

DISSERTATION PAPER

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Brașov July 2019



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Cloud framework for data streaming

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Introduction

1.1 Problem statement and motivation

In the world of Big Data, data visualization tools and technologies are essential to analyze massive amounts of information and make data-driven decisions. Hence it is not a surprise that applications that tackle this need are in great demand. These applications use graphical representation of information and data by using visual elements like charts and graphs.

The idea started when I first came into contact with a major cloud service provider: Amazon Web Services also known as AWS.

AWS is a subsidiary of Amazon that offers reliable, scalable, and inexpensive cloud computing services. It provides on-demand cloud computing platforms to individuals, companies and governments, on a metered pay-as-you-go basis. In fact, these cloud computing web services provide a set of primitive, abstract technical infrastructure and distributed computing building blocks and tools. One of these services is Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud, which allows users to have at their disposal a virtual cluster of computers, available all the time, through the Internet. AWS's virtual machines emulate most of the attributes of a real computer including hardware (CPU(s) and GPU(s) for processing, local/RAM memory, hard-disk/SSD storage); a choice of operating systems; networking; and pre-loaded application software such as web servers, databases, etc. [1]

At the beginning its API seemed hard to comprehend, but with time I came to realize how easy it was in fact. Hence my determination to work with as many of its services as possible. At first I started with simple services like S3[TODO legend for S3], but then I got to understand and use services like ECS[TODO legend for ECS]. The more services I used the more Stream Anlaysis began to expand.

Requirements

In this chapter the basic user requirements are presented.

2.1 Functional requirements

2.1.1 Application overview

Stream Analysis is a web application that provides a hosting environment and defines a workflow for streaming applications, leveraged by cloud.

The hosting environment is responsible for user related sensitive information storage, while it paves the ground for an infrastructure that can handle incoming data. Once information pours in, a dashboard is shown at the user's disposal. This dashboard is updated each time new data arrives, which basically makes it a tool for analytical purposes. The user can identify if a certain threshold was reached, exceeded, etc.

The workflow is predefined which makes it organized and coherent. Data is created and packed by the user of the application and funneled in through well defined channels. The stream of data arrives in a secure place where it waits to be queried. This place is located in the cloud so even he can create the data on-premise, he still needs constant access to the internet. Based on the user's choice the packed information is then retrieved in a real-time fashion or stored. Both ways the data is then accessed and charted. 2D plots are shown with the values at the Y axis, where the X axis holds the timestamps.

It offers two services:

Push data into cloud - users have to create their own packed software application that streams any type of data into a broker. The broker supports 5 types of protocols ([TODO]more information in chapter ...). Data is organized into topics and queues:

- Topics are used to handle real time messages
- Queues are used for historical data. Messages are stored and later retrieved

Once the image is ready, the user can proceed with the step by step image upload.

- 1. Define topics and queues used in the container
- 2. Create a repository for the image
- 3. Push image to repository
- 4. Add configuration for the container
- 5. Run image immediately or create a scheduling rule to run the image multiple times over time

Once containers are being created the web application subscribes to the topics defined by the user at step 1. The same happens with queues but in this case the stream of data is dequeued into files so that they can later be retrieved. Stream Analysis also offers the user a dashboard to keep track of his created containers and scheduling rules.

Visualize data from the cloud - since data is split into topics and queues, the
web application takes advantage of this and shows real time plots for topic
streams and large scale based plots for queue data.

2.2 Nonfunctional requirements

2.2.1 Access

The Stream Analysis web application is accessible from all around the world as long as the user has internet connection, however it is not open-source and its usage is not free.

The application is targeting two types of users:

- Advanced software engineers that push data into the application. They
 need to register with an account and they are charged based on time.
- Normal users that can read and interpret that data from charts in a dashboard. They also need to register with an account and they are charged based on the network traffic they generate during data visualization.

2.2.2 Diversity

One of its main advantages consists in the ability to feed on any type of data. This asset makes it valuable in any kind of business or domain. For example in the field of meteorology users can plot the constantly changing weather. Having Stream Analysis at their disposal they can track real-time the wind changes. In the field of economics, users can map economical growth of a country next to another one and be able compare, draw conclusions, moreover maybe even forecast.

2.2.3 Performance

The application itself was intended to be very fast and responsive to user interactions. However it has no scaling policies set up so there is a limit of users that can use the web application simultaneously. The limit is around 500 reqs/second.

2.2.4 Security

In my views security is pivotal for any well designed and successful application. Users are guaranteed to not have exposed credentials or any kind of sensitive data. If there is a concern of information leakage, this matter is more deeply discussed in [TO DO Chapter ...].

2.2.5 **Guide**

This paper will softly guide users through its features in further chapters. At this moment it has no stand alone public documentation that users can access.

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Bibliography

[1] "Amazon Web Services". URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Web_Services.