

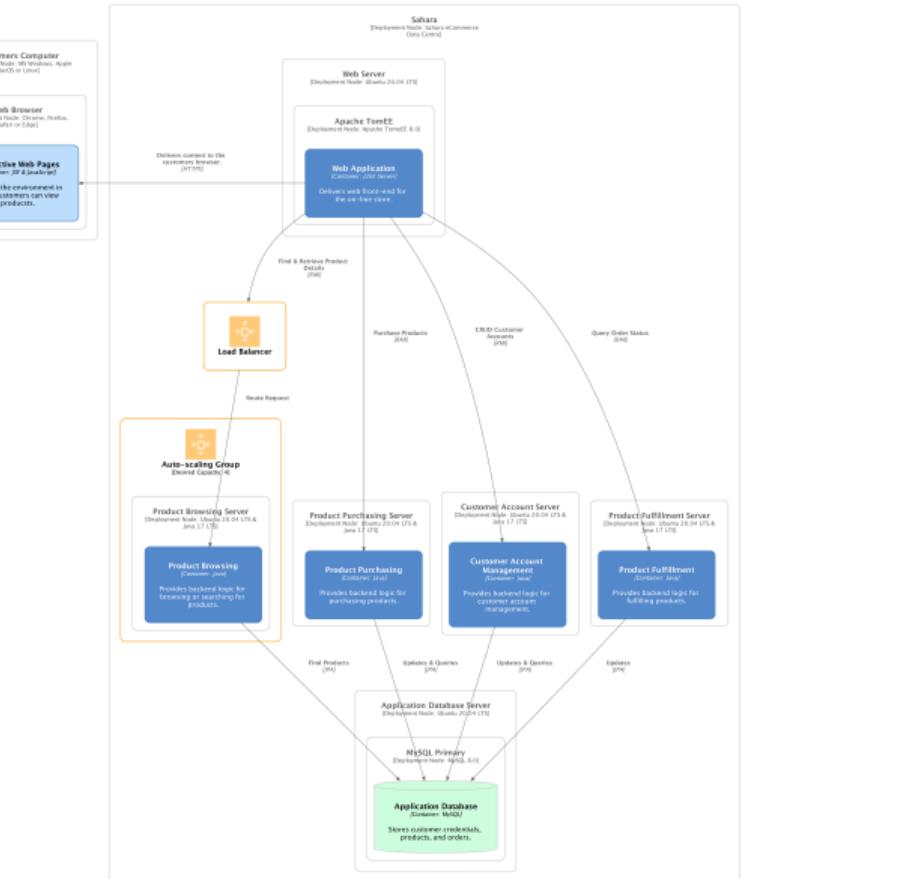
# Distributed Computing II

CSSE6400

Brae Webb

April 3, 2023

## Previously in CSSE6400...



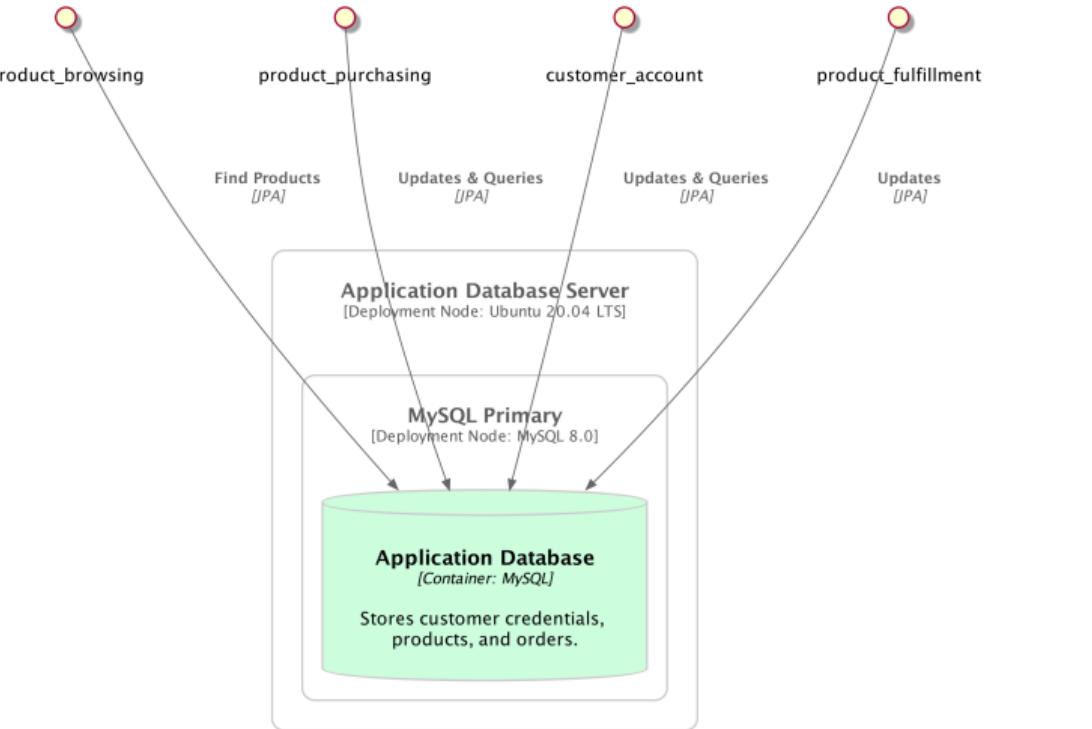
- We scaled a stateless service.
- It was stateless as it didn't require persistent data.
- This is normally easy to do.

