HIGH PERFORMANCE
DATA ANALYTICS

How do you define big data?
WHO WE ARE

FedCentric Technologies, LLC is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) founded in 2005 with a simple focus: to provide solutions to the most difficult business applications, those that exceed the capabilities of traditional approaches. Our primary objective is meeting and exceeding the clients’ requirements. We place customers at the center of what we do. We provide enabling technology, and expertise, including: High Density Computing, Memory Centric Processing and GPU processing, to solve the most demanding problem sets. Requirements that can be satisfied with traditional approaches, in-house teams and current relationships, are simply not our focus.

FedCentric pioneered the use of In Memory Database (IMDB) software using large memory systems, back in the 2005 / 2006 timeframe at Fort Meade. FedCentric deployed a 6 TB system using Oracle TimesTen, for enterprise-wide use at the United States Postal Service back in 2007. Today, FedCentric continues to lead the way, deploying large memory systems with: Graph Database, No SQL Database, General Purpose Graphic Processor Units (GP GPUs), GPU Database and Machine Learning.

BIG DATA

FedCentric Specializes in Solving the most Difficult “Big Data” Requirements

Our competitors define Big Data as Volume, Velocity and Variety. We define Big Data as applications that exceed the capacity of traditional approaches. International Data Corporation (IDC) has coined a term for our market, High Performance Data Analysis (HPDA) (see box at right).

FedCentric Subscribes to the 80 / 20 Rule

FedCentric believes that 80% of all requirements can be satisfied using traditional approaches, in house staff, and systems integrators. This market is crowded and therefore difficult to penetrate, influence, and differentiate. This market is NOT our focus.

20% of all requirements exceed the capabilities of existing approaches, staffs, and system integration companies

This market is forward thinking and requires unique architectures and techniques. This is the market space where we thrive.

INNOVATION WITHIN STANDARDS - FIT IN BUT STAND OUT

FIT IN: FedCentric solutions feature a total commitment to commodity products and SW standards, i.e., RedHat or Novell Linux, Intel x86 Processors, PCIe 3 interconnects. Your current IT staff is familiar with our environment and we are compatible with your current custom developed codes and 3rd party application software.

STAND OUT: However our systems feature Disruptive Integration, i.e., scale in three dimensions; Processor Core Count (up to 4000 cores), System RAM (Up to 64TBs) and IO (Up to 100 GBytes per second Cross Section Bandwidth) in a single instance of Linux; Oracle Compatible Memory Centric DataBase and hardware accelerated GeoSpatial capabilities.

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WHAT WE DO

FEDCENTRIC CORE COMPETENCIES

FedCentric has core competencies in: 1) architecting and servicing in-memory HPC hardware; 2) writing, coding, and implementing high performance data analytics (HPDA); and, 3) developing interdisciplinary teams that customize hardware and HPDA solutions for our clients.

HARDWARE
FedCentric owns substantial compute resources within FedCentric Labs. Current systems include:
- SGI UV2000 w/ 8TB RAM and 256 Core
- SGI UV300 w/ 12TB RAM and 192 Core
- Multiple 16 Lane PCIE per chassis
- NVIDIA 8 K40’s / 8 K80’s
- Magma Chassis (Qty 5)
- Intel Corp
  - 2 Phi Coprocessors 7120P
  - 14 PCIE Model 910 SSDs
  - 4 DC P3700 SSD’s
- SANdisk / Fusion IO 50TB Total SSD
- 300 TB HDD
- 48 Port Brocade
- Arista 10G Ethernet 24 Port

HIGH PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYTICS (HPDA)
We are Subject Matter Experts in the following technologies:
1. Memory Centric Architectures
2. In-Memory Database Technologies
3. High Density Computing
4. Graph Analytics
5. Machine Learning
6. Applied math and predictive analytics.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
Our interdisciplinary teams (see Page 7) focus on the following areas:
1. Biosciences
2. Fraud Prevention, Detection and Investigation
3. Cyber Security
4. Document Discovery
Background
The past decade has seen a significant increase in high-throughput experimental studies that catalog variant datasets using massively parallel sequencing experiments. New insights of biological significance can be gained by this information with multiple genomic locations based annotations. However, efforts to obtain this information by integrating and mining variant data have had limited success so far and there has yet to be a method developed that can be scalable, practical, and applied to millions of variants and their related annotations. We explored the use of graph data structures as a proof of concept for scalable interpretation of the impact of variant related data.

Introduction
Traditional approaches of data mining and integration in the research field have relied on relational databases or programming for deriving dynamic insights from research related data. However, as more next generation sequencing (NGS) becomes available, these approaches limit the exploration of certain hypothesis. One such limitation is the mining of variant data from publicly available databases such as the 1000 genomes project and TCGA.

Although there are applications available for quickly finding the public data with a certain set of variants or for finding minor allele frequencies, there is no such application that can be applied generically across all the projects allowing researchers to globally mine and find patterns that would be applicable to their specific research interests.

