Locking in the SQL Server Database Engine



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Overview



Locking mechanism

Lock granularity and hierarchies

Lock modes

Lock compatibility

Lock escalation and dynamic locking

Deadlocks

Locking in SQL Server





Blocking

Locking
Granularity
and
Hierarchy

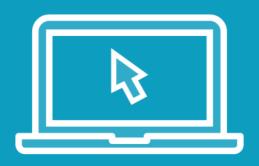
Multigranular locking

Automatic resource locking

Smaller granularity (e.g. rows)

Larger granularity (e.g. table)

Locking hierarchy



Locking granularity and hierarchy

Locking Granularities

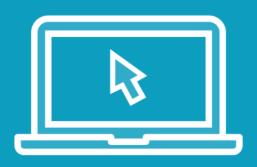
Resource	Description	
RID	A row identifier used to lock a single row within a heap.	
Key	A row lock within an index used to protect key ranges.	
Page	An 8-kilobyte (KB) page in a database, such as data or index pages.	
Extent	A contiguous group of eight pages, such as data or index pages.	
HoBT	A heap or B-tree.	
Table	The entire table, including all data and indexes.	
File	A database file.	
Application	An application-specified resource.	
Metadata	Metadata locks.	
Allocation Unit	An allocation unit.	
Database	The entire database.	

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Locking Modes

Mode	Description
Shared (S)	Read operations
Update (U)	Resources to be updated
Exclusive (X)	Data modification
Intent (IS, IX, SIX, IU, SIU, UIX)	Establish a lock hierarchy
Schema (Sch-M, Sch-S)	Schema-dependent operations
Bulk Update (BU)	Bulk Update and TABLOCK
Key-Range (RS, RU, RN, RX)	Protect a range of rows



Locking granularity and modes

Lock

Escalation

Concurrency vs lock granularity

Dynamic locking

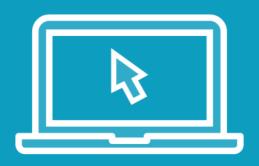
Lock escalation

Simplifies database administration

Increases performance

Automatic lock adjustment

Behavior can be set per table (SQL Server 2008 and later) AUTO, TABLE, DISABLE



Lock escalation

Summary



Introduction to locking

Granularity and hierarchy

Locking modes

Escalation