

Big data: architectures and data analytics

Distributed cache

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Distributed cache

- Some applications need to share and cache (small) read-only files to perform efficiently their task
- These files should be accessible by all nodes of the cluster in an efficient way
 - Hence a copy of the shared/cached files should be available in all nodes used to run the application
- **DistributedCache** is a facility provided by the Map-Reduce framework to cache files
 - E.g., text, archives, jars needed by applications.

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Distributed cache

- In the Driver of the application, the set of shared/cached files are specified
 - By using the job.[addCacheFile\(path\)](#) method
- During the initialization of the job, Hadoop creates a "local copy" of the shared/cached files in all nodes which are used to execute some tasks (mappers or reducers) of the job (i.e., of the running application)
- The shared/cache file is read by the mapper (or the reducer), usually in its setup method
 - Since the shared/cached file is available **locally** in the node, its content can be read efficiently

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Distributed cache

- The efficiency of the distributed cache depends on the number of multiple mappers (or reducers) running on the same node
 - For each node a local copy of the file is copied during the initialization of the job
 - The local copy of the file is used by all mappers (reducers)
- Without a distributed approach, each mapper (reducer) reads the shared file from HDFS
 - Hence, more time is needed because reading data from HDFS is more inefficient than reading data from the local file system of the node

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Distributed cache

Structure

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Distributed cache: driver

```
public int run(String[] args) throws Exception {
    .....

    // Add the shared/cached HDFS file in the
    // distributed cache
    job.addCacheFile(new Path("hdfs
    path").toUri());

    .....
}
```

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Distributed cache: mapper/reducer

```
protected void setup(Context context) throws IOException,
    InterruptedException {

    .....
    String line;

    // Retrieve the paths of the local copies of
    // the distributed files
    Path[] PathsCachedFiles= context.getLocalCacheFiles();
```

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Distributed cache: mapper/reducer

```
// Read the content of the cached file and process it
// in this example the content of the first shared file is opened
BufferedReader file = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(new
File(PathsCachedFiles[0].toString())));

// Iterate over the lines of the file
while ((line = file.readLine()) != null) {
    // process the current line
    .....
}

file.close();
}
```

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