Methods and Materials

Data
- SNPs from 1000 genomes project
- Phenotype conditions from ClinVar
- Gene mappings & mRNA transcripts from Entrez Gene
- Amino acid changes from UniProt

The Graph
- Variants and annotations mapped to reference genomic locations (Fig. 3)
- Includes all chromosomes and genomic locations
- 180 million nodes and 12 billion edges.
Variant Data and Related Annotations

1, Michael S. Atkins2, Hue Vuong3, F. Pascal Girard2, Uma Mudunuri3

irfax, VA, 3Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, Frederick, MD

Results

Phase I: As an initial evaluation of the graph structures we ran several simple queries, also feasible through a relational architecture, and measured performance speeds.

Simple Query Examples
- Get all information for a single variant
- Find annotations within a range of genomic locations
- Find variants associated with specific clinical phenotypes

Performance speeds
- Query times in milliseconds
- Better or equal to relational database query times

Queries
- Developed a new SQL-like query language called SparkQL
- Eases writing queries for non-programmatic users

Ingestion Times
- Slower than expected
- Sparksee is a multi-thread single write database
- Writes one node/edge at a time
- Each write involves creating connections with existing nodes
- Slows down as the graph size increases
  
  **Solution:** Implement multi-threaded insertions in combination with internal data structures to efficiently find nodes and create edges

High Degree Vertices:
- Nodes with millions of edges
- Stored in a non-distributed list like format
- Searches for a specific edge might be slow
  
  **Example:** nodes representing individuals with millions of variants
  
  **Solution:** Explore other graph clustering approaches that can essentially condense the information presented

Phase II: We explored complex patterns and clusters inside the graph and spectral clustering queries that were not feasible through the relational architecture.

Complex Query Examples
- Compare variant profiles and find individuals that are closely related
- Compare annotation profiles to find clusters of populations

Phase II Results
- Eight populations with 25 individuals from each population
- Strong eigenvalue support (near zero) for 3 main clusters
- Cluster pattern supported by population genetics (Fig. 4)

Performance speeds
- Spectral clustering took ca. 2 minutes

Conclusion

Our results indicate that a graph database, run on an in-memory machine, can be a very powerful and useful tool for cancer research. Performance using the graph database for finding details on specific nodes or a list of nodes is better or equal to a well-architected relational database. We also see promising initial results for identifying correlations between genetic changes and specific phenotype conditions.

We conclude that an in-memory graph database would allow researchers to run known queries while also providing the opportunity to develop algorithms to explore complex correlations. Graph models are useful for mining complex data sets and could prove essential in the development and implementation of tools aiding precision medicine.

References


Acknowledgments

FedCentric acknowledges Frank D'Ippolito, Shahfgh Mehraeen, Margreth Mpossi, Supriya Nittoor, and Tianwen Chu for their invaluable assistance with this project.

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USE CASES

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE/ FREDERICK NATIONAL LABORATORY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

FedCentric completed a proof of concept with the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR) to develop High-Performance Data Analytics (HPDA) to improve cancer research (Pages 4 and 5). The past decade has seen a significant increase in high-throughput DNA sequencing resulting in very large datasets containing the entire genomes of thousands of people. “New knowledge and insights into cancer research and treatments can be learned from this data, but efforts to process such large datasets in real time have had limited success. Most data mining technologies have simply not been feasible at this scale,” said Uma Mudunuri, lead bioinformatician at FNLCR.

FedCentric and FNLCR explored the application of graph database analytics as a proof of concept for scalable interpretation of these massive genomic datasets. In this pilot effort we used genetic variant and population data from several open source public databases. A model was developed using graph database technology to query variant data and assess performance. All the data sets were parsed into a graph database with 180 million nodes and nearly 12 billion edges. In phase I of the project, the graph was used for retrieval of all relevant information for single variants. In phase II, we explored complex queries to identify clusters and patterns within individuals based on their differences with respect to a reference human genome.

The proof of concept showed that for single, variant-based annotation searches, the speed and performance of the graph model was similar to a well-architected relational database. However, the graph model also allowed us to test complex queries for identifying variant patterns that FNLCR was unable to run using the relational architecture. The FC/FNLCR/GU poster displayed on Pages 4 and 5 won the third place best poster award at a major biomedical symposium at Georgetown University in October 2015.

PRECISION MEDICINE/ PHARMACEUTICALS

FedCentric is deploying in-memory graph analytics and machine learning technologies to help medical professionals extract knowledge and insight from large, complex genomic databases to improve Precision Medicine for a number of diseases. For example, in-memory graph analytics is a very powerful tool for cancer researchers to determine relationships between genetic variants and specific types of cancer. Traditional analytical approaches currently used by researchers are too slow to reveal useful information. FedCentric’s in-memory graph analytics and machine learning technologies enable medical professional to visualize and mine connected data to develop Precision Medicine in ways that are orders of magnitude faster and more intuitive than traditional methods.

