

## An Introduction to Apache Drill

11 AUGUST 2016 on hdfs (/blog/tag/hdfs/), Oracle (/blog/tag/oracle/), Big Data (/blog/tag/big-data/), apache drill (/blog/tag/apache-drill/), drill (/blog/tag/drill/), sql (/blog/tag/sql/), Technical (/blog/tag/technical/)

Apache Drill (https://drill.apache.org/) is an engine that can connect to many different data sources, and provide a SQL interface to them. It's not just a wanna-be SQL interface that trips over at anything complex - it's a hugely functional one (https://drill.apache.org/docs/sql-reference-introduction/) including support for many built in functions as well as windowing functions (https://drill.apache.org/docs/sql-window-functions-introduction/). Whilst it can connect to standard data sources that you'd be able to query with SQL anyway, like Oracle or MySQL, it can also work with flat files such as CSV or JSON, as well as Avro and Parquet formats. It's this capability to run SQL against files that first piqued my interest in Apache Drill. I've been spending a lot of time looking at Big Data architectures and tools, including Big Data Discovery (https://speakerdeck.com/rmoff/unlock-the-value-in-your-big-data-reservoir-using-oracle-big-data-discovery-and-oracle-big-data-spatial-and-graph). As part of this, and experimenting with data pipeline options (http://www.rittmanmead.com/2016/07/stream-analytics-processing-kafka-oracle-stream-analytics/) one of the gaps that I've found is the functionality to dig through files in their raw state, before they've been brought into something like Hive which would enable their exploration through BDD and other tools.

In this article I'll walk through getting started with Apache Drill, and show some of the types of queries that I think are a great example of how useful it can be.

## **Getting Started**

It's very simple to get going with Apache Drill - just download (https://drill.apache.org/download/) and unpack it, and run. Whilst it can run distributed across machines for performance, it can also run standalone on a laptop.

To launch it

```
cd /opt/apache-drill-1.7.0/
bin/sqlline -u jdbc:drill:zk=local
```

If you get No current connection or com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.JavaType.isReferenceType()z then you have a conflicting JAR problem (http://rmoff.net/2016/06/20/apache-drill-not-connected/) (e.g. I encountered this on Oracle's BigDataLite VM), and should launch it with a clean environment

```
env -i HOME="$HOME" LC_CTYPE="${LC_ALL:-${LC_CTYPE:-$LANG}}" PATH="$PATH" USER="$USER" /opt/apache-drill-1.7.0/bin/drill-embedded
```

There's a built in dataset that you can use for testing:

```
USE cp;
SELECT employee_id, first_name FROM `employee.json` limit 5;
```

This should return five rows, in a very familiar environment if you're used to using SQL\*Plus and similar tools:

```
0: idbc:drill:zk=local> USE cn:
                  summary
       | Default schema changed to [cp]
1 row selected (1.776 seconds)
                            SELECT employee_id, first_name FROM `employee.json` limit 5;
  employee_id
               | first name
 1
                 Sheri
                 Derrick
 4
                 Michael
 5
                 Maya
 6
                 Roberta
5 rows selected (3.624 seconds)
```

So far, so SQL, so relational - so familiar, really. Where Apache Drill starts to deviate from the obvious is its use of storage handlers. In the above query cp is the 'database' that we're running our query against, but this is in fact a "classpath" (hence "cp") storage handler that's defined by default. Within a 'database' there are 'schemas' which are sub-configurations of the storage handler. We'll have a look at viewing and defining these later on. For now, it's useful to know that you can also list out the available databases:

Note databases command is a synonym for schemas; it's the databases. schemas that's returned for both. In Apache Drill the backtick is used to enclose identifiers (such as schema names, column names, and so on), and it's quite particular about it. For example, this is valid:

#### whilst this isn't:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> USE cp.default;
Error: PARSE ERROR: Encountered ". default" at line 1, column 7.
Was expecting one of:
<EOF>
"." <IDENTIFIER> ...
"." <QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." <BACK_QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." <BRACK_ET_QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." <BRACK_ET_QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." <UNICODE_QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." *UNICODE_QUOTED_IDENTIFIER> ...
"." *" ...
SQL Query USE cp.default
```

This is because default is a reserved word, and hence must be quoted. Hence, you can also use

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> use cp.`default`;
```

#### but not

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> use `cp`.default;
```

## **Querying JSON data**

On the Apache Drill website there's some useful tutorials (https://drill.apache.org/docs/tutorials/), including one using data provided by Yelp (http://www.yelp.com/dataset\_challenge). This was the dataset that originally got me looking at Drill, since I was using it as an input to Big Data Discovery (https://speakerdeck.com/rmoff/unlock-the-value-in-your-big-data-reservoir-using-oracle-big-data-discovery-and-oracle-big-data-spatial-and-graph) (BDD) but struggling on two counts. First up was how

best to define a suitable Hive table over it in order to ingest it to BDD. Following from this was trying to understand what value there might be in the data which would drive how long to spend perfecting the way in which I exposed the data in Hive. The examples below show the kind of complications that complex JSON can introduce when queried in a tabular fashion.

First up, querying a JSON file, with the schema inferred automagically. Pretty cool.

We can use standard SQL aggregations such as COUNT:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select count(*) from `/user/oracle/incoming/yelp/tip_json/yelp_academic_dataset_tip.json`;
+------+
| EXPR$0 |
+-----+
| 591864 |
+------+
1 row selected (4.495 seconds)
```

as well as GROUP BY operation:

