Delta: An Open Source Data Service for Research

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Abstract—Every research project necessitates data, often requiring sharing and collaborative review within a team. Traditionally, services like Dropbox [2], Google Drive [1], or OneDrive [3] have been employed for storing research data. However, the limitations of these platforms become evident with the growing scale of collected data. Existing file-sharing services generally mandate paid subscriptions for increased storage or additional members, diverting research funds from addressing the core research problem that a lab is attempting to work on. Moreover, these services often lack direct features for reviewing or commenting on data quality, a vital part of ensuring high quality data generation. In response to these challenges, we present Delta, a specialized file transfer service crafted for specifically for researchers. Delta operates as an application hosted on a research lab server. This design ensures that, with access to a machine and an internet connection, teams can facilitate file storage, transfer, and review without incurring extra costs. Being an open-source project, Delta can be customized to suit the unique requirements of any research team, and is able to evolve to meet the needs of the research community. We open source the code here: https://github.com/lxaw/Delta.

Index Terms—data transfer, data storage, data reviewing, data sharing

I. INTRODUCTION

There is a noticeable dearth of quality open source research services with regards to data. Most data services are merely file sharing ones, that only allow file upload, download, and organization. While this does allow researchers to transmit their collected data among another, it lacks many critical features that most researchers would like to have, such as quality control, commenting, tagging, organization under groups, annotation, and more. Furthermore, these services are oftentimes prohibitively expensive to smaller research labs, and their free versions have limitations on both number of users and amount of storage. The current state of research is to use services such as Microsoft's OneDrive [3], Dropbox [2], or Google Drive [1]. Each of these services [something about service limitations]

Furthermore, the modern times have seen unprecedented growth in the amount of data collected. [something about deep learning data, internet of things, personal data growth]

II. THE PROBLEM

[write about the architecture]

A. Current Alternatives

[write about the rest apis]

III. ISSUES WITH CURRENT APPROACHES

[write about the issues with the current approaches]

IV. DELTA ARCHITECTURE

[write about delta architecture]

A. Backend

B. Frontend

V. CURRENT PRODUCT

VI. FUTURE GOALS

REFERENCES

Please number citations consecutively within brackets [?]. The sentence punctuation follows the bracket [?]. Refer simply to the reference number, as in [?]—do not use "Ref. [?]" or "reference [?]" except at the beginning of a sentence: "Reference [?] was the first ..."

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