

Querying Data

Date published: 2024-01-01

Date modified: 2024-12-05

CLOUDERA

Legal Notice

© Cloudera Inc. 2025. All rights reserved.

The documentation is and contains Cloudera proprietary information protected by copyright and other intellectual property rights. No license under copyright or any other intellectual property right is granted herein.

Unless otherwise noted, scripts and sample code are licensed under the Apache License, Version 2.0.

Copyright information for Cloudera software may be found within the documentation accompanying each component in a particular release.

Cloudera software includes software from various open source or other third party projects, and may be released under the Apache Software License 2.0 (“ASLv2”), the Affero General Public License version 3 (AGPLv3), or other license terms. Other software included may be released under the terms of alternative open source licenses. Please review the license and notice files accompanying the software for additional licensing information.

Please visit the Cloudera software product page for more information on Cloudera software. For more information on Cloudera support services, please visit either the Support or Sales page. Feel free to contact us directly to discuss your specific needs.

Cloudera reserves the right to change any products at any time, and without notice. Cloudera assumes no responsibility nor liability arising from the use of products, except as expressly agreed to in writing by Cloudera.

Cloudera, Cloudera Altus, HUE, Impala, Cloudera Impala, and other Cloudera marks are registered or unregistered trademarks in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Disclaimer: EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED IN A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH CLOUDERA, CLOUDERA DOES NOT MAKE NOR GIVE ANY REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY, NOR COVENANT OF ANY KIND, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN CONNECTION WITH CLOUDERA TECHNOLOGY OR RELATED SUPPORT PROVIDED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. CLOUDERA DOES NOT WARRANT THAT CLOUDERA PRODUCTS NOR SOFTWARE WILL OPERATE UNINTERRUPTED NOR THAT IT WILL BE FREE FROM DEFECTS NOR ERRORS, THAT IT WILL PROTECT YOUR DATA FROM LOSS, CORRUPTION NOR UNAVAILABILITY, NOR THAT IT WILL MEET ALL OF CUSTOMER’S BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, CLOUDERA EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, QUALITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT, TITLE, AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND ANY REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY, OR COVENANT BASED ON COURSE OF DEALING OR USAGE IN TRADE.

Contents

Querying data in Cloudera Data Warehouse.....	4
Submitting queries with Hue.....	4
Configure custom properties.....	5
Creating tables by importing CSV files from AWS S3 in Cloudera Data Warehouse.....	6
Creating tables by importing CSV files from ABFS.....	10
View query history.....	11
Cloudera Data Engineering Airflow ETL workloads in Hive Virtual Warehouses.....	12
Simplify queries with User-defined functions.....	12
Creating a Hive user-defined function.....	12
Setting up the development environment.....	12
Create the UDF class.....	14
Building the project and uploading the JAR.....	15
Configuring UDF JAR caching in Hive Virtual Warehouse.....	15
Registering the UDF.....	16
User-defined functions (UDFs).....	17
UDF concepts.....	35
Runtime environment for UDFs.....	39
Writing UDFs.....	39
Writing user-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs).....	42
Building and deploying UDFs.....	43
Performance considerations for UDFs.....	45
Examples of creating and using UDFs.....	45
Security considerations for UDFs.....	51
Limitations and restrictions for Impala UDFs.....	52
Start SQL AI Assistant.....	52
Generate SQL from NQL.....	53
Edit query in natural language.....	54
Explain query in natural language.....	55
Optimize SQL query.....	57
Fixing a query in Hue.....	58
Generate comment for a SQL query.....	59
Multi database support for SQL query.....	60
Impala workload management.....	62
Impala workload management table format.....	62
Impala workload management table maintenance.....	65
Impala workload management use cases.....	66
How Impala workload management works.....	66
Impala coordinator Startup flags.....	67

Querying data in Cloudera Data Warehouse

This topic describes how to query data in your Virtual Warehouse on Cloudera Data Warehouse.

About this task

The Cloudera Data Warehouse service includes the Hue SQL editor that you can use to submit queries to Virtual Warehouses. For example, you can use Hue to submit queries to an Impala Virtual Warehouse. For detailed information about using Hue, see [Using Hue](#).

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
The **Overview** page is displayed.
2. Click Hue on the Virtual Warehouse tile.
3. Enter your query into the editor and submit it to the Virtual Warehouse.

Related Information

[Submitting queries with Hue](#)

Submitting queries with Hue

You can write and edit queries for Hive or Impala Virtual Warehouses in the Cloudera Data Warehouse service by using Hue.

About this task

For detailed information about using Hue, see [Using Hue](#).

Before you begin

Hue uses your LDAP credentials that you have configured for the Cloudera cluster.

Procedure

1. Log into the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Go to the **Virtual Warehouses** tab, locate the Virtual Warehouse using which you want to run queries, and click HUE.


The Hue query editor opens in a new browser tab.


3. To run a query:

- a) Click a database to view the tables it contains.

When you click a database, it sets it as the target of your query in the main query editor panel.


- b)

Type a query in the editor panel and click  to run the query.

You can also run multiple queries by selecting them and clicking .



Note: Use the language reference to get information about syntax in addition to the SQL auto-

complete feature that is built in. To view the language reference, click the book icon  to the right of the query editor panel.

Related Information


[Hue overview](#)

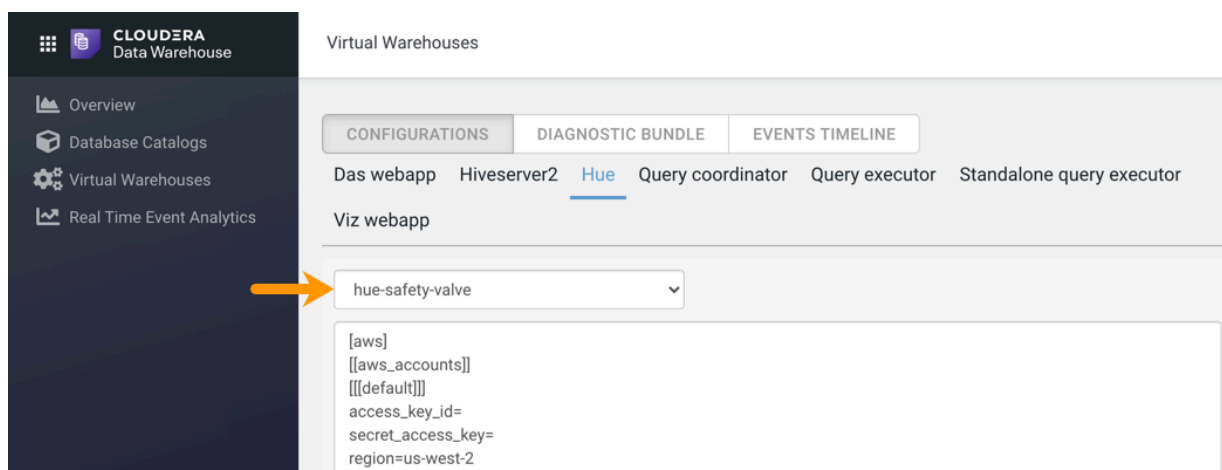
[Using Hue](#)

Configuring custom properties using safety valves

You can configure Hue properties that are not directly exposed through the Cloudera Data Warehouse web interface by specifying them in the Hue's Advanced Configuration Snippet called hue-safety-valve for a Virtual Warehouse. These configurations are stored in the hue.ini file.

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWAdmin.
2. Go to the Virtual Warehouses tab, locate the Virtual Warehouse associated with Hue, and click  Edit . The **Virtual Warehouse Details** page is displayed.
3. Go to the Configurations tab, select Hue, and select hue-safety-valve from the Configuration files drop-down menu.



4. Specify the custom configuration properties in the space provided as shown in the following examples:
For AWS:

```
[aws]
  [[aws_accounts]]
    [[[default]]]
      access_key_id=<access key id>
      secret_access_key=<secret access key>
      region=<aws region>
```

For Azure:

```
[azure]
  [[azure_accounts]]
    [[[default]]]
      client_id=<client id>
      client_secret=<client secret>
      tenant_id=<tenant id>
```

```
[azure]
  [[abfs_clusters]]
    [[[default]]]
```

```
fs_defaultfs=abfs://<container name>@<storage account>.dfs.core.windows.net
webhdfs_url=https://<storage account>.dfs.core.windows.net/
```

5. Click Apply Changes.

Creating tables by importing CSV files from AWS S3 in Cloudera Data Warehouse

You can create tables in Hue by importing CSV files stored in S3 buckets. Hue automatically detects the schema and the column types, thus helping you to create tables without using the CREATE TABLE syntax.

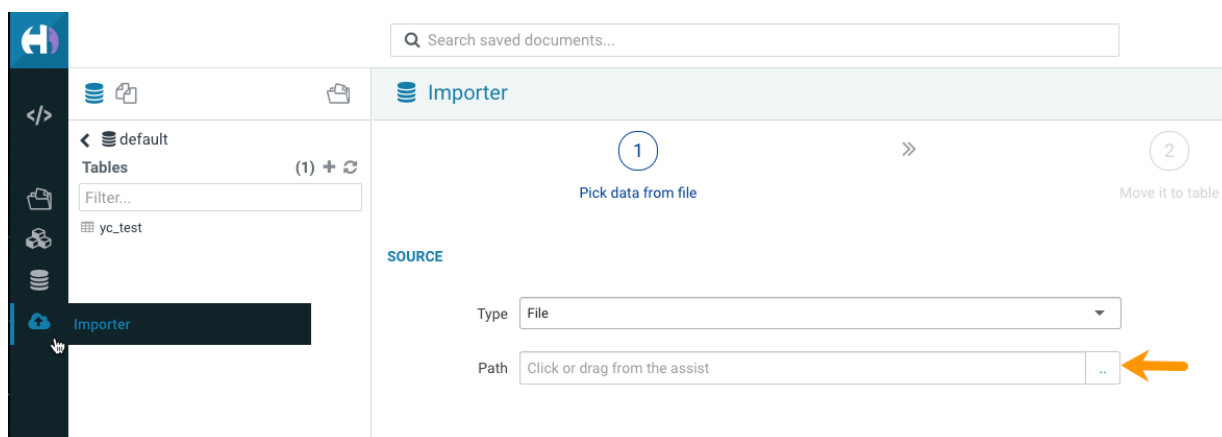
About this task

The maximum file size supported is three gigabytes.

(Non-RAZ deployment) Only Hue Superusers can access S3 buckets and import files to create tables. To create tables by importing files from S3, you must assign and authorize use of a specific bucket on S3 bucket for your environment. The bucket then appears like a home directory on the Hue web interface.

Procedure

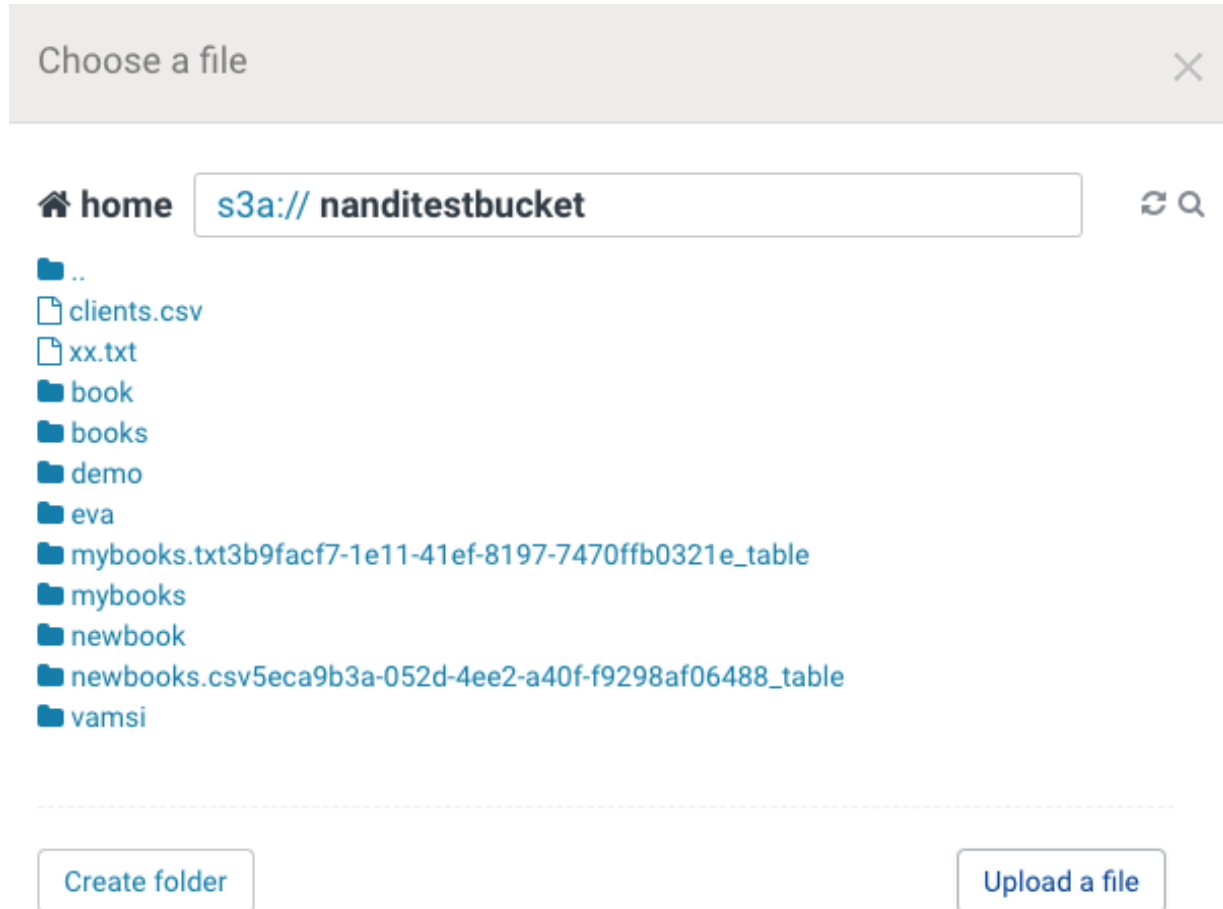
1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service.
2. On the **Overview** page, select the Virtual Warehouse in which you want to create the table and click on Hue.
3. From the left assist panel, click on Importer.
4. On the Importer screen, click .. at the end of the Path field:



Choose a file pop-up is displayed.

5. (Non-RAZ deployment) Type `s3a://` in the address text box and press enter.

The S3 buckets associated with the Cloudera Data Warehouse environment are displayed. You can narrow down the list of results using the search option.




If the file is present on your computer, then you can upload it to S3 by clicking Upload a file. To do this, you must have enabled read/write access to the S3 bucket from the Cloudera Data Warehouse environment.

6. Select the CSV file that you want to import into Hue.

Hue displays the preview of the table along with the format:

SOURCE

Type

Path .. 

FORMAT


File Type

Field Separator Record Separator Quote Character

☒ Has Header

PREVIEW

id	isbn	category	publish_date	publisher	price
510493	6-14037-480-9	HUMOR	1999-12-29 00:00:00	Shinchosha	112.989997864
510494	9-12014-783-7	POLITICAL-SCIENCE	1989-04-19 00:00:00	McGraw-Hill Educatio...	183.990005493
510495	8-36694-192-0	ARCHITECTURE	2014-09-18 00:00:00	Mondadori	14.9899997711
510496	7-93947-907-7	PHOTOGRAPHY	1972-03-22 00:00:00	Wolters Kluwer	136.990005493
510497	2-17003-891-2	HEALTH-FITNESS	1970-07-07 00:00:00	Gakken	27.9899997711



Hue automatically detects the field separator, record separator, and the quote character from the CSV file. If you want to override a specific setting, then you can change it by selecting a different value from the drop-down menu.

7. Click Next.

On this page, you can set the table destination, partitions, and change the column data types.

DESTINATION

Type Table

Name default.books

PROPERTIES

Format Text

Extras

☐ Store in Default location

☒ Transactional table ☒ Insert only

External location s3a://nanditestbucket/eva/books.csv ..

☒ Import data

Description Description

☒ Use first row as header

☐ Custom char delimiters

Partitions [+ Add partition](#)

FIELDS

Name	id	Type	bigint		510493	510494
Name	isbn	Type	string		6-14037-480-9	9-12014-783-7
..						

Back Submit

8. Verify the settings and click Submit to create the table.

The CREATE TABLE query is triggered:



Hue displays the logs and opens the **Table Browser** from which you can view the newly created table when the operation completes successfully.

Related Information

[Assigning resources to users](#)

[Performing user sync](#)

[Adding access to external S3 buckets for Cloudera Data Warehouse clusters on AWS](#)

[Adding Cloudera Data Warehouse cluster access to external S3 buckets in the same AWS account](#)

Creating tables by importing CSV files from ABFS

You can create tables in Hue by importing CSV files stored in ABFS. Hue automatically detects the schema and the column types, thus helping you to create tables without using the CREATE TABLE syntax.

