An Overview of Apache





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Cassandra Overview

1. What is Cassandra

Cassandra is a distributed column oriented database and is highly performant.

It is highly scalable also.

When we require transactional activities or quick retrieval. Low latency retrieval.

2. Cap Theorum

- C Consistency
- A Availability
- P Partition tolerance

Hbase - CP (Consistency & Partition tolerance)

Cassandra - AP (Availability & Partition tolerance)

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3. How Does a Cassandra Cluster Look Like

In case of your Hbase we run on hadoop cluster.

Also Hbase provides a master-slave architecture where master is the hmaster and slave is the region server however in case of Cassandra there is no master.

All the nodes are peers.

Cassandra has a decentralized architecture.

For communication among themself they use gossip protocol.

In master slave architectures there can be down times if master fails.

Because of a decentralized (no master architecture) Cassandra is highly available

4. Tunable Read/Write Consistency

Cassandra is a AP system.

It by default compromises on the consistency to be highly available.

Step 1: Client will send the request to get value of A

Step 2: The request will go to one of the machine. for instance node 5.

Step 3: Node 5 will go and talk to node 1 to get the results.

Step 4: Node 5 will return the result to client.

Cassandra provides you a tunable consistency.

I want the result only when 2 nodes agrees on the same result.

I want the result only when all nodes agree on the same result.

One node (default)

Availability is high and consistency is low.

All nodes (All the machines should agree on the same result)

Availablity is low and consistency is high

Quorum (2 nodes)

5. Differences Between Hbase and Cassandra

Similarities:

- Both of these are nosql distibuted databases and hold the data in a columnar fashion.
- Both of these are highly scalable.
- When you want to perform transaction (updates,inserts) and quick reads.
- Low latency operations.

Differences:

- Hbase has a master-slave architecture. However Cassandra has a decentralized architecture. (highly available as it has no dependency on single master)
- Hbase provides (CP) consistency and partition tolerance and Cassandra (AP) availability and partition tolerance. However cassandra also offers tunable consistency.

Where we can set the consistency level:

- One node
- All nodes
- Quorum
- Hbase runs on top of hadoop cluster. that means data is kept in hdfs.
- However cassandra has a separate cluster than your hadoop cluster.
- if you are working on hadoop then hbase is a perfect choice mostly.

4. Hbase Shell Commands.

Cassandra has its own query language called as **CQL** (Cassandra Query Language).

This CQL is very similar to normal SQL.

Hbase syntax looks quite hard.

Apache Phoenix:

Gives you a sql interface on top of nosql

Apache Phoenix works on top of Hbase where you can query your Hbase using SQL like syntax.



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