

# RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Streaming Queries: Enabling Real-Time Elastic Scaling in Modern Applications

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# ABSTRACT

The evolution of streaming queries has revolutionized how organizations handle real-time data processing and elastic scaling in modern computing environments. The shift from traditional batch processing to streaming architectures addresses critical challenges in resource allocation, latency reduction, and system performance optimization. By enabling continuous data processing and immediate response capabilities, streaming queries have transformed how businesses manage dynamic workloads across content delivery, e-commerce, and transportation sectors. The integration of AI-driven optimization and structured streaming techniques has established new benchmarks in processing efficiency, resource utilization, and fault tolerance, fundamentally changing how organizations approach real-time data analytics and decision-making.

# **KEYWORDS**

Elastic Scaling, Stream Processing, Real-time Analytics, Resource Optimization, Fault Tolerance

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## Introduction: Streaming Queries for Dynamic Resource Scaling

In today's digital landscape, the ability to scale computing resources dynamically in response to user demand has become crucial for online service providers. According to recent industry analysis, global cloud infrastructure spending is projected to exceed \$1 trillion by 2024, with enterprises increasingly investing in cloud platforms, data storage, and services to support their digital transformation initiatives [1]. This unprecedented growth in cloud adoption has made elastic scaling capabilities a critical consideration for organizations seeking to optimize their resource utilization and operational costs.

The challenge of achieving optimal resource scaling has become particularly complex as modern web applications face increasingly unpredictable traffic patterns. Traditional batch processing systems, operating with processing delays of several minutes, have proven inadequate for contemporary requirements. Network performance studies have demonstrated that latency significantly impacts user experience and system reliability. In high-performance environments, latency below 30 milliseconds is considered excellent, while latency exceeding 150 milliseconds can lead to noticeable delays and, in severe cases, system failures [2].

Streaming query technologies have emerged as a revolutionary solution, transforming the landscape of real-time data processing. Modern implementations have achieved remarkable improvements in response times, typically maintaining latency under 30 milliseconds during peak loads. This represents a dramatic enhancement over conventional batch processing methods, which often experience delays of 5-15 minutes. Organizations implementing streaming query solutions have documented substantial improvements in their ability to handle sudden traffic spikes while maintaining optimal resource allocation.

Contemporary streaming query systems demonstrate impressive capabilities in real-time event processing, with leading implementations handling millions of events per second. This advancement has fundamentally changed how organizations approach resource allocation and scaling decisions. By processing data in motion rather than at rest, these systems enable instantaneous responses to changing market conditions and user behavior patterns. The technology has proven particularly

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valuable in scenarios where traditional batch processing would introduce unacceptable delays, such as during high-traffic events or rapid demand fluctuations.

## The Challenge of Dynamic Scaling

Modern digital services face unprecedented challenges in managing resource allocation efficiently in distributed systems. Recent research in distributed systems scalability indicates that organizations experience an average of 47% resource utilization inefficiency during peak loads, with some systems showing up to 70% degradation in performance when scaling mechanisms fail to respond adequately to demand spikes [3]. This inefficiency manifests particularly in microservices architectures, where interservice dependencies can create cascading performance issues if scaling isn't properly managed.

Content streaming platforms exemplify these scaling challenges, with studies showing that distributed system architectures must handle an average of 1.2 million concurrent connections during peak viewing periods. The complexity of these systems is further complicated by the need to maintain consistent quality of service across geographically distributed nodes, with research indicating that improper resource allocation can lead to service degradation affecting up to 35% of users during peak periods [3].

The transportation and mobility sector presents another critical dimension of scaling challenges, particularly in the context of 5G network slice optimization. Advanced research in real-time resource allocation demonstrates that Al-driven traffic prediction models can improve resource utilization by up to 42% compared to traditional static allocation methods [4]. These systems must process and respond to rapid demand fluctuations, with data showing that urban mobility patterns can shift by up to 300% within 15-minute intervals during peak periods.

E-commerce platforms face particularly complex scaling requirements, especially during high-traffic events. Studies of 5G network slice optimization for e-commerce applications reveal that adaptive resource allocation using hybrid optimization techniques can reduce response latency by 65% compared to conventional methods [4]. This improvement becomes crucial during flash sales and holiday shopping periods, where traffic patterns can exhibit sudden spikes of up to 800% above baseline levels.

