About the Tutorial

Teradata is a popular Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) suitable for large data warehousing applications. It is capable of handling large volumes of data and is highly scalable. This tutorial provides a good understanding of Teradata Architecture, various SQL commands, Indexing concepts and Utilities to import/export data.

Audience

This tutorial is designed for software professionals who are willing to learn Teradata concepts and become a Teradata developer. By the end of this tutorial, you will have gained intermediate level of expertise in Teradata.

Prerequisites

You should have a basic understanding of Relational concepts and basic SQL. It will be good if you have worked with any other RDBMS product.

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Part 1: Teradata Basics
What is Teradata?

Teradata is one of the popular Relational Database Management System. It is mainly suitable for building large scale data warehousing applications. Teradata achieves this by the concept of parallelism. It is developed by the company called Teradata.

History of Teradata

Following is a quick summary of the history of Teradata, listing major milestones.

1979 – Teradata was incorporated
1984 – Release of first database computer DBC/1012
1986 – Fortune magazine names Teradata as ‘Product of the Year’
1999 – Largest database in the world using Teradata with 130 Terabytes
2002 – Teradata V2R5 released with Partition Primary Index and compression
2006 – Launch of Teradata Master Data Management solution
2008 – Teradata 13.0 released with Active Data Warehousing
2011 – Acquires Teradata Aster and enters into Advanced Analytics Space
2012 – Teradata 14.0 introduced
2014 – Teradata 15.0 introduced

Features of Teradata

Following are some of the features of Teradata:

- **Unlimited Parallelism**: Teradata database system is based on Massively Parallel Processing (MPP) Architecture. MPP architecture divides the workload evenly across the entire system. Teradata system splits the task among its processes and runs them in parallel to ensure that the task is completed quickly.

- **Shared Nothing Architecture**: Teradata’s architecture is called as Shared Nothing Architecture. Teradata Nodes, its Access Module Processors (AMPs) and the disks associated with AMPs work independently. They are not shared with others.

- **Linear Scalability**: Teradata systems are highly scalable. They can scale up to 2048 Nodes. For example, you can double the capacity of the system by doubling the number of AMPs.

- **Connectivity**: Teradata can connect to Channel-attached systems such as Mainframe or Network-attached systems.
- **Mature Optimizer:** Teradata optimizer is one of the matured optimizer in the market. It has been designed to be parallel since its beginning. It has been refined for each release.

- **SQL:** Teradata supports industry standard SQL to interact with the data stored in tables. In addition to this, it provides its own extension.

- **Robust Utilities:** Teradata provides robust utilities to import/export data from/to Teradata system such as FastLoad, MultiLoad, FastExport and TPT.

- **Automatic Distribution:** Teradata automatically distributes the data evenly to the disks without any manual intervention.
2. Teradata – Installation

Teradata provides Teradata express for VMWARE which is a fully operational Teradata virtual machine. It provides up to 1 terabyte of storage. Teradata provides both 40GB and 1TB version of VMware.

Prerequisites
Since the VM is 64 bit, your CPU must support 64-bit.

Installation Steps for Windows

**Step 1:** Download the required VM version from the link, [http://downloads.teradata.com/download/database/teradata-express-for-vmware-player](http://downloads.teradata.com/download/database/teradata-express-for-vmware-player)

**Step 2:** Extract the file and specify the target folder.

**Step 3:** Download the VMWare Workstation player from the link, [https://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/downloads](https://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/downloads). It is available for both Windows and Linux. Download the VMWARE workstation player for Windows.

**Step 4:** Once the download is complete, install the software.

**Step 5:** After the installation is complete, run the VMWARE client.

**Step 6:** Select 'Open a Virtual Machine'. Navigate through the extracted Teradata VMWare folder and select the file with extension .vmdk.
Step 7: Teradata VMWare is added to the VMWare client. Select the added Teradata VMWare and click ‘Play Virtual Machine’.
Step 8: If you get a popup on software updates, you can select ‘Remind Me Later’.

Step 9: Enter the user name as root, press tab and enter password as root and again press Enter.
**Step 10**: Once the following screen appears on the desktop, double-click on ‘root’s home’. Then double-click on ‘Genome’s Terminal’. This will open the Shell.

![Desktop Screen]

**Step 11**: From the following shell, enter the command `/etc/init.d/tpa start`. This will start the Teradata server.

![Terminal Window]
Starting BTEQ

BTEQ utility is used to submit SQL queries interactively. Following are the steps to start BTEQ utility.

**Step 1:** Enter the command `/sbin/ifconfig` and note down the IP address of the VMWare.

**Step 2:** Run the command `bteq`. At the logon prompt, enter the command.

Logon `<ipaddress>/dbc,dbc`; and enter At the password prompt, enter password as dbc;

You can log into Teradata system using BTEQ and run any SQL queries.
Teradata architecture is based on Massively Parallel Processing (MPP) architecture. The major components of Teradata are Parsing Engine, BYNET and Access Module Processors (AMPs). The following diagram shows the high level architecture of a Teradata Node.

Components of Teradata

The key components of Teradata are as follows:

- **Node**: It is the basic unit in Teradata System. Each individual server in a Teradata system is referred as a Node. A node consists of its own operating system, CPU, memory, own copy of Teradata RDBMS software and disk space. A cabinet consists of one or more Nodes.

- **Parsing Engine**: Parsing Engine is responsible for receiving queries from the client and preparing an efficient execution plan. The responsibilities of parsing engine are:
  - Receive the SQL query from the client.
  - Parse the SQL query check for syntax errors.
  - Check if the user has required privilege against the objects used in the SQL query.
- Check if the objects used in the SQL actually exists.
- Prepare the execution plan to execute the SQL query and pass it to BYNET.
- Receives the results from the AMPs and send to the client.

- **Message Passing Layer**: Message Passing Layer called as BYNET, is the networking layer in Teradata system. It allows the communication between PE and AMP and also between the nodes. It receives the execution plan from Parsing Engine and sends to AMP. Similarly, it receives the results from the AMPs and sends to Parsing Engine.

- **Access Module Processor (AMP)**: AMPs, called as Virtual Processors (vprocs) are the one that actually stores and retrieves the data. AMPs receive the data and execution plan from Parsing Engine, performs any data type conversion, aggregation, filter, sorting and stores the data in the disks associated with them. Records from the tables are evenly distributed among the AMPs in the system. Each AMP is associated with a set of disks on which data is stored. Only that AMP can read/write data from the disks.

### Storage Architecture

When the client runs queries to insert records, Parsing engine sends the records to BYNET. BYNET retrieves the records and sends the row to the target AMP. AMP stores these records on its disks. Following diagram shows the storage architecture of Teradata.
**Retrieval Architecture**

When the client runs queries to retrieve records, the Parsing engine sends a request to BYNET. BYNET sends the retrieval request to appropriate AMPs. Then AMPs search their disks in parallel and identify the required records and send to BYNET. BYNET then sends the records to Parsing Engine which in turn will send to the client. Following is the retrieval architecture of Teradata.
End of ebook preview

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