# **Project Ember**

Open source project for a smart city illumination control system

# Alessio Moretti

University of Rome Tor Vergata Computer Engineering, Master Degree (student id. 0239045) alessio.moretti@alumni.uniroma2.eu

# **ABSTRACT**

This paper describes an open source solution to provide an efficient illumination system for a smart city. Project Ember was born during the DSCC¹ master course of Computer Engineering. The project currently uses Apache Flink for real-time data stream processing, Apache Kafka to handle messaging routing through the control system and the sensors, Elasticsearch to store efficiently statistics and data and to perform intelligent queries upon them, Python and Redis to prototype the local control unit to interface with streetlamps.

#### **CCS CONCEPTS**

•Distributed Systems → Autonomic systems; •Computer systems organization → Cloud Computing; Sensors network; •Software engineering → Message-oriented middleware;

#### **KEYWORDS**

Data processing, autonomic systems, Apache Flink, Apache Kafka, Redis, Elasticsearch, sensors network

# 1 INTRODUCTION

This paper is about an academic project born to be an efficient solution for the CINI<sup>2</sup> 2017 Challenge on smart cities illumination systems. In particular, the goal was to prototype and test a solution which was capable of (near) real-time data stream processing for monitoring records from street lamps, lumen sensors co-located with the street lamps themselves and from traffic data produced by third-party APIs. We will explore this solution for the following use case: in a smart city context it is necessary to guarantee the maximum efficiency from lamps consumption while providing an optimal illumination within safety limits for pedestrians and drivers according to local traffic intensity. To achieve that, it is necessary to project a grid of smart lamps capable of tuning their light level according to the right amount of energy necessary to provide city aware, safe and green consumption levels. This grid must be powered and managed via a reliable, highly available, processing-capable control system. Introducing Project Ember.

# 2 FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLS

We structured our environment using at first a publish/subscribe architecture with street lamps, lumen and traffic sensors as publishers and the stream processing framework as subscriber.

Federico Vagnoni University of Rome Tor Vergata Computer Engineering, Master Degree (student id. 0245106) federico.vagnoni@alumni.uniroma2.eu

# 2.1 Data stream processing

The Apache Software Foundation makes available different alternatives, each one a refined version of the previous. We chose Apache Flink<sup>3</sup> which is the most recent project data stream processing platform and the most advanced. Flink gives the programmer the possibility to define just the topology of the operators, how they are linked, or how to set the windows timing (based upon the event time or upon the processing time spent inside the system). Flink handles the under-the-hood engine: multithreading, synchronization, parallelism, availability, cluster management. We chose the latest stable release of Apache Flink, 1.2.0, which comes with a well written documentation as well as multiple connectors for the most popular MOM<sup>4</sup> and storages. Flink calls a Source the very component that produces data and Sink the one that takes the processed data in order to store or to route them to another entity.

#### 2.2 Connectors

To achieve scalability we had to analyze several options to let connect our Flink topology to messages routers and to the persistence level. The MOM chosen was Apache Kafka<sup>5</sup> which works seamlessly with Flink thanks to the included connector plugins, giving the possibility to simply personalize the connection according to our preferences: in particular in this solution Kafka is our preferred Source to handle data from the sensors. Talking about Sinks, Flink supports many platforms and Kafka can be one of them (for example for the control output), but in order to persist and manage our data we wanted to use also a modern platform capable of organizing data for (near) real-time purposes.

# 2.3 Persistence level

A NoSQL approach was mandatory to us, to collect dynamic unstructured data typical of a sensor network, so we analyzed different products: in particular Elasticsearch<sup>6</sup> and Apache Cassandra. We chose Elasticsearch, as it is fully supported (although not its last version) by Flink 1.2.0 and it is a flexible, easy-to-deploy database with RESTful APIs. It leverages the ability to perform complex queries, even geographical and lexical ones, with good performances and scalability options. Elasticsearch is part of the Elastic Stack which makes available another useful tool for visualizing stored data, Kibana<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Distributed Systems and Cloud Computing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per l'Informatica

