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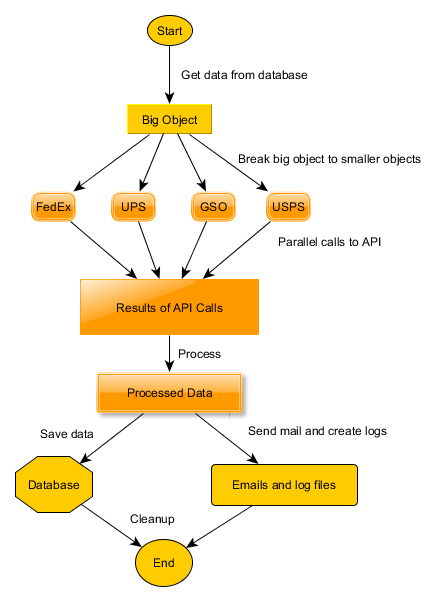
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# Scope of WSCarrierTracker

1. Updates the info table the latest status values for different carriers.
2. Inserts complete thread of transactions related to a Tracking Number in the PackageHistory table in form of JSON data. This table will be used later for reporting purposes.
3. Inserts a row in PackageLog table for each job run.
4. Sends status mails to configured Admins after completion of Job.
5. Creates file log for each job run.

# Logical Flow Diagram



# What does WSCarrierTracker do

* WSCarrierTracker reads records from Info table. Each records pertain to one tracking number against a carrier such as FedEx, UPS, GSO or TPS. All these records are converted to a big JSON object called BigObject.
* The BigObject is decomposed to four smaller objects corresponding to four carrier operators. Each smaller object such created is called carrierObject.
* The carrierObject is processed to contain information such as carrier url, the parameters and API call method. In this manner each carrierObject is self contained.
* Now API calls are made in parallel for each carrierObject and responses are collected and embedded in respective carrierObject.
* Now each carrierObject is further processed with corresponding response obtained from API. Now carrierObject is ready to be updated to database Info table.
* Database Info table is updated for latest status information obtained from API calls by using carrierObject.
* Logs are generated, and status mails are fired to Admins.

# Features

## Single thread asynchronous

Entire application runs on single thread. The api calls are non-blocking and asynchronous.

## Auto adjust piston

There needs to be a delay in API calls for the carriers. We call this delay as piston. When you increase the piston i.e increase the delay then pending responses from API reduces and vice versa. The pending responses from API is called apiQueue. So when you increase the piston the apiQueue decreases. For a better throughput there is an optimum level of apiQueue. We found that if apiQueue is kept at 50 then the performance is better. If we increase apiQueue then the carrier may complain.

The program does auto adjustment of piston values based on the queue value in settings.json. You can see in the logs how piston values are incremented or decremented by 5 in order to maintain a constant queue.

## Database channels

30 simultaneous connections are made to database through prepared statements.

## Self contained

The application is self-contained. It does not depend on any other Azure resource except an azure database.

# Settings

* Following configurations are stored in settings.json file. User is free to change them as required.
  + Email settings for Mandrill which is used to send mail
  + Configuration settings for each carrier
  + Database connection information
  + General application wide config settings

# Deployment steps

1. **WebApp**

Create a node.js based web app in Azure.

1. **Upgrade node.js**

By default the version of node.js in the web app will be 0.10. You need to upgrade it to the latest version.

1. **Web job**

Create a web job in context of above web app.

1. **Upload code**

Upload WsCarrierTracker code in web job. You can upload the zip file of application or deploy it from GitHub.

1. **Install**

You need to run npm install to install the modules being used by the application.

1. **Configuration**

Open the settings.json file of the application and modify the credentials for email, database and carrier accounts as and where necessary.

1. **Database**

After doing proper configurations of database in the settings.js file the application will point to the desired database. The application uses two extra tables which are PackageHistory and PackageLog. You need to create those tables in your database. The table creation script for those tables are provided separately.

Your application is now deployed. You can run or schedule the web job for desired results.

# Performance and tuning

1. Entire lifecycle for processing 10,000 records takes around 5 minutes.
2. We have successfully tested for over 100,000 records. For records over 150,000 the memory footprint might be high. Hence settings in Azure will be required to allocate more memory for node.js based web jobs. For 100,000 records 1 gb memory is required. Proportionately more memory must be allocated.

# Explaination of file logs

Logs are created in /logs folder. Log files are named on current date time. Following is excerpt from a log file.

{"message":"tps apiReq:0 apiRes:0 apiErr:0 apiQue:0 piston:0 statusDrop:0 errDrop:0 toDb:0 dbReq:0 DbRes:0 DbErr:0 dbQue:0","level":"info"}

{"message":"Total apiReq:100 apiRes:98 apiErr:0 apiQue:2 statusDrop:98 errDrop:0 toDb:0 dbReq:0 dbRes:0 dbErr:0 dbQue:0 t:2018-07-12 00:00:10","level":"info"}

Here is explaination for the same:

apiReq: No of api calls made

apiRes: No of api responses received

apiErr: No of api errors encountered. These do not contain successful responses with error information.

apiQue: No of api requests in the queue. This is requests – responses – errors. apiQue = apiReq – apiRes – apiErr

piston: Delay for calling an api

statusDrop: No of database updates which are not done because the updatable fields including status fields are same.

errDrop: No of database updates which are not done because there was an error calling the api.

toDb: No of calls transferred to database update scripts which are expected to be updated in database

dbReq: No of database update requests made

dbRes: No of responses received after database updates are done

dbErr: No of errors with database when updates are done

dbQue: dbReq – dbRes – dbErr. This is no of database updates in progress.

# Bundle contains

1. **Adam2**

This is the WSCarrier Tracker software as explained above. You need to change the settings.json file as per the environment.

1. **Etl**

This is the etl program. It converts JSON data in PackageHistory table to PackageDetails table in column wise format.

1. **SqlScript**

This is the sql commands necessary to create additional tables and stored procedures to run above packages.