

Healthcare data is often large and complex enough to be complete, or simple enough to be usable: choose one. In this session, you will learn how **Cerner** tackled this problem for healthcare and other complex data sets on **AWS**. Cerner started with patterns to quickly evolve an infrastructure based on AWS to meet new demands, move into data engineering techniques on **Apache Spark** to make otherwise unmanageable data sets simple and usable, and connect that through to popular front-end tools for analysts and data scientists like **Jupyter**. You will also learn how Cerner is helping healthcare informaticians focus more on their analysis and less on undifferentiated heavy data lifting.

### **Power of Healthcare BI and Machine Learning**

- · Forecasting a chronic condition
- Descriptive analytics
- Deep learning using medical images
- Optimization of an EMR workflow
- Interventions—continuous cycle

### **Main Challenges**

- Infrastructure
- Complex and noisy data
- Usability and adoption

### Infrastructure and Data Challenges

- Multiple data sources
- Various data models
- Data transfer rate and network bandwidths
- Elasticity

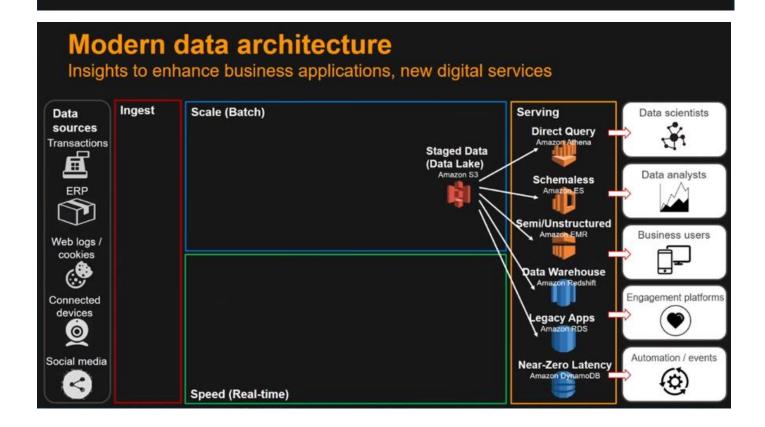
### **Usability and Adoption Challenges**

- How do I connect?
  - Permissions, drivers, networking, encryption
- How do I share?
- How do I reuse my research?
- · How do I find new packages?
- How do I package?

### Amazon S3 Data Lake

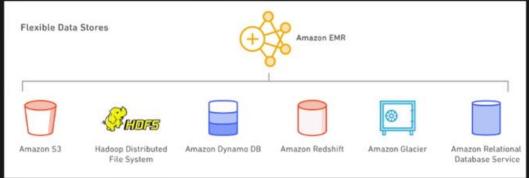
Amazon S3 as a "data lake"

### Trading on-premises HDFS for durability and scalability with Amazon S3 in the cloud



### Amazon EMR

Amazon EMR provides a managed Hadoop framework that makes it easy, fast, and cost-effective to process vast amounts of data across dynamically scalable Amazon EC2 instances







### **Encryption**

- Amazon S3—data at rest
- Hadoop
  - HDFS data transfer protocol (dfs.encrypt.data.transfer)
  - Hadoop RPC (hadoop.rpc.protection)
- MapReduce
  - · SSL for encrypted shuffle
- Spark
  - · SSL for Akka and HTTP (for broadcast and file server)
  - SASL—Block transfer service

### **Monitoring**

- Amazon S3
  - Bucket access logs
- Amazon EMR
  - Archives various log files to Amazon S3 at 5-minute intervals
  - · Log files are available after the cluster terminates
- Amazon CloudWatch Metrics
  - Updated every 5 minutes and archived for 2 weeks

