

Introduction to Apache Solr

PRI 23/24 · Information Processing and Retrieval
M.EIC · Master in Informatics Engineering and Computation

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Outline

- Apache Solr Overview
- Key Solr Concepts
- Indexing: schemas, field types.
- Text Analysis
- Querying: query parsing, filters, ranking.
- Features: nested documents, faceted search, highlighting, query suggestion.

Apache Solr

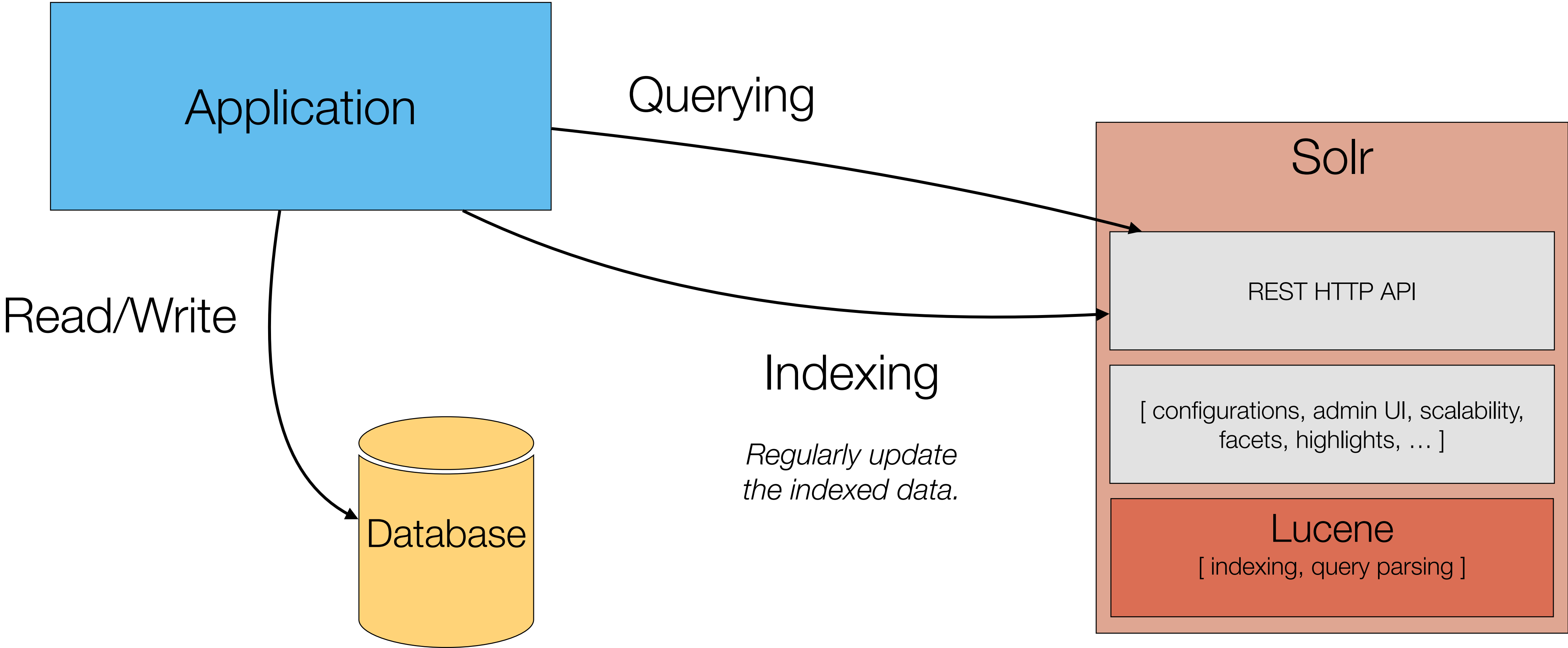
Apache Solr

- “Solr is the popular, blazing-fast, open source enterprise search platform built on Apache Lucene™.”
[solr.apache.org]
- “Solr is a scalable, ready-to-deploy enterprise search engine that’s optimized to search large volumes of text-centric data and return results sorted by relevance.” [Solr in Action (2014)]
- **Apache Solr** (pronounced “solar”)
 - is an open-source text centric search platform written in Java.
 - uses Apache Lucene for full-text indexing.
 - interaction is based on a REST-like HTTP XML/JSON API.
- Current version is Solr 9.3 — <https://solr.apache.org>

Lucene and Solr

- **Apache Lucene** is search library written in Java that provides the fundamental building blocks for implementing indexing and search capabilities.
 - Key features: indexing, searching, ranking.
 - Use cases: directly manage and embed the indexing and integrate search within software's logic.
- **Apache Solr** is a search platform that uses Lucene and is prepared to be deployed and used as a standalone server in large-scale scenarios with large volumes of data.
 - Key features: scalability, REST API, user admin interface, search features (faceting, highlighting, autocomplete).
 - Use cases: deploy scalable, ready-to-use, search platform that works as a standalone server and is integrated with other services through an API.

