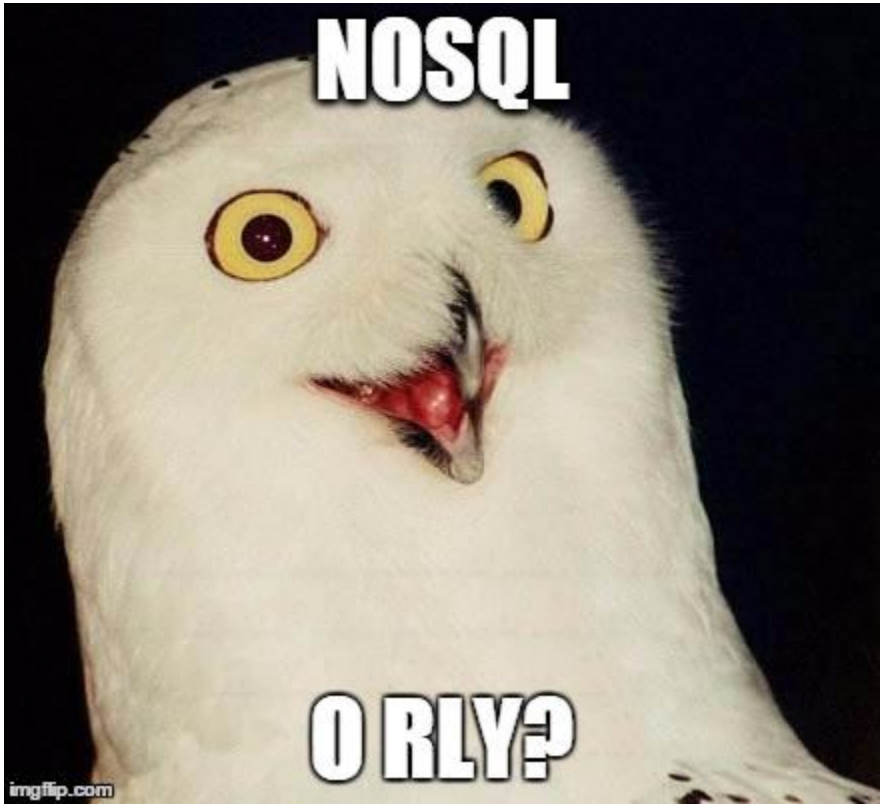
NoSQL technologies for the CMS Conditions Database

Roland Sipos (CERN) for the CMS Collaboration

CHEP, 14.04.2015

Overview

- Intro
  - NoSQL
  - Conditions Database and motivations
- Candidates
  - Options and choices
- Prototypes
  - Deployment aspects
  - Empirical evaluation and results
- Outro
  - Application layer and integration
  - Outlook



Intro - CondDB and NoSQL

NoSQL - General

NoSQL in keywords.

- Only a buzzword
  - Meaning: “One size does not fit all!”
- CAP Theorem
- ACID vs BASE
- Different models
  - Doc. store, Key-Value, Column oriented, BigTable

NoSQL means: “we have options”!

Not against relational DBs,
but a complement to those!

Conditions Database

Alignment and Calibration constants, that records a given “state” of the CMS Detector.

Essential for the analysis and reconstruction of the recorded data.

Also critical for the dataflow and need to be properly re-synchronized during the data processing.

Poster: The CMS Condition Database system (Contr.ID: 130)

CondDB - Details

Conditions are free from:

- Full table scans
  - Only “by key” access
- Joins
- Complex, nested queries
- Transactions
  - Data is written once, and never deleted, altered
- Absolute consistency
  - Only consistency criteria: newly appended data should be available for reads ASAP!
    (in less than few seconds)

CondDB - Motivations

Find alternative data storing technologies for the CMS Conditions data for:

- Storing BLOBs
- And it's meta data
- In a read-heavy environment

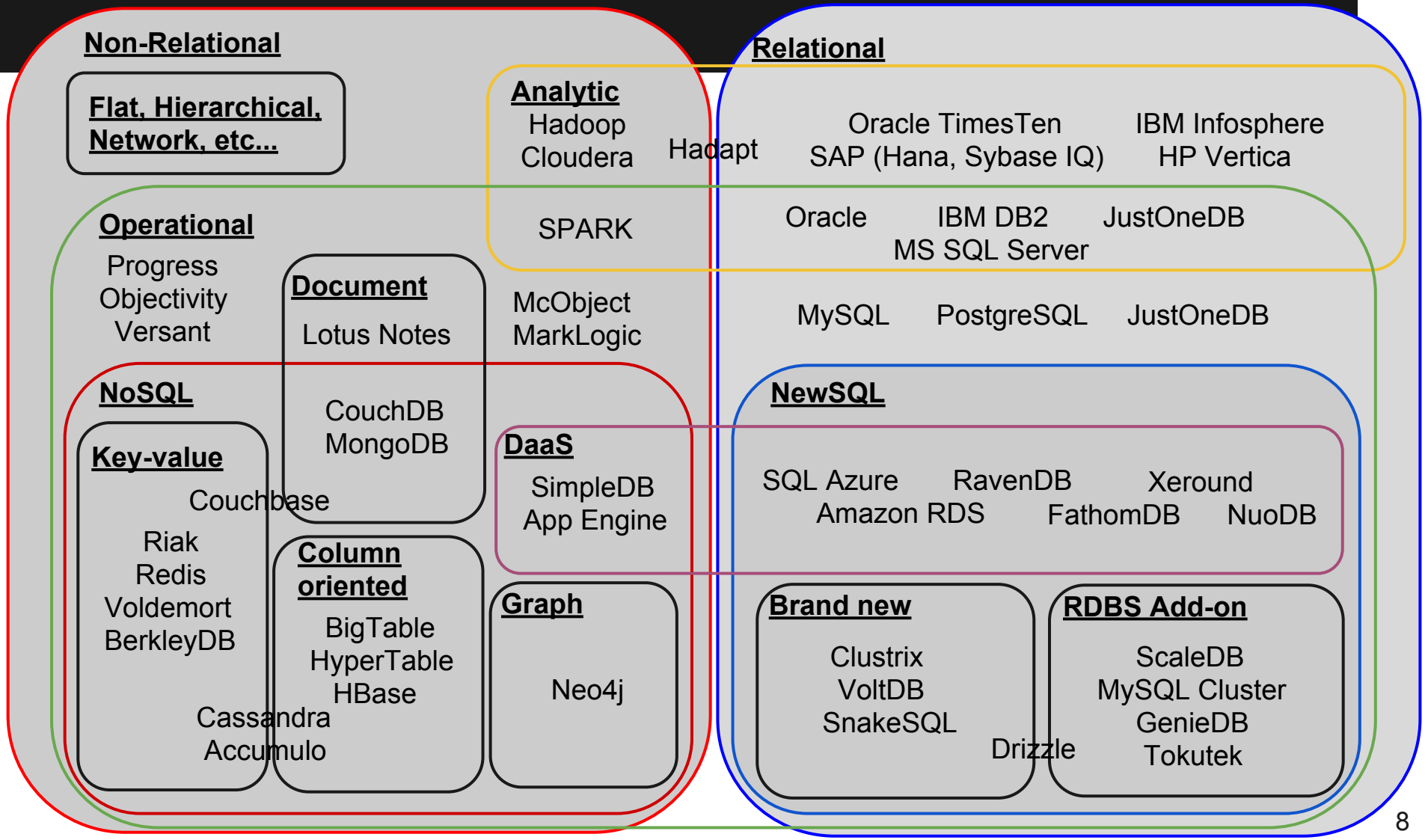
Further requirements:

- Durability
- High availability
- (Optional scalability)

Do we really need relational access for such use-case?

