

# Use XKCD API To Build A Searchable Database of XKCD Comics

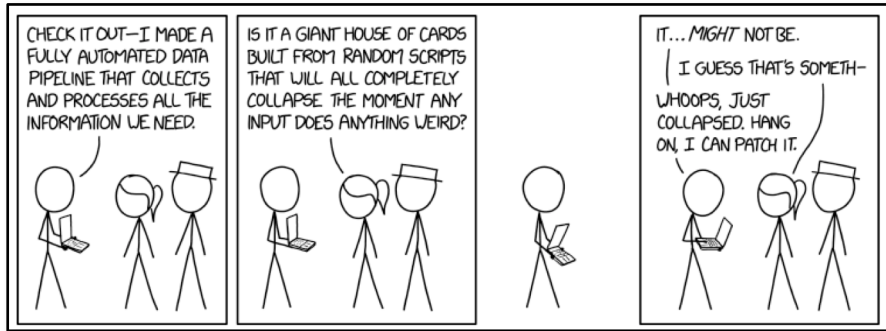
Practical Exam



# Goal

OpenCellID.com provides regulary exports of worldwide cell data:

- <https://xkcd.com/>
- JSON API: <https://xkcd.com/2054/info.0.json>



<https://xkcd.com/2054/>

```
{
  "month": "10",
  "num": 2054,
  "link": "",
  "year": "2018",
  "news": "",
  "safe_title": "Data Pipeline",
  "transcript": "",
  "alt": "\"Is the pipeline literally running from your laptop?\" \"Don't be silly, my laptop disconnects far too often to host a service we rely on. It's running on my phone.\"\"",
  "img": "https://imgs.xkcd.com/comics/data_pipeline.png",
  "title": "Data Pipeline",
  "day": "3"
}
```

2054.json

# Goal

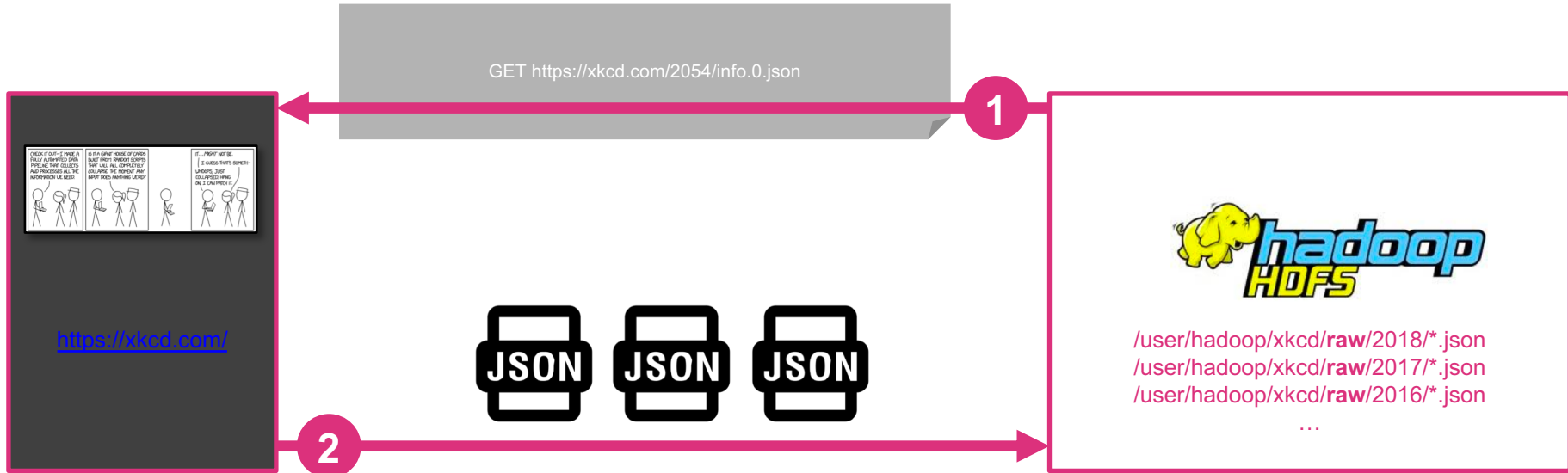
We want to make use of this data to build a searchable database for XKCD comics.

