SAS® Analytics Pro Running in a Docker Container in a Cloud Environment
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Introduction

As Collier IT is engaged in helping our clients modernize their IT environments, several trends are apparent. Foremost, organizations are adopting cloud strategies and moving to cloud software and platform services. By moving database workloads and applications to the cloud, process dependencies must be considered. This is particularly important for analytics applications that need to be close to data sources for performance and overall efficient integration.

Along with the increasing use of cloud environments, there is a trend toward consuming these offerings as managed services. In Collier's experience, the primary reason we encounter that supports this trend is that organizations want to keep their IT resources focused on innovations that drive their business. Managed services provides them the opportunity to reduce the burden of supporting standardizable applications and environments.

We also see a trend where containers are the preferred method for deploying software to cloud infrastructures. For those moving their data processing to the cloud, this solution simplifies application deployment, availability and configuration, allowing applications to take advantage of flexible and scalable container-enabled environments.

Use Cases

Case 1 – Client moves business applications and supporting databases to a cloud environment. Existing processes that utilize SAS for quality improvement and analytic data mart creation are negatively impacted by severe performance problems.

Solution: Elasticanalyticspro is employed to put SAS in proximity to the cloud data sources and included SAS Access engines are configured for the specific database platforms in use. The result is increased performance realized by leveraging the high speed cloud network for data movement as well as the overall reduction of data movement through efficient use of in-database processing available through the appropriate Access engine.

Case 2 – Analytics consultant is challenged by the time and effort to start an engagement. Clients want to protect data and require all work to be done in their environment. Client needs to purchase, provision, and deploy SAS as well as storage for workspace. This has been taking over 3 months on average and is an obstacle to customer satisfaction.

Solution: Client subscribes to Elasticanalyticspro where they retain ownership and control access to the environment for the duration of the project. The solution is configured, provisioned, and managed by Collier. The consultant has all the tools needed in an environment that is familiar and proven. The time to value is days instead of months which accelerates his ability to deliver work and impress the client. The client likes the flexibility of a solution that can scale with the demands of the project and avoid capital expenditures.

Conclusion

Elasticanalyticspro enables you to take advantage of the elastic nature of cloud computing by using a solution that can be scaled up and back to meet the demands of your business needs. In addition, it can position SAS analytics in proximity to your data sources. The monthly subscription model allows you to control your budget by bundling everything you need into one price. No need for committing to long term hardware acquisitions and annual licensing contracts. Everything is included in one subscription in an environment that is managed for you.

Additional Information

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