source: Tim Gasper - Big Data Right Now: Five trendy open source technologies

NoSQL - Options

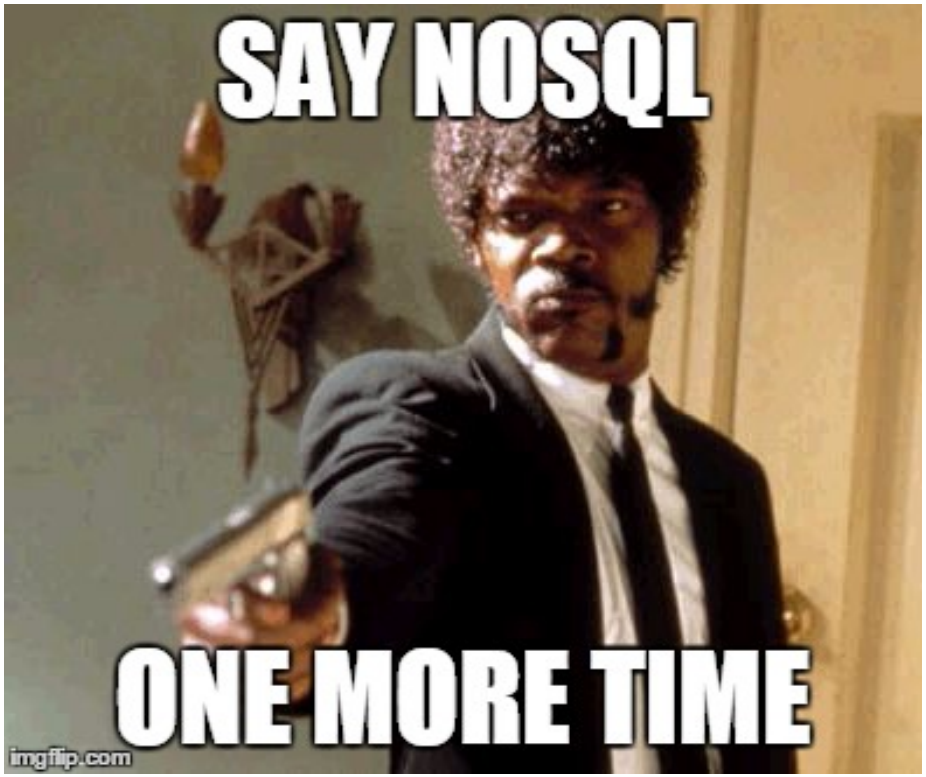


NoSQL - Candidates

How to chose?

Empirical evaluation: Check if a given prototype meets the usability and performance criterias from the original solution.

If more of them passes the criteria, choose the best, based on essential features and performance characteristics.



Prototypes - The candidates

Selection

In multiple phases...

Find:

- Showstopper problems (no-go)
- Barely usable (some issues)
- Promising candidates

Preliminary testing.

Candidates

No-go

- HBase (/w HDFS)
  - BLOB size problem.
- CouchDB
  - Drivers
- Hypertable
  - In development

- etc.: app layer needs, CAP characteristics, durability problems.

Promising

- **MongoDB**
- **Cassandra**

So-so

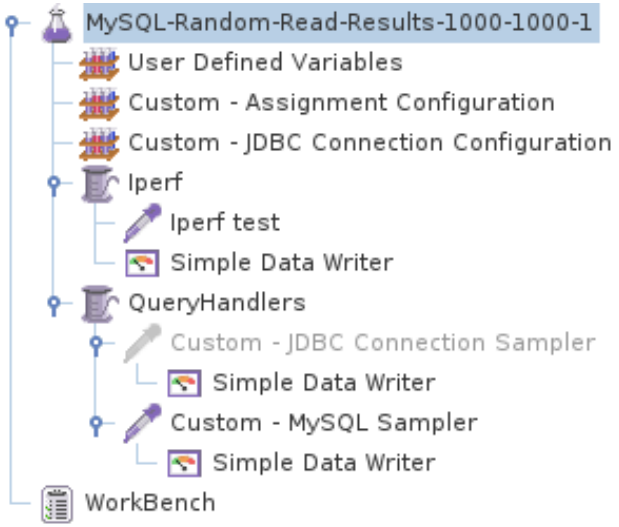
- **RIAK**
  - Query routing!
- (Couchbase)

CustomSamplers

An extension for JMeter, with CMS specific needs, in order to measure the performance of the different databases.

