UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT MODEL FOR MOBILE DATABASES

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TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT MODEL FOR MOBILE DATABASES

By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

November 2006
DEDICATION

To the memory of my Grandmother,

To my parents: Dr. Tariq Al-Khalieh and Dr. Nabiha Al-Sammerai

To my Wife: Amna and my Daughter: Nudie

To my sister: Nada

Ziyad
Transaction support is crucial in mobile data management. Specific characteristics of mobile environments (e.g. variable bandwidth, disconnections, and limited resources on mobile hosts) make traditional transaction management techniques no longer appropriate. This is due the fact that the Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability (ACID) properties of transactions are not simply followed, in particular the consistency property. Thus, transaction management models adopting weaker form of consistency are needed and these models can now tolerate a limited amount of consistency. As a result, several transaction management models for mobile databases have been proposed, each of which has attempted to overcome some issues pertaining to transaction processing in mobile environment. However, issues such as

(a) only one mobile host (MH) is allowed to update the data item

(b) large number of rejected transactions
(c) commit time execution of transactions at mobile host (MH) is large are not well handled.

The proposed the model with the aims at solving the stated issues. The main idea underlying the model is that transaction execution can be done at the base station (BS) and mobile host (MHs). Transactions at a MH can update data locally and then pre-commit. When the MH connects to the BS, these pre-committed transactions are sent to the BS and re-executed as base transactions (BT) to maintain data consistency at the BS. BTs are serialized on the master data stored at the BS. This will results in data consistency.

The availability of data item at MHs makes the execution of transaction at MHs possible. Each MH is allocated some value $\delta_i$ of data item, and the rest of it is kept at the base server. By having the own this resource, a transaction at a MH is allowed to update the data item within the limit of $\delta_i$. The model has been implemented and the result has shown that the model works correctly as expected.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PENGURUSAN TRANSAKSI UNTUK PANGALAN DATA BERGERAK

Oleh

ZIYAD TARIQ ABDUL-MEHDI ALKHINALIE

November 2006

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya. Ali Mamat, PhD

Fakulti: Fakulti Sains Komputer dan Teknologi Maklumat

Sokongan transaksi adalah penting dalam pengurusan data bergerak (mobile). Ciri-ciri khusus bagi persekitaran bergerak (contohnya lebarjalur berubah, pemutusan, dan kekurangan sumber pada hos bergerak) menjadikan teknik pengurusan transaksi tradisional tidak lagi sesuai. Ini adalah disebabkan sifat-sifat Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability ACID bagi transaksi tidak mudah diikuti, khususnya sifat konsisten. Oleh yang demikian, model pengurusan transaksi yang mengambil bentuk lemah konsisten diperlukan dan model-model ini boleh bertoleransi dengan konsisten dalam nilai yang terhad. Justeru itu, beberapa model-model pengurusan transaksi untuk pangkalan data bergerak telah dicadangkan, setiap satunya mempunyai percubaan untuk mengatasi beberapa isu berkenaan pemprosesan transaksi dalam persekitaran bergerak. Bagaimana pun, isu-isu seperti
a. hanya satu hos bergerak (MH) dibenarkan untuk mengemaskini objek data
b. bilangan transaksi yang ditolak adalah besar
c. masa akur (commit) bagi transaksi di hos bergerak adalah besar
tidak ditangani dengan begitu baik.

Kami telah mencadangkan model dengan tujuan mengatasi isu-isu yang dinyatakan. Idea utama yang mendasari model ini adalah pelaksanaan transaksi boleh dilakukan pada stesyen asas (BS) dan hos mobil (MH). Transaksi pada MH boleh mengemaskini data setempat dan kemudian pre-commit. Bila MH dihubungkan dengan BS, transaksi pre-commit dihantar ke BS dan dilaksanakan sekali lagi sebagai transaksi asas (BT). BT disirikan (untuk dilaksanakan) ke atas data induk yang disimpan di BS. Ini akan menyebabkan data konsisten. Kewujudan data item di MHs membuat perlaksanaan transaksi di MH terjadi. Setiap MH diperuntukkan suatu nilai $\delta_i$ bagi item data, dan nilai selebihnya akan disimpan di stesyen asas. Dengan adanya sumber ini, transaksi pada MH dibenarkan untuk mengemas kini item data dalam had $\delta_i$. Model ini telah dilaksanakan dan keputusan telah menunjukkan bahawa model ini berfungsi dengan betul seperti yang dijangkakan.
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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 28th November 2006 to conduct the final examination of Ziyad Tariq Abdul-Mehdi Al-Khinalie on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled "Transaction Management Model for Mobile Databases" in according with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree.

