

IBM SPSS Analytic Server
Version 3.1.1.1

Overview

IBM

Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices" on page 5.

Product Information

This edition applies to version 3, release 1, modification 1 of IBM SPSS Analytic Server and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Overview

IBM® SPSS® Analytic Server is a solution for big data analytics that combines IBM SPSS technology with big data systems and allows you to work with familiar IBM SPSS user interfaces to solve problems on a previously unattainable scale.

Why big data analytics matters

Data volumes collected by organizations are growing exponentially; for example, financial and retail businesses have all customer transactions for a year (or two years, or ten years), telco providers have call data records (CDR) and device sensor readings, and internet companies have the results of web crawls.

Big data analytics is needed where there exists:

- A large volume of data (terabytes, petabytes, exabytes), especially when it is a mixture of structured & unstructured data
- Rapidly changing/accumulating data

Big data analytics also assists when:

- A large number (thousands) of models are being built
- Models are frequently built/refreshed

Challenges

The same organizations that collect large volumes of data often have difficulty actually making use of it, for a variety of reasons:

- The architecture of traditional analytic products are not suited to distributed computation, and
- Existing statistical algorithms are not designed to work with big data (these algorithms expect the data to come to them, but big data is too costly to move), thus
- Performing state of the art analytics on big data requires new skills and intimate knowledge of big data systems. Very few analysts have these skills.
- In-memory solutions work for medium-size problems, but do not scale well to truly big data.

Solution

Analytic Server provides:

- A data-centric architecture that leverages big data systems, such as Hadoop Map/Reduce with data in HDFS.
- A defined interface to incorporate new statistical algorithms designed to go to the data.
- Familiar IBM SPSS user interfaces that hide the details of big data environments so that analysts can focus on analyzing the data.
- A solution that is scalable to any size problem.

Architecture

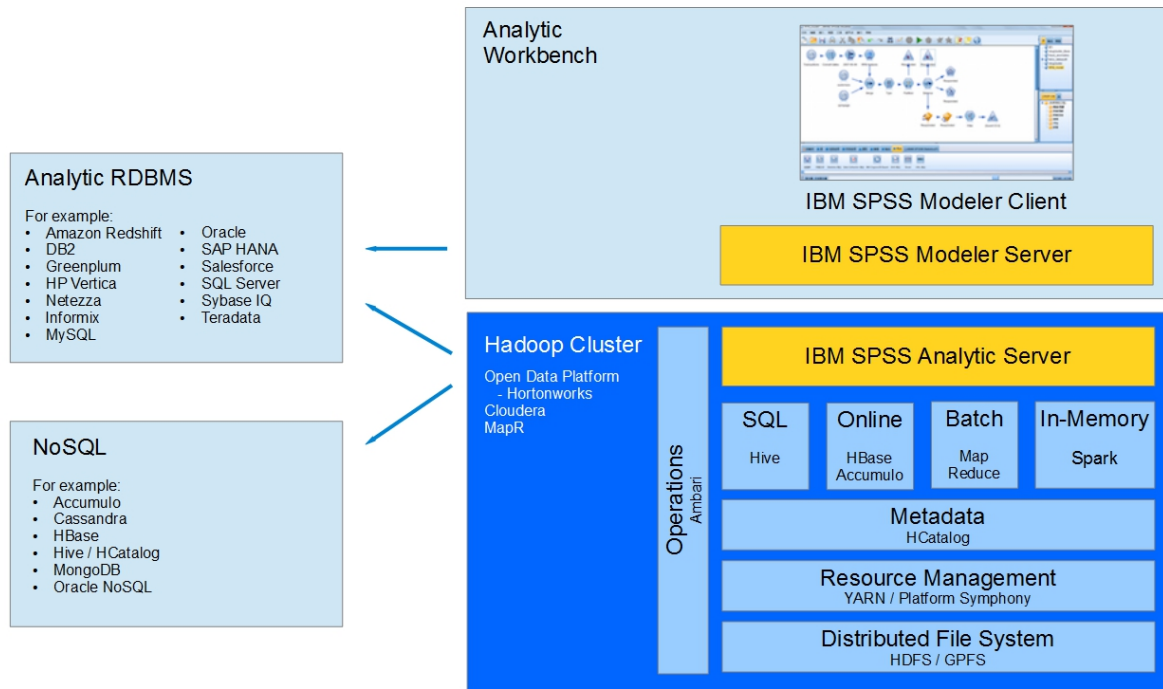


Figure 1. Architecture

Analytic Server sits between a client application and Hadoop cloud. Assuming that the data resides in the cloud, the general outline for working with Analytic Server is to:

1. Define Analytic Server data sources over the data in the cloud.
2. Define the analysis you want to perform in the client application. For the current release, the client application is IBM SPSS Modeler.
3. When you run the analysis, the client application submits an Analytic Server execution request.
4. Analytic Server orchestrates the job to run in the Hadoop cloud and reports the results to the client application.
5. You can use the results to define further analysis, and the cycle repeats.

