Getting started with Milvus - the world's most popular open-source vector database.

Getting Started with Vector Database - Milvus Quickstart

Hey there - welcome back to Milvus codelabs. In the previous tutorial, we provided a brief introduction to Milvus, Milvus' history, as well as the primary differences between Milvus 1.x and Milvus 2.x. We also took a quick tour of the architecture of Milvus 2.x and helped shine some light on how Milvus' architecture allows it to implement all of the required features of vector databases.

Let's get started

If you haven't read the previous tutorials (unstructured data, vector databases, Milvus introduction), I recommend you go ahead and read them. If you have, great. Let's get started with Milvus!

We offer two different modes of deployment: standalone and cluster. In Milvus standalone, all nodes - coordinators, worker nodes, and forward-facing proxies - are deployed as a single instance. For persistent data and metadata, Milvus standalone relies on MinIO and etcd, respectively. In future releases, we hope to eliminate these two third-party dependencies, allowing everything to run in a single process and removing the need to install third-party dependencies.

Milvus cluster is our full-fledged version of Milvus, complete with separate instances/pods for all eight microservice components along with three third-party dependencies: MinIO, etcd, and Pulsar (Pulsar serves as the log broker and provides log pub/sub services). If you haven't gotten the chance to take a look at the Milvus overview from the previous slide, please do so! It'll help clarify what each of these third party dependencies is used for and why we've included them in Milvus cluster.

Milvus standalone (docker-compose)

Milvus standalone is meant to be super easy to install. In this section, we'll go over how docker-compose can be used to install Milvus. You can view the recommended prerequisites here.

Let's first download the docker-compose.yml configuration file needed for the standalone installation. If you're on any Debian-based Linux (including Ubuntu), you can use the following command:

```
1 $ wget https://github.com/milvus-io/milvus/releases/download/v2.0.2/
milvus-standalone-docker-compose.yml -0 docker-compose.yml
```

```
Resolving objects.githubusercontent.com (objects.githubusercontent.com)... 185.199.108.133, 185.199.111.133, 185.199.109.133, ...
```

Alternatively, if you're on MacOS, make sure you have Docker Desktop installed first. I recommend using brew:

```
1 % brew install --cask docker
```

You can then follow this up with the command below:

```
1 % curl https://github.com/milvus-io/milvus/releases/download/v2.0.2/
milvus-standalone-docker-compose.yml -o docker-compose.yml
```

With everything ready, we can now spin up our Milvus standalone instance:

```
1 $ docker-compose up -d
```

Docker Compose is now in the Docker CLI, try docker compose up

```
Creating milvus-etcd ... done
Creating milvus-minio ... done
Creating milvus-standalone ... done
```

Now, we can check on the status of our containers

```
1 $ docker ps -a
```

```
CONTAINER ID IMAGE
                                                        COMMAND
                   CREATED
                                    STATUS
   PORTS
                             NAMES
711d54ab15c7 milvusdb/milvus:v2.0.2
                                                        "/tini --
   milvus rum."
                  42 seconds ago Up 40 seconds
   0.0.0.0:19530->19530/tcp
                            milvus-standalone
0d85f4927864 minio/minio:RELEASE.2020-12-03T00-03-10Z
                                                        "/usr/bin
   /docker-ent." 42 seconds ago
                                   Up 40 seconds (healthy)
                                                            9000/
   tcp
                        milvus-minio
99de39278b35 quay.io/coreos/etcd:v3.5.0
                                                        "etcd -
   advertise-cli." 42 seconds ago Up 40 seconds
   2379-2380/tcp
                             milvus-etcd
```

Here's a quick rundown of what each of the containers are doing. milvus-standalone is the com-

piled/compressed version of Milvus, mean to run on a single machine.

To stop Milvus standalone, run:

```
1 $ docker-compose down
```

And that's it for Milvus standalone! Easy, right?

Milvus standalone (apt)

We also provide a handy apt package for Debian-based distributions. Simply run:

```
1 $ sudo apt install software-properties-common
2 $ sudo add-apt-repository ppa:milvusdb/milvus
3 $ sudo apt update
4 $ sudo apt install milvus
```

Once that's done, you're good to go. You can check the status of the running services with:

```
1 $ sudo systemctl status milvus
2 $ sudo systemctl status milvus-etcd
3 $ sudo systemctl status milvus-minio
```

Milvus cluster

From the previous tutorial, we know that Milvus is composed of four primary components: the access layer, coordinator service, worker nodes, and object storage. Requests are sent to a cluster of proxies in the access layer, which then forwards the requests to either the coordinator layer or a streaming service for vector data. The stateful coordinator nodes within the coordinator service manage and control all of the stateless worker nodes, allowing for easy horizontal scaling. Object storage is accomplished via S3 or any "S3-like" storage layer, allowing Milvus to be run both in the cloud and on-premises via MinIO.

