

Thesis Advancement Report 2014-2015 (First Year)

Thesis title: Trusted-SLA Guided on Multi-cloud Environments

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Context

The data integration is a well-known and widely discussed problem in the database area. It consists in merging data from different data sources and granting a unified view of the data [8]. The cloud computing opens new challenges to data integration. The possibility of an unlimited access to resources that arises with the cloud model changes the way to process data. In this context, some data integration approaches have been proposed. [7] proposed a cloud-based data management and integration system. It enables data sharing, integration and collaboration between multiple users. According to some design foundations (such as integration with the web, easy of use, incentives for sharing and facilitate collaboration), the authors described the system and some examples of applications that can take advantages from it. [6] described in detail the system architecture, integration process, query processing proposed by [7]. [5] combined data integration, service oriented architecture and distributed processing. The Service Oriented Data Integration based on MapReduce System (SODIM) works on a pool of collaborative services and can process a large number of databases represented as web services.

In the cloud scenario, it is a hard task to one single cloud deliver the resources necessities to fit customer requirements. To avoid this, cloud providers began to share their computing resources. This new (multi)-cloud configuration add more challenges to data integration, considering the large amount and diversity of data, and quality and security aspects of the integration. The data privacy is the most tackled aspect in this context. [11] proposed a privacy-preserving repository in order to integrate data. Based on users' integration requirements, the repository supports the retrieval and integration of data across different services. [10] introduced an inter-cloud data integration system that considers a trade-off between users' privacy requirements and the cost for protecting and processing data. In general, other quality aspects of data integration services have been highlighted in [4].

In cloud computing, a common way of defining requirements and obligations between the *cloud provider* and *cloud customer* is through service level agreement (SLA) contracts. SLAs have been widely adopted in the cloud context. [3] presented a approach for security service level agreements on hybrid clouds. The author focus on the lifecycle of a security SLA, considering some security mechanisms (i.e. secure resource pooling, secure elasticity, access control, audit, verification and compliance, and incident management and response). [2] introduced a generic SLA model that includes management capabilities as a service which are agreed and negotiated in contracts. These management capabilities (elasticity, high availability, scalability and on demand provisioning) are performed by management services called Pcloud services that are defined in order to achieve application requirements. The idea is to help cloud customer to choose the appropriated providers that fits his requirements. [1] focused on the designing step of the SLA. Based on functional and non-functional requirements of the different cloud delivery models, a conceptual framework for cloud computing is proposed. The objective is to enhance trust and reliability between the parts in the negotiation phase.

Summarizing, the contributions are divided in two groups: (i) approaches focus on the SLA negotiation phase; and (ii) approaches for monitoring and allocation of resources in order to detect and avoid SLA violations. Among them, we identified one single approach regarding data integration in a grid environment guided by SLA [9].

We believe that data integration can take advantages by integrating SLA on its solutions. To the best of our knowledge, we have not identified any other proposal adopting the use of SLAs combined with a data integration approach on a (multi)-cloud context.

Problem Statement

We assume that data integration is done on a (multi)-cloud service oriented environment. We also consider that data integration is done under new conditions with respect to the type of data sources, the environment where it is performed and the preferences of data consumers and the SLA.

Let us show an example from the domain of energy management to illustrate our problem. For instance, we assume we are interested in queries expressed in an SQL-like language associated to a set of QoS preferences expressing the requirements of the user like: *Give a list of energy providers that can provision 1000 KW-h, in the next 10 seconds, that are close to my city, with a cost of 0,50 Euro/KW-h and that are labeled as green?* The question is how can the user efficiently obtain results for her queries, meeting her QoS requirements, respecting her subscribed contracts with the involved cloud provider(s), and without neglecting services contracts? Particularly, for queries that call several services deployed on different clouds.

Hypothesis

We adopted the following hypothesis for defining the methodology of work:

- Data integration can take advantages by integrating SLA on its solutions on a (multi)-cloud context;
- The key and original aspect of data integration and provision process considering SLA in a (multi)-cloud context can be defining a vertical mapping of user QoS preferences and agreed SLAs;
- One possible solution can be defining a *derived SLA* that guides the evaluation of queries to be executed on the multi-cloud environment;
- Have a framework for an integrated solution can possible add quality to our proposal.