### **Our Speaker**

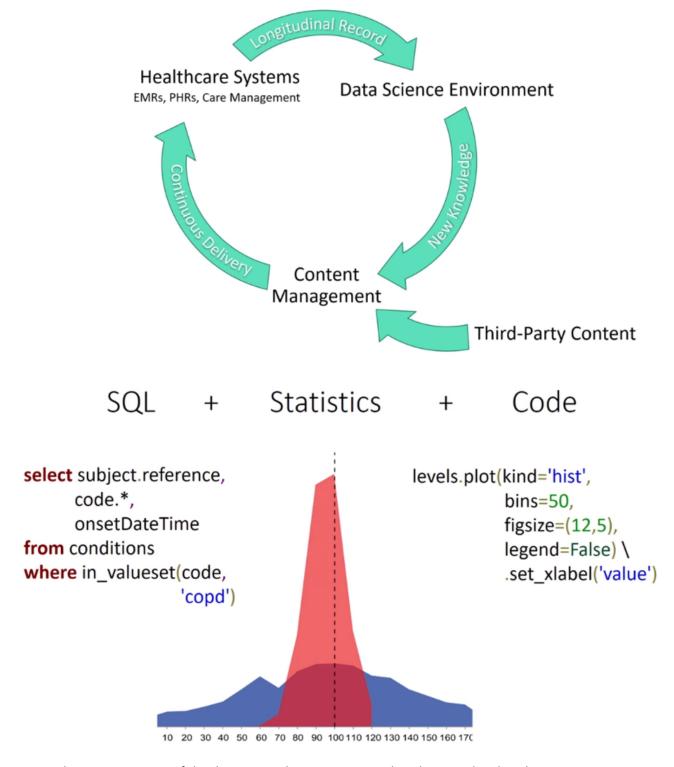
- Ryan Brush, Principal Architect at Cerner
  - Created Clara, an open source rules engine
  - Data engineering, analysis, and the application of very large healthcare datasets
  - Renowned speaker
  - 97 Things Every Programmer Should Know and Hadoop: The Definitive Guide





Cerner is mainly into bringing together a broad set of almost anything that is relevant in healthcare.





We want to bring an SQL view of the data to our data scientists so that they can do what they want

	reference	code	value	effectiveDateTime
0	urn:cerner:empi:a7943425-2420-4403-9fcf-0fae4e	2345-7	91.0000	2010-11-26T16:00:00Z
1	urn:cerner:empi:30ced248-c37d-485f-92ee-184a09	2345-7	101.0000	2010-11-29T06:00:00Z
2	um:cerner:empi:91a843a8-9be1-41df-87df-fae86d	2345-7	89.0000	2010-09-13T06:00:00Z
3	urn:cerner:empi:1cacfba5-647b-425c-bdd3-70b32a	2345-7	84.0000	2010-04-05T06:00:00Z
4	urn:cerner:empi:91a31172-5557-47ff-936d-63020e	2345-7	72.0000	2010-04-08T16:35:00Z
5	urn:cerner:empi:98ad8355-239b-4ce3-b41f-d5baf2	2345-7	108.0000	2010-11-24T06:00:00Z
6	urn:cemer:empi:edae1c7b-5fb3-4e81-8570-4ff335	2345-7	82.0000	2010-08-13T19:00:00Z
7	urn:cerner:empi:98ad8355-239b-4ce3-b41f-d5baf2	2345-7	178.0000	2010-07-27T06:00:00Z
8	urn:cerner:empi:a00f8d5e-942e-4445-bf4c-c6e0ad	2345-7	68.0000	2010-01-04T20:00:00Z
9	urn:cerner:empi:1ada9444-3f01-45a8-9767-dda8a9	2345-7	88.0000	2010-04-28T06:00:00Z

- Petabyte scale
- Standard models
- Cataloged
- Collaborative
- Ontology support
- Extensible
- Secure

We give them *Jupyter notebooks* to do their jobs with datasets and data catalogs readily available, secured, discoverable as above



So how do we go about building such a system from scratch?

### No Silver Bullet —Essence and Accident in Software Engineering

Frederick P. Brooks, Jr.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

There is no single development, in either technology or management technique, which by itself promises even one order-of-magnitude improvement within a decade in productivity, in reliability, in simplicity.

