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Geospatial tools for working with Cloud Native Data

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Introduction

- Been working with geo data for close to 20 years, mainly for local authorities in the UK and Dartmoor National Park
- Currently working at addresscloud as a data analyst / engineer
- Treasurer for OSGEO:UK and helped organise FOSS4GUK the 2019, 2020:Online and 2022:Local events
Addresscloud was founded in 2015 (and born at FOSS4G!) and is a geocoding and location intelligence service working predominantly within the insurance sector.
Insurers need to avoid having too much risk in a single location, but what is that location? Many systems use radial accumulation techniques but these do not represent real life risk.
Cloud Native Geospatial

- Data Formats
- Data Store
- Open Source Tools
Benefits of using cloud-native data?

- Cloud-Native data formats are structured to be efficiently retrieved from cloud object storage services.
- It’s faster for users.
- Stream only the data you need that they need for their analysis.
- No need to download and store copies of data (or even DVDs).
- Saves users time and money.
Data Formats cloud-native data?

- Parquet
- FlatGeobuf
- SHP
- ARROW

Towards Cloud-Native Vector Formats?
Flatgeobuf

- Lossless binary format - fast to load and stream
- Works well with large volumes of static data, significantly faster than legacy formats
- Not editable - really for read only and data storage/transfer
- Supported by GDAL, QGIS and Tippecanoe
- Can be directly streamed and used in by Leaflet, MapLibre, etc
Geoparquet

- Based on Parquet - CSV for Big Data
- Columnar Data so quicker to read
- Currently in release candidate - v1.0 imminent
- Not editable - really for read only and data storage/transfer
- Used by Overture Maps Foundation to publish data
- Data can be partitioned so it’s quicker to retrieve.
Who is involved in GeoParquet?
PMTiles

- PMTiles is a single-file archive format for tiled data. A PMTiles archive can be hosted on a commodity storage platform such as S3
- [https://github.com/protomaps/PMTiles](https://github.com/protomaps/PMTiles)
Data Store - Overture Maps Foundation (OMF)

- OMF started by big tech companies (AWS, Microsoft, Meta, TomTom)
  Additional members
- Based on OSM data but other sources being added e.g. MS ML-Buildings.
- Data separated into themes: Admin, Buildings, Places and Transportation
- Data is hosted within S3 buckets as parquets and
- Previously you would have to to grab the whole planet file PBF and then use tools like OSMOSIS to get what you needed.
Data Stores - Source Coop

- Collection of datasets maintained by Chris Holmes
- Includes data from Google, Overture and the OS
- Available here: https://beta.source.coop/repositories
Tippecanoe

- Builds vector tilesets from large (or small) collections of GeoJSON, FlatGeobuf, or CSV features, like these.
- Developed by Erica Fisher at Mapbox but now maintained by Felt. [https://github.com/felt/tippecanoe](https://github.com/felt/tippecanoe)
- Inputs include FGB, CSV and GeoJSON
- Outputs are MBTiles and recently PMTiles
DuckDB

- In memory database engine - SQLite on steroids!
- Uses Arrow under the hood
- Great for working with big data stored as parquet
- Can scan remote data and process from your own machine
- R, Python and many other bindings available
- Extensions - Spatial, Postgres, Excel(?)
# DuckDB - What is it good for?

## When to use DuckDB
- Processing and storing tabular datasets, e.g. from CSV or Parquet files
- Interactive data analysis, e.g. Joining & aggregate multiple large tables
- Concurrent large changes, to multiple large tables, e.g. appending rows, adding/removing/updating columns
- Large result set transfer to client

## When to not use DuckDB
- High-volume transactional use cases (e.g. tracking orders in a webshop)
- Large client/server installations for centralized enterprise data warehousing
- Writing to a single database from multiple concurrent processes
- Multiple concurrent processes reading from a single writable database
DuckDB - Spatial

- Spatial extension - convert to other spatial formats
- Uses GDAL under the hood
- Conforms to the Simple Features for SQL specification from the Open Geospatial Consortium.
DuckDB - Spatial

```sql
install spatial;
load spatial;
COPY (SELECT id, ST_GeomFromWKB(geometry) as geometry
FROM read_parquet('/data/places/*')
WHERE adminLevel = 2 AND
ST_GeometryType(ST_GeomFromWKB(geometry)::geometry)
IN ('POLYGON','MULTIPOLYGON')) TO 'omf-countries.fgb'
WITH (FORMAT GDAL, DRIVER 'flatgeobuf');
```