Objectives

Based on the aforementioned works and our hypothesis, we are interested in proposing a data integration solution in a multi-cloud environment guided by user preferences and service level agreements (SLA) exported by different clouds. This new approach brings different challenges and open issues. So, the objective of my PhD thesis are:

- We believe that we can enhance data integration quality by integrating SLA on its solutions. So, To reach this, it is necessary to identify which quality measures associated to data (that the data consumers what to query) and to the multi-cloud context should be present in SLA;
- Considering the nature of the multi-cloud environment where we dealing with private and public clouds, it is necessary to proposed a mechanism to grant quality and security aspects of the integration to the data consumer;
- It is necessary design a new matching-retrieving algorithms in order to perform the integration process, selecting the best service composition according to the user requirements and the SLAs;
- We will develop an algorithm(s) and a framework to reach our target.

Synthesis and Perspectives of the Research Activities

During the first year of PhD, we have been working on the state of the art. The idea is to be aware of all types of publications close related to the thesis proposal. To reach this, we proceeded with a literature analysis using a systematic mapping methodology.

Briefly, the methodology consists in retrieving papers from scientific databases using the same search string. These papers are filtered according to an inclusion and exclusion criteria that should be defined based on the research interests. The papers will be classified in different categories (called facets) and for each facet in a specific dimension. The facets and dimensions are defined based on the authors knowledge and interests. Taking the final papers collection, the abstracts should be read in order to classify each paper into the dimensions for each facet. This methodology allowed us to identify trends and open issues regarding our research topic and proposing an approach that fills some gaps and proposes an original data integration solution according to current trends in the area.

This work performed, we thus have written an article that was **accepted** to the 26th International Conference on Database and Expert Systems applications (DEXA 2015). We selected 114 papers based on our inclusion and exclusion criteria. This final data collection builds the state of the art to the thesis and, in the next step, we will perform an in-depth analysis of theses papers in order to (i) analyze what have been made and (ii) propose my approach.

Based on the publications extracted from the mapping process methodology, we will proceed the analysis of the current state of the art in order to formalize our proposal. The analysis will be the basis to our model proposal. As a natural result, we will write a paper describing our approach and a survey. In parallel, we will carry on the first steps of implementation of the proposed approach. The figure presents the intended calendar.

	First year							8	6 months 2 nd year					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12	1	2
1. Building a corpus using the systematic analysis method														
1.1. List of papers to read and acquire a background knowledge														
1.2 Systematic mapping														
1.3. State of the art and open issues														
2. SLA based data integration														
2.1 Analysis of existing SLA contracts and guidelines														
2.2 SLA model for data integration														
2.3 Match retrieving algorithm based on SLA														
3. Experiments and tests														
3.2 Cloud platform configuration														
3.2. Generation of synthetic services														
3.3 Implementation of the match retrieving algorithm														
3.4 Experimental tests according to a queries taxonomy														
4. PhD. Proposal														
4.1 SLA oriented rewriting algorithm for integrating data services in a multi-cloud setting														
4.2 Validation scenario														

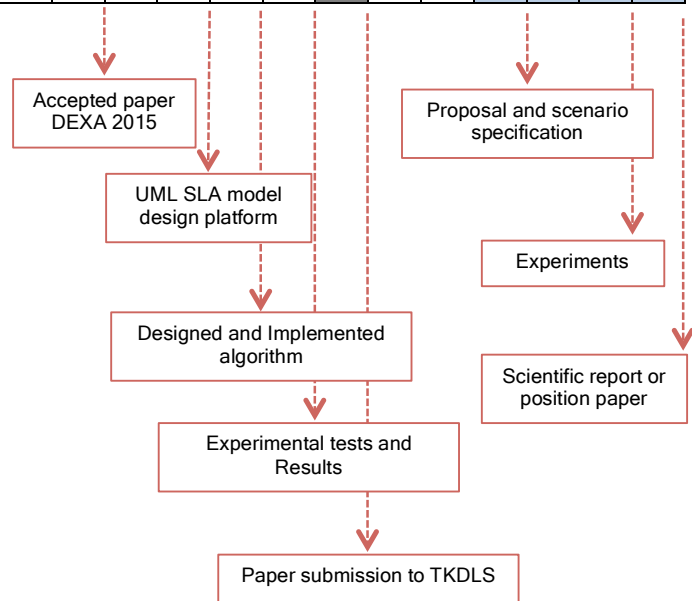


Figure 1: Calendar

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