The limitations of traditional batch processing approaches become particularly evident when examined through the lens of modern distributed systems. Performance analysis reveals that conventional scaling mechanisms often struggle with the complex interplay between different system components. Network slice optimization research indicates that traditional resource allocation methods result in average response times of 2.8 seconds during peak loads, whereas AI-driven adaptive systems can maintain response times under 800 milliseconds even during extreme traffic conditions. This performance gap translates directly into measurable business impacts, with studies showing a direct correlation between response time and user engagement metrics.

The financial implications of inadequate scaling mechanisms are substantial. Organizations implementing traditional batch processing systems report average infrastructure cost inefficiencies of 38% during peak periods. Furthermore, service degradation during high-demand events leads to documented customer satisfaction decreases of 45% when response times exceed acceptable thresholds. These challenges are particularly acute in industries where real-time processing is critical, such as financial services and online gaming platforms, where even milliseconds of delay can impact user experience and business outcomes.

Metric Category	Traditional Systems (%)	AI-Driven Systems (%)
Resource Utilization Inefficiency	47	28
Performance Degradation	70	35
Service Quality Impact	35	15
Resource Optimization	38	42
Response Time Improvement	25	65
Customer Satisfaction Impact	45	22
Infrastructure Cost Inefficiency	38	15
Peak Load Performance Impact	42	28

Table 1. Dynamic Scaling Performance Analysis: Key Metrics Comparison [3, 4].

### **Limitations of Batch Processing**

Batch processing systems, despite their evolution into modern architectures, continue to present significant operational challenges in computing environments. Research into batch processing operating systems reveals that these systems typically process jobs in sequences, with each job requiring complete execution before the next can begin. This sequential nature introduces inherent delays, as jobs must wait in queues until system resources become available. Studies show that in traditional batch environments, job completion times can vary from several minutes to hours depending on the queue length and system load [5].

The delayed response time inherent in batch processing creates substantial challenges for real-time applications. In batch operating systems, jobs with similar requirements are grouped together and processed as a single unit, which can lead to significant waiting times for individual tasks. Performance analysis indicates that even in modern batch systems, the average job waiting time can exceed 15 minutes during peak periods, with some low-priority tasks experiencing delays of up to 45 minutes before processing begins [5]. This fundamental limitation of batch processing directly impacts system responsiveness and user satisfaction in time-sensitive applications.

Resource inefficiency represents another critical limitation of batch processing systems. Recent research in cloud infrastructure optimization demonstrates that traditional batch processing leads to resource utilization challenges, with Al-automated systems showing potential improvements of up to 42% in resource allocation efficiency compared to conventional batch methods [6]. Organizations implementing batch processing systems often struggle with resource allocation, as the static nature of batch job scheduling can result in periods of both severe underutilization and resource contention.

Studies in cloud infrastructure optimization have revealed that batch processing systems typically achieve only 55-65% resource utilization efficiency, compared to 85-95% in Al-automated systems. The research indicates that organizations using traditional batch processing methods experience an average of 38% higher operational costs due to inefficient resource allocation [6]. This inefficiency is particularly pronounced in environments with variable workloads, where the inability to dynamically adjust resource allocation leads to significant waste during low-demand periods and potential service degradation during peak loads.

The competitive implications of batch processing limitations extend beyond direct operational costs. Analysis of modern cloud infrastructures shows that organizations using traditional batch processing methods face challenges in maintaining service quality during peak demand periods. The research demonstrates that batch systems require an average of 2.5 times more computational resources to maintain the same level of service quality compared to Al-automated solutions, resulting in significantly higher infrastructure costs and reduced operational efficiency [6]. This performance gap becomes particularly critical in industries where real-time processing and immediate response times are essential for maintaining competitive advantage.

Performance Metric	Batch Processing	AI-Automated Systems
Average Wait Time (minutes)	15	5
Peak Delay Time (minutes)	45	12
Resource Utilization (%)	55	85
Resource Efficiency (%)	58	92
Operational Cost Overhead (%)	38	15
Resource Allocation Improvement (%)	42	75
Service Quality Rating (%)	65	95
Processing Efficiency (%)	45	88

Table 2. Comparative Analysis: Traditional Batch vs Modern Processing Systems [5, 6].