About this task

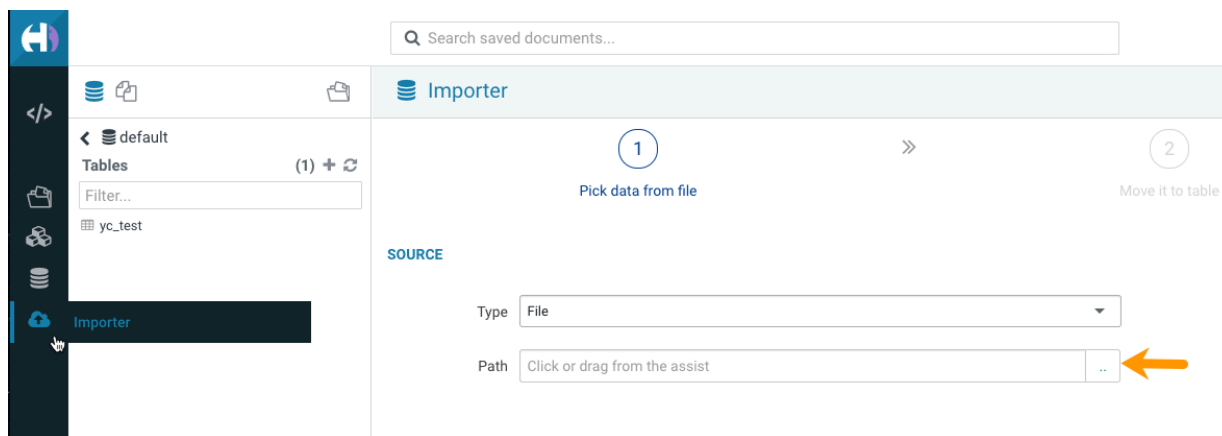
The maximum file size supported is three gigabytes.

(Non-RAZ deployment) Only Hue Superusers can access ADLS Gen2 containers and import files to create tables. To create tables by importing files from ADLS, you must assign and authorize use of a specific bucket on ADLS Gen2 containers for your environment. The bucket then appears like a home directory on the Hue web interface.

Procedure

1. In the Cloudera Data Warehouse service **Overview** page, select the Virtual Warehouse in which you want to create the table, click the options menu in the upper right corner and click Open Hue.
2. From the left assist panel, click on Importer.

- On the **Importer** screen, click .. at the end of the Path field:



Choose a file pop-up is displayed.

- (Non-RAZ deployment) Type `abfs://[***CONTAINER-NAME***]` in the address text box and press enter.
The ABFS containers created under the Azure storage account are displayed.
You can narrow down the list of results using the search option.
If the file is present on your computer, then you can upload it to ABFS by clicking Upload a file.
- Select the CSV file that you want to import into Hue.
Hue displays the preview of the table along with the format.
Hue automatically detects the field separator, record separator, and the quote character from the CSV file. If you want to override a specific setting, then you can change it by selecting a different value from the drop-down menu.
- Click Next.
On this page, you can set the table destination, partitions, and change the column data types.
- Verify the settings and click Submit to create the table.
The CREATE TABLE query is triggered.
Hue displays the logs and opens the **Table Browser** from which you can view the newly created table when the operation completes successfully.

Viewing query history in Cloudera Data Warehouse

In Cloudera Data Warehouse, you can view all queries that were run against a Database Catalog from Hue, Beeline, Hive Warehouse Connector (HWC), Tableau, Impala-shell, Impyla, and so on.

About this task

You need to set up Query Processor administrators to view the list of all queries from all users, or to restrict viewing of queries.

Procedure

- Log in to the Cloudera web interface and navigate to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service.
- In the Cloudera Data Warehouse service, navigate to the **Overview** page.
- From a Virtual Warehouse, launch Hue.
- Click on the Jobs icon on the left-assist panel.
The **Job Browser** page is displayed.
- Go to the **Queries** tab to view query history and query details.

Related Information

[Viewing Hive query details](#)

[Viewing Impala query details](#)

[Adding Query Processor Administrator users and groups in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)

Cloudera Data Engineering Airflow ETL workloads in Hive Virtual Warehouses

Cloudera Data Engineering can use Apache Airflow to create jobs that run ETL workloads on Hive Virtual Warehouses in Cloudera Data Warehouse.

Hive Virtual Warehouses, which use LLAP daemons (one per executor), are optimized to run interactive queries. However, when the HiveServer query planner receives queries, it examines the scan size, and if the scan size exceeds the value specified for the `hive.query.isolation.scan.size.threshold` parameter, the planner runs the query in isolation mode. This means that an isolated standalone executor group is spawned to run the data-intensive ETL-type query. This applies to query workloads that originate in Cloudera Data Warehouse. For more information about query isolation mode, see [Hive query isolation](#).

When query workloads originate in Cloudera Data Engineering and are sent to Hive Virtual Warehouses in Cloudera Data Warehouse using automated Airflow data pipelines, the HiveServer query planner assumes these are ETL workloads and these workloads are automatically processed in query isolation mode.

To set up automated data pipelines using Airflow in Cloudera Data Engineering, you must copy the Hive Virtual Warehouse JDBC URL in the Cloudera Data Warehouse UI to a text editor. Then you must navigate to the Cloudera Data Engineering experience and configure the connection for the data pipeline using Airflow. For details about setting this up, see [Automating data pipelines with Cloudera Data Engineering and Cloudera Data Warehouse using Apache Airflow](#).

Simplify queries with User-defined functions

Learn how to use built-in Hive and Impala functions or create custom user-defined functions (UDFs) for specific needs.

Register UDFs using Hive commands and incorporate them into queries. Impala supports UDFs, enabling custom logic for processing column values, complex calculations, and data transformations. These UDFs streamline query logic and enhance flexibility in data processing.

Creating a Hive user-defined function

You can call a built-in Hive function to run one of a wide-range of operations instead of performing multiple steps. You can create a user-defined function (UDF) when a built-in is not available to do what you need.

Assuming you have installed Java and a Java integrated development environment (IDE) tool, such as IntelliJ, you can create the UDF offline. For example, you can create the UDF on your laptop. You export a user-defined function (UDF) to a JAR from a Hadoop- and Hive-compatible Java project and store the JAR on the object store. Using Hive commands, you register the UDF based on the JAR, and call the UDF from a Hive query.

Setting up the development environment

You can create a Hive UDF in a development environment using IntelliJ, for example, and build the UDF. You define the Cloudera Maven Repository in your POM, which accesses necessary JARS `hadoop-common-<version>.jar` and `hive-exec-<version>.jar`.

Procedure

1. Open IntelliJ and create a new Maven-based project. Click Create New Project. Select Maven and the supported Java version as the Project SDK. Click Next.
2. Add archetype information.
For example:
 - GroupId: com.mycompany.hiveudf
 - ArtifactId: hiveudf
3. Click Next and Finish.
The generated pom.xml appears in sample-hiveudf.
4. To the pom.xml, add properties to facilitate versioning.
For example:

```
<properties>
  <hadoop.version>TBD</hadoop.version>
  <hive.version>TBD</hive.version>
</properties>
```

5. In the pom.xml, define the repositories.
Use internal repositories if you do not have internet access.

```
<repositories>
  <repository>
    <releases>
      <enabled>true</enabled>
      <updatePolicy>always</updatePolicy>
      <checksumPolicy>warn</checksumPolicy>
    </releases>
    <snapshots>
      <enabled>false</enabled>
      <updatePolicy>never</updatePolicy>
      <checksumPolicy>fail</checksumPolicy>
    </snapshots>
    <id>HDPReleases</id>
    <name>HDP Releases</name>
    <url>http://repo.hortonworks.com/content/repositories/releases/</u
rl>
    <layout>default</layout>
  </repository>
  <repository>
    <id>public.repo.hortonworks.com</id>
    <name>Public Hortonworks Maven Repo</name>
    <url>http://repo.hortonworks.com/content/groups/public/</url>
    <snapshots>
      <enabled>false</enabled>
    </snapshots>
  </repository>
  <repository>
    <id>repository.cloudera.com</id>
    <url>https://repository.cloudera.com/artifactory/cloudera-repos/<
/url>
  </repository>
</repositories>
```

6. Define dependencies.
For example:

```
<dependencies>
  <dependency>
    <groupId>org.apache.hive</groupId>
```

```

        <artifactId>hive-exec</artifactId>
        <version>${hive.version}</version>
    </dependency>
    <dependency>
        <groupId>org.apache.hadoop</groupId>
        <artifactId>hadoop-common</artifactId>
        <version>${hadoop.version}</version>
    </dependency>
</dependencies>

```

Create the UDF class

You define the UDF logic in a new class that returns the data type of a selected column in a table.

Procedure

1. In IntelliJ, click the vertical project tab, and expand hiveudf: hiveudf src main . Select the java directory, and on the context menu, select New Java Class , and name the class, for example, TypeOf.
2. Extend the GenericUDF class to include the logic that identifies the data type of a column.
For example:

```

package com.mycompany.hiveudf;

import org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.exec.UDFArgumentException;
import org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.metadata.HiveException;
import org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.udf.generic.GenericUDF;
import org.apache.hadoop.hive.serde2.objectinspector.ObjectInspector;
import org.apache.hadoop.hive.serde2.objectinspector.primitive.\
PrimitiveObjectInspectorFactory;
import org.apache.hadoop.io.Text;
public class TypeOf extends GenericUDF {
    private final Text output = new Text();
    @Override
    public ObjectInspector initialize(ObjectInspector[] arguments) throws U
DFArgumentException {
        checkArgsSize(arguments, 1, 1);
        checkArgPrimitive(arguments, 0);
        ObjectInspector outputOI = PrimitiveObjectInspectorFactory.writableSt
ringObjectInspector;
        return outputOI;
    }
    @Override
    public Object evaluate(DeferredObject[] arguments) throws HiveException
    {
        Object obj;
        if ((obj = arguments[0].get()) == null) {
            String res = "Type: NULL";
            output.set(res);
        } else {
            String res = "Type: " + obj.getClass().getName();
            output.set(res);
        }
        return output;
    }
    @Override
    public String getDisplayString(String[] children) {
        return getStandardDisplayString("TYPEOF", children, ",");
    }
}

```

Building the project and uploading the JAR

First, you compile the UDF code into a JAR, and then you add the JAR to Cloudera Data Warehouse object storage.

Before you begin


You have the EnvironmentAdmin role permissions to upload the JAR to your object storage.

Procedure

1. Build the IntelliJ project.

```
...
[INFO] Building jar: /Users/max/IdeaProjects/hiveudf/target/TypeOf-1.0-SNAPSHOT.jar
[INFO] -----
[INFO] BUILD SUCCESS
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Total time: 14.820 s
[INFO] Finished at: 2019-04-03T16:53:04-07:00
[INFO] Final Memory: 26M/397M
[INFO] -----
-----

Process finished with exit code 0
```

2. In IntelliJ, navigate to the JAR in the /target directory of the project.
3. In Cloudera Data Warehouse, click Overview Database Catalogs , select your Database Catalog, and click options  , and then click Edit.
4. Upload the JAR to the Hive warehouse on Cloudera Data Warehouse object storage.
 - AWS object storage
In AWS, [upload the JAR file](#) to a bucket on S3 that you can access, for example S3a://my-bucket/path. Add an external AWS S3 bucket if necessary.
 - Azure object storage
In Azure, [upload the JAR file](#) to a default Azure Blob Storage (ABFS) location that you can access, for example abfs://my-storage/path.
5. In IntelliJ, click Save.
6. Click Actions Deploy Client Configuration .
7. Restart the Hive Virtual Warehouse.

Related Information

[Adding access to external S3 buckets](#)

Configuring UDF JAR caching in Hive Virtual Warehouse

After you write and compile your User Defined Function (UDF) code into a Java Archive (JAR) file, you can configure a Hive Virtual Warehouse to cache the UDF JAR in HiveServer (HS2) in Cloudera Data Warehouse.

About this task

UDFs enable you to create custom functions to process records or groups of records. Although Hive provides a comprehensive library of functions, there are gaps for which UDFs are a good solution.


In this task, you configure the Hive Virtual Warehouse to cache the JAR file for quick access by the Virtual Warehouse. After configuring the Virtual Warehouse for caching, the UDF JAR is downloaded from the object store the first time it is called, and then cached. Subsequent calls to the JAR are answered from the cache.

Configuring caching significantly improves performance for queries that use the UDF. Without caching, loading a very large UDF of several hundred MBs can take up to several minutes for each query.

Before you begin

- Create a user-defined function.
- Write, compile, and export your UDF code to a JAR file.
- Upload the UDF JAR file to a bucket or container on AWS or Azure, respectively.

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWAdmin.
2. Go to the Virtual Warehouses tab, locate the Hive Virtual Warehouse that uses the bucket or container where you placed the UDF JAR file, and click  Edit .
The **Virtual Warehouse Details** page is displayed.
3. Go to Configurations HiveServer2 .
4. Select hive-site from the Configuration files drop-down menu, and click Add Custom Configuration.
The **Custom Configuration** modal is displayed.
5. Add the following configuration information, and then click Add:
 - Configuration Key: hive.server2.udf.cache.enabled
 - Configuration Value: true
6. Click Apply Changes.
7. Verify that the configuration property and setting have been added by searching for hive.server2.udf.cache.enabled in the search box. If the property has been added, the property name is displayed in the KEY column of the table.

Registering the UDF

In Cloudera Data Warehouse, you run a command from a client interface to your Virtual Warehouse, such as Hue, to call the UDF from Hive queries. The UDF persists between HiveServer restarts.

Before you begin

You need to set up UDF access using a Ranger policy as follows:

- Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service and open Ranger from the Database Catalog associated with your Hive Virtual Warehouse.
- On the **Service Manager** page, under the HADOOP SQL section, select the Database Catalog associated with the Hive Virtual Warehouse in which you want to run the UDFs.
- Select the all - database, udf policy and add the users needing access to Hue. To add all users, you can specify {USER}.

Procedure

1. Open Hue from the Hive Virtual Warehouse in Cloudera Data WarehouseDW.

2. Run the registration command by including the JAR location on your object store.

For example, on AWS:

```
CREATE FUNCTION udftypeof AS 'com.mycompany.hiveudf.TypeOf01' USING JAR
's3a://mybucket/mypath/TypeOf01-1.0-SNAPSHOT.jar';
```

On Azure:

```
CREATE FUNCTION udftypeof AS 'com.mycompany.hiveudf.TypeOf01' USING JAR
'abfs://mybucket/mypath/TypeOf01-1.0-SNAPSHOT.jar';
```

3. Restart the Virtual Warehouse.
4. Check that the UDF is registered.

```
SHOW FUNCTIONS;
```

You scroll through the output and find default.typeof.

5. Run a query that calls the UDF.

```
SELECT students.name, udftypeof(students.name) AS type FROM students WHERE
age=35;
```

User-defined functions (UDFs)

User-defined functions (frequently abbreviated as UDFs) let you code your own application logic for processing column values during an Impala query. For example, a UDF could perform calculations using an external math library, combine several column values into one, do geospatial calculations, or other kinds of tests and transformations that are outside the scope of the built-in SQL operators and functions.

You can use UDFs to simplify query logic when producing reports, or to transform data in flexible ways when copying from one table to another with the `INSERT ... SELECT` syntax.

You might be familiar with this feature from other database products, under names such as stored functions or stored routines.

Impala support for UDFs is available in Impala 1.2 and higher:

- In Impala 1.1, using UDFs in a query required using the Hive shell. (Because Impala and Hive share the same metastore database, you could switch to Hive to run just those queries requiring UDFs, then switch back to Impala.)
- Starting in Impala 1.2, Impala can run both high-performance native code UDFs written in C++, and Java-based Hive UDFs that you might already have written.
- Impala can run scalar UDFs that return a single value for each row of the result set, and user-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs) that return a value based on a set of rows. Currently, Impala does not support user-defined table functions (UDTFs) or window functions.

UDF concepts

Depending on your use case, you might write all-new functions, reuse Java UDFs that you have already written for Hive, or port Hive Java UDF code to higher-performance native Impala UDFs in C++. You can code either scalar functions for producing results one row at a time, or more complex aggregate functions for doing analysis across. The following sections discuss these different aspects of working with UDFs.

UDFs and UDAFs

Depending on your use case, the user-defined functions (UDFs) you write might accept or produce different numbers of input and output values:

- The most general kind of user-defined function (the one typically referred to by the abbreviation UDF) takes a single input value and produces a single output value. When used in a query, it is called once for each row in the result set. For example:

```
select customer_name, is_frequent_customer(customer_id) from
customers;
select obfuscate(sensitive_column) from sensitive_data;
```

- A user-defined aggregate function (UDAF) accepts a group of values and returns a single value. You use UDAFs to summarize and condense sets of rows, in the same style as the built-in COUNT, MAX(), SUM(), and AVG() functions. When called in a query that uses the GROUP BY clause, the function is called once for each combination of GROUP BY values. For example:

```
-- Evaluates multiple rows but returns a single value.
select closest_restaurant(latitude, longitude) from places;

-- Evaluates batches of rows and returns a separate value for
each batch.
select most_profitable_location(store_id, sales, expenses, tax
_rate, depreciation) from franchise_data group by year;
```

- Currently, Impala does not support other categories of user-defined functions, such as user-defined table functions (UDTFs) or window functions.

Native Impala UDFs

Impala supports UDFs written in C++, in addition to supporting existing Hive UDFs written in Java. Cloudera recommends using C++ UDFs because the compiled native code can yield higher performance, with UDF execution time often 10x faster for a C++ UDF than the equivalent Java UDF.

Using Hive UDFs with Impala

Impala can run Java-based user-defined functions (UDFs), originally written for Hive, with no changes, subject to the following conditions:

- The parameters and return value must all use scalar data types supported by Impala. For example, complex or nested types are not supported.
- Hive/Java UDFs must extend `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.exec.UDF` class.
- Currently, Hive UDFs that accept or return the `TIMESTAMP` type are not supported.
- Prior to Impala 2.5 the return type must be a “Writable” type such as `Text` or `IntWritable`, rather than a Java primitive type such as `String` or `int`. Otherwise, the UDF returns `NULL`. In Impala 2.5 and higher, this restriction is lifted, and both UDF arguments and return values can be Java primitive types.
- Hive UDAFs and UDTFs are not supported.
- Typically, a Java UDF will execute several times slower in Impala than the equivalent native UDF written in C++.
- In Impala 2.5 and higher, you can transparently call Hive Java UDFs through Impala, or call Impala Java UDFs through Hive. This feature does not apply to built-in Hive functions. Any Impala Java UDFs created with older versions must be re-created using new `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax, without any signature for arguments or the return value.