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Apache Flink official page: https://flink.apache.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Messages Oriented Middleware

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Apache Kafka documentation: https://kafka.apache.org/documentation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Elasticsearch official page: https://www.elastic.co/products/elasticsearch

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Kibana official page: https://www.elastic.co/products/kibana

#### 2.4 Extras

To develop a local control unit to manage the city grid we used Flask and Redis. Flask<sup>8</sup> is a micro-framework for Web Server built in Python and Redis<sup>9</sup> instead is a simple and efficient key-value data store and works as a database, cache and message broker. Redis serves us as a cache, allowing us to interact with control unit history with very simple APIs via the endpoints exposed by Flask.

# 2.5 Programming languages

Java<sup>10</sup> is the programming language that links all these components together being used by Flink as well as Scala, such as Elasticsearch APIs. We also used Python for the control unit development as well as to realize the simulated data source for testing.

#### 3 ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

In this section we will cover how the system communicates between each of its components and modules and the assumptions we made to prototype the architecture. In figure 1 a high-level overview is provided. Before proceeding, we want to focus on the output from the real-time<sup>11</sup> control system: it is produced into the MOM and consumed by control units (how will be discussed later), closing a feedback loop. This behavior and the capability to maintain high-availability across the clusters make the system itself near to the features of an autonomic system.

#### 3.1 Sensors network

First of all let us consider how the sensors network sends its data to the control system. According to project specifications the street

 $<sup>^{11}\</sup>mbox{We}$  will define the system as "real-time" in this paper even if is not validated for such a control system, but it is capable of near real-time data stream processing

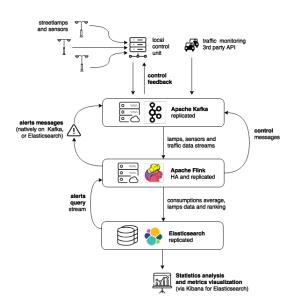


Figure 1: Project Ember architecture overview

lamps sends to the system a JSON formatted string containing all the information their micro-controllers collect as a tuple <sup>12</sup>. A lumen sensor is placed on the lamp and it sent data with same rate as well giving us information about the daylight luminosity level and the ID of the lamp it is placed upon. A traffic intensity API is available to produce a continuous stream of records maintaining an address indicator and a traffic percentage. Those data are sent every 10 seconds.

#### 3.2 Control unit

The control unit gives us the possibility to create a new indirection level that is placed among the lamps and Flink. The lamps talk, using the city intranet, to the local control unit which maintains a mapping between the lamps IDs and their IP addresses inside the local city network. The control unit manage the correct routing of the messages from the lamps to the stream processing operator via Kafka, as well as the control feedback received via the same MOM: to made it available we added to the JSON representing the lamp a control unit identifier as an alphanumeric string. This solution was introduced both for the indirection it introduces and the plug-and-play registration of each new lamp via RESTful APIs. TWe can access the control units register, stored on elasticsearch, via geoqueries per area or per city by a single endpointed deployed for example using AWS Lambda<sup>13</sup>

# 3.3 Apache Kafka cluster

To handle the thousands of data necessary to manage the infrastructure, we thought to use a cluster of replicated nodes running the same Apache Kafka instance, using Apache Zookeeper<sup>14</sup> to maintain the cluster available via redirection from a public IP. As we will see later, the MOM allows us to register topics for lamps, sensors and traffic monitoring data to retrieve them as a stream in Flink, and to create automatically topics for each control unit in order to retrieve the control feedback for each sector of the city grid. In addiction we included the possibility to route via Kafka alerts messages (to be consumed later by a custom operator).