Connectivity

Spark Cluster

**Accident** 

Storage

Metadata

Provisioning

Notebook server

Auditing

All of these are important for access to be granted to a user



AWS provides so many building block services that we can design and build our architecture upon.

There is **no theoretical reason** that anything is hard to change about software.

—Martin Fowler

Who Needs An Architect?, 2003

Establish Hard Constraints

Optimize for Fast Iteration

Establish Hard Constraints
Security

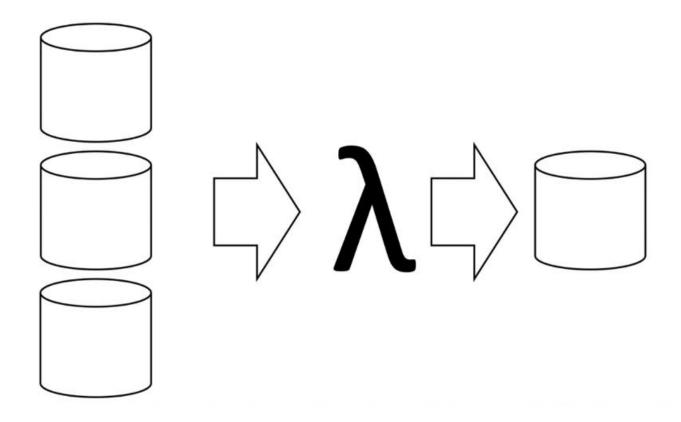
User Experience

Reproducibility

## The same input produces the same output every time

	reference	code	value	effectiveDateTime
0	urn:cerner:empi:a7943425-2420-4403-9fcf-0fae4e	2345-7	91.0000	2010-11-26T16:00:00Z
1	urn:cerner:empi:30ced248-c37d-485f-92ee-184a09	2345-7	101.0000	2010-11-29T06:00:00Z
2	urn:cerner:empi:91a843a8-9be1-41df-87df-fae86d	2345-7	89.0000	2010-09-13T06:00:00Z
3	urn:cerner:empi:1cacfba5-647b-425c-bdd3-70b32a	2345-7	84.0000	2010-04-05T06:00:00Z
4	urn:cerner:empi:91a31172-5557-47ff-936d-63020e	2345-7	72.0000	2010-04-08T16:35:00Z
5	urn:cerner:empi:98ad8355-239b-4ce3-b41f-d5baf2	2345-7	108.0000	2010-11-24T06:00:00Z
6	urn:cerner:empi:edae1c7b-5fb3-4e81-8570-4ff335	2345-7	82.0000	2010-08-13T19:00:00Z
7	urn:cerner:empi:98ad8355-239b-4ce3-b41f-d5baf2	2345-7	178.0000	2010-07-27T06:00:00Z
8	urn:cerner:empi:a00f8d5e-942e-4445-bf4c-c6e0ad	2345-7	68.0000	2010-01-04T20:00:00Z
9	urn:cerner:empi:1ada9444-3f01-45a8-9767-dda8a9	2345-7	88.0000	2010-04-28T06:00:00Z

The same query input should return the same result every time.



User Experience

**Processing Engine** 

Storage and Metadata

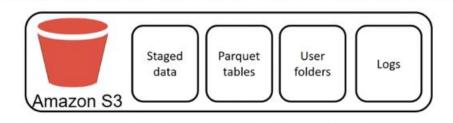


- JupyterHub on Amazon EC2
- User sessions via Docker Spawner
- Amazon S3-backed drives for long-lived content



Transient EMR clusters

### Stateless





For user experience we use Jupyter notebooks, Spark for the processing engine, and S3 for storing data and Catalog for storing metadata. This is the highest-level view of our architecture. Things below the stateless lines are long lived and anything above is short lived and can be discarded and reproduced from an initial state. We run JupyterHub on EC2 but all the actual user data are stored in a folder in S3 by mapping that S3 drive to the JupyterHub EC2 instance, that is a way to keep things stateless