Milvus' remaining third-party dependencies, Pulsar/Kafka and etcd, are also distributed and cloudnative, allowing the entirety of Milvus to run via Kubernetes as an orchestration engine. Using Kubernetes is a no-brainer for nearly all distributed applications, as it provides out-of-the-box support for application deployment, maintanence, and scaling. We recommend deploying Milvus as a Kubernetes application via Helm:

```
1 % helm repo add milvus https://milvus-io.github.io/milvus-helm/
```

"milvus" has been added to your repositories

Now, let's grab the latest Milvus chart from the milvus-io/milvus-helm repository.

```
1 % helm repo update
```

```
Hang tight while we grab the latest from your chart repositories...

...Successfully got an update from the "milvus" chart repository
Update Complete. Happy Helming
```

Great. Now that we've gotten all of the dependencies out of the way, let's install Milvus (cluster)!

```
1 % helm install my-release milvus/milvus
```

```
W0629 16:01:00.674407
                               21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       W0629 16:01:00.676536
                               21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
3
       W0629 16:01:00.678594
                               21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       W0629 16:01:00.680671 21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       W0629 16:01:00.808448
                              21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       W0629 16:01:00.809339
                               21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       W0629 16:01:00.809344
                               21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
7
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
8
       W0629 16:01:00.809594
                              21803 warnings.go:70 policy/v1beta1
          PodDisruptionBudget is deprecated in v1.21+, unavailable in v1
           .25+; use policy/v1 PodDisruptionBudget
       NAME: my-release
9
10
       LAST DEPLOYED: Wed Jun 29 16:01:00 2022
       NAMESPACE: default
11
12
       STATUS: deployed
13
       REVISION: 1
       TEST SUITE: None
14
```

With this done, we can now see the pods that are up and running via kubectl:

```
1 $ kubectl get pods
```

```
1 NAME
    RESTARTS AGE
2 my-release-etcd-0
2m23s
READY STATUS
1/1 Running 0
```

3	my-release-etcd-1	1/1	Running	0
	2m23s	- / -	Raming	Ū
4	my-release-etcd-2 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
5	my-release-milvus-datacoord-6fd4bd885c-gkzwx 2m23s	1/1	Running	Θ
6	my-release-milvus-datanode-68cb87dcbd-4khpm 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
7	my-release-milvus-indexcoord-5bfcf6bdd8-nmh5l 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
8	my-release-milvus-indexnode- 5 c5f7b5bd9-l8hjg 2 m24s	1/1	Running	0
9	my-release-milvus-proxy-6bd7f5587-ds2xv 2m24s	1/1	Running	0
10	my-release-milvus-querycoord- 579 cd79455-xht5n 2 m24s	1/1	Running	0
11	my-release-milvus-querynode-5cd8fff495-k6gtg 2m24s	1/1	Running	0
12	my-release-milvus-rootcoord-7fb9488465-dmbbj 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
13	my-release-minio-0 2m23s	1/1	Running	Θ
14	my-release-minio-1 2m23s	1/1	Running	Θ
15	my-release-minio-2 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
16	my-release-minio-3 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
17	my-release-pulsar-autorecovery-86f5dbdf77-lchpc 2m24s	1/1	Running	0
18	my-release-pulsar-bookkeeper-0 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
19	my-release-pulsar-bookkeeper-1 98s	1/1	Running	0
20	my-release-pulsar-broker-556ff89d4c-2m29m 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
21	my-release-pulsar-proxy-6fbd75db75-nhg4v 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
22	my-release-pulsar-zookeeper-0 2m23s	1/1	Running	0
23	my-release-pulsar-zookeeper-metadata-98zbr 2m24s	1/1	Completed	0

That's it! You now have Milvus installed directly on your on-premises cluster. Check out our next tutorial to see how to create a collection within Milvus and begin inserting and querying embeddings.

If you're interested in running Milvus on cloud infrastructure check out the Milvus standalone on AWS Marketplace.

Wrapping up

In this tutorial, we took a look at how to install the standalone version of Milvus (via docker-compose) and the cluster version of Milvus (via helm) The standalone version is suitable for testing purposes, while the cluster version is suitable for internal clusters or on-premises deployments. In the next tutorial, we'll look at basic Milvus operations: connecting to a Milvus server, creating a collection (equivalent to a table in relational databases), creating a partition within the collection, inserting embedding vector data, and conducting a vector search.

See you in the next couple of tutorials.