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Date: 08 MAR 2007
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

ZIYAD TARIQ ABDUL-MEHDI AL-KHINALIE
Date: 22-3-2007
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xvii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background                                      1
1.2 Data Replication                               2
1.3 Problem Statement                              5
1.4 Research Objectives                            10
1.5 Research Scope                                 10
1.6 Organization of the Thesis                     10

2 FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT AND MOBILE COMPUTING

2.1 Introduction                                   11
2.2 Mobile Computing Architecture                  12
2.3 Characteristics of Mobile Computing            14
2.3.1 Communication                               14
2.3.2 Mobility                                     15
2.3.3 Portability                                  15
2.3.4 Heterogeneity                                16
2.4 Mobile Transaction                             17
2.5 Mobile Transaction Context                     20
2.5.1 Architectural Context                        20
2.5.2 Execution models                             22
2.6 Limitations of traditional transaction models in mobile context  25
2.6.1 Commit protocols                             26
2.6.2 Concurrency control mechanisms               27
2.6.3 Logging                                      27
2.6.4 Replication                                  28
3 REVIEW OF TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT IN MOBILE DATABASES

3.1 Mobile Transaction Models
  3.1.1 Kangaroo
  3.1.2 Clustering
  3.1.3 Two-tier replication
  3.1.4 HiCoMo
  3.1.5 Pro-motion
  3.1.6 Prewrite
  3.1.7 IOT
  3.1.8 Planned Disconnection modes

3.2 Ensuring Isolation and Consistency properties for mobile transaction models
  3.2.1 Ensuring Consistency Property
  3.2.2 Ensuring Isolation Property
  3.2.3 Ensuring Atomicity Property
  3.2.4 Ensuring Durability Property

4 METHODOLOGY
  4.1 Introduction
  4.2 The Data Allocation Function
  4.3 Requirements for Implementing the Proposed Model
    4.3.1 System Requirement
    4.3.2 Base Station Software Requirements
    4.3.3 Mobile Host Software Requirements
    4.3.4 Socket Software Requirements

5 THE PROPOSED MODEL
  5.1 The System Model
  5.2 Data Allocation
  5.3 Transaction Execution at Base Station
  5.4 Transaction Execution at Mobile Host
  5.5 Examples Using the Proposed Model
  5.6 Examples for Generalizing the Proposed Model
  5.7 Proof of Correctness
  5.8 Comparison of Proposed Model with Others

6 IMPLEMENTATION
  6.1 Initial Connection
  6.2 Data Distribution and Disconnected
  6.3 Distribution of One Data Item to One Mobile Host
6.4 Reconnection of one Mobile Host to Base Station 122
6.5 Monitoring MHs Transaction Activity 131
6.6 Distribution of Multi Data Items to One Mobile Host 132
6.7 Reconnection of One Mobile Host with Multi Data Item to Base Station 135
6.8 Distribution of Multi Data Items to Two Mobile Hosts 145
6.9 Reconnection of Multi Mobile Hosts and Multi Data Items to Base Station 147

7 CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORKS
7.1 Conclusion 150
7.2 Contribution of Research 151
7.3 Further Work 152

REFERENCES 154
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR 161
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 162
LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Weakness of Transaction Model</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Characteristics of Mobile Environment and their Effect on Database Issues</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Main features of mobile transaction models</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Summary of Consistency Aspects</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Summary of Replication Issues</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Summary of Atomicity Property</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Summary of Durability Property</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Comparison of the Proposed Model with Others</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Main Features of Mobile Transaction Models Including the Proposed Model</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Weakness of Transaction Model</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Characteristics of Mobile Environment and their Effect on Database Issues</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Main features of mobile transaction models</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Summary of Consistency Aspects</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Summary of Replication Issues</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Summary of Atomicity Property</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Summary of Durability Property</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Comparison of the Proposed Model with Others</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Main Features of Mobile Transaction Models Including the Proposed Model</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure</td>
<td>Page</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 (a)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 (b)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.15 Pre-commit and request transaction processing at BS

