JSON QUERIES FOR ANALYSIS SPECIFICATION

Version 0.1

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OVERVIEW

Traditional data access techniques, such as driver installation was identified earlier as not good design aspects since it coupled on a specific hardware platform, a specific operating system, a specific interface model, a specific programming language, and a specific match between versions of client and server components. Based on the decoupling design goals, specifications such as XMLA for Analysis (XMLA) was introduced for the communication purposes of Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) data cubes. Even though we evade from the tightly coupled driver components still big data analytics suffers from ad-hoc query structures and communication models, coupling query model for a specific data store.

JQA is a simple and light-weight JSON API, designed specifically for standardizing the data analytical interaction between a client application and the data store. It provides universal data access to any data store that supports JQA communication model.

The final goal of the JQA specification is to define standards to provide reliable data access to any client applications regardless of the underlying dependencies such as device, OS or the hardware architecture and without a change to the communication model. This specification primarily defines three methods, Meta, Query, and Custom, which define JSON request and response for data access and analyze. JQA specification is built upon the open Internet standards of HTTP and JSON and is not bound to any specific language or technology.

AUDIENCE

This specification targets application developers and assumes the followings:

- Knowledge of JavaScript
- Knowledge of JSON
- Understanding of data analytics and query languages
- Related concepts of relational and big data stores
- Basic knowledge of front-end widgets, dashboards and BI suits

DESIGN GOALS

The primary design goals of this specification include the followings:

- Provide a standard data access and analytical API to data stores so same query can be executed in any data store
- Enforce Reusability in front widgets, dashboards and queries
- Simplify the query model so users can easily develop a query model with minimum effort
- Support technologically independent implementations using any tool, programming language, technology, hardware platform, or device
- Usage of open Internet standards, such as JSON and HTTP
- Use the power of free and open source community for growth and popularity
- Work efficiently with standard data stores supporting full functionality

DESIGN SUMMARY

The design centers around a JSON-based communication API, called JSON Queries for Analysis, which defines how the request and responses should be handled using JSON structures.

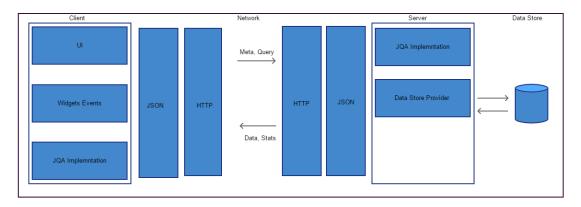


Figure 1: High-level Overview

High-level architecture of JQA would be typical client-server model. The client implements the JQA query generator in on its business layer based on data representation layer widget's interactions and events (pie chart, bar chart etc...). Then JQA queries will be delivered as JSON HTTP request to the server.

Once the server received the request, it extracts the query and passes it to data store provider. Data store provider parses the query and generates raw commands to execute on the data store to get the result. The result should be transformed back to satisfy the JQA specification and passed back to the client as JSON response. The client then validates and render the data based on the front end visualization widget.

JSON QUERIES FOR ANALYSIS

METHODS

JQA specification mainly structured into three methods, Meta, Query, and Custom.

META

Meta section is used whenever a client needs to get the Meta information about the data store such as data source information, schema details and etc... Meta section acts as a get API in JQA, which means clients only can retrieve the information using this method and cannot pass an update to the data store. The current version of JQA specification supports following methods under Meta section.

- STORE
- DATASOURCE
- CATALOG
- SCHEMA

Figure 2: General Syntax for Meta API

STORE

Store method is used to get the information about underlying data store.

Figure 3: General Syntax for Store Request

The response returns the data store name and version.

Figure 4: General Response for Store Request

CATALOG

Catalog refers to the logical categorization of stored data. This is somewhat similar to a database in the relational database context.

Figure 5: General Syntax for Catalog Request

The response list all available catalog names in the data store.

```
{
    "result": {
        "catalog": ["<CATALOG NAME>"]
    }
}
```

Figure 6: General Response for Catalog Request

DATASOURCE

Data source is the logical grouping of data witlings a catalog. This is similar to a table in relational databases.

Datasource methods take the CATALOG as a parameter and list all available data sources within given catalog.

Figure 7: General Syntax for Datasource Request

```
{
    "result": {
        "datasource": ["<DATASOURCE NAME>"]
    }
}
```

Figure 8: General Response for Datasource Request

SCHEMA

Schema normally defines as the structure how data stored. Normally it contains the column names and the data types for respective columns. To get the schema information schema method must be requested with a data source parameter.