Question

What is the *problem*?

The database

## Database



- The database has state, persistent data.
- This is much harder to scale.

Disclaimer

This is *not* a database course.

## Advanced Database Systems (INFS3200)

**Course level**

Undergraduate

**Faculty**

Engineering, Architecture &amp; Information Technology

**School**

Info Tech &amp; Elec Engineering

**Units**

2

**Duration**

One Semester

**Class contact**

2 Lecture hours, 1 Tutorial hour, 1 Practical or Laboratory hour

**Incompatible**

INF57907

**Prerequisite**

INFS2200

**Assessment methods****Current course offerings****Course offerings**   **Location**   **Mode**   **Course Profile**Semester 1, 2022 St Lucia Internal [COURSE PROFILE](#)Semester 1, 2022 External External [COURSE PROFILE](#)

Semester 2, 2022 External External PROFILE UNAVAILABLE

Semester 2, 2022 St Lucia Internal PROFILE UNAVAILABLE

Please Note: Course profiles marked as not available may still be in development.

**Course description**

Distributed database design, query and transaction processing, data integration, data warehousing, data cleansing, management of spatial data, and data from large scale distributed devices.

**Archived offerings****Course offerings**   **Location**   **Mode**   **Course Profile**Semester 1, 2021 St Lucia Flexible Delivery [COURSE PROFILE](#)Semester 1, 2021 External External [COURSE PROFILE](#)Semester 2, 2021 External External [COURSE PROFILE](#)Semester 2, 2021 St Lucia Internal [COURSE PROFILE](#)Semester 1, 2020 St Lucia Internal [COURSE PROFILE](#)

# This is a database course.

Question

How do we fix database scaling issues?

Question

How do we fix database scaling issues?

Answer

- Replication

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- Replication
- Partitioning

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- Replication
- Partitioning
- Independent databases

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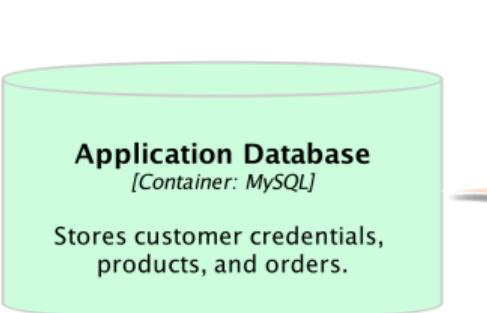
What is *replication*?

### Definition 1. Replication

Data copied across multiple different machines.



product_id	name	stock	price
1234	Nicholas Cage Reversible Pillow	10	\$10.00
4321	Lifelike Elephant Inflatable	5	\$50.00



product_id	name	stock	price
1234	Nicholas Cage Reversible Pillow	10	\$10.00
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## Definition 2. Replica

Database node which stores a copy of the data.

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What are the advantages of *replication*?

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- Provide *fault tolerance* from a single database instance failure.

Question

## What are the advantages of *replication*?

Answer

- Scale out our database to cope with *load*.
- Provide *fault tolerance* from a single database instance failure.
- Locate databases *closer to end-users*.
- Scalability
- Reliability
- Performance

Question

## How do we replicate our data?

- Easy without updates, just copy it.
- Updates, or writes, must propagate changes.