### Stateful

- State lasts longer than a session
- Must consider user and system data
- Infrequent updates
- Security groups, Amazon Relational Database Service (Amazon RDS), S3

### Stateless

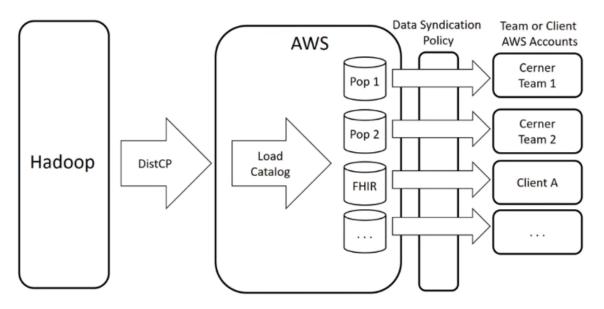
- Can be discarded on an upgrade
- Fully reproducible from source
- Frequent updates
- Everything else



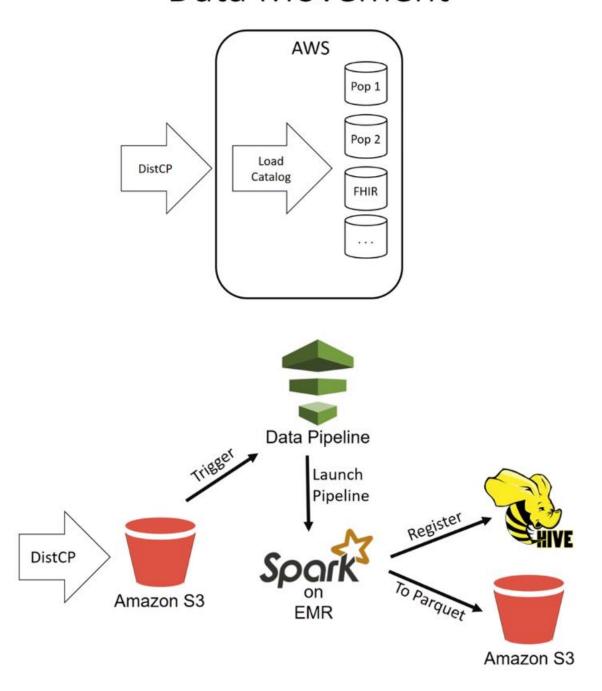
### **AWS CloudFormation**

We extensively use CloudFormation to define a deployment template as APIs for deploying our stacks. We have separate templates for our stateless and stateful stacks.

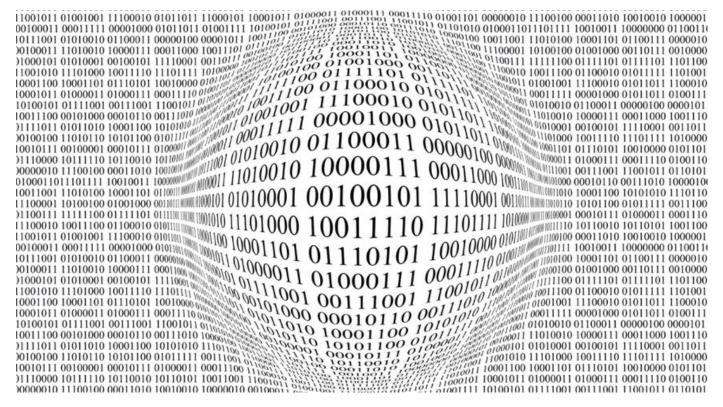
### Data Movement



### Data Movement



Our users don't know that the data is written in Parquet file format that is a columnar data format, they just discover the data using the data catalog.