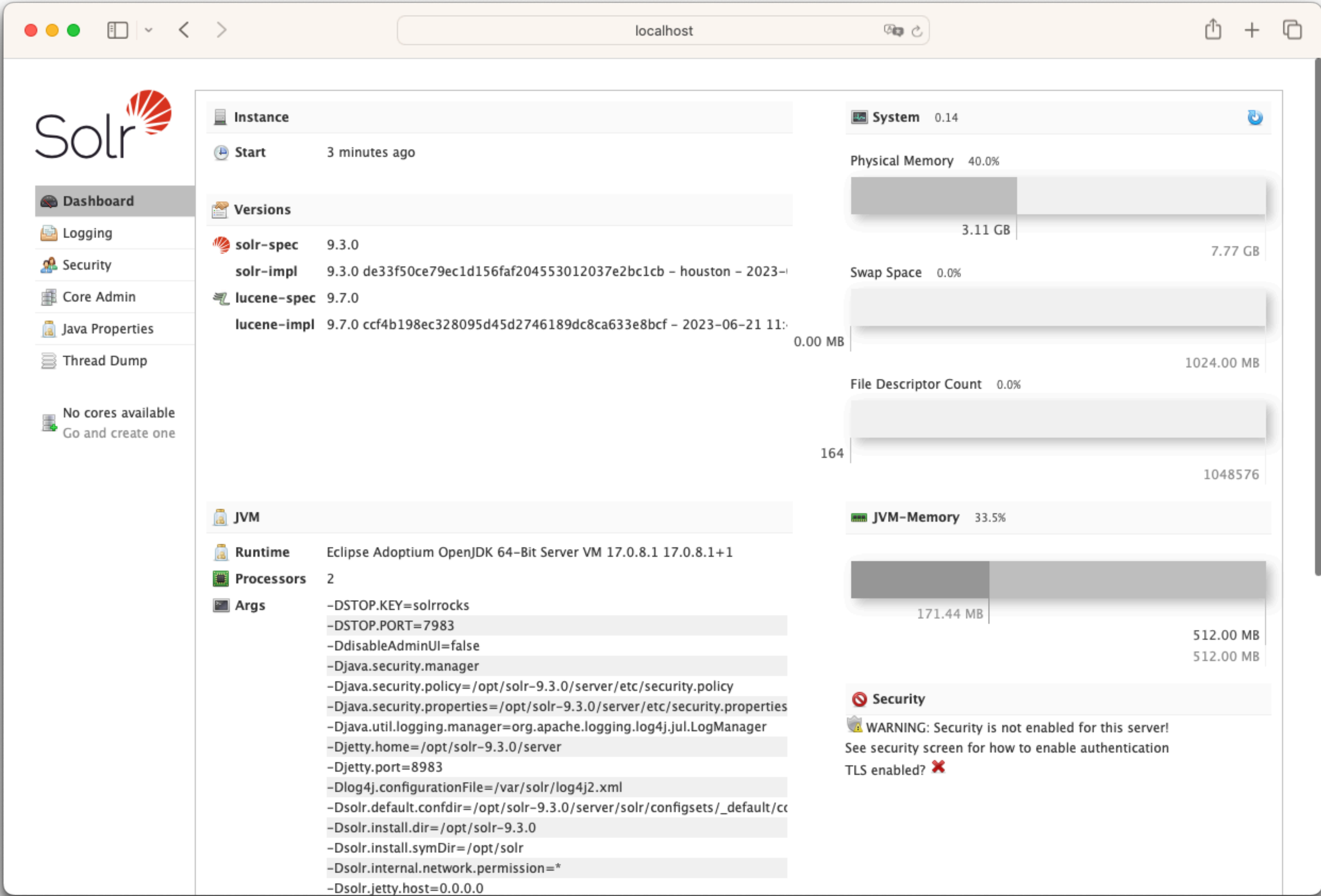
High-level Overview



Solr Installation

- Official Apache Solr containers are available on Docker Hub.
 - hub.docker.com/_/solr
- You can start a Solr server with:
 - `docker run --name my_solr -d -p 8983:8983 solr:9`
 - `--name`, defines a name for the container
 - `-d`, starts the container in detached mode to free up the terminal
 - `-p`, maps Solr's default port from the container to the host machine.
 - Different versions can be selected with '`solr:version`'. Omitting the version defaults to the latest.
- Head to <http://localhost:8983> to access Solr Admin user interface.