## Workflow:

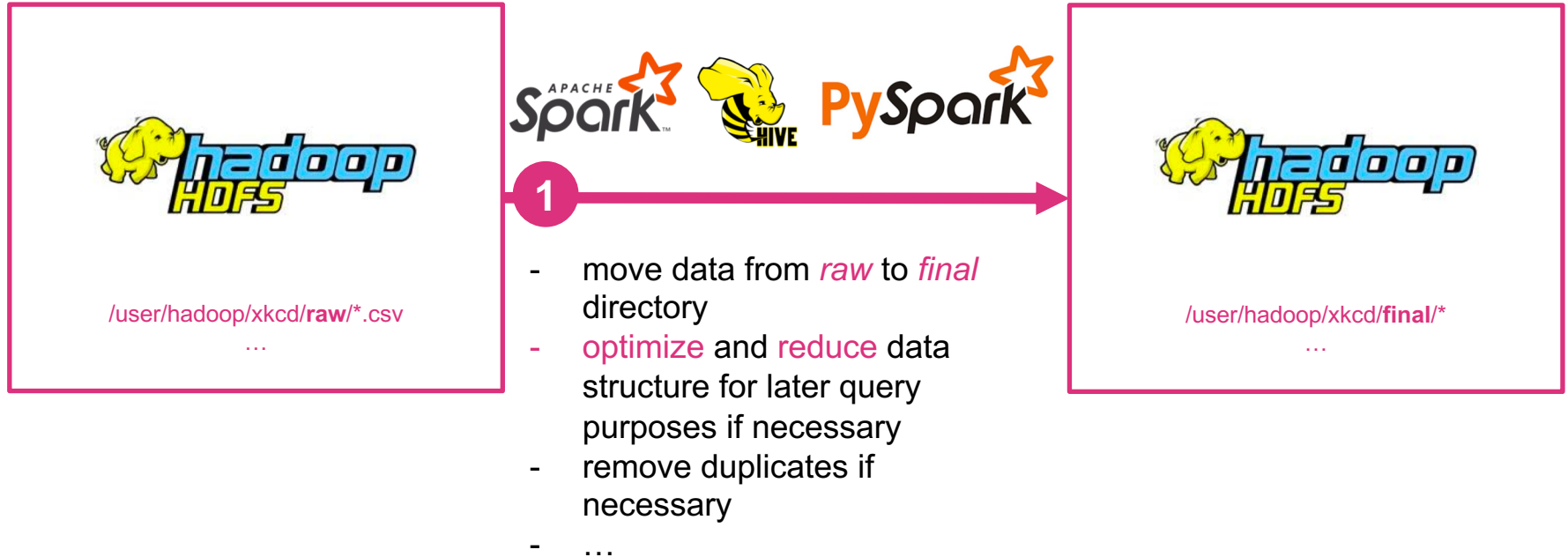
- **Gather data** from xkcd.com
- **Save raw data** (JSON files) to HDFS (partitioned by year, e.g. 2018, 2017, 2016...)
- **Optimize, reduce** and **clean raw data** and save it to **final** directory on HDFS
- **Export** xkcd data to **end-user database** (e.g. MySQL, MongoDB...)
- Provide a simple **HTML Frontend** which is able to:
  - read from end-user database
  - process user input (search phrase...)
  - checks against xkcd data in end-user database
  - Display result (comics containing search phrase)
- The whole data workflow **must be implemented** within an ETL **workflow tool** (e.g. Pentaho Data Integration or Airflow) and **run automatically**



# Dataflow: 1. Get XKCD Data



# Dataflow: 2. Raw To Final Transfer



# Dataflow: 3. Enhance Data And Save Results



/user/hadoop/xkcd/final/\*  
...



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- enhance data (e.g. for later querying)
- use Hive, Spark or PySpark
- save everything to a end-user database (e.g. MySQL, MongoDB)

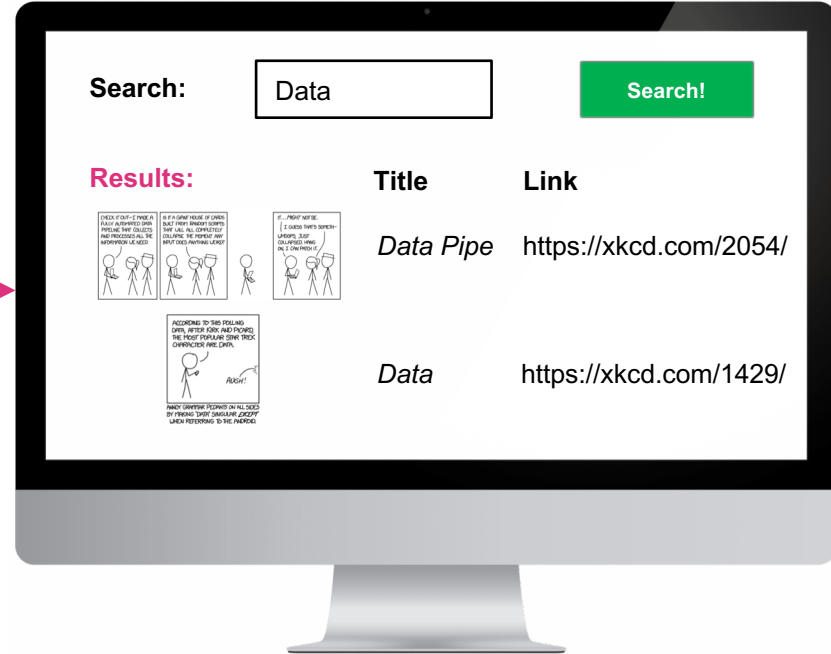




# Dataflow: 4. Provide Simple Web Interface



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- Provide a simple **HTML Frontend** which is able to:
  - read from end-user database
  - process user input (search phrase...)
  - checks against xkcd data in end-user database
  - Display result (comics containing search phrase)