Figure 9: General Syntax for Schema Request

Figure 10: General Response for Schema Request

QUERY

Query API provides a simple and powerful way to access and perform the analytics on the data store. Query API mainly divided into four sections, SEARCH, AGGREGATION, FILTER and OPTION.

Query API should always follow with the STORE parameter that specifies Catalog and the Datasource which Query should apply.

Figure 11: General Syntax for Query API

SEARCH

Search API is responsible for getting none analytical result such as select all or specific columns.

Figure 12: General Syntax for Search API

The current version of JQA supports following methods under SEARCH API.

LIST

List method simply selects all the columns and respective values for the client, if the column values are passed to the method it will only list the given columns otherwise act as select all in normal SQL context.

List all syntax defined as below,

Figure 13: General Syntax for List All

Query to List set of fields

Figure 14: General Syntax for List Selected Fields

TOP_LIST

When you want to list only the top most records, TOP_LIST method is used. Top parameter decides how many records to be returned in the result.

Figure 15: General Syntax for Top List Request

AGGREGATION

Aggregation API supports standards analytical functionalities such as COUNT, SUM, and AVG.

Current version of JQA supports following methods under AGGREGATION API. General syntax for the aggregation is below,

Figure 16: General Syntax for Aggregation API

- COUNT
- COUNT_D
- SUM
- AVG
- MIN
- MAX

COUNT

The count is the standard mathematical count function it counts the occurrence of given columns and returns the result as the scalar value. Count method takes the column or list of columns as the parameter.

Figure 17: General Syntax for Count

Default response for an aggregation functions is a single value as below,

Figure 18: General Response for Aggregation Functions

COUNT_D

COUNT_D act same as COUNT function but it only counts the distinct values.

Figure 19: General Syntax for Distinct Count

SUM

Sum up the given column values and provide a scalar value as the response.

Figure 20: General Syntax for Sum

AVG

Average across all the values in given column.

Figure 21: General Syntax for Average

MIN

Standard Min function to get the minimum value of the given column.

Figure 22: General Syntax for Minimum

MAX

Standard Max function to get the maximum value of the given column.

Figure 23: General Syntax for Maximum

FILTER

This section defines the filtering criteria for the query, SEARCH or the AGGREGATIONS should be applied top of these filters.

Current filter method supports basic boolean algebra expressions and comparison operators such as AND, &, OR, \parallel , =, >, <, >=, <=, !=. Filters can be nested inside filters to make complex filtering criteria.

The basic filter contains the column name, operator and a value to filter.

Figure 24: General Syntax for Filter API

OPTIONS

Options section allows users to set additional parameters that manipulate the query response. We have following methods under the options.

SORT

Typical sorting function to sort the result based on columns. It allows adding one or more sorts of specific fields. Basic sort takes column name and direction, ASC or DSC as a parameter.

Figure 25: Sorting Syntax for Option

PAGE

Pagination of results can be done by using the PAGE_SIZE and PAGE_NUM parameters. PAGE_NUM represent the page number and PAGE_SIZE is the record size on one page.

Figure 26: Paging Syntax for Option

STAT

Stat field determines whether stats information re included with each query response, If the client wants to get the stats information about the query been executed, STAT field should be set to TRUE specifically.

Figure 27: Statistics Syntax for Option

If stats is set to true, then response include the following, additional to the normal query result,

- Number of records processed
- Time take to execute the query
- Query information

Figure 28: General Response for Statistics

CUSTOM

Custom section is provided to support the customization out of the defined JQA structure. This can be used to support any arbitrary options, query or R&D level features. TYPE determine the specific categorization of customization and VALUE can be any string that supports that categorization.

Figure 29: General Syntax for Custom API

DATA TYPES USED IN XML FOR ANALYSIS

Bool

The Boolean type uses the standard JSON Boolean data type.

Decimal

The Decimal type noted uses the standard JSON decimal data type.

Integer

The Integer type noted in this document refers to the standard JSON int data type.

Text

The String type corresponds to the standard JSON string data type.

ERROR HANDLING IN JQA

Errors are handled differently, depending on their type. The following types of errors can occur:

- Failure to execute a method call
- Success in executing a method call, but with errors or warnings
- Success in executing a method call, but errors within the result set
- The method call itself did not fail, but a server failure occurred after the method call succeeded.

The format of the general error message as follows.

Figure 30: General Response Format for Errors

The client has the responsibility to handle the error messages returned by the server.