Now we need a way to sort and ingest the huge and complex data sources and types in healthcare data

8,000 CPT Codes

72,000 ICD-10 Codes

Different meanings in different contexts

Incomplete, conflicting data sets

### Human working memory is five to nine items

All of this must be reconciled across many sources

No common person identifier

Standard data models and codes interpreted inconsistently
63,000 SNOMED disease codes



First, we put all the data into a data catalog that has well defined data schemas for all the types of data that gets into it. Then we have the challenge of making sense of all the data and datasets in the data catalog

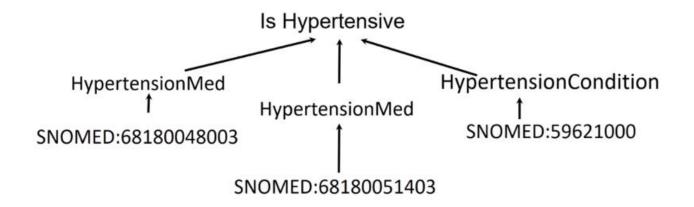
root	implicitRules: string (nullable = true)				
id: string (nullable = true)	language: string (nullable = true)				
meta: struct (nullable = true)	text: struct (nullable = true)				
id: string (nullable = true)	id: string (nullable = true)				
versionId: string (nullable = true)	status: string (nullable = true)				
lastUpdated: timestamp (nullable = true)	div: string (nullable = true)				
profile: array (nullable = true)	identifier: array (nullable = true)				
element: string (containsNull = true)	element: struct (containsNull = true)				
security: array (nullable = true)	id: string (nullable = true)				
element: struct (containsNull = true)	use: string (nullable = true)				
id: string (nullable = true)	type: struct (nullable = true)				
system: string (nullable = true)	id: string (nullable = true)				
version: string (nullable = true)	coding: array (nullable = true)				
code: string (nullable = true)	element: struct (containsNull = true)				
display: string (nullable = true)					
userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)					
tag: array (nullable = true)	version: string (nullable = true)				
element: struct (containsNull = true)					
id: string (nullable = true)	display: string (nullable = true)				
system: string (nullable = true)	userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)				
version: string (nullable = true)	text: string (nullable = true)				
code: string (nullable = true)	system: string (nullable = true)				
display: string (nullable = true)	value: string (nullable = true)				
userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)	period: struct (nullable = true)				