Solr Admin

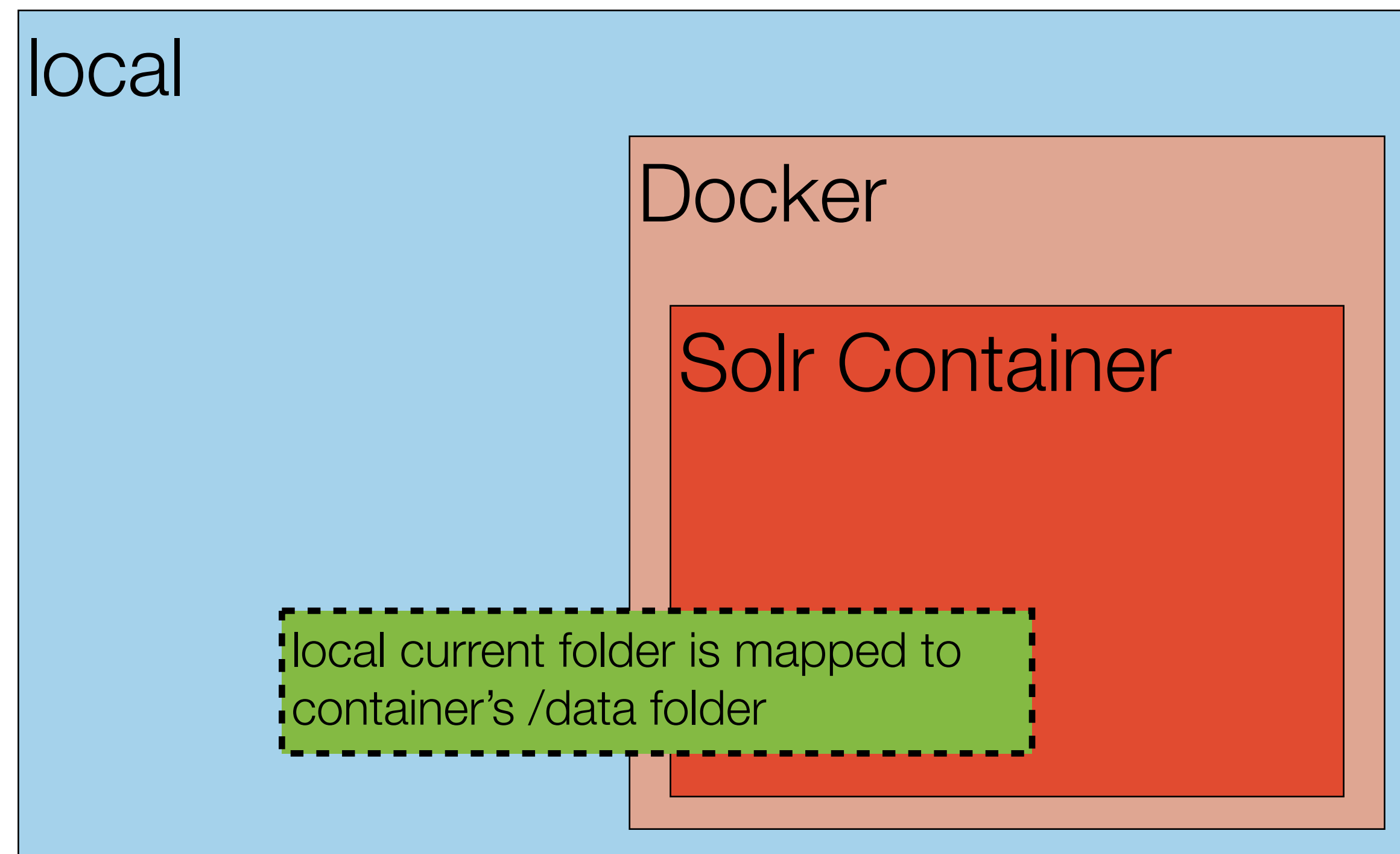


Working with a Solr Docker Container

- It is important to note that when working with a Docker container, you will lose all information and progress when the container is stopped.
- An option to keep a consistent workspace also to facilitate collaboration within your group, is to use configuration scripts.
- The configuration script can perform a set of custom operations on boot, e.g.:
 - Load schema configurations into the container.
 - Load data (e.g., JSON files) into the container.
 - Typical tasks for the script: create cores, configure schemas, load documents.

Solr Tutorial Setup

- This is how the PRI Solr tutorial is set up.
- `docker run -p 8983:8983 --name meic_solr -v ${PWD}:/data -d solr:9.3 solr-precreate courses`



Solr Key Concepts

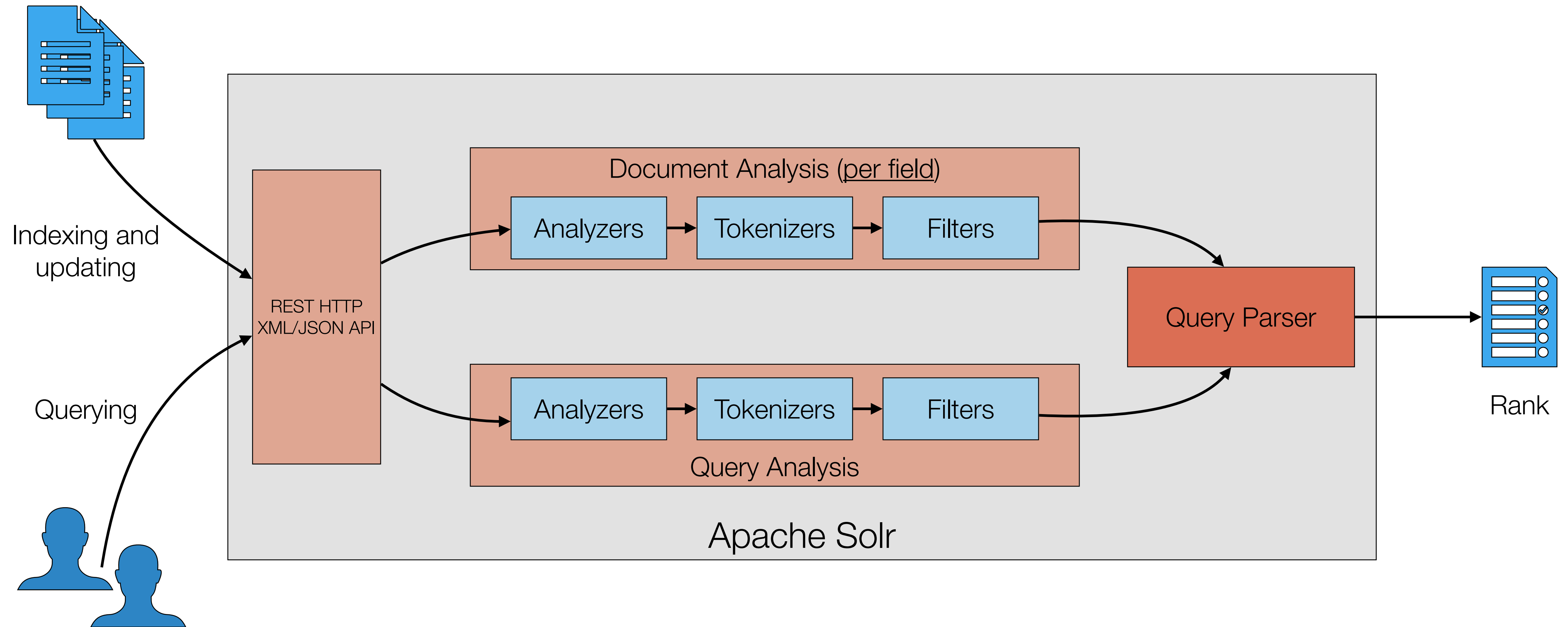
Solr Key Concepts (1)

