CAP Theorem

Consistency – dictionary.com

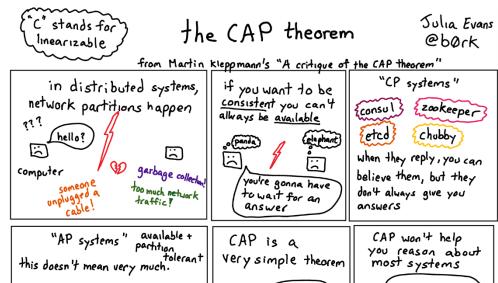
- steadfast adherence to the same principles, course, form, etc.:
- agreement, harmony, or compatibility, especially correspondence or uniformity among the parts of a complex thing;

the condition of cohering or holding together and retaining form;

solidity or firmness.

By Julia Evans Blog – https://jvns.ca/blog/2016/11/19/a-critique-of-the-cap-theorem/





I read the

whole proof!

It took 10 minutes t

there's no math

very carefull.

You can call both of

these "AP"

considered weaker

consistency model

I have a replicated database

Itell me?

nothing!

CAP

CAP Theorem Introduction

- It is impossible for a replicated read-write store in an asynchronous system to maintain the following three guarantees simultaneously:
 - Consistency
 - Availability
 - Partition-tolerance
- Initially, conjectured by Eric Brewer in 1998, later proven by Lynch et al.
- Describes tradeoffs involved in distributed system design

CAP Theorem Introduction

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atomic

register

Definition of Atomic Register

- Models replicated read-write store:
 - set(X) sets value of register to X
 - get() returns the value of register
- Replicates and distributes register, must maintain consistency and availability across all replicas
- Models many distributed system types
 - Key-value store, distributed shared memory
 - Replicated system, distributed file system, etc.

C-A-P: Choose two out of three*

• **C**onsistency:

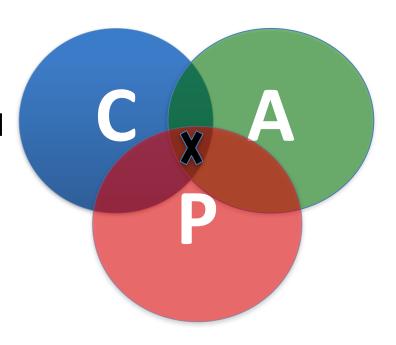
 All read requests should read the *latest* value (or return an error)

• **A**vailability:

All requests should return successfully

Partition-tolerance:

 The system can tolerate arbitrary number of communication failures



C-A-P: Choose two out of three*

• **C**onsistency:

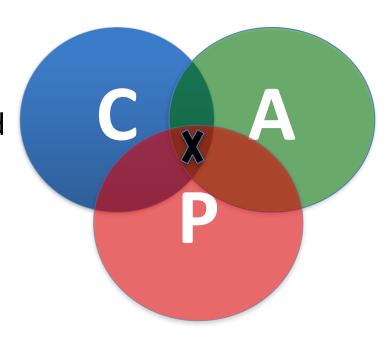
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Partition-tolerance:

The system can tolerate arbitrary number of communication failures



- Traditional view
 - Today, more a spectrum

Definition of Consistency

- Refers to replication consistency
 - Not related to A C ID properties for transactions
- Could mean strict consistency
 - As we know, this is by and large impossible in a distributed system
- Thus, here, assumes linearizability
- This usually means replication across sites should be done eagerly