We then build *FIHR data models* from the schema of the datasets and data models we have.

```
|-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                         |-- id: string (nullable = true)
          |-- start: string (nullable = true)
                                                                         |-- system: string (nullable = true)
  | | -- end: string (nullable = true)
                                                                         |-- version: string (nullable = true)
| | |-- assigner: struct (nullable = true)
                                                               | | | -- code: string (nullable = true)
| | | |-- reference: string (nullable = true)
                                                               | | | -- display: string (nullable = true)
| | | -- display: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  | | |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
|-- clinicalStatus: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- text: string (nullable = true)
|-- verificationStatus: string (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- code: struct (nullable = true)
|-- category: array (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- id: string (nullable = true)
| |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
                                                                  |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
  | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                     |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
   | |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
                                                                     | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
   | | -- element: struct (containsNull = true)
                                                                     | |-- system: string (nullable = true)
         | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                     | |-- version: string (nullable = true)
             |-- system: string (nullable = true)
                                                                         |-- code: string (nullable = true)
          | |-- version: string (nullable = true)
                                                                     | |-- display: string (nullable = true)
   | | | -- code: string (nullable = true)
                                                                    | -- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
   | | | |-- display: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- text: string (nullable = true)
      | | |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- bodySite: array (nullable = true)
| | |-- text: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
|-- severity: struct (nullable = true)
                                                                 | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
| |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                 | |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
   |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
                                                                         |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
  | |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
                                                                        | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
              |-- system: string (nullable = true)
                                                                      |-- value: decimal(12,4) (nullable = true)
             |-- version: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  | |-- comparator: string (nullable = true)
   | | | -- code: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  | |-- unit: string (nullable = true)
         | |-- display: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  | |-- system: string (nullable = true)
   | | | |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
                                                               | | |-- code: string (nullable = true)
 | -- text: string (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- onsetString: string (nullable = true)
|-- subject: struct (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- onsetAge: struct (nullable = true)
| |-- reference: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- id: string (nullable = true)
| |-- display: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- value: decimal(12,4) (nullable = true)
|-- context: struct (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- comparator: string (nullable = true)
| |-- reference: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- unit: string (nullable = true)
   |-- display: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- system: string (nullable = true)
-- onsetDateTime: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- code: string (nullable = true)
|-- onsetRange: struct (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- onsetPeriod: struct (nullable = true)
| |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- id: string (nullable = true)
   |-- low: struct (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- start: string (nullable = true)
   | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- end: string (nullable = true)
| | |-- value: decimal(12,4) (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- abatementDateTime: string (nullable = true)
| | -- comparator: string (nullable = true)
                                                               |-- abatementRange: struct (nullable = true)
| | |-- unit: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- id: string (nullable = true)
   | |-- system: string (nullable = true)
                                                                  |-- low: struct (nullable = true)
 | |-- code: string (nullable = true)
                                                                 | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
| |-- high: struct (nullable = true)
                                                               | | -- value: decimal(12,4) (nullable = true)
| | -- id: string (nullable = true)
                                                               | | |-- comparator: string (nullable = true)
```

```
element: struct (containsNull = true)
             |-- id: string (nullable = true)
             |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
                 |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
                    |-- id: string (nullable = true)
                    |-- system: string (nullable = true)
                    |-- version: string (nullable = true)
                    |-- code: string (nullable = true)
                    |-- display: string (nullable = true)
                    |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
             |-- text: string (nullable = true)
      |-- detail: array (nullable = true)
         |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
             |-- reference: string (nullable = true)
             |-- display: string (nullable = true)
-- note: array (nullable = true)
  |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
     |-- id: string (nullable = true)
     |-- authorString: string (nullable = true)
     |-- authorReference: struct (nullable = true)
     | |-- reference: string (nullable = true)
     | |-- display: string (nullable = true)
     |-- time: string (nullable = true)
     |-- text: string (nullable = true)
```

### Reproducible Projections of Complex Data



A way to work and use the data models is to take a complex data model and just project it onto a model that is simpler to work with using lossy, less data fields that we actually need. The projection is a much simpler dataset that contains the exact dataset we need. This results in a type of giant spreadsheet

### data engineering, n. The act of turning the entire world into giant spreadsheet

### Rules

We can use a rules-based approach using a *Rule engine* for projecting data into the giant spreadsheet that we need.

### Clinical Quality Language

We can also use the **Quality query language** that is finer tuned

### SQL

We can just use **SQL** to create the projection also.

### SQL

SQL queries are easily turned into Spark SQL that can then be run on the data within our cluster

```
spark.sql("""
select * from hypertensive_patients
""").count()
```

### 44719

### 16317

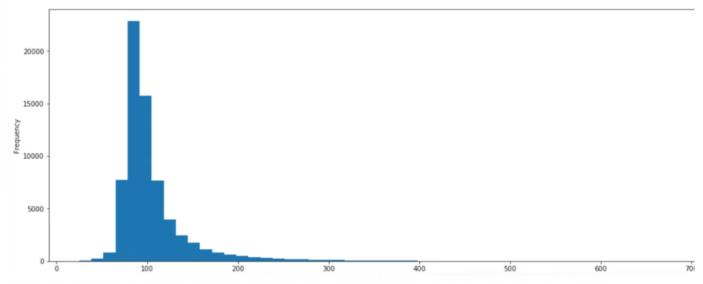
Once we have our giant spreadsheet projections, we can use queries like above from our Jupyter notebooks to do some analysis quickly with a few lines of code. We create projections based on the use case to get the data from much larger and complex datasets, then let your data scientists manipulate them interactively from their Jupyter notebooks.

```
glucose_levels.limit(10).toPandas()
```

	value	effectiveDate i ime
0	91.0000	2010-11-26T16:00:00Z
1	101.0000	2010-11-29T06:00:00Z
2	89.0000	2010-09-13T06:00:00Z
3	84.0000	2010-04-05T06:00:00Z

```
glucose levels.describe().toPandas()
```

	summary	value	effectiveDateTime
0	count	67955	67955
1	mean	104.08580678	None
2	stddev	38.43865644934375	None
3	min	25.0000	2009-01-04T15:46:00Z
4	max	691.0000	2010-12-31T16:10:00Z