To take full advantage of the Impala architecture and performance features, you can also write Impala-specific UDFs in C++.

For background about Java-based Hive UDFs, see the Hive documentation for UDF. For examples or tutorials for writing such UDFs, search the web for related blog posts.

The ideal way to understand how to reuse Java-based UDFs (originally written for Hive) with Impala is to take some of the Hive built-in functions (implemented as Java UDFs) and take the

applicable JAR files through the UDF deployment process for Impala, creating new UDFs with different names:

1. Take a copy of the Hive JAR file containing the Hive built-in functions.
2. Use `jar tf JAR_FILE` to see a list of the classes inside the JAR. You will see names like `org/apache/hadoop/hive/ql/udf/UDFLower.class` and `org/apache/hadoop/hive/ql/udf/UDFOPNegative.class`. Make a note of the names of the functions you want to experiment with. When you specify the entry points for the Impala CREATE FUNCTION statement, change the slash characters to dots and strip off the .class suffix, for example `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.udf.UDFLower` and `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.udf.UDFOPNegative`.
3. Copy that file to an HDFS location that Impala can read. (In the examples here, we renamed the file to `hive-builtins.jar` in HDFS for simplicity.)
4. For each Java-based UDF that you want to call through Impala, issue a CREATE FUNCTION statement, with a LOCATION clause containing the full HDFS path of the JAR file, and a SYMBOL clause with the fully qualified name of the class, using dots as separators and without the .class extension. Remember that user-defined functions are associated with a particular database, so issue a USE statement for the appropriate database first, or specify the SQL function name as `DB_NAME.FUNCTION_NAME`. Use completely new names for the SQL functions, because Impala UDFs cannot have the same name as Impala built-in functions.
5. Call the function from your queries, passing arguments of the correct type to match the function signature. These arguments could be references to columns, arithmetic or other kinds of expressions, the results of CAST functions to ensure correct data types, and so on.



Note:

In Impala 2.9 and higher, you can refresh the user-defined functions (UDFs) that Impala recognizes, at the database level, by running the REFRESH FUNCTIONS statement with the database name as an argument. Java-based UDFs can be added to the metastore database through Hive CREATE FUNCTION statements, and made visible to Impala by subsequently running REFRESH FUNCTIONS. For example:

```
CREATE DATABASE shared_udfs;
USE shared_udfs;
...use CREATE FUNCTION statements in Hive to create so
me Java-based UDFs
    that Impala is not initially aware of...
REFRESH FUNCTIONS shared_udfs;
SELECT udf_created_by_hive(c1) FROM ...
```

Java UDF example: Reusing lower() function

For example, the following `impala-shell` session creates an Impala UDF `my_lower()` that reuses the Java code for the Hive `lower()`: built-in function. We cannot call it `lower()` because Impala does not allow UDFs to have the same name as built-in functions. From SQL, we call the function in a basic way (in a query with no WHERE clause), directly on a column, and on the results of a string expression:

```
[localhost:21000] > create database udfs;
[localhost:21000] > use udfs;
localhost:21000] > create function lower(string) returns string
location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.hi
ve.ql.udf.UDFLower';
ERROR: AnalysisException: Function cannot have the same name as a
builtin: lower
[localhost:21000] > create function my_lower(string) returns s
tring location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.had
oop.hive.ql.udf.UDFLower';
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower('Some String NOT ALREADY LOWE
RCASE');
```

```

| udfs.my_lower('some string not already lowercase') |
+-----+
| some string not already lowercase |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > create table t2 (s string);
[localhost:21000] > insert into t2 values ('lower'),('UPPER'),('Init cap'),('CamelCase');
Inserted 4 rows in 2.28s
[localhost:21000] > select * from t2;
+-----+
| s |
+-----+
| lower |
| UPPER |
| Init cap |
| CamelCase |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.47s
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower(s) from t2;
+-----+
| udfs.my_lower(s) |
+-----+
| lower |
| upper |
| init cap |
| camelcase |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.54s
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower(concat('ABC ',s,' XYZ')) from t2;
+-----+
| udfs.my_lower(concat('abc ', s, ' xyz')) |
+-----+
| abc lower xyz |
| abc upper xyz |
| abc init cap xyz |
| abc camelcase xyz |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.22s

```

Java UDF example: Reusing negative() function

Here is an example that reuses the Hive Java code for the `negative()` built-in function. This example demonstrates how the data types of the arguments must match precisely with the function signature. At first, we create an Impala SQL function that can only accept an integer argument. Impala cannot find a matching function when the query passes a floating-point argument, although we can call the integer version of the function by casting the argument. Then we overload the same function name to also accept a floating-point argument.

```

[localhost:21000] > create table t (x int);
[localhost:21000] > insert into t values (1), (2), (4), (100);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.43s
[localhost:21000] > create function my_neg(bigint) returns bigint
location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.
hive.ql.udf.UDFOPNegative';
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4);
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(4) |
+-----+
| -4 |
+-----+
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(x) from t;

```

```

+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(x) |
+-----+
| -2             |
| -4             |
| -100           |
+-----+
Returned 3 row(s) in 0.60s
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4.0);
ERROR: AnalysisException: No matching function with signature:
udfs.my_neg(FLOAT).
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(cast(4.0 as int));
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(cast(4.0 as int)) |
+-----+
| -4                             |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > create function my_neg(double) returns double
location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.h
ive ql.udf.UDFOPNegative';
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4.0);
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(4.0) |
+-----+
| -4               |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s

```

You can find the sample files mentioned here in the [Impala github repo](#).

Runtime environment for UDFs

By default, Impala copies UDFs into /tmp, and you can configure this location through the `--local_library_dir` startup flag for the `impalad` daemon.

Installing the UDF development package

To develop UDFs for Impala, download and install the `impala-udf-devel` package (RHEL-based distributions). This package contains header files, sample source, and build configuration files.

1. Download [the repo file](#).
2. Use the `yum` command to install the package. For the package name, specify `impala-udf-devel` (RHEL-based distributions).



Note: The UDF development code does not rely on Impala being installed on the same machine. You can write and compile UDFs on a minimal development system, then deploy them on a different one for use with Impala. If you develop UDFs on a server managed by Cloudera Manager through the parcel mechanism, you still install the UDF development kit through the package mechanism; this small standalone package does not interfere with the parcels containing the main Impala code.

When you are ready to start writing your own UDFs, download the sample code and build scripts from the Cloudera sample UDF github. Then see [Writing UDFs](#) on page 21 for how to code UDFs, and [Examples of creating and using UDFs](#) on page 28 for how to build and run UDFs.

Writing UDFs

Before starting UDF development, make sure to install the development package and download the UDF code samples. Install the Impala UDF development package as described in [Installing the UDF development package](#) on page 21.

When writing UDFs:

- Keep in mind the data type differences as you transfer values from the high-level SQL to your lower-level UDF code. For example, in the UDF code you might be much more aware of how many bytes different kinds of integers require.
- Use best practices for function-oriented programming: choose arguments carefully, avoid side effects, make each function do a single thing, and so on.

Getting started with UDF coding

To understand the layout and member variables and functions of the predefined UDF data types, examine the header file `/usr/include/impala_udf/udf.h`:

```
// This is the only Impala header required to develop UDFs and U
DAs. This header
// contains the types that need to be used and the FunctionCont
ext object. The context
// object serves as the interface object between the UDF/UDA and
the impala process.
```

For the basic declarations needed to write a scalar UDF, see the header file [udf-sample.h](#) within the sample build environment, which defines a simple function named `AddUdf()`:

```
#ifndef IMPALA_UDF_SAMPLE_UDF_H
#define IMPALA_UDF_SAMPLE_UDF_H
#include <impala_udf/udf.h>

using namespace impala_udf;

IntVal AddUdf(FunctionContext* context, const IntVal& arg1, const
IntVal& arg2);
#endif
```

For sample C++ code for a simple function named `AddUdf()`, see the source file `udf-sample.cc` within the sample build environment:

```
#include "udf-sample.h"
// In this sample we are declaring a UDF that adds two ints and
returns an int.
IntVal AddUdf(FunctionContext* context, const IntVal& arg1, const
IntVal& arg2) {
    if (arg1.is_null || arg2.is_null) return IntVal::null();
    return IntVal(arg1.val + arg2.val);
}

// Multiple UDFs can be defined in the same file
```

Data types for function arguments and return values

Each value that a user-defined function can accept as an argument or return as a result value must map to a SQL data type that you could specify for a table column.

Currently, Impala UDFs cannot accept arguments or return values of the Impala complex types (STRUCT, ARRAY, or MAP).

Each data type has a corresponding structure defined in the C++ and Java header files, with two member fields and some predefined comparison operators and constructors:

- `is_null` indicates whether the value is NULL or not. `val` holds the actual argument or return value when it is non-NULL.
- Each struct also defines a `null()` member function that constructs an instance of the struct with the `is_null` flag set.
- The built-in SQL comparison operators and clauses such as `<`, `>=`, `BETWEEN`, and `ORDER BY` all work automatically based on the SQL return type of each UDF. For example, Impala knows

how to evaluate `BETWEEN 1 AND udf_returning_int(col1)` or `ORDER BY udf_returning_string(col2)` without you declaring any comparison operators within the UDF itself.

For convenience within your UDF code, each struct defines `==` and `!=` operators for comparisons with other structs of the same type. These are for typical C++ comparisons within your own code, not necessarily reproducing SQL semantics. For example, if the `is_null` flag is set in both structs, they compare as equal. That behavior of null comparisons is different from SQL (where `NULL == NULL` is `NULL` rather than `true`), but more in line with typical C++ behavior.

- Each kind of struct has one or more constructors that define a filled-in instance of the struct, optionally with default values.
- Impala cannot process UDFs that accept the composite or nested types as arguments or return them as result values. This limitation applies both to Impala UDFs written in C++ and Java-based Hive UDFs.
- You can overload functions by creating multiple functions with the same SQL name but different argument types. For overloaded functions, you must use different C++ or Java entry point names in the underlying functions.

The data types defined on the C++ side (in `/usr/include/impala_udf/udf.h`) are:

- `IntVal` represents an `INT` column.
- `BigIntVal` represents a `BIGINT` column. Even if you do not need the full range of a `BIGINT` value, it can be useful to code your function arguments as `BigIntVal` to make it convenient to call the function with different kinds of integer columns and expressions as arguments. Impala automatically casts smaller integer types to larger ones when appropriate, but does not implicitly cast large integer types to smaller ones.
- `SmallIntVal` represents a `SMALLINT` column.
- `TinyIntVal` represents a `TINYINT` column.
- `StringVal` represents a `STRING` column. It has a `len` field representing the length of the string, and a `ptr` field pointing to the string data. It has constructors that create a new `StringVal` struct based on a null-terminated C-style string, or a pointer plus a length; these new structs still refer to the original string data rather than allocating a new buffer for the data. It also has a constructor that takes a pointer to a `FunctionContext` struct and a length, that does allocate space for a new copy of the string data, for use in UDFs that return string values.
- `BooleanVal` represents a `BOOLEAN` column.
- `FloatVal` represents a `FLOAT` column.
- `DoubleVal` represents a `DOUBLE` column.
- `TimestampVal` represents a `TIMESTAMP` column. It has a `date` field, a 32-bit integer representing the Gregorian date, that is, the days past the epoch date. It also has a `time_of_day` field, a 64-bit integer representing the current time of day in nanoseconds.

Variable-length argument lists

UDFs typically take a fixed number of arguments, with each one named explicitly in the signature of your C++ function. Your function can also accept additional optional arguments, all of the same type. For example, you can concatenate two strings, three strings, four strings, and so on. Or you can compare two numbers, three numbers, four numbers, and so on.

To accept a variable-length argument list, code the signature of your function like this:

```
StringVal Concat(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal& separator,
    int num_var_args, const StringVal* args);
```

In the CREATE FUNCTION statement, after the type of the first optional argument, include ... to indicate it could be followed by more arguments of the same type. For example, the following function accepts a STRING argument, followed by one or more additional STRING arguments:

```
[localhost:21000] > create function my_concat(string, string ...
) returns string location '/user/test_user/udfs/sample.so' symbol=
'Concat';
```

The call from the SQL query must pass at least one argument to the variable-length portion of the argument list.

When Impala calls the function, it fills in the initial set of required arguments, then passes the number of extra arguments and a pointer to the first of those optional arguments.

Handling NULL values

For correctness, performance, and reliability, it is important for each UDF to handle all situations where any NULL values are passed to your function. For example, when passed a NULL, UDFs typically also return NULL. In an aggregate function, which could be passed a combination of real and NULL values, you might make the final value into a NULL (as in CONCAT()), ignore the NULL value (as in AVG()), or treat it the same as a numeric zero or empty string.

Each parameter type, such as IntVal or StringVal, has an is_null Boolean member. Test this flag immediately for each argument to your function, and if it is set, do not refer to the val field of the argument structure. The val field is undefined when the argument is NULL, so your function could go into an infinite loop or produce incorrect results if you skip the special handling for NULL.

If your function returns NULL when passed a NULL value, or in other cases such as when a search string is not found, you can construct a null instance of the return type by using its null() member function.

Memory allocation for UDFs

By default, memory allocated within a UDF is deallocated when the function exits, which could be before the query is finished. The input arguments remain allocated for the lifetime of the function, so you can refer to them in the expressions for your return values. If you use temporary variables to construct all-new string values, use the StringVal() constructor that takes an initial FunctionContext* argument followed by a length, and copy the data into the newly allocated memory buffer.

Thread-safe work area for UDFs

One way to improve performance of UDFs is to specify the optional PREPARE_FN and CLOSE_FN clauses on the CREATE FUNCTION statement. The “prepare” function sets up a thread-safe data structure in memory that you can use as a work area. The “close” function deallocates that memory. Each subsequent call to the UDF within the same thread can access that same memory area. There might be several such memory areas allocated on the same host, as UDFs are parallelized using multiple threads.

Within this work area, you can set up predefined lookup tables, or record the results of complex operations on data types such as STRING or TIMESTAMP. Saving the results of previous computations rather than repeating the computation each time is an optimization known as Memoization. For example, if your UDF performs a regular expression match or date manipulation on a column that repeats the same value over and over, you could store the last-computed value or a hash table of already-computed values, and do a fast lookup to find the result for subsequent iterations of the UDF.

Each such function must have the signature:

```
void FUNCTION_NAME(impala_udf::FunctionContext*, impala_udf::FunctionContext::FunctionScope)
```


Currently, only `THREAD_SCOPE` is implemented, not `FRAGMENT_SCOPE`. See `udf.h` for details about the scope values.

Error handling for UDFs

To handle errors in UDFs, you call functions that are members of the initial `FunctionContext*` argument passed to your function.

A UDF can record one or more warnings, for conditions that indicate minor, recoverable problems that do not cause the query to stop. The signature for this function is:

```
bool AddWarning(const char* warning_msg);
```

For a serious problem that requires cancelling the query, a UDF can set an error flag that prevents the query from returning any results. The signature for this function is:

```
void SetError(const char* error_msg);
```

Writing user-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs)

User-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs or UDAs) are a powerful and flexible category of user-defined functions. If a query processes *N* rows, calling a UDAF during the query condenses the result set, anywhere from a single value (such as with the `SUM` or `MAX` functions), or some number less than or equal to *N* (as in queries using the `GROUP BY` or `HAVING` clause).

The underlying functions for a UDA

A UDAF must maintain a state value across subsequent calls, so that it can accumulate a result across a set of calls, rather than derive it purely from one set of arguments. For that reason, a UDAF is represented by multiple underlying functions:

- An initialization function that sets any counters to zero, creates empty buffers, and does any other one-time setup for a query.
- An update function that processes the arguments for each row in the query result set and accumulates an intermediate result for each node. For example, this function might increment a counter, append to a string buffer, or set flags.
- A merge function that combines the intermediate results from two different nodes.
- A serialize function that flattens any intermediate values containing pointers, and frees any memory allocated during the init, update, and merge phases.
- A finalize function that either passes through the combined result unchanged, or does one final transformation.

In the SQL syntax, you create a UDAF by using the statement `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION`. You specify the entry points of the underlying C++ functions using the clauses `INIT_FN`, `UPDATE_FN`, `MERGE_FN`, `SERIALIZE_FN`, and `FINALIZE_FN`.

For convenience, you can use a naming convention for the underlying functions and Impala automatically recognizes those entry points. Specify the `UPDATE_FN` clause, using an entry point name containing the string `update` or `Update`. When you omit the other `_FN` clauses from the SQL statement, Impala looks for entry points with names formed by substituting the `update` or `Update` portion of the specified name.

`uda-sample.h`:

See this file online at: [uda-sample.h](#)

`uda-sample.cc`:

See this file online at: [uda-sample.cc](#)

Intermediate results for UDAs

A user-defined aggregate function might produce and combine intermediate results during some phases of processing, using a different data type than the final return value. For example, if you implement a function similar to the built-in `AVG()` function, it must keep track of two values, the number of values counted and the sum of those values. Or, you might accumulate a string value over the course of a UDA, then in the end return a numeric or Boolean result.

In such a case, specify the data type of the intermediate results using the optional `INTERMEDIATE TYPE_NAME` clause of the `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION` statement. If the intermediate data is a typeless byte array (for example, to represent a C++ struct or array), specify the type name as `CHAR(N)`, with *N* representing the number of bytes in the intermediate result buffer.