Digging into the data a bit, we can see that it's not entirely flat - note, for example, the hours column, which is a nested JSON object:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select full_address,city,hours from `/user/oracle/incoming/yelp/business_json` b limit 5;

| full_address | city | hours |
| 4734 Lebanon Church Rd
| Dravosburg, PA 15034 | Dravosburg | {"Friday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"Monday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"Sunday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Sunday":{},"Sunday":{},"Sunday":{},"Saturday":{},"Sunday":{},"Saturday":{},"Thursday":{},"Thursday":{},"Monday":{},"Sunday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"Saturday":{},"
```

With Apache Drill we can simply use dot notation to access nested values. It's necessary to alias the table (b in this example) when you're doing this:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select b.hours from `/user/oracle/incoming/yelp/business_json` b limit 1;
+-----+
| hours |
+-----+
| "Friday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"Tuesday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"Thursday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"We dnesday":{"close":"21:00","open":"11:00"},"Saturday":{}} |
+-----+
```

Nested objects can themselves be nested - not a problem with Apache Drill, we just chain the dot notation further:

Note the use of backtick (`) to quote the reserved open and close keywords:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select b.hours.Friday.`open`,b.hours.Friday.`close` from `/user/oracle/incoming/yelp/business_json` b limit 1;
+-----+
| EXPR$0 | EXPR$1 |
+-----+
| 11:00 | 21:00 |
+-----+
1 row selected (0.58 seconds)
```

Nested columns are proper objects in their own right in the query, and can be used as predicates too:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select b.name,b.full address,b.hours.Friday.`open` from `/user/oracle/incoming/yelp/business json` b where b.ho
urs.Friday.`open` = '11:00' limit 5;
            name
                                                 full_address
                                                                                   | EXPR$2
| Mr Hoagie
                            4734 Lebanon Church Rd
Dravosburg, PA 15034 | 11:00 | | Alexion's Bar & Grill | 141 Hawthorne St
Ġreentree
Carnegie, PA 15106 | 11:00
| Rocky's Lounge
Carnegie, PA 15106
| Papa J's
                            | 1201 Washington Ave
                               11:00
                            | 200 E Main St
Carnegie
Carnegie, PA 15106
                           11:00
                            | 2615 Main St
  Italian Village Pizza
                                      | 11:00
Homestead, PA 15120
5 rows selected (0.404 seconds)
```

You'll notice in the above output that the <code>full\_address</code> field has line breaks in -- we can just use a SQL Function (https://drill.apache.org/docs/about-sql-function-examples/) to replace line breaks with commas:

## **Query Federation**

So Apache Drill enables you to run SQL queries against data in a multitude of formats and locations, which is rather useful in itself. But even better than that, it lets you federate these sources in a single query. Here's an example of joining between data in HDFS and Oracle:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select X.text,
......> Y.NAME
.....> Y.NAME
.....> inner join ora.MOVIEDEMO.YELP_BUSINESS Y
.....> on X.business_id = Y.BUSINESS_ID
.....> where Y.NAME = 'Chick-fil-A'
....> limit 5;

| text | NAME |

It's daddy daughter date night here and they go ALL OUT!
Chicken minis! The best part of waking up Saturday mornings. :) Chick-fil-A
Nice folks as always unlike those ghetto joints
Great clean and delicious chicken sandwiches!
Spicy Chicken with lettuce, tomato, and pepperjack cheese FTW! Chick-fil-A
Spicy Chicken with lettuce, tomato, and pepperjack cheese FTW! Chick-fil-A
Tows selected (3.234 seconds)
```

You can define a view over this:

and then query it as any regular object:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select tip_text,business_name from dfs.tmp.yelp_tips where business_name like '%Grill' limit 5;

| text | NAME |
| text | NAME |
| Great drink specials! | Alexion's Bar & Grill |
| Friendly staff, good food, great beer selection, and relaxing atmosphere | Alexion's Bar & Grill |
| Pretty quiet here... | Uno Pizzeria & Grill |
| I recommend this location for quick lunches. 10 min or less lunch menu. Soup bar ( all you can eat) the broccoli cheddar soup is del icious. | Uno Pizzeria & Grill |
| Instead of pizza, come here for dessert. The deep dish sundae is really good. | Uno Pizzeria & Grill |
| Tows selected (3.272 seconds)
```

## **Querying Twitter JSON data**

Here's an example of using Drill to query a local file holding some Twitter data. You can download the file here (https://gist.github.com/b81b40df61d3faa1f4bf05193cfeec6d) if you want to try querying it yourself.

To start with I switched to using the dfs storage plugin:

And then tried a select against the file. Note the limit 5 clause - very useful when you're just examining the structure of a file.

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select * from `/user/oracle/incoming/twitter/geo_tweets.json` limit 5;
Error: DATA_READ ERROR: Error parsing JSON - Unexpected end-of-input within/between OBJECT entries

File /user/oracle/incoming/twitter/geo_tweets.json
Record 2819
Column 3503
Fragment 0:0
```

An error? That's not supposed to happen. I've got a JSON file, right? It turns out the JSON file is one complete JSON object per line. Except that it's not on the last record. Note the record count given in the error above - 2819:

```
[oracle@bigdatalite ~]$ wc -l geo_tweets.json 2818 geo_tweets.json
```

So the file only has 2818 complete lines. Hmmm. Let's take a look at that record, using a head/tail bash combo:

```
[oracle@bigdatalite ~]$ head -n 2819 geo_tweets.json |tail -n1 {"created_at":"Sun Jul 24 21:00:44 +0000 2016", "id":757319630432067584, "id_str":"757319630432067584", "text":"And now @HillaryClinton hi res @DWStweets: Honorary Campaign Manager across the USA #corruption #hillarysamerica https://t.co/8jAGUu6w2f", "source":"<a href=\"http://www.handmark.com\" rel=\"nofollow\">TweetCaster for iOS</a>", "truncated":false, "in_reply_to_status_id":null, "in_reply_to_status_id":null, "in_reply_to_status_id":null, "in_reply_to_screen_name":null, "in_reply_to_screen_name":null, "in_reply_to_screen_name":null, "in_reply_to_screen_name":"InnieBabyBoomer", "location":"williamsburg, VA", "url":"http://lovesrantsandraves.blogspot.com/", "description":"Baby Boomer, Swing Voter, Conservative, Spiritual, #Introvert, Wife, Grandma, Italian, ♥ Books, Cars, Ferrari, F1 Race♥ #tcot", "protected":false, "verified":false, "followers_count":861, "friends_count":918, "listed_count":22, "favourites_count":17, "statuses_count":2363, "created_at":"Sat Nov 02 19:13:06 +0000 2013", "utc_offset":null, "time_zone":null, "geo_enabled":true, "lang":"en", "contributors_enabled":false, "is_translator":false, "profile_background_color":"CODEED", "profile_background_image_url":"http://pbs.twimg.com/profile_background_images/378800000107659131/3589f
```

That's the complete data in the file - so Drill is right - the JSON is corrupted. If we drop that last record and create a new file (geo\_tweets.fixed.json (https://gist.github.com/9edca5e444143a00a8207ed41a364b39))

```
head -n2818 geo_tweets.json > geo_tweets.fixed.json
```

and query it again, we get something!

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select text from `/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` limit 5;

+-----+
| text |

+-----+
| Vancouver trends now: Trump, Evander Kane, Munich, 2016HCC and dcc16. https://t.co/joI9GMfRim |
| We're #hiring! Click to apply: Bench Jeweler - SEC Oracle & December - https://t.co/Oe2SHaLOHh #Job #SkilledTrade #Tucson, AZ #Job |
| Donald Trump accepted the Republican nomination last night. Isis claimed responsibility. |
| Obama: "We must stand together and stop terrorism"
| Trump: "We don't want these people in our country"
| Someone built a wall around Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. #lol #nowthatsfunny @... https://t.co/qHWuJXnzbw |

+-----+
| Tows selected (0.246 seconds)
```

text here being one of the ison fields. I could do a select \* but it's not so intelligable:

Within the twitter data there's root-level fields, such as text, as well as nested ones such as information about the tweeter in the user field. As we saw above you reference nested fields using dot notation. Now's a good time to point out a couple of common mistakes that you may encounter. The first is not quoting reserved words, and is the first thing to check for if you get an error such as Encountered ".":

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select user.screen_name,text from `/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` limit 5; Error: PARSE ERROR: Encountered "." at line 1, column 12.
[...]
```

Second is declaring the table alias when using dot notation - if you don't then Apache Drill thinks that the parent column is actually the table name (VALIDATION ERROR: [...] Table 'user' not found):

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select `user`.screen_name,text from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` limit 5;
Aug 10, 2016 11:16:45 PM org.apache.calcite.sql.validate.SqlValidatorException <init>
SEVERE: org.apache.calcite.sql.validate.SqlValidatorException: Table 'user' not found
Aug 10, 2016 11:16:45 PM org.apache.calcite.runtime.CalciteException <init>
SEVERE: org.apache.calcite.runtime.CalciteContextException: From line 1, column 8 to line 1, column 13: Table 'user' not found
Error: VALIDATION ERROR: From line 1, column 8 to line 1, column 13: Table 'user' not found

SQL Query null

[Error Id: 1427fd23-e180-40be-a751-b6f1f838233a on 192.168.56.1:31010] (state=,code=0)
```

With those mistakes fixed, we can see the user's screenname:

As well as nested objects, JSON supports arrays. An example of this in twitter data is hashtags, or URLs, both of which there can be zero, one, or many of in a given tweet.

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select tweets.entities.hashtags from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` tweets limit 5;
+------+
| EXPR$0 |
+------+
| [] |
| {"text":"hiring", "indices":[6,13]}, {"text":"Job", "indices":[98,102]}, {"text":"SkilledTrade", "indices":[103,116]}, {"text":"Tucson", "indices":[117,124]}, {"text":"Jobs", "indices":[129,134]}] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
| [] |
|
```

Using the FLATTEN function each array entry becomes a new row, thus:

Note that the limit 5 clause is showing only the first five array instances, which is actually just hashtags from the first tweet in the above list.

To access the text of the hashtag we use a subquery and the dot notation to access the text field:

This can be made more readable by using Common Table Expressions (https://drill.apache.org/docs/with-clause/) (CTE, also known as subquery factoring) for the same result:

Combining the flattened array with existing fields enables us to see things like a list of tweets with their associated hashtags:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> with tmp as ( select flatten(tweets.entities.hashtags) as hashtags,tweets.text,tweets.`user`.screen_name as use r_screen_name from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` tweets) select tmp.user_screen_name,tmp.text,tmp.hashtags.text as hash
  tag from tmp limit 10;
           user screen name | text | hashtag
           tmj_TUC_skltrd | We're #hiring! Click to apply: Bench Jeweler - SEC Oracle & Dracle 
| tmj_TUC_skltrd | We're #hiring! Click to apply: Bench Jeweler - SEC Oracle & Dracle & Dracl
             johnmayberry | Someone built a wall around Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. #lol #nowthatsfunny @... https://t.co/qHWuJXnzbw
             nowthatsfunny
                                                                                     #WinstonSalem Time and place announced for Donald Trump's visit to... https://t.co/60V17crshw #ws @winston_salem_ http
           greensboro nc
 s://t.co/15h220otj4 | WinstonSalem | | greensboro_nc | #WinstonSalem Time and place announced for Donald Trump's visit to... https://t.co/60Vl7crshw #ws @winston_salem_ https://t.co/15h220otj4 | ws |
           trendinaliaSG | 6. Hit The Stage
               TTTT
 8. Demi Lovato
 9. Beijing
10. Donald Trump
  2016/7/23 03:36 SGT #trndnl https://t.co/psP0GzBgZB | trndnl |
 10 rows selected (0.166 seconds)
```

