

# Lucene's Latest (for Libraries)

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"what I learned last night"

# Agenda

Lucene powers the search capabilities of practically all library discovery platforms, by way of Solr, etc. The Lucene project evolves rapidly, and it's a full-time job to keep up with the ever improving features and scalability. This talk will distill and showcase the most relevant(!) advancements to date.

#### About me

- O "Old Timer", apparently
- O Yet, barely knows MARC from Adam

#### Where we left off

- http://code4lib.org/conference/2013/hatcher
- Solr is continually improving. Solr 4 was recently released, bringing dramatic changes in the underlying Lucene library and Solr-level features. It's tough for us all to keep up with the various versions and capabilities.

This talk will blaze through the highlights of new features and improvements in Solr 4 (and up). Topics will include: SolrCloud, direct spell checking, surround query parser, and many other features. We will focus on the features library coders really need to know about.

# release\_version:[4.1 TO \*]

- 4.7: 26 February 2014, 4.7.1 any day now
- 4.6: 24 November, 4.6.1: 28 January 2014
- O 4.5: 5 October, 4.5.1: 24 October
- O 29 July 2013 Apache Solr Reference Guide 4.4 Available
- 0 4.4: 23 July
- 6 4.3: 6 May, 4.3.1: 18 June
- 4.2: 13 March, 4.2.1: 3 April
- #c4l13: 13 February
- 4.1: 22 January 2013

# Suggester

- O SOLR-5378: "Suggester Version 2"
  - Dictionary pluggability
  - Map the suggester options
  - "beefier" Lookup support instead of resorting to collation and such. (Move computation from query time to index time) with more freedom
- O AnalyzingInfixLookupFactory, BlendedInfixSuggester
- FreeTextSuggester
- Payload and expression support

# Suggester

- AnalyzingInfixLookupFactory (4.6)
- Suggest improvements: a new SuggestComponent that fully utilizes the Lucene suggester module; queries can now use multiple suggesters; Lucene's FreeTextSuggester and BlendedInfixSuggester are now supported. (4.7)
- Analyzing/FuzzySuggester now allow to record arbitrary byte[] as a payload (4.3)
- FreeTextSuggester: can predict the next word using a simple ngram language model useful for "long tail" suggestions. (4.6)
- O BlendedInfixSuggester: like AnalyzingInfixSuggester but boosts suggestions that matched tokens with lower positions. (4.7)
- http://blog.mikemccandless.com/2013/06/a-new-lucene-suggester-based-on-infix.html

### Expressions

- O SOLR-5378 (4.7):
  - <str name="weightExpression">
    ((price \* 2) + ln(popularity))
    </str>
- O SOLR-5707: Lucene Expressions in Solr
  - In-progress

# Configuration API!

- O REST (4.2+...)
  - O Schema: fields, copyFields
- Schemaless mode: Added support for a mode that requires no up-front schema modifications, in which previously unknown fields' types are guessed based on the values in added/updated documents, and are then added to the schema prior to processing the update. Note that the below-described features are also useful independently from schemaless mode operation. (4.4)
  - AddSchemaFieldsUpdateProcessor, Parse\*UpdateProcessorFactory
- Across all configuration, SOLR-5653: work in progress

#### SolrCloud

- Collection API improvements
- O Shard splitting (4.3)
- Custom sharding support, including the ability to shard by field. (4.5)
- CloudSolrServer
  - can now route updates directly to the appropriate shard leader. (4.5)
- O SSL (4.7)

# Querying

- New MaxScoreQParserPlugin: Return max() instead of sum() of terms: {!maxscore} (4.4)
- New Collapsing QParserPlugin for high performance field collapsing on high cardinality fields (4.6)
- Add a Lucene and Solr QParserPlugin for Lucene's SimpleQueryParser: {!simple} (4.7)
- Significant performance improvements for minShouldMatch (mm) queries due to skipping resulting in up to 4000% faster queries. (4.3)

