

Distributed File Systems Made Easy with Python's `fsspec`

Guy Hardonag, February 2025





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STARTING LOCALLY



Library support



Python standard file interface



Ease of use



STARTING LOCALLY (example)

Using pandas to read a CSV

```
import pandas as pd  
df = pd.read_csv("/path/to/local/file.csv")
```

Python

Loading a TensorFlow model

```
import tensorflow as tf  
model = tf.keras.models.load_model("/path/to/local/model")
```

Python



Why cloud?

✓ **REDUNDANCY**



Why cloud?

✓ **SCALABILITY**



Why cloud?

✓ **COLLABORATION**



Why cloud?

✓ **SECURITY**



Why cloud?

✓ **ACCESSIBILITY**



BRIDGING THE GAP: WORKING WITH CLOUD



BRIDGING THE GAP: **MANUAL SYNC**

Shell

```
aws s3 cp s3://bucket/file.csv ./file.csv
```

Python

```
import boto3
s3 = boto3.client('s3')
s3.download_file('bucket', 'file.csv', 'file.csv')
```



BRIDGING THE GAP: LIBRARY-SPECIFIC CONNECTORS



Introducing

fsspec

```
114         self.create_branch_ok = create_branch_ok
115         self.source_branch = source_branch
116
117     @cached_property
118     def _lakefs_server_version(self):
119         with self.wrapped_api_call():
120             return tuple(int(t) for t in self.client.version.split("."))  

121
122     @classmethod
123     @Overload
124     def _strip_protocol(cls, path: str | os.PathLike[str] | Path) -> str: ...
125
126     @classmethod
127     @Overload
128     def _strip_protocol(cls, path: list[str | os.PathLike[str] | Path]) -> list[str]: ...
129
130     @classmethod
131     def _strip_protocol(cls, path):
132         """Copied verbatim from the base class, save for the slash rstrip."""
133         if isinstance(path, list):
134             return [cls._strip_protocol(p) for p in path]
135         spath = super()._strip_protocol(path)
136         if stringify_path(path).endswith("/"):
137             return spath + "/"
138         return spath
139
```



✓ UNIFIED
INTERFACE



✓ MULTIPLE
BACKEND
SUPPORT



✓ EASE OF
INTEGRATION



✓ ENHANCED
CAPABILITIES



fsspec

AUDIENCE



End users



Library implementers



Backend implementations



USING MY CODE WITH S3 VIA fsspec END USERS

```
import fsspec
# Open a file from S3
fs = fsspec.filesystem('s3', key='ACCESS_KEY', secret='SECRET_KEY')
with fs.open('s3://bucket/file.csv', 'r') as f:
    data = f.read()
```

```
with fsspec.open('s3://minio-bucket/ ... ') as file:
    content=file.read()
```



USING PANDAS WITH S3 VIA fsspec LIBRARY DEVELOPERS

```
# Load a CSV from S3
df = pd.read_csv('s3://bucket/file.csv', storage_options={
    'key': 'ACCESS_KEY',
    'secret': 'SECRET_KEY'
})
```