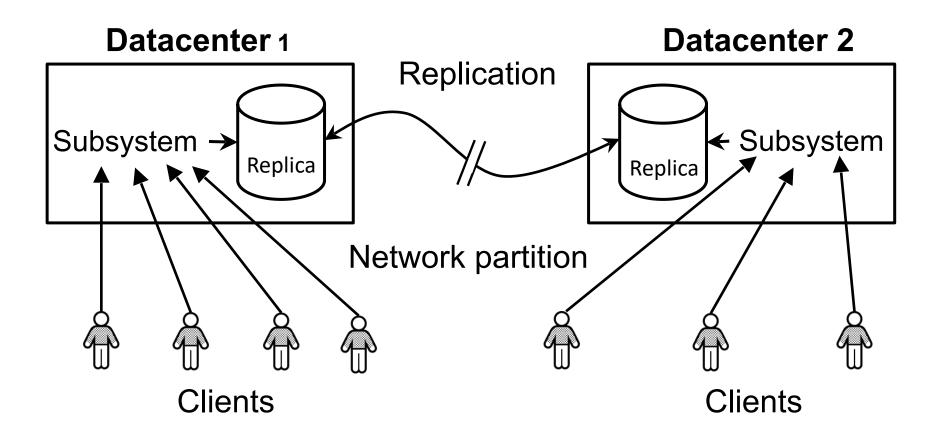
Definition of Availability

- Every request received by a non-failed node must result in a non-error response
 - Non-triviality requirement: a system which always responds with errors is not available
- Assumes a crash failure model for nodes
 - Functioning nodes must continue to operate even if there are failed nodes in system
- No requirement on latency: response can be very slow but must eventually come through
- Both a weak and strong definition: no latency guarantee, but 100% response success

Definition of Partition-Tolerance

- Asynchronous system model
- Message loss (failure model)
- Partition means total communication loss between partitioned subsystems
- Subsystems continue request processing even if a network partition causes communication loss within system
- If the system requires a stronger system model, or a weaker failure model, then it is not partition-tolerant
- No guarantee that partitions recover, but it doesn't mean they are always present either

Definition of Partition-Tolerance



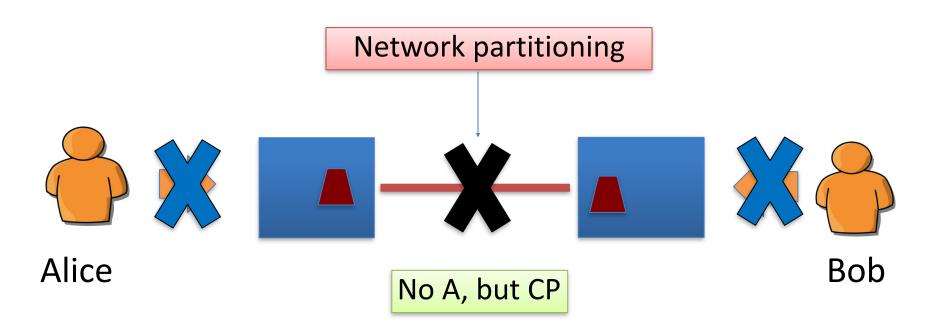
Illustrating Example

Hotel Booking: are we double-booking the same room?



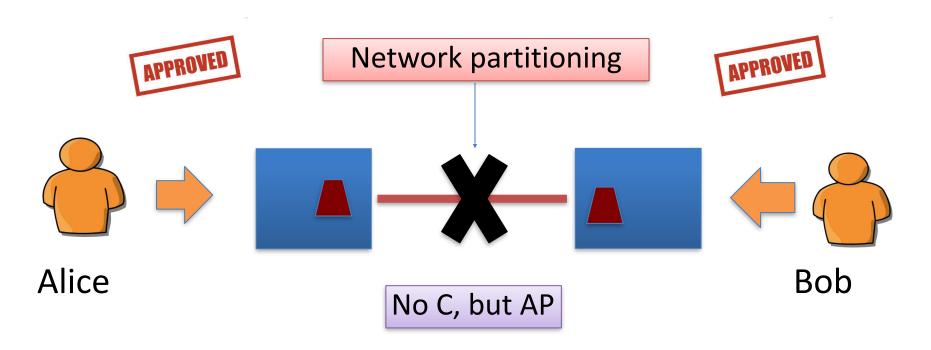
Illustrating Example

Hotel Booking: are we double-booking the same room?



