

Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design and Concurrency

Distributed System Design, Part 2

15-214 toad

Fall 2013

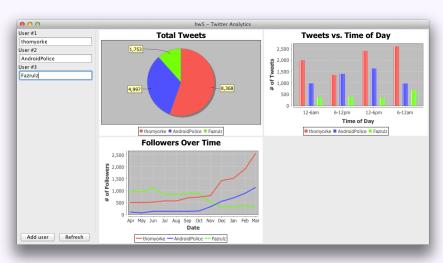
Jonathan Aldrich

Charlie Garrod



Administrivia

- Homework 5: The Framework Strikes Back
 - 5b implementations due tonight
 - 5c plug-ins due next Tuesday, 11:59 p.m.



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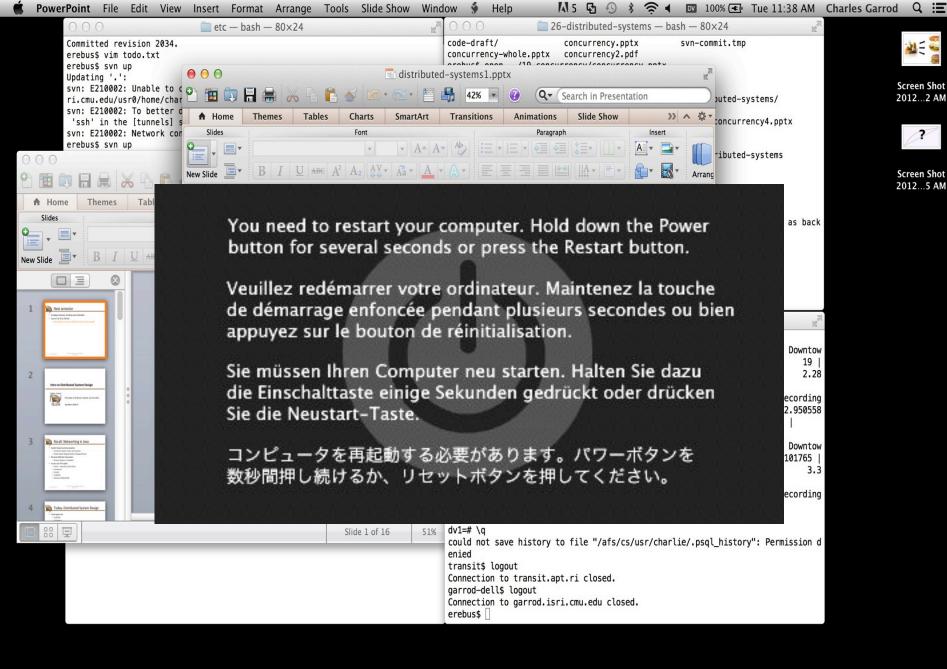
Key topics from last Thursday

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Higher levels of abstraction

- Application-level communication protocols
- Frameworks for simple distributed computation
 - Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
 - Java Remote Method Invocation (RMI)
- Common patterns of distributed system design
- Complex computational frameworks
 - e.g., distributed map-reduce

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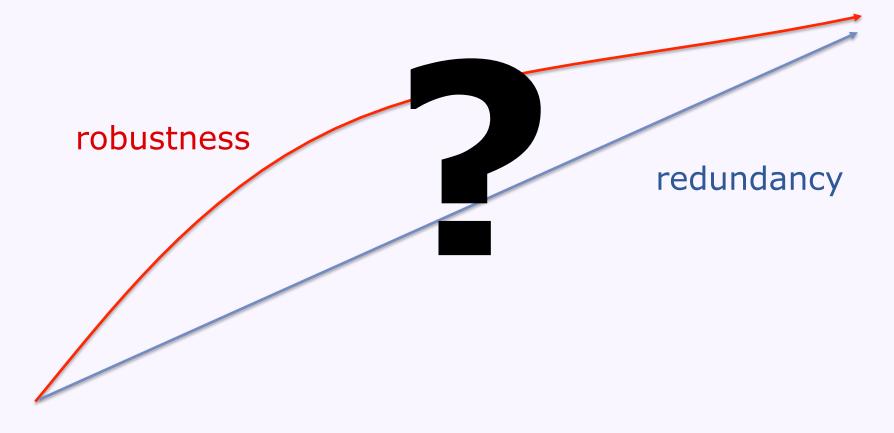


