CLAIMS

1. A method including:

receiving a request to process a set of data using a data processing application;

based on at least a size of the set of data, selecting either (i) a first mode in which one or more running processes of the data processing application are used to process the set of data or (ii) a second mode in which one or more new processes of the data processing application are started up; and

causing the data processing application to be executed according to the selected mode to process the set of data, including:

when the first mode is selected processing the data using the one or more running processes, code corresponding to the one or more running processes having been compiled prior to receiving the request to process the set of data; and

when the second mode is selected, compiling code corresponding to the one or more new processes and processing the data using the one or more new processes.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more running processes are loaded into a memory prior to receiving the request to process the set of data.

3. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the one or more running processes are in a standby mode prior to receiving the request to process the set of data.

4. The method of any of the preceding claims, including, when the second mode is selected, loading the new processes into a memory.

5. The method of any of the preceding claims, in which selecting either the first mode or the second mode includes selecting based further on one or more of a format of the set of data or a complexity of the set of data.

6. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein selecting between the first mode and the second mode includes:

selecting the first mode when the size of the set of data is equal to or less than a threshold size; and

selecting the second mode when the size of the set of data exceeds the threshold size.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the threshold size is based on a format of the set of data, and at least two different formats are each associated with a different threshold size.

8. The method of claim 6 or 7, wherein the threshold size is based on a processing requirement associated with the set of data, and at least two different processing requirements are each associated with a different threshold size.

9. The method of any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the threshold size is based on historical data indicative of the operation of the data processing application.

10. The method of any of claims 6 to 9, including determining the threshold size during execution of the data processing application.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein determining the threshold size during execution of the data processing application includes:

decreasing the threshold size if the data processing application executed according to the first mode executes more slowly than a reference rate; and

increasing the threshold size if the data processing application executed according to the second mode executes more slowly than a reference rate.

12. The method of any of the preceding claims, including determining the size of the set of data.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the set of data includes a file, and wherein determining the size of the set of data includes determining the size of the file.

14. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the set of data includes data stored in a database, and wherein determining the size of the set of data includes querying the database.

15. The method of any of the preceding claims, in which selecting either the first mode or the second mode includes selecting based further on a processing requirement associated with the set of data.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the processing requirement includes an allowed time for processing the set of data.

17. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein in the first mode, a component of the data processing application is compiled to machine code prior to receiving the request, and in the second mode, the component is compiled to machine code after receiving the request.

18. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein in the first mode, the one or more running processes are executed serially, and in the second mode, at least some of the one or more new processes are executed concurrently.

19. Software stored on a computer-readable medium, the software including instructions for causing a computing system to:

receive a request to process a set of data using a data processing application;

based on at least a size of the set of data, select either (i) a first mode in which one or more running processes of the data processing application is used to process the set of data or (ii) a second mode in which one or more new processes of the a data processing application are started up; and

cause the data processing application to be executed according to the selected mode to process the set of data, including:

when the first mode is selected processing the data using the one or more running processes, code corresponding to the one or more running processes having been compiled prior to receiving the request to process the set of data; and

when the second mode is selected, compiling code corresponding to the one or more new processes and processing the data using the one or more new processes.

20. A computing system including:

at least one processor configured to:

receive a request to process a set of data using a data processing application;

based on at least a size of the set of data, select either (i) a first mode in which one or more running processes of the data processing application is used to process the set of data or (ii) a second mode in which one or more new processes of the a data processing application are started up; and

cause the data processing application to be executed according to the selected mode to process the set of data, including:

when the first mode is selected processing the data using the one or more running processes, code corresponding to the one or more running processes having been compiled prior to receiving the request to process the set of data; and

when the second mode is selected, compiling code corresponding to the one or more new processes and processing the data using the one or more new processes.

21. A computing system including:

means for receiving a request to process a set of data using a data processing application;

means for, based on at least a size of the set of data, selecting either (i) a first mode in which one or more running processes of the data processing application is used to process the set of data or (ii) a second mode in which one or more new processes of the a data processing application are started up; and

means for causing the data processing application to be executed according to the selected mode to process the set of data, including:

when the first mode is selected processing the data using the one or more running processes, code corresponding to the one or more running processes having been compiled prior to receiving the request to process the set of data; and

when the second mode is selected, compiling code corresponding to the one or more new processes and processing the data using the one or more new processes.