even easier to use. This will involve writing more tools; integrating with even more systems; and writing new, improved APIs. I'm looking forward to being a part of this, and I hope this book will encourage and enable others to do so, too.

Administrative Notes

During discussion of a particular Java class in the text, I often omit its package name to reduce clutter. If you need to know which package a class is in, you can easily look it up in the Java API documentation for Hadoop (linked to from the [Apache Hadoop home page](#)), or the relevant project. Or if you're using an integrated development environment (IDE), its auto-complete mechanism can help find what you're looking for.

Similarly, although it deviates from usual style guidelines, program listings that import multiple classes from the same package may use the asterisk wildcard character to save space (for example, `import org.apache.hadoop.io.*`).

The sample programs in this book are available for download from the book's [website](#). You will also find instructions there for obtaining the datasets that are used in examples throughout the book, as well as further notes for running the programs in the book and links to updates, additional resources, and my blog.

What's New in the Fourth Edition?

The fourth edition covers Hadoop 2 exclusively. The Hadoop 2 release series is the current active release series and contains the most stable versions of Hadoop.

There are new chapters covering YARN ([Chapter 4](#)), Parquet ([Chapter 13](#)), Flume ([Chapter 14](#)), Crunch ([Chapter 18](#)), and Spark ([Chapter 19](#)). There's also a new section to help readers navigate different pathways through the book ("[What's in This Book?](#)" [on page 15](#)).

This edition includes two new case studies (Chapters [22](#) and [23](#)): one on how Hadoop is used in healthcare systems, and another on using Hadoop technologies for genomics data processing. Case studies from the previous editions can now be found [online](#).

Many corrections, updates, and improvements have been made to existing chapters to bring them up to date with the latest releases of Hadoop and its related projects.

What's New in the Third Edition?

The third edition covers the 1.x (formerly 0.20) release series of Apache Hadoop, as well as the newer 0.22 and 2.x (formerly 0.23) series. With a few exceptions, which are noted in the text, all the examples in this book run against these versions.

This edition uses the new MapReduce API for most of the examples. Because the old API is still in widespread use, it continues to be discussed in the text alongside the new API, and the equivalent code using the old API can be found on the book's website.

The major change in Hadoop 2.0 is the new MapReduce runtime, MapReduce 2, which is built on a new distributed resource management system called YARN. This edition includes new sections covering MapReduce on YARN: how it works ([Chapter 7](#)) and how to run it ([Chapter 10](#)).

There is more MapReduce material, too, including development practices such as packaging MapReduce jobs with Maven, setting the user's Java classpath, and writing tests with MRUnit (all in [Chapter 6](#)). In addition, there is more depth on features such as output committers and the distributed cache (both in [Chapter 9](#)), as well as task memory monitoring ([Chapter 10](#)). There is a new section on writing MapReduce jobs to process Avro data ([Chapter 12](#)), and one on running a simple MapReduce workflow in Oozie ([Chapter 6](#)).

The chapter on HDFS ([Chapter 3](#)) now has introductions to high availability, federation, and the new WebHDFS and HttpFS filesystems.

The chapters on Pig, Hive, Sqoop, and ZooKeeper have all been expanded to cover the new features and changes in their latest releases.

In addition, numerous corrections and improvements have been made throughout the book.

What's New in the Second Edition?

The second edition has two new chapters on Sqoop and Hive (Chapters [15](#) and [17](#), respectively), a new section covering Avro (in [Chapter 12](#)), an introduction to the new security features in Hadoop (in [Chapter 10](#)), and a new case study on analyzing massive network graphs using Hadoop.

This edition continues to describe the 0.20 release series of Apache Hadoop, because this was the latest stable release at the time of writing. New features from later releases are occasionally mentioned in the text, however, with reference to the version that they were introduced in.

Conventions Used in This Book

The following typographical conventions are used in this book:

Italic

Indicates new terms, URLs, email addresses, filenames, and file extensions.

Constant width

Used for program listings, as well as within paragraphs to refer to commands and command-line options and to program elements such as variable or function names, databases, data types, environment variables, statements, and keywords.

Constant width bold

Shows commands or other text that should be typed literally by the user.

Constant width italic

Shows text that should be replaced with user-supplied values or by values determined by context.



This icon signifies a general note.



This icon signifies a tip or suggestion.



This icon indicates a warning or caution.

Using Code Examples


Supplemental material (code, examples, exercise, etc.) is available for download at this book's [website](#) and on [GitHub](#).

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