# 3.4 Apache Flink cluster

This is the core of the architecture. The Apache Flink framework was used to create a data stream (near) real-time processing system to handle the thousands of tuples per seconds from the city grid and to produce for each of them a control output, as well as aggregations by streets or identifiers to produce statistics, ranks (by last replacement) and to store them for further analysis. Flink is also used to continuously monitor data from Elasticsearch and to produce alerts for any kind of failures that is collected from each lamp history. To provide the necessary resilience and to let the processing system to scale, it is intended to be deployed as an highly-available cluster, composed of a JobManager (replicated and managed via Apache Zookeeper), acting as a master, and some TaskManagers, acting as slaves, into which is replicated every stream according their computational power (one core is one execution slot), producing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Flask official page: http://flask.pocoo.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Redis official page: https://redis.io/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>1.8 update 121

 $<sup>^{12} \</sup>rm In$  particular a unique integer ID, address and model, consumption, intensity level, power on status and last replacement (as a timestamp in seconds) plus the timestamps in seconds of the instant the tuple was sent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>More info available at: https://github.com/ProjectEmber/bifrost

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Apache Zookeeper official page: https://zookeper.apache.org

several degrees of parallelism proportional to the cluster size. Moreover, any transition of a set of parallelized streams is handled via the JobManager node into a single time window to perform any batch-like computation (as for example average computation).

# 3.5 Elasticsearch and Analytics

The ranks, the consumption mean by ID and by address, have to be visualized and showed in real-time, so Elasticsearch comes in help. Flink offers an interface for Elasticsearch, that, simply providing the cluster configuration, connects to it and allows to send data in byte encoded JSON format strings. Elasticsearch organizes data by so called Indexes and Types. The Index is the equivalent of Database in a NoSQL approach and the Types the equivalent of Tables. Elasticsearch keeps track of data assigning them a mapping table so it can be capable of understand primitives or complex data types. Kibana comes in our help for representing them. By a simple file of configuration you can use Kibana to create your own dashboard by defining all the data to be analyzed specifying the Type it has to use, how rearrange the attributes, how to order and in which style visualize them. Elasticsearch and Kibana has been designed to easily interact each other, keeping synchronized the dashboard across Kibana clients, and be simply deployed as well. Elasticsearch can be extended without any amount of effort, simply defining new nodes for the cluster and joining the master node. Elasticsearch serves also a particular role: being designed as a RESTful engine as well, it allows to specify complex queries and resolves them efficiently, using at its core Apache Lucene, an open source machine learning library.

## 4 DATA STREAM PROCESSING

In this section we will introduce and cover the data stream processing system. As we introduced before, it is based upon Apache Flink 1.2.0 (latest stable release). Before exploring the topology we used, we must introduce some basic concepts.

# 4.1 Basic concepts

Apache Flink is based on the concept of DataStream (it also supports datasets but they are not used in this project), which is an immutable collection of data where the number of elements is unbounded. DataStreams are produced by the ExecutionEnvironment, which is automatically created by the framework locally or distributed according to the cluster size defined in Flink configuration parameters. To create a data stream and to store it, the environment is bounded to a set of data Sources and Sinks, whose implementation will be discussed later.

In this project we needed to perform a real-time computation on several kinds of data sources, so we used the DataStream API made available by Apache Flink framework. This decision allowed us to create streams grouped by some specific attribute of the elements (as a Key), to aggregate them into TimeWindows and to perform later a Join operation to compute results on specific time intervals.

Apache Flink is built to introduce very low latency for an high throughput and to allow the developers to create a natural flow control decoupling the logic behind the stream processing from the deployment itself. In other words, it is built to be efficient and to

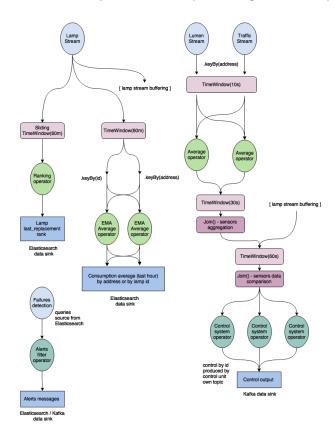


Figure 2: Project Ember topology

let developers concentrate their efforts in building the topology of the system regardless the machines the system will run upon.

# 4.2 Topology

As we said, Apache Flink supports parallelism of the stream processing according to task slots available per-machine of its cluster. Describing the topology we will assume a certain degree of parallelism which is not necessary to run the system locally.