First approach

## Leader-follower Replication



- Leader-follower is the most common implementation.
- Multiple followers, only one leader.

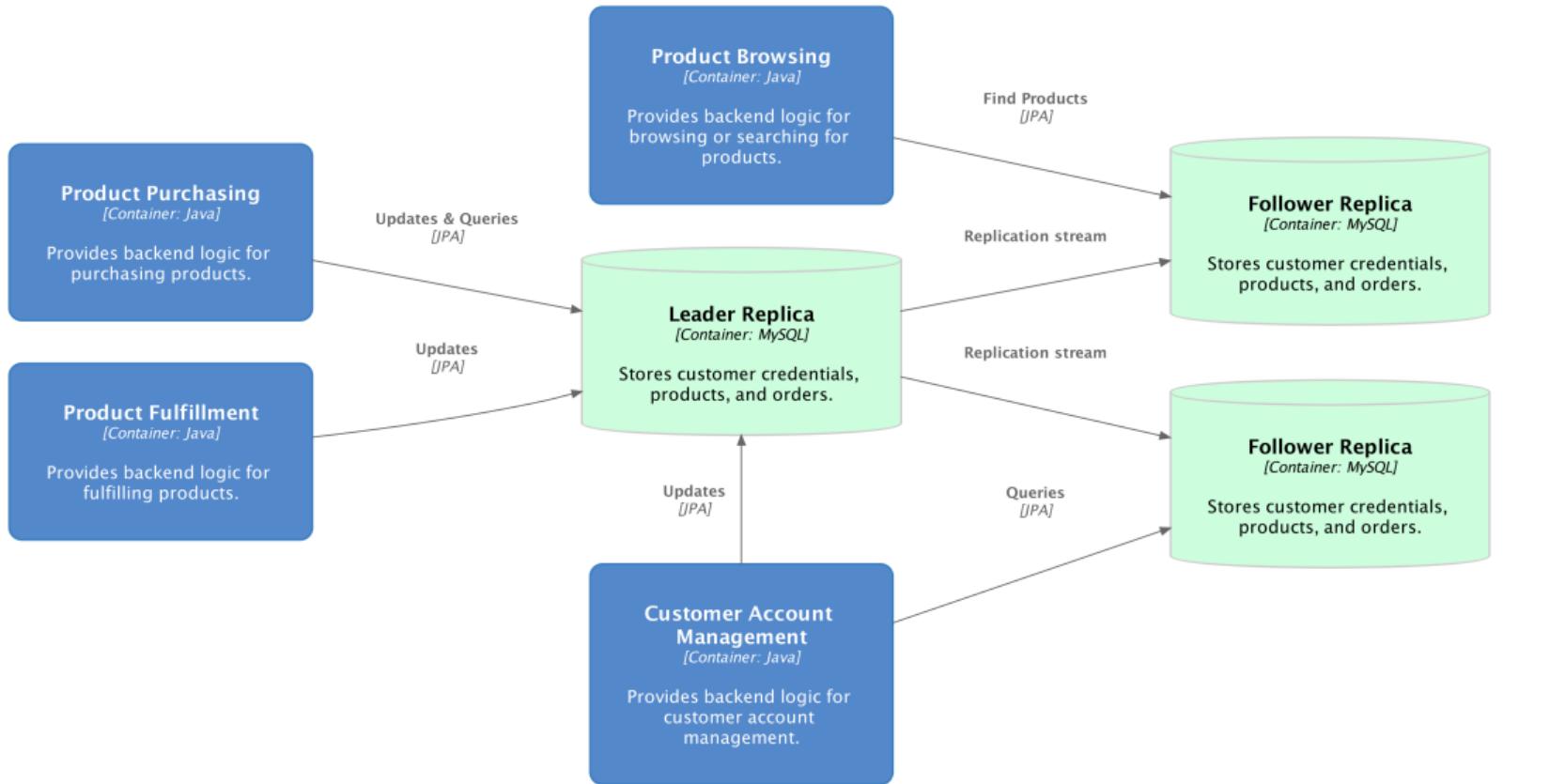
## Leader-based Replication

**On write** Writes sent to leader, change is propagated via change stream.

## Leader-based Replication

**On write** Writes sent to leader, change is propagated via change stream.

**On read** Any replica can be queried.



- Built-in to PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, RethinkDB, and Espresso.
- Can be added to Oracle and SQL Server.