For each candidate the extension has:

- Deployers
  - To build up the data model
- QueryHandlers
  - Simulate the CMS workflow
- ConfigElements
  - Configure persistency objects
- Samplers
  - Report to the testplan listeners



Deployment

Automated virtual environments on OpenStack.

- Personal tenant - biased by user interactions
- Thanks to the collaboration with CERN IT, the evaluation was made on dedicated resources
- Also SSD cached vs. disk comparisons were made

Details:

- No overcommit
- Instances are “equally” distributed on the hypervisors. (for 5 node: 2-2-1 on 3 hypervisors)
- 1 GBit NICs (shared between co-hosted VMs)

Results

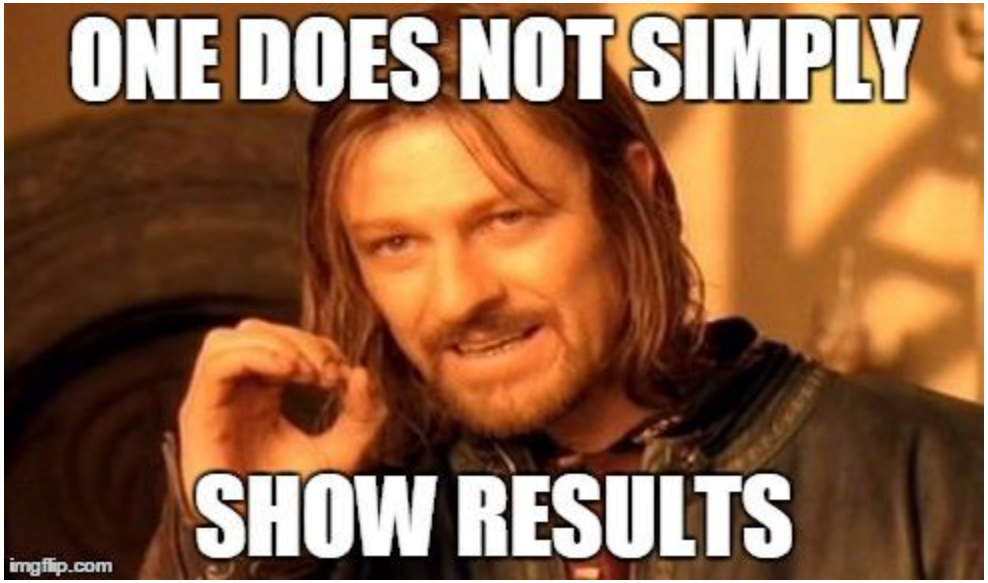
Increasing request numbers: 1-9 TPS
(For both remote and single testplans)

- Exploring limits for saturating factors like:
  - Network bandwidth
  - Access of persistency objects
  - Storage elements (Ephemeral disk/SSD, Ceph)
- Scaling out (different cluster setups):
  - Node numbers (5 x m1.large, 4 x m1.medium)
  - Routing techniques (Round robin, Token-aware)
  - Distributed testing (4 JMeter engine)

Plots

Loadosophia - Roland.Sipos@cern.ch

Composite timeline analysis (request time vs. monitoring)



Remarks

- MongoDB - 10Gen
  - Scaling ✓
  - BLOBs ✓
  - API ✓ (however… mongos.)
- Cassandra - Datastax
  - Scaling ✓
  - BLOBs ! (splitting of large binaries?)
  - API ✓
- RIAK - Basho
  - Scaling ✓
  - BLOBs ✓
  - API ! (token aware routing? C++ driver?)

Outro - Present and future

Application layer

The current implementation of the session layer is extendable with alternative storage backends.