#### We can also filter based on hashtag:

#### as well as summarise hashtag counts:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> with ent_hashtags as (select flatten(tweets.entities.hashtags) as hashtags from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_twee ts.fixed.json` tweets)
                            select ent_hashtags.hashtags.text,count(ent_hashtags.hashtags.text) from ent_hashtags
                          > group by ent_hashtags.hashtags.text
> order by 2 desc;
              EXPR$0
                                     EXPR$1
  Trump
                                      365
  trndnl
job
                                     176
170
  Hiring
                                     127
  Clinton
                                     108
  Yorkshire
                                      100
  CareerArc
                                     100
 . . . 1
```

To filter out records that may not have array values (such as hashtags, which not every tweet has) and without with the query may fail, use is not null against an attribute of first index of the array:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select tweets.entities.hashtags from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` tweets where tweets.entitie s.hashtags[0].text is not null limit 5;
+-----+
| EXPR$0 |
+-----+
| [{"text":"hiring","indices":[6,13]},{"text":"Job","indices":[98,102]},{"text":"SkilledTrade","indices":[103,116]},{"text":"Tucson","i ndices":[117,124]},{"text":"Jobs","indices":[129,134]}] |
| [{"text":"lol","indices":[72,76]},{"text":"nowthatsfunny","indices":[77,91]}] |
| [{"text":"WinstonSalem","indices":[0,13]},{"text":"ws","indices":[92,95]}] |
| [{"text":"trndnl","indices":[89,96]}] |
| [{"text":"trndnl","indices":[92,99]}] |
+------+
5 rows selected (0.187 seconds)
```

If you try and compare the array itself, it doesn't work:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select tweets.entities.hashtags from dfs.`/users/rmoff/data/geo_tweets.fixed.json` tweets where tweets.entitie s.hashtags is not null limit 5;
Error: SYSTEM ERROR: SchemaChangeException: Failure while trying to materialize incoming schema. Errors:

Error in expression at index -1. Error: Missing function implementation: [isnotnull(MAP-REPEATED)]. Full expression: --UNKNOWN EXPRES SION--..

Fragment 0:0

[Error Id: 99ac12aa-f6b4-4692-b815-8f483da682c4 on 192.168.56.1:31010] (state=,code=0)
```

The above example demonstrates using array indexing, which is an alternative to FLATTEN for accessing individual objects in the array if you know they're going to exist:

## **Querying CSV files**

JSON files are relatively easy to interpret because they have a semi-defined schema within them, including column names. CSV (and character delimited files in general), on the other hand, are a bit more of a 'wild west' when it comes to reliably inferring column names. You can configure Apache Drill (https://drill.apache.org/docs/text-files-csv-tsv-psv/) to ignore the first line of a CSV file (on the assumption that it's a header) if you want to, or to take them as column names. If you don't do this and query a CSV file that looks like this:

```
[oracle@bigdatalite ~]$ head nyc_parking_violations.csv
Summons Number,Plate ID,Registration State,Plate Type,Issue Date,Violation Code,Vehicle Body Type,Vehicle Make,Issuing Agency,Street Code1,Street Code2,Street Code3,Vehicle Expiration Date,Violation Location,Violation Precinct,Issuer Precinct,Issuer Code,Issuer Command,
Issuer Squad,Violation Time,Time First Observed,Violation County,Violation In Front Of Or Opposite,House Number,Street Name,Intersectin
g Street,Date First Observed,Law Section,Sub Division,Violation Legal Code,Days Parking In Effect ,From Hours In Effect,To Hours In
Effect,Vehicle Color,Unregistered Vehicle?,Vehicle Year,Meter Number,Feet From Curb,Violation Post Code,Violation Description,No Stand
ing or Stopping Violation,Hydrant Violation,Double Parking Violation
1360858775,PHM9801,OH,PAS,07/01/2015,20,SUBN,HONDA,P,61490,26160,26190,0,0044,44,44,929822,0044,0000,0653P,,BX,O,651,RIVER AVE,,0,408,
D,,BBBBBBBB,ALL,ALL,,0,0,-,0,,,,,
```

You'll get two records, each one column wide, as an array:

To access the actual columns in the CSV file you need to use <code>columns[x]</code> syntax to reference them. Watch out that <code>columns</code> is casesensitive, and the numbering is zero-based:

To make it easier to work with the data on a repeated basis you can define a view over the data:

This is using the dfs storage plugin and the tmp schema within it, which has the following storage configuration - note that writeable is true

```
"tmp": {
    "location": "/tmp",
    "writable": true,
    "defaultInputFormat": null
}
```

(if you use the wrong database [storage plugin] or schema you'll get schema [hdfs] is immutable.)

Query the new view

Through the view, or direct against the CSV path, you can also run aggregates:

Although this isn't rerunnable for the same result - probably because of the limit clause

Under the covers the view definition is written to /tmp - you'll want to move this path if you're wanting to preserve this data past reboot:

```
[oracle@bigdatalite parking]$ cat /tmp/NYC_Parking_01.view.drill
{
    "name" : "NYC_Parking_01",
    "sql" : "SELECT `columns`[1] AS `PlateID`, `columns`[2] AS `RegistrationState`\nFROM `/user/oracle/incoming/nyc_parking/nyc_parking_violations.csv",
    "fields" : [ {
        "name" : "PlateID",
        "type" : "ANY",
        "isNullable" : true
},
    "name" : "RegistrationState",
        "type" : "ANY",
        "isNullable" : true
} ],
    "workspaceSchemaPath" : [ "hdfs" ]
```

You can also create an actual table using CTAS (Create Table As Select):

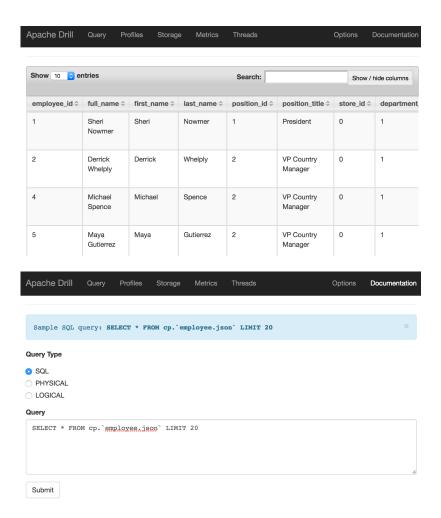
This is stored on disk (per the dfs config) and by default in Parquet format:

```
[oracle@bigdatalite parking]$ ls -1 /tmp/parking/
total 76508
-rw-r--r--. 1 oracle oinstall 40623288 Aug 10 22:53 1_0_0.parquet
-rw-r--r--. 1 oracle oinstall 37717804 Aug 10 22:53 1_1_0.parquet
```

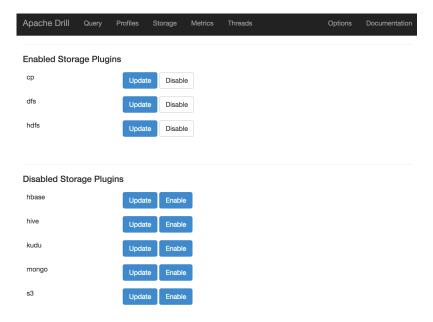
## **Drill's Web Interface**

Drill comes with a web interface which you can access at http://<IP>:8047/ and is useful for

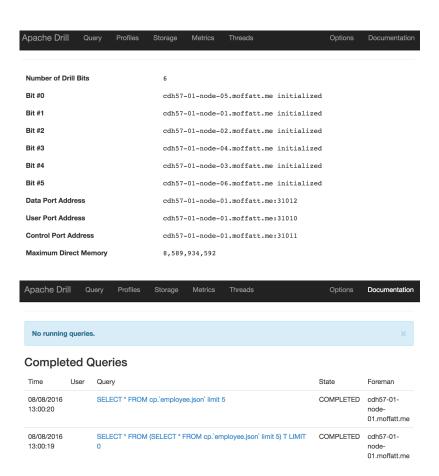
• Issuing queries



• Configuring additional storage plugins (e.g. database (https://drill.apache.org/docs/rdbms-storage-plugin/), hdfs (https://drill.apache.org/docs/file-system-storage-plugin/), etc)



Metrics and debug



## **Defining Storage Plugins**

From the Drill web interface you can view existing storage plugins, or define new ones. To create a new one, enter its name (for example, hdfs, but could be fred for all that it matters - it's just a label) under **New Storage Plugin** on the Storage page, and click on Create. Paste the necessary JSON definition in the Configuration box, and then click Create. If you don't want to use the GUI there's also a REST API (https://drill.apache.org/docs/rest-api/#storage).

Storage plugin configuration is stored either within Zookeeper (when running Drill distributed), or locally in the <a href="mailto:sys.store.provider.local.path">sys.store.provider.local.path</a> path when running standalone. By default this is under <a href="mailto:tmp">/tmp</a> which gets cleared down at server reboot. To persist custom storage configurations amend the <a href="mailto:sys.store.provider.local.path">sys.store.provider.local.path</a> in <a href="mailto:drill-override.conf">drill-override.conf</a>, for example:

```
drill.exec: {
    cluster-id: "drillbits1",
    zk.connect: "localhost:2181"
    sys.store.provider.local.path="/home/oracle/drill/"
}
```

## Working with filesystem data

Here's an example of a storage configuration that enables Drill to access a CDH cluster's HDFS:

```
{
  "type": "file",
  "enabled": true,
  "connection": "hdfs://cdh57-01-node-01:8020/",
  "config": null,
  "workspaces": {
      "root": {
            "location": "/",
            "writable": true,
            "defaultInputFormat": null
      }
  },
  "formats": {
      "csv" {
            "type": "text",
            "extensions": [
            "csv"
            ],
            "delimiter": ","
      }
      "json": {
            "type": "json",
            "extensions": [
            "json"
      }
   }
}
```

As well as the connection parameter itself for HDFS, the important bit in this configuration is the formats section. This tells Drill how to interpet files that it finds, without the end-user having to explicitly declare their type.

For the filesystem-based plugin [afs] (which can include local files, HDFS, even Amazon S3), you can browse the available "tables":

List the files in HDFS (previously selected with use hdfs; )

name	isDirectory	isFile	length	owner	group	permissions	accessTime	modificationTime
nbase share solr tmp user	true true true true true true	false false false false false false false false	0 0 0 0 0 0	hbase hdfs solr hdfs hdfs hdfs	supergroup supergroup solr supergroup supergroup supergroup	rwxr-xr-x rwxrwxrwx rwxr-xr-x rwxrwxrwt rwxrwxrwx	1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0	2016-07-25 14:46:08.212 2016-05-15 12:28:08.152 2016-06-01 18:34:50.716 2016-06-24 04:54:41.491 2016-06-21 15:55:59.084 2016-05-11 17:53:29.804

Show files in a given path:

```
0: idbc:drill:zk=local> show files in `/user/oracle`:
                                                    -----+-----
                | isDirectory | isFile | length | owner | group | permissions |
                                                                                        accessTime
                                                                                                              modificationTime
      name
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0 | 2016-05-23 20:42:34.8
 .Trash
                true
                              | false
                                                 | oracle
                                                         oracle
                                                                  rwxr-xr-x
 .sparkStaging
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-07-06 03:56:38.8
                              | false
                                       0
                                                 | oracle
               true
                                                          oracle
                                                                   rwxr-xr-x
63
 .staging
                I true
                              | false
                                       10
                                                 | oracle
                                                          | oracle
                                                                     rwx----
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        | 2016-06-01 18:37:04.0
 incoming
                               false
                                       0
                                                 oracle
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-08-03 05:34:12.3
                true
                                                           oracle
                              false
                                       | 0
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-06-01 18:59:45.6
 mediademo
                                                 | oracle
                                                          oracle
                                                                   | rwxr-xr-x
                | true
                                       10
 moviedemo
                l true
                              | false
                                                 | oracle
                                                          | oracle
                                                                     rwxr-xr-x
                                                                                 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-05-15 12:02:55.6
 moviework
                true
                               false
                                       | 0
                                                 oracle
                                                          oracle
                                                                     rwxr-xr-x
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-05-15 12:03:01.4
 oggdemo
                | true
                              false
                                       10
                                                 oracle
                                                         oracle
                                                                   | rwxr-xr-x
                                                                                 | 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                                                                                                        2016-05-15 12:03:01.5
52
                                       1 0
                                                                                                        2016-05-15 12:03:01.6
l oozie-oozi
                              | false
                                                 | oracle
                                                         | oracle
                                                                                 1969-12-31 19:00:00.0
                l true
                                                                  | rwxr-xr-x
51
9 rows selected (0.428 seconds)
```

You can also query across multiple files by specifying a wildcard match. Here's the truncated list of files available:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:> show files in `hdfs`.`/user/rmoff/incoming/twitter/2016/06/17/tweets/`;
                           | isDirectory | isFile | length | owner | group | permissions |
                                                                                                         accessTime
                                                                                                                                 modifi
            name
cationTime
| FlumeData.1466176113171 | false
                                          I true
                                                    1055675
                                                               | rmoff
                                                                        rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
                                                                                                | 2016-08-10 21:28:27.072 | 2016-06-17
16:08:38.023
 FlumeData.1466176113172 | false
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.756
                                          true
                                                    1051411
                                                               rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
16:08:40.597
 FlumeData.1466176113173
                                                                                                | 2016-08-05 20:46:51.752
                                          | true
                                                    1054734
                                                                 rmoff
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
16:08:43.33
 FlumeData.1466176113174
                                                    | 1050991
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.743
                                                                                                                           | 2016-06-17
                           | false
                                          true
                                                                 rmoff
16:08:44.361 |
| FlumeData.1466176113175
                          | false
                                          true
                                                    1053577
                                                               | rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.748
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
16:08:45.162
| FlumeData.1466176113176
16:08:46.261 |
                                                    1051965
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.752
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
                          | false
                                          true
                                                                 rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
 FlumeData.1466176113177
                           | false
                                          | true
                                                    1049555
                                                                 rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.758
                                                                                                                             2016-06-17
16:08:47.425
 FlumeData.1466176113178
                                          | true
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.758
                          false
                                                    1050566
                                                               rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
16:08:48.23
| FlumeData.1466176113179
16:08:49.381 |
                           | false
                                          | true
                                                    | 1051751
                                                                 rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                   rw-r--r--
                                                                                                | 2016-08-05 20:46:51.756
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
 FlumeData.1466176113180
                                          I true
                                                    1052249
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.757
                                                                                                                             2016-06-17
16:08:50.042
 FlumeData.1466176113181
                                                    1055002
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.758
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
                           | false
                                          true
                                                               rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
16:08:50.896
 FlumeData.1466176113182 | false
                                          | true
                                                    1050812
                                                                 rmoff
                                                                          rmoff
                                                                                 | rw-r--r--
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.758
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
16:08:52.191
 FlumeData.1466176113183
                                                     1048954
                                                                                                2016-08-05 20:46:51.757
                                                                                                                           2016-06-17
                           | false
                                          true
16:08:52.994
| FlumeData.1466176113184 | false
                                                    1051559
                                                                                                | 2016-08-05 20:46:51.773 | 2016-06-17
                                          | true
                                                               rmoff
                                                                        rmoff
16:08:54.025
[\ldots]
```

Count number of records in one file (FlumeData.1466176113171):

In several files (FlumeData.146617611317\*):

In all files in the folder (\*):

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:> SELECT count(*) FROM table(`hdfs`.`/user/rmoff/incoming/twitter/2016/06/17/tweets/*`(type=>'json'));
+-----+
| EXPR$0 |
+-----+
| 7414 |
+------+
1 row selected (3.867 seconds)
```

And even across multiple folders:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:> SELECT count(*) FROM table(`hdfs`.`/user/flume/incoming/twitter/2016/06/*/*`(type => 'js
on'));
+-----+
| EXPR$0 |
+------+
| 206793 |
+--------
1 row selected (87.545 seconds)
```

