



# Lessons learned from implementing the Hadoop Distributed File System as a server backend

By Daniel Houston



*Exceptional  
service  
in the  
national  
interest*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. SAND NO. 2011-XXXXP

# About Me

- Junior at the University of Utah
- Computer Science B.S. est. Dec 2016
- From Salt Lake City
- Previously worked at a financial analytics company (Visible Equity)
  - Large data manipulation and storage
  - Data visualization
- Interests are Big Data Management, Operating Systems, Networks, and Computer Languages

# Sherpa Introduction

**SHERPA** – the **SUMMIT** for **H**omeland **E**mergency **R**esponse, **P**lanning, and **A**nalysis



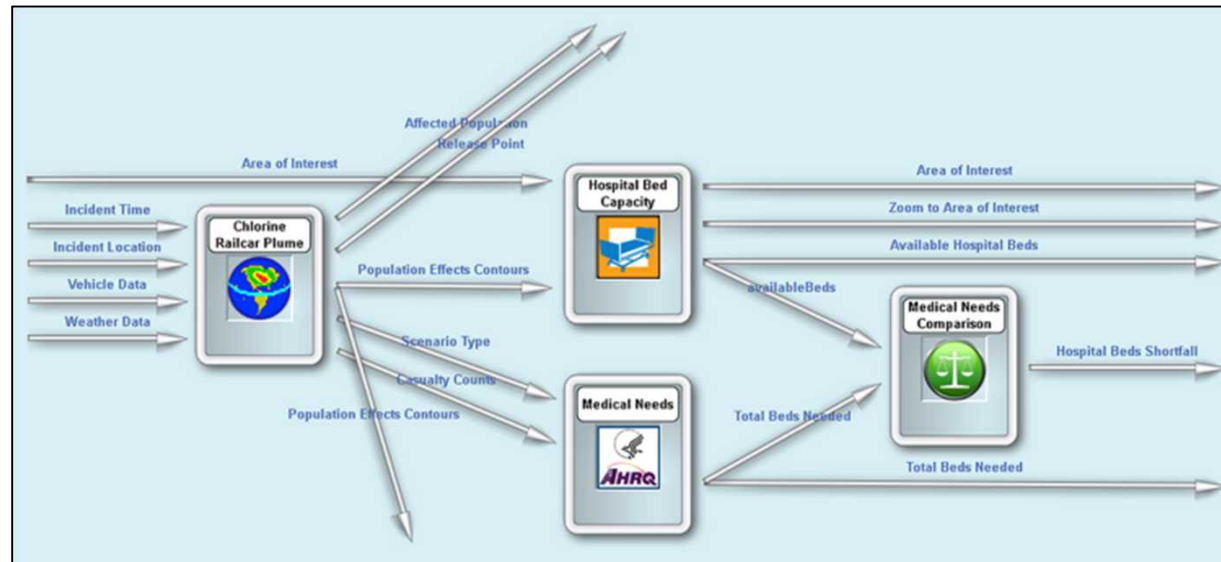
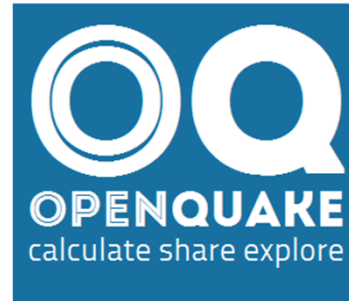
Software tool that allows for the seamless creation and access of integrated suites of modeling tools and data sources