APPENDIX

METHODS

Under appendix, sample queries and expected responses are provided for user convenience. All the examples are based on Druid 0.10.1 wikiticker dataset that contains Wikipedia article related data.

META

- Datasource
- Catalog
- Schema

STORE

Request

```
{
    "meta": {
        "store": {}
    }
}
```

Figure 31: Store Request

Response

Figure 32: Store Response

CATALOG

Request

Figure 33: Catalog Request

Response

```
{
    "result": {
        "catalog": ["wikiticker"]
    }
}
```

Figure 34: Catalog Response

DATASOURCE

Request

Figure 35: Datasource Request

Response

```
{
    "result": {
        "datasource": ["wikipedia"]
    }
}
```

Figure 36: Datasource Response

SCHEMA

Request

Figure 37: Schema Request

Response

```
"result": {
       "schema": [{
               "field": "time",
               "datatype": "datetime"
       }, {
               "field": "channel",
               "datatype": "text"
       }, {
               "field": "cityname",
               "datatype": "text"
       }, {
               "field": "comment",
               "datatype": "text"
       }, {
               "field": "countryisocode",
               "datatype": "text"
       }, {
               "field": "countryname",
               "datatype": "text"
       }, {
               "field": "isanonymous",
               "datatype": "bool"
       }, {
               "field": "isminor",
               "datatype": "bool"
       }, {
               "field": "isnew",
               "datatype": "bool"
       }, {
               "field": "isrobot",
               "datatype": "bool"
       }, {
               "field": "isunpatrolled",
               "datatype": "bool"
       }, {
               "field": "metrocode",
               "datatype": "int"
       },
```

```
{
        "field": "page",
        "datatype": "text"
}, {
        "field": "regionisocode",
        "datatype": "int"
}, {
        "field": "regionname",
        "datatype": "text"
}, {
        "field": "user",
        "datatype": "text"
}, {
        "field": "delta",
        "datatype": "int"
}, {
        "field": "added",
        "datatype": "int"
}, {
        "field": "deleted",
        "datatype": "int"
}]
```

Figure 38: Schema Response

QUERY

SEARCH

LIST

Request

Figure 39: List Request

Response (Truncated for brevity)

```
"result": {
       "search": [{
              "time": "2015-09-12T00:46:58.771Z",
              "channel": "#en.wikipedia",
              "cityName": null,
              "comment": "added project",
              "countryIsoCode": null,
              "countryName": null,
               "isAnonymous": false,
              "isMinor": false,
              "isNew": false,
              "isRobot": false,
              "isUnpatrolled": false,
              "metroCode": null,
              "namespace": "Talk",
              "page": "Talk:Oswald Tilghman",
              "regionIsoCode": null,
               "regionName": null,
               "user": "GELongstreet",
              "delta": 36,
               "added": 36,
              "deleted": 0
       },
```

```
"time": "2015-09-12T00:47:00.496Z".
       "channel": "#ca.wikipedia",
       "cityName": null,
       "comment": "Robot inserta {{Commonscat....",
       "countryIsoCode": null,
       "countryName": null,
       "isAnonymous": false,
       "isMinor": true,
       "isNew": false,
       "isRobot": true,
       "isUnpatrolled": false,
       "metroCode": null.
       "namespace": "Main",
       "page": "Rallicula",
       "regionIsoCode": null,
       "regionName": null,
       "user": "PereBot",
       "delta": 17,
       "added": 17.
       "deleted": 0
}, {
       "time": "2015-09-12T00:47:05.474Z".
       "channel": "#en.wikipedia",
       "cityName": "Auburn",
       "comment": "/* Status of peremptory norms ....",
       "countryIsoCode": "AU",
       "countryName": "Australia",
       "isAnonymous": true,
       "isMinor": false,
       "isNew": false,
       "isRobot": false,
       "isUnpatrolled": false,
       "metroCode": null,
       "namespace": "Main",
       "page": "Peremptory norm",
       "regionIsoCode": "NSW",
       "regionName": "New South Wales",
       "user": "60.225.66.142",
       "delta": 0 },
```

```
"time": "2015-09-12T00:47:08.770Z",
       "channel": "#vi.wikipedia",
       "cityName": null,
       "comment": "fix Lỗi CS1: ngày tháng",
       "countryIsoCode": null,
       "countryName": null,
       "isAnonymous": false,
       "isMinor": true,
       "isNew": false,
       "isRobot": true,
       "isUnpatrolled": false,
       "metroCode": null,
       "namespace": "Main",
       "page": "Apamea abruzzorum",
       "regionIsoCode": null,
       "regionName": null,
       "user": "Cheers!-bot",
       "delta": 18,
       "added": 18,
       "deleted": 0
}, ...]
```