Propogating changes

## *Synchronous vs. Asynchronous*







## Synchronous propagation

- Writes must propagate to *all followers* before being successful.

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- *Any* replica goes down, *all* replicas are un-writable.
- Writes must *wait* for propagation to all replicas.

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## Asynchronous propagation

- Writes *don't* have to *wait* for propagation.
- If the leader goes down before propagating, the *write is lost*.
- Replicas can have out-dated or *stale* data.

### Definition 3. Replication Lag

The time taken for replicas to update *stale* data.



The time it takes for the change to the name of the product to update across all followers



The purple part is replication lag

Eventually, all replicas must become consistent

The system is *eventually consistent*

- If writes stop for long enough
- Eventually is intentionally ambiguous

Eventual Consistency  
**Problems?**



**Brae Webb**  
[@braewebb](https://twitter.com/braewebb)



**Brae Webb**  
@braewebb

Name:

**Cancel**

**Save**



**Brae Webb**  
@braewebb

Name:

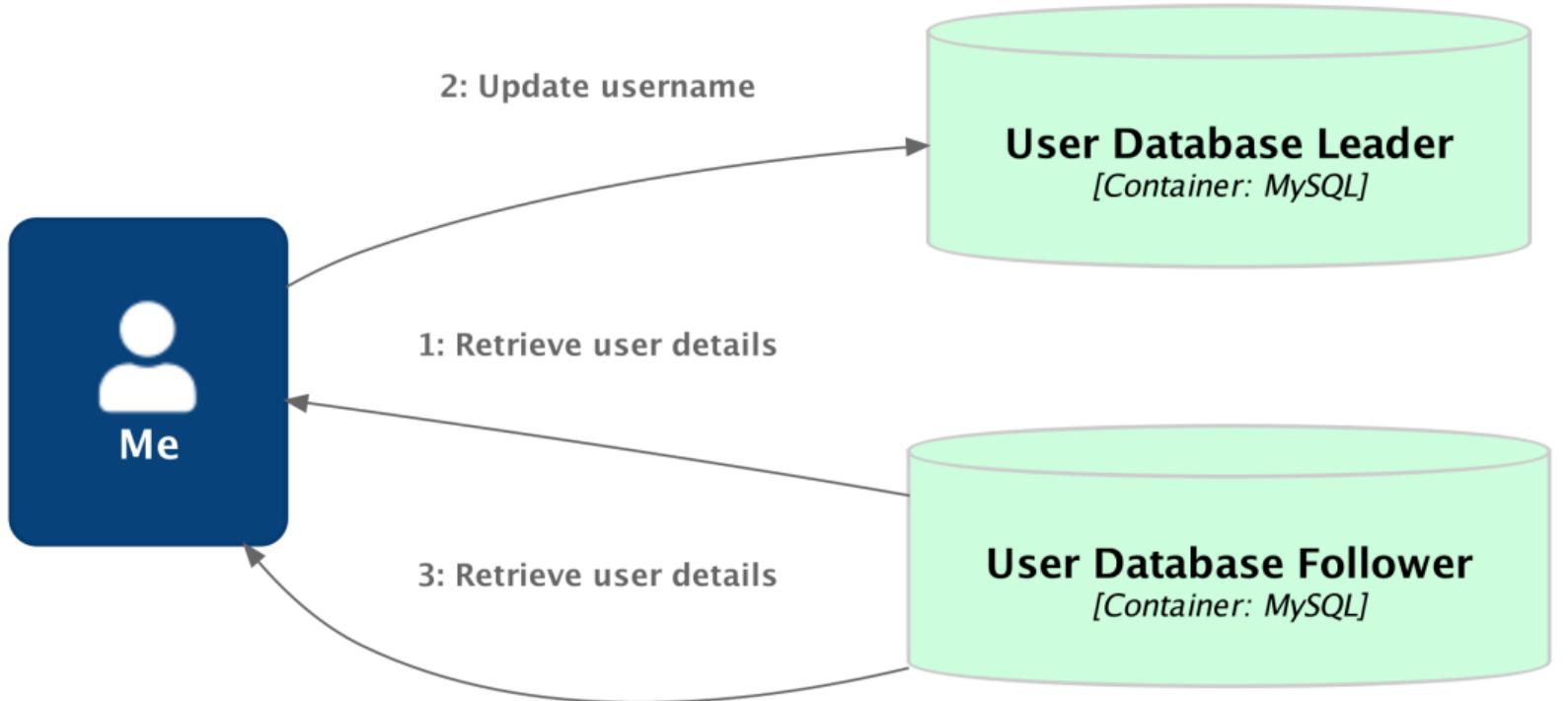
Cancel

Save



**Brae Webb**  
@braewebb

- Read user details
- Decide I don't like by name
