KIXEYE ANALYTICS

HIVE IN KIXEYE ANALYTICS

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About KIXEYE

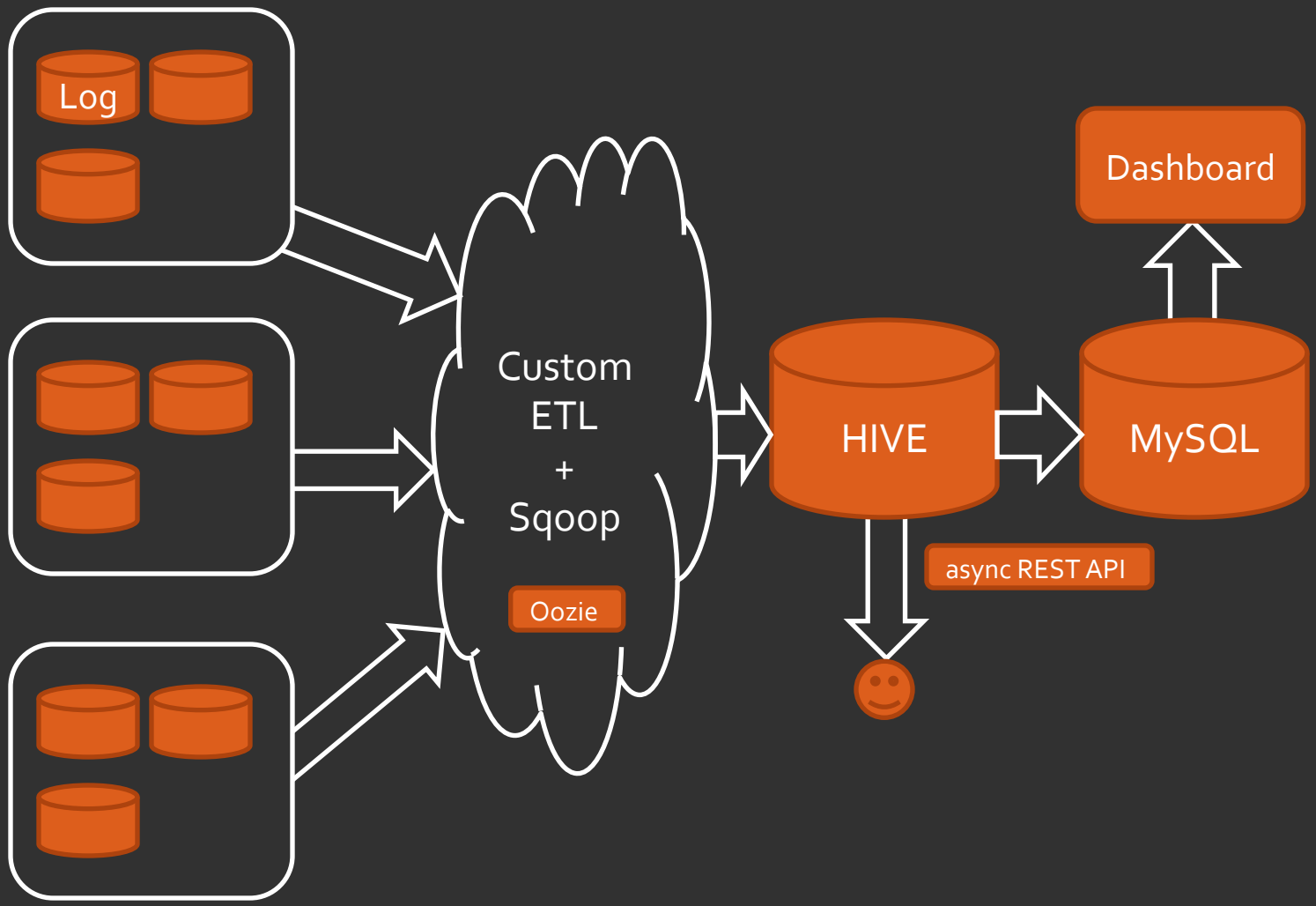
- An online gaming company focused on mid-core and hard-core games
  - Founded in 2007
  - Over 400 employees by Feb 2013
  - 5 times longer retention and 20 times higher ARPU
- Analytics Engineering Team
  - Part of the Business Intelligence team
  - 12 team members


