HDFS and Hive External Table Setup Documentation

Objective:

This document outlines the steps to create a directory in **HDFS**, upload data files, create an **external Hive table**, and query the data.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Create HDFS Directory

To organize and store your data, create the required directory structure in HDFS.

hdfs dfs -mkdir -p /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

- hdfs dfs: HDFS command-line interface.
- -mkdir: Command to create a directory.
- -p: Ensures that parent directories are created if they don't exist.
- **Directory Path**: /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

2. Create and Add Initial Data File

Create a file named file.txt with some sample employee data.

vi file.txt

Add the following content:

1,abc,234

2,def,456

Save and exit (Press Esc, then type: wq and hit Enter).

3. Upload the File to HDFS

Use the following command to upload the file.txt file to the **HDFS directory**:

hdfs dfs -put file.txt /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

- -put: Uploads a local file to the specified HDFS directory.
- File: file.txt
- Destination: /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

Verify Upload:

hdfs dfs -ls /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

You should see file.txt listed.

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4. Create an External Hive Table

```
Launch the Hive CLI:
hive

Run the following DDL statement to create an external table:

CREATE EXTERNAL TABLE employees_ext (
   id INT,
   name STRING,
   salary DOUBLE
)

ROW FORMAT DELIMITED

FIELDS TERMINATED BY ','

STORED AS TEXTFILE

LOCATION '/tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external/';
```

Explanation:

- **CREATE EXTERNAL TABLE**: Creates an external table (Hive doesn't manage the data, only the metadata).
- ROW FORMAT DELIMITED: Specifies how the data is formatted.
- FIELDS TERMINATED BY ": Indicates that fields are separated by commas.
- STORED AS TEXTFILE: Data is stored in plain text format.
- **LOCATION**: Specifies the existing HDFS directory for the external table.

Confirm Table Creation:

```
SHOW TABLES;
```

You should see employees_ext in the list.

5. Query the Table

Now, retrieve data from the table:

SELECT * FROM employees_ext;

Expected Output:

```
1 abc 234.0
```

2 def 456.0

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6. Add More Data

Now, create a new data file:

vi data.txt

Add the following content:

1,gjmj,234686

2,defngj,456876

Save and exit.

Upload this new file to the same HDFS directory:

hdfs dfs -put data.txt /tmp/big_datajan2025/Dharafinal/external

7. Query the Table Again

Since the table is **external** and points directly to the **HDFS location**, Hive will automatically include the new data.

SELECT * FROM employees_ext;

Expected Output:

1 abc 234.0

2 def 456.0

1 gjmj 234686.0

2 defngj 456876.0

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