For an example of this technique, see the `trunc_sum()` aggregate function, which accumulates intermediate results of type `DOUBLE` and returns `BIGINT` at the end. View the appropriate `CREATE FUNCTION` statement and the implementation of the underlying `TruncSum*()` functions on Github.

- [test_udfs.py](#)
- [test-udas.cc](#)

Building and deploying UDFs

This section explains the steps to compile Impala UDFs from C++ source code, and deploy the resulting libraries for use in Impala queries.

Impala UDF development package ships with a sample build environment for UDFs, that you can study, experiment with, and adapt for your own use.

To build the sample environment:

1. Install the Impala UDF development package as described in [Installing the UDF development package](#) on page 21.
2. Run the following commands:

```
cmake .
make
```

The `cmake` configuration command reads the file `CMakeLists.txt` and generates a Makefile customized for your particular directory paths. Then the `make` command runs the actual build steps based on the rules in the Makefile.

Impala loads the shared library from an HDFS location. After building a shared library containing one or more UDFs, use `hdfs dfs` or `hadoop fs` commands to copy the binary file to an HDFS location readable by Impala.

The final step in deployment is to issue a `CREATE FUNCTION` statement in the `impala-shell` interpreter to make Impala aware of the new function. Because each function is associated with a particular database, always issue a `USE` statement to the appropriate database before creating a function, or specify a fully qualified name, that is, `CREATE FUNCTION DB_NAME.FUNCTION_NAME`.

As you update the UDF code and redeploy updated versions of a shared library, use `DROP FUNCTION` and `CREATE FUNCTION` to let Impala pick up the latest version of the code.

**Note:**

In Impala 2.5 and higher, Impala UDFs and UDAs written in C++ are persisted in the metastore database. Java UDFs are also persisted, if they were created with the new CREATE FUNCTION syntax for Java UDFs, where the Java function argument and return types are omitted. Java-based UDFs created with the old CREATE FUNCTION syntax do not persist across restarts because they are held in the memory of the catalogd daemon. Until you re-create such Java UDFs using the new CREATE FUNCTION syntax, you must reload those Java-based UDFs by running the original CREATE FUNCTION statements again each time you restart the catalogd daemon. Prior to Impala 2.5 the requirement to reload functions after a restart applied to both C++ and Java functions.

See [CREATE FUNCTION statement](#) and [DROP FUNCTION statement](#) for the new syntax for the persistent Java UDFs.

Prerequisites for the build environment are:

1. Install the packages using the appropriate package installation command for your Linux distribution.

```
sudo yum install gcc-c++ cmake boost-devel
sudo yum install impala-udf-devel
# The package name on Ubuntu and Debian is impala-udf-dev.
```

2. Download the UDF sample code:

```
git clone https://github.com/cloudera/impala-udf-samples
cd impala-udf-samples && cmake . && make
```

3. Unpack the sample code in udf_samples.tar.gz and use that as a template to set up your build environment.

To build the original samples:

```
# Process CMakeLists.txt and set up appropriate Makefiles.
cmake .
# Generate shared libraries from UDF and UDAF sample code,
# udf_samples/libudfsample.so and udf_samples/libudasample.so
make
```

The sample code to examine, experiment with, and adapt is in these files:

- `udf-sample.h`: Header file that declares the signature for a scalar UDF (AddUDF).
- `udf-sample.cc`: Sample source for a simple UDF that adds two integers. Because Impala can reference multiple function entry points from the same shared library, you could add other UDF functions in this file and add their signatures to the corresponding header file.
- `udf-sample-test.cc`: Basic unit tests for the sample UDF.
- `uda-sample.h`: Header file that declares the signature for sample aggregate functions. The SQL functions will be called COUNT, AVG, and STRINGCONCAT. Because aggregate functions require more elaborate coding to handle the processing for multiple phases, there are several underlying C++ functions such as CountInit, AvgU pdate, and StringConcatFinalize.
- `uda-sample.cc`: Sample source for simple UDAFs that demonstrate how to manage the state transitions as the underlying functions are called during the different phases of query processing.
 - The UDAF that imitates the COUNT function keeps track of a single incrementing number; the merge functions combine the intermediate count values from each Impala node, and the combined number is returned verbatim by the finalize function.
 - The UDAF that imitates the AVG function keeps track of two numbers, a count of rows processed and the sum of values for a column. These numbers are updated and merged as with COUNT, then the finalize function divides them to produce and return the final average value.
 - The UDAF that concatenates string values into a comma-separated list demonstrates how to manage storage for a string that increases in length as the function is called for multiple rows.

- `uda-sample-test.cc`: basic unit tests for the sample UDAFs.

Performance considerations for UDFs

Because a UDF typically processes each row of a table, potentially being called billions of times, the performance of each UDF is a critical factor in the speed of the overall ETL or ELT pipeline. Tiny optimizations you can make within the function body can pay off in a big way when the function is called over and over when processing a huge result set.

Examples of creating and using UDFs

This section demonstrates how to create and use all kinds of user-defined functions (UDFs).

For downloadable examples that you can experiment with, adapt, and use as templates for your own functions, see the Cloudera sample UDF github. You must have already installed the appropriate header files, as explained in [Installing the UDF development package](#) on page 21.

Sample C++ UDFs: HasVowels, CountVowels, StripVowels

This example shows 3 separate UDFs that operate on strings and return different data types. In the C++ code, the functions are `HasVowels()` (checks if a string contains any vowels), `CountVowels()` (returns the number of vowels in a string), and `StripVowels()` (returns a new string with vowels removed).

First, we add the signatures for these functions to `udf-sample.h` in the demo build environment:

```
BooleanVal HasVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
input);
IntVal CountVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal& ar
gl);
StringVal StripVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
argl);
```

Then, we add the bodies of these functions to `udf-sample.cc`:

```
BooleanVal HasVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
input)
{
    if (input.is_null) return BooleanVal::null();

    int index;
    uint8_t *ptr;

    for (ptr = input.ptr, index = 0; index <= input.len; i
ndex++, ptr++)
    {
        uint8_t c = tolower(*ptr);
        if (c == 'a' || c == 'e' || c == 'i' || c == 'o'
|| c == 'u')
        {
            return BooleanVal(true);
        }
    }
    return BooleanVal(false);
}

IntVal CountVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
argl)
{
    if (argl.is_null) return IntVal::null();

    int count;
    int index;
```

```

uint8_t *ptr;

for (ptr = arg1.ptr, count = 0, index = 0; index <= arg1.
len; index++, ptr++)
{
    uint8_t c = tolower(*ptr);
    if (c == 'a' || c == 'e' || c == 'i' || c == 'o'
|| c == 'u')
    {
        count++;
    }
}
return IntVal(count);
}

StringVal StripVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
arg1)
{
    if (arg1.is_null) return StringVal::null();

    int index;
    std::string original((const char *)arg1.ptr,arg1.len);
    std::string shorter("");

    for (index = 0; index < original.length(); index++)
    {
        uint8_t c = original[index];
        uint8_t l = tolower(c);

        if (l == 'a' || l == 'e' || l == 'i' || l == 'o'
|| l == 'u')
        {
            ;
        }
        else
        {
            shorter.append(1, (char)c);
        }
    }
    // The modified string is stored in 'shorter', which is destroyed
    // when this function ends. We need to make a string val
    // and copy the contents.
    StringVal result(context, shorter.size()); // Only the ve
rsion of the ctor that takes a context object allocates new memo
ry
    memcpy(result.ptr, shorter.c_str(), shorter.size());
    return result;
}

```

We build a shared library, libudfsample.so, and put the library file into HDFS where Impala can read it:

```

$ make
[ 0%] Generating udf_samples/uda-sample.ll
[ 16%] Built target uda-sample-ir
[ 33%] Built target udasample
[ 50%] Built target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Generating udf_samples/udf-sample.ll
[ 66%] Built target udf-sample-ir
Scanning dependencies of target udfsample
[ 83%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/udfsample.dir/udf-sample.o
Linking CXX shared library udf_samples/libudfsample.so
[ 83%] Built target udfsample

```

```
Linking CXX executable udf_samples/udf-sample-test
[100%] Built target udf-sample-test
$ hdfs dfs -put ./udf_samples/libudfsample.so /user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so
```

Finally, we go into the `impala-shell` interpreter where we set up some sample data, issue `CREATE FUNCTION` statements to set up the SQL function names, and call the functions in some queries:

```
[localhost:21000] > create database udf_testing;
[localhost:21000] > use udf_testing;

[localhost:21000] > create function has_vowels (string) returns boolean
location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='HasVowels';
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels('abc');
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels('abc') |
+-----+
| true                   |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.13s
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels('zxcvbnm');
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels('zxcvbnm') |
+-----+
| false                      |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels(null);
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels(null) |
+-----+
| NULL                  |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > select s, has_vowels(s) from t2;
+-----+-----+
| s          | udfs.has_vowels(s) |
+-----+-----+
| lower      | true               |
| UPPER      | true               |
| Init cap   | true               |
| CamelCase  | true               |
+-----+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.24s
[localhost:21000] > create function count_vowels (string) returns int
location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='CountVowels';
[localhost:21000] > select count_vowels('cat in the hat');
+-----+
| udfs.count_vowels('cat in the hat') |
+-----+
| 4                                     |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select s, count_vowels(s) from t2;
+-----+-----+
| s          | udfs.count_vowels(s) |
+-----+-----+
| lower      | 2                     |
| UPPER      | 2                     |
| Init cap   | 3                     |
+-----+-----+
```

```

| CamelCase | 4 |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.23s
[localhost:21000] > select count_vowels(null);
+-----+
| udfs.count_vowels(null) |
+-----+
| NULL |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s

[localhost:21000] > create function strip_vowels (string) returns
string location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='Strip
Vowels';
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels('abcdefg');
+-----+
| udfs.strip_vowels('abcdefg') |
+-----+
| bcdfg |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels('ABCDEFG');
+-----+
| udfs.strip_vowels('abcdefg') |
+-----+
| BCD FG |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels(null);
+-----+
| udfs.strip_vowels(null) |
+-----+
| NULL |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.16s
[localhost:21000] > select s, strip_vowels(s) from t2;
+-----+
| s | udfs.strip_vowels(s) |
+-----+
| lower | lwr |
| UPPER | PPR |
| Init cap | nt cp |
| CamelCase | CmlCs |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.24s

```

Sample C++ UDA: SumOfSquares

```

[localhost:21000] > insert overwrite sos values (1, 1), (2, 0),
(3, 1), (4, 0);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.24s

[localhost:21000] > -- Compute 1 squared + 3 squared, and 2 sq
uared + 4 squared;
[localhost:21000] > select y, sum_of_squares(x) from sos group by
y;
+-----+
| y | udfs.sum_of_squares(x) |
+-----+
| 1 | 10 |
| 0 | 20 |
+-----+
Returned 2 row(s) in 0.43s

```

This example demonstrates a user-defined aggregate function (UDA) that produces the sum of the squares of its input values.

The coding for a UDA is a little more involved than a scalar UDF, because the processing is split into several phases, each implemented by a different function. Each phase is relatively straightforward: the “update” and “merge” phases, where most of the work is done, read an input value and combine it with some accumulated intermediate value.

As in our sample UDF from the previous example, we add function signatures to a header file (in this case, `uda-sample.h`). Because this is a math-oriented UDA, we make two versions of each function, one accepting an integer value and the other accepting a floating-point value.

```
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, BigIntVal* val);
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, DoubleVal* val);

void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal
& input, BigIntVal* val);
void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const Double
Val& input, DoubleVal* val);

void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntV
al& src, BigIntVal* dst);
void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleV
al& src, DoubleVal* dst);

BigIntVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const Bi
gIntVal& val);
DoubleVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const Do
ubleVal& val);
```

We add the function bodies to a C++ source file (in this case, `uda-sample.cc`):

```
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, BigIntVal* val) {
    val->is_null = false;
    val->val = 0;
}
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, DoubleVal* val) {
    val->is_null = false;
    val->val = 0.0;
}

void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal
& input, BigIntVal* val) {
    if (input.is_null) return;
    val->val += input.val * input.val;
}
void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleVal
& input, DoubleVal* val) {
    if (input.is_null) return;
    val->val += input.val * input.val;
}

void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal&
src, BigIntVal* dst) {
    dst->val += src.val;
}
void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleV
al& src, DoubleVal* dst) {
    dst->val += src.val;
}
BigIntVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const
BigIntVal& val) {
    return val;
}
```



```

}
DoubleVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const
    DoubleVal& val) {
    return val;
}

```

As with the sample UDF, we build a shared library and put it into HDFS:

```

$ make
[ 0%] Generating udf_samples/uda-sample.ll
[ 16%] Built target uda-sample-ir
Scanning dependencies of target udasample
[ 33%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/udasample.dir/uda-sample.o
Linking CXX shared library udf_samples/libudasample.so
[ 33%] Built target udasample
Scanning dependencies of target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/uda-sample-test.dir/uda-sample-test.o
Linking CXX executable udf_samples/uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Built target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Generating udf_samples/udf-sample.ll
[ 66%] Built target udf-sample-ir
[ 83%] Built target udfsample
[100%] Built target udf-sample-test
$ hdfs dfs -put ./udf_samples/libudasample.so /user/hive/udfs/libudasample.so

```

To create the SQL function, we issue a `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION` statement and specify the underlying C++ function names for the different phases:

```

[localhost:21000] > use udf_testing;

[localhost:21000] > create table sos (x bigint, y double);
[localhost:21000] > insert into sos values (1, 1.1), (2, 2.2),
(3, 3.3), (4, 4.4);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.10s

[localhost:21000] > create aggregate function sum_of_squares(b
igint) returns bigint
  > location '/user/hive/udfs/libudasample.so'
  > init_fn='SumOfSquaresInit'
  > update_fn='SumOfSquaresUpdate'
  > merge_fn='SumOfSquaresMerge'
  > finalize_fn='SumOfSquaresFinalize';
[localhost:21000] > -- Compute the same value using literals or
the UDA;
[localhost:21000] > select 1*1 + 2*2 + 3*3 + 4*4;
+-----+
| 1 * 1 + 2 * 2 + 3 * 3 + 4 * 4 |
+-----+
| 30                             |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(x) from sos;
+-----+
| udfs.sum_of_squares(x) |
+-----+
| 30                     |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.35s

```

Until we create the overloaded version of the UDA, it can only handle a single data type. To allow it to handle DOUBLE as well as BIGINT, we issue another CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION statement:

```
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(y) from sos;
ERROR: AnalysisException: No matching function with signature: udfs.sum_of_squares(DOUBLE).

[localhost:21000] > create aggregate function sum_of_squares(double) returns double
> location '/user/hive/udfs/libudasample.so'
> init_fn='SumOfSquaresInit'
> update_fn='SumOfSquaresUpdate'
> merge_fn='SumOfSquaresMerge'
> finalize_fn='SumOfSquaresFinalize';

[localhost:21000] > -- Compute the same value using literals or the UDA;
[localhost:21000] > select 1.1*1.1 + 2.2*2.2 + 3.3*3.3 + 4.4*4.4;
+-----+
| 1.1 * 1.1 + 2.2 * 2.2 + 3.3 * 3.3 + 4.4 * 4.4 |
+-----+
| 36.3 |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(y) from sos;
+-----+
| udfs.sum_of_squares(y) |
+-----+
| 36.3 |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.35s
```

Typically, you use a UDA in queries with GROUP BY clauses, to produce a result set with a separate aggregate value for each combination of values from the GROUP BY clause. Let's change our sample table to use 0 to indicate rows containing even values, and 1 to flag rows containing odd values. Then the GROUP BY query can return two values, the sum of the squares for the even values, and the sum of the squares for the odd values:

Security considerations for UDFs

When the Impala authorization feature is enabled:

- To call a UDF in a query, you must have the required read privilege for any databases and tables used in the query.
- The CREATE FUNCTION statement requires:
 - The CREATE privilege on the database.
 - The ALL privilege on two URIs where the URIs are:
 - The JAR file on the file system. For example:

```
GRANT ALL ON URI 'file:///PATH_TO_MY.JAR' TO ROLE MY_ROLE;
```

- The JAR on HDFS. For example:

```
GRANT ALL ON URI 'hdfs:///PATH/TO/JAR' TO ROLE MY_ROLE
```

Limitations and restrictions for Impala UDFs

The following limitations and restrictions apply to Impala UDFs in the current release:

- Impala does not support Hive UDFs that accept or return composite or nested types, or other types not available in Impala tables.
- The Hive `current_user()` function cannot be called from a Java UDF through Impala.
- All Impala UDFs must be deterministic, that is, produce the same output each time when passed the same argument values. For example, an Impala UDF must not call functions such as `rand()` to produce different values for each invocation. It must not retrieve data from external sources, such as from disk or over the network.
- An Impala UDF must not spawn other threads or processes.
- Prior to Impala 2.5 when the `catalogd` process is restarted, all UDFs become undefined and must be reloaded. In Impala 2.5 and higher, this limitation only applies to older Java UDFs. Re-create those UDFs using the new `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax for Java UDFs, which excludes the function signature, to remove the limitation entirely.
- Impala currently does not support user-defined table functions (UDTFs).
- The `CHAR` and `VARCHAR` types cannot be used as input arguments or return values for UDFs.

UDF concepts

Depending on your use case, you might write all-new functions, reuse Java UDFs that you have already written for Hive, or port Hive Java UDF code to higher-performance native Impala UDFs in C++. You can code either scalar functions for producing results one row at a time, or more complex aggregate functions for doing analysis across. The following sections discuss these different aspects of working with UDFs.

