

7. Lamport's algorithm for distributed database.

Ans: In a distributed database system, multiple sites (nodes) may need to access a shared resource such as a data item, file, or critical section (CS).

Since there is no shared clock or shared memory coordination is difficult.

Objectives

1. Mutual Exclusion
2. No deadlock
3. No starvation
4. Fairness

- The algorithm is fair in the sense that a request for CS are executed in the order of their timestamps and time is determined by logical clocks.

→ When a site processes a request for the CS, it updates its local clock and assigns the request a timestamp.

→ The algorithm executes CS requests in the increasing order of timestamps.

→ Every site S_i keeps a queue, request-queue, which contains mutual exclusion request ordered by their timestamps.

→ The algorithm executes CS request in the increasing order of timestamps.

Algorithm

1. Requesting the critical section

- When a site S_i wants to enter the CS, it broadcast a $REQUEST(ts_i, i)$ message to all other sites and places the request on request-queue, (ts_i, i denotes the timestamp of the request).

- When a site S_j receives the $REQUEST(ts_i, i)$ message from site S_i , it places site S_i 's request in request-queue and returns a timestamped $REPLY$ message to S_i .

2. Executing the ~~time~~ Critical Section

Site S_i enters the CS when the following two conditions hold:

- $L1$: S_i has received a message with timestamp larger than (ts_i, i) from all other sites.
- $L2$: S_i 's request is at the top of request-queue.

3. Releasing the critical Section.

- Site S_i , upon exiting the CS, removes its request from the top of its request queue and broadcast a timestamp $RELEASE$ message to all other sites.
- When a site S_j receives a $RELEASE$ message from site S_i , it removes S_i 's request from its request queue.

Real time Applications of Lamport's Algorithm

1. Distributed database System

- * Controlling concurrent access to shared database records.
- * Ensuring transaction consistency.

2. Distributed File System

- * synchronizing access to shared files.
- * Preventing write conflicts.

3. Cloud Computing Environments

- * managing access to shared cloud resources.
- * Coordinating distributed services.

4. Distributed operating Systems:

- * Scheduling critical section execution across nodes.

5. Replication Management

Requirements to Implement the algorithm

1. Reliable message passing - without loss and finite time.
2. Logical clock mechanism - Each process must maintain and update Lamport timestamps.
3. Request Queue - A priority queue sorted by (timestamp, processid)
4. Stable Network.
5. Knowledge of other process.
6. Unique process identifiers.