- Update name
- Read user details



#### Definition 4. Read-your-writes Consistency

Users always see the updates that *they have made*.

Doesn't care what other users see



**Brae Webb**  
[@braewebb](https://twitter.com/braewebb)

My fist post



**Brae Webb**  
[@braewebb](https://www.instagram.com/braewebb)

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### Definition 5. Monotonic Reads

Once a user reads an updated value, they don't later see the old value.

User doesn't travel back in time

## Summary

- Leader-follower databases allow *reads to scale* more effectively.
- Asynchronous propagation weakens consistency to *eventually consistent*.
- Leader-follower databases still have a *leader write bottle-neck*.

Second approach

## Multi-leader Replication



## Why multi-leader?

- If you have multiple leaders, you can write to any, allowing *writes to scale*.

## Why multi-leader?

- If you have multiple leaders, you can write to any, allowing *writes to scale*.
- A leader going down doesn't prevent writes, giving *better fault-tolerance*.
  - Available via extensions in most databases, often not natively supported.
  - Best to avoid where possible.

Question

What might go wrong?

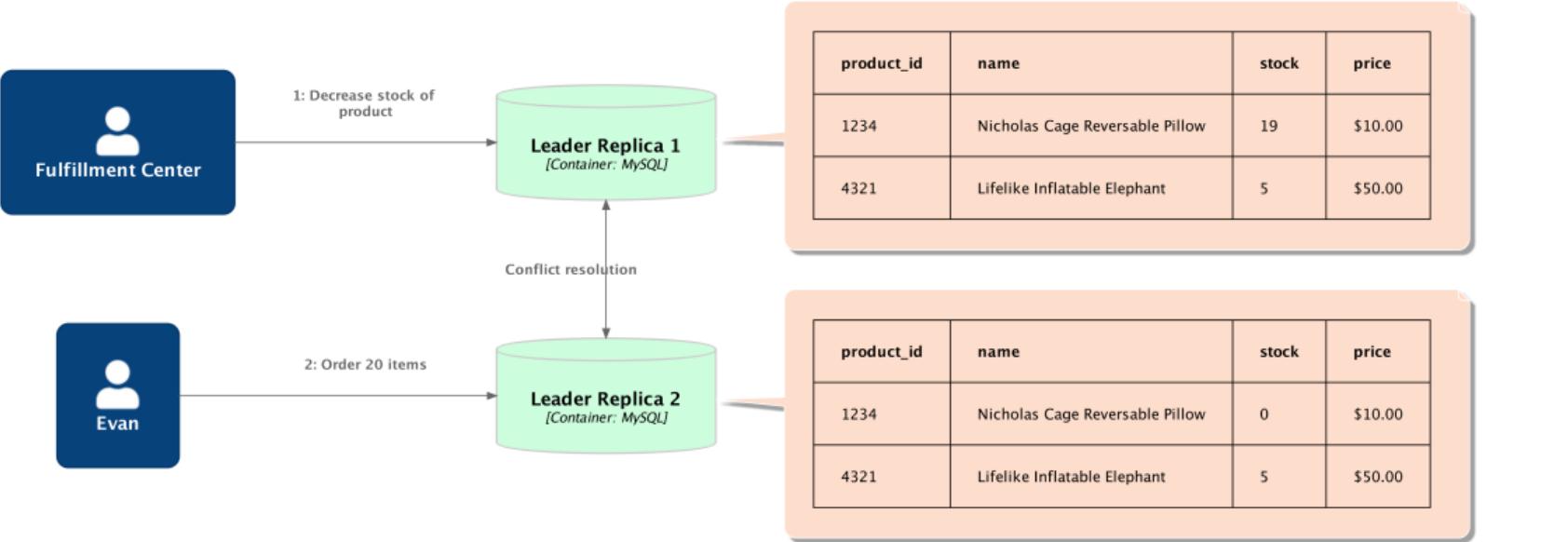
Question

What might go wrong?