Spark and Analytic Server

Analytic Server integrates with Apache Spark to increase performance.

When Spark is and is not used

If Spark is installed as an Ambari service on the Hadoop cluster, then Analytic Server uses it to process big data jobs. The following guidelines apply to determine when Spark is not used.

1. If the data set is smaller than 128MB, then Analytic Server uses the embedded MapReduce function in the Analytic Server JVM and does not utilize Spark or the Hadoop cluster.
2. If Spark is not installed on the cluster, then Analytic Server uses MapReduce v2.
3. Analytic Server uses MapReduce v2 to build PSM models. When a job ends with a PSM model build, Analytic Server uses Spark to process the job through all steps leading to the model build, then write

to disk, and then use MapReduce to build the PSM model. For example, if a job includes a join followed by a PSM model build, the join runs in Spark and the PSM runs on the joined data in MapReduce.

How Spark is used

When the Analytic Server service is started and discovers that Spark is available, it initializes a "Spark Hadoop job" that allows communication between distributed tasks across the cluster. This job runs for as long as the Analytic Server service runs, and is used for all Analytic Server executions. This approach improves performance relative to orchestrating multiple MapReduce Hadoop jobs, because it eliminates the overhead of reloading all Analytic Server components for each Hadoop Job.

Spark is capable of running MapReduce jobs. This allows Analytic Server to use "native" Spark algorithms such as join, sort, and union where available. At the same time, Analytic Server can run existing SPSS Map and Reduce algorithms in Spark, and without directly using the Hadoop API.

What is new in version 3.1.1.1

Version 3.1.1 Fix Pack 1

Platform

Support for Cloudera 5.13

Performance enhancements

Spark ML enhancements were introduced in version 3.1.1 (see the 3.1.1 performance enhancements section). The following restrictions apply to the enhancements:

- The Spark ML enhancements are supported only on Spark 2.x.
- XGBoost is not supported in Redhat POWER LE.

Security

Embedded LDAP Server

Analytic Server now uses embedded Apache Directory Server to store the default user configuration information.

Prior to 3.1.1 Fix Pack 1 Analytic Server used two methods to authenticate users via a Liberty server:

- Basic registry
- LDAP registry

With the basic registry, user configuration information was stored in an XML configuration file. In some cases, storing the user information (mainly the user name and password) is not permitted, even though the password is encrypted.

Analytic Server 3.1.1 Fix Pack 1 provides an embedded LDAP server to store the user configuration information (instead of a basic registry file).

User and Group management

Administrators can now create, delete and, modify users and groups through the Analytic Server User Management portal.

Version 3.1.1

Platform

- Support for Cloudera 5.11 and 5.12
- Support for Ubuntu Linux 16.04 (with Hortonworks Data Platform 2.6 and Cloudera 5.11)
- Cloudera 5.8 and 5.9 are no longer supported
- Big Insights 4.1, 4.2, and 4.2.5 are no longer supported

- MapR 5.0 is no longer supported

Data sources

- Support for Apache Hive 2.1
- MongoDB 2.6 is no longer supported
- MySQL 5.1 is no longer supported

Performance enhancements

- A more automated offline installation procedure is now available for HDP.
- Multiple cluster support. The multiple-cluster feature is an enhancement to the High-Availability capability of IBM SPSS Analytic Server, and provides improved isolation in multiple-tenant environments. By default, installation of the Analytic Server service (in either Ambari or ClouderaManager) results in the definition of a single analytic server cluster.
- You can now configure separate YARN queues for each Analytic Server tenant.
- Support is now provided for sampling and distinct SQL pushback.
- The following Spark ML enhancements are now available:
 - Support for bisecting K-means
 - Support for XGBoost

Note: XGBoost is not supported in the SUSE Linux environment (it is supported in Ubuntu and Redhat environments).

- Support for Isotonic Regression
- Spark RDD data source crossing can now be shared with different ASL jobs.
- The IBM SPSS Analytic Server best practice and recommendations section has been updated to include Cloudera-specific information.

For the most up-to-date system requirements information, use the Detailed system requirements reports at the IBM Technical Support site: <http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/prodguid/v1r0/clarity/softwareReqsForProduct.html>. On this page:

1. Type SPSS Analytic Server as the product name and click **Search**.
2. Select the wanted version and scope of report, then click **Submit**.

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