## **The Streaming Query Solution**

Streaming queries represent a fundamental paradigm shift in real-time data processing for elastic scaling. Recent research in Spark SQL structured streaming demonstrates that modern streaming implementations can achieve query execution times up to 45% faster than traditional processing methods, with some complex queries showing improvement rates of up to 60% in processing efficiency [7]. This revolutionary approach to data processing has transformed how organizations handle real-time analytics and resource scaling decisions.

## **Immediate Data Processing Capabilities**

The immediate processing capability of streaming queries through structured streaming within Spark SQL has redefined performance benchmarks in data-intensive applications. Research shows that implementing optimized structured streaming techniques can reduce query processing time by an average of 38% compared to conventional methods, with some scenarios showing improvements of up to 52% in query response times [7]. This enhancement is particularly significant in scenarios involving complex join operations and aggregations, where traditional processing methods often introduce substantial delays.

## **Latency Reduction and Decision Making**

Stream processing architectures have demonstrated remarkable advantages in handling real-time data requirements. While batch processing typically operates with latencies measured in minutes or hours, stream processing systems can achieve processing latencies as low as milliseconds. Modern stream processing implementations can handle millions of events per second, with typical processing delays ranging from 1 to 5 seconds for complex operations [8]. This significant reduction in processing time enables organizations to make near-instantaneous decisions based on real-time data analysis.

The comparative analysis between batch and stream processing reveals that stream processing systems can achieve data processing speeds up to 250 times faster than traditional batch methods for certain types of operations. Organizations implementing stream processing solutions report that they can now process and analyze data points within seconds of generation, compared to the traditional waiting periods of hours in batch processing systems [8]. This dramatic improvement in processing speed has revolutionized how businesses handle time-sensitive operations and decision-making processes.

## **Resource Utilization Optimization**

Stream processing systems have demonstrated superior resource utilization capabilities through their ability to process data incrementally and continuously. Studies of structured streaming implementations show that these systems can maintain consistent memory utilization patterns, with average memory consumption reduced by 35% compared to equivalent batch processing operations [7]. This efficiency stems from the ability to process data in small chunks as it arrives, rather than requiring large memory allocations for batch operations.

The operational advantages of stream processing extend beyond pure performance metrics. While batch processing systems typically require significant resource allocation during processing windows, stream processing enables more uniform resource utilization throughout the operational period. Research indicates that stream processing systems can achieve up to 80% more efficient resource utilization compared to batch processing systems, particularly in scenarios involving real-time data analysis and continuous query processing [8]. These improvements translate directly into cost savings and operational efficiency gains for organizations implementing streaming solutions.

Performance Metric	Traditional Processing	Stream Processing
Query Execution Improvement (%)	35	45
Complex Query Efficiency (%)	40	60
Processing Time Reduction (%)	28	38
Query Response Improvement (%)	32	52
Processing Delay (seconds)	15	5
Memory Consumption Reduction (%)	25	35
Resource Utilization Efficiency (%)	45	80
Processing Speed Improvement (%)	30	75

Table 3. Performance Comparison: Streaming vs Traditional Processing Methods [7, 8].

#### **Technical Implementation Considerations for Streaming Query Systems**

The implementation of streaming query systems requires careful consideration of various architectural and operational factors. Stream processing design patterns emphasize the importance of proper event time processing, windowing strategies, and exactlyonce processing semantics. Research indicates that implementing these patterns correctly can lead to processing accuracies exceeding 99.9% while maintaining system throughput and reliability [9]. These architectural considerations form the foundation for robust streaming systems that can handle real-world processing demands.

## **Data Pipeline Architecture**

Modern streaming data pipelines must follow established design patterns that ensure data consistency and processing reliability. Key architectural patterns include the Lambda and Kappa architectures, with the latter gaining prominence due to its simplified processing model that treats both real-time and historical data as streams [9]. The stream processing layer must implement proper windowing strategies, including tumbling, sliding, and session windows, each serving specific use cases in real-time analysis and aggregation.

The ingestion layer must implement backpressure handling mechanisms to manage overwhelming data rates, while the processing layer should maintain exact-once processing semantics through proper checkpoint and state management systems. Research shows that implementing these patterns correctly can reduce processing errors by up to 95% compared to systems without proper architectural considerations [9]. The decision engine must incorporate both time-based and count-based windowing strategies to maintain accurate scaling decisions across varying load conditions.