Answer

Write conflicts

Write conflicts require the conflict to be resolved.



-1 Pillows? How do we resolve this?

Where possible

**Avoid write conflicts**



Where impossible

Convergence

## Convergence Strategies

- Assign each *write* a unique ID.

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- Assign each *write* a unique ID.
- Assign each *leader replica* a unique ID.

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- Assign each *write* a unique ID.
- Assign each *leader replica* a unique ID.
- Custom resolution logic.



## Resolving Conflicts

**On Write** When a conflict is first noticed, take proactive resolution action.

**On Read** When a conflict is next read, ask for a resolution.

- Bucardo allows a perl script for on write resolution.
- CouchDB prompts reads to resolve the conflict.

Third Approach

## Leaderless Replication

- Early distributed databases were leaderless.
- Resurgence after Amazon created Dynamo.
- Dynamo is an internal service and not DynamoDB.
- Riak, Cassandra, and Voldemort are leaderless databases.



Reads and writes can be written to any node.

How do they work?

Each read/write is sent to *multiple* replicas.





At least one of the reads has the updated value

How are changes propagated?

- Read Repair

How are changes propagated?

- Read Repair
- Anti-entropy Process

Question

**How do we know it's consistent?**



Question

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Question

How do we know it's consistent?

Answer

Quorum Reads and Writes

## Quorum Consistency

$$w + r > n$$

$n$  total replicas

$w$  amount of replicas to *write* to

$r$  amount of replicas to *read* from

The nodes read from must overlap with the nodes written to



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## Summary

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- *Leader-based* replication is most common and simplest.
- Replication introduces *eventual consistency*.
- *Multi-leader* replication scales writes as well as reads but introduces *write conflicts*.
- *Leaderless* replication is another approach which keeps the problems of multi-leader.

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## Definition 6. Partitioning

Split the data of a system onto multiple nodes,  
these nodes are *partitions*.

Also called shards, regions, tablets, etc.



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4321	Lifelike Elephant Inflatable	5	\$50.00