In figure 2 is represented the high level schema for our topology (exception made for the data sink which update lamp status in Elasticsearch). We can note that the streams produced are four, three coming from sensor sources attached to the execution environment (via Apache Kafka custom connectors), while the last one is a custom source that generates anomalies retrieved from queries to Elasticsearch lamps index and then perform a failure check, producing in output alerts messages. It is interesting to note the replication of the more CPU-consuming tasks, as well as the KeyBy of streams tuples by a specific key to perform transformations and forwarding to dedicated operators.

As it is clear from the topology schema, we made use of time windows to buffer, aggregate and analyze specific time intervals of the streams. This introduced overhead increasing the time spent by one record into the system, but it allowed us to reduce the jitter on output messages and stabilize the entire control system: using windows we can easily compare datasets of the same dimensions

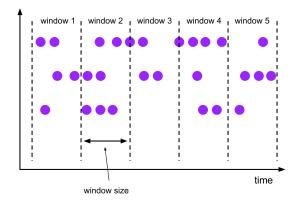


Figure 3: Apache Flink tumbling windows

and properties decoupling the arrival from the service process of our operators network.

## 4.3 Sources and Sinks

Sources are where the topology takes its inputs. A custom source can be attached to the topology via the execution environment calling StreamExecutionEnvironment.addSource(sourceFunction). In particular a source function generates a DataStream that will be transformed and forwarded to the correct operators in the topology. We used sources from the Kafka connectors made available by Apache Flink to continuously consume from the topics lamp, lumen, traffic to read data from the sensors, and a custom source function iterating over queries made to Elasticsearch in order to recover anomalies found in lamps history. Respectively we used the FlinkKafkaConsumer010 to receive messages routed via the Kafka cluster, and the customized EmberElasticsearchAlertSource which is powered by the tuple collector made available by the execution environment.

Sinks are, on the other hand, the way Apache Flink consumes the data streams and forward them to external systems or print them out in a file. In this implementation we used two custom sinks, extending the built-in connectors: one is the EmberKafkaProducer and one is the EmberElasticsearchSinkFunction. In particular the latter is extended for each use case, from the simple lamp history update operations to the update of the ranks of the life-expiring lamps. The first producer, instead, is a SinkFunction which is extended in the EmberKafkaControlSink: in this case we used the feature of the Java Kafka API to select and create a topic into the MOM, that was particularly useful to route for each lamp its control output labeling each feedback with the lamp's own control unit identifier.

# 4.4 Data aggregation

The large part of our stream processing system is based upon the class of TumblingWindow (figure 3) and KeyedStream<sup>15</sup>. In fact, as we can see from our topology, the great part of the operators is composed of a keyed streams (grouped by an attribute of the

records they collect) being windowed for an amount of time to compute over them a custom JoinFunction. There are exceptions, as the ranking, that we will cover later, and the alerting system and history-update by Elasticsearch sink whose don't require such a complexity and are simply buffered and iterated upon in order to collect new data streams.

Before going deeper in our system, let we see the sample Javalike pseudo-code used:

```
required: "selector"
. keyBy ( . . . )
window (...)
                        required:
                                      assigner
. apply ( . . . )
                        required: "function"
. join (...)
                        required: "datastream'
where ( . . . )
                        required:
                                    "selector
equalTo (...)
                        required: "selector
window (...)
. apply ( . . . )
```

As we saw in the topology, we used a specific selector to partition the streams by ID, or address (figure 4). Then we will buffer the streams and their partitions according to a Watermark assigned by the source, typically the timestamp associated with the event generation, into windows which size is configurable. It is important to note here that the developer must pay attention to specify a EventTimeTumblingWindow for events generated from the source and not already processed by the system, and ProcessingTimeTumblingWindow for the latter ones. In particular, for a window following a previous aggregation (as it is for the control operator) we will use the ProcessingTime to maintain the system coherent with its internal clock and preserving the original event generation time assigned by watermarks definition.

Finally we can choose which operation perform calling the apply() function, for example a moving average computation by lamp identifier or lamp address. We can also perform a join() over a new stream using a particular window in order to aggregate different data records in a single tuple and made them available for further operations, as it is performed twice in the control system flow.

