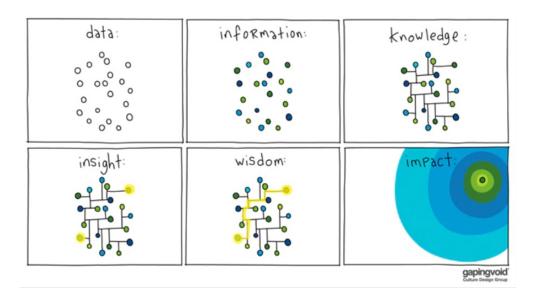


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# Big Data is The New Oil: From Raw Resource to the Backbone of Web3



Introduction: In the realm of data, the analogy to oil as a raw resource is more than a metaphor; it's a profound insight into the intricate process of extraction, refinement, and utilization required for data to become impactful. This comparison, famously coined by Clive Humby in 2006, emphasizes that data, much like oil, is valuable only when refined and processed. Over the years, however, many industries have overlooked the true potential of data, and instead treated the resource as inherently valuable, amassing it as a commodity. In this newsletter, we delve into the world of Big Data, exploring its fundamental characteristics, historical timeline, and the intricate interplay between Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and Computing Infrastructure that shapes the future of data.

**Big Data, The Basics**: Big Data is not merely about size; it's defined by a framework referred to as the "three Vs": *Volume, Velocity, and Variety*.

Volume refers to the sheer size of the data generated and collected. It delves into the magnitude of datasets, often ranging from terabytes to petabytes and beyond. Managing and processing such massive volumes necessitates distributed storage and parallel processing frameworks. Traditional relational databases struggle with the scale,

prompting the adoption of distributed storage solutions like Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS) and cloud-based storage systems.

Velocity pertains to the speed at which data is generated, processed, and made available for analysis. It highlights the real-time or near-real-time nature of data streams. Systems must handle data streams dynamically and adapt to rapid changes in velocity. Technologies like Apache Kafka for stream processing and complex event processing (CEP) systems become integral. The focus shifts from batch processing to streaming architectures to accommodate high-velocity data streams.

Variety involves the diverse types and formats of data, encompassing structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data sources. Traditional relational databases excel in handling structured data but fall short when dealing with the variety presented by unstructured and semi-structured data. NoSQL databases, document stores, and columnar databases emerge as solutions capable of accommodating diverse data types. Additionally, schema-on-read approaches gain prominence, allowing for flexibility in data interpretation.

The sheer volume of data, its rapid generation, and the diverse formats pose challenges to traditional processing methods. From social media interactions to financial transactions, Big Data encompasses vast and complex datasets that require advanced analytics for meaningful insights.

# A Brief Timeline: The evolution of Big Data has been marked by key milestones:

1970s: The emergence of Relational Databases, like Oracle and IBM's DB2, laid the foundation for structured data management.

1990s: Introduction of Data Warehousing and Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) technologies, enabling organizations to store and analyze large volumes of data, facilitating multidimensional analysis.

2003: MapReduce and the Birth of Hadoop: Google introduced MapReduce, a programming model for processing large datasets. Inspired by this, Apache Hadoop was born in 2005, an open-source framework for distributed storage and processing of Big Data.

2008: Apache Hadoop's Graduation, solidifying its position in the Big Data landscape. The framework gained widespread adoption for its scalability and fault tolerance.

2010: Introduction of Apache Spark, offering in-memory data processing for faster and more versatile analysis.

2015: Big Data goes mainstream, with technologies like Hadoop and Spark gaining widespread adoption.

2019: Quantum Computing Breakthroughs, hinting at potential impacts on complex algorithms in Big Data analytics.

Modern-Day Landscape, Synergies between Deep Tech and Big Data: The current era witnesses a symbiotic relationship between AI and Big Data, an integration of advanced analytics, machine learning, and AI-driven insights for data processing. Further, real-time analytics, edge computing, and continuous refinement of AI algorithms are shaping the data landscape. Examples abound, such as the active

utilization of Big Data and AI in addressing global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic through predictive modeling, contact tracing, and vaccine distribution.

Morgan Creek Digital emphasizes the immense growth potential in companies developing Big Data analytics solutions. Sectors like healthcare, finance, and marketing leverage Big Data for personalized insights and efficient resource allocation. For example, in healthcare, Big Data aids personalized medicine and predictive analytics, and in finance, it optimizes trading strategies and fraud detection. Companies such as Amazon and Netflix leverage Big Data for targeted marketing campaigns and personalized recommendations. Further, with worldwide spending on the Internet of Things projected to surpass \$1 trillion in 2026, we believe there is a substantial opportunity for startups offering innovative data solutions. Successful examples include Palantir and Cloudera. Looking ahead, our thesis is that the next generation of the internet, often referred to as Web3, will seek to combine AI, Blockchain, and Computing Infrastructure to unlock the true value of Big Data. While Big Data feeds AI algorithms for learning and predictions, blockchain ensures the security and transparency of data transactions. Advanced hardware solutions, including GPUs and TPUs, will continue to play a vital role in handling the complexity of Big Data, accelerating data processing, and expanding the possibilities in analytics. In the ongoing narrative of data evolution, the analogy of Big Data as the new oil gains depth and significance. From historical milestones to the current symbiosis of AI and Big Data, the journey illustrates how data, when properly refined and harnessed, becomes the driving force of innovation and progress.

# Why Big Data is Described as the New Oil

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