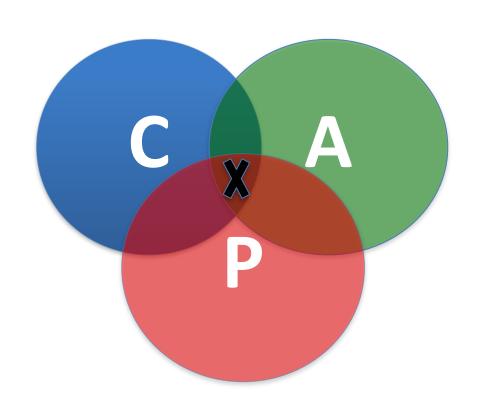
Illustrating Example

Hotel Booking: are we double-booking the same room?



Types of CAP systems

- CAP says "pick two out of three"
- The following systems seem possible:
 - CP
 - -AP
 - CA
- But it's not so easy...



CA Systems

• A "perfect" system!

- CA
- But with strong assumptions:
 - Either the network is reliable (Fallacy of DS...)
 - Or, the network is not used (then it is not a DS!)
- "Of the CAP theorem's Consistency, Availability, and Partition-Tolerance, Partition Tolerance is mandatory in distributed systems. You cannot not choose it."
 - Coda Hale, Yammer software engineer

Misconception #1: Always choose two

- CA systems cannot be used in practice
- But, when there are no network partitions, every system can behave like CA!
- In other words, "choose two" only takes effect during network partitions
- So in reality, there are **only two types of systems** ... i.e., if there is a partition, does the system **give up availability or consistency?**
 - Daniel Abadi, co-founder of Hadapt

Misconception #2: C, A are binary

- CAP theorem uses very narrow definitions of C,A:
 - Consistency: Linearizability
 - Availability: Infinite latency budget, 100% successful
- "The "2 of 3" formulation was always misleading because it tended to oversimplify the tensions among properties. CAP prohibits only a tiny part of the design space: perfect availability and consistency in the presence of partitions, which are rare."
 - Eric Brewer, CAP Theorem

Reality of the CAP Theorem

- "Many designers incorrectly conclude that the theorem imposes certain restrictions on a DDBS during normal operation and therefore implement an unnecessarily limited system."
 - Daniel Abadi, Co-founder of Hadapt
- All systems are, in fact, CAP, but tune how much C and A are provided during P
 - $CP \rightarrow C(a)P$, and $AP \rightarrow (c)AP$
- Provides freedom to design system to suit application requirements
 - E.g., by choosing appropriate consistency level

AP: Best Effort Consistency

Example:

- Web caching (cf., cache consistency)
- Network File System (cf., concurrent writes)

Characteristics:

- Optimistic replication (i.e., lazy replication)
- Expiration/time-to-live
- Conflict resolution (e.g., CRDTs)
- Cassandra, Dynamo are AP systems:
 - Eventual consistency: stale data can be read
 - Tunable towards CP

CP: Best Effort Availability

- Example:
 - Distributed lock services (Chubby, ZooKeeper)
 - Paxos (safe, not live)
- Characteristics:
 - Eager replication
 - Pessimistic locking
 - Minority partition becomes unavailable
- BigTable / HBase are CP systems:
 - Provide linearizability
 - Under partitions, cannot access TabletServer/ RegionServer