Figure 40: List Response

Query to List set of fields

Figure 42: List Seleceted Fields

Response (Truncated for brevity)

```
{
       "result": {
              "search": [{
                      "time": "2015-09-12T00:46:58.771Z",
                      "channel": "#en.wikipedia",
                      "comment": "added project"
              }, {
                      "time": "2015-09-12T00:47:00.496Z",
                      "channel": "#ca.wikipedia",
                      "comment": "Robot inserta {{Commonscat}} ..."
              }, {
                      "time": "2015-09-12T00:47:05.474Z",
                      "channel": "#en.wikipedia",
                      "comment": "/* Status of peremptory ..."
              }, {
                      "time": "2015-09-12T00:47:08.770Z",
                      "channel": "#vi.wikipedia",
                      "comment": "fix Lỗi CS1: ngày tháng"
              }, ...]}}
```

Figure 41: Response for List selected

TOP

Request to retrieve the top 1 record

Figure 43: Top 1 Request

Response

```
"result": {
       "search": [{
              "time": "2015-09-12T00:46:58.771Z",
              "channel": "#en.wikipedia",
              "cityName": null,
              "comment": "added project",
              "countryIsoCode": null,
              "countryName": null,
              "isAnonymous": false,
              "isMinor": false,
              "isNew": false,
              "isRobot": false,
              "isUnpatrolled": false,
              "metroCode": null,
              "namespace": "Talk",
              "page": "Talk:Oswald Tilghman",
              "regionIsoCode": null,
              "regionName": null,
              "user": "GELongstreet",
              "delta": 36,
              "added": 36,
              "deleted": 0
      }]
```

Figure 44: Top 1 Response

Request to terive top 3 comments

Figure 45: Top 3 Request

Response

Figure 46: Top 3 Response

AGGREGATION

General syntax for the aggregation is below.

Figure 47: General Aggregation API Syntax

- COUNT
- COUNT_D
- SUM
- AVG
- MIN
- MAX

COUNT

Request to get the record count, note that is doesn't matter which column if column contains in all the records.

Figure 48: Count Request

Response for the COUNT

Figure 49: Count Response

COUNT_D

Request to get distinct Channels

Figure 50: Cound_d Request

Response for distinct Channels

Figure 51: Count_d Response

SUM

Request to get sum of added wikis.

Figure 52: Sum Request

Response for wiki addeds

Figure 53: Sum Response

AVG

Request to get average wiki deletes

Figure 54: Avg Request

Response for average wiki deletes

Figure 55: Avg Response

MIN

Request to get minimum wiki added count

Figure 56: Min Request

Response for minimum wiki added

Figure 57: Min Response

MAX

Request to get maximum wiki deletes

Figure 58: Max Request

Response for maximum wiki deletes

Figure 59: Max Response

FILTER

Current filter method supports basic boolean algebra expressions and comparison operators such as AND, &, OR, \parallel , =, >, <, >=, <=, !=. Filters can be nested inside filters to make complex filtering criteria.

The basic filter syntax.

Figure 60: Filter API Syntax

Basic syntax to get anonymous edits from Wikipedia.

Figure 61: Filter Request with Equal Operator

Basic syntax to filter country name null records.

Figure 62: Not Equal Filter Request

Combined filters to get anonymous edits done by adults.

```
{
       "query": {
               "filters": {
                       "filter": {
                              "field": "isAnonymous",
                              "operator": "=",
                              "filter_value": "true",
                              "condition": "and",
                               "filter": {
                                      "field": "isMinor",
                                      "operator": "=",
                                      "filter_value": "false"
                               }
                       }
               }
       }
}
```

Figure 63: Filter Request with Combined Filters

OPTIONS

SORT

Basic syntax to get Wikipedia results sorted by time in ascending order.

Figure 64: Sort Request

PAGE

Figure 65: Paged Request

STAT

Figure 66: Request with Stat Option

Simple STAT request for MAX query.

Figure 67: Stat Request for Max Query

Sample STAT response for MAX query.

Figure 68: Response for Max Stat

CUSTOM

```
{
    "custom": {
        "type": "mssql",
        "value": "select top 10 countryName from wikiticker;"
    }
}
```

Figure 69: Sample Custom Query SQL