UDFs and UDAFs

Depending on your use case, the user-defined functions (UDFs) you write might accept or produce different numbers of input and output values:

- The most general kind of user-defined function (the one typically referred to by the abbreviation UDF) takes a single input value and produces a single output value. When used in a query, it is called once for each row in the result set. For example:

```
select customer_name, is_frequent_customer(customer_id) from
  customers;
select obfuscate(sensitive_column) from sensitive_data;
```

- A user-defined aggregate function (UDAF) accepts a group of values and returns a single value. You use UDAFs to summarize and condense sets of rows, in the same style as the built-in `COUNT`, `MAX()`, `SUM()`, and `AVG()` functions. When called in a query that uses the `GROUP BY` clause, the function is called once for each combination of `GROUP BY` values. For example:

```
-- Evaluates multiple rows but returns a single value.
select closest_restaurant(latitude, longitude) from places;

-- Evaluates batches of rows and returns a separate value for
  each batch.
select most_profitable_location(store_id, sales, expenses, tax
_rate, depreciation) from franchise_data group by year;
```

- Currently, Impala does not support other categories of user-defined functions, such as user-defined table functions (UDTFs) or window functions.

Native Impala UDFs

Impala supports UDFs written in C++, in addition to supporting existing Hive UDFs written in Java. Cloudera recommends using C++ UDFs because the compiled native code can yield higher performance, with UDF execution time often 10x faster for a C++ UDF than the equivalent Java UDF.

Using Hive UDFs with Impala

Impala can run Java-based user-defined functions (UDFs), originally written for Hive, with no changes, subject to the following conditions:

- The parameters and return value must all use scalar data types supported by Impala. For example, complex or nested types are not supported.
- Hive/Java UDFs must extend `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.exec.UDF` class.
- Currently, Hive UDFs that accept or return the `TIMESTAMP` type are not supported.
- Prior to Impala 2.5 the return type must be a “Writable” type such as `Text` or `IntWritable`, rather than a Java primitive type such as `String` or `int`. Otherwise, the UDF returns `NULL`. In Impala 2.5 and higher, this restriction is lifted, and both UDF arguments and return values can be Java primitive types.
- Hive UDAFs and UDTFs are not supported.
- Typically, a Java UDF will run several times slower in Impala than the equivalent native UDF written in C++.
- In Impala 2.5 and higher, you can transparently call Hive Java UDFs through Impala, or call Impala Java UDFs through Hive. This feature does not apply to built-in Hive functions. Any Impala Java UDFs created with older versions must be re-created using new `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax, without any signature for arguments or the return value.

To take full advantage of the Impala architecture and performance features, you can also write Impala-specific UDFs in C++.

For background about Java-based Hive UDFs, see the Hive documentation for UDF. For examples or tutorials for writing such UDFs, search the web for related blog posts.

The ideal way to understand how to reuse Java-based UDFs (originally written for Hive) with Impala is to take some of the Hive built-in functions (implemented as Java UDFs) and take the applicable JAR files through the UDF deployment process for Impala, creating new UDFs with different names:

1. Take a copy of the Hive JAR file containing the Hive built-in functions.
2. Use `jar tf JAR_FILE` to see a list of the classes inside the JAR. You will see names like `org/apache/hadoop/hive/ql/udf/UDFLower.class` and `org/apache/hadoop/hive/ql/udf/UDFOPNegative.class`. Make a note of the names of the functions you want to experiment with. When you specify the entry points for the Impala `CREATE FUNCTION` statement, change the slash characters to dots and strip off the `.class` suffix, for example `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.udf.UDFLower` and `org.apache.hadoop.hive.ql.udf.UDFOPNegative`.
3. Copy that file to an HDFS location that Impala can read. (In the examples here, we renamed the file to `hive-builtins.jar` in HDFS for simplicity.)
4. For each Java-based UDF that you want to call through Impala, issue a `CREATE FUNCTION` statement, with a `LOCATION` clause containing the full HDFS path of the JAR file, and a `SYMBOL` clause with the fully qualified name of the class, using dots as separators and without the `.class` extension. Remember that user-defined functions are associated with a particular database, so issue a `USE` statement for the appropriate database first, or specify the SQL function name as `DB_NAME.FUNCTION_NAME`. Use completely new names for the SQL functions, because Impala UDFs cannot have the same name as Impala built-in functions.
5. Call the function from your queries, passing arguments of the correct type to match the function signature. These arguments could be references to columns, arithmetic or other kinds of expressions, the results of `CAST` functions to ensure correct data types, and so on.

**Note:**

In Impala 2.9 and higher, you can refresh the user-defined functions (UDFs) that Impala recognizes, at the database level, by running the `REFRESH FUNCTIONS` statement with the database name as an argument. Java-based UDFs can be added to the metastore database through Hive `CREATE FUNCTION` statements, and made visible to Impala by subsequently running `REFRESH FUNCTIONS`. For example:

```
CREATE DATABASE shared_udfs;
USE shared_udfs;
...use CREATE FUNCTION statements in Hive to create some Java-based UDFs
    that Impala is not initially aware of...
REFRESH FUNCTIONS shared_udfs;
SELECT udf_created_by_hive(c1) FROM ...
```

Java UDF example: Reusing lower() function

For example, the following `impala-shell` session creates an Impala UDF `my_lower()` that reuses the Java code for the Hive `lower()`: built-in function. We cannot call it `lower()` because Impala does not allow UDFs to have the same name as built-in functions. From SQL, we call the function in a basic way (in a query with no `WHERE` clause), directly on a column, and on the results of a string expression:

```
[localhost:21000] > create database udfs;
[localhost:21000] > use udfs;
localhost:21000] > create function lower(string) returns string
location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.hi
ve ql.udf.UDFLower';
ERROR: AnalysisException: Function cannot have the same name as a
builtin: lower
[localhost:21000] > create function my_lower(string) returns s
tring location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.had
oop.hive ql.udf.UDFLower';
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower('Some String NOT ALREADY LOWE
RCASE');
```

udfs.my_lower('some string not already lowercase')
some string not already lowercase

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > create table t2 (s string);
[localhost:21000] > insert into t2 values ('lower'),('UPPER'),('I
nit cap'),('CamelCase');
Inserted 4 rows in 2.28s
[localhost:21000] > select * from t2;
```

s
lower
UPPER
Init cap
CamelCase

```
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.47s
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower(s) from t2;
```

udfs.my_lower(s)
lower
upper

```

| init cap |
| camelcase |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.54s
[localhost:21000] > select my_lower(concat('ABC ',s,' XYZ')) f
rom t2;
+-----+
| udfs.my_lower(concat('abc ', s, ' xyz')) |
+-----+
| abc lower xyz |
| abc upper xyz |
| abc init cap xyz |
| abc camelcase xyz |
+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.22s

```

Java UDF example: Reusing negative() function

Here is an example that reuses the Hive Java code for the `negative()` built-in function. This example demonstrates how the data types of the arguments must match precisely with the function signature. At first, we create an Impala SQL function that can only accept an integer argument. Impala cannot find a matching function when the query passes a floating-point argument, although we can call the integer version of the function by casting the argument. Then we overload the same function name to also accept a floating-point argument.

```

[localhost:21000] > create table t (x int);
[localhost:21000] > insert into t values (1), (2), (4), (100);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.43s
[localhost:21000] > create function my_neg(bigint) returns begin
t location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.
hive ql.udf.UDFOPNegative';
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4);
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(4) |
+-----+
| -4 |
+-----+
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(x) from t;
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(x) |
+-----+
| -2 |
| -4 |
| -100 |
+-----+
Returned 3 row(s) in 0.60s
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4.0);
ERROR: AnalysisException: No matching function with signature:
udfs.my_neg(FLOAT).
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(cast(4.0 as int));
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(cast(4.0 as int)) |
+-----+
| -4 |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > create function my_neg(double) returns double
location '/user/hive/udfs/hive.jar' symbol='org.apache.hadoop.h
ive ql.udf.UDFOPNegative';
[localhost:21000] > select my_neg(4.0);
+-----+
| udfs.my_neg(4.0) |
+-----+

```

```
| -4 |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
```

You can find the sample files mentioned here in the [Impala github repo](#).

Runtime environment for UDFs

By default, Impala copies UDFs into /tmp, and you can configure this location through the --local_library_dir startup flag for the impalad daemon.

Writing UDFs

Before starting UDF development, make sure to install the development package and download the UDF code samples.

When writing UDFs:

- Keep in mind the data type differences as you transfer values from the high-level SQL to your lower-level UDF code. For example, in the UDF code you might be much more aware of how many bytes different kinds of integers require.
- Use best practices for function-oriented programming: choose arguments carefully, avoid side effects, make each function do a single thing, and so on.

Getting started with UDF coding

To understand the layout and member variables and functions of the predefined UDF data types, examine the header file /usr/include/impala_udf/udf.h:

```
// This is the only Impala header required to develop UDFs and U
DAs. This header
// contains the types that need to be used and the FunctionCont
ext object. The context
// object serves as the interface object between the UDF/UDA and
the impala process.
```

For the basic declarations needed to write a scalar UDF, see the header file [udf-sample.h](#) within the sample build environment, which defines a simple function named AddUdf():

```
#ifndef IMPALA_UDF_SAMPLE_UDF_H
#define IMPALA_UDF_SAMPLE_UDF_H
#include <impala_udf/udf.h>

using namespace impala_udf;

IntVal AddUdf(FunctionContext* context, const IntVal& arg1, const
IntVal& arg2);
#endif
```

For sample C++ code for a simple function named AddUdf(), see the source file udf-sample.cc within the sample build environment:

```
#include "udf-sample.h"
// In this sample we are declaring a UDF that adds two ints and
returns an int.
IntVal AddUdf(FunctionContext* context, const IntVal& arg1, const
IntVal& arg2) {
    if (arg1.is_null || arg2.is_null) return IntVal::null();
    return IntVal(arg1.val + arg2.val);
}
```

```
// Multiple UDFs can be defined in the same file
```

Data types for function arguments and return values

Each value that a user-defined function can accept as an argument or return as a result value must map to a SQL data type that you could specify for a table column.

Currently, Impala UDFs cannot accept arguments or return values of the Impala complex types (STRUCT, ARRAY, or MAP).

Each data type has a corresponding structure defined in the C++ and Java header files, with two member fields and some predefined comparison operators and constructors:

- `is_null` indicates whether the value is NULL or not. `val` holds the actual argument or return value when it is non-NULL.
- Each struct also defines a `null()` member function that constructs an instance of the struct with the `is_null` flag set.
- The built-in SQL comparison operators and clauses such as `<`, `>=`, `BETWEEN`, and `ORDER BY` all work automatically based on the SQL return type of each UDF. For example, Impala knows how to evaluate `BETWEEN 1 AND udf_returning_int(col1)` or `ORDER BY udf_returning_string(col2)` without you declaring any comparison operators within the UDF itself.

For convenience within your UDF code, each struct defines `==` and `!=` operators for comparisons with other structs of the same type. These are for typical C++ comparisons within your own code, not necessarily reproducing SQL semantics. For example, if the `is_null` flag is set in both structs, they compare as equal. That behavior of null comparisons is different from SQL (where `NULL == NULL` is `NULL` rather than `true`), but more in line with typical C++ behavior.

- Each kind of struct has one or more constructors that define a filled-in instance of the struct, optionally with default values.
- Impala cannot process UDFs that accept the composite or nested types as arguments or return them as result values. This limitation applies both to Impala UDFs written in C++ and Java-based Hive UDFs.
- You can overload functions by creating multiple functions with the same SQL name but different argument types. For overloaded functions, you must use different C++ or Java entry point names in the underlying functions.

The data types defined on the C++ side (in `/usr/include/impala_udf/udf.h`) are:

- `IntVal` represents an `INT` column.
- `BigIntVal` represents a `BIGINT` column. Even if you do not need the full range of a `BIGINT` value, it can be useful to code your function arguments as `BigIntVal` to make it convenient to call the function with different kinds of integer columns and expressions as arguments. Impala automatically casts smaller integer types to larger ones when appropriate, but does not implicitly cast large integer types to smaller ones.
- `SmallIntVal` represents a `SMALLINT` column.
- `TinyIntVal` represents a `TINYINT` column.
- `StringVal` represents a `STRING` column. It has a `len` field representing the length of the string, and a `ptr` field pointing to the string data. It has constructors that create a new `StringVal` struct based on a null-terminated C-style string, or a pointer plus a length; these new structs still refer to the original string data rather than allocating a new buffer for the data. It also has a constructor that takes a pointer to a `FunctionContext` struct and a length, that does allocate space for a new copy of the string data, for use in UDFs that return string values.
- `BooleanVal` represents a `BOOLEAN` column.
- `FloatVal` represents a `FLOAT` column.
- `DoubleVal` represents a `DOUBLE` column.
- `TimestampVal` represents a `TIMESTAMP` column. It has a `date` field, a 32-bit integer representing the Gregorian date, that is, the days past the epoch date. It also has a `time_of_day` field, a 64-bit integer representing the current time of day in nanoseconds.

Variable-length argument lists

UDFs typically take a fixed number of arguments, with each one named explicitly in the signature of your C++ function. Your function can also accept additional optional arguments, all of the same type. For example, you can concatenate two strings, three strings, four strings, and so on. Or you can compare two numbers, three numbers, four numbers, and so on.

To accept a variable-length argument list, code the signature of your function like this:

```
StringVal Concat(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal& separator,
                int num_var_args, const StringVal* args);
```

In the CREATE FUNCTION statement, after the type of the first optional argument, include ... to indicate it could be followed by more arguments of the same type. For example, the following function accepts a STRING argument, followed by one or more additional STRING arguments:

```
[localhost:21000] > create function my_concat(string, string ...
) returns string location '/user/test_user/udfs/sample.so' symbol=
l='Concat';
```

The call from the SQL query must pass at least one argument to the variable-length portion of the argument list.

When Impala calls the function, it fills in the initial set of required arguments, then passes the number of extra arguments and a pointer to the first of those optional arguments.

Handling NULL values

For correctness, performance, and reliability, it is important for each UDF to handle all situations where any NULL values are passed to your function. For example, when passed a NULL, UDFs typically also return NULL. In an aggregate function, which could be passed a combination of real and NULL values, you might make the final value into a NULL (as in CONCAT()), ignore the NULL value (as in AVG()), or treat it the same as a numeric zero or empty string.

Each parameter type, such as IntVal or StringVal, has an is_null Boolean member. Test this flag immediately for each argument to your function, and if it is set, do not refer to the val field of the argument structure. The val field is undefined when the argument is NULL, so your function could go into an infinite loop or produce incorrect results if you skip the special handling for NULL.

If your function returns NULL when passed a NULL value, or in other cases such as when a search string is not found, you can construct a null instance of the return type by using its null() member function.

Memory allocation for UDFs

By default, memory allocated within a UDF is deallocated when the function exits, which could be before the query is finished. The input arguments remain allocated for the lifetime of the function, so you can refer to them in the expressions for your return values. If you use temporary variables to construct all-new string values, use the StringVal() constructor that takes an initial FunctionContext* argument followed by a length, and copy the data into the newly allocated memory buffer.

Thread-safe work area for UDFs

One way to improve performance of UDFs is to specify the optional PREPARE_FN and CLOSE_FN clauses on the CREATE FUNCTION statement. The “prepare” function sets up a thread-safe data structure in memory that you can use as a work area. The “close” function deallocates that memory. Each subsequent call to the UDF within the same thread can access that same memory area. There might be several such memory areas allocated on the same host, as UDFs are parallelized using multiple threads.

Within this work area, you can set up predefined lookup tables, or record the results of complex operations on data types such as STRING or TIMESTAMP. Saving the results of previous

computations rather than repeating the computation each time is an optimization known as Memoization. For example, if your UDF performs a regular expression match or date manipulation on a column that repeats the same value over and over, you could store the last-computed value or a hash table of already-computed values, and do a fast lookup to find the result for subsequent iterations of the UDF.

Each such function must have the signature:

```
void FUNCTION_NAME(impala_udf::FunctionContext*, impala_udf::FunctionContext::FunctionScope)
```

Currently, only `THREAD_SCOPE` is implemented, not `FRAGMENT_SCOPE`. See `udf.h` for details about the scope values.

Error handling for UDFs

To handle errors in UDFs, you call functions that are members of the initial `FunctionContext*` argument passed to your function.

A UDF can record one or more warnings, for conditions that indicate minor, recoverable problems that do not cause the query to stop. The signature for this function is:

```
bool AddWarning(const char* warning_msg);
```

For a serious problem that requires cancelling the query, a UDF can set an error flag that prevents the query from returning any results. The signature for this function is:

```
void SetError(const char* error_msg);
```

Related Information

[Building and deploying UDFs](#)

Writing user-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs)

User-defined aggregate functions (UDAFs or UDAs) are a powerful and flexible category of user-defined functions. If a query processes *N* rows, calling a UDAF during the query condenses the result set, anywhere from a single value (such as with the `SUM` or `MAX` functions), or some number less than or equal to *N* (as in queries using the `GROUP BY` or `HAVING` clause).

The underlying functions for a UDA

A UDAF must maintain a state value across subsequent calls, so that it can accumulate a result across a set of calls, rather than derive it purely from one set of arguments. For that reason, a UDAF is represented by multiple underlying functions:

- An initialization function that sets any counters to zero, creates empty buffers, and does any other one-time setup for a query.
- An update function that processes the arguments for each row in the query result set and accumulates an intermediate result for each node. For example, this function might increment a counter, append to a string buffer, or set flags.
- A merge function that combines the intermediate results from two different nodes.
- A serialize function that flattens any intermediate values containing pointers, and frees any memory allocated during the init, update, and merge phases.
- A finalize function that either passes through the combined result unchanged, or does one final transformation.

In the SQL syntax, you create a UDAF by using the statement `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION`. You specify the entry points of the underlying C++ functions using the clauses `INIT_FN`, `UPDATE_FN`, `MERGE_FN`, `SERIALIZE_FN`, and `FINALIZE_FN`.

For convenience, you can use a naming convention for the underlying functions and Impala automatically recognizes those entry points. Specify the `UPDATE_FN` clause, using an entry point name containing the string `update` or `Update`. When you omit the other `_FN` clauses from the SQL statement, Impala looks for entry points with names formed by substituting the `update` or `Update` portion of the specified name.

`uda-sample.h`:

See this file online at: [uda-sample.h](#)

`uda-sample.cc`:

See this file online at: [uda-sample.cc](#)

Intermediate results for UDAs

A user-defined aggregate function might produce and combine intermediate results during some phases of processing, using a different data type than the final return value. For example, if you implement a function similar to the built-in `AVG()` function, it must keep track of two values, the number of values counted and the sum of those values. Or, you might accumulate a string value over the course of a UDA, then in the end return a numeric or Boolean result.

In such a case, specify the data type of the intermediate results using the optional `INTERMEDIATE TYPE_NAME` clause of the `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION` statement. If the intermediate data is a typeless byte array (for example, to represent a C++ struct or array), specify the type name as `CHAR(N)`, with *N* representing the number of bytes in the intermediate result buffer.

For an example of this technique, see the `trunc_sum()` aggregate function, which accumulates intermediate results of type `DOUBLE` and returns `BIGINT` at the end. View the appropriate `CREATE FUNCTION` statement and the implementation of the underlying `TruncSum*()` functions on Github.

- [test_udfs.py](#)
- [test-udas.cc](#)

Building and deploying UDFs

This section explains the steps to compile Impala UDFs from C++ source code, and deploy the resulting libraries for use in Impala queries.

Impala UDF development package ships with a sample build environment for UDFs, that you can study, experiment with, and adapt for your own use.

To build the sample environment:

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWAdmin.
2. From the **Overview** page, go to **Resources and Downloads** and click [See More Impala UDF SDK](#).
3. Download the `impala-udf-devel` zip file.
4. SSH into the host on which you want to install the UDF environment.
5. Run the following commands:

```
cmake .
make
```

The `cmake` configuration command reads the file `CMakeLists.txt` and generates a Makefile customized for your particular directory paths. Then the `make` command runs the actual build steps based on the rules in the Makefile.

Impala loads the shared library from an HDFS location. After building a shared library containing one or more UDFs, use `hdfs dfs` or `hadoop fs` commands to copy the binary file to an HDFS location readable by Impala.

The final step in deployment is to issue a `CREATE FUNCTION` statement in the `impala-shell` interpreter to make Impala aware of the new function. Because each function is associated with a particular database, always issue

a USE statement to the appropriate database before creating a function, or specify a fully qualified name, that is, `CREATE FUNCTION DB_NAME.FUNCTION_NAME`.

As you update the UDF code and redeploy updated versions of a shared library, use `DROP FUNCTION` and `CREATE FUNCTION` to let Impala pick up the latest version of the code.



Note:

In Impala 2.5 and higher, Impala UDFs and UDAs written in C++ are persisted in the metastore database. Java UDFs are also persisted, if they were created with the new `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax for Java UDFs, where the Java function argument and return types are omitted. Java-based UDFs created with the old `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax do not persist across restarts because they are held in the memory of the `catalogd` daemon. Until you re-create such Java UDFs using the new `CREATE FUNCTION` syntax, you must reload those Java-based UDFs by running the original `CREATE FUNCTION` statements again each time you restart the `catalogd` daemon. Prior to Impala 2.5 the requirement to reload functions after a restart applied to both C++ and Java functions.

See [CREATE FUNCTION statement](#) and [DROP FUNCTION statement](#) for the new syntax for the persistent Java UDFs.

Prerequisites for the build environment are:

1. Install the packages using the appropriate package installation command for your Linux distribution.

```
sudo yum install gcc-c++ cmake boost-devel
sudo yum install impala-udf-devel
# The package name on Ubuntu and Debian is impala-udf-dev.
```

2. Download the UDF sample code:

```
git clone https://github.com/cloudera/impala-udf-samples
cd impala-udf-samples && cmake . && make
```

3. Unpack the sample code in `udf_samples.tar.gz` and use that as a template to set up your build environment.

To build the original samples:

```
# Process CMakeLists.txt and set up appropriate Makefiles.
cmake .
# Generate shared libraries from UDF and UDAF sample code,
# udf_samples/libudfsample.so and udf_samples/libudasample.so
make
```

The sample code to examine, experiment with, and adapt is in these files:

- `udf-sample.h`: Header file that declares the signature for a scalar UDF (`AddUDF`).
- `udf-sample.cc`: Sample source for a simple UDF that adds two integers. Because Impala can reference multiple function entry points from the same shared library, you could add other UDF functions in this file and add their signatures to the corresponding header file.
- `udf-sample-test.cc`: Basic unit tests for the sample UDF.
- `uda-sample.h`: Header file that declares the signature for sample aggregate functions. The SQL functions will be called `COUNT`, `AVG`, and `STRINGCONCAT`. Because aggregate functions require more elaborate coding to handle the processing for multiple phases, there are several underlying C++ functions such as `CountInit`, `AvGU`, `pdate`, and `StringConcatFinalize`.

- `uda-sample.cc`: Sample source for simple UDAFs that demonstrate how to manage the state transitions as the underlying functions are called during the different phases of query processing.
 - The UDAF that imitates the COUNT function keeps track of a single incrementing number; the merge functions combine the intermediate count values from each Impala node, and the combined number is returned verbatim by the finalize function.
 - The UDAF that imitates the AVG function keeps track of two numbers, a count of rows processed and the sum of values for a column. These numbers are updated and merged as with COUNT, then the finalize function divides them to produce and return the final average value.
 - The UDAF that concatenates string values into a comma-separated list demonstrates how to manage storage for a string that increases in length as the function is called for multiple rows.
- `uda-sample-test.cc`: basic unit tests for the sample UDAFs.

Performance considerations for UDFs

Because a UDF typically processes each row of a table, potentially being called billions of times, the performance of each UDF is a critical factor in the speed of the overall ETL or ELT pipeline. Tiny optimizations you can make within the function body can pay off in a big way when the function is called over and over when processing a huge result set.

Examples of creating and using UDFs

This section demonstrates how to create and use all kinds of user-defined functions (UDFs).

For downloadable examples that you can experiment with, adapt, and use as templates for your own functions, see the Cloudera sample UDF github. You must have already installed the appropriate header files, as explained in *Building and deploying UDFs*.

Sample C++ UDFs: HasVowels, CountVowels, StripVowels

This example shows 3 separate UDFs that operate on strings and return different data types. In the C++ code, the functions are `HasVowels()` (checks if a string contains any vowels), `CountVowels()` (returns the number of vowels in a string), and `StripVowels()` (returns a new string with vowels removed).

First, we add the signatures for these functions to `udf-sample.h` in the demo build environment:

```
BooleanVal HasVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
input);
IntVal CountVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal& ar
gl);
StringVal StripVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
arg1);
```

Then, we add the bodies of these functions to `udf-sample.cc`:

```
BooleanVal HasVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
input)
{
    if (input.is_null) return BooleanVal::null();

    int index;
    uint8_t *ptr;

    for (ptr = input.ptr, index = 0; index <= input.len; i
ndex++, ptr++)
    {
        uint8_t c = tolower(*ptr);
        if (c == 'a' || c == 'e' || c == 'i' || c == 'o'
|| c == 'u')
        {
```

```

        return BooleanVal(true);
    }
    }
    return BooleanVal(false);
}

IntVal CountVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
arg1)
{
    if (arg1.is_null) return IntVal::null();

    int count;
    int index;
    uint8_t *ptr;

    for (ptr = arg1.ptr, count = 0, index = 0; index <= arg1.
len; index++, ptr++)
    {
        uint8_t c = tolower(*ptr);
        if (c == 'a' || c == 'e' || c == 'i' || c == 'o'
|| c == 'u')
        {
            count++;
        }
    }
    return IntVal(count);
}

StringVal StripVowels(FunctionContext* context, const StringVal&
arg1)
{
    if (arg1.is_null) return StringVal::null();

    int index;
    std::string original((const char *)arg1.ptr,arg1.len);
    std::string shorter("");

    for (index = 0; index < original.length(); index++)
    {
        uint8_t c = original[index];
        uint8_t l = tolower(c);

        if (l == 'a' || l == 'e' || l == 'i' || l == 'o'
|| l == 'u')
        {
            ;
        }
        else
        {
            shorter.append(1, (char)c);
        }
    }
    // The modified string is stored in 'shorter', which is destroyed
    // when this function ends. We need to make a string val
    // and copy the contents.
    StringVal result(context, shorter.size()); // Only the ve
rsion of the ctor that takes a context object allocates new memo
ry
    memcpy(result.ptr, shorter.c_str(), shorter.size());
    return result;
}

```

We build a shared library, `libudfsample.so`, and put the library file into HDFS where Impala can read it:

```
$ make
[ 0%] Generating udf_samples/uda-sample.ll
[ 16%] Built target uda-sample-ir
[ 33%] Built target udasample
[ 50%] Built target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Generating udf_samples/udf-sample.ll
[ 66%] Built target udf-sample-ir
Scanning dependencies of target udfsample
[ 83%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/udfsample.dir/udf-sample.o
Linking CXX shared library udf_samples/libudfsample.so
[ 83%] Built target udfsample
Linking CXX executable udf_samples/udf-sample-test
[100%] Built target udf-sample-test
$ hdfs dfs -put ./udf_samples/libudfsample.so /user/hive/udfs/li
budfsample.so
```

Finally, we go into the `impala-shell` interpreter where we set up some sample data, issue `CREATE FUNCTION` statements to set up the SQL function names, and call the functions in some queries:

```
[localhost:21000] > create database udf_testing;
[localhost:21000] > use udf_testing;

[localhost:21000] > create function has_vowels (string) returns b
oolean location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='HasVow
els';
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels('abc');
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels('abc') |
+-----+
| true                   |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.13s
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels('zxcvbnm');
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels('zxcvbnm') |
+-----+
| false                      |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select has_vowels(null);
+-----+
| udfs.has_vowels(null) |
+-----+
| NULL                  |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > select s, has_vowels(s) from t2;
+-----+-----+
| s      | udfs.has_vowels(s) |
+-----+-----+
| lower  | true               |
| UPPER  | true               |
| Init cap | true              |
| CamelCase | true             |
+-----+-----+
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.24s
```

```
[localhost:21000] > create function count_vowels (string) returns
int location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='CountV
owels';
[localhost:21000] > select count_vowels('cat in the hat');
```

udfs.count_vowels('cat in the hat')
4

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select s, count_vowels(s) from t2;
```

s	udfs.count_vowels(s)
lower	2
UPPER	2
Init cap	3
CamelCase	4

```
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.23s
[localhost:21000] > select count_vowels(null);
```

udfs.count_vowels(null)
NULL

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s

[localhost:21000] > create function strip_vowels (string) returns
string location '/user/hive/udfs/libudfsample.so' symbol='Strip
Vowels';
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels('abcdefg');
```

udfs.strip_vowels('abcdefg')
bcd fg

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.11s
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels('ABCDEFGF');
```

udfs.strip_vowels('abcdefg')
BCDFG

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select strip_vowels(null);
```

udfs.strip_vowels(null)
NULL

```
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.16s
[localhost:21000] > select s, strip_vowels(s) from t2;
```

s	udfs.strip_vowels(s)
lower	lwr
UPPER	PPR
Init cap	nt cp
CamelCase	CmlCs

```
Returned 4 row(s) in 0.24s
```


Sample C++ UDA: SumOfSquares

```
[localhost:21000] > insert overwrite sos values (1, 1), (2, 0),
(3, 1), (4, 0);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.24s

[localhost:21000] > -- Compute 1 squared + 3 squared, and 2 sq
uared + 4 squared;
[localhost:21000] > select y, sum_of_squares(x) from sos group by
y;
+---+-----+
| y | udfs.sum_of_squares(x) |
+---+-----+
| 1 | 10                      |
| 0 | 20                      |
+---+-----+
Returned 2 row(s) in 0.43s
```

This example demonstrates a user-defined aggregate function (UDA) that produces the sum of the squares of its input values.

The coding for a UDA is a little more involved than a scalar UDF, because the processing is split into several phases, each implemented by a different function. Each phase is relatively straightforward: the “update” and “merge” phases, where most of the work is done, read an input value and combine it with some accumulated intermediate value.

As in our sample UDF from the previous example, we add function signatures to a header file (in this case, `uda-sample.h`). Because this is a math-oriented UDA, we make two versions of each function, one accepting an integer value and the other accepting a floating-point value.

```
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, BigIntVal* val);
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, DoubleVal* val);

void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal
& input, BigIntVal* val);
void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const Double
Val& input, DoubleVal* val);

void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntV
al& src, BigIntVal* dst);
void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleV
al& src, DoubleVal* dst);

BigIntVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const Bi
gIntVal& val);
DoubleVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const Do
ubleVal& val);
```

We add the function bodies to a C++ source file (in this case, `uda-sample.cc`):

```
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, BigIntVal* val) {
    val->is_null = false;
    val->val = 0;
}
void SumOfSquaresInit(FunctionContext* context, DoubleVal* val) {
    val->is_null = false;
    val->val = 0.0;
}

void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal
& input, BigIntVal* val) {
    if (input.is_null) return;
```

```

    val->val += input.val * input.val;
}
void SumOfSquaresUpdate(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleVal
& input, DoubleVal* val) {
    if (input.is_null) return;
    val->val += input.val * input.val;
}

void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const BigIntVal&
src, BigIntVal* dst) {
    dst->val += src.val;
}
void SumOfSquaresMerge(FunctionContext* context, const DoubleV
al& src, DoubleVal* dst) {
    dst->val += src.val;
}
BigIntVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const
BigIntVal& val) {
    return val;
}
DoubleVal SumOfSquaresFinalize(FunctionContext* context, const
DoubleVal& val) {
    return val;
}

```

As with the sample UDF, we build a shared library and put it into HDFS:

```

$ make
[ 0%] Generating udf_samples/uda-sample.ll
[ 16%] Built target uda-sample-ir
Scanning dependencies of target udasample
[ 33%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/udasample.dir/uda-sample.o
Linking CXX shared library udf_samples/libudasample.so
[ 33%] Built target udasample
Scanning dependencies of target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Building CXX object CMakeFiles/uda-sample-test.dir/uda-s
ample-test.o
Linking CXX executable udf_samples/uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Built target uda-sample-test
[ 50%] Generating udf_samples/udf-sample.ll
[ 66%] Built target udf-sample-ir
[ 83%] Built target udfsample
[100%] Built target udf-sample-test
$ hdfs dfs -put ./udf_samples/libudasample.so /user/hive/udfs/li
budasample.so

```

To create the SQL function, we issue a `CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION` statement and specify the underlying C++ function names for the different phases:

```

[localhost:21000] > use udf_testing;

[localhost:21000] > create table sos (x bigint, y double);
[localhost:21000] > insert into sos values (1, 1.1), (2, 2.2),
(3, 3.3), (4, 4.4);
Inserted 4 rows in 1.10s

[localhost:21000] > create aggregate function sum_of_squares(b
igint) returns bigint
> location '/user/hive/udfs/libudasample.so'
> init_fn='SumOfSquaresInit'
> update_fn='SumOfSquaresUpdate'
> merge_fn='SumOfSquaresMerge'
> finalize_fn='SumOfSquaresFinalize';

```

```
[localhost:21000] > -- Compute the same value using literals or
the UDA;
[localhost:21000] > select 1*1 + 2*2 + 3*3 + 4*4;
+-----+
| 1 * 1 + 2 * 2 + 3 * 3 + 4 * 4 |
+-----+
| 30                               |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(x) from sos;
+-----+
| udfs.sum_of_squares(x) |
+-----+
| 30                     |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.35s
```

Until we create the overloaded version of the UDA, it can only handle a single data type. To allow it to handle DOUBLE as well as BIGINT, we issue another CREATE AGGREGATE FUNCTION statement:

```
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(y) from sos;
ERROR: AnalysisException: No matching function with signature: ud
fs.sum_of_squares(DOUBLE).

