Monolithic vs. Distributed Systems

- One machine that’s $n$ times as powerful?
- $n$ machines that are equally as powerful?

Parallel vs. Distributed Systems

- Parallel System — often = shared memory
- Distributed System — often = shared nothing

What is a Distributed System?

“A distributed system is a system that enables a collection of independent computers to communicate in order to solve a common goal.”

What is a Distributed System?

“An ideal distributed system is a system that makes a collection of independent computers look like one computer (to the user).”
Disadvantages of Distributed Systems

Advantages
- Cost
  - Better performance/price
- Extensibility
  - Add another machine!
- Reliability
  - No central point of failure!
- Workload
  - Balance work automatically
- Sharing
  - Remote access to services

Disadvantages
- Software
  - Need specialised programs
- Networking
  - Can be slow
- Maintenance
  - Debugging sw/hw a pain
- Security
  - Multiple users
- Parallelisation
  - Not always applicable

WHAT MAKES A GOOD DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM?

Distributed System Design

“An ideal distributed system is a system that makes a collection of independent computers look like one computer (to the user).”

- Transparency: Abstract/hide:
  - Access: How different machines are accessed
  - Location: What machines have what/If they move
  - Concurrency: Access by several users
  - Failure: Keep it a secret from the user

- Flexibility:
  - Add/remove/move machines
  - Generic interfaces

- Reliability:
  - Fault-tolerant: recover from errors
  - Security: user authentication
  - Availability: uptime/total-time

DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS: CLIENT–SERVER ARCHITECTURE

- Performance:
  - Runtimes (processing)
  - Latency, throughput and bandwidth (data)

- Scalability
  - Network and infrastructure scales
  - Applications scale
  - Minimise global knowledge/bottlenecks!
Client–Server Model

- Client makes request to server
- Server acts and responds

(For example: Email, WWW, Printing, etc.)

Client–Server: Thin Client

- Few computing resources for client: I/O
  - Server does the hard work

(For example: PHP-heavy websites, SSH, email, etc.)

Client–Server: Fat Client

- Fuller computing resources for client: I/O
  - Server sends data: computing done client-side

(For example: Javascript-heavy websites, multimedia, etc.)

Client–Server: Mirror Servers

- User goes to any machine (replicated/mirror)

Client–Server: Proxy Server

- User goes to “forwarding” machine (proxy)

Client–Server: Three-Tier Server

- HTTP GET: Total salary of all employees
- SQL Query: salary of all employees
- Add all the salaries
- Create HTML page
Client–Server: n-Tier Server

- Slide from Google’s Jeff Dean:

2007: Universal Search

DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS: PEER-TO-PEER ARCHITECTURE

Peer-to-Peer (P2P)

- Client–Server:
  - Clients interact directly with a “central” server
- Peer-to-Peer:
  - Peers interact directly amongst themselves

Peer-to-Peer: Unstructured

(For example: Kazaa, Gnutella)

Peer-to-Peer: Structured (Central)

- In central server, each peer registers
  - Content
  - Address
- Peer requests content from server
- Peers connect directly
- Central point-of-failure

(For example: Napster … central directory was shut down)
Peer-to-Peer: Structured (Hierarchical)

- Super-peers and peers

Peer-to-Peer: Structured (DHT)

- Distributed Hash Table
- (key, value) pairs
- key based on hash
- Query with key
- Insert with (key, value)
- Peer indexes key range

Peer-to-Peer: Structured (DHT)

- Circular DHT:
  - Only aware of neighbours
  - O(n) lookups
- Implement shortcuts
  - Skips ahead
  - Enables binary-search-like behaviour
  - O(log(n)) lookups

Peer-to-Peer: Structured (DHT)

- Handle peers leaving (churn)
  - Keep n successors
- New peers
  - Fill gaps
  - Replicate

Comparison of P2P Systems

For Peer-to-Peer, what are the benefits of (1) central directory vs. (2) unstructured, vs. (3) structured?

1) Central Directory
   - Search follows directory (1 lookup)
   - Connections → 1
   - Central point of failure
   - Peers control their data
   - No neighbours

2) Unstructured
   - Search requires flooding (n lookups)
   - Connections → n²
   - No central point of failure
   - Peers control their data
   - Peers control neighbours

3) Structured
   - Search follows structure (log(n) lookups)
   - Connections → O(log(n))
   - No central point of failure
   - Peers assigned data
   - Peers assigned neighbours

P2P vs. Client–Server

What are the benefits of Peer-to-Peer vs. Client–Server?

