

A Rapid Quality-Aware Development of Data-Intensive Cloud Applications

Divya Byri

Department of CSE

ABSTRACT: *In this paper, we deliberate the query of how quality-aware MDE should provision data-intensive software systems. This is a difficult challenge, since current models and QA techniques largely ignore properties of data such as volumes, velocities, or data location. Additionally, QA necessitates the ability to characterize the behavior of technologies such as Hadoop/MapReduce, NoSQL, and stream-based processing, which are poorly understood from a modeling standpoint. To foster a community response to these challenges, we present the research agenda of DICE, a quality-aware MDE methodology for data-intensive cloud applications. DICE aims at developing a quality engineering tool chain offering simulation, verification, and architectural optimization for Big Data applications.*

KEYWORDS- Big Data, quality assurance, model-driven engineering

I. INTRODUCTION

Massive popularity and wide-scale deployment of the Internet has enormously increased the rate of data generation and computation [5, 6]. This huge growth has also highlighted immense potential for utilization and analysis of data over a wide set of users and its applications. Consequently, unprecedented data-related challenges have emerged. Consider an example of a simple Internet search engine that ranks documents on the basis of relative frequency of search terms in its data collection. The search engine could be enhanced if it includes consideration of user-clicks while obtaining popular results. Similarly, geographical location of users could be incorporated to increase relevancy. The two enhancements mentioned here may seem plausible; however, considering the massive dataset of Internet documents and the diverse geo-location of Internet users, they require comprehensive collection, efficient storage and retrieval, extensive linkage, meticulous investigation, and methodical analysis; most importantly, in a precise and timely manner. Further, extensive requirements of meeting

availability, scalability, and high performance also exist. The extensive challenges mentioned above are not restricted to search engines. With the emergence of clouds, the notion of computing has incorporated new requirements of providing efficient user access and storage [80]. Further, the terms of availability and scalability are inherent with cloud systems. In addition, for a multi-user system, a cloud system needs to fulfill the requirements of privacy and access controls. In the data-intensive world we live, requirements and challenges also vary with applications. For example, an iterative application such as page-rank computation algorithm requires iterative computation until a point of convergence is reached. In comparison, a streaming application would prefer processing stream of events in order to provide timely results.

II. RELATED WORKS

Data Intensive computing refers to computing of large scale data. Gorton et al. describe types of applications and research issues for data intensive systems. Such systems may either include pure data-intensive systems or they may also contain data/compute-intensive systems. In that, the former type of systems devote most of their time to data manipulation or data I/O, whereas in the latter type data computation is dominant. Normally, parallelization techniques and high performance computing are adopted to encounter the challenges related to data/compute-intensive systems. With the growth of data-intensive computing, traditional differences between data/compute intensive systems and pure data-intensive systems have started to merge and both are collectively referred as data-intensive systems. Major research issues for data-intensive systems include management, handling, fusion, and analysis of data. Often, time-sensitive applications are also deployed on data-intensive systems.

Depending upon its usage, a data-intensive cloud could either be deployed as a private cloud supporting users of a specific organization, or it may be deployed as a public

cloud providing shared resources to a number of users. A data-intensive cloud entails many challenges and issues. These include data-centric issues such as implementing efficient algorithms and techniques to store, manage, retrieve, and analyze the data and communication-centric issues such as dissipation of information, placement of replicas, data locality, and retrieval of data. Note that issues in the two categories may be interrelated. For instance, data locality often leads to faster execution of data.

Grossman and Gu [7] discussed varieties of cloud infrastructures for data intensive computing. Fig.1 illustrates the two architectural models for such a system: a cloud could provide EC2-like instances for data-intensive computing, or it could offer computing platforms (like MapReduce) to its users. In the former case, a user is required to select tools and a platform for computing, and the cloud provider is responsible for storage and computing power. The provider is also liable for replication, fault tolerance, and consistency. In comparison, for platform-based cloud computing, application-specific solutions exist which provide enhanced performance.

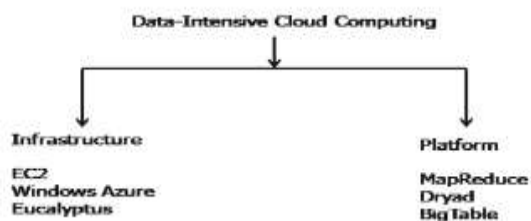


Fig. 1 Architecture model of data-intensive cloud computing

In this paper, we mainly resort to the latter category (data-intensive computing platforms) as they specifically address challenges and solutions to data intensive computing. However, during the paper, we discuss a few infrastructure-related issues such as effective network utilization and resource sharing which may well be applied to both the types.