- Solr is a search framework that indexes data and then enables retrieval of that data.
- The basic information unit in Solr is a **document** composed of **fields**.
- Document fields can be of specific **types** (date, number, currency, text, uuid, ...).
- **Textual fields** go through a pipeline of analyzers, tokenizers, and filters.
 - **Analyzers**, receive a textual field as input and generates a token stream.
 - **Tokenizers**, receive a character stream and produce a sequence of token objects.
 - **Filters**, examine tokens and transform them (keep, discard, create, modify).
- These pipelines are applied per field in the indexing process and also to the query in the querying process.
- Definitions for field types and field configurations are defined in the **schema file**.

Solr Key Concepts (2)

- A Solr instance can have multiple cores (or indexes).
- A Solr **core** stores information for the indexed documents.
- Solr supports a REST-like HTTP XML/JSON **API** for both indexing and querying.
- Queries, just like documents being indexed, also go through a pipeline of analyzers, tokenizer, and filters.
 - But the pipelines for documents and queries can be different.
- **Query parsers** convert a search string into a Lucene query and find the matching documents.
 - Different query parsers exist to support different search requirements.
 - E.g. the standard query parser, eDisMax (Extended DisMax) query parser.

Solr Pipeline

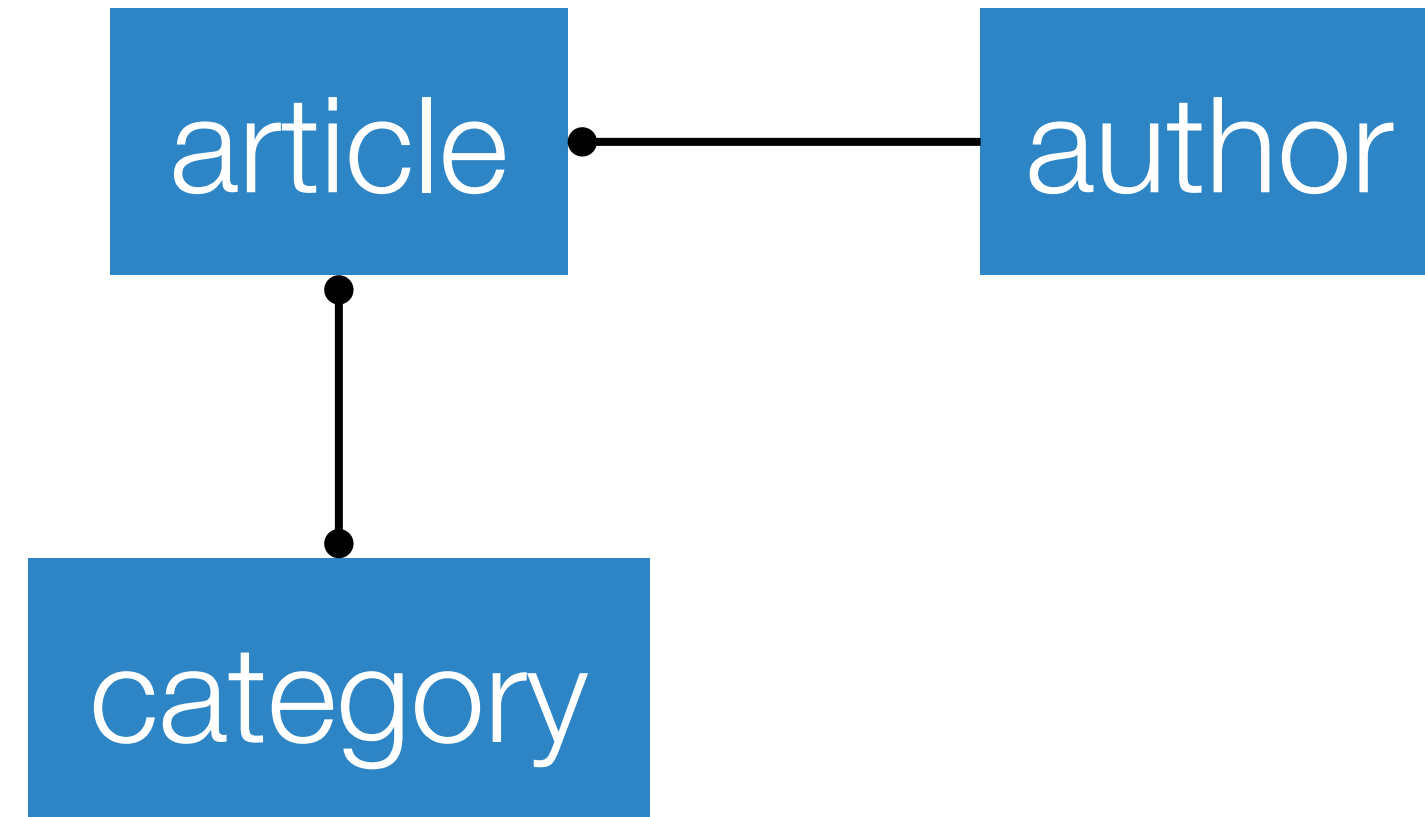


Example: News Articles

Setup

Document Model

- Recall that we are indexing documents.
- Relational representations need to be mapped to documents.



```
[
...
{
  "title": "Governo disponível para reforço de meios na Madeira",
  "pubDate": "2023-10-13 14:58:00",
  "link": "https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/sociedade/governo-disponivel-para-
reforco-de-meios-na-madeira-17162298.html",
  "author": "Lusa",
  "content": "O ministro da Administração Interna deixa uma palavra ...",
  "categories": [
    "Sociedade",
    "incêndio na madeira",
    "nacional",
    "Portugal",
    "MAI",
    "madeira"
  ]
},
...
]
```

Start Apache Solr and Create a Core


- **Start Solr** using Docker.
 - `docker run --name pri_solr -d -p 8983:8983 solr`
 - Parameters: run, named, detached, port mapping, latest Solr version.
- **Check if Solr is running** going to Solr Admin
 - <http://localhost:8983>
- **Create a new core** executing the command inside the container
 - `docker exec pri_solr solr create_core -c ptnews`
- You can verify if the new core was created using Solr Admin.

Indexing

Index Documents (Schemaless)

- Documents can be posted (indexed) into a newly created core without further definitions. This is referred to as “schemaless mode”.
