

Auditing and Assessement of data traffic flows in an IoT Architecture

Authors: P. Nesi, G. Pantaleo, M. Paolucci, I. Zaza by inspecting the DevDash tool time trend

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Smart Cities / IoT Solutions features

 Collect Big Data from the cloud of city sensors and IoT devices

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- Provide to final users a set of tools and items to easily access, read and monitor the_ingested data
- Give the possibility to build applications to visualize, process and perform different kinds of data analytics

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Smart City Requirements (1)

- I) Necessity of minimizing the problems induced to data-driven applications:
 - storing continuously last values from all devices
 - collecting historical trends generated by the ingestion of last values cumulated over time (data caching on IoT)
 - enriching ingested data (LOD, SC semantic KBs, ontologies and repositories)
- II) Necessity of quantitatively monitoring messages/data flows in order to detect anomalies and problems in data traffic

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Data Flows (1)

- IoT Devices
 - providing/receiving data to/from: IoT Brokers, IoT Apps, control messages to IoT devices (e.g. red lights, video cameras, signage, etc.) mainly via http carrying other protocols such as MQTT, NGSI, etc.
- IoT Brokers
 - providing/receiving data in push/pull
- Data Transformation Processes
 - ETL (Extract, Transform and Load) processes for data warehousing, which collect data in pull/get or through http/https/ftp/ftps/WS-soap, etc., protocols

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Data Flows (2)

- Data stream processing data coming from
 - video cameras and other several kinds of sensors (weather, air quality, traffic flows, levels of water in rivers and underpasses, etc.)
- Dashboards
 - web representation of data regarding the city status that can be represented in several control rooms
- Resource and Data portals
 - provide, receive and manage a set of resources
- Database storage

– MySQL, NoSQL, HBase, Mongo, Virtuoso, etc.

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Snap4City Architecture

- The general purposes of the Snap4City system are:
 - Collect data from external sources
 - Semantically aggregate
 - Exploiting data by data analytics and produce new knowledge and services for the users:
 - Traffic flow reconstruction
 - Routing
 - Predictions: on free parking, on traffic flows
 - Points of Interest (POI)
 - Smart City services: bike sharing, first aid, public transportation, smart waste management, air quality monitoring, weather reports and predictions, city events and entertainments, etc.

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Snap4City Architecture (2)

 Data to be collected come from: OD, RT data, personal data, loT/loE, stream, data driven, Industry 4.0, Social Media, etc. (any kind of source, protocol and format)



 Consists of a set of tools to cope with the whole process of ingestion, collection, analysis of data

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Snap4City tools for monitoring traffic flows

- The Snap4City system deals with large amounts of IoT devices generating a large number of communication and data flows
- It is necessary to monitor the proper working of the whole system and provide tools to understand potential malfunctions and recover the fully working conditions
- To this end, dedicated tools have been designed and implemented in the Snap4city platform:

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– DevDash and AMMA



Developer Dashboard (DevDash) tool

- Developer Dashboard (DevDash) tool is a data Value control tool aiming at:
 - collecting, enriching and indexing data coming from IoT devices
- Application & Microservices Monitoring and Analyzer services (AMMA) tool
 - is a data flow control tool for real-time monitoring and analyzing traffic flows
- DevDash and AMMA share the same back-end framework

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DevDash and AMMA back-end Architecture

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- Input data are collected in realtime by:
 - Persistent storage (NoSQL database)
 - IoT Brokers (which store the current value of IoT device until it is consumed)
 - Directly from the IoT devices.



DevDash and AMMA back-end Architecture

 The EventLogger role is to study the resource consumption of services and applications

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 Each Snap4City application /service, finalized to data collection, is provided with a dedicated logging block sending event-driven or scheduled messages to the EventLogger (APIs exploiting the RSyslog protocol)

 All data the ingested are processed by a module exploiting the open source Apache NiFi tool

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DevDash and AMMA back-end Architecture

 Apache NiFi is used to manage and optimize Big Data streams, operating also data transformation to properly prepare and adapt data for further processing, storage and indexing

- The obtained data stream is dispatched to Data-Shadowing, the Traffic Data and the Data Enrichment modules for: additional processing, storing (Apache HBase) and indexing
- The frontends are based on Banana Web-app, an open source data visualization tool developed as a port of Kibana

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DD & AMMA – Visual Tools (1)

- DevDash:
 - Allows users to apply filters in succession, until they reach the data view of interest for their purposes: i) download data; ii) consult data details; iii) send data to Data Analytic tools
- AMMA

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- Monitors and controls all the communication activities in Snap4City, in terms of data flows and traffic
- Allows to make analysis of the indexed EventLogger data for exploring distinct aspects of the data flows

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DD & AMMA – Visual Tools (2)

- AMMA and DevDash includes a set of dashboard widgets:
 - histograms, time-pickers, filters, facet selection on the different kind of data managed, heatmaps, pie charts, tables, and also newly created panels, such as a SC linked map with geo-faceting graphical filtering capabilities
- All these widgets are useful to perform real-time drill down activities on the data flows:
 - panning/zooming in time, in space, and navigating in kind via faceted solution and indexes, searching in text in a certain context, in terms of relationships among entities, etc. to arrive at the end at precise selection, at the single value on the graph or table
- Solr facet search functionalities provides the real-time analytic processing layer which is required for producing dynamic visualizations and different views on data

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DevDash Case Study (1)

 Check the status of IoT devices and related data traffic

Requirement I solved: Accessing the last value and real time values measured by IoT devices

- Drill-down on single data related to a single IOT:
 - filtering on time: the single data portion corresponding to the unexpected data flow can be viewed

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DevDash Case Study (2)

 Detect potential anomalies or disfunctions by inspecting the DevDash tool time trend

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Facet Filter by

Facet Filter by

«Comm. Mode»

AMMA Case Study (1)

 Monitor data traffic flows among IoT devices, services, applications etc. and detect potential anomalies

acet Field

agent lang ip_ext

ip_local

motivation

pid_local

service un

service scop

Facet Filter by

«External IP»

- Unexpected behaviours can be revealed by inspecting the data flow time trend:
 - a) detecting peaks or valleys in the trend
 - b) drill-down on data to identify single/more malfunctioning devices and/or services

Facet Filter by

«Motivation»

Requirement II solved:

(b)

Facet Filter by

«Process ID»

Facet Filter by

«Local IP»

AMMA Case Study (2)

- Make drill-down activities on data related to a single Process ID and check for unexpected behavior in the Time Trend panel:
 - c) Filtering data by the Process ID (e.g for example those related to a SmartWaste container)
 - d) Detect a peak with more data traffic than expected during its scheduled activity, by properly filtering on time, the single data portion corresponding to the unexpected data flow can be viewed
 - e) Locate on map the single involved device or service

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