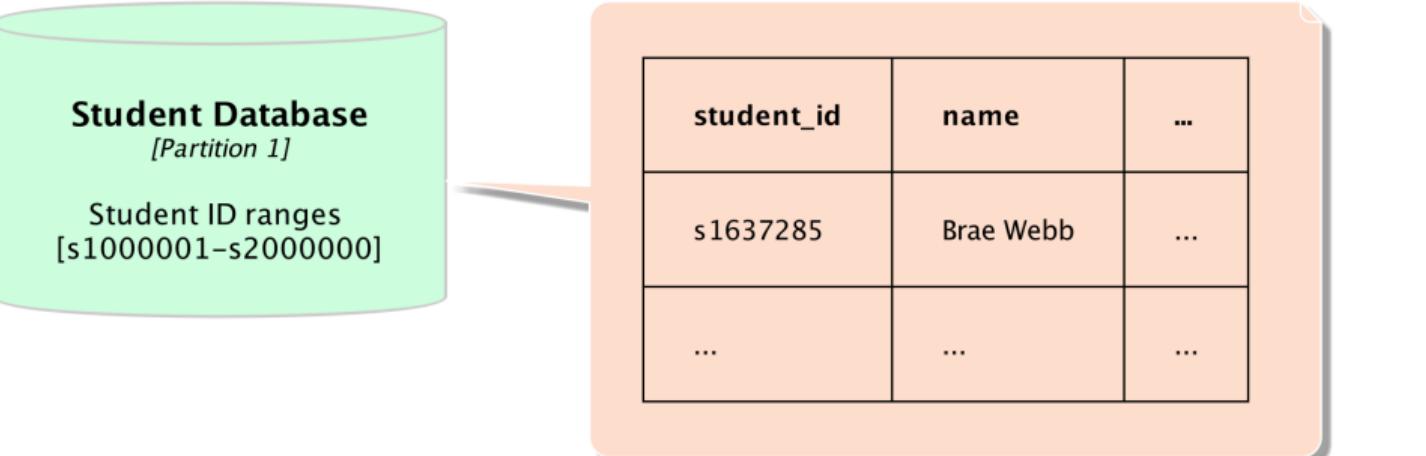
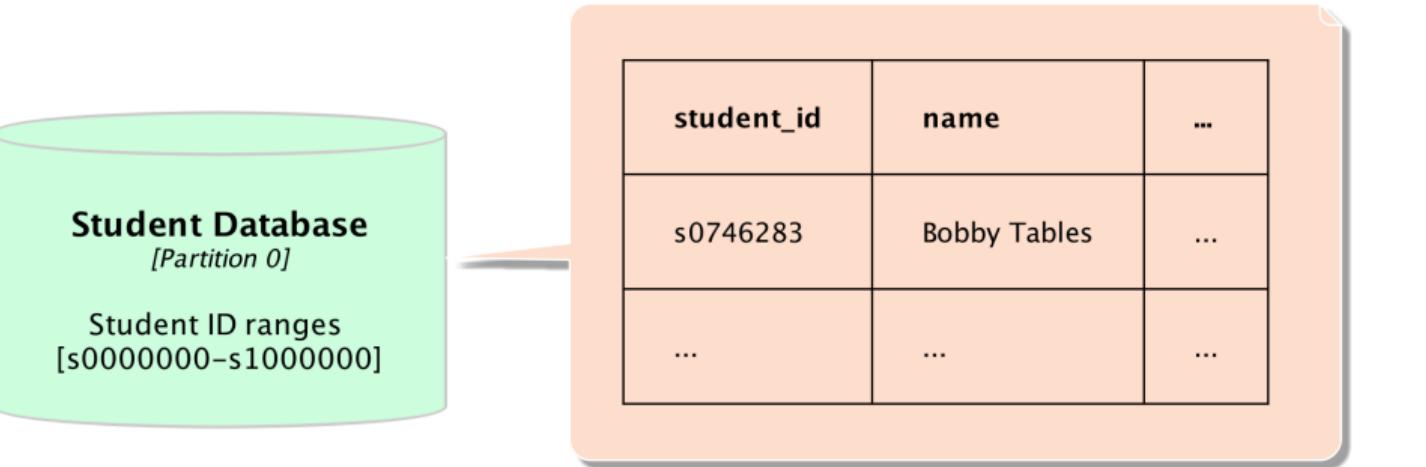


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- Pioneered in the 1980s
- Allow scalability of large data, not just large load.
- Partitioning is normally combined with replication.

Question

How should we decide which data is stored where?



An example partitioning based on primary key, student ID

Question

What is the problem with this?

Question

What is the problem with this?

Answer

Over time some partitions become inactive,  
while others receive almost all load.

Question

How should we decide which data is stored where?

Question

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Answer

Maximize spread of requests, avoiding  
*skewing*.

Question

**Have we seen this before?**

Question

Have we seen this before?

Answer

Hashing?

Hash tables hash entries to maximize the spread between buckets.

Question

What is the problem with this?

Question

What is the problem with this?

Answer

Range queries are inefficient, i.e. get all  
students between s4444444 and s4565656

Question

## How do we route queries?

Unlike stateless, only one node can process queries.

### Query-insensitive Load Balancer

**Randomly route to any node, responsibility of  
the node to re-route to the correct node.**



### [Query-sensitive Load Balancer](#)

A load balancer which understands which queries should be forwarded to which node.



## Client-aware Queries

Place the responsibility on clients to choose  
the correct node.



## Summary

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- A *consistent method* to chose which node is required.
- Partitioning by *primary key* can create *skewing*.
- Partitioning by *hash* makes range queries less efficient.
- Three approaches to *routing requests*.

Disclaimer

We have ignored the hard parts of replication.

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- *Independent databases*

Distributed state creates a lot of *complexity*

And when programmers have complexity, they create bugs

When programmers are faced with complexity

**They create *abstractions***

One key database abstraction

## Transactions

Introduced by IBM System R in 1975

### Definition 7. Transaction

A group of operations performed as if they were one.

What does as if it were one mean?

ACID

A atomic

C onsistent

I solated

D urable

The pushback

NoSQL and microservice architectures  
pushed back against transactions.

- Transactions were used fairly universally for a long time.
- Push back occurred when people decided they weren't scalable.

For more on transactions



## Summary

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## Summary

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- **Transactions**

- ACID properties
- Pushback causing headaches