Week 8: Distributed Transactions

Part 4: Deadlock
Deadlock

Four conditions for deadlock

1. Mutual exclusion
   Transactions get exclusive locks on resources

2. Hold and wait
   A lock isn’t released but we wait for another

3. Non-preemption
   A transaction cannot access a resource another locked

4. Circular wait
   There’s a circular dependency of transactions waiting on locked resources
Resource $R_1$ is allocated to process $P_1$.

Resource $R_1$ is requested by process $P_2$.

This is called a Wait-For Graph (WFG).

Deadlock is present when the graph has cycles.
Circular dependency among four processes and four resources leads to deadlock
Dealing with deadlock

Same conditions for distributed systems as centralized
Harder to detect, avoid, prevent

**Strategies**

1. **Ignore**
   Do nothing. So easy & so tempting.

2. **Detect**
   Allow the deadlock to occur, detect it, and then deal with it by aborting and restarting a transaction that causes deadlock.

3. **Prevent**
   Make deadlock impossible by granting requests such that one of the conditions necessary for deadlock does not hold.

4. **Avoid**
   Choose resource allocation so deadlock does not occur.
   *But the algorithm needs to know what resources will be used and when*
   → **not feasible in most cases**
Deadlock detection

• Kill off a task when deadlock is detected
  – That breaks the circular dependency

• It might not feel good to kill a process
  – But transactions are designed to be abortable

• So just abort a transaction
  – Data is restored to state before transaction began
  – Transaction can restart at a later time
  – Resource allocation in the system may be different then so the transaction may succeed
Centralized deadlock detection

• Imitate the non-distributed algorithm through a coordinator

• Each system maintains a **Wait-For Graph** for its processes and resources

• A **central coordinator** maintains the combined graph for the entire system: the **Global Wait-For Graph**
  - A message is sent to the coordinator each time an edge (resource hold/request) is added or deleted
  - List of adds/deletes can be sent periodically
Centralized deadlock detection

Local Wait-For Graph on A

P₀

P₁

R

S

Local Wait-For Graph on B

P₂

P₀

P₁

R

T

Global Wait-For Graph

S

P₂

S

T

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Two events occur:
1. Process $P_2$ releases resource $T$ on system $B$
2. Process $P_1$ asks system $B$ for resource $T$

Two messages are sent to the coordinator:
Message 1 (from B): $P_2$ releases $T$
Message 2 (from A): $P_1$ waits for $T$

If message 2 arrives first, the coordinator constructs a graph that has a cycle and hence detects a deadlock

This is **phantom deadlock**

A phantom deadlock is known as a false deadlock
Example: No Phantom Deadlock

No deadlock

Message 1 from B: release(T)

Message 2 from A: wait_for(T)

All good: no deadlock detected!
Phantom Deadlock Example

No deadlock

DEADLOCK detected!

It really wasn’t deadlock since P₂ released T

Too Late!

We detected deadlock because the coordinator received the messages out of order
Avoiding Phantom Deadlock

Impose globally consistent (total) ordering on all processes

or

Have coordinator reliably ask each process whether it has any release messages
Distributed deadlock detection

• Processes can request multiple resources at once
  – Consequence: process may wait on multiple resources

• Some processes wait for local resources

• Some processes wait for resources on other machines

• Algorithm invoked when a process has to wait for a resource
Distributed detection algorithm

Chandy-Misra-Haas algorithm

Edge Chasing

When requesting a resource, generate a probe message
- Send to all process(es) currently holding the needed resource
- Message contains three process IDs: \{ blocked\_ID, my\_ID, holder\_ID \}

1. Process that originated the message (blocked\_ID)
2. Process sending (or forwarding) the message (my\_ID)
3. Process to whom the message is being sent (holder\_ID)
Chandy-Misra-Haas algorithm

If a process receives a probe message:

• Check to see if it is waiting for any resources held by other processes

• For each process holding a resource it is waiting for:
  – Update & forward a probe message: \{\text{blocked\_ID, my\_ID, holder\_ID}\}
    • Replace \text{my\_ID} field by its own process ID
    • Replace \text{holder\_ID} field by the ID of the process it is waiting for
    • Send messages to each process on which it is blocked

If a message goes all the way around and comes back to the original sender, a cycle exists

⇒ \text{We have deadlock}
Chandy-Misra-Haas algorithm – edge chasing

- Process 0 needs a resource process 1 is holding
- That means process 0 will block on process 1
  - Send initial message from P0 to P1: (0,0,1)
  - P1 sends (0, 1, 2) to P2 ; P2 sends (0, 2, 3) to P3
- Message (0,8,0) returns back to sender
  ⇒ Cycle exists: we will have deadlock if P₀ blocks on the resource
Distributed deadlock prevention

Design the system so that deadlocks are structurally impossible

Disallow at least one of the four conditions for deadlock:

**Mutual exclusion**
- Allow a resource to be held (used) by more than one process at a time
- **Not practical** if an object gets modified.
- This can violate the ACID properties of a transaction

**Non-preemption**
- Essentially gives up mutual exclusion
- This can also violate the ACID properties
- We can use optimistic concurrency control algorithms and check for conflicts at commit time and roll back if needed

**Hold and wait**
- Implies that a process gets all its resources at once
- Not practical to disallow this – we don’t know what resources a process will use

**Circular wait**
- Ensure that a cycle of waiting on resources does not occur
Distributed deadlock prevention

Deny circular wait

• Assign a unique timestamp to each transaction

• Ensure that the *Global Wait-For Graph* can only proceed from young to old or from old to young
Deadlock prevention: timestamp ordering

When a process is about to block waiting for a resource used by another, check to see which has a larger timestamp (which is older)

- Allow the wait only if the waiting process has a lower (older) timestamp than the process waited for
- Timestamps in a resource allocation graph always must increase, so cycles are impossible.
- Alternatively: allow processes to wait only if the waiting process has a higher (younger) timestamp than the process waiting for.
Wait-die algorithm

- Old process wants resource held by a younger process
  - Old process waits

- Young process wants resource held by older process
  - Young process kills itself

Only permit older processes to wait on resources held by younger processes.
Wound-wait algorithm

- Kill the resource owner if needed
- Old process wants resource held by a younger process
  - Old process kills the younger process
- Young process wants resource held by older process
  - Young process waits

Only permit younger processes to wait on resources held by older processes.
The End