

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Experiment 2

Student Name: Muskan Yadav

UID: 23BCS10179

Branch: BE-CSE

Section: Group:KRG-3B

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Subject name: System Design

Subject code: 23CSH-314

1. Aim

To design a **scalable, highly available, and consistent online shopping (E-commerce) platform** that supports millions of daily users, enables product search, cart management, checkout, payment, and order tracking while handling **high concurrency and race conditions** during flash sales.

2. Objective:

- Design a **distributed microservices-based E-commerce system**
- Fulfill all **functional requirements (FRs)** and **non-functional requirements (NFRs)**
- Handle **100 million DAU** and **10+ orders/sec**
- Ensure **strong consistency** for critical operations like **payment and inventory**
- Solve **race conditions** using **Kafka and Inventory locking**
- Implement **efficient product search** using **Elasticsearch with CDC**

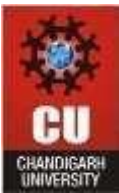
3. System Requirements:

3.1 Functional Requirements

1. User can **search products** by name/title
2. User can **view product details** (price, image, reviews, quantity)
3. User can **add/remove/update items in cart**
4. User can **checkout and make payment**
5. User can **track order status**
6. System must manage **limited inventory** during flash sales

3.2 Non-Functional Requirements

- **Scale:** 100M DAU, 10+ orders/sec
- **Latency:** ~200 ms



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- **Availability:**
 1. High availability for **Product Search**
- **Consistency (Strong):**
 1. Payment processing
 2. Order placement
 3. Inventory management
- **Scalability:** Horizontal scaling (preferred)
- **Fault Tolerance:** Retry, message durability (Kafka)
- 4. Tools Used:
 - Draw.io Designing system architecture (HLD).
 - PostgreSQL - Relational database design.
 - ElasticSearch Product search and indexing.
 - Apache Kafka - Event streaming.
 - CDC Pipeline - Syncing product data to ElasticSearch.

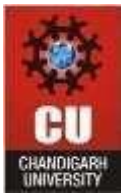
5. High-Level Architecture (Microservices)

Core Services

- **API Gateway**
 - Routing
 - Rate Limiting
 - Authentication & Authorization (JWT)
- **User Service**
- **Product Service**
- **Search Service**
- **Cart Service**
- **Checkout Service**
- **Payment Service**
- **Order Service**
- **Inventory Service**

Databases

- MySQL (Transactional data)
- Elasticsearch (Search)
- Kafka (Event streaming)



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- S3 (Product images)

Core Entities

- User
- Product
- Cart
- Order
- Payment
- Inventory

6. API Design (Key APIs)

6.1 Search Products

GET /products/search?query=iPhone16

Response:

```
[  
  { "product_id": 17 },  
  { "product_id": 18 }  
]
```

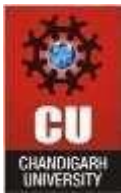
➡ Pagination used to reduce latency

6.2 View Product Details

GET /products/{product_id}

Response:

```
{  
  "product_id": 17,  
  "name": "iPhone 17",  
  "color": "Navy Blue",  
  "price": 1099,  
  "image_url": "S3_URL"  
}
```



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6.3 Add Item to Cart

POST /cart/add_products

Header: User_ID

Body:

```
{  
  "product_id": 17,  
  "quantity": 2  
}
```

Response:

```
{  
  "cart_id": 101  
}
```

6.4 Checkout

POST /checkout

Body:

```
{  
  "cart_id": 101,  
  "total_price": 2198  
}
```

Response:

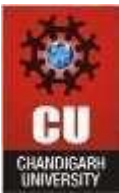
```
{  
  "order_id": 9001  
}
```

6.5 Payment

POST /payment

Body:

```
{  
  "order_id": 9001,
```



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```
"payment_mode": "CARD"
```

```
}
```

Response :

```
{
```

```
"status": "SUCCESS"
```

```
}
```

6.6 Order Status

GET /order_status/{order_id}

7. Search Optimization Using Elasticsearch

Problem

- Searching directly from MySQL is slow ($O(n)$)
- 100M users → DB scanning is not feasible

Solution

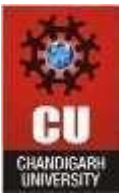
- Use **Elasticsearch**
- **Inverted Indexing**
- Tokenization + Multi-term search
- Near $O(1)$ performance

8. CDC Pipeline (MySQL → Elasticsearch)

Why CDC?

Elasticsearch is **not a primary DB**, so product data must stay in MySQL.

1. Product DB change (INSERT/UPDATE)
2. **CDC Connector** detects change
3. Event pushed to **Kafka**
4. Search Service consumes event
5. Elasticsearch index updated in real time



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9. Inventory & Race Condition Handling

Problem (Flash Sale)

- Multiple replicas read same inventory count
- Concurrent checkout leads to **overselling**

Solution

Inventory Service + Kafka (Producer-Consumer)

Flow

1. Checkout Service sends **Order Event** to Kafka
2. Inventory Service consumes event
3. **Atomic stock decrement** (DB lock / CAS)
4. Inventory updated safely
5. Order status updated

➡ Ensures **strong consistency**

10. Payment Consistency (Critical Section)

Issue

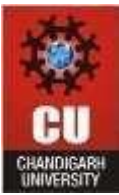
- Payment success but inventory not updated

Solution

- **Event-driven architecture**
- Kafka ensures:
 - No lost messages
 - Retry on failure
 - Exactly-once stock update

11. Scaling Strategy

- **Horizontal Scaling**
- Stateless services
- API Gateway acts as **Load Balancer**
- Kafka enables async processing



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- DB sharding on ProductID / UserID

12. Output

- Fully functional **E-commerce system design**
- Supports **high traffic & flash sales**
- Strong consistency for payment & inventory
- Low latency product search
- Scalable and fault tolerant architecture

13. Learning Outcome

- Understood **real-world E-commerce system design**
- Learned how to:
 - Handle **race conditions**
 - Use **Kafka for consistency**
 - Implement **CDC with Elasticsearch**
 - Balance **CAP theorem**
- Designed an **interview-ready, production-grade architecture**