[localhost:21000] > create aggregate function sum_of_squares(dou
ble) returns double
> location '/user/hive/udfs/libudasample.so'
> init_fn='SumOfSquaresInit'
> update_fn='SumOfSquaresUpdate'
> merge_fn='SumOfSquaresMerge'
> finalize_fn='SumOfSquaresFinalize';

[localhost:21000] > -- Compute the same value using literals or t
he UDA;
[localhost:21000] > select 1.1*1.1 + 2.2*2.2 + 3.3*3.3 + 4.4*4.4;
+-----+
| 1.1 * 1.1 + 2.2 * 2.2 + 3.3 * 3.3 + 4.4 * 4.4 |
+-----+
| 36.3                                           |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.12s
[localhost:21000] > select sum_of_squares(y) from sos;
+-----+
| udfs.sum_of_squares(y) |
+-----+
| 36.3                   |
+-----+
Returned 1 row(s) in 0.35s
```

Typically, you use a UDA in queries with GROUP BY clauses, to produce a result set with a separate aggregate value for each combination of values from the GROUP BY clause. Let's change our sample table to use 0 to indicate rows containing even values, and 1 to flag rows containing odd values. Then the GROUP BY query can return two values, the sum of the squares for the even values, and the sum of the squares for the odd values:

Related Information

[Building and deploying UDFs](#)

Security considerations for UDFs

When the Impala authorization feature is enabled:

- To call a UDF in a query, you must have the required read privilege for any databases and tables used in the query.
- The CREATE FUNCTION statement requires:
 - The CREATE privilege on the database.
 - The ALL privilege on two URIs where the URIs are:
 - The JAR file on the file system. For example:

```
GRANT ALL ON URI 'file:///PATH_TO_MY.JAR' TO ROLE MY_ROLE;
```

- The JAR on HDFS. For example:

```
GRANT ALL ON URI 'hdfs:///PATH/TO/JAR' TO ROLE MY_ROLE
```

Limitations and restrictions for Impala UDFs

The following limitations and restrictions apply to Impala UDFs in the current release.

Limited support for Hive Generic UDFs

Hive has 2 types of UDFs. This release contains limited support for the second generation UDFs called GenericUDFs. The main limitations are as follows:

- Decimal types are not supported
- Complex types are not supported
- Functions are not extracted from the jar file

GenericUDFs cannot be made permanent. They will need to be recreated every time the server is restarted.

Other limitations

- Impala does not support Hive UDFs that accept or return composite or nested types, or other types not available in Impala tables.
- The Hive `current_user()` function cannot be called from a Java UDF through Impala.
- All Impala UDFs must be deterministic, that is, produce the same output each time when passed the same argument values. For example, an Impala UDF must not call functions such as `rand()` to produce different values for each invocation. It must not retrieve data from external sources, such as from disk or over the network.
- An Impala UDF must not spawn other threads or processes.
- Prior to Impala 2.5 when the `catalogd` process is restarted, all UDFs become undefined and must be reloaded. In Impala 2.5 and higher, this limitation only applies to older Java UDFs. Re-create those UDFs using the new CREATE FUNCTION syntax for Java UDFs, which excludes the function signature, to remove the limitation entirely.
- Impala currently does not support user-defined table functions (UDTFs).
- The CHAR and VARCHAR types cannot be used as input arguments or return values for UDFs.

Starting the SQL AI Assistant in Hue

A SQL AI Assistant has been integrated into Hue with the capability to leverage the power of Large Language Models (LLMs) for various SQL tasks. It helps you to create, edit, optimize, fix, and succinctly summarize queries using natural language and makes SQL development faster, easier, and less error-prone. You can also generate comments and insert them into your queries to improve readability.

About this task




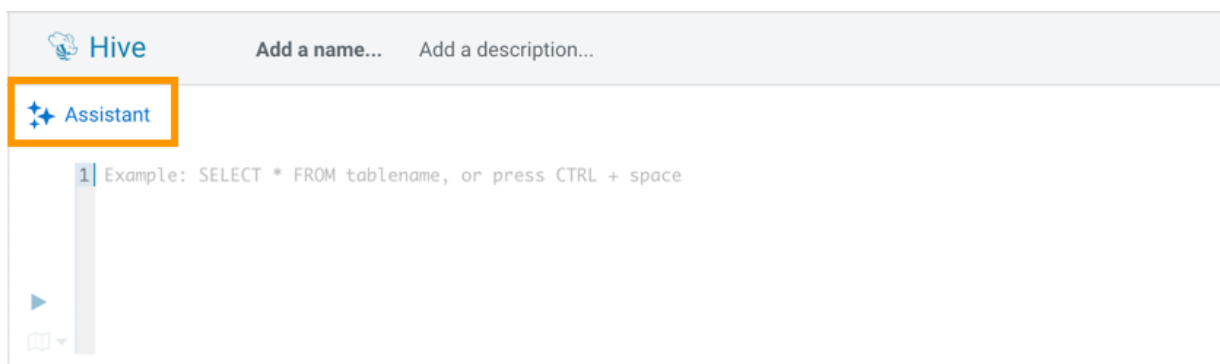
Attention: The SQL AI Assistant operates only on the database that you have selected in the Hue editor, and not necessarily on the one that is displayed on the left-assist bar.

Before you begin

Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

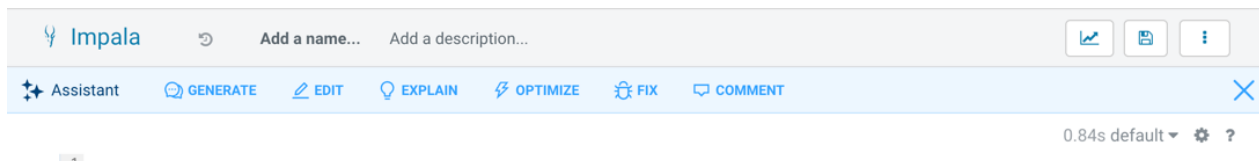
Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



Results

The following options are displayed:



Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)

Generating SQL from natural language in Hue


The SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse helps you to generate SQL queries by entering a prompt in natural language. You can then insert the generated SQL in the Hue SQL editor and run it as usual.

Before you begin

Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

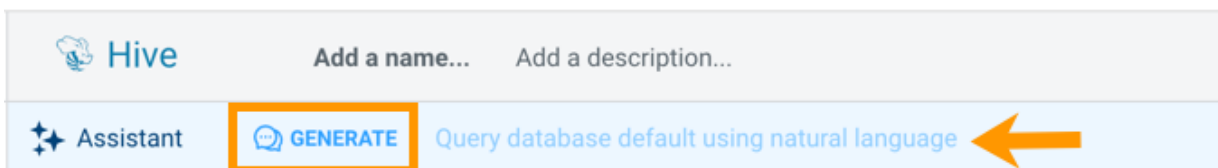
Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.

3. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



4. Click GENERATE.



A SQL query is generated based on your input prompt. Click Insert to insert the query into the editor and run it.

Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)


Editing the query in natural language in Hue

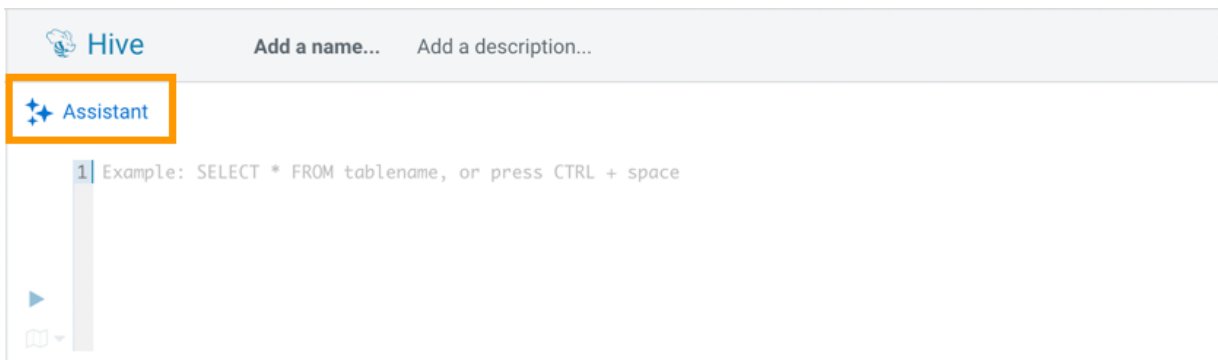
You can edit a query in natural language and generate it again to fine-tune your results using the Hue SQL AI Assistant. You can then insert the SQL query into the editor and run it as usual.

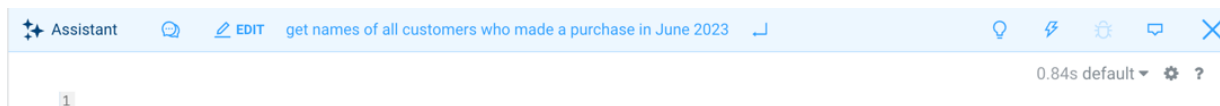
Before you begin

Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



4. Click EDIT.

Select the query from the list and edit it as needed. Then press enter to regenerate the SQL.

Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)


Getting an explanation of a SQL query in natural language in Hue

You can use the SQL AI Assistant to breakdown and understand a complex SQL query in natural language.

Before you begin

Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Insert a SQL query in the Hue editor that you would like to understand in natural language.
4. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



5. Click EXPLAIN.



The LLM generates the explanation of the SQL query.

Explained SQL for default

```
1 SELECT name
2 FROM customers
3 WHERE EXISTS (
4   SELECT 1
5   FROM orders
6   WHERE orders.customer_id = customers.id
7     AND orders.order_date BETWEEN '2023-06-01' AND '2023-06-30'
8 );
```

SUMMARY

Returns the names of customers who placed an order between June 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023.

EXPLANATION

The given SQL query performs an EXISTS subquery to check if each customer in the customers table has any orders in the orders table that were placed between '2023-06-01' and '2023-06-30'.

It first selects the name column from the customers table. This is the outer query.

For each customer, it checks if there exists any rows in the orders table where:

- The order customer_id matches the current customer's id
- The order_date is between '2023-06-01' and '2023-06-30'

If there is at least one matching order for a given customer, the EXISTS subquery will return true and that customer's name will be included in the result set.

Insert as comment

Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)


Optimizing a query in Hue

You can use the SQL AI Assistant to optimize a SQL query. Hue identifies the issues in the source query, optimizes it, and provides the optimized version of the SQL query. Hue also summarizes the issues and how it optimized the query in natural language.

Before you begin

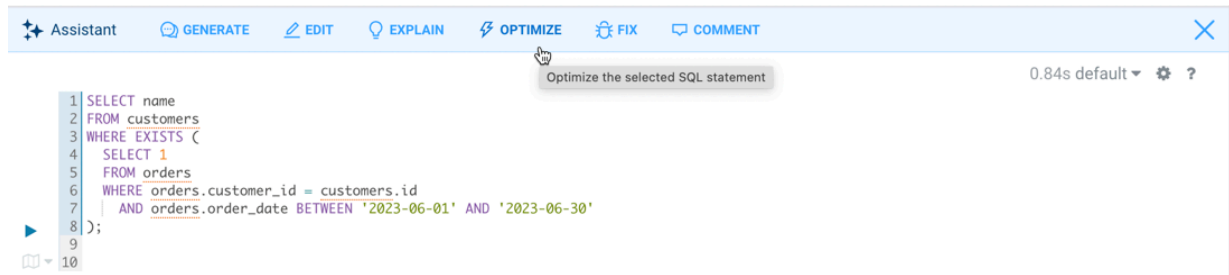
Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

Procedure

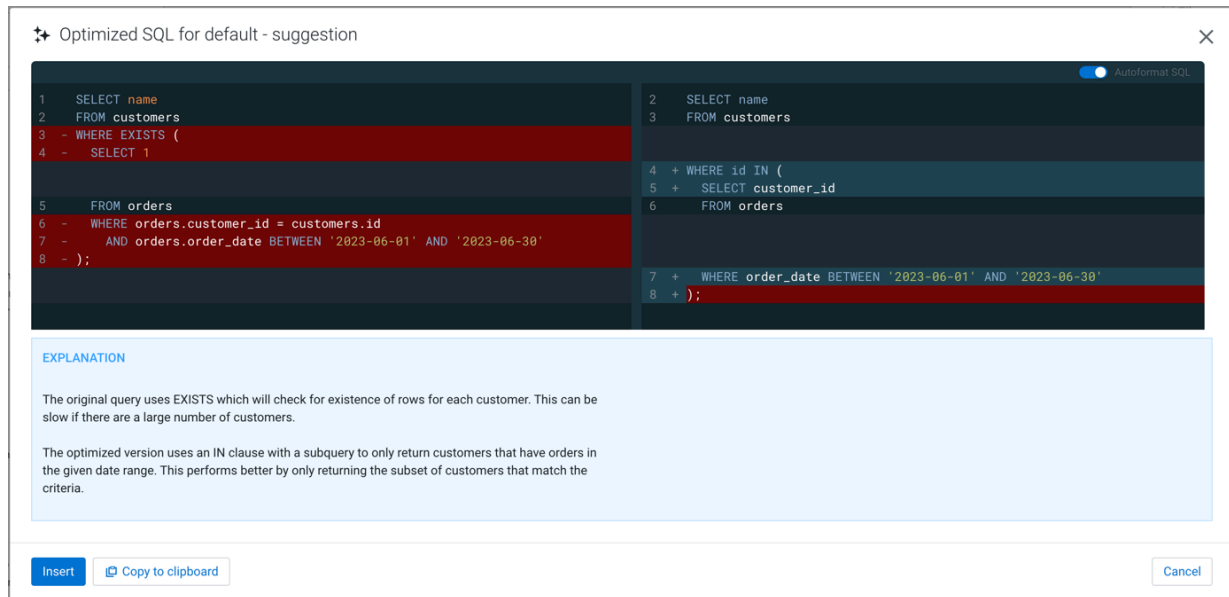
1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Insert a SQL query in the Hue editor that you would like to optimize.
4. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



5. Click OPTIMIZE.



Hue displays the original and the optimized SQL query side-by-side. It also provides an explanation of the issues in the original query and how it was optimized.



Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)

Fixing a query in Hue


You can use the SQL AI Assistant to fix a broken SQL query. Hue identifies the issues in SQL syntax and provides the corrected version.

Before you begin

Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

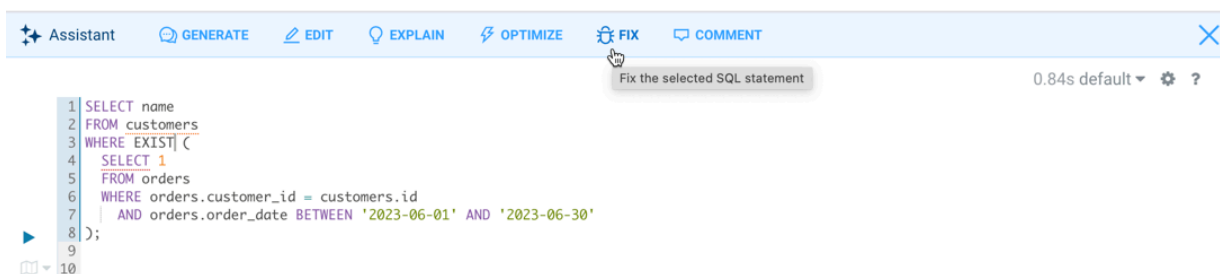
Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Insert a SQL query in the Hue editor that you would like to fix.

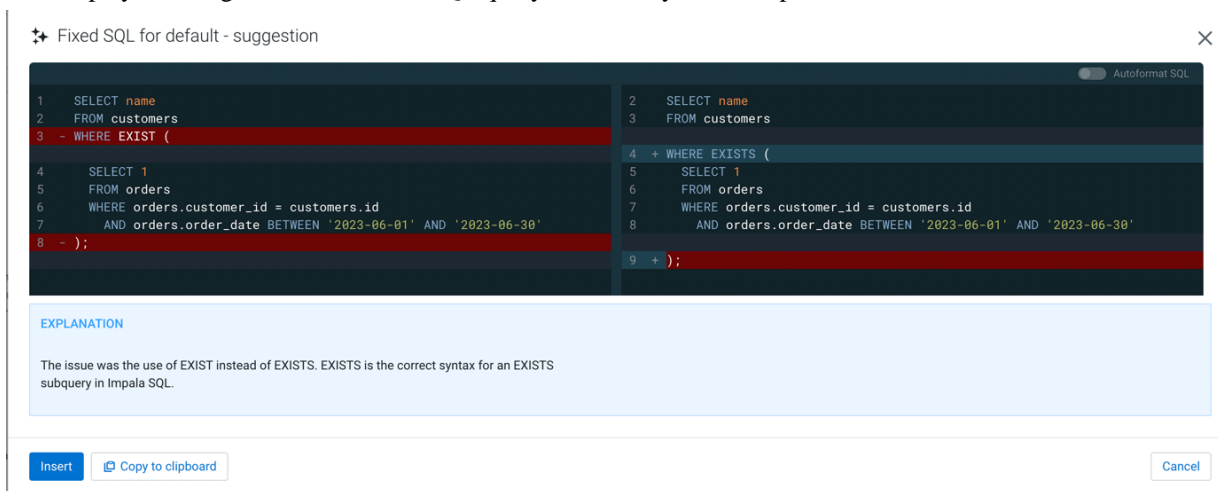
4. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



5. Click FIX.



Hue displays the original and the fixed SQL query in a side-by-side comparison.



Click Insert to insert the fixed query in the Hue editor and run it.

Related Information

[About setting up the SQL AI Assistant in Cloudera Data Warehouse](#)


Generating a comment for a query in Hue

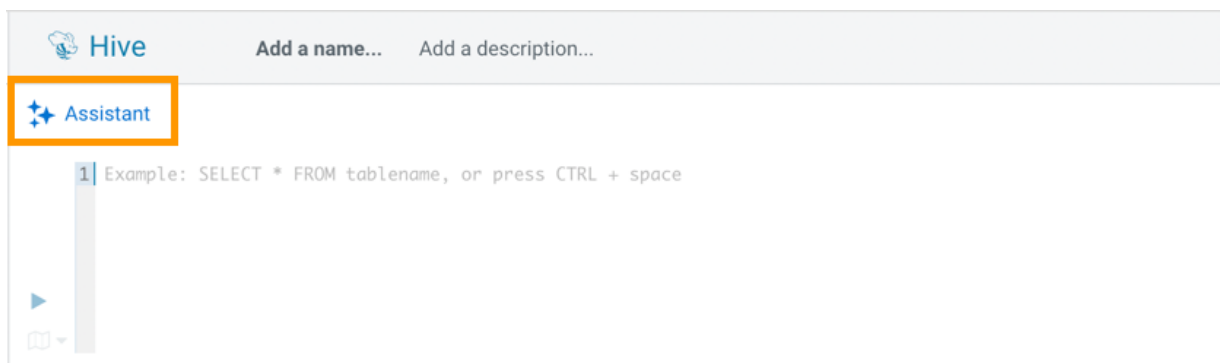
The SQL AI Assistant can generate a comment explaining what SQL query does. You can insert it into the query to improve readability.

Before you begin

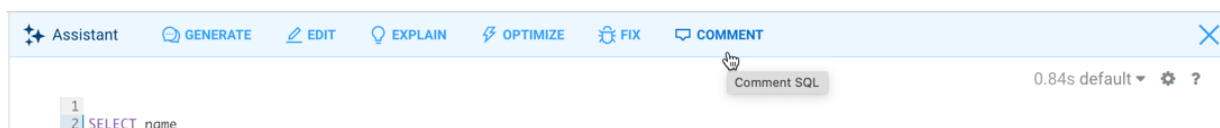
Your administrator must have configured and set up the required infrastructure for you to use the SQL AI Assistant. See [About setting up the Hue SQL AI Assistant](#).

Procedure

1. Log in to the Cloudera Data Warehouse service as DWUser.
2. Open Hue corresponding to your Virtual Warehouse.
3. Insert a SQL query in the Hue editor for which you want to generate a comment.
4. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor:



5. Click COMMENT.



The SQL AI Assistant generates a detailed comment for the input SQL query.




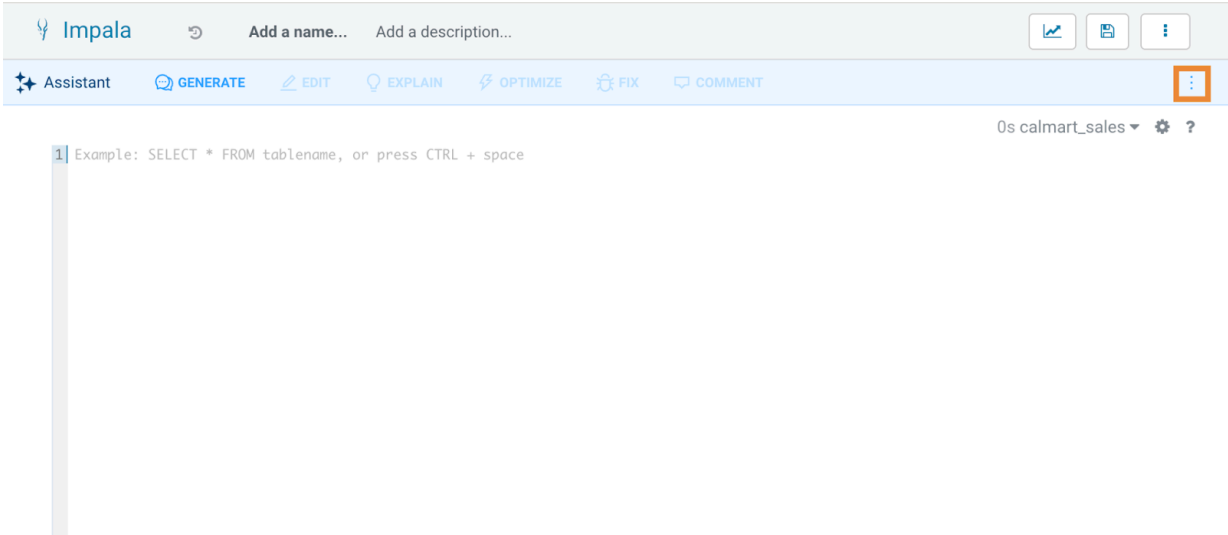
Click Insert to insert the comment into the query.

Multi database support for SQL query

The Hue SQL AI Assistant now supports multi-database querying, allowing you to retrieve data from multiple databases simultaneously. This enhancement simplifies managing large datasets across different systems and enables seamless cross-database queries.

Procedure

1. Click  Assistant on the Hue SQL editor, then open the AI Assistant Settings.



2. Select the databases you want to include in your queries. You can choose multiple databases from the list provided and click OK.
3. Enter your prompt in natural language to generate SQL queries.
- Querying across multiple databases

Database Name	Tables
CalMart_Sales_DB	Customers, Sales, Sales_Items
CalMart_Products_DB	Products, Suppliers, Product_Supplier

Use Case: Identifying Top-Selling Products and Their Suppliers.

Objective: Retrieve top-selling products along with their suppliers by combining data from two databases.

