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Efficient indexing and searching in correlated business event streams

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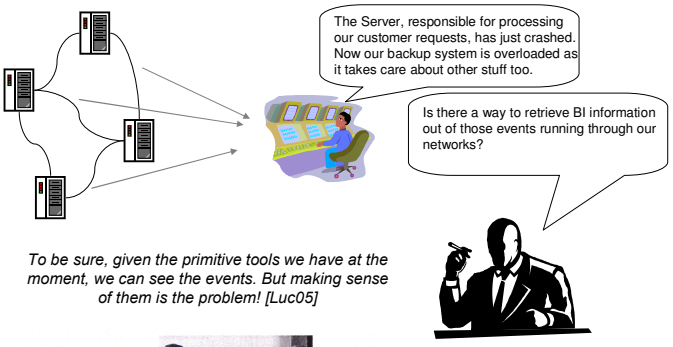
Abstract

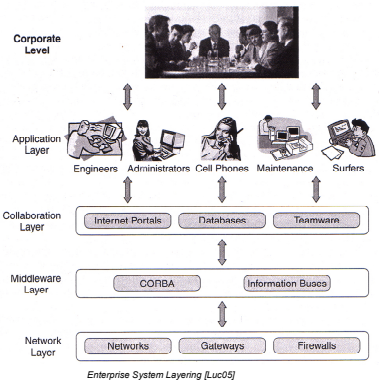
Event Cloud is a system that enables the historic view of collected event streams that have been preprocessed by Senactives InTime Sense and Response Architecture. InTime is capable of correlating events according to predefined rules and delivers causal tracking of events. Event Cloud collects these events and creates a full text index over them to enable a Google like search experience. Furthermore it offers a toolset to discover different aspects of business processes based on event correlations for investigation purposes. Event Cloud has evolved over several stages to determine a good architecture in order to lay the foundation for further work in the area of event mining and correlaton discovery.

Background

The lack of monitoring events in a sense of correlating them, creating causal relationships or aggregate them to high level events is still a problem that is currently challenged by academic and commerical oriented institutions.



To be sure, given the primitive tools we have at the moment, we can see the events. But making sense of them is the problem! [Luc05]



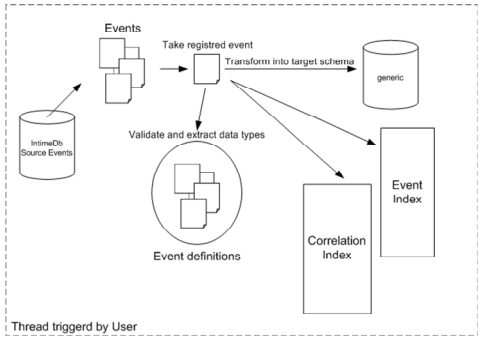
Enterprise System Layering [Luc05]

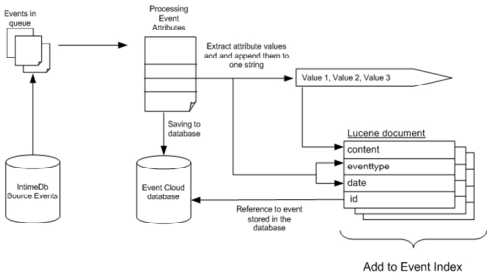
Today thousands of business-level events per second are being communicated across the IT layers of some enterprises. These numbers will increase with activity in the global eMarketplace. [Luc06c]

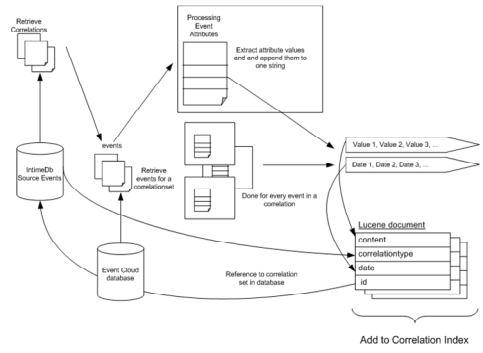
Event Cloud Architecture

Event Cloud's main purpose is to provide a search interface to its users to allow them to search for simple and correlated events in an efficient way. The representation of the search results is a major feature that allows its user to get the most relevant hits according to the given search criterias. Furthermore it provides functions to exclude unwanted event and correlation types from the found result set and it allows to create filters over events and their correlations. Event Cloud provides the user the option to dig down to event levels or to go up to correlation levels according to the selection from a found resultset.