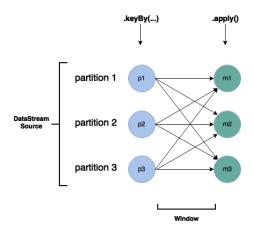


Figure 4: An example of Project Ember operation flow

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Windows on keyed streams: https://ci.apache.org/projects/flink/flink-docs-release-1.2/dev/windows.html

# 4.5 Control system

The core of the control system is the flow which takes the sensors data streams, buffers and aggregates them twice (by their common selector and with data from lamps) and produces a control output which is sent to Kafka cluster to be consumed by control units.

In particular, the light sensors and traffic records are partitioned via their address and then buffered into a 10 seconds (event time) window. This is made to let the system behave according a unique step, the ten-seconds-interval assumed in the project specifications. Then a simple arithmetic average is performed on the records received, before aggregating the two streams by the address attribute. Then a new 30 seconds (processing time) window is used to aggregate those new tuples with the raw data from the lamps and compare them. Every minute the control system produces and filter by lamp single identifier an optimal control value using the formula:

$$I = \frac{L_l * C_u}{A_l}$$

where the optimal intensity level, according the lumen level per square area, is proportional to an attenuation factor assumed unitary in this implementation and inverse to the diffusion area.

The optimal intensity level is calculated via the previous formula, which takes as arguments the level measured from the lamp and lumen sensors, and it is normalized using the percentage of traffic and safety limits. The concept idea is to define an optimal value that allows the city grid to avoid excesses between lamp consumptions, but guaranteeing an optimal level of light in case of intense vehicles traffic and a safety level for inhabited zones to secure pedestrian traffic as well. In addiction, working on lumen sensors, we can achieve the goal to find an optimal value even in scarce weather conditions, according to light sensors readings (for example in a cloudy or rainy day).

Finally the output produced is a DataStream<StreetLamp> which is produced into a topic equal, for each lamp, to its control unit alphanumeric identifier.

## 4.6 Statistics

An important aspect of this project was to compute on the fly useful statistics on the smart city grid. We provided three different approaches for three different use cases.

# **Expiration ranking**

To produce an always updated rank of the ten (size is configurable) lamps most in danger for end-of-life expiration, we used an EventTimeSlidingWindow which takes care to perform a per-hour rank upon the last replacement (as a timestamp) attribute from the lamps records.

# Last hour consumption

The system is also capable to track on basis of a one-hour-step the consumption average, which is then stored into Elasticsearch for security reasons (if the system is terminated or must be restarted the persistence level will take trace of the history, losing just the last hour measurements). To perform a computation which is focused to give the most reasonable results, we used an exponential moving

average:

$$S_t = \alpha * Y_t + (1 - \alpha) * S_{t-1}$$

$$\alpha = 0.8$$

giving preference to the last results from the hour-long buffer. The average is computed by address and by ID for further analysis.

# **Data history**

An important aspect of a project like Project Ember is to visualize data. Even if we covered a lot how Elasticsearch works and how Kibana is integrated, we want to remember that their use and a continuously updated history for the lamps values, as well as last hour consumptions, let us build useful dashboards to monitor in (near) real-time the system overall status.

#### 4.7 Alerts

A useful feature of Project Ember is to provide a customizable preferential access for operators to the anomalies detection system. Once a configurable time, a query is performed to Elasticsearch cluster using its Apache Lucene based core to check on the entire lamps index for anomalies, such as out of range luminosity levels, electrical failures or lamp life expiration overflowed limits: no effort for the stream processing system. It must only handles those results and produce them via a custom sink on Elasticsearch or Kafka clusters, according the final user configuration: dashboard-based approach or not.

# 4.8 Configuration

Most of the parameters we quoted describing the stream processing and control system are configurable via a .properties file. For a user guide please visit the project repository.