### Querying data without an identifying extension

Drill relies on the format clause of the storage extension configurations in orer to determine how to interpret files based on their extensions. You won't always have that luxury of extensions being available, or being defined. If you try and query such data, you'll not get far. In this example I'm querying data on HDFS that's in JSON format but without the .json suffix:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:> SELECT text FROM `hdfs`.`/user/rmoff/incoming/twitter/2016/06/17/tweets/FlumeData.1466176113171` limit 5;
Error: VALIDATION ERROR: From line 1, column 18 to line 1, column 23: Table 'hdfs./user/rmoff/incoming/twitter/2016/06/17/tweets/FlumeData.1466176113171' not found

SQL Query null
```

Fear not - you can declare them as part of the query syntax.

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:> SELECT text FROM table(`hdfs`.`/user/rmoff/incoming/twitter/2016/06/17/tweets/FlumeData.
1466176113171`(type => 'json')) limit 5;

------+
| text |
------+
| RT @jjkukrl: susu bayi jg lagi mahal nih ugh ayah harus semangat cari duit ^^9 https://t.co/2NvTOShRbI |
Oracle Java 120-808 Web Exam Simulator https://t.co/tZ3gU8EMJ3 |
@TribuneSelatan ahaha kudu gaya atuh da arek lebarann ahahaha |
Short impression of yesterday's speech. What a great day it was! #lifeatoracle #team #salesincentive #oracle https://t.co/SVK2ovOe3U |
| Want to work at Oracle? We're #hiring in New York! Click for details: https://t.co/NMTo1WMHVw #Sales #Job #Jobs #CareerArc |
------+
5 rows selected (1.267 seconds)
```

#### **Storage Configuration - Oracle**

Per the documentation (https://drill.apache.org/docs/rdbms-storage-plugin/) it's easy to query data residing in a RDBMS, such as Oracle. Simply copy the JDBC driver into Apache Drill's jar folder:

```
cp /u01/app/oracle/product/12.1.0.2/dbhome_1/jdbc/lib/ojdbc7.jar /opt/apache-drill-1.7.0/jars/3rdparty/
```

And then add the necessary storage configuration, which I called ora:

```
{
  "type": "jdbc",
  "driver": "oracle.jdbc.OracleDriver",
  "url": "jdbc:oracle:thin:moviedemo/welcome1@localhost:1521/ORCL",
  "username": null,
  "password": null,
  "enabled": true
}
```

If you get an error Please retry: error (unable to create/ update storage) then check that the target Oracle database is up, the password is correct, and so on.

You can then query the data within Hive:

```
0: idbc:drill:zk=local> use ora.MOVIEDEMO:
                           summary
       Default schema changed to [ora.MOVIEDEMO]
1 row selected (0.205 seconds)
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> show tables;
  TABLE_SCHEMA
                           TABLE_NAME
  ora.MOVIEDEMO
                   ACTIVITY
  ora.MOVIEDEMO
                   BDS_CUSTOMER_RFM
 ora.MOVIEDEMO
                   BUSTNESS_REVTEW_SUMMARY
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> select * from ACTIVITY limit 5;
 ACTIVITY_ID
                  NAME
                 Pause
  3.0
 6.0
                 List
                 Search
                 Login
  9.0
                 Logout
5 rows selected (1.644 seconds)
```

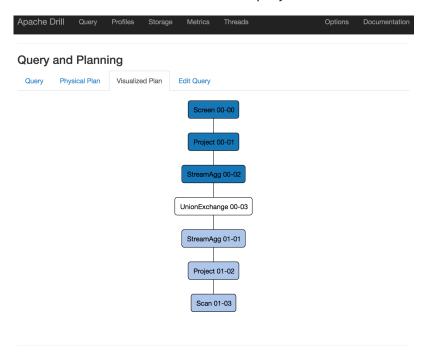
If you get Error: DATA\_READ ERROR: The JDBC storage plugin failed while trying setup the SQL query. then enable verbose errors in Apache Drill to see what the problem is:

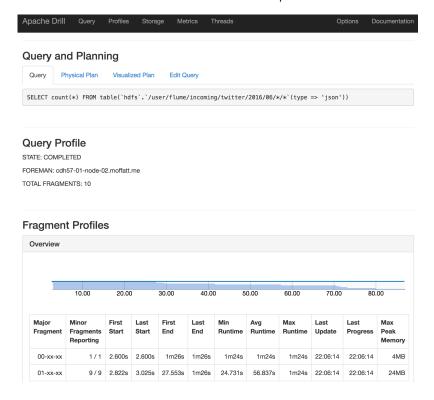
Here the problem was with the external table that Oracle was querying (ORA-29913: error in executing ODCIEXTTABLEOPEN). It's actually an Oracle external table over a Hive table, which obviously Drill could be querying directly - but hey, we're just sandboxing here...

## **Query Execution**

Just as Oracle has its Cost Based Optimiser (CBO) which helps it determine how to execute a query, and do so most efficiently, Apache Drill has an execution engine that determines how to actually execute the query you give it. This also includes how to split it up over multiple nodes ("drillbits") if available, as well as optimisations such as partition pruning (https://drill.apache.org/docs/how-to-partition-data/) in certain cases. You can read more about how the query execution works here (https://drill.apache.org/docs/drill-query-execution/), and watch a good explanation of it (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rurlzOkTlg) here. To view the explain plan for a query use explain plan:

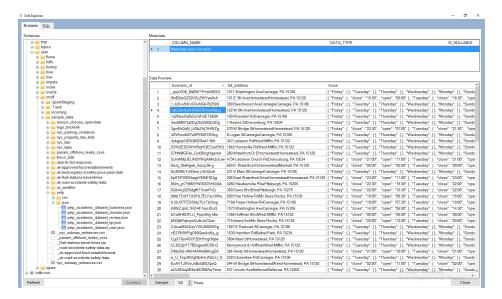
You can also use the Drill web interface to see information about how a query executed:





## **Drill Explorer**

The MapR Drill ODBC driver comes with a tool called **Drill Explorer (https://drill.apache.org/docs/drill-explorer-introduction/)**. This is a GUI that enables you to explore the data by navigating the databases (==storage plugins) and folders/files within, previewing the data and even creating views on it.