- There are two main ways to post document to a core, using the API or the post tool.
- **Using the post tool** requires that the data is available to the container.
 - One option is to map a local folder to a container folder, as shown in the tutorial.
 - Another option is to use “docker cp ...” to copy the data into the container.
- **Using the API** requires using curl to submit an HTTP POST command.
 - `curl -X POST -H 'Content-type:application/json' \`
`--data-binary "@./pt-news.json" \`
`http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/update?commit=true`

Core Overview



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Statistics

Last Modified: 14 minutes ago

Num Docs: 30

Max Doc: 30

Deleted Docs: 0

Version: 6

Segment Count: 1

Current: ✓

Replication (Leader)

	Version	Gen	Size
Leader (Searching)	1697285046275	2	44.98 KB
Leader (Replicable)	1697285046275	2	-

Instance

CWD: /opt/solr-9.3.0/server

Instance: /var/solr/data/ptnews

Data: /var/solr/data/ptnews/data

Index: /var/solr/data/ptnews/data/index

Impl: org.apache.solr.core.NRTCachingDirectoryFactory

Healthcheck

Ping request handler is not configured with a healthcheck file.

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Add Field

Add Dynamic Field

Add Copy Field

Manipulate Field Type

content

Field

content

Copied to

content_str

Type

text_general

delete field

Unique Key Field

id

Global Similarity:

SchemaSimilarity. Default:

BM25(k1=1.2,b=0.75)

Field: content

Field-Type: org.apache.solr.schema.TextField

PI Gap: 100

Docs: 29

Flags:

Indexed	Tokenized	Stored	UnInvertible	Multivalued
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓		

Properties

Schema

Index

Index Analyzer: org.apache.solr.analysis.TokenizerChain

Query Analyzer: org.apache.solr.analysis.TokenizerChain

Load Term Info

Autoload

10 / 493 Top-Terms:

21	de
18	a
17	o
15	que
	e
14	do
13	para
12	da
9	uma
8	em

Histogram:

1	414
2	41
4	17
8	12
16	6
32	3

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Querying

Schemaless

Performing Queries (1)

- Queries can be performed **directly using Solr Admin** > Query
 - Example: q: “content:portugal”
- Or **submitting an HTTP GET JSON request** using curl (or other tool for HTTP requests).
 - `curl http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/query -d '{ "query": "*:*"}'`
 - `curl http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/query -d '{ "query": "content:portugal"}'`
- See documentation [Solr: JSON Request API](#) (also includes query, update, delete)

localhost

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Request-Handler (qt)

/select

— common —

q

:

q.op

OR

fq

sort

start, rows

010

fl

df

paramset(s)

Select paramset(s)...

