Creating a Stand-Alone Spark Environment in Windows Subsystem for Linux

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Abstract

Running a local Spark cluster has multiple advantages. First, it facilitates unit testing. This can decrease development time tenfold or more for larger applications. By running a local Spark cluster on a laptop or PC, smaller testing datasets can be created and multiple Spark configuration options can be experimented with without having to run tests on huge datasets through industrial clusters. Second, having a local setup allows for learning Spark, its interfaces and syntax, and optimizations. One can learn Spark without having to purchase or sign up for online services (e.g., Amazon AWS, Microsoft Azure, Databricks). Other advantages of running a local Spark cluster include tweaking options for optimization of production clusters and learning related technologies (e.g., Hadoop, Hive). Setting up a local Spark environment is best performed in Linux-based systems, as most Big Data technologies are developed for use in such systems. Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) provides a way to run a Linux system concurrently with Microsoft Windows. This avoids having to install a full Linux distribution, learning the new system, and setting up a multi-boot PC. This guide will utilize the Ubuntu 20.04 Linux distribution within WSL to teach the process of setting up a local Spark cluster.

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1 Prerequisites

Before installing *Spark* and its related components *Hadoop* and *Hive*, several software, configuration, and other requirements must be met.

1.1 WSL 2

WSL allows a Linux distribution (distro) to run concurrently with Windows 10. WSL 2 now includes a Linux kernel and is several times faster than the original WSL. This guide assumes that WSL 2 is installed and is running the Ubuntu 20.04 distro. To install WSL 2, follow the Windows Subsystem for Linux Installation Guide for Windows 10. Make sure to use Ubuntu 20.04 as the distro.

1.2 Java

Spark, Hadoop, and Hive all require a Java Runtime Environment (JRE). Open-JDK is the standard Java platform for most Linux distributions. Though Open-JDK 11 is the latest version, Spark and its related components require Open-JDK 8.

1.2.1 Install JRE

To install *OpenJDK 8*, run the following command in a terminal:

sudo apt install openjdk-8-jre-headless openjdk-8-jdk-headless

1.2.2 Set JAVA_HOME

Spark and other components will need to know the path of the JRE. This is accomplished by setting the $JAVA_HOME$ system variable.

1. Open the .bashrc file with any editor (e.g., vim, nano). For example:

```
vim ~/.bashrc
```

2. Add the following line to the .bashrc file:

```
export JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-amd64
```

3. Reload shell environment configuration:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

4. Verify that path was correctly set:

```
echo $JAVA_HOME
```

The output should match that in step 2.

1.3 PostgreSQL

Hive requires a database for its metastore. In terms of open-source options, Hive can use MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Derby. This guide will use PostgreSQL.

1.3.1 Install PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL 12 is the default version packaged for Ubuntu 20.04. Install PostgreSQL 12 with the command:

```
sudo apt install postgresql-12
```

1.3.2 Start database server

The PostgreSQL will need to be started every time Hive is started. Initialize the server using the command:

sudo service postgresql start

1.3.3 Configure *Hive metastore*

The psql application is used to interact with PostgreSQL in a terminal.

1. Log into PostgreSQL via psql with default user postgres:

```
sudo -u postgres psql
```

2. Add new user *hive* (for simplicity, the new user will also be given *hive* as the password):

```
CREATE USER hive WITH PASSWORD 'hive';
```

3. Create new database for *Hive metastore*:

```
CREATE DATABASE hive_metastore;
```

4. Give ownership of *hive_metastore* database to user *hive*:

```
ALTER DATABASE hive_metastore OWNER TO hive;
```

5. Exit psql with the command: \q

1.3.4 Install Java Database Connectivity Drivers

The Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) drivers allow Java to interact with databases. As Hive runs in Java, it requires the PostgreSQL JDBC drivers. Install the drivers in Ubuntu via the following command:

```
sudo apt install libpostgresql-jdbc-java
```

1.4 SSH

Secure Shell (SSH) encrypts communications over insecure networks. To accomplish encryption, SSH utilizes public and private keys.

