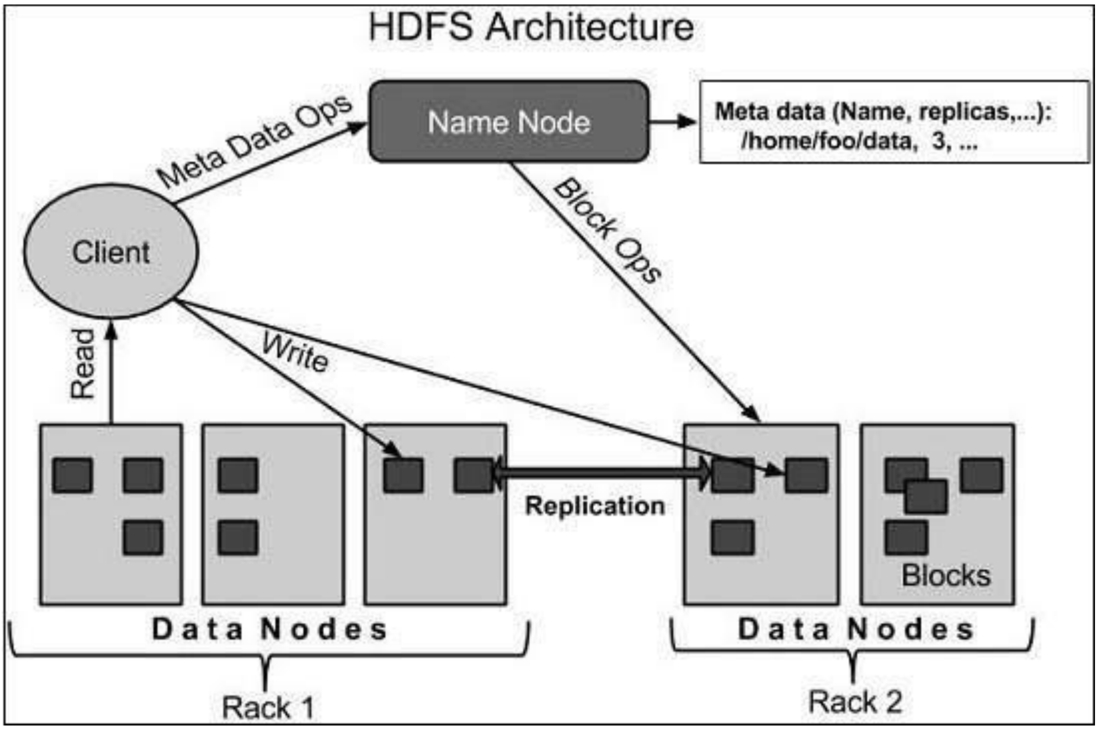
Hadoop File System was developed using distributed file system design. It is run on commodity hardware. Unlike other distributed systems, HDFS is highly fault tolerant and designed using low-cost hardware.

HDFS holds very large amount of data and provides easier access. To store such huge data, the files are stored across multiple machines. These files are stored in redundant fashion to rescue the system from possible data losses in case of failure. HDFS also makes applications available to parallel processing.

HDFS Architecture

Given below is the architecture of a Hadoop File System.



HDFS follows the master-slave architecture and it has the following elements.

NameNode:

- NameNode works as a Master in a Hadoop cluster that guides the Datanode(Slaves). Namenode is mainly used for storing the Metadata i.e. the data about the data. Meta Data can be the transaction logs that keep track of the user’s activity in a Hadoop cluster.

- Meta Data can also be the name of the file, size, and the information about the location(Block number, Block ids) of Datanode that Namenode stores to find the closest DataNode for Faster Communication. Namenode instructs the DataNodes with the operation like delete, create, Replicate, etc.

DataNode:

- DataNodes works as a Slave DataNodes are mainly utilized for storing the data in a Hadoop cluster, the number of DataNodes can be from 1 to 500 or even more than that. The more number of DataNode, the Hadoop cluster will be able to store more data. So it is advised that the DataNode should have High storing capacity to store a large number of file blocks.

Block :

- Generally the user data is stored in the files of HDFS. The file in a file system will be divided into one or more segments and/or stored in individual data nodes. These file segments are called as blocks. In other words, the minimum amount of data that HDFS can read or write is called a Block. The default block size is 64MB, but it can be increased to 128MB as per the need to change in HDFS configuration.

Replication In HDFS Replication ensures the availability of the data. By default, the Replication Factor for Hadoop is set to 3 which can be configured means you can change it manually as per your requirement like in above example we have made 4 file blocks which means that 3 Replica or copy of each file block is made means total of 4×3 = 12 blocks are made for the backup purpose.

Rack Awareness The rack is nothing but just the physical collection of nodes in our Hadoop cluster (maybe 30 to 40). A large Hadoop cluster is consists of so many Racks . with the help of this Racks information Namenode chooses the closest Datanode to achieve the maximum performance while performing the read/write information which reduces the Network Traffic.

Features of HDFS

- **Highly Scalable -** HDFS is highly scalable as it can scale hundreds of nodes in a single cluster.
- **Replication -** Due to some unfavourable conditions, the node containing the data may be loss. So, to overcome such problems, HDFS always maintains the copy of data on a different machine.

- **Fault tolerance -** In HDFS, the fault tolerance signifies the robustness of the system in the event of failure. The HDFS is highly fault-tolerant that if any machine fails, the other machine containing the copy of that data automatically become active.

- **Distributed data storage -** This is one of the most important features of HDFS that makes Hadoop very powerful. Here, data is divided into multiple blocks and stored into nodes.
- **Portable -** HDFS is designed in such a way that it can easily portable from platform to another.