wt

☒ indent on

☐ debugQuery

defType

☐ hl

☐ facet

☐ spatial

☐ spellcheck

http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/select?indent=true&q.op=OR&q=%3A*&useParams=

```
{
  "responseHeader": {
    "status": 0,
    "QTime": 61,
    "params": {
      "q": ":*:*",
      "indent": "true",
      "q.op": "OR",
      "useParams": "",
      "_": "1697301296798"
    }
  },
  "response": {
    "numFound": 30,
    "start": 0,
    "numFoundExact": true,
    "docs": [
      {
        "title": [
          "\"Deixou de ter validade.\" Media Capital retira proposta de compra a Cofina"
        ],
        "pubDate": [
          "2023-10-13T16:57:00Z"
        ],
        "link": [
          "https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/sociedade/deixou-de-ter-validade-media-capital-retira-proposta-de-cor"
        ],
        "author": [
          "Lusa"
        ],
        "content": [
          "A Cofina afirma que \"implementou as medidas necessárias para ir ao encontro da Mei"
        ],
        "categories": [
          "Sociedade", "Cofina", "Portugal", "Media Capital", "Televisão"
        ],
        "id": "20e49576-f43e-41d2-a116-4e6e2a33d9ef",
        "_version_": 1779749397550071808
      },
      {
        "title": [
          "Exército israelita anuncia que efetuou incursões terrestres \"nas últimas 24 horas\""
        ],
        "pubDate": [
          "2023-10-13T16:40:00Z"
        ],
        "link": [
          "https://www.tsf.pt/mundo/exercito-israelita-anuncia-que-efetuou-incursoes-terrestres-nas-ultimas"
        ],
        "author": [
          "Lusa"
        ],
        "content": [
          "O exército israelita avança que o objetivo é procurar \"terroristas\" e \"armas\"."
        ],
        "categories": [
          "Mundo", "conflito israelo-palestiniano", "Internacional", "Israel", "Faixa de Gaza"
        ],
        "id": "c4ef0281-198e-4a21-b47c-74184f31beb5",
        "_version_": 1779749397636055040
      },
      {
        "title": [
          "Exército israelita bombardeia partes do sul do Líbano"
        ],
        "pubDate": [
          "2023-10-13T16:31:00Z"
        ],
        "link": [
          "https://www.tsf.pt/mundo/exercito-israelita-bombardeia-partes-do-sul-do-libano-17163639.html"
        ],
        "author": [
          "Lusa"
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

Display a menu

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Request-Handler (qt)

/select

— common —

q

content:portugal

q.op

OR

fq

sort

start, rows

0

10

fl

df

paramset(s)

Select paramset(s)...

wt

☒ indent on

☐ debugQuery

defType

☐ hl

☐ facet

☐ spatial

☐ spellcheck

http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/select?indent=true&q.op=OR&q=content%3Aportugal&useParams=

```
{
  "responseHeader": {
    "status": 0,
    "QTime": 44,
    "params": {
      "q": "content:portugal",
      "indent": "true",
      "q.op": "OR",
      "useParams": "",
      "_": "1697301296798"
    }
  },
  "response": {
    "numFound": 1,
    "start": 0,
    "numFoundExact": true,
    "docs": [ {
      "title": [ "FMI alerta que preços das casas estão sobrevalorizados 20% em Portugal" ],
      "pubDate": [ "2023-10-13T14:51:00Z" ],
      "link": [ "https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/economia/fmi-alerta-que-precos-das-casas-estao-sobrevalorizados-20-e" ],
      "author": [ "Lusa" ],
      "content": [ "O FMI recomenda Portugal \\'a criar uma almofada para o risco sistémico setorial dos bancos, p" ],
      "categories": [ "Economia", "Crise na habitação", "Portugal", "FMI", "Habitação", "Fundo Monetário Internacional" ],
      "id": "4681f02c-67d9-420c-ad15-005715d38568",
      "_version_": 1779749397669609472
    } ]
  }
}
```

Performing Queries (2)

- Queries can also be executed **using direct HTTP requests** (i.e. no JSON):
 - `curl 'http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/select?q=content:portugal'`
- Example on how to **define the fields to retrieve**:
 - `curl 'http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/select?q=* & fl=id,title'`
- Limitations of the **lack of schema**. Compare:
 - `curl http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/query -d '{ "query": "content:orcamento" }'`
 - `curl http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/query -d '{ "query": "content:orçamento" }'`

Match Analysis (not match)

Using the word [orcamento]
in the “Query” and
[orcamento] in the “index”
there is no match.

ST: Standard Tokenizer

SF: Stop Filter

SGF: Synonym Graph Filter

LCF: Lower Case Filter

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Field Value (Index)

orcamento

Field Value (Query)

orcamento

Analyse Fieldname / FieldType: content Schema Browser

☒ Verbose Output

Analyse Values

ST	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SF	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

ST	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SF	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SGF	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orcamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

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Match Analysis (match)

Using the same word
[orçamento] in both the
“index” value and the “Query”
value results (obviously) in a
match.



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Field Value (Index)

Field Value (Query)

Analyse Fieldname / FieldType: content
Schema Browser

☒ Verbose Output

Analyse Values

ST	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

ST	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

SGF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

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Schemas

Solr Schema

- A Solr Schema defines the configuration of fields and field types for a given core.
- Default field types include boolean, string, text_general, etc.
- Field types can also be configured based on the default ones.
- Three types of fields can be defined:
 - **Fields**, are the specific fields defined — e.g., title of type string and content of type text.
 - **dynamicFields**, are used to index fields not explicitly defined in your schema, i.e. identical to a regular field but application is based on a wildcard — e.g., define all fields ending in “_txt” as text_general.
 - **copyFields**, automatically copy the value of a given field to another. Use case: perform different transformations to ingested values, e.g., remove punctuation from a text but keep the original for displaying.

Solr Schema Type Definition (1)

- The Schema API is used to set a core's schema definition.
- The schema definition can be provided in JSON format.
 - Reference: [Solr: Schema API](#)
- In the next example we define a new type “newsContent” of type TextField.
 - Reference: [Solr: Field Types Included with Solr](#)
- Note that to define a new schema, the previous one needs to be deleted.
 - Easiest way is to delete and create.
 - `docker exec pri_solr solr delete -c ptnews`

Solr Schema Type Definition (2)

- To load a schema defined in a JSON file use:
- `curl -X POST -H 'Content-type:application/json' \`
`--data-binary "@./ptnews-schema.json" \`
`http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/schema`
- And then index the documents.
- Verify the new type definition in Solr Admin.