BUILDING YOUR OWN fsspec BACKEND

Using a real world example with

lakeFS



MANAGE DATA LIKE CODE WITH lakeFS



s3://data-repo/collections/foo

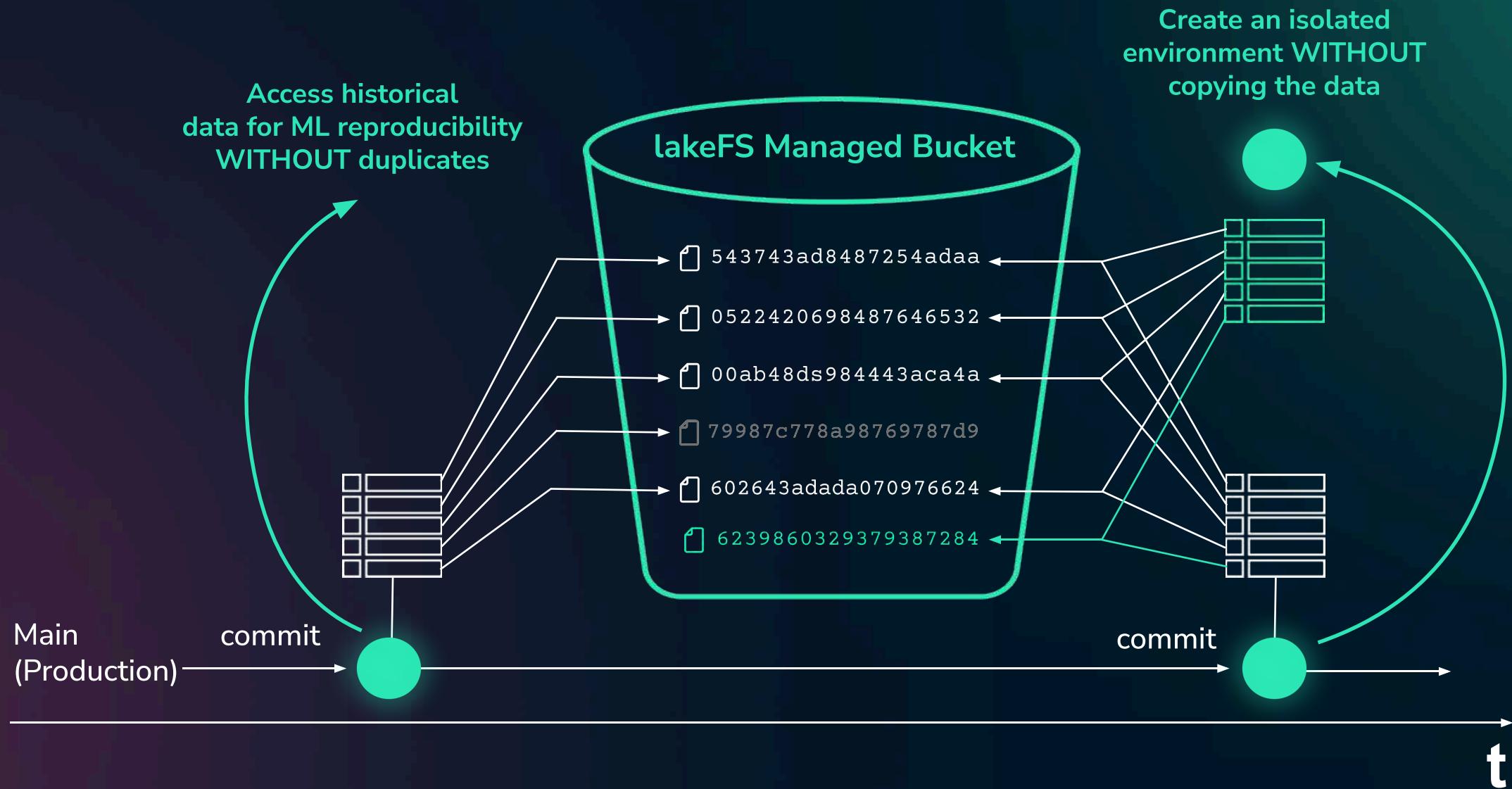
✓
s3://data-repo/main/collections/foo

```
lakectl branch create \
  "lakefs://data-repo@my-experiment" \
  --source "lakefs://data-repo/main"

// output:
// created branch 'my-experiment',
// pointing to commit ID: 'd1e9adc71c10a'
```



HOW DOES lakeFS WORK?



Implementing the fsspec package for lakeFS

AbstractFile



IMPLEMENTING THE fsspec PACKAGE FOR lakeFS

```
entry_points={  
    'fsspec.spec': [  
        'myfs = myfs:MyFS',  
    ]  
}
```

[filesystem_spec / fsspec / registry.py](#)

Code Blame 315 lines (281 loc) · 11.2 KB ↑ Top

Raw

```
--  
59  
60     # protocols mapped to the class which implements them. This dict can be  
61     # updated with register_implementation  
62     known_implementations = {  
63         "abfs": {  
64             "class": "adlfs.AzureBlobFileSystem",  
65             "err": "Install adlfs to access Azure Datalake Gen2 and Azure Blob Storage",  
66         },  
67         "adl": {  
68             "class": "adlfs.AzureDatalakeFileSystem",  
69             "err": "Install adlfs to access Azure Datalake Gen1",  
70         },  
71         "arrow_hdfs": {  
72             "class": "fsspec.implementations.arrow.HadoopFileSystem",  
73             "err": "pyarrow and local java libraries required for HDFS",  
74         },
```