## **Drill Client**

Within the Drill client there are various settings available:

#### **Share this Post**

(https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?

text=An%20Introduction%20to%20Apache%20Drill&url=https://www.rittmanmead.com/blog/2016/08/a introduction-to-apache-drill/) **f** (https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php? u=https://www.rittmanmead.com/blog/2016/08/an-introduction-to-apache-drill/) **g** (https://plus.google.com/share?url=https://www.rittmanmead.com/blog/2016/08/an-introduction-to-apache-drill/)

TECHNICAL INSIGHTS (/BLOG/TAG/TECHNICAL)

BUSINESS INSIGHTS (/BLOG/TAG/BUSINESS-INSIGHTS)

RITTMAN MEAD LIFE (/BLOG/TAG/RITTMAN-MEAD-LIFE)

#### **Recent Posts**

- OA Summit 2020: OA Roadmap Summary (/blog/2020/06/oa-summit-2020-oracle-analytics-roadmap-summary/)
- Data Virtualization: What is it About? (/blog/2020/06/data-virualization-what-is-it/)
- Getting Smart View to work with OAC (/blog/2020/05/getting-smart-view-to-work-with-oac/)
- Oracle Analytics: Everything you always wanted to know (But were afraid to ask) (/blog/2020/02/oracle-analytics-everything-you-always-wanted-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask/)
- Oracle Data Science Accelerated Data Science SDK Configuration (/blog/2020/02/accelerated-data-science-sdk-configuration/)

### Sign Up for Our Newsletter

email address

SUBSCRIBE

(/blog/2016/08/usingapache-drill-withobiee-12c/)

ee-12c/)
YOU MIGHT ENIOY

(/blog/2016/07/obiee-12-2-1-1-0-new-featureguide/)

#### READ THIS NEXT

# Using Apache Drill with OBIEE 12c

Apache Drill enables querying with SQL against a multitude of datasources including things like JSON files, Parquet and Avro,...

## OBIEE 12.2.1.1.0 - New Feature Guide

Oracle has recently released version 12.2.1.1.0 for OBIEE 12c, which has a variety of exciting...

```
0: idbc:drill:zk=local> !set
autocommit
autosave
                     false
color
                     true
fastconnect
force
                     false
headerinterval
                     100
historyfile
                     /home/oracle/.sqlline/history
incremental
                     TRANSACTION_REPEATABLE_READ
isolation
{\it maxcolumnwidth}
maxheight
                     56
                     1000000
maxwidth
numberformat
                     default
outputformat
                     table
propertiesfile
                      /home/oracle/.sqlline/sqlline.properties
rowlimit
showelapsedtime
                     true
showheader
shownestederrs
                     false
showwarnings
                     true
silent
                     false
timeout
                      -1
trimscripts
                     true
verbose
                     false
```

To change one, such as the width of output displayed:

```
0: jdbc:drill:zk=local> !set maxwidth 10000
```

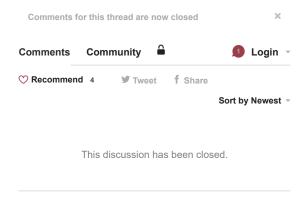
To connect to remote Drill specify the Zookeeper node(s) that store the Drillbit connection information:

```
rmoff@asgard-3:apache-drill-1.7.0> bin/sqlline -u jdbc:drill:zk=cdh57-01-node-01.moffatt.me:2181,cdh57-01-node-02.moffatt.me:2181,cdh57-01-node-03.moffatt.me:2181
```

## **Conclusion**

Apache Drill is a powerful tool for using familiar querying language (SQL) against different data sources. On a small scale, simply being able to slice and dice through structured files like JSON is a massive win. On a larger scale, it will be interesting to experiment with how Apache Drill compares when querying larger volumes of data across a cluster of machines, maybe compared to a tool such as Impala.

For more information about Apache Drill see how to access Drill from within OBIEE (http://www.rittmanmead.com/blog/2016/08/using-apache-drill-with-obiee-12c/), as well as bonus geeky blog coming soon explaining the debug tools I used to try and figure out why it wouldn't initially work...





#### **About Us**

Rittman Mead is a data and analytics company who specialise in data visualisation, predictive analytics, enterprise reporting and data engineering.

\$\tag{\http\$//www.rittmanmet#a\$.com/fet#ef#\$/\) \$\(\http\$//twittet#r.com/rittmanmet#a\$)\$

f (https://www.facer/boos.com/rittmanmer/ast/) in (http://www.lins.com/company/rittman-mer/ast/)

### **Contact Us**

### Rittman Mead Consulting Ltd.

Platf9rm, Hove Town Hall Tisbury Road, Brighton, BN3 3BQ United Kingdom

Tel: (Phone) +44 1273 053956

Email: (Email)info@rittmanmead.com (mailto:info@rittmanmead.com)

© 2010 - 2019 Rittman Mead. All rights reserved.

Privacy Policy (/privacy-policy/) | Manage Your Cookie Settings (/cookies/)