```
{  
  "add-field-type": [  
    {  
      "name": "newsContent",  
      "class": "solr.TextField"  
    }  
  ],  
  "add-field": [  
    {  
      "name": "content",  
      "type": "newsContent",  
      "indexed": true  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

Analyzers

- The schema definition can include, for each field type, definitions for:
 - **indexAnalyzer**, transformations to perform as the documents are indexed. These transformations are applied to the indexed terms, not the stored values.
 - **queryAnalyzer**, transformations to perform when queries are processed.
- Analyzers can include **one tokenizer and multiple filters**.

Analyzers Definition

```
{
  "add-field-type": [
    {
      "name": "newsContent",
      "class": "solr.TextField",
      "indexAnalyzer": {
        "tokenizer": {
          "class": "solr.StandardTokenizerFactory"
        },
        "filters": [
          {"class": "solr.ASCIIFoldingFilterFactory", "preserveOriginal": true},
          {"class": "solr.LowerCaseFilterFactory"}
        ]
      },
      "queryAnalyzer": {
        "tokenizer": {
          "class": "solr.StandardTokenizerFactory"
        },
        "filters": [
          {"class": "solr.ASCIIFoldingFilterFactory", "preserveOriginal": true},
          {"class": "solr.LowerCaseFilterFactory"}
        ]
      }
    }
  ],
  "add-field": [
    {
      "name": "content",
      "type": "newsContent",
      "indexed": true
    }
  ]
}
```

Tokenizers

- Tokenizers break the input text stream into a stream of tokens.
- Solr built-in tokenizers: [Solr: Tokenizers](#) (see example inputs and outputs).
- Example tokenizers:
 - **Standard Tokenizer**, splits the text field into tokens, treating whitespace and punctuation as delimiters.
 - **Lower Case Tokenizer**, tokenizes the input stream by delimiting at non-letters and then converting all letters to lowercase. Whitespace and non-letters are discarded.
 - **N-Gram Tokenizer**, reads the field text and generates n-gram tokens of sizes in the given range.

Filters

- Filters processes a stream of tokens and generates a different set of tokens.
- Solr built-in tokenizers: Solr: Filters (see in / out examples).
- Example filters:
 - **ASCII Folding Filter**, this filter converts alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic Unicode characters to their ASCII equivalents, if one exists.
 - **Lower Case Filter**, converts any uppercase letters in a token to the equivalent lowercase token. All other characters are left unchanged.
 - **Stop Filter**, this filter discards, or stops analysis of, tokens that are on the given stop words list. A standard stop words list is included in the Solr conf directory, named stopwords.txt, which is appropriate for typical English language text.
 - **Snowball Porter Stemmer Filter**, applied a language-specific stemmer generated by Snowball, a software package that generates pattern-based word stemmers. Includes built-in support for Portuguese.

Schema Definitions

The screenshot shows the Solr Admin UI for the 'newsContent' field. The left sidebar contains the Solr logo and navigation links: Dashboard, Logging, Security, Core Admin, Java Properties, Thread Dump, ptnews (selected), Overview, Analysis, Documents, Paramsets, Files, Ping, Plugins / Stats, Query, Replication, Schema (highlighted), and Segments info. The main content area shows the field definition for 'newsContent'. The field type is 'org.apache.solr.schema.TextField'. The Index Analyzer is 'org.apache.solr.analysis.TokenizerChain' and the Query Analyzer is 'org.apache.solr.analysis.TokenizerChain'. Both analyzers use the following components: StandardTokenizerFactory (class: solr.StandardTokenizerFactory, luceneMatchVersion: 9.7.0), ASCIIFoldingFilterFactory (class: solr.ASCIIFoldingFilterFactory, luceneMatchVersion: 9.7.0, preserveOriginal: true), and LowerCaseFilterFactory (class: solr.LowerCaseFilterFactory, luceneMatchVersion: 9.7.0). The bottom navigation bar includes links to Documentation, Solr Query Syntax, Community, Issue Tracker, Slack, and IRC.