Event Cloud is a webbased application based on the lightweight Spring Framework IoC container and is deployed inside Apache's Tomcat. The core technologies for O/R Mapping and Indexing/Searching are Hibernate and Apache Lucene. Event Cloud provides a high level API which encapsulates certain operations related to persistence, indexing and searching.







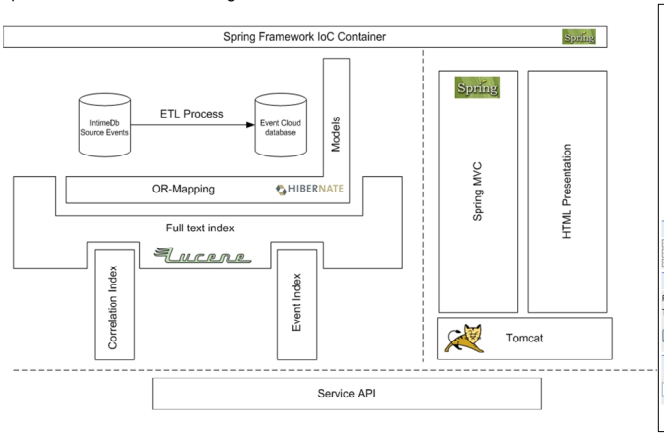
The source events are extracted from the Intime database and transformed into Event Cloud's database schema while they are validated against an event definition. During this loading process the events are indexed by Lucene.

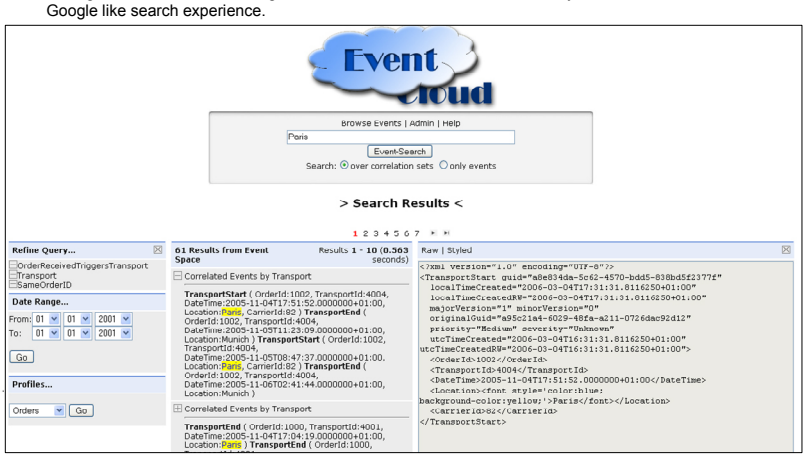
There are two index locations created. One for the events and one for the correlation information about those events. This is because Event Cloud provides basically two Search Ranking types. The so called Rank 1 searches only for events and the Rank 2 is capable of searching for events aggregated to correlationsets.

The user is capable of applying different filters on the found hits. Event Cloud generates filters for removing specific correlation or eventtypes in a result, it is capable of applying date range filters and the user can create filter profiles that are applied according to his needs.

The found hits in the Rank 2 search type are presented inside collapsed titles. Only the most relevant events inside a correlationset are displayed.

The conclusion is that Event Cloud has shown a way to create an easy-to-use application to manage the access to the huge amounts of events in an efficient way flavoured with a Google like search experience.





References

[Luc05] David Luckham. The Power Of Events. Addison Wesley, 2005.
[Luc06c] David Luckham. Achieving instant insight into real-time electronix enterprise. 2006.

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