Barista: A Distributed, Synchronously Replicated, Fault Tolerant, Relational Data Store

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Abstract

Barista is a distributed, synchronously replicated, fault tolerant, relational data store. It is a layer written over PostgreSQL that manages realtime replication of data in a distributed infrastructure to provide fault-tolerance and load balancing. All writes are propagated synchronously using paxos. Barista exposes SQL for data management. Client applications can use the same SQL with Barista and under the hood it takes care of load balancing, consistency, and fault-tolerance seamlessly.

1 Introduction

2 Client APIs

Barista APIs are exposed as a Thrift IDL file (barista.thrift). Thrift is a framework, for scalable cross-language services development, combines a software stack with a code generation engine to build RPC services that work efficiently and seamlessly between C++, Java, Go, Python, Ruby, JavaScript, and various other languages. A Thrift IDL file is processed by the Thrift code generator to produce code for the various target languages to support the defined data types and services in the IDL file. Although we are implementing Barista in Go on the server side, we expect the client call to be in any language.

2.1 A Sample Python Client

Barista RPC stubs for Python can be generated as the following:

thrift --gen py barista.thrift

Once RPC stubs are generated, a python code can call Barista APIs. Below is a sample client code:

```
transport = TSocket.TSocket('localhost', 9000)
transport = TFransport.TBufferedTransport(transport)
protocol = TBinaryProtocol.TBinaryProtocol(transport)
client = Barista.Client(protocol)

transport.open()

con_params = ConnectionParams(
    user="postgres", password="postgres", database="postgres")

con = client.connect(con_params)
res = client.execute_sql(con=con,
    query="SELECT 6.824 as id, 'Distributed Systems' as name",
    query_params=None)

print "\t".join(res.field_names)
for t in res.tuples:
    cells = [cell.value for cell in t.cells]
    print "\t".join(cells)

transport.close()
```

2.2 Barista Client APIs

Below is the list of data types and methods available to client applications through barista.thrift:

```
/* Database Connection */
// connection parameters
struct Connection parameters
struct Connection parameter
2: optional string user,
2: optional string database
}

// connection info -- must be passed in every execute_sql call
struct Connection {
1: optional string client_id,
2: optional string seq_id,
3: optional string user,
4: optional string database
}

/* ResultSet */
// A cell in a table
struct Cell {
1: optional binary value
}

// A tuple
struct Tuple {
1: optional list <Cell> cells
}

// A result set (list of tuples)
struct ResultSet {
1: required bool status,
2: Connection con,
3: optional list <Tuple> tuples,
5: optional list <Tuple> tuples,
6: optional list <String> field_names,
6: optional list <String> field_types
}

/* Barista Exceptions */
// Database Exception
exception DBEXception {
1: optional string message,
3: optional string message,
3: optional string message,
3: optional string details
```