III. APPROACHES

The core area of DICE is to define an MDE approach and a QA tool chain to continuously enhance data-intensive cloud applications with the goal of optimizing their service level, we believe that the methods and tools shown in Table 1 are required to provide a comprehensive quality-aware MDE approach for Big Data applications. The

DICE IDE will guide the developer throughout this methodology. From these models, the tool chain will guide the developer through the different phases of quality analysis (e.g., simulation and formal verification), deployment, testing, and acquisition of feedback data through monitoring. This data will then be processed and fed back to the IDE through the iterative quality enhancement tool chain, which will analyze runtime data to detect quality incidents and anti-patterns in the application design. This will provide feedbacks to guide the developer through cycles of iterative quality enhancement.

A. DICE Profile: MDE for Data-Intensive Applications

Models in DICE should be formulated at three levels, called DPIM, DTSM, DDSM, which we deliberate subsequent.

DICE Platform Independent Model (DPIM). The DPIM model corresponds to the OMG MDA PIM layer and describes the behavior of the application as a directed acyclic graph that expresses the dependencies between computations and data. This model should also express source data formats, synchronization mechanisms in the computation logic, and quality requirements for both computation logic and data transfers.

Fig.2 shows a possible example of DPIM for an application including four Data Sources (DS1-DS4) and four Computational Logic elements (CL1-CL4). At the DPIM layer the designer can specify the data format (e.g., structured or semi-structured data, flat files, etc.) and indicate if the data is transferred between processing steps via a shared storage system (e.g., S1) or obtained from data streams (e.g., DS3 and DS4 flows).

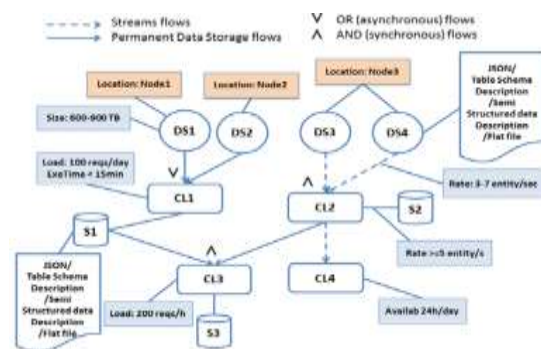


Figure 2. DICE platform independent model (DPIM)

A computational logic element can process multiple flows both synchronously or asynchronously. Data locations, estimated size (e.g., 600-900 TB for DS1), computation logic workload (e.g., 200 requests/h for CL3) and service-level constraints (e.g., CL1 runtime less than 15 minutes) may also be specified.

DICE Platform and Technology Specific Model (DTSM). ADTSM, illustrated in Figure 3, consists of a refinement of the DPIM and includes some technology specific concepts, both for computational logic and data storage, but that are still independent of the deployment. For example, data and computational logic elements may be associated at the DTSM layer with specific technologies. DS1 and S1 may be required to be based on the Hadoop File System (HDFS), DS2 on a relational database (RDBMS), CL2 on complex event processing (CEP), and so forth.

Table 1. DICE Tools

DICE profile	A novel data-aware UML profile to develop data-intensive cloud applications and annotate the design models with quality requirements.
DICE IDE	Integrated development environment with code generation to accelerate development.
Quality analysis	A tool chain to support quality-related decision making composed by simulation, verification and optimization tools.
Iterative quality enhancement	A set of tools and methods for iterative design refinement through feedback analysis of monitoring data.
Deployment and testing	A set of tools to accelerate deployment and testing of data-intensive applications on private and public clouds.

DICE Platform, Technology and Deployment Specific Model (DDSM). The DDSM, shown in Figure 4, is a specialization of the DTSM model which adds information about the technology in use and the application deployment characteristics. For example, the deployment may be specified at the DDSM layer with details on the system capacity

(e.g., CL1 will be hosted on 50 EC2 ElasticMapReduce large instances).

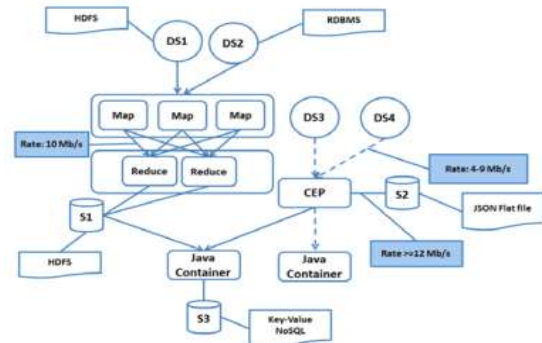


Figure 3 DICE Platform and Technology Specific Model (DTSM)

DICE will help the developer decide deployment characteristics by identifying through numerical optimization a deployment plan of minimum cost, subject to performance and reliability requirements. Additionally, deployment tools will be able to process the information provided by the DDSM to minimize the effort required to deploy the application. Transformations between DPIM, DTSM and DDSM models will be supported by the DICE tool chain.