Planning, exercise, and operational response

Also known as SUMMIT

# SUMMIT Process

- Models
- Model Wrappers
- Templates
- Template Runs



# Open Quake

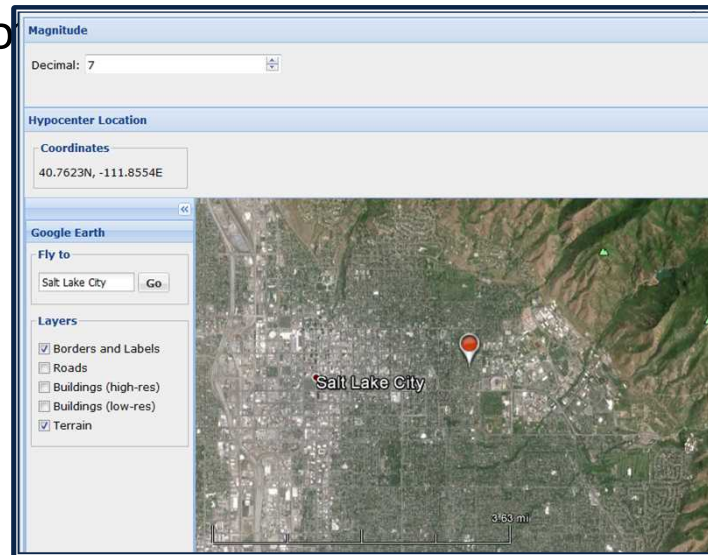
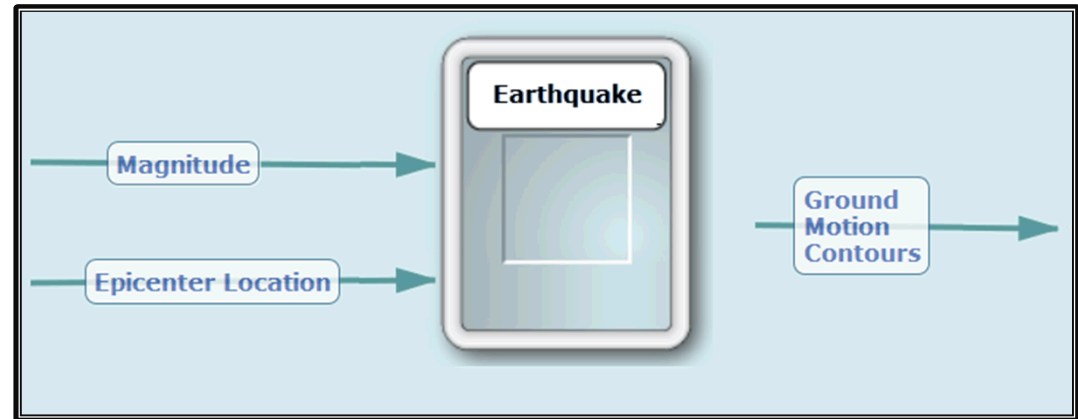
- Earthquake scenario simulation

- Inputs:

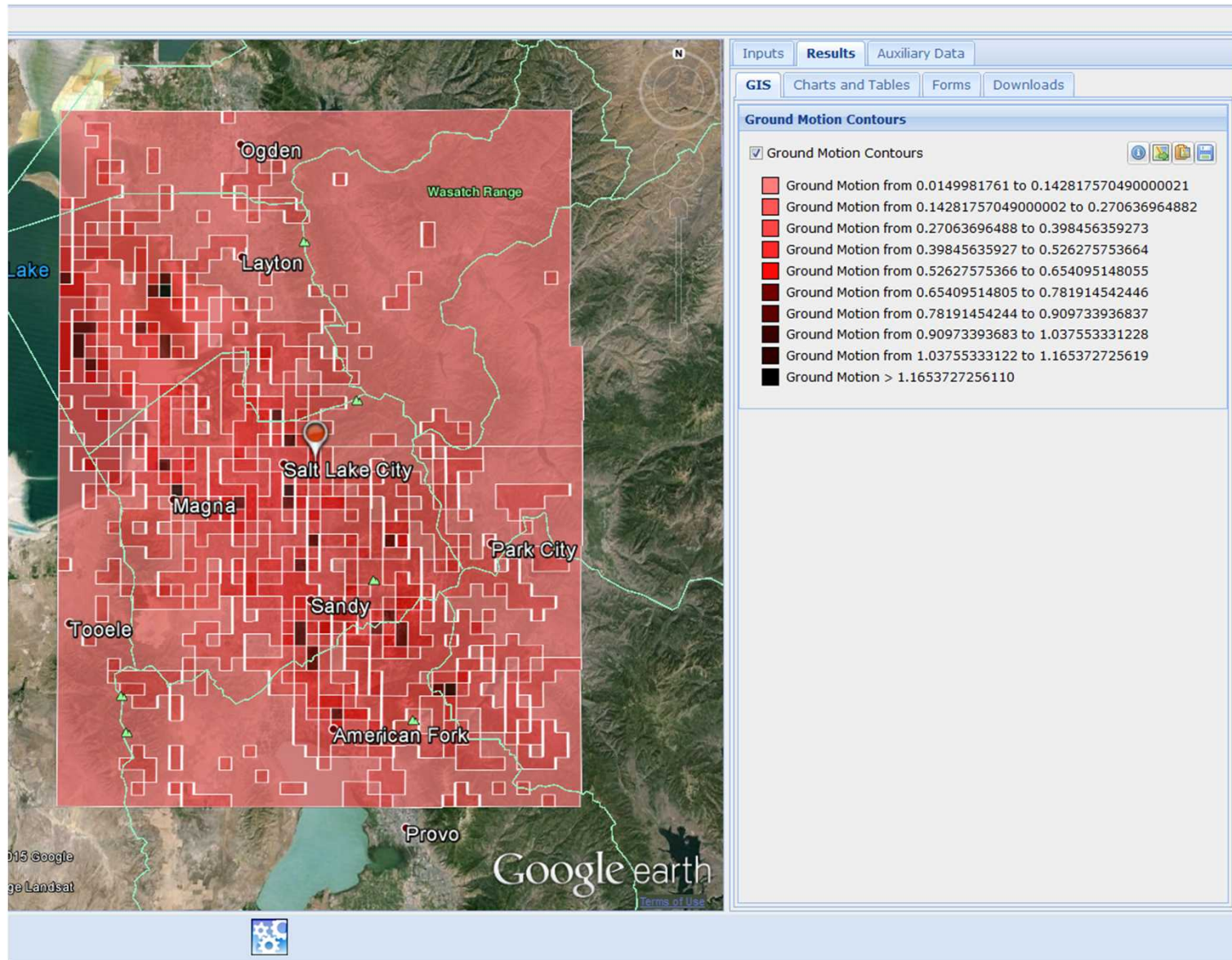
- Magnitude: 7
- Location: Salt Lake City
  - (40.7623, -111.8554)