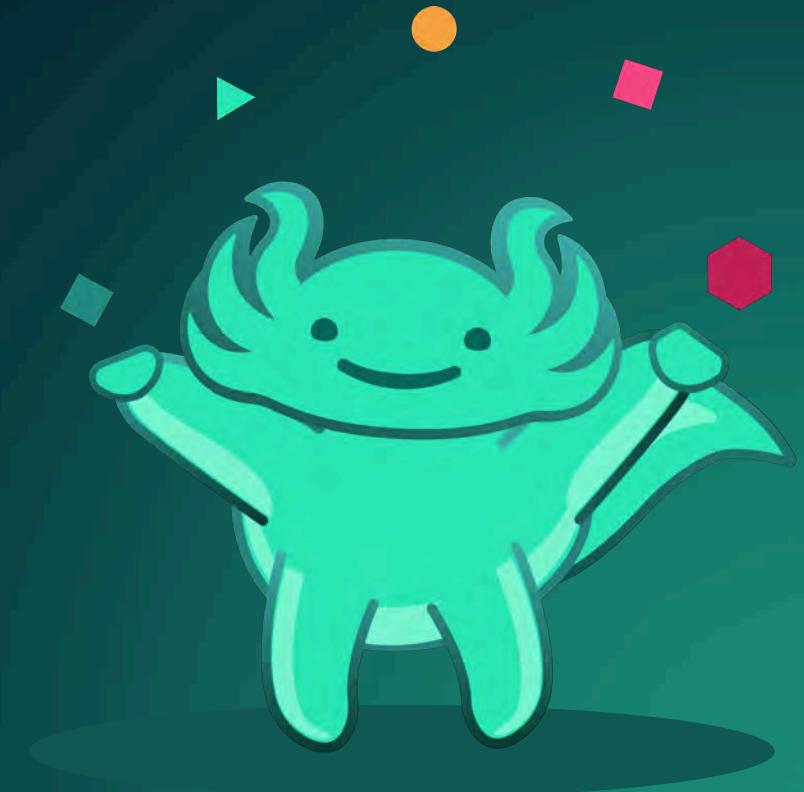
lakeFS-fsspec implementation

TRANSACTIONS



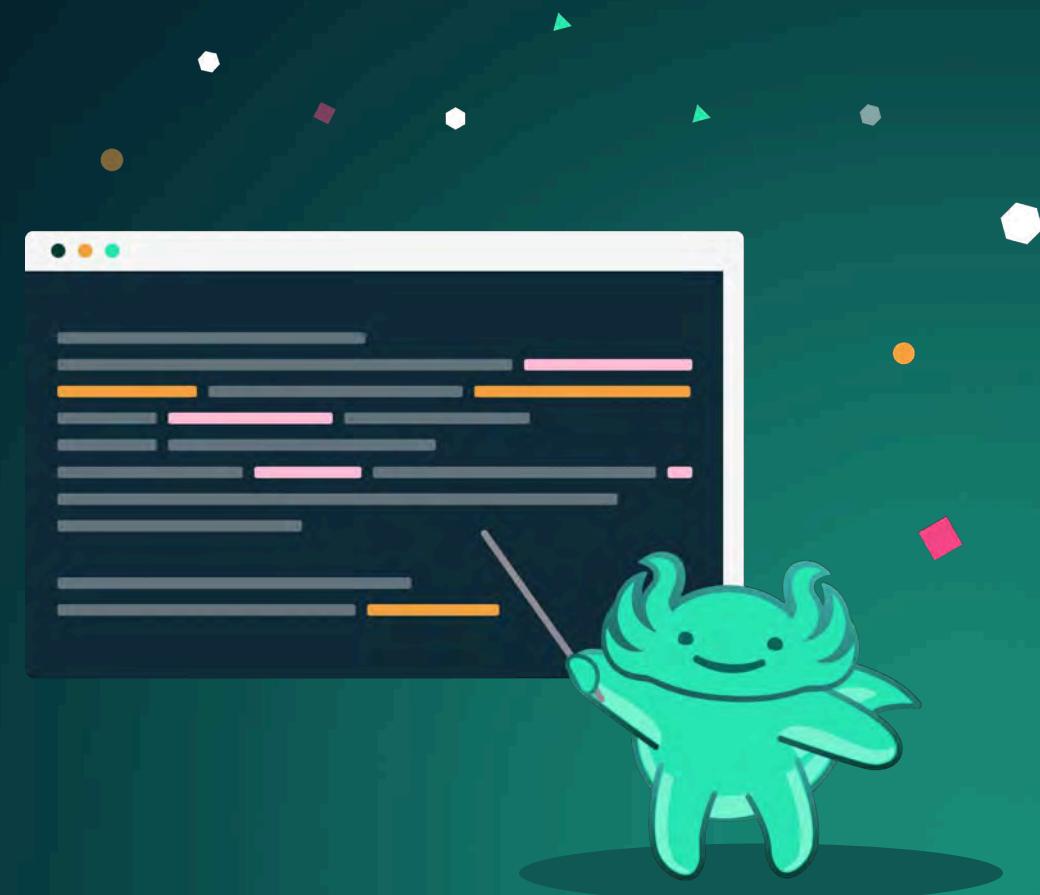
Backend implementation

lakeFS-fsspec



DEMO TIME

Using lakeFS-fsspec



Join the lakeFS Community



<https://lakefs.io>



<https://lakefs.io/slack>



Learn more about **fsspec**



<https://github.com/aai-institute/lakefs-spec>



<https://lakefs.io/blog/lakefs-spec/>



<https://lakefs-spec.org/latest/quickstart/>



Thank You!

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