Client–Server
   - Data lost in failure/deletes
   - Search easier/faster
   - Network often faster (to websites on backbones)
   - Often central host
     - Data centralised
     - Remote hosts control data
     - Bandwidth centralised
     - Dictatorial
     - Can be taken off-line

Peer-to-Peer
   - May lose rare data (churn)
   - Search difficult (churn)
   - Network often slower (to conventional users)
   - Multiple hosts
     - Data decentralised
     - Users (often) control data
     - Bandwidth decentralised
     - Democratic
     - Difficult to take off-line
DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS:
HYBRID EXAMPLE (BITTORRENT)

BitTorrent: Search Server

BitTorrent: Tracker

BitTorrent: File-Sharing

BitTorrent: Hybrid

Uploader
1. Creates torrent file
2. Uploads torrent file
3. Announces on tracker
4. Monitors for downloaders
5. Connects to downloaders
6. Sends file parts

Downloader
1. Searches torrent file
2. Downloads torrent file
3. Announces to tracker
4. Monitors for peers/seeds
5. Connects to peers/seeds
6. Sends & receives file parts
7. Watches illegal movie

Local / Client–Server / Structured P2P / Direct P2P
(Torrent Search Engines target of law-suits)

DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS:
IN THE REAL WORLD
Real-World Architectures: Hybrid

- Often hybrid!
  - Architectures herein are simplified/idealised
  - No clear black-and-white (just good software!)
  - For example, BitTorrent mixes different paradigms
  - But good to know the paradigms

Physical Location: Cluster Computing
- Machines (typically) in a central, local location; e.g., a local LAN in a server room

Physical Location: Cloud Computing
- Machines (typically) in a central, remote location; e.g., a server farm like Amazon EC2

Physical Location: Grid Computing
- Machines in diverse locations
**LIMITATIONS OF DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS: EIGHT FALLACIES**

1. **The network is reliable**
   - Machines fail, connections fail, firewall eats messages
   - flexible routing
   - retry messages
   - acknowledgements!

2. **Latency is zero**
   - There are significant communication delays
   - avoid “races”
   - local order ≠ remote order
   - acknowledgements
   - minimise remote calls
     - batch data!
   - avoid waiting
     - multiple-threads

**Eight Fallacies**

- By L. Peter Deutsch (1994)
  - James Gosling (1997)

“Essentially everyone, when they first build a distributed application, makes the following eight assumptions. All prove to be false in the long run and all cause big trouble and painful learning experiences.” — L. Peter Deutsch

- Each fallacy is a **false statement!**
3. Bandwidth is infinite
Limited in amount of data that can be transferred
• avoid resending data
• direct connections
• caching!!

4. The network is secure
Network is vulnerable to hackers, eavesdropping, viruses, etc.
• send sensitive data directly
• isolate hacked nodes
  — hack one node ≠ hack all nodes
• authenticate messages
• secure connections

5. Topology doesn’t change
How machines are physically connected may change ("churn")!
• avoid fixed routing
  — next-hop routing?
• abstract physical addresses
• flexible content structure

6. There is one administrator
Different machines have different policies!
• Beware of firewalls!
• Don’t assume most recent version
  — Backwards compat.

7. Transport cost is zero
It costs time/money to transport data: not just bandwidth
(Again)
• minimise redundant data transfer
  — avoid shuffling data
  — caching
• direct connection
• compression?

8. The network is homogeneous
Devices and connections are not uniform
• interoperability!
  — Java vs. .NET?
• route for speed
  — not hops
• load-balancing
Eight Fallacies (to avoid)

1. The network is reliable
2. Latency is zero
3. Bandwidth is infinite
4. The network is secure
5. Topology doesn’t change
6. There is one administrator
7. Transport cost is zero
8. The network is homogeneous

Severity of fallacies vary in different scenarios!
Which fallacies apply/do not apply for:
• Gigabit ethernet LAN?
• BitTorrent
• The Web

LABS REVIEW/PREP

Why did it work in memory?
We processed a lot of data. Why did it work in memory?
• Not so many unique words ...
  – but lots of new proper nouns
  – Heap’s law:
  – \( U(n) = Kn^\beta \)
  – English text
    • \( K \approx 10 \)
    • \( \beta \approx 0.6 \)

What if it doesn’t work in memory?
How could we implement a word-count (or a bi-gram count) using the hard disk for storage?

Most generic method: use sorting

External Merge-Sort 1: Batch
• Sort in batches

How can we use the disk to sort?
**External Merge-Sort 2: Merge**

Sorted output
(Output size: n)

In-memory sort

Input batches on-disk
([n/b] batches)

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### Counting bigrams is then easy?

Could use merge-sort again to order by occurrence!

```
bigram6, 1
bigram42, 4
bigram42, 4
bigram42, 4
bigram42, 4
bigram121, 1
bigram123, 3
bigram123, 3
bigram149, 1
bigram732, 1
bigram1294, 1
```

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### Does external merge-sorting scale?

**Any problem with external merge-sorting as we scale really high?**

- If you have too many batches to read simultaneously, disk will go nuts

**Any solution(s)?**

- Use lots of main-memory to reduce batch count
- Only merge k at a time

If we have n batches and merge them k at a time, how many passes will we need?

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### RECAP

**Topics Covered**

- **What is a (good) Distributed System?**
- **Client–Server model**
  - Fat/thin client
  - Mirror/proxy servers
  - Three-tier
- **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) model**
  - Central directory
  - Unstructured
  - Structured (Hierarchical/DHT)
  - BitTorrent

- **Physical locations:**
  - Cluster (local, centralised) vs.
  - Cloud (remote, centralised) vs.
  - Grid (remote, decentralised)

- **8 fallacies**
  - Network isn’t reliable
  - Latency is not zero
  - Bandwidth not infinite,
  - etc.
Topics Covered

- External Merge Sorting
  - Split data into batches
  - Sort batches in memory
  - Write batches to disk
  - Merge sorted batches into final output