#### Miscellaneous

- O Added a new classification module (4.2)
- O PostingsHighlighter now allows custom passage scores, and other improvements (4.3)
- Analyzing/FuzzySuggester now allow to record arbitrary byte[] as a payload. The suggesters also use an ending offset to determine whether the last token was finished or not, so that a query "i " will no longer suggest "Isla de Muerta" for example. (4.3)
- O PatternCaptureGroupTokenFilter (4.4)

# PatternCaptureGroupFilter

http://searchhub.org/2013/06/27/poor-mans-entity-extraction-with-solr/

#### Miscellaneous

#### Spatial

- Spatial queries can now search for indexed shapes by "IsWithin", "Contains" and "IsDisjointTo" relationships, in addition to typical "Intersects". (4.3)
- O Upgrade to Spatial4j 0.4. Various new options are now exposed automatically for an RPT field type (4.7)

#### Faceting

- Multithreaded faceting. (4.5)
- Faceting now supports local parameters for faceting on the same field with different options. (4.3)

#### Miscellaneous

- O Core discovery, rather than mandatory solr.xml (4.3)
  - core.properties (4.4)
- O Various new highlighting configuration parameters. (4.3)
- Added a new system wide info admin handler that exposes the system info that could previously only be retrieved using a SolrCore. (4.4)
- The CSV Update Handler now supports optionally adding the line number/row id to a document. (4.4)
- O EnumField (4.6)
- Solr indexes and transaction logs may stored in HDFS with full read/ write capability. (4.4)

#### Scale

- New cursorMark request param for efficient deep paging of sorted result sets. See <a href="http://s.apache.org/cursorpagination">http://s.apache.org/cursorpagination</a> (4.7)
- Add a Solr contrib that allows for building Solr indexes via Hadoop's MapReduce (4.7)
- O DocValues in Solr (4.2)
  - DocValue improvements: single valued fields no longer require a default value, allowing dynamicFields to contain doc values, as well as sortMissingFirst and sortMissingLast on docValue fields. (4.5)

# Block join

- O SOLR-3076 (4.4): Block joins. Documents and their sub-documents must be indexed as a block.
  - {!parent which=<allParents>}<someChildren> takes in a query that matches child documents and results in matches on their parents.
  - {!child of=<allParents>}<someParents> takes in a query that matches some parent documents and results in matches on their children.

# Java 7

- O IMPORTANT IF YOU'RE RUNNING JAVA 6!!!
- O Apache Lucene/Solr 4.8 will require Java 7
  - o [announced 12 March 2014]

# Keep an eye on...

- O SOLR-5302: Analytics Component (in progress on trunk)
- Customizing ranking with script-like syntax (4.6)
  - O In-progress: SOLR-5707
- O SOLR-5720: Add ExpandComponent to expand results collapsed by the CollapsingQParserPlugin (4.8, committed to 4x after 4.7.1)
- LUCENE-4518: Suggesters: highlighting (explicit markup of user-typed portions vs. generated portions in a suggestion) [EBSCO?]
- O SOLR-4787: Join contrib: hjoin, bjoin, and vjoin (4.8, maybe?)

#### \*bows\*

- O ARP, NINES, Rossetti Archive, Collex
  - O Bethany Nowviskie, Jerome McGann
- O Bess
- o #code4lib
- O Project Blacklight
- Lucene community: Mike McCandless, Robert Muir, Hoss, Erickson, Uwe...
- Lucid(Imagination | Works)



https://twitter.com/lisafreyer/status/448487103366971392

#### For more information...

- Mike McCandless
  - http://blog.mikemccandless.com
  - http://jirasearch.mikemccandless.com
  - http://people.apache.org/~mikemccand/lucenebench/
- Apache Lucene
  - O CHANGES.txt, JIRA
  - O Apache Solr Reference Guide (4.4+)
- O LucidWorks
  - http://www.lucidworks.com