### in\_valueset(code, 'hypertension')

User-defined-functions are very helpful helper functions written in a JVM language like Java that we use within our code to work on our datasets, we then express this in simple, fast SQL queries

### Spark SQL

+

### User-Defined Functions +

### Broadcast Reference Data

```
hypertension meds = \
 [('http://snomed.info/sct', '68180051403'), # Lisinopril
  (' http://snomed.info/sct ', '68180048003')] # Simvastatin
push valuesets (spark,
             {'hypertension' : isa snomed('59621000'),
              'glucose level' : isa loinc('2345-7'),
              'hypertension meds' : hypertension meds})
spark.sql("""select count(*) from conditions
           where in valueset (code, 'hypertension')""")
       in valueset
     extract terms
         call rules
```

```
spark.sql("""
select count(*)
from conditions
where in_valueset(code, 'hypertension')""")
```

### 300 Million Encounters 8-Node EMR Cluster ~4 Seconds

### Applying the Pattern

We are again following the pattern of creating giant spreadsheets to be stored as projections in our data catalog and then comprising them together like about when doing a query using standard SQL.

```
observations = spark.sql("""
select subject.reference patient_id

avg_glucose_level,

from observations
group by subject.reference
```

```
observations = spark.sql("""
select subject.reference patient id
       avg(if(in valueset(code, 'glucose level'),
              valueQuantity.value,
              null)) avg glucose level,
from observations
group by subject.reference
                                  """)
observations = spark.sql("""
select subject.reference patient id
       avg(if(in valueset(code, 'glucose level'),
              valueQuantity.value,
              null)) avg glucose level,
from observations
group by subject.reference,
         year (effectiveDateTime),
         month(effectiveDateTime)""")
```

```
observations = spark.sql("""
select subject.reference patient id,
       year (effectiveDateTime) year,
       month (effectiveDateTime) month
       avg(if(in valueset(code, 'glucose level'),
              valueQuantity.value,
              null)) avg glucose level,
from observations
group by subject.reference,
         year (effectiveDateTime),
         month (effectiveDateTime) """)
observations = spark.sql("""
select subject.reference patient id,
       year (effectiveDateTime) year,
       month (effectiveDateTime) month
       avg(if(in valueset(code, 'glucose level'),
              valueQuantity.value,
              null)) avg glucose level,
       avg(if(in valueset(code, 'bun'),
              valueQuantity.value,
              null)) avg bun
from observations
group by subject.reference,
         year (effectiveDateTime),
         month(effectiveDateTime)""")
```

```
conditions = spark.sql("""
   select subject.reference patient id,
          year (onsetDateTime) year,
          month (onsetDateTime) month,
          max(if(in valueset(code, 'hypertension'),
                 true,
                 false)) hypertension,
          max(if(in valueset(code, 'chest pain'),
                 true,
                 false)) chest pain
   from conditions
   group by subject.reference,
            year (onsetDateTime),
            month (onsetDateTime) """)
ts = patients.join(observations, 'patient id') \
              .join(conditions,
                     ['patient id', 'year', 'month']) \
              .orderBy('patient id', 'year', 'month')
```

patient_id	year	month	gender	birthDate	avg_glucose_level	avg_bun	hypertension	•
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	1	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False	Ī
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	2	female	1973-01-01	95.00000000	6.00000000	False	
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	3	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False	
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	4	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False	
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	6	female	1973-01-01	84.00000000	8.00000000	False	
la4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	7	female	1973-01-01	98.00000000	8.00000000	False	
la4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	8	female	1973-01-01	81.00000000	10.00000000	False	