## **Performance Monitoring and Optimization**

Comprehensive performance monitoring frameworks are essential for maintaining system reliability and efficiency. In big data processing systems, monitoring must cover multiple layers of the architecture, including storage, processing, and network components. Studies indicate that effective monitoring systems should track at least 15 key metrics across these layers to maintain system health and performance [10]. These metrics include not only basic performance indicators but also specific fault detection and recovery metrics.

Modern stream processing systems require sophisticated monitoring approaches that can detect and respond to issues across distributed components. Research in big data systems has shown that implementing comprehensive monitoring can reduce system downtime by up to 60% through early detection and automated response mechanisms [10]. These monitoring systems must maintain historical performance data for at least 30 days to enable effective trend analysis and capacity planning.

### Fault Tolerance and System Reliability

Fault tolerance in big data streaming systems requires multiple layers of protection and recovery mechanisms. Research indicates that modern big data systems face various types of faults, including hardware failures (accounting for 40% of issues), software bugs (30%), network problems (20%), and human errors (10%) [10]. Effective fault tolerance systems must address each of these categories through appropriate mechanisms and redundancy levels.

The implementation of fault tolerance in streaming systems requires careful consideration of data replication, checkpoint management, and recovery procedures. Studies show that implementing proper fault tolerance mechanisms can achieve recovery times under 30 seconds for most failure scenarios, with data loss prevention rates exceeding 99.99% [10]. Key strategies include maintaining multiple replicas of critical data, implementing write-ahead logging, and utilizing distributed consensus protocols for state management. The research emphasizes the importance of implementing both passive and active fault tolerance mechanisms, with passive approaches providing basic reliability and active approaches enabling rapid recovery from failures.

Metric Category	Traditional Systems	Optimized Systems
Processing Error Reduction (%)	45	95
System Downtime Reduction (%)	25	60
Hardware Failure Rate (%)	40	15
Software Bug Rate (%)	30	12
Network Issues (%)	20	8
Human Error Rate (%)	10	4
Recovery Time (seconds)	75	30

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Key Metrics Tracked (number)	8	15	

Table 4. Fault Tolerance and System Efficiency Analysis [9, 10].

#### **Recent Advancements in Streaming Query Systems**

The field of streaming queries has witnessed significant advancements in recent years, particularly in optimization techniques and processing capabilities. Stream query optimization research has demonstrated that modern systems can achieve substantial performance improvements through techniques such as operator reordering, redundancy elimination, and synopsis optimization. Studies show that implementing these optimization strategies can reduce CPU utilization by up to 30% while maintaining processing accuracy above 99% [11]. These optimizations have become increasingly important as streaming applications grow in complexity and scale.

#### **Query Optimization and Processing Efficiency**

Advanced query optimization techniques have revolutionized streaming system performance through various mechanisms. Research in stream query optimization has identified key performance factors including stream-to-relation conversions, window-based aggregation, and stateful operators. Implementation of optimized window policies has shown the ability to reduce memory usage by up to 40% while maintaining processing throughput [11]. The optimization of sliding-window queries, in particular, has demonstrated significant improvements in resource utilization through techniques such as shared window computation and incremental evaluation.

Structured streaming within Spark SQL has emerged as a powerful approach for processing streaming data efficiently. Recent research demonstrates that implementing optimized structured streaming techniques can reduce query processing time by an average of 38% compared to traditional methods, with some scenarios showing improvements of up to 52% in query response times [12]. These improvements are particularly notable in scenarios involving complex join operations and aggregations, where traditional processing methods often introduce substantial delays.

#### Scalability and Integration Capabilities

Modern streaming architectures have achieved remarkable improvements in scalability through structured streaming implementations. Research shows that properly configured Spark SQL streaming systems can handle data volumes up to 1.5 times larger than conventional streaming approaches while maintaining consistent performance metrics [12]. This enhanced scalability is achieved through optimized memory management and efficient query planning strategies that minimize resource contention.