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Aside: The robustness vs. redundancy curve



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Today

- Introduction to distributed systems
 - Motivation: reliability and scalability
 - Failure models
- Techniques for reliability and scalability
 - Replication
 - Partitioning

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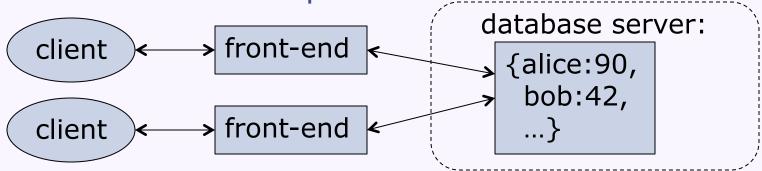
Metrics of success

- Reliability
 - Often in terms of availability: fraction of time system is working
 - 99.999% available is "5 nines of availability"
- Scalability
 - Ability to handle workload growth

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A case study: Passive primary-backup replication

Architecture before replication:

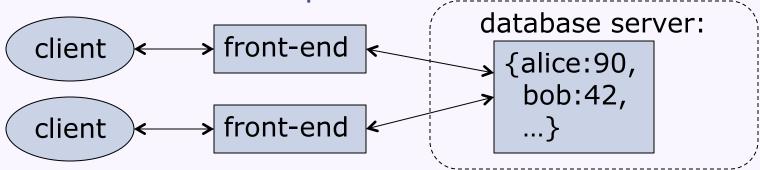


Problem: Database server might fail

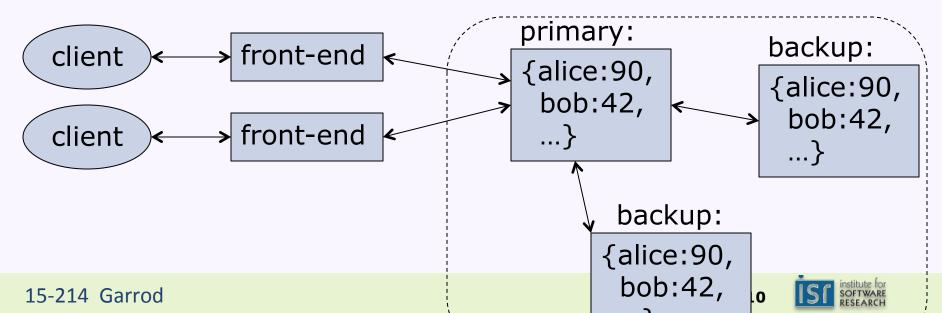
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A case study: Passive primary-backup replication

Architecture before replication:



- Problem: Database server might fail
- Solution: Replicate data onto multiple servers



Passive primary-backup replication protocol

- 1. Front-end issues request with unique ID to primary DB
- 2. Primary checks request ID
 - If already executed request, re-send response and exit protocol
- 3. Primary executes request and stores response
- 4. If request is an update, primary DB sends updated state, ID, and response to all backups
 - Each backup sends an acknowledgement
- 5. After receiving all acknowledgements, primary DB sends response to front-end



Issues with passive primary-backup replication

- If primary DB crashes, front-ends need to agree upon which unique backup is new primary DB
 - Primary failure vs. network failure?
- If backup DB becomes new primary, surviving replicas must agree on current DB state
- If backup DB crashes, primary must detect failure to remove the backup from the cluster
 - Backup failure vs. network failure?
- If replica fails* and recovers, it must detect that it previously failed
- Many subtle issues with partial failures

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More issues...