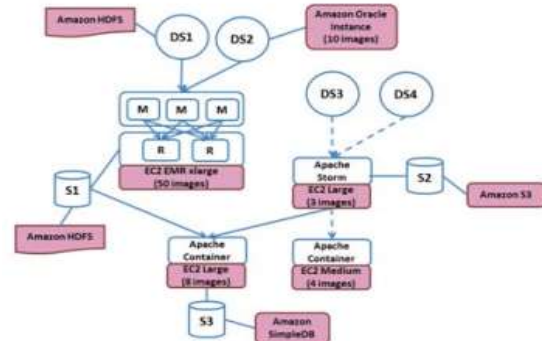


Figure 4 DICE Platform, Technology and Deployment Specific Model (DDSM)

B. Quality Annotations

The DICE profile will enable the design of data-intensive cloud applications. In particular, as highlighted in Section II, we envision that the DICE profile needs to include at least:

- (i) quantitative annotations on the availability of a data source or intermediate by-products resulting from a data transformation;
- (ii) annotations to specify rates, latencies and utilizations of resources, including the possibility to specify service level constraints on data transfers;
- (iii) annotations to specify costs of data-intensive applications;
- (iv) safety annotations that will be treated as hard

constraints.

C. Deployment

The last set of requirements for the DICE approach to be effective concerns the development of appropriate tools to support the application deployment and initial testing. Ideally, the primary target of an MDE methodology for Big Data should be either private cloud applications or public cloud applications that can use cloud platform services for Big Data, such as Amazon Elastic MapReduce or cloud-based storage services. Automatic deployment and configuration from DDSM models could be achieved using extensions of tools such as Brooklyn, Puppet or Chef.

IV. CONCLUSION

We have designated the investigation program of DICE, a vision for a novel model-driven engineering approach precisely tailored to Big Data applications. We have recognized several challenges that arise in this area due to limitations in current models and quality analysis tools that arise from the inability to fully describe data operations and data characteristics.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Abadi, D.: Data management in the Cloud: limitations and opportunities. In: IEEE Data Engineering (2009)
- [2]. Abadi, D.: Problems with CAP and Yahoo's little-known NOSQL System. Available: <http://dbmsinsights.blogspot.com/2010/04/problems-with-cap-and-yahoos-little.html>. Last accessed 4 Oct 2012
- [3]. Abe, Y., Gibson, G.: pWalrus: Towards better integration of parallel file systems into cloud storage. In: Workshop on Interfaces and Abstractions for Scientific Data Storage (IASDS10), co-located with IEEE Int. Conference on Cluster Computing 2010 (Cluster10), Heraklion, Greece (2010)
- [4]. Abouzeid, A., Bajda-Pawlikowski, K., Abadi, D., Silberschatz, A., Rasin, A.: HadoopDB: An architectural hybrid of MapReduce and DBMS technologies for analytical workloads. In: VLDB (2009)
- [5]. Gorton, I., Greenfield, P., Szalay, A., Williams, R.: Data-intensive computing in the 21st century. IEEE Computer 41(4), 30–32 (2008)
- [6]. Kouzes R., Anderson G., Elbert S., Gorton, I., Gracio, D.: The changing paradigm of data-intensive computing. IEEE Computer 42(1), 26–34 (2009)
- [7] D. Ardagna, E. Di Nitto, et al. MODA Clouds: A model-driven approach for the design and execution of applications on multiple Clouds, Proceedings of MiSE 2012, 50-56.
- [8] S. Bernardi, J. Merseguer, D. C. Petriu. Dependability modeling and analysis of software systems specified with UML. ACM Computing Surveys, 45(1), p. 2, 2012.
- [9] P. Debois. Devops: A software revolution in the making?, J. Information Technology Management, 2011
- [10] D. A. Menascé, J. M. Ewing, H. Gomaa, S. Malek, J. P. Sousa. A framework for utility-based service oriented design in SASSY. Proceedings of ACM/SPEC WOSP/SIPEW 2010, 27-36.
- [11] A. Martens, H. Koziol, S. Becker, R. Reussner. Automatically improve software architecture models for performance, reliability, and cost using evolutionary algorithms. Proceedings of ACM/SPEC WOSP/SIPEW 2010, 105-116
- [12] D. Franceschelli, D. Ardagna, M. Ciavotta, E. Di Nitto. Space4Cloud: A tool for system performance and cost evaluation of cloud systems. Proceedings of MultiCloud workshop, 27-34, 2013.
- [13] J. F. Perez and G. Casale. Assessing SLA compliance from Palladio component models. Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on Management of resources and services in Cloud and Sky computing (MICAS), IEEE Press, 2013.