- Outputs:

- Ground motion



ground acceleration ( $g$ )



# Batch Runs

- One template
- Set of different inputs
- Run template repeatedly with different combinations of inputs
- Add two integers:  $A + B = C$ 
  - Input A = {1, 2, 3} Input B = {10, 20}
  - 10+1
  - 10+2
  - 10+3
  - 20+1
  - 20+2
  - 20+3
- Looking for trends and most-likely scenarios



# Batch Runs

- System with 5 inputs at 5 values per input
  - $5^5$  Runs
- Batch Runs =  $5^5$  runs with storage per run at about 0.5 MB = ~1.5 GB of data per batch run
- Very quickly creates large amounts of data



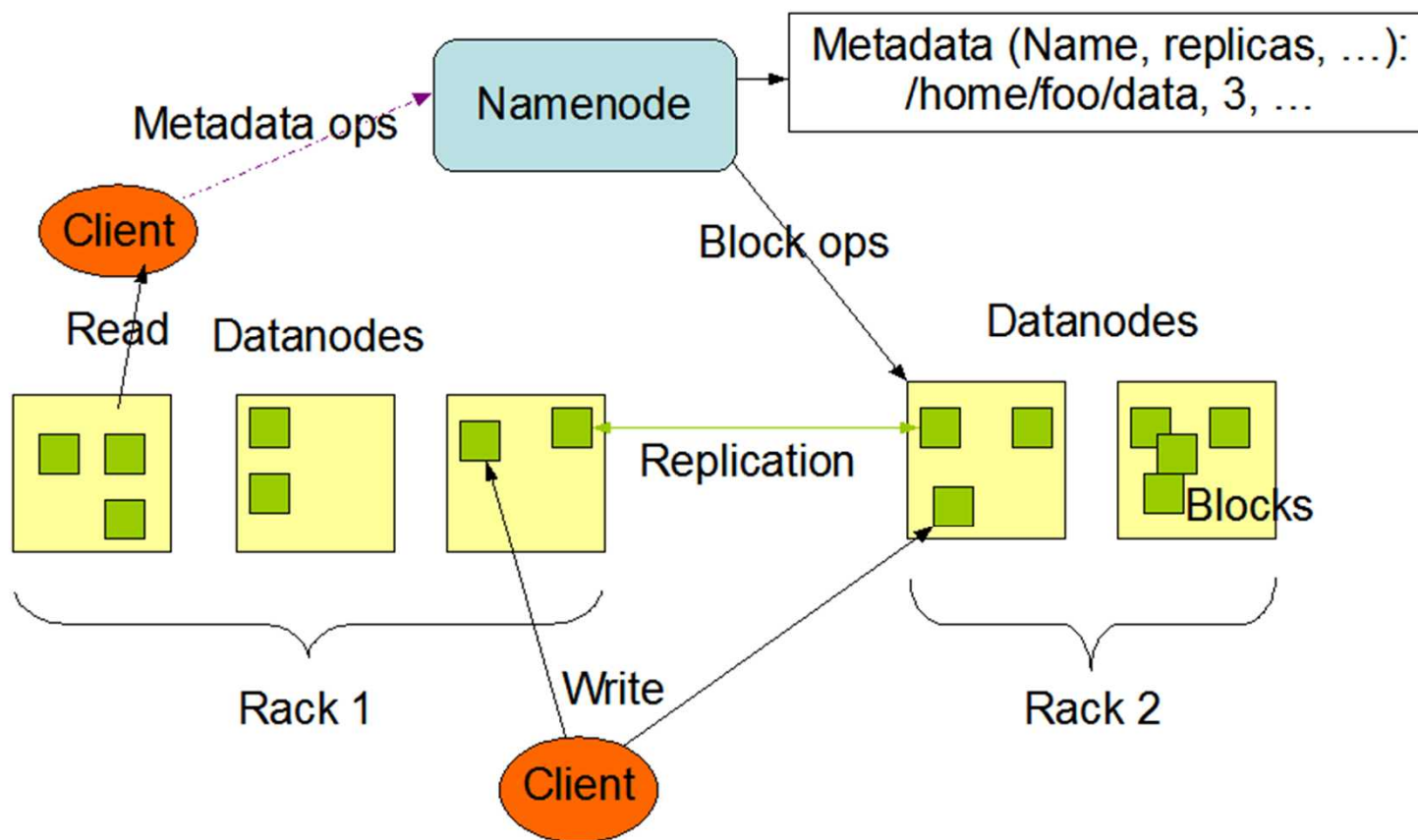
# Large Amounts of Data

- “The system should support an average high profile event with at least 50 GB of disk space...System will require 220 GB of disk space per year for saving template runs, and must provide a data capacity to accommodate a growth rate by at least 20%”
  - Summit Systems Design Document

# THE HADOOP DISTRIBUTED FILE SYSTEM (HDFS)

# The Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS)

HDFS Architecture



# The Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS)

- Highly Scalable
- Keep same File System structure
- Parallelizable = high throughput
- Requires more setup
- Learning Curve

# LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES

# HDFS is not a Database

- Common misconception
- It is a file system
- Speed and security are secondary concerns
- There are tools built on HDFS that provide an SQL-like abstraction
  - Hbase
  - Hive
    - Tools are still in development, documentation very limited
- Use HDFS if scalability and availability are your main concerns

# Getting Access to a cluster

- Lots of Hardware can be expensive
- Large virtual cluster
- Virtual Machine Cluster
  - Needs lots of memory and lots of disk space
- Only have access to one Virtual Node
- Solution: Run in pseudo-distributed mode



# Connecting remotely to HDFS

- Java client not built for remote connections
- Nasty Stacktrace, unknown cause

```
java.io.IOException: File /user/ubuntu/pies could only be replicated to 0 nodes, instead of 1