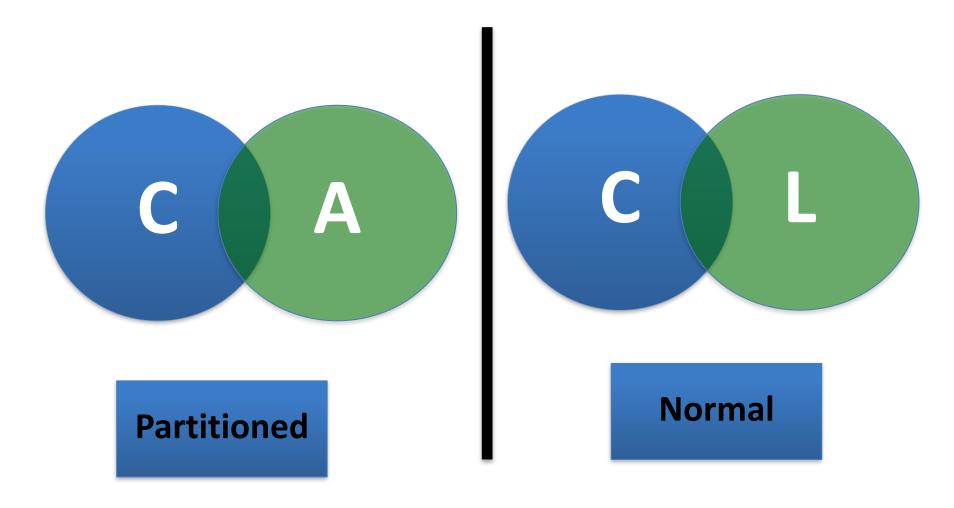
Misconception #3: Static systems

- Systems don't always behave the same way at runtime
- It is possible to design systems which behave differently depending on the operational situation when partitioning
- Example: airline reservation system
 - When most seats available: system behaves AP, worries about capacity limit later
 - When plane is close to capacity: system behaves CP, ensures no overbooking, or behaves AP to maximize profit and handle compensations out-of-band

Extended Model: PACELC

- A more complete description of the space of potential tradeoffs for distributed system:
 - If there is a partition (P), how does the system trade off availability and consistency (A and C); else (E), when the system is running normally in the absence of partitions, how does the system trade off latency (L) and consistency (C)?
- Original CAP theorem ignores latency, yet important in practice

PAC/ELC



Examples

- PA/EL: Give up consistency at all times for availability and lower latency
 - Dynamo, Cassandra (tuneable), Riak, web caching
- PC/EC: Refuse to give up consistency, pay the cost in availability and latency
 - BigTable, HBase, VoltDB/H-Store
- PA/EC: Give up consistency when partitions occur, but keep consistency during normal operation
 - MongoDB
- PC/EL: Keep consistency when partitions occur, but give up consistency for latency during normal operations
 - Yahoo! PNUTS

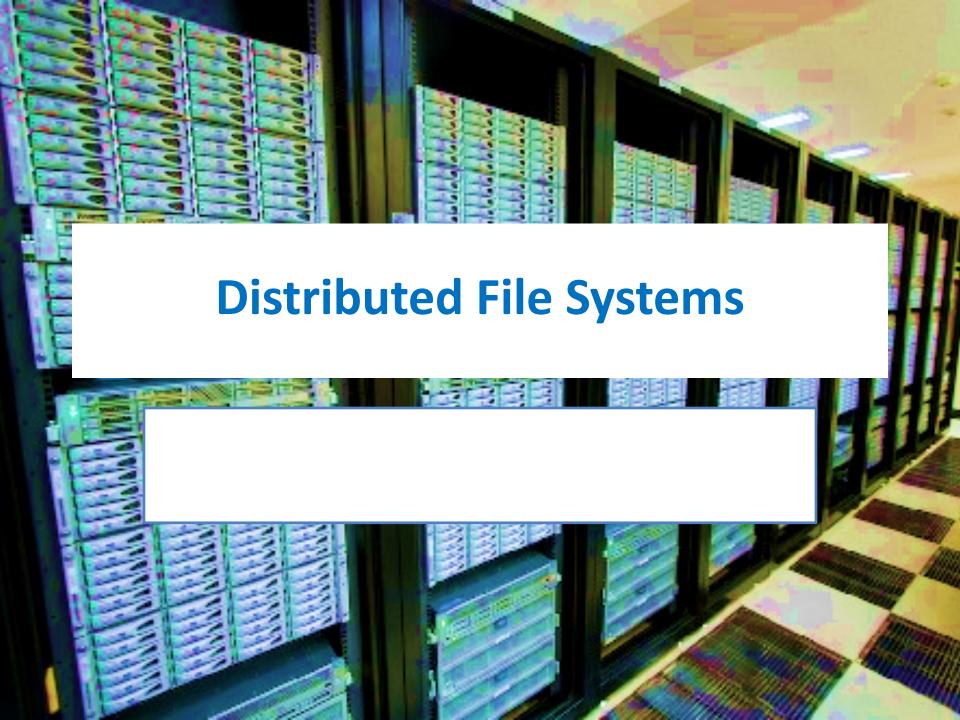
Summary CAP Theorem

- Classically described as "pick two out of three": consistency,
 availability, partition-tolerance
- Really boils down to choosing C or A, since P is a must-have for practical systems
- During normal operations, systems can all be CA
- Only concerns "perfect" notions of C and A
- In reality, C and A are tunable, systems tend to maintain C and A during P to some degree
- Systems can adapt dynamically to become AP or CP for different operational situations
- PACELC: extended model which considers differentiations between P and not P and consistency vs. latency