# 5 MESSAGE ORIENTED APPROACH

Apache Kafka plays its MOM role connecting all the components of our system so let's see how they are related to each other thanks to it (figure 5): control units and Flink produce a lot of data in streams that are organized in topics: lamps, lumens and traffic. A system such as this can be sufficient but let's think: being a smart lamps grid the system has to emit orders directed to a single lamp among thousands. Kafka can manage runtime topics creation but a topic for each lamp is meaningless and inefficient; requiring the data

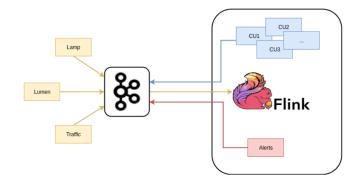


Figure 5: Topics based messages routing

stream processing system to know the right position of the lamp among network is infeasible as well.

# 5.1 Sensors to Kafka

Lamps are supposed to be given, with a micro-controller built inside them capable to connect to the city intranet, to understand the power level proper of the bulb model and how such parameters relates one another in order to obtain the right luminosity.

The lumen sensor is placed upon the street lamp and is managed by the same micro-controller; lumen sensors common for entire streets are managed as well. The lumen produce a JSON formatted string containing the same ID of the lamp where it is placed upon (or a nonce for street or district sensors).

The traffic sensor is realized by third party APIs and it is registered to Kafka .

# 5.2 Kafka to Adapters

Once Flink calculates the state a street lamp should have it sends control directives to custom topics. Each lamps, in fact, is linked to a control unit and this information is included in the JSON sent by lamps to the system. That's where the control directive is routed, a topic that is identified by the string that identify the control unit responsible of a particular street lamp; so we can, on one hand, free Kafka of an incredible number of topics and, on the other hand, free smart lamps to register themselves on their ones. As we said even the alerts of lamps not functioning or not communicating for a too long time can be routed to Kafka.

## 5.3 Control feedback

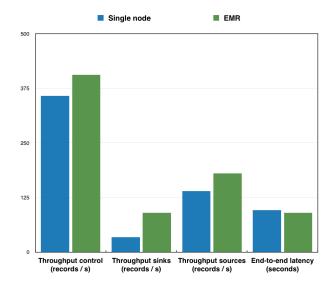
Each lamp is registered to a particular control unit, which takes care to register itself to the topic of its own, so it can read the responses and understand to which lamp direct them. Once the response will be made available the control unit reads the messages and convert them to a JSON object so it can access their attributes; it determines the ID of the lamp and check in the Redis database to find the IP address related to that lamp ID. That's the core of the indirection level of the whole architecture. Kafka and the control unit makes possible all of this, making our system totally plug and play for a better large scale deployment.

# 6 TESTS AND PERFORMANCES

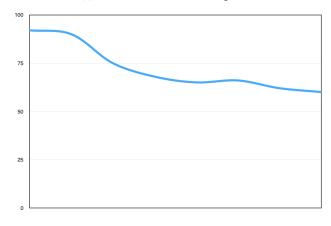
It is clear that Project Ember has a lot of different metrics upon which can be made performances analysis. Proceeding with the validation of our architecture we conducted a lot of tests to ensure the forwarding operation between different operators in API concepts and in behavior (think of the difference between the Kafka consumer as a source, the alerts query on Elasticsearch, the Kafka producers as sinks etc.). In this section we will cover what we think are the most important metrics to face when deploying this system at scale, as well as the configuration we used to produce the data you can appreciate in figure 6.

# 6.1 The city simulator

There are two way to test a project of this kind: testing just the stream processing topology producing a fake data source or simulating the entire grid. The latter was our choice.



#### (a) Performances metrics comparison



(b) End-to-end latency (seconds) - transient analysis

Figure 6: Project Ember operational performances

We developed a "city simulator", configurable and customizable: a multithreaded Python console application capable of simulating the behavior of thousands of lamps. The values produced are typical of a grid of lamps and sensors across a day-long span, with different lumen levels according to the height of the sun (via a simple sin wave), with random traffic percentage registered for each street, different values for bulbs' models and a rumored measure introduced to simulate consumption levels.