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Request-Handler (qt)

/select

common

q

content:portugal

q.op

OR

fq

sort

start, rows

0

10

fl

df

paramset(s)

Select paramset(s)...

wt

☒ indent on

☐ debugQuery

defType

☐ hl

☐ facet

☐ spatial

☐ spellcheck

http://localhost:8983/solr/ptnews/select?indent=true&q.op=OR&q=content%3Aportugal&useParams=

```
{
  "responseHeader": {
    "status": 0,
    "QTime": 49,
    "params": {
      "q": "content:portugal",
      "indent": "true",
      "q.op": "OR",
      "useParams": "",
      "_": "1697301466116"
    }
  },
  "response": {
    "numFound": 1,
    "start": 0,
    "numFoundExact": true,
    "docs": [ {
      "title": [ "FMI alerta que preços das casas estão sobrevalorizados 20% em Portugal" ],
      "pubDate": [ "2023-10-13T14:51:00Z" ],
      "link": [ "https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/economia/fmi-alerta-que-precos-das-casas-estao-sobrevalorizados-20-e" ],
      "author": [ "Lusa" ],
      "content": [ "O FMI recomenda Portugal \\'a criar uma almofada para o risco sistémico setorial dos bancos, pa" ],
      "categories": [ "Economia", "Crise na habitação", "Portugal", "FMI", "Habitação", "Fundo Monetário Internacional" ],
      "id": [ "8c2f6595-489f-41e9-9f5d-848f50bfa15d" ],
      "_version_": 1779749565390389248
    } ]
  }
}
```


Match Analysis

ST: Standard Tokenizer

ASCIIFF: ASCII Folder Filter

LCF: Lower Case Filter

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Field Value (Index)

orçamento

Analyse Fieldname / FieldType: content

Schema Browser

Verbose Output

Analyse Values

ST	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

ASCIIFF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

Field Value (Query)

orçamento

ST	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 c3 a7 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

ASCIIFF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

LCF	text	orçamento
	raw_bytes	[6f 72 63 61 6d 65 6e 74 6f]
	start	0
	end	9
	positionLength	1
	type	<ALPHANUM>
	termFrequency	1
	position	1

Documentation

Solr Query Syntax

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Slack

IRC

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Query Parsers

Solr Query Parsers

- Different query parsers can be used to match documents to queries.
- The **standard query parser** offers an intuitive syntax but is very strict, i.e. is very intolerant to syntax errors.
- The **DisMax query parser** is designed to through as little errors as possible, being appropriate for consumer facing applications.
- The **Extended DisMax query parser** is an improved version that is both forgiving in the syntax and also supports complex query expressions.

eDisMax Query Parser

- The query parser to use can be defined with the 'defType' parameter.
- For both the DisMax and eDisMax query parser the 'qf' parameter is available, defining the list of fields where the search should be executed.
 - Instead of using:
 - `q=title:flower+AND+content:flower+AND+summary:flower`
 - We can simply use:
 - `defType=edismax&qf=title+content+summary&q=flower`
- A debug parameter is available to debug query execution — `debug=all`
- See [Solr: Common Query Parameters](#)

Weighting Fields

- Document fields can be weighted differently, i.e. contribute differently to estimate the relevance of a document.
- The 'qf' parameter can be used to specify relative field weights.
 - `qf=title^5+content+summary^3`
- Additional information to understand ranking decisions can be obtained with 'debug' and 'debug.explain.structured' parameters.
 - `debug=all&debug.explain.structure=true`

Additional Topics

Indexing

- **Language Detection**, identify languages and map text to language-specific fields during indexing.
 - Ref: [Solr: Language Detection](#)
- **De-Duplication**, preventing duplicate or near duplicate documents from entering an index or tagging documents with a signature/fingerprint for duplicate field collapsing.
 - Ref: [Solr: De-Duplication](#)
- Working with **nested documents**:
 - [Solr: Indexing Nested Documents](#)
 - [Solr: Searching Nested Child Documents](#)

Enhancing Queries

- **Spell Checking**, provides inline query suggestions based on other, similar, terms
 - Ref: [Solr: Spell Checking](#)
- **Suggester** (auto complete), provides users with automatic suggestions for query terms.
 - Ref: [Solr: Suggester](#)
- **MoreLikeThis**, enables queries for documents similar to a document in their result list.
 - Ref: [Solr: MoreLikeThis](#)
- **Query Re-Ranking**, run a simple query (A) for matching documents and then re-rank the top N documents using the scores from a more complex query (B).
 - Ref: [Solr: Query Re-Ranking](#)
- **Learning to Rank** (LtoR), can configure and run machine learned ranking models.
 - Ref: [Solr: Learning to Rank](#)

Controlling Results

- **Faceting**, arrangement of search results into categories based on indexed terms.
 - Ref: [Solr: Faceting](#)
- **Highlighting**, fragments of documents that match the user's query to be included with the query response.
 - Ref: [Solr: Highlighting](#)

References

Relevant Search: With applications for Solr and Elasticsearch

Doug Turnbull and John Berryman
Manning, 2016

Solr in Action

Trey Grainger and Timothy Potter
Manning, 2014