Cloud-First, Real-Time Streaming Analytics

It’s no longer just people who make critical business decisions. It’s machines too in trading algorithms, control systems, recommendation engines and other forms of automated decision making. And because they are made every second of every day, the demands on a system to support them are onerous: it must operate in real-time on incoming events but incorporate historical data too for context, it must be scalable for both storage and burst processing when needed, it must provide high availability and fault tolerance, and it must connect widely across the enterprise as well as being secure, easy to use and flexible in deployment.

Not many systems meet those requirements. Most are based on an old-style polling model where data must first be persisted into a repository and then retrieved again before it can be evaluated. The problem is that in the interim the data has changed and with it the market has moved, the fault has occurred, or the opportunity has passed. That’s no good if you need to know now, not later. For that, you need a streaming analytics solution like KX Insights™.

KX Insights™ is a cloud-native platform for real-time analysis of any data, whether at speed or at rest, providing firms with dynamic insights into what’s happening, right now. It leverages cloud technologies, services, and protocols that make solutions more scalable, robust and interconnected, as well as easier to deploy, manage and maintain. Advanced analytics and SQL* querying of data enable users to derive insights, detect anomalies and automate responses – all in real-time.

KX has been a pioneer and trusted leader in in-memory computing, streaming analytics, and operational intelligence for over two decades. In independent tests, KX technology has been shown to be many orders of magnitude faster than traditional technologies; retrieving data in microseconds, aggregating data and performing complex queries in seconds to provide anomaly detection and predictive analytics that competing technologies may take hours or even weeks to deliver.
KX Insights™ taps not only the scalability and elasticity of the cloud but also the expansive catalogue of microservices that enable rapid, flexible development of new applications. The combination of unlimited resources and scalability enables developers to concentrate on core business functionality rather than dealing with infrastructure issues:

- Using a microservices approach, units of functionality are developed as self-contained units that can be quickly and easily orchestrated into applications, all benefiting automatically from the supporting scalability and fault-tolerance of the cloud
- Building upon open standards like Docker and Kubernetes provides both portability across cloud environments and deployment robustness to support regular updates on a Continuous Development/Continuous Integration (CD/CI) paradigm
- Adopting cloud-native technologies for security, access control and messaging increases interoperability and simplifies integration, while standards-based logging and monitoring protocols simplify support and maintenance

The platform enables organizations to couple the speed of kdb+ operationally with the flexibility of microservices to develop penetrating new insights and achieve continuous actionable intelligence using integrated tools for data visualisation, SQL* querying and Machine Learning.

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KX Insights™ is used to analyse and improve outcomes in areas like performance, quality, yield, and design in industries ranging from automotive and semiconductors to energy and telecommunications, where the volumes of data from sensors, machines, and edge devices are especially challenging. KX is similarly used by financial institutions to trade, manage risk and detect fraud through analysis of the enormous volume and velocity of data they accumulate across prices, quotes, and transactions.

At the core of KX Insights™ is kdb+, a powerful time-series database that combines an in-memory compute engine, a real-time streaming processor and in-built time-series analytics using temporal datatypes, including nanosecond precision timestamps, for fast accurate querying across high-volume high-velocity data.

KX Insights™ works natively with object storage, giving clients easy and cost-effective access to third party storage from the major cloud providers. Easy because it eliminates the need for third party plugins or conversion tools and lets user load or save data directly. Cost effective because object store is multiple times cheaper than regular storage.

The cloud has robust and proven protocols for establishing secure communication channels and guaranteeing delivery of messages. KX Insights™ provides an integrated secure enclave for storing cloud credentials, integration with standards-based authentication and access control protocols and connects directly to Google’s Pub/Sub and AWS Kinesis streaming protocols and middleware solutions like Tibco, MQ or Solace.

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KX INSIGHTS™

SIMPLIFIED CONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATION

Adopting REST as the primary communication interface eliminates the development, maintenance and risk of proprietary protocols and automatically provides connectivity options to other cloud service like Lambda, Pub/Sub, etc. KX Insights™ includes both Client and Server REST APIs for standardized and secure two-way consumption of data and services with third parties but continues to support IPC between native kdb+ processes as a high-performance alternative where required.

STANDARDS-BASED SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

In a world of multiple, remote, interconnected services a common methodology for monitoring their performance and processing their logs files for incident management and troubleshooting becomes increasingly important. KX Insights™ directs logs straight to cloud logging services for centralised management using standard tools e.g. Google Stackdriver. KX Insights™ can also publish application metrics over REST to standard cloud monitoring solutions e.g. AWS CloudWatch or Azure Monitor for easier and more timely oversight.

FASTER DEVELOPMENT AND ROLLOUT OF NEW FUNCTIONALITY

The cloud significantly revises the traditional waterfall-type SDLC approach and replaces it with quicker and more agile methodologies that enable Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) where teams release production-ready software with every code change. KX Insights™ includes QPacker which builds and stages software artefacts for all cloud platforms for top-tier supported server languages (q, Python, Java, C) and is usable across CI/CD frameworks. It also uses HELM charts that make it easier to package and update KX Insights deployments on Kubernetes and therefore quicker to respond to evolving business requirements.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS MICROSERVICES

Users of KX Insights™ have API access to core data management capabilities for cleansing, normalising and validating data and reusing it consistently across the organization for accurate, informed data-driven insights. In addition, its native support for time-series operations vastly improves both the speed and performance of queries, aggregation, and analysis of structured data.

EASE OF DEPLOYMENT, FLEXIBILITY OF USE

By implementing cloud-native standards including docker and Kubernetes, KX Insights™ deployable on AWS, GCP, Azure but, for maximum flexibility, can also be deployed is on-premises and in hybrid configurations and on Red Hat Openshift.

* SQL querying will be released in Q2, 2021

For more information please contact: sales@kx.com or visit www.kx.com

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