

GATHIKA
DYNAMIC QUERY DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM FOR
COMPLEX EVENT PROCESSING SYSTEMS

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Abstract

Complex Event Processing (CEP) is heavily used in real time systems where people are interested in extracting valuable information from event streams. Scalability and fault tolerance are major requirements for such systems that do complex event processing. It is very hard to rely on a single machine to do the processing of all events. Therefore, requiring distributed systems for processing event streams is an obvious choice. Such a system should be able to cater to the requirement of processing a large number of events. Event queries are deployed in event processing nodes to extract useful information from event streams. In real time, event processing nodes get overloaded due to event bursts. In addition, there are situations where a large set of queries need to be deployed to extract useful information from the events. Due to all these conditions, the overall throughput of the whole system degrades. Distribution of queries is therefore essential in a complex event processing system.

Distributing complex queries statically within the event processing nodes (at system initialization) is not a trivial task. Dynamic query distribution (during system operation time) is even harder due to factors such as fault tolerance, availability, scalability, predictable performance, and security requirements of the distributed CEP system. Network connectivity and the status of the processing nodes are some of the essential factors that need to be considered when doing query distribution.

This research focuses on developing dynamic query distribution mechanisms for a distributed complex event processing system. A dynamic query distribution algorithm capable of deploying the queries dynamically across the nodes of the distributed CEP system is designed. Query distribution is done considering the resource utilization levels of the event processing nodes, the complexity of the query to be deployed, and the type of queries deployed in the processing nodes.

Through our experiments, it was evident that the performance of the system is proportional to the number of processing nodes in the system. When dynamic query distribution is properly executed, the overall system performance can be improved by balancing the load among the processing nodes. Two important rules were defined to guarantee this proper execution: minimum time between two successive dynamic query distributions and minimum number of queries to trigger dynamic query distribution in the system. Having low latency when distributing queries dynamically and high throughput after dynamic query distribution are the key success of this dynamic query distribution mechanism. Therefore, it is beneficial to have a dynamic query distribution mechanism in CEP systems that experience frequent event bursts and query/node deployments.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	I
ABSTRACT	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	III
LIST OF FIGURES	VII
LIST OF TABLES	VIII
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	IX
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Description	1
1.3 Objectives	3
1.4 Contributions	4
1.5 Organization of the thesis	4
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Complex Event Processing (CEP)	5
2.1.1 Event	5
2.1.2 Complex Event	5
2.1.3 Event Queries	6
2.1.4 CEP systems	6
2.2 Event Streams	7
2.3 Complex Event Processing Engines	7
2.3.1 Esper	7
2.3.2 Simple Scalable Streaming System (S4)	8
2.3.3 Siddhi	9
2.3.4 Cayuga	11
2.4 Complex event processing architectures	11
2.5 Dynamic Load Balancing	11
2.6 Query Distribution Strategies	13

2.6.1	Static query distribution.....	13
2.6.1.1	Scalable Context Delivery Platform (SCTXPF).....	14
2.6.1.2	Static query distribution in VISIRI.....	15
2.6.2	Dynamic Query Distribution	16
2.6.2.1	Dynamic query distribution in VISIRI.....	17
2.6.3	Operator distribution.....	19
2.6.3.1	Distributed Stream Processing in Borealis.....	19
2.6.3.2	FUGU Elastic complex event processing under varying query load	20
2.7	Cost model development	22
2.8	Summary	23
3	DYNAMIC QUERY DISTRIBUTION IN CEP SYSTEMS.....	25
3.1	Overview	25
3.1.1	High-level architecture	26
3.2	Components.....	27
3.2.1	Environment.....	27
3.2.2	Event Dispatcher.....	27
3.2.3	Processing Node	29
3.2.4	Accumulator.....	30
3.2.5	Functioning of the system.....	30
3.3	Query distribution algorithm	31
3.3.1	Initial query distribution	31
3.3.2	Dynamic query distribution	32
3.4	Transferable query selection	36
3.5	Dynamic query deployment process	38
3.6	Cost model.....	39
3.7	Discussion	39
4	MEASUREMENTS AND EVALUATION	40
4.1	Initial query distribution comparison with VISIRI	40
4.2	Dynamically adding processing nodes to the system	42
4.2.1	Time elapsed for dynamic query distribution	44

4.3	Event miss rate comparison.....	45
4.4	Throughput comparison when adding new queries.....	47
4.4.1	Throughput during dynamic query distribution.....	47
4.4.2	Throughput after dynamic query distribution.....	49
4.5	Throughput comparison with event burst.....	50
4.5.1	Throughput in baseline system.....	51
4.5.2	Throughput with four processing nodes.....	51
4.5.3	Throughput with eight processing nodes.....	52
5	DISCUSSION.....	55
5.1	Summary of experiments.....	55
5.2	Remarks of the experiments.....	55
5.3	Evaluation of algorithms.....	56
6	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK.....	58
6.1	Conclusion.....	58
6.2	Future work.....	59
	REFERENCES.....	60

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1 Esper Engine [18].....	8
Figure 2-2 S4 Processing node [19].....	9
Figure 2-3 Siddhi Core [20].....	10
Figure 2-4 Dynamic Load-balancing [23].....	13
Figure 2-5 VISIRI high-level system architecture [8].....	18
Figure 2-6 Borealis system architecture [11].....	20
Figure 2-7 FUGU system architecture [25].....	21
Figure 2-8 Next CEP system [26].....	23
Figure 3-1 High-level architecture of the system.....	27
Figure 3-2 Internal architecture of Dispatcher.....	29
Figure 3-3 Internal architecture of Event processing node.....	29
Figure 4-1 Initial query distribution comparison.....	42
Figure 4-2 Throughput comparison with adding new nodes.....	44
Figure 4-3 Time elapse for query distribution.....	45
Figure 4-4 Events missed vs Number of queries.....	46
Figure 4-5 Throughput comparison with baseline during dynamic query distribution ...	48
Figure 4-6 Throughput comparison of dynamic query distribution.....	50
Figure 4-7 Baseline system throughput comparison during and after event burst.....	51
Figure 4-8 Throughput comparison during and after event burst in 4 nodes system.....	52
Figure 4-9 Throughput comparison during and after event burst in 8 nodes system.....	53
Figure 4-10 Throughput comparison of three systems during event burst.....	54

LIST OF TABLES

Table 5-1 Time elapsed for initial query distribution in GATHIKA.....57

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADX – Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

ATM - Asynchronous Transfer Method

BSE – Bahrain Stock Exchange

CEP - Complex Event Processing

CPU - Central Processing Unit

DFM – Dubai Financial Market

DQD – Dynamic Query Distribution

EGX – Egyptian Exchange

EP - Event Processing

KSE – Kuwait Stock Exchange

MSM – Muscat Securities Market

POC – Proof of Concept

QP - Query Processor

QT – Query Type

RTL - Register Transfer Level

S4 - Simple Scalable Streaming System

SQL - Structured Query Language

TDWL – Saudi Stock Market

XML - Extensible Markup Language