```
SELECT
    si.product_id,
    p.product_name,
    SUM(si.quantity) AS total_quantity_sold,
    s.supplier_name
FROM
    CalMart_Sales_DB.Sales_Items si
JOIN
    CalMart_Products_DB.Products p
ON
    si.product_id = p.product_id
JOIN
    CalMart_Products_DB.Product_Supplier ps
ON
    p.product_id = ps.product_id
JOIN
    CalMart_Products_DB.Suppliers s
ON
    ps.supplier_id = s.supplier_id
GROUP BY
    si.product_id, p.product_name, s.supplier_name
ORDER BY
```

```
total_quantity_sold DESC;
```

This query retrieves a comprehensive list of top-selling products along with their suppliers by combining data from multiple databases.

Impala workload management

Learn how to enable Impala query logging in Cloudera Data Warehouse to track queries, analyze performance, and retain execution data for better insights.

Cloudera Data Warehouse provides you the option to enable logging Impala queries on an existing Virtual Warehouse or while creating a new Impala Virtual Warehouse. By logging the Impala queries in Cloudera Data Warehouse, you gain increased observability of the workloads running on Impala, which you can use to improve the performance of your Impala Virtual Warehouses.

This feature represents a significant enhancement to query profiling capabilities. You can have Impala archive crucial data from each query's profile into dedicated database tables known as the query history table and live query table. These tables are part of the sys database and are designed to store valuable information that can later be queried using any Impala client, providing a consolidated view of both actively running and previously executed queries.

The query history table, sys.impala_query_log proves particularly useful when dissecting workloads for in-depth analysis of query performance. Unlike the limitations associated with query profiles, which are only available to the client that initiated the query, the query history table offers a comprehensive solution for querying completed queries without the need to parse the text of each query profile. Additionally, the query history table provides a comprehensive view across all Impala coordinators.

The Impala query information is stored indefinitely in the sys.impala_query_log table whereas the sys.impala_query_live table reflects the in-memory state of all Impala coordinators. Actively running and recently completed queries are stored in this table. Data is removed from this table once the query finishes and is persisted in the sys.impala_query_log table or if the coordinator is restarted. Therefore, there is a possibility that some of the records could momentarily be duplicated in both these tables.

Since the sys.impala_query_live table is stored only in-memory, recently completed queries that are not yet persisted to the sys.impala_query_log table are lost if the coordinator crashes. However, if the coordinator is shut down gracefully, then the recently completed queries are stored in the sys.impala_query_log table and are not lost.

The <onlyCoordinators> element in Impala's Admission Control restricts a request pool to coordinators only, excluding executors. This is mainly used for querying the sys.impala_query_live table. However, these pools can still run any query, potentially exhausting coordinator resources. Proper naming is important to avoid unintended query routing. For more information, see *Apache Impala: onlyCoordinators*.

Related Information

[Apache Impala: onlyCoordinators](#)

Impala workload management table format

Learn about the available columns in the query history and live query system tables.

Table Format

The following columns are available as part of the query history and live query system tables:

Column Name	Description	Data Type	Sample Value
cluster_id	String specified through the Impala startup flag to uniquely identify an instance.	string	cluster-123
query_id	Impala assigned query identifier.	string	214d08bef0831e7a:3c65392400000000

Column Name	Description	Data Type	Sample Value
session_id	Impala assigned session identifier.	string	ea4f661af43993d8:587839553a41adb8
session_type	Client session type.	string	HIVESERVER2
hiveserver2_protocol_version	Version of the HiveServer (HS2) protocol that was used by the client when connecting.	string	HIVE_CLI_SERVICE_PROTOCOL_V6
db_user	Effective user on the cluster.	string	csso_name
db_user_connection	Username from an authenticated client.	string	csso_name
db_name	Name of the database being queried.	string	default
impala_coordinator	Name of the coordinator for the query.	string	coord-22899:27000
query_status	Status of the query when it completes.	string	OK
query_state	Final state of the query.	string	FINISHED
impala_query_end_state	Final Impala state of the query.	string	FINISHED
query_type	Type of the query.	string	QUERY
network_address	Client IP address and port.	string	127.0.0.1:40120
start_time_utc	Time when the query started. Time zone is in UTC.	timestamp	2024-07-17 17:13:46.414316000
total_time_ms	Difference between the query end time and start time, in milliseconds (digits after the decimal point represent milliseconds).	decimal(18,3)	136.121
query_opts_config	List of query options stored as a single string containing comma-separated values of key-value pairs.	string	TIMEZONE=America/Los_Angeles,CLIENT_IDENTIFIER=Impala Shell v4.4.0a1 (04bdb4d) built on Mon Nov 20 10:49:35 PST 2023
resource_pool	Name of the resource pool for the query.	string	default-pool
per_host_mem_estimate	Size, in bytes of the per-host memory estimate.	bigint	5
dedicated_coord_mem_estimate	Size, in bytes of the dedicated coordinator memory estimate.	bigint	4
per_host_fragment_instances	Comma-separated string listing each host and its fragment instances.	string	myhost-1:27000=1,myhost-2:27001=2
backends_count	Count of the number of backends used by this query.	integer	2
admission_result	Result of the admission (not applicable to DDLs).	string	Admitted immediately
cluster_memory_admitted	Cluster memory, in bytes that was admitted.	integer	4
executor_group	Name of the executor group.	string	executor_group
executor_groups	List of all executor groups including the groups that were considered and rejected as part of Workload Aware Auto Scaling.	string	executor_group1, executor_group2...
exec_summary	Full text of the executor summary.	string	

Column Name	Description	Data Type	Sample Value
num_rows_fetched	Number of rows fetched by the query.	bigint	6001215
row_materialization_rows_per_sec	Count of the number of rows materialized per second.	bigint	3780
row_materialization_time_ms	Time spent materializing rows converted to milliseconds.	decimal(18,3)	1.58
compressed_bytes_spilled	Count of bytes that were written (or spilled) to scratch disk space.	bigint	241515
event_planning_finished	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	27.253
event_submit_for_admission	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	30.204
event_completed_admission	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	30.986
event_all_backends_started	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	31.969
event_rows_available	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	31.969
event_first_row_fetched	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	135.175
event_last_row_fetched	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	135.181
event_unregister_query	Event from the timeline.The value represents the number of milliseconds since the query was received.	decimal(18,3)	141.435
read_io_wait_total_ms	Total read I/O wait time converted to milliseconds.	bigint	15.091
read_io_wait_mean_ms	Average read I/O wait time across executors converted to milliseconds	bigint	35.515
bytes_read_cache_total	Total bytes read from the data cache	bigint	45823
bytes_read_total	Total bytes read	bigint	745227
pernode_peak_mem_min	Minimum value of all the per-node peak memory usages	bigint	5552846
pernode_peak_mem_max	Maximum value of all the per-node peak memory usages	bigint	5552846
pernode_peak_mem_mean	Mean value of all the per-node peak memory usages	bigint	5552846

Column Name	Description	Data Type	Sample Value
sql	SQL statement as provided by the user	string	SELECT db_user, total_time_ms from impala_query_log where query_state = 'EXCEPTION';
plan	Full text of the query plan	string	
tables_queried	Comma-separated string containing all the tables queried in the SQL statement. Aliased tables are resolved to their actual table names.	string	db.tbl,db.tbl
select_columns	Comma-separated string containing all columns from the select list of the sql. Aliased columns are resolved to their actual column names. Each column is in the format database.table.column_name.	string	db.tbl.col1,db.tbl.col2
where_columns	Comma-separated string containing all columns from the where list of the sql. Aliased columns are resolved to their actual column names. Each column is in the format database.table.column_name.	string	db.tbl.col1,db.tbl.col2
join_columns	Comma-separated string containing all columns from the sql used in a join. Aliased columns are resolved to their actual column names. Each column is in the format database.table.column_name.	string	db.tbl.col1,db.tbl.col2
aggregate_columns	Comma-separated string containing all columns from the group by and having lists of the sql. Aliased columns are resolved to their actual column names. Each column is in the format database.table.column_name.	string	db.tbl.col1,db.tbl.col2
orderby_columns	Comma-separated string containing all columns from the order by list of the sql. Aliased columns are resolved to their actual column names. Each column is in the format database.table.column_name.	string	db.tbl.col1,db.tbl.col2
coordinator_slots	Number of query slots used by the query on the coordinator.	bigint	1
executor_slots	Number of query slots used by the query on the executors. The value in this column represents the slots used by a single executor, not the total number of slots across all executors.	bigint	1

Impala workload management table maintenance

Understand the maintenance requirements for the sys.impala_query_live and sys.impala_query_log tables.

For efficient query performance, different maintenance needs apply to the sys.impala_query_live and sys.impala_query_log tables.

- `sys.impala_query_live`:
 - No maintenance is required because it resides entirely in memory.
- `sys.impala_query_log`:
 - As an Iceberg table, it requires periodic maintenance, such as:
 - Computing statistics.
 - Optimizing the table structure.
 - Performing snapshot expiration or cleanup.

Since Impala workloads are unique, no automatic maintenance is performed on the `sys.impala_query_log` table. You should schedule maintenance tasks according to your workload needs.

To optimize the Impala query log, run the query `OPTIMIZE TABLE sys.impala_query_log (FILE_SIZE_THRESHOLD_MB=128)`. Cloudera recommends testing this query in the development or test environments to evaluate its impact on your workload. For best results, run the query during low cluster activity times.

Impala workload management use cases

Learn how to use query history to track executed queries by user, identify frequently queried statements, and report long-running queries for analysis.

A consolidated view of reports from previously executed queries can be useful in the following use cases:

- Collecting history of all queries run and reporting by user, start/end time, and execution duration. For instance:

```
SELECT db_user, start_time, end_time, total_time_ms, sql FROM impala_query_log ORDER BY db_user;
```

- Collecting the top five most frequently executed queries. For instance:

```
SELECT lower(sql) sql, count(sql) count FROM sys.impala_query_log GROUP BY lower(sql) ORDER BY count desc LIMIT 5;
```

- Reporting on queries that ran over 10 minutes. For instance:

```
SELECT db_user, total_time_ms, sql FROM sys.impala_query_log WHERE total_time_ms > 600000;
```

- Reporting on queries that are actively running and have been running for over 10 minutes. For instance:

```
SELECT db_user, total_time_ms, sql FROM sys.impala_query_live WHERE total_time_ms > 600000;
```

How Impala workload management works

Learn how to enable and configure Impala query logging to store and analyze query history.

To use this feature, enable Impala query logging while creating a new Virtual Warehouse or by editing an existing one by selecting the Log Impala Queries option. By default, the Log Impala Queries option is off.

You can then configure the Impala coordinator using specific startup flags to store query history. Impala manages the table serving as a centralized repository for all query histories across databases. Completed queries are periodically inserted into this table based on a preconfigured interval.

This feature streamlines the process of query history management, providing a more accessible and comprehensive way to analyze and retrieve information about completed queries.



Note: This feature is available from Cloudera Data Warehouse versions 2024.0.18.0 (tech preview), 2025.0.19.0 and higher (GA).



Important: The following query types are not written into the query logging tables:

- SET
- SHOW
- USE
- DESCRIBE

Impala coordinator Startup flags

Learn about Impala coordinator startup flags used to create and configure query logging tables during startup.

On startup, each Impala coordinator runs an SQL statement to create the query logging tables. The following table lists the Impala startup coordinator flags that you can configure:

Name	Data Type	Default	Description
cluster_id	string		Specifies an identifier string that uniquely represents this cluster. This identifier is included in both the tables and is used as a table partition for the sys.impala_query_log table.
query_log_shutdown_timeout_s	number (seconds)	30	Hidden flag. Number of seconds to wait for the queue of completed queries to be carried into the query history table before timing out and continuing the shutdown process. The query history table drain process runs after the shutdown process completes, therefore the max shutdown time is extended by the value specified in this flag.
workload_mgmt_user	string	impala	Specifies the user that will be used to insert records into the query history table.
query_log_write_interval_s	number (seconds)	300	Number of seconds to wait before inserting completed queries into the query history table. Allows for batching inserts to help avoid small files.
query_log_max_queued	number	3000	Maximum number of completed queries that can be queued before they are written to the query history table. This flag operates independently of the query_log_write_interval_m flag. If the number of queued records reaches this value, the records will be written to the query log table no matter how much time has passed since the last write. A value of 0 indicates no maximum number of queued records.

Name	Data Type	Default	Description
query_log_max_sql_length	number	16777216	Maximum length of a SQL statement that will be recorded in the completed queries table. If a SQL statement with a length longer than this specified value is executed, the SQL inserted into the completed queries table will be trimmed to this length. Any characters that require escaping will have their backslash character counted towards this limit.
query_log_max_plan_length	number	16777216	Maximum length of the SQL query plan that will be recorded in the completed queries table. If a query plan has a length longer than this value, the plan inserted into the completed queries table will be trimmed to this length. Any characters that require escaping will have their backslash character counted towards this limit.
query_log_request_pool	string		Specifies a pool or queue used by the queries that insert into the query log table. Empty value causes no pool to be set.
query_log_dml_exec_timeout_s	number	120	Specifies the value of the EXEC_TIME_LIMIT_S query option on the DML that inserts records into the sys.impala_query_log table.