Big Data Updates for Microsoft SQL Server, Azure

Written by Marco Attard
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Microsoft rolls out a trio of big data products to help customers make further use of data gathered from any source-- SQL Server 2014, the Analytics Platform System (APS) and the Azure Intelligent Systems Service.

SQL Server 2014 brings in-memory capability to OLTP, data warehousing and business intelligence workloads. Microsoft describes it as a "breakthrough product," and claims it processes online transactions up to 30x faster than previous SQL Server versions.

It also runs workloads on the Azure Infrastructure-as-a-Service cloud, meaning organisations can tier SQL workloads for high availability in the cloud.

Meanwhile the APS promises "big data in a box." It combines SQL Server and Hadoop technology in a single, lower-cost offering. It allows customers to do queries across transactional systems and servers, as well as website logs and social data streams.

And finally Azure Intelligent Systems Service-- a cloud-based Internet of Things (IoT) service-- is now available in limited beta form. It uses the cloud to collect and analyze data gathered from servers and web-enabled sensors, and "take[s] out all the friction" from connecting the IoT with the cloud.

According to a Microsoft-commissioned IDC study organisations can save up to $1.6 trillion over the next 4 years if they unify all data data and analyse it better.

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