- Concurrency problems?
 - Out of order message delivery?
 - Time...
- Performance problems?
 - 2n messages for n replicas
 - Failure of any replica can delay response
 - Routine network problems can delay response
- Scalability problems?
 - All replicas are written for each update, but primary DB responds to every request



Types of failure behaviors

- Fail-stop
- Other halting failures
- Communication failures
 - Send/receive omissions
 - Network partitions
 - Message corruption
- Performance failures
 - High packet loss rate
 - Low throughput
 - High latency
- Data corruption
- Byzantine failures



Common assumptions about failures

- Behavior of others is fail-stop (ugh)
- Network is reliable (ugh)
- Network is semi-reliable but asynchronous
- Network is lossy but messages are not corrupt
- Network failures are transitive
- Failures are independent
- Local data is not corrupt
- Failures are reliably detectable
- Failures are unreliably detectable



Some distributed system design goals

- The end-to-end principle
 - When possible, implement functionality at the end nodes (rather than the middle nodes) of a distributed system
- The robustness principle
 - Be strict in what you send, but be liberal in what you accept from others
 - Protocols
 - Failure behaviors
- Benefit from incremental changes
- Be redundant
 - Data replication
 - Checks for correctness



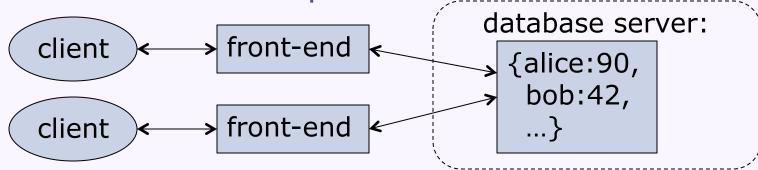
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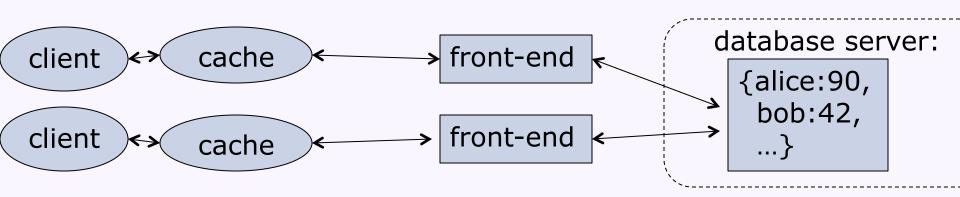
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Replication for scalability: Client-side caching

Architecture before replication:



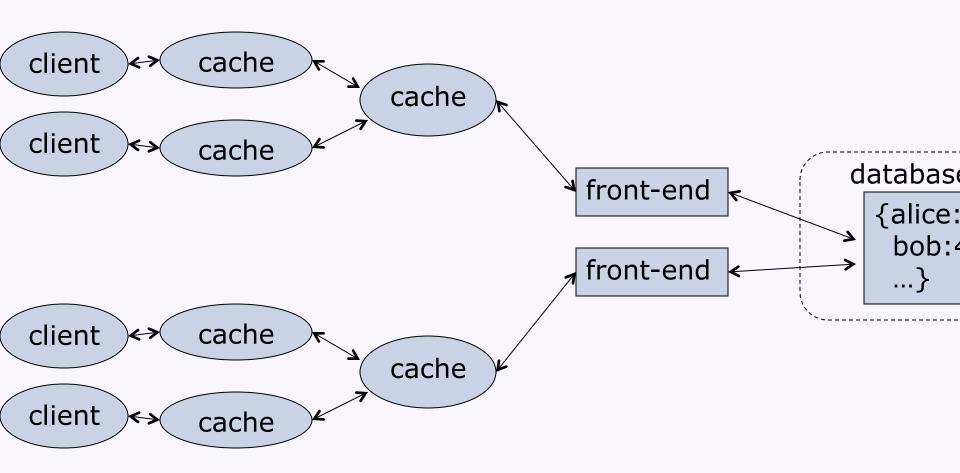
- Problem: Server throughput is too low
- Solution: Cache responses at (or near) the client
 - Cache can respond to repeated read requests





Replication for scalability: Client-side caching

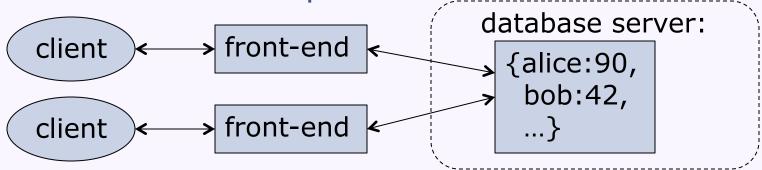
Hierarchical client-side caches:



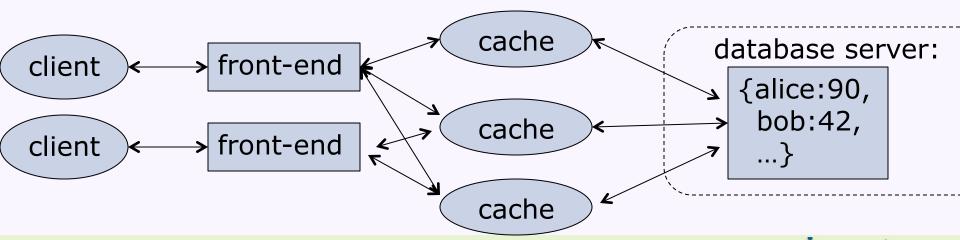


Replication for scalability: Server-side caching

Architecture before replication:



- Problem: Database server throughput is too low
- Solution: Cache responses on multiple servers
 - Cache can respond to repeated read requests



Cache invalidation

- Time-based invalidation (a.k.a. expiration)
 - Read-any, write-one
 - Old cache entries automatically discarded
 - No expiration date needed for read-only data
- Update-based invalidation
 - Read-any, write-all
 - DB server broadcasts invalidation message to all caches when the DB is updated

 What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?



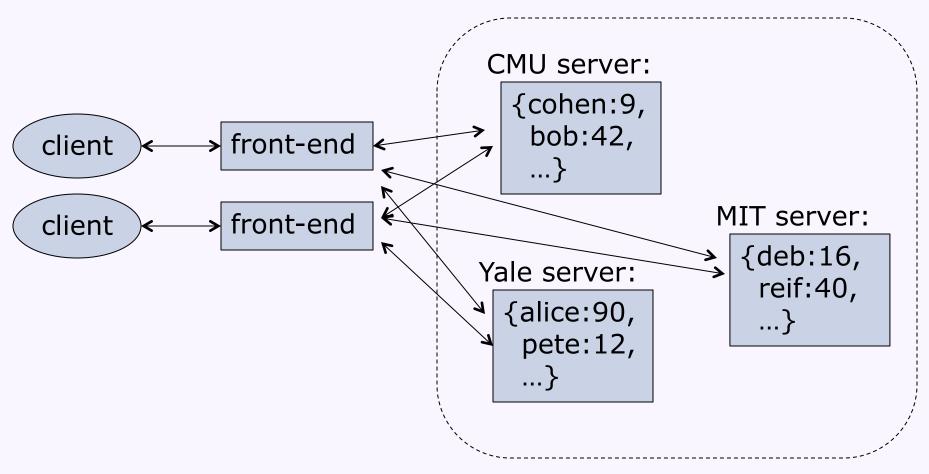
Cache replacement policies

- Problem: caches have finite size
- Common* replacement policies
 - Optimal (Belady's) policy
 - Discard item not needed for longest time in future
 - Least Recently Used (LRU)
 - Track time of previous access, discard item accessed least recently
 - Least Frequently Used (LFU)
 - Count # times item is accessed, discard item accessed least frequently
 - Random
 - Discard a random item from the cache



Partitioning for scalability

 Partition data based on some property, put each partition on a different server





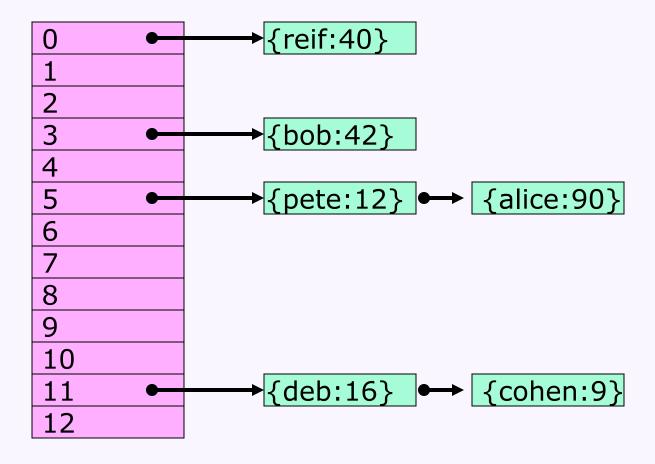
Horizontal partitioning

- a.k.a. "sharding"
- A table of data:

username	school	value
cohen	CMU	9
bob	CMU	42
alice	Yale	90
pete	Yale	12
deb	MIT	16
reif	MIT	40