WAR COMMANDER
FROM THE CREATORS OF
BACKYARD MONSTERS AND BATTLE PIRATES
KIXEYE
BATTLE PIRATES
160 M
click events
1 M
active users
DAILY STATS
100G
logs data
Triple the number
in 2013 Q2

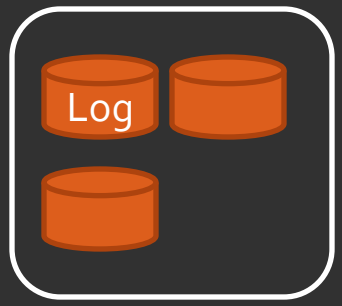
Requirements

- A fault-tolerant and scalable system
- Support standard reports
- Support ad-hoc, exploratory data queries
- Easy to use and manage
- Real-time is nice-to-have, but not necessary

Architecture



Log Collection and Processing



- 4 ~ 6 GB uncompressed logs (player clicks) / hour
- Logs collected by Apache Chukwa
  - Choose over Flume and Scribe for Chukwa's easy configuration
- Log data cleaned and parsed as Snappy compressed JSON (staging)
  - Choose over Protocol Buffer and Avro for JSON's simplicity

ETL Component

- Hadoop cluster size
  - 12-core node * 20
  - 240 mappers and 180 reducers
- Run ETL every 30 min
  - Populate RCFile into Hive tables
- Sqoop is used to for collecting data from legacy ETL system
- All ETL tasks are managed by Oozie

HIVE Tables

- 70+ click types (e.g. “install”, “attack”) are loaded into corresponding tables
- Insertion is done by enabling dynamic partitions
  - “FROM SELECT *** INSERT INTO” is very useful
- Tables are usually partitioned by game and day
  - Some are further partitioned by hour

HIVE Tables (Cont'd 1)

- RCFile with Snappy compression is the data format
  - Excellent performance but expensive "alter table"
  - Evaluated jsonserde and protobuf format with custom serde, slow in querying
- "Clustered by" and "Tablesample"
  - A useful feature for analysts

HIVE Tables (Cont'd 2)

- Small files from hourly loading
  - Weekly merge operations
    alter table TBL partition (PART) concatenate;
- Evaluated Hive index on certain fields (e.g. level)
  - Improvement is not significant

Data Access – Pull

- Two data access patterns
- Pull – RESTful service built on top of Beeswax

async REST API

  - Asynchronous and concurrent requests compared to HiveServer1
  - query/status/fetch
  - 100+ queries from the analysts every day

- Fixing bugs and adding features:
  - To support multi-hivedb
  - To support caching, load-balancing, and fail-over