Steps:

- Handling persistency objects
  - Extending the software framework with NoSQL support
- Implement the Session interfaces
  - Implementing the “equivalent” CondDB queries
- Testing

Integration

- Release validation
- Find differences between the current solution and the prototypes
  - Using real data
  - Real use-cases - using CMSSW

This will be the final performance comparison between different deployments.

Outlook

- Understand and eliminate issues during the release validation
- Fine-tuning critical performance factors
- Formal evaluation and comparison of the different solutions

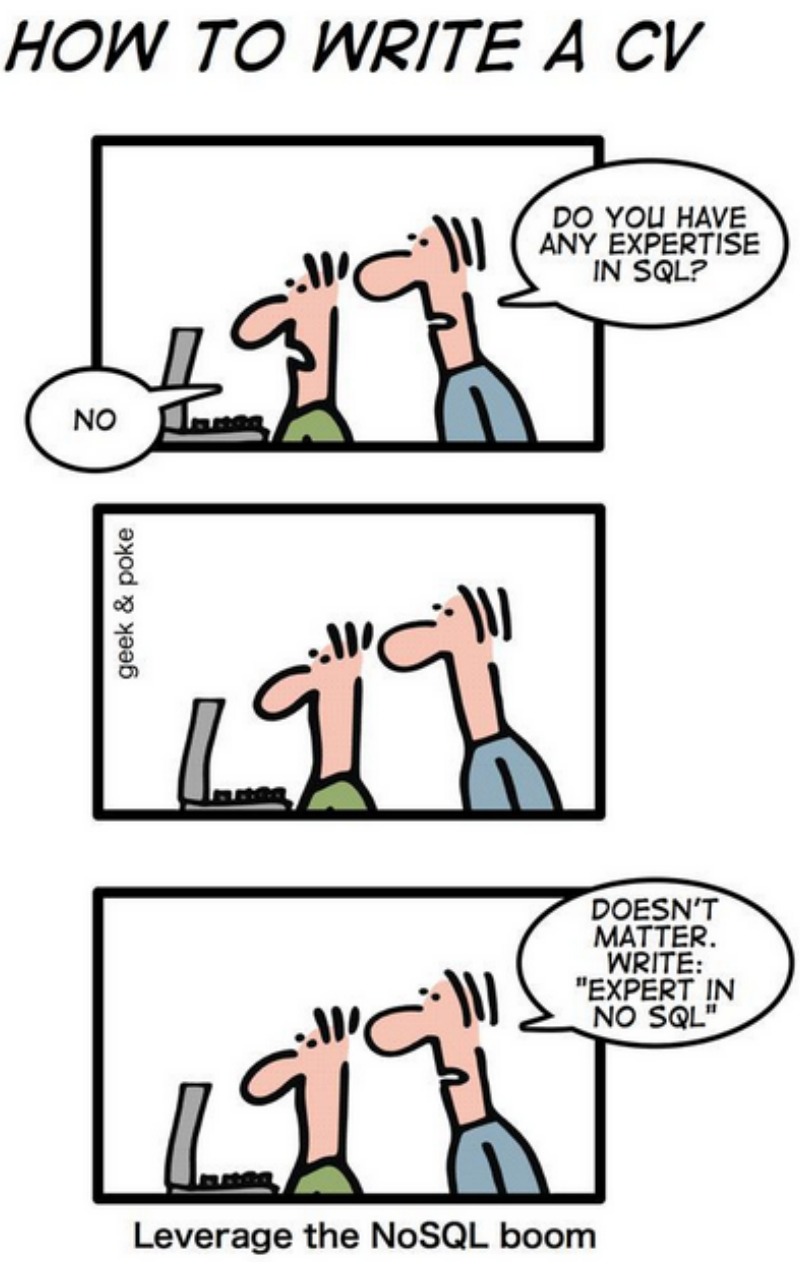
Long term project!

Not a “by tomorrow” change, but for LS2.

The end

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions are welcome!



From: http://geek-and-poke.com/