We then simply join the resulting 2 tables together to get the view above that we can feed directly into our machine learning use case and models of other use cases.

```
# Save for future reference
ts.write.saveAsTable('patient history')
```

In the collaborative space where we can save our time series data as a table of all our patient history information, and then we can pick it up later from there and use.

```
# Save for future reference
ts.write.saveAsTable('patient history')
```

### Data Engineering

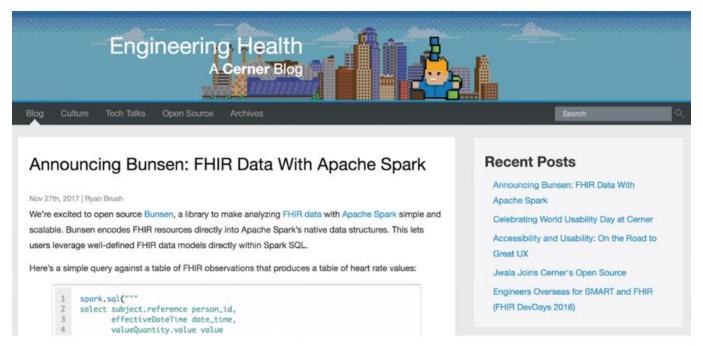
### Machine Learning

```
# Build the Spark ML pipeline
pipeline = Pipeline(...)

(train,test) = spark.sql(
    'select * from patient_history') \
    .randomSplit([0.6, 0.4])

model = pipeline.fit(train)
```

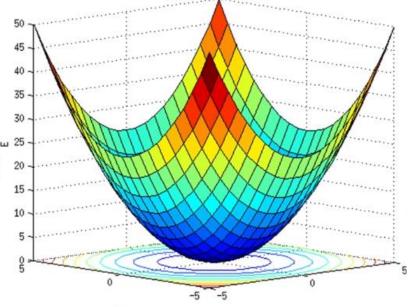
Having the data in a tabular form allows us to use Spark's in-built ML capabilities or other ML systems to tap into the data and do analysis. We can take our high-quality data, put it into a Pipeline, and build our ML model for our problem.



http://engineering.cerner.com/bunsen

This Bunsen OSS project takes all our FIHR data and natively represent it in the Apache Spark project.

Make the Machine Learning Job Simpler



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Error\_surface\_of\_a\_linear\_neuron\_with\_two\_input\_weights.png

### **Function Approximation**

albumin level > 5.5



### **Function Approximation**

### albumin level > 5.5

```
| | |-- display: string (nullable = true)
   | | |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
  |-- text: string (nullable = true)
|-- code: struct (nullable = true)
   |-- id: string (nullable = true)
   |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
      |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
          |-- id: string (nullable = true)
          |-- system: string (nullable = true)
          |-- version: string (nullable = true)
          |-- code: string (nullable = true)
          |-- display: string (nullable = true)
      | |-- userSelected: boolean (nullable = true)
   |-- text: string (nullable = true)
|-- bodySite: array (nullable = true)
   |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
  | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
      |-- coding: array (nullable = true)
          |-- element: struct (containsNull = true)
      | | |-- id: string (nullable = true)
```

### Reproducibility Mitigates Complexity

patient_id	year	month	gender	birthDate	avg_glucose_level	avg_bun	hypertension
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	1	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	2	female	1973-01-01	95.00000000	6.00000000	False
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	3	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	4	female	1973-01-01	None	None	False
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	6	female	1973-01-01	84.00000000	8.00000000	False
a4b93a-e1b1-45dd-8885-e353d8	2010	7	female	1973-01-01	98.00000000	8.00000000	False

# Analyze Model data for results the question Simulate and refine

What is exciting about this cycle is that we can now do it on-demand and at scale very fast.