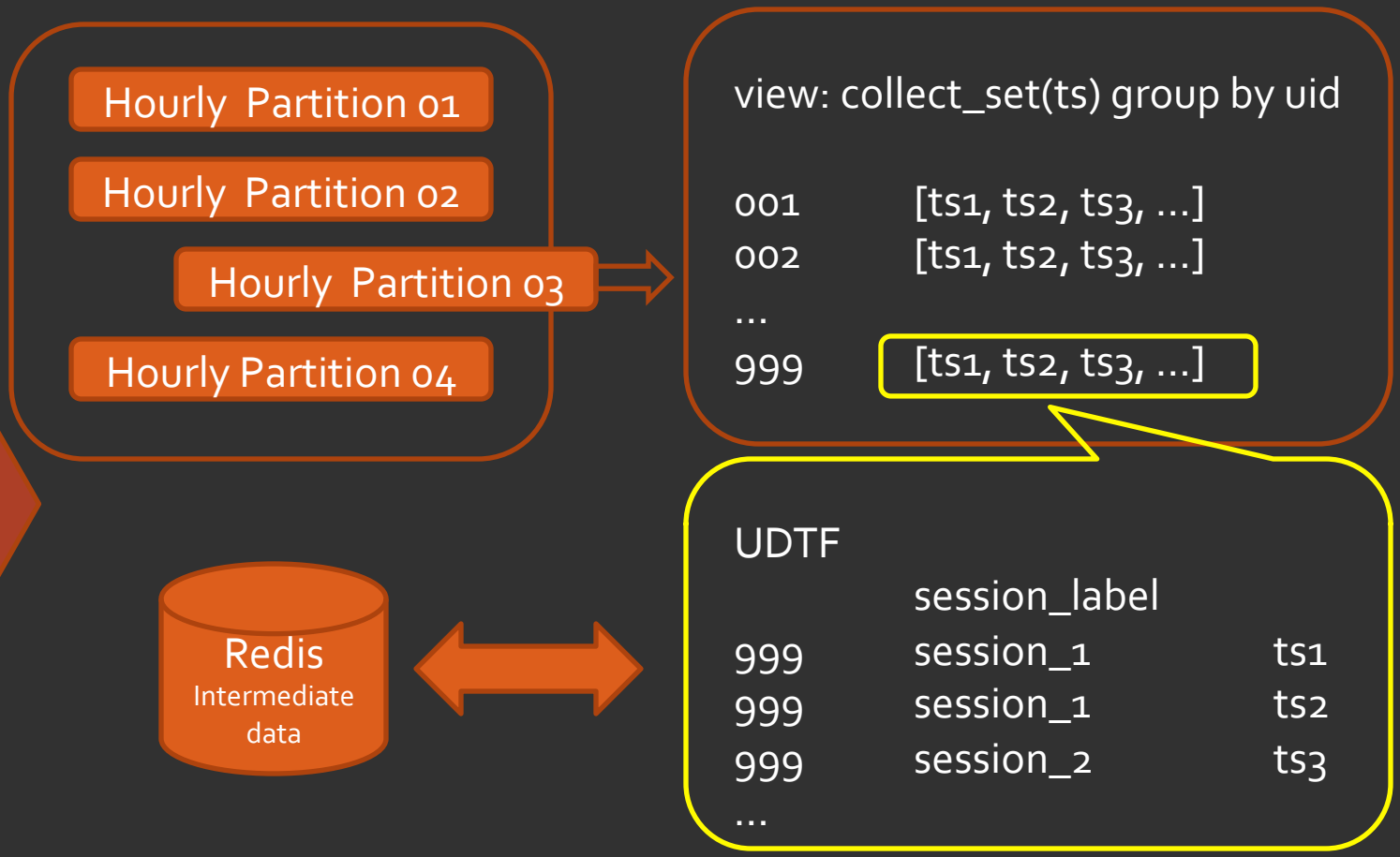
Data Access – Push

- A wrapper library for "hive –f" command
  - Data load
  - Data merge
  - Data migration
  - Metric generation
- Used by ETL engineers

Using Hive UDTF to Generate Session Stats

- Session definition
  - Two consecutive user activities are separated as different sessions if the time interval between them exceeds a time-out threshold (e.g. 30 min)
- Requirements:
  - Compute incrementally
  - Provide as a Hive function

Using Hive UDTF to Generate Sessions



Lessons Learned

- Analysts are greedy
  - Scan full set of data and ignore partitions
  - Non-optimized joins
- RCFile is a double-edged sword
  - Sqoop does not support RCFile
  - Inflexible schema
- Automate, automate, and automate
  - Constantly-changing ETL requirements
  - New metrics on new features

Future Work

- Visualization layer
- Integration with Hbase
- Richer UDFs

We are hiring!

- Our audacious goals:
  - Build a world-class data and analytics team
  - Deliver high-quality, real-time player behavior intelligence
- Join us to build the "game-changing" analytics system
  - http://www.kixeye.com/#/en/jobs

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7 Final Notes

Q & A

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