at org.apache.hadoop.hdfs.server.namenode.FSNamesystem.getAdditionalBlock(FSNamesystem.java:1448)
at org.apache.hadoop.hdfs.server.namenode.NameNode.addBlock(NameNode.java:690)
at sun.reflect.NativeMethodAccessorImpl.invoke0(Native Method)
at sun.reflect.NativeMethodAccessorImpl.invoke(NativeMethodAccessorImpl.java:39)
at sun.reflect.DelegatingMethodAccessorImpl.invoke(DelegatingMethodAccessorImpl.java:25)
at java.lang.reflect.Method.invoke(Method.java:597)
at org.apache.hadoop.ipc.WritableRpcEngine$Server.call(WritableRpcEngine.java:342)
at org.apache.hadoop.ipc.Server$Handler$1.run(Server.java:1350)
```

- Solution: WebHDFS or HTTPfs

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    Configuration conf = new Configuration();
    conf.set("fs.defaultFS", "webhdfs://123.456.789.101:8888/");

    try {
        FileSystem fs = FileSystem.get(conf);

        // Do Stuff
    } catch (IOException e) {
    }
}
```

# Documentation is limited

- Open source project, still needs time to build up documentation
- Documentation that exists is very basic
- Online blogs can be a start
- Lots of community support
- Hadoop: The Definitive Guide by Tom White

# Tools built on top of HDFS

- Map Reduce
- SQL Engine:
  - Apache Hive
- Other DB-like abstractions:
  - Hbase
- Yarn
- Spark
- Pig
- Sqoop
- WebHDFS
- Hbase

# Other Challenges

- Cluster configuration
- File System abstraction slightly different
- Security is a secondary concern
- Online tutorials
- Hadoop: The Definitive Guide

# Value Added

- Allows scalable data storage for batch run data
- Data stored on HDFS, which means it is easily accessible by numerous big-data aggregation and analysis tools (ie Map Reduce, Spark)
- Abstract implementation allows for flexibility in back end for different needs

# Take Away

- HDFS has a learning curve.
- HDFS is a file system, not a database
- Documentation is limited, so requires digging and ‘floundering’
- If speed is not your concern, HDFS is a great back end storage option
- Community support is there and will continue to grow
- Need hardware availability for eventual utilization