1.4.1 Generate key

Generate an *ssh key* with the following command:

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa
```

Leave the password blank when prompted, as Hadoop will utilize a password-less SSH login.

1.4.2 Allow localhost login

Hadoop requires the ability to log into the *localhost* (i.e., your local PC) via password-less *SSH*. To accomplish this, run the following command:

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

1.4.3 Restart SSH service

Restart SSH and apply new settings:

```
sudo service ssh restart
```

Note: This command must be re-executed any time the following error message is encountered:

ssh: connect to host localhost port 22: Connection refused

1.4.4 Could not load host key error

If attempting to restart SSH service returns Could not load host key errors, run the following command:

```
ssh-keygen -A
```

Rerunning the command in 1.4.3 should now complete without errors.

1.4.5 Verify password-less SSH login

Ensure that *localhost* can be accessed via SSH without a password:

ssh localhost

2 Hadoop

Apache Hadoop is a framework that is used to store and process big data in distributed systems. In this setup guide, Hadoop will be used as a data storage system on a single PC.

2.1 Download and extract *Hadoop 3.3.0*

This guide will use the latest stable version, Hadoop 3.3.0.

2.1.1 Download Hadoop

Run the *wget* command in a terminal to download:

wget https://apache.osuosl.org/hadoop/common/hadoop-3.3.0/hadoop-3.3.0.tar.gz

2.1.2 Extract files

Run the following command to extract the tar.gz file:

```
tar -xvzf hadoop-3.3.0.tar.gz
```

A new directory, hadoop-3.3.0, should now appear.

2.1.3 Copy folder to /opt

In *Ubuntu*, /opt is the directory used to store add-on applications. *Hadoop*, *Hive*, and *Spark* will all be stored in this directory. Run the following command to move the extracted *Hive* folder:

sudo mv hadoop-3.3.0 /opt

2.2 Set HADOOP_HOME

Setting the $HADOOP_HOME$ variable tells the system where HADOOP is located.

2.2.1 Edit .bashrc

Open the \sim /.bashrc file and add the following line:

```
export HADOOP_HOME=/opt/hadoop-3.3.0
```

2.2.2 Reload configuration

Load the new bash configuration with the command:

source ~/.bashrc

2.2.3 Verify path

Verify that HADOOP_HOME was correctly set:

```
echo $HADOOP_HOME
```

The output should match the path in 2.2.1.

2.3 Add *Hadoop* to system path

In order to run *Hadoop* commands without having to specify a full path, e.g.,

```
/opt/hadoop-3.3.0/bin/hadoop fs -mkdir /tmp
```

vs.

```
hadoop fs -mkdir /tmp
```

add the following line to \sim /.bashrc:

```
PATH=$PATH:$HADOOP_HOME/bin
```

Make sure to reload the Bash configuration as in section 2.2.2.

2.4 Edit configuration files

In this section, *Hadoop* will be configured to run in single-node mode (i.e., on a single PC).

2.4.1 Edit hadoop-env.sh

Add the JAVA_HOME variable to the Hadoop environment, as in section 1.2.2.

- Open the file /opt/hadoop-3.3.0/etc/hadoop/hadoop-env.sh with any editor
- 2. Un-comment line 54 and add the correct path:

```
# The java implementation to use. By default, this environment
# variable is REQUIRED on ALL platforms except OS X!
export JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-amd64
```

2.4.2 Edit core-site.xml

Edit the file /opt/hadoop-3.3.0/etc/hadoop/core-site.xml to look like the example below:

```
<configuration>
  <fi.defaultFS</name>
  <value>hdfs://localhost:9000</value>
```

Replace abe above with your own WSL Linux username.

2.4.3 Edit hdfs-site.xml

Edit the file $\protect{\protect}$ doop/hdfs-site.xml to look like the example below:

2.4.4 Edit mapred-site.xml

Edit the file /opt/hadoop-3.3.0/etc/hadoop/mapred-site.xml to look like the example below:

${\bf 2.4.5}\quad {\bf Edit}\ yarn\text{-}site.xml$

Edit the file /opt/hadoop-3.3.0/etc/hadoop/yarn-site.xml to look like the example below:

2.5 Format *HDFS*

Format the Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS) with the command:

```
hdfs namenode -format
```

The hdfs command should warn that the log file does not exist. This will be followed by several lines of INFO messages.

2.6 Start NameNode and DataNode daemons

The *NameNode* and *DataNode* daemons generate system stats that can be viewed through a web interface. To start both daemons, run the command:

```
$HADOOP_HOME/sbin/start-dfs.sh
```

The above command might return a *connection refused* error. If this occurs, restart the *SSH* service (see section 1.4.3). The web interface should now be accessible via http://localhost:9870/.

2.7 Start YARN daemon

YARN acts as a resource manager in a Hadoop system. To start the YARN daemon, run the command:

```
$HADOOP_HOME/sbin/start-yarn.sh
```

The resource manager web interface should now be accessible via http://localhost:8088/.

3 Hive

Apache Hive is a data warehousing platform that utilizes SQL to interact with data residing in distributed systems. Hive requires a metastore service, which in this case is provided by PostgreSQL (section 1.3).

3.1 Download and extract *Hive*

This guide will use the current latest stable version, Apache Hive 3.1.2.

1. Download *Hive* via the *wget* terminal command:

```
wget http://apache.mirrors.pair.com/hive/hive-3.1.2/apache-hive-3.1.2-bin.tar.gz
```

2. Unpack *Hive* file using the *tar* command:

```
tar -xvzf apache-hive-3.1.2-bin.tar.gz
```

3. Move new folder to /opt directory:

```
sudo mv apache-hive-3.1.2-bin /opt
```

3.2 Set HIVE_HOME

The HIVE_HOME variable must be set in order to let the system know Hive's location.

1. Open \sim /.bashrc and add the following line:

```
export HIVE_HOME=/opt/apache-hive-3.1.2-bin
```

2. Also add the following line to include *Hive* in the system path:

```
PATH=$PATH:$HIVE_HOME/bin
```

3. Reload Bash terminal configuration:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

4. Ensure HIVE_HOME path has been correctly set:

```
echo $HIVE_HOME
```

Output should display the path configured in step 1 above.

3.3 Initialize all *Hadoop* services

As *Hive* manages data in a *Hadoop* system, the latter must be running. Run the following command in a terminal to start all *Hadoop* services:

```
$HADOOP_HOME/sbin/start-all.sh
```

The above command should warn that the configuration is not recommended for production. If *connection refused* errors are returned, restart *SSH* service as in section 1.4.3.

3.4 Configure *HDFS*

The *HDFS* directories that *Hive* will use must first be created and configured. Run the following commands to create the required *Hive* folders and assign appropriate permissions:

```
hadoop fs -mkdir /tmp
hadoop fs -mkdir -p /user/hive/warehouse
hadoop fs -chmod g+w /tmp
hadoop fs -chmod g+w /user/hive/warehouse
```

3.5 Edit hive-site.xml

The *hive-site.xml* file contains required configuration settings for the *Hive meta-store*. In this setup, the *metastore* resides within a *PostgreSQL* database (see section 1.3).

3.5.1 Create hive-site.xml

Copy the file *hive-default.xml.template* and rename it as *hive-site.xml*:

```
cd /opt/apache-hive-3.1.2-bin/conf
cp hive-default.xml.template hive-site.xml
```

3.5.2 Edit configuration settings

Edit the following values in the *hive-site.xml* file at the lines shown below. Note that $\langle value \rangle \rangle$ must be replace with $\langle value \rangle$ in line 462.

```
<name>hive.metastore.uris</name>
461
         <value>thrift://127.0.0.1:9083</value>
462
         <name>javax.jdo.option.ConnectionPassword</name>
568
         <value>hive</value>
569
         <name>javax.jdo.option.ConnectionURL</name>
         <value>jdbc:postgresql://127.0.0.1/hive_metastore</value>
584
         <name>javax.jdo.option.ConnectionDriverName</name>
1101
         <value>org.postgresql.Driver</value>
1102
         <name>javax.jdo.option.ConnectionUserName
1126
         <value>hive</value>
```

3.5.3 Remove illegal characters

Line 3215 in *hive-site.xml* contains illegal characters that will cause a *Java RuntimeException*. Remove the characters highlighted below from line 3215:

3.6 Create *PostgreSQL* database structure

The *Hive Schema Tool* will create a database structure for the *Hive metastore*. Before this can happen, a few configurations must be adjusted.

3.6.1 Update guava version

The versions of guava between Hadoop 3.3.0 and Hive 3.1.2 are not compatible. Having different versions will result in a Java NoSuchMethodError in step 3.6.2.

1. Delete guava 19.0 from Hive:

```
cd /opt/apache-hive-3.1.2-bin
rm lib/guava-19.0.jar
```

2. Replace with guava 27.0 included with Hadoop:

```
cp /opt/hadoop-3.3.0/share/hadoop/hdfs/lib/guava-27.0-jre.jar lib/
```

3.6.2 Run Schema Tool

The command below will create the database structure for the *Hive metastore*. Once successfully completed, the output should conclude with the message $schemaTool\ completed$.

```
schematool -dbType postgres -initSchema
```

3.7 Start *Hive* services

In order to use *Hive*, its *metastore* and server must be started.

3.7.1 Prevent URISyntaxException

To prevent a Java URISyntaxException from being returned when attempting to run Hive services, add the following lines directly after line 21 in hive-site.xml:

3.7.2 Start *Hive metastore* service

Run the following command in a terminal to start *Hive metastore* services:

```
hive --service metastore
```

3.7.3 Start *Hive* server

Open another terminal and run the following command to Initialize the ${\it Hive}$ server:

hive --service hiveserver2

3.7.4 Access web interface

Hive also provides a web interface with information on running sessions, queries, etc. After about one minute of running both metastore and Hive server, access the web interface via http://localhost:10002/

4 Spark

With *Hadoop* and *Hive* configured, we can finally set up and use *Spark*.

4.1 Download and extract *Spark*

This guide will use *Spark 3.0.1*. As *Hadoop 3.3.0* is already installed, we'll download *Spark Pre-built for Apache Hadoop 3.2 and later*.

1. Use the wget command to download Spark 3.0.1:

```
wget https://archive.apache.org/dist/spark/spark-3.0.1/spark-3.0.1-bin-hadoop3.2.tgz
```

2. Extract the downloaded file:

```
tar -xvzf spark-3.0.1-bin-hadoop3.2.tgz
```

3. Move Spark folder into /opt directory:

```
sudo mv spark-3.0.1-bin-hadoop3.2 /opt
```

4.2 Set SPARK_HOME variable

Edit \sim /.bashrc and add the following line:

```
export SPARK_HOME=/opt/spark-3.0.1-bin-hadoop3.2
```

4.3 Add *Spark* to system path

Adding Spark to the system path will allow you to run Spark commands without using full paths. Add the following line to \sim /.bashrc:

```
PATH=$PATH:$SPARK_HOME/bin
```

4.4 Set local IP

Ubuntu adds a hostname entry to the /etc/hosts file, which can cause conflicts with localhost when Spark attempts to resolve IP addresses. To avoid IP-related warnings and errors, add the following line to \sim /.bashrc:

```
export SPARK_LOCAL_IP=localhost
```

4.5 Reload configuration

Reload the new Bash shell configuration:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

4.6 Enable *Hive* support

In order to use *Hive* with *Spark*, we need to copy configuration files from both *Hive* and *Hadoop*. Run the following commands to copy the necessary files to *Spark*:

```
cp $HADOOP_HOME/etc/hadoop/core-site.xml $SPARK_HOME/conf/
cp $HADOOP_HOME/etc/hadoop/hdfs-site.xml $SPARK_HOME/conf/
cp $HIVE_HOME/conf/hive-site.xml $SPARK_HOME/conf/
```

4.7 Enable *Spark* logs web interface

Spark provides a web interface from which event logs can be viewed.

4.7.1 Edit configuration file

In order to activate the logging capability of *Spark*, the *spark-defaults.conf* file must be created and edited.

1. Copy default *Spark* configuration file:

```
cd $SPARK_HOME/conf
cp spark-defaults.conf.template spark-defaults.conf
```

2. Add the following lines to spark-defaults.conf:

```
spark.eventLog.enabled true
spark.eventLog.dir hdfs://localhost:9000/spark-logs
spark.history.fs.logDirectory hdfs://localhost:9000/spark-logs
```

4.7.2 Create log directory in *HDFS*

The logs generated by *Spark* will be saved to a *HDFS* folder. Create the folder and assign appropriate permissions using the commands below:

```
hadoop fs -mkdir /spark-logs
hadoop fs -chmod g+w /spark-logs
```

4.7.3 Start Spark history server

Run the following command to start *Spark* history log server:

```
$SPARK_HOME/sbin/start-history-server.sh
```

4.7.4 Access web interface

The web interface can now be accessed via http://localhost:18080/. The page will display the message *No completed applications found!* the first time it's accessed. This message can be safely ignored and will not appear after Spark jobs are run.

4.8 Spark Shells

Spark provides multiple shells that utilize different programming and scripting languages.

4.8.1 Scala

The default shell uses Scala as a Spark interface. Scala is included with Spark and only requires a JRE. Entering the command below will start the default Scala shell:

spark-shell

4.8.2 Spark SQL

Spark includes Spark SQL, which utilizes HiveSQL syntax. To start a Spark SQL shell, run the command:

spark-sql

4.8.3 Python

PySpark is Spark's interface for the Python scripting language. Before using PySpark, Python must first be installed and configured. These tasks are beyond the scope of this documentation. The command below will initialize a Python shell:

pyspark

4.8.4 R

Spark also has an R interface, SparkR. Before utilizing the SparkR shell, R must first be installed and configured, which is beyond the scope of this documentation. Run the following command to start a SparkR shell:

sparkR

5 Putting It All Together

Now that *Spark* and all other necessary components are installed and configured, they must be activated every time when starting a new *Windows* session. Activating all components can be accomplished manually each time, or by the use of a script for automation.

5.1 Option 1: Manual activation

To manually start all components required for using a *Spark* shell, the following steps must be performed in order:

```
    Start PostgreSQL server (section 1.3.2)
        sudo service postgresql start
    Restart SSH service (section 1.4.3)
        sudo service ssh restart
    Start all Hadoop services (section 3.3)
        $\text{HADOOP_HOME/sbin/start-all.sh}$
    Start Hive metastore and server (section 3.7). The commands below must be run in new and separate terminals:
        hive --service metastore
```

```
hive --service hiveserver2
```

5. Start *Spark* history server (section 4.7.3):

```
$SPARK_HOME/sbin/start-history-server.sh
```

5.2 Option 2: Script automation

#! /bin/bash

As an alternative to performing the steps above every time before being able to use *Spark*, you can create a simple *Bash* shell script.

1. Open an editor and enter the following lines:

```
sudo service postgresql start
sudo service ssh restart
$HADOOP_HOME/sbin/start-all.sh
nohup hive --service metastore > .hivemetastore &
nohup hive --service hiveserver2 > .hiveserver &
$SPARK_HOME/sbin/start-history-server.sh
```

Notice that the script above uses nohup. This is to avoid having to open multiple terminals for the Hive services to run in.

- 2. Save the script as start-all-spark (or any other name you'd like to give it)
- 3. Make the file executable with the command:

4. Run the script to start all services required for using Spark:

./start-all-spark

6 Optional Configuration

The previous sections contain all necessary steps in setting up a local *Spark* environment. This section details additional configuration options that, though not required, facilitate developing applications in a local *Spark* environment.

6.1 PySpark

When starting a PySpark session, a large number of warning messages are printed, similar to the example below:

WARN HiveConf: HiveConf of name hive.metastore.client.capability.check does not exist

These warnings result from *PySpark* initializing *Hive* with unsupported features. Each feature can be individually disabled by removing it from the file /opt/apache-hive-3.1.2-bin/conf/hive-site.xml. As a simpler alternative, the original hive-site.xml file can be replaced with a pre-configured version from this repository.

6.2 Spark SQL

By default, starting a $Spark\ SQL$ session will trigger dozens of INFO messages. This results in crowded and difficult to read SQL output. Use the following steps to configure the logging level so that only warning messages or higher are displayed.

1. Copy the default log4j template

```
cd $SPARK_HOME/conf
cp log4j.properties.template log4j.properties
```

2. Edit line 19 of the new log4j.properties file, as shown below

log4j.rootCategory=WARN, console

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