

How does SOLR work? What is an explanation for the principle in layman's terms?

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2 Answers



Shrey Shivam, Using Solr to solve most use cases- NLP, NER, search, analytics, recommendations

Answered Nov 2, 2014

Consider a book. Let's say any of your course book. If you wish to directly jump into a particular chapter, you first go to a page in the beginning that is known as **Table Of Contents**.

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If you have a million news articles (referred as 10 documents in Solr sense). You run a code to read each article and then add required information to the Solr Index (the inverted index, of course). This information is the set of words that occur in the news article, their frequency etc.

Now you search for articles(documents) which have the word *India* and *Mars* in it. Solr will look into its index and return the set of documents that contain these two terms.

However, Solr has more to offer. If 10 documents are returned which have the word *India* and *Mars*, then, how do you figure out which is more relevant to you and how do you compare 2 documents? This is where **term frequency, inverse document frequency, document score, boosts, different query parsers** play a role.

Also, Solr has 2 main config files:

Schema.xml - file that defines the schema of the documents that is indexed/ingested into solr i.e. the set of fields that they contain. A news article may contain title, body, tags, article date etc. You also mention the datatype of those fields.

Solrconfig.xml which contains the request handlers and other config options.

There is more to Solr if you go in depth where you would understand different **analyzers** and **tokenizers** and how they are significant in building the index and matching of terms etc.

I believe this would be a very simple explanation of how Solr work and a good starting point if you are new at it. Let me know if you needed to go into further depth.

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Poorva Jain, blogger,writer
Answered Dec 5

Solandra = Solr + Cassandra-Solandra is a tool that you can use to search in its inbox. It works like a point.

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Category Browsing via Facets-Solr allows the users to filter the options with the help of facets, similar to Drupal Integration. The prime advantage here is the ability to search using a deep category tree which is based on a query, which helps the users to filter the search in future.

Jetwick-Jetwick uses facets which allow the users to apply filters reducing the duplicates and redundancy.

Replacing FAST or Google Search- Users are gradually migrating from commercial search solutions like FAST or Google Search Appliance (GSA) to Solr (or **Lucene**) as they are facing the problems in Linux support and integration problems. The main reason behind switching to Solr is that the source code can be tweaked, the old versions can be maintained and the bugs can be fixed quickly.

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