Recall: Basic hash tables

 For n-size hash table, put each item x in the bucket: X.hashCode() % n

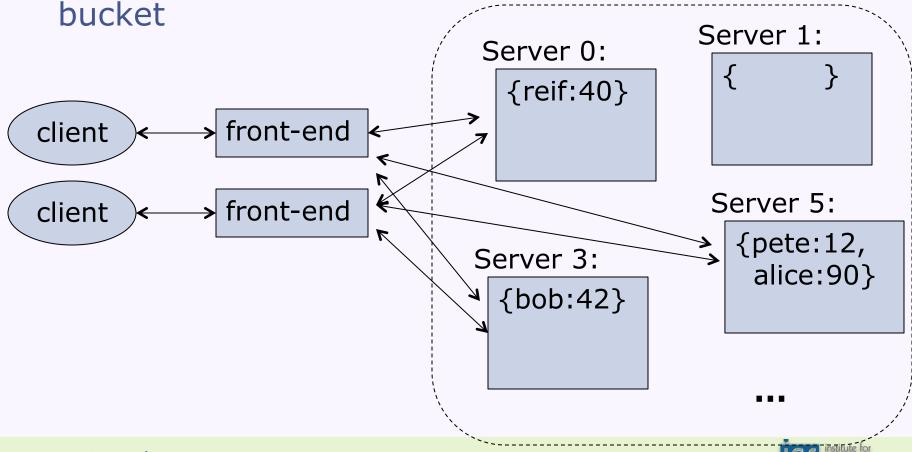




Partitioning with a distributed hash table

Each server stores data for one bucket

 To store or retrieve an item, front-end server hashes the key, contacts the server storing that



Consistent hashing

- Goal: Benefit from incremental changes
 - Resizing the hash table (i.e., adding or removing a server) should not require moving many objects
- E.g., Interpret the range of hash codes as a ring
 - Each bucket stores data for a range of the ring
 - Assign each bucket an ID in the range of hash codes
 - To store item x don't compute x.hashCode() % n. Instead, place x in bucket with the same ID as or next higher ID than x.hashCode()

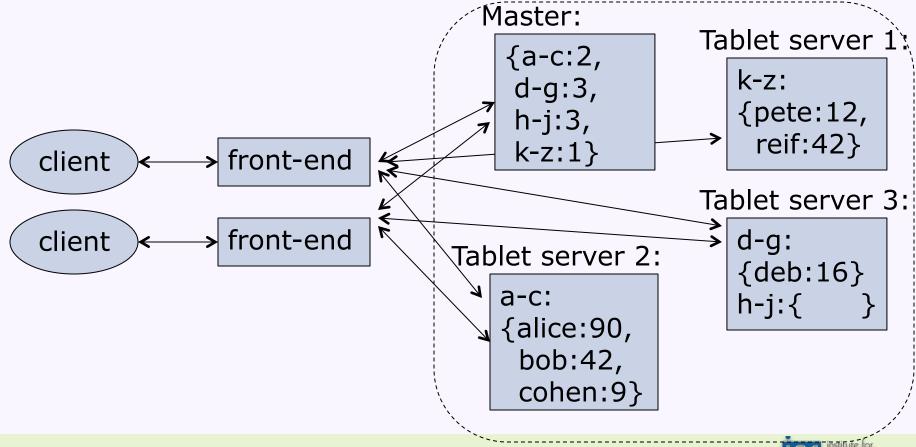


Problems with hash-based partitioning

- Front-ends need to determine server for each bucket
 - Each front-end stores look-up table?
 - Master server storing look-up table?
 - Routing-based approaches?
- Places related content on different servers
 - Consider range queries: SELECT * FROM users WHERE lastname STARTSWITH

Master/tablet-based systems

- Dynamically allocate range-based partitions
 - Master server maintains tablet-to-server assignments
 - Tablet servers store actual data
 - Front-ends cache tablet-to-server assignments



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Combining approaches

- Many of these approaches are orthogonal
- E.g., For master/tablet systems:
 - Masters are often partitioned and replicated
 - Tablets are replicated
 - Meta-data frequently cached
 - Whole master/tablet system can be replicated



Next time

• Map-reduce

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