5.16 (a) BS gain back the value of data item from $MH_3$

5.16 (b) Execution of request transaction after time out is expired

6.1 IP Address

6.2 Error interface

6.3 Data Distribution using the formula

6.4 Perform disconnect task

6.5 Reconnection of MH

6.6 Interface before make pre-commit transaction

6.7 Transaction log

6.8 Pre-commit transaction

6.9 Confirm of pre-commit transaction

6.10 Pre-commit action

6.11 Requesting for pre-commit and resources not enough

6.12 Not accept the pre-commit and blocked as request transaction

6.13 MH reconnects to BS to send request transaction

6.14 Gaining New Resources

6.15 Reconnection Action

6.16 Transaction logs

6.17 New data allocation

6.18 New data allocation show in base station

6.19 Confirmation for pre-commit transaction
6.20 No enough resources at mobile host
6.21 Base station show aborting transaction because no enough resources
6.22 Time out expired
6.23 Monitoring Mobile hosts Transaction Activity
6.24 MH check-out multi data item x, y and z
6.25 Distribution x, y and z using the function
6.26 Reconnection of MH for multi data item
6.27 Interface before making a pre-commit transaction for multi data item
6.28 Transaction log for multi data item
6.29 Pre-commit transaction for multi data item
6.30 Confirmation of pre-commit transaction for multi data item
6.31 Pre commit Action for multi data items
6.32 Requesting for pre-commit when resource not enough
6.33 The pre-commit transaction will be blocked if we don’t reconnect
6.34 MH reconnects to BS to inform and request transaction
6.35 Gaining new resources
6.36 Reconnection Action for multi data items
6.37 Transaction log for multi data items
6.38 Transaction log 2nd for multi data items
6.39 New data allocation for multi data items
6.40 Confirmation for pre-commit transaction for multi data items
6.41 Not enough resources at MH for data item z
6.42 BS showing aborting transaction because of not enough resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.43</td>
<td>Time out expired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>the latest list of data at BS as well as MH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>Interface for both MH1 and MH2 before making a pre-commit transaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.46</td>
<td>Transaction log (MH1 and MH2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.47</td>
<td>Confirmation of pre-commit transaction at MH1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.48</td>
<td>Pre commit Action of multi MH and multi data items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISR</td>
<td>One-copy Serializability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT</td>
<td>Base transactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS</td>
<td>Base station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBMS</td>
<td>Database Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Fixed host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MH</td>
<td>Mobile host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>Mobile transaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID</td>
<td>Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In recent years, several research articles regarding distributed databases were published. Among them were those by (Padmanabhan et al, 2006; Bottcher et al, 2006; Deris et al, 2004; Agrawal & El-Abbadi, 1996, 1990; Holliday et al, 2002; Berstein et al, 1987). The articles revealed that data replication management is one of the current issues in distributed database that has yet to be solved. It was on this basis that this study was initiated.

A mobile database system is one of the major recent developments in the database area, where it moves from centralization, which resulted in monolithic database towards more decentralization and autonomy of processing (Elmasri and Navathe, 2000). Many of commercial database systems such as Oracle8 and IBM DB2 propagator provide the required support for data distribution and inter-database communication (Ozsu and Valduriez, 1999). As new communication technologies are emerging, wireless and mobile computing concepts become reality and allow for even higher degrees of “distributed ness” and flexibility in mobile databases.
1.1 Background

In recent years, several research articles regarding distributed databases were published. Among them were those by (Padmanabhan et al, 2006; Bottcher et al, 2006; Deris et al, 2004; Agrawal & El-Abbadi, 1996, 1990; Holliday et al, 2002; Berstein et al, 1987). The articles revealed that data replication management is one of the current issues in distributed database that has yet to be solved. It was on this basis that this study was initiated.

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A mobile database system is a special multidatabase system on a mobile computing environment. It allows mobile hosts to access and manage data stored on several autonomous and heterogeneous local database systems located on different parts of the wired or wireless network. Transactions in a mobile database system may access data from several local databases at different nodes. Management of these transactions requires different approaches in mobile databases than in multidatabase. This is mainly due to the fact that a mobile host is not suitable to manage a global transaction by itself due to the nature of the mobile computing environment to be described. Usually this management is done by the mobile host's base station or by coordination of them.

Due to the nature of the mobile computing environments, transaction management has to be reevaluated for mobile databases. The transactions in mobile computing environments are usually long-living transactions, possibly covering one or more disconnected durations. Supporting disconnected operation (i.e. allowing a mobile host to update autonomously during disconnection) raises issues in consistency. Providing disconnected operation also requires some pre-caching of data that will be required for the necessary operations to be performed during disconnection.

In general, transactions in mobile databases require relaxed Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability (ACID) properties. There are several works on mobile transactions, each addressing some of the issues in mobile transaction management. We will explain some of them in chapter three.
With advances in mobile processing and distributed computing that occurred in the operating system arena, the database research community did considerable work to address the issues of data distribution, distributed transactions management, distributed query processing, and etc. (Connolly and Begg, 1999). One of the major issues in data distribution is replicated data management at mobile host (MH). Replication can improve data availability but a proper approach is needed to maintain data consistency.

1.2 Data Replication

Although data replication is not necessarily in mobile transaction management issue, it is at the heart of several works on mobile transactions models (Turker and Zini, 2003). The reason is that common approaches to increase MH autonomy are based on data replication or data caching.

Replication is the act or result of reproducing- in short, a copy. As such, any type of data processing object can be replicated. Note that the definition describes replication as the act of reproducing. Therefore replication is much more than simply the copying of any object; it must also address the management of the complete copying process (Buretta, 1997). Thus, data replication is much more than simply copying data between data stores. It encompasses the administration and monitoring of a service that guarantees data consistency across multiple disconnection hosts in a mobile environment.

In this evolving world of distributed databases, data replication plays an increasingly important role. It is a useful technique for distributed database system where an object