FedCentric is using high performance data analytics (HPDA) for microarray imaging under NDA with a pharmaceutical partner in Silicon Valley. Our HPDA for microarray imaging and analysis has broad application in biometrics, including gene expression in cancer research. FedCentric mathematicians and data scientists can utilize the BRB-ArrayTools package for Excel and are also able to code more complex analytical algorithms in Mathematica, R, C++, and Java. Our deep technical expertise allows FedCentric to extend and customize HPDA for its clients while maintaining their ability to interface in the user-friendly BRB platform.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

VOLUME
- 550 million mailpieces scanned 3-5 times each

VELOCITY
- Transaction and Query Rates increased Exponentially
- Processing a day’s transactions improved from 36 hours to less than 2 hours

VALUE
- Removed pervasive threat to bottom line
- New service offerings at reduced cost
- Reduced high cost staff
- Enabled dynamic carrier routing, fuel, salary cost reductions

FedCentric accelerated USPS logistics more than 1000x.
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

On November 2 2015, the National Science Foundation awarded a major contract to the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of North Carolina's Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) to co-direct a new, national effort serving as a Big Data Regional Innovation Hub for 16 Southern states and the District of Columbia. Among the 29 Senior Personnel chosen to lead the South Region, FedCentric’s Chief Evangelist, Pascal Girard, was one of only two scientists selected to represent private industry. Also selected was Professor Alexander Szalay of Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Girard and Professor Szalay have already begun assessing how to design and build read alignment systems that can sustain the throughput rates required by Next Generation Sequencers. Specifically, the team is looking at how FedCentric could leverage their High Performance Data Analytics (HPDA) platform which includes large memory and high cpu count along with NVidia CUDA technology to deliver orders of magnitude improvement using Johns Hopkins’ latest GPU-accelerated read alignment sequencing algorithms (e.g. ARIOC).

PEOPLE ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

MANAGEMENT

Gerry Kolosvary, CEO
Steve Heibein, VP Engineering
Michael Atkins, Director, BioScience

Robert Gaskins, Director, Cyber
Thomas Van de Merlen, Director, Fraud
Joseph Conway, CTO

Pascal Girard, CTE
Neil Reilly, Principle Architect

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

AKSHAY BHUSHAN is a graduate from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, where he graduated magna cum laude in International Politics. Akshay led a team of data scientists as a Product Manager for the Biosciences division and oversaw the development of a large graph database for bioinformaticians at the National Cancer Institute.

YATPANG CHEUNG is a computer science student at Georgetown University. A Georgetown 1776 Scholar, Yatpang received a full scholarship to study at the university. He created the programming language bioinformaticians used to interact with FedCentric’s graph database.

TIANWEN CHU graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master Degree in Computer Science. Tianwen works on the development and implementation of graph database analytics.

FRANK D’IPPOLITO is an applied mathematician with many years of industry and software development experience. He has designed and implemented applications of mathematics and algorithms across diverse domains including cryptography and speech recognition. Along with algorithmic and mathematical expertise, he brings to the FedCentric team a programming background that includes C++ and Python. His undergraduate education in mathematics was from the University of Waterloo and he did graduate studies in applied mathematics at MIT.

SHAFIGH MEHRAEEN is a postdoctoral fellow at MIT. He received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University, working on DNA biophysics, and protein self-assembly. Dr. Mehraeen develops machine learning, data mining, big data analyses, statistical methods, and stochastic differential equations, processes, and optimization at FedCentric.

JESSE MILZMAN is a PhD Candidate in Mathematics at the University of Maryland. He is a recent graduate of Georgetown University, where he majored in Mathematics and was the recipient of the 2015 Leslie Award, which serves to honor the top student in the Mathematics department. While working with the National Cancer Institute, Jesse created advanced mathematical clustering methods to analyze data in our graph databases.

MARGRETH MPOSSI completed a master degree in computational biology at Stanford University. She has spent two and a half years studying RNA structure by computational and biochemical methods. She previously designed an RNA structure prediction algorithm using machine learning to increase efficiency of energy minimization (using R and C++). At FedCentric, Margreth develops computational solutions to big biological problems.

SUPRIYA NITTOOR holds a master degree in Information Systems from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and has developed a keen interest in Data Science. Supriya works as a data scientist at FedCentric.

JOHN PURTILO has a BS in computer science from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has experience with developing software in areas including artificial intelligence, computer vision, combinatorics, and numerical analysis at both UMD and the Naval Research Laboratory. At FedCentric, John evaluates the latest graph and in-memory database systems available today.

NICHOLAS ROSSOMANDO has a BS in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park. Nick brings several years of software engineering experience in C++ and Python to FedCentric.

CHRIS ZAWORA is senior at Georgetown University studying Computer Science. While studying at Georgetown he completed coursework in algorithms, programming languages, and data science. At FedCentric he works with big memory, high performance machines to design and implement a large-scale graph databases.
A SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (SDVOSB)
A HUBZone Business (pending SBA approval in 2016)

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FedCentric Labs
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OUR COLLEGE PARK/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND OFFICE:

1. Provides access to exceptionally talented graduate and undergraduate students at both the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.
2. Is in an Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone) as classified by the Small Business Administration.

CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS

Frederick National Laboratory
for Cancer Research

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Stanford University

Johns Hopkins University
Georgetown University