Distributed Transactions

- Distributed Transactions

- Concurrency control and locks

Transactions

- Transactions provide higher level mechanism for atomicity of processing in distributed systems
  - Have their origins in databases
- Banking example: Three accounts A:$100, B:$200, C:$300
  - Client 1: transfer $4 from A to B
  - Client 2: transfer $3 from C to B
- Result can be inconsistent unless certain properties are imposed on the accesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client 1</th>
<th>Client 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read A: $100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write A: $96</td>
<td>Read C: $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Write C: $297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read B: $200</td>
<td>Read B: $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write B: $203</td>
<td>Write B: $203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write B: $204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACID Properties

• *Atomic*: all or nothing
• *Consistent*: transaction takes system from one consistent state to another
• *Isolated*: Immediate effects are not visible to other (serializable)
• *Durable*: Changes are permanent once transaction completes (commits)

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<tr>
<td>Read A: $100</td>
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<td>Write A: $96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read B: $200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write B: $204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read C: $300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write C: $297</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read B: $204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write B: $207</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transaction Primitives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primitive</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEGIN_TRANSACTION</td>
<td>Make the start of a transaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END_TRANSACTION</td>
<td>Terminate the transaction and try to commit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABORT_TRANSACTION</td>
<td>Kill the transaction and restore the old values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ</td>
<td>Read data from a file, a table, or otherwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITE</td>
<td>Write data to a file, a table, or otherwise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: airline reservation

Begin_transaction
   if(reserve(NY,Paris)==full) Abort_transaction
   if(reserve(Paris,Athens)==full) Abort_transaction
   if(reserve(Athens,Delhi)==full) Abort_transaction
End_transaction
Distributed Transactions

a) A nested transaction
b) A distributed transaction

Implementation: Private Workspace

- Each transaction get copies of all files, objects
- Can optimize for reads by not making copies
- Can optimize for writes by copying only what is required
- Commit requires making local workspace global
Option 2: Write-ahead Logs

- **In-place updates**: transaction makes changes directly to all files/objects
- **Write-ahead log**: prior to making change, transaction writes to log on stable storage
  - Transaction ID, block number, original value, new value
- Force logs on commit
- If abort, read log records and undo changes \([\text{rollback}]\)
- Log can be used to rerun transaction after failure

- Both workspaces and logs work for distributed transactions
- Commit needs to be \textit{atomic} [will return to this issue in Ch. 7]

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**Writeahead Log Example**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{x} & = 0; \\
\text{y} & = 0; \\
\text{BEGIN\_TRANSACTION;} \\
\text{x} & = \text{x} + 1; \quad [x = 0 / 1] \\
\text{y} & = \text{y} + 2 \quad [y = 0/2] \\
\text{x} & = \text{y} \ast \text{y} \quad [x = 1/4] \\
\text{END\_TRANSACTION;} \\
\end{align*}
\]

- a) A transaction
- b) – d) The log before each statement is executed
Concurrency Control

- Goal: Allow several transactions to be executing simultaneously such that
  - Collection of manipulated data item is left in a consistent state
- Achieve consistency by ensuring data items are accessed in a specific order
  - Final result should be same as if each transaction ran sequentially

- Concurrency control can implemented in a *layered* fashion

Concurrency Control Implementation

General organization of managers for handling transactions.
Distributed Concurrency Control

- General organization of managers for handling distributed transactions.

Serializability

```
BEGIN_TRANSACTION
x = 0;
x = x + 1;
END_TRANSACTION
```

(a)

```
BEGIN_TRANSACTION
x = 0;
x = x + 2;
END_TRANSACTION
```

(b)

```
BEGIN_TRANSACTION
x = 0;
x = x + 3;
END_TRANSACTION
```

(c)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>x = 0; x = x + 1; x = 0; x = x + 2; x = 0; x = x + 3</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>x = 0; x = 0; x = x + 1; x = x + 2; x = 0; x = x + 3</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>x = 0; x = 0; x = x + 1; x = 0; x = x + 2; x = x + 3</td>
<td>Illegal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Key idea: properly schedule conflicting operations
- Conflict possible if at least one operation is write
  - Read-write conflict
  - Write-write conflict
Optimistic Concurrency Control

- Transaction does what it wants and \textit{validates} changes prior to commit
  - Check if files/objects have been changed by committed transactions since they were opened
  - Insight: conflicts are rare, so works well most of the time
- Works well with private workspaces
- Advantage:
  - Deadlock free
  - Maximum parallelism
- Disadvantage:
  - Rerun transaction if aborts
  - Probability of conflict rises substantially at high loads
- Not used widely

Two-phase Locking

- Widely used concurrency control technique
- Scheduler acquires all necessary locks in growing phase, releases locks in shrinking phase
  - Check if operation on \textit{data item} \(x\) conflicts with existing locks
    - If so, delay transaction. If not, grant a lock on \(x\)
  - Never release a lock until data manager finishes operation on \(x\)
  - One a lock is released, no further locks can be granted
- Problem: deadlock possible
  - Example: acquiring two locks in different order
- Distributed 2PL versus centralized 2PL
Two-Phase Locking

- Two-phase locking.

Strict Two-Phase Locking

- Strict two-phase locking.
Timestamp-based Concurrency Control

- Each transaction $T_i$ is given timestamp $ts(T_i)$
- If $T_i$ wants to do an operation that conflicts with $T_j$
  - Abort $T_i$ if $ts(T_i) < ts(T_j)$
- When a transaction aborts, it must restart with a new (larger) time stamp
- Two values for each data item $x$
  - $Max-rts(x)$: max time stamp of a transaction that read $x$
  - $Max-wts(x)$: max time stamp of a transaction that wrote $x$

Reads and Writes using Timestamps

- $Read_i(x)$
  - If $ts(T_i) < max-wts(x)$ then Abort $T_i$
  - Else
    - Perform $R_i(x)$
    - $Max-rts(x) = \max(max-rts(x), ts(T_i))$
- $Write_i(x)$
  - If $ts(T_i) < max-rts(x)$ or $ts(T_i) < max-wts(x)$ then Abort $T_i$
  - Else
    - Perform $W_i(x)$
    - $Max-wts(x) = ts(T_i)$
Pessimistic Timestamp Ordering

- Concurrency control using timestamps.

(a) $ts_{RD}(x)$, $ts_{WR}(x)$, $ts(T_2)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_2)$

(b) $ts_{WR}(x)$, $ts_{RD}(x)$, $ts(T_2)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_2)$

(c) $ts(T_2)$, $ts_{RD}(x)$ $(T_2)$ $(T_3)$

(d) $ts(T_2)$, $ts_{WR}(x)$ $(T_2)$ $(T_3)$

(e) $ts_{WR}(x)$, $ts(T_2)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_2)$

(f) $ts_{WR}(x)$, $ts_{ten}(x)$, $ts(T_2)$ $(T_1)$ $(T_3)$ $(T_2)$

(g) $ts(T_2)$, $ts_{WR}(x)$ $(T_2)$ $(T_3)$

(h) $ts(T_2)$, $ts_{ten}(x)$ $(T_2)$ $(T_3)$

Do tentative write

OK

Abort

Abort