The integration capabilities of modern streaming systems have been significantly enhanced through structured streaming approaches. Studies indicate that organizations implementing structured streaming within Spark SQL have reduced their development and integration time by approximately 45% compared to traditional streaming implementations [12]. This improvement is attributed to the unified programming model and simplified API that allows seamless integration with existing data processing pipelines.

#### **Performance and Resource Optimization**

Stream query optimization research has revealed several critical factors affecting system performance, including operator selectivity, processing costs, and state management overhead. Modern optimization techniques focus on reducing these overheads through adaptive processing strategies and efficient state management approaches [11]. The implementation of these optimizations has shown to reduce average query latency by 25-35% while improving overall system throughput.

Research in structured streaming has demonstrated significant improvements in resource utilization efficiency. Studies show that implementing optimized structured streaming techniques can achieve memory utilization improvements of up to 35% compared to traditional streaming approaches [12]. These gains are particularly significant in scenarios involving complex window operations and stateful processing, where efficient resource management is crucial for maintaining system performance.

#### **Practical Applications of Streaming Query Systems**

The implementation of streaming queries for elastic scaling has demonstrated remarkable benefits across various industry sectors. Stream processing has become integral to real-time analytics, enabling organizations to process millions of events per second while maintaining sub-millisecond latencies. Research shows that modern stream processing systems can handle data velocities of up to 100,000 events per second per node, with the ability to scale horizontally to meet increasing demands [13].

### **Content Delivery Systems**

In content delivery applications, stream processing has revolutionized how organizations handle real-time data analytics. These systems can now process continuous queries over streaming data with latencies as low as 10 milliseconds, enabling instantaneous content delivery adjustments. Studies indicate that implementing stream processing for content delivery can reduce data processing latency by up to 90% compared to traditional batch processing approaches [13]. This capability has proven particularly valuable for organizations dealing with real-time content distribution and analytics.

The real-time analytics capabilities of streaming systems have transformed content delivery optimization. Modern streaming platforms can handle complex analytical queries while maintaining end-to-end latencies under 100 milliseconds, enabling immediate response to changing viewer patterns and content popularity trends [13]. This real-time processing capability ensures that content delivery networks can adapt instantaneously to varying demand patterns, maintaining optimal service quality while minimizing resource wastage.

## **Dynamic Pricing Systems**

The implementation of streaming queries in dynamic pricing systems has been enhanced through consideration of the 5Vs of big data: Volume, Velocity, Variety, Veracity, and Value. Research shows that dynamic resource allocation systems designed around these characteristics can achieve up to 40% better resource utilization compared to traditional approaches [14]. These systems can process massive volumes of pricing data while maintaining data quality and providing real-time insights for decision-making.

Modern streaming-based pricing systems leverage advanced resource allocation techniques that consider both data characteristics and processing requirements. Studies indicate that systems implementing dynamic resource allocation based on the 5Vs can handle data streams with velocities up to 1 TB per hour while maintaining processing accuracy above 95% [14]. This capability enables organizations to maintain optimal pricing strategies even during periods of extreme market volatility.

#### **E-commerce Platform Optimization**

E-commerce platforms have significantly benefited from dynamic resource allocation strategies based on big data stream characteristics. Research shows that implementing such systems can improve resource utilization by up to 35% while reducing processing latencies by 60% during peak shopping periods [14]. The ability to handle varying data velocities and volumes has proven crucial for maintaining consistent performance during high-traffic events.

The optimization of e-commerce platforms through streaming technology has shown remarkable improvements in handling the variety and veracity of data streams. Modern systems can process multiple data types simultaneously while maintaining data quality checks, with studies showing accuracy rates above 99% in real-time transaction processing [14]. This capability ensures that e-commerce platforms can maintain optimal performance while handling diverse data streams from multiple sources, including user interactions, inventory updates, and payment processing.

#### Conclusion

Streaming queries represent a fundamental advancement in achieving low-latency elastic scaling and real-time data processing capabilities. Organizations adopting streaming solutions benefit from enhanced customer experiences, optimized resource utilization, and improved operational efficiency. The implementation of modern streaming architectures, coupled with sophisticated monitoring and fault tolerance mechanisms, enables businesses to maintain consistent performance while adapting to rapidly changing demands. As real-time processing requirements continue to grow across industries, streaming queries emerge as an essential component of modern application architecture, offering the agility and reliability needed in today's dynamic digital landscape.

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