The simulator, codenamed Tomorrowland, in this configuration, sends to actually deployed control units data comparable with those of a small district of a typical Italian city. In particular, in the tests we will have two thousands lamps from one hundred different locations, transmitting to their control unit every ten seconds, and two thousands lumen level records sent directly to the Kafka cluster

with one hundred records describing traffic average on the different streets.

# 6.2 Testing environment

We adopted two configurations to test the architecture performances. Both of them used a replicated cluster of Apache Kafka nodes and a small cluster for Elasticsearch. Both of them were deployed using the AWS EC2 cloud service<sup>16</sup> offered by the Amazon Student Grant. Both the Apache Kafka cluster and the Elasticsearch one running with a three-node configuration using a general purpose tier, labeled by AWS as m4.large, with 2 vCPUs and 8 GB of memory, 450 Mbps in bandwidth.

In particular, for the stream processing system we used two different approaches: a very powerful single node (and our local development machines during development) running Apache Flink and a cluster of nodes running in high-availability and managed via YARN on AWS Elastic Map Reduce<sup>17</sup>. In the first the machine was labeled as m4.xlarge, 4 vCPUs and 16 GB of memory, for 750 Mbps in bandwidth. In the second case the EMR cluster was defined as formed by five machines - two for HA<sup>18</sup> for the JobManager and three for the TaskManagers - every of them of the m4.large type.

To simulate the control unit, one of them was deployed on a Raspberry Pi 2 Model B to provide a sort of a dedicated-hardware for our testing environment.

#### 6.3 Metrics

From the topology the most critical components were those that managed the control system. In particular the entire flow from the sensors sources to the final aggregation and data comparison operators. We made an extensive use of the Apache Flink web dashboard to retrieve data during the execution and compare them on an average basis (figure 6).

The bottleneck was clearly the capacity of the Kafka consumers, that was why different levels of windows were made to filter and aggregate the records to optimize and "batch" the control system input. The latency of the end-to-end system, so from the record generation by the control unit to the control output received via Apache Kafka, is stable due to network performances which are the same for each configuration. We noted that the throughput in the control system is not largely influenced by the increased parallelism of the TaskManagers, even if we have a slight enhancement. We observed however a large improvement in the throughput of the Kafka producers in the end of the control system, which proved an increased responsiveness and a reduced latency.

It is interesting to analyze the transient period from the startingup of the control system to the stability. Remembering a oneminute-and-thirty-seconds-large window to aggregate data and produce an optimal control feedback, on the very first run this is actually the end-to-end latency measured. When the system is stable, the latency decreases until reaching a one-minute response time. This is due to the particular configuration of the windows we described, which made the system capable of figuring out an optimal control every minute basing its decision on a small part of the historical data from the lamps - the multiple windows levels aggregation.

#### 7 NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSIONS

During the development of this project different ideas of improvements came to us. They will be described by argument.

# 7.1 Security

Leaving to the control unit the role of lamp validator it can grant access to those lamps that have been registered by an operator by the local control unit. Kafka on the other way can be customized using different security protocol - SSL primarily Control units can be trusted and verified and they guarantee for the lamps registered by them. An API key can be provided to trusted devices that can register new lamps to control unit thanks to AWS Lambda.

# 7.2 Deployment

All the components we described have been tested even on Docker. Create a simple container is easy but relate one to another in order to create a cluster was not easy as well. Docker remains a valuable asset for deploying all of these components with a single instruction to lunch and manage the cluster. Components such as Elasticsearch and Kafka can be scaled at runtime by adding or removing nodes; the system is prone to be autonomic with a contained amount of effort.

# 7.3 Conclusions

Project Ember was developed keeping in mind the necessities of a modern city. So we tried to provide where possible a plug-andplay solution, for example with the city grid architecture, and a scalability-enabled architectural choices where it was necessary to deploy a larger cluster. We believe Project Ember is ready to be tested on a larger environment, using a real scenario typical values to tune the different components and their cooperation.

#### REPOSITORY

The Project Ember official homepage, with guides and code to deploy and customize each component described in this paper, is available at: github.com/projectember. Fork us!

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>High-Availability