“Information is the oil of the 21st century” - as said by Peter Sondergaard, senior VP of Gartner, has proven prophetic in the age of the Internet. The importance of analyzing this data cannot be understated, and a plethora of tools have been designed to aid in this goal. Atlas is one such new big data analysis tool, which builds upon Apache and Google’s famous MapReduce paradigm. It has announced the launch of version 0.1 for users to preview the product, starting mid-June. A brainchild of students of UC Irvine, Master of Computer Science, Atlas has turned to modern software deployment and the decentralized web (or Web 3.0) to help users perform large scale computations.

Atlas CEO Hardik Asher had this to share - “Half a year since I discussed my idea with my co-founders Vineet and Yash, we have a working implementation ready for the people”, about the release. But what can it be used for?

Big Data Analysis has long been a tough issue for companies of any size. Developers and architects alike have to handle limitations of individual machines, and have to grapple with complex architectures of distributed systems. MapReduce is a well-known algorithm that has helped resolve these limitations for certain classes of problems. Specifically, it allows users to run the same calculations on different chunks of a dataset parallely, across multiple machines, called a “Map”, and then combine the results into a single answer, called “Reduce”.

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Atlas is one tool using MapReduce, among other implementations. It “sets itself apart” by its features, including:

1. Flexibility in tech stack and configuration: Atlas uses docker containers, a modern technology which has helped developers build software independent of the system on which it finally runs. This allows them to support a wide range of technology stacks, and also helps architects configure their environment more precisely to their needs.

2. Safe concurrency: Docker containers are well known to help programs run independently without affecting each other, leading to greater security and concurrency.

3. A decentralized file system: Using the InterPlanetary File System (IPFS), the base for storage in the hot new Web 3.0, Atlas makes use of decentralized general-purpose storage.

They plan to launch the product in the month of September, and have various plans for users to use their service. Organizations using this tool regularly can opt for the monthly subscription service, whereas individual users can also use their Pay-Per-Use plan based on individual needs. The team is in the development and testing phase currently.

About Team Atlas: Atlas is a group of three graduate students pursuing their Master of Computer Science at UC Irvine. With interests in data analysis, system development and web development, they have worked to develop the MapReduce tool to help big data analysis.

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