Strong and Efficient Consistency with Consistency-Aware Durability

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Distributed Storage Systems



What does a read see given a previous set of reads and writes?

What does a read see given a previous set of reads and writes?

strong • linearizability

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Well studied and understood!

Unlike consistency models, scant attention to durability model!

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How writes are replicated and persisted

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Durability model influences consistency

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Also determines performance

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How writes are replicated and persisted

Durability model influences consistency

Also determines performance

Despite this importance, often overlooked!











Immediate durability



Immediate durability





Immediate durability replicate client persist write ack node-l node-2 node-3 enables strong consistency but too slow!



Immediate durability replicate client persist write ack node-l node-3 node-l node-2 enables strong consistency but too slow!



Is it possible for a durability layer to enable *both* strong consistency and high performance?

Design the durability layer by taking the consistency model into account

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Intuition: what a read sees is important for most consistency models

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We show efficacy of CAD by providing cross-client monotonic reads a new and strong consistency property

Results



ORCA: CAD and cross-client monotonic reads for leader-based systems implemented in ZooKeeper

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Compared to strongly consistent ZooKeeper ORCA is 1.6 – 3.3x faster by using CAD higher read throughput by allowing reads at many nodes reduces latency in geo-distributed settings by 14x
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Experimentally show ORCA's guarantees under failures, useful for apps

Outline

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CAD and cross-client monotonic reads

ORCA design

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Summary and conclusion







Example: I'm bored at FAST and want to go home!

Linearizability



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latest data: no staleness

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in-order reads across clients

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stale reads out-of-order reads across clients

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stale reads out-of-order reads across clients even with monotonic reads and causal

Linearizability requires immediate durability must synchronously replicate and persist data on a majority to tolerate failures

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Poor performance due to synchronous operations 10x slower within data center

Weaker models only require eventual durability



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data buffered on one node, replication and persistence in background



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data buffered on one node, replication and persistence in background



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Many deployments prefer eventual durability for performance in fact, it is the default (e.g., MongoDB, Redis)

Weaker models only require eventual durability data buffered on one node, replication and persistence in background

 $S \mid a_0$ an out-of-order across read A clients ack **S2 a**₀ **S2 a**₀ арр арр valid under causal and read A session-2 session- \mathbf{a}_0 **S3** a₀ **S**3 $\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{0}}$ monotonic reads but confusing semantics $\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{I}}$

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Thus settle for weak consistency

Weaker models only require eventual durability data buffered on one node, replication and persistence in background

Immediate durability enables strong consistency but is slow Eventual durability is fast but enables only weaker consistency

Second and

comusing semancie

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delay durability of writes	make data durable before serving reads
write client	
SI * sz S3	
good performance	

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make data durable before serving reads



CAD does not always incur overheads on reads reads do not immediately follow writes – natural in many workloads common case: data already durable well before applications access it





A read from a client guaranteed to return at least the latest state returned to a previous read from any client



Even in the presence of failures and across client sessions

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Does not prevent staleness like many weaker models

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Does not prevent staleness like many weaker models However, avoids out-of-order data, useful in many app scenarios e.g., location-sharing, twitter timelines

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Implementation of consistency-aware durability and cross-client monotonic reads in leader-based majority systems



Implementation of consistency-aware durability and cross-client monotonic reads in leader-based majority systems

Leader-based systems (e.g., MongoDB, ZooKeeper)

- leader a dedicated node
- others are followers
- writes flow through leader, establishes a single order



Implementation of consistency-aware durability and cross-client monotonic reads in leader-based majority systems

Leader-based systems (e.g., MongoDB, ZooKeeper)

leader – a dedicated node others are followers

writes flow through leader, establishes a single order

Majority

data is safe when persisted on majority nodes (e.g., 3 out of 5 servers)
Same as an eventually durable system





Same as an eventually durable system





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immediately acknowledge writes \rightarrow high performance



Same as an eventually durable system



immediately acknowledge writes → high performance

replication and persistence in background



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Durable-index – index of the latest durable item in the system





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durable-index: I a's update-index: I a is durable





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durable-index: I a's update-index: I a is durable serve read immediately durable-index: I b's update-index: 2 b is not durable





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a

b

leader – SI









Durable-index – index of the latest durable item in the system Update-index of item *i* – index of the last update that modified *i* Durability check – *i* durable if update-index of *i* ≤ durable-index of system

durable-index: a's update-index: I a is durable serve read immediately

a

b

durable-index: b's update-index: 2 b is not durable make b durable before serving



leader – SI **S2** a **S**3 -2d b read a



a majority

If reads restricted to leader, CAD provides cross-client monotonic reads

If reads restricted to leader, CAD provides cross-client monotonic reads not scalable

- If reads restricted to leader, CAD provides cross-client monotonic reads not scalable
- Allow reads at followers
 - lagging followers could cause out-of-order states, CAD is not sufficient

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Additional mechanisms: Active sets (lease-based mechanism), not in this talk...

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Implemented in ZooKeeper

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Evaluate different durability models in isolation compare CAD against immediate and eventual durability

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Evaluate different durability models in isolation compare CAD against immediate and eventual durability Evaluate overall system performance

ORCA against strong and weakly consistent ZooKeeper

Write Latency Distribution



Write Latency Distribution



Write Latency Distribution



CAD writes faster than immediate durability CAD matches performance of eventual

YCSB-A: 50% W, 50% R



YCSB-A: 50% W, 50% R



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CAD performs similar to eventual and is faster than immediate

Strong-ZK – uses immediate durability, reads only at leader Weak-ZK – uses eventual durability, reads at many nodes ORCA – uses CAD, reads at many nodes

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ORCA adds little overheads compared to weak-ZK

reads that access non-durable data

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More experiments in the paper...

Evaluation

correctness testing using a cluster crash-testing framework geo-replicated setting micro-benchmarks

Application case studies

- location-tracking
- social-media timeline

Surprisingly, durability models are overlooked

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