Self-study Questions

- Go through the distributed systems discussed throughout the course and determine where in the CAP space they lie?
- At a high-level, specify systems that are CA, CP and AP –
 what systems are CA?
- Is partition-tolerance a binary property? Discuss.
- See if you can specify a spectrum of C vs. A, given P.





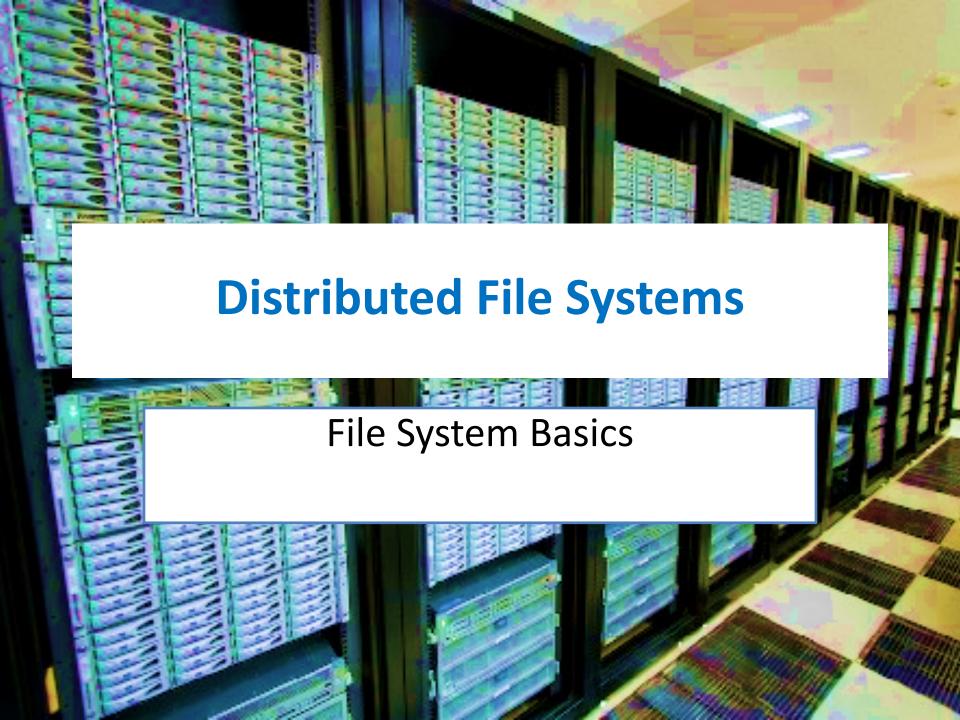
Agenda

• File system basics: POSIX, ext2, etc.

User-oriented FS: Network file systems (NFS)

• Big Data FS: GFS, (HDFS)

Erasure coding



Interaction with file systems

- POSIX Portable OS Interface
 - POSIX, "The Single UNIX Specification"
 - Aligns with the ISO C 1999 standard (stdio.h)
 - Family of standards
- Specified by IEEE Computer Society
- Today, comprised of about 20 documents
- Abstractions for programmer to achieve platform independence (portability)
- File system interface

Basic concepts

- Files
- Directories
- Links
- Metadata

• Locks

```
chris@xr2d2 / % tree -L 1
   - bin
    boot
    cdrom
   core
   dev
   etc
   - initrd.img -> boot/initrd.img-4.2.0-19-generic
   - initrd.img.old -> boot/initrd.img-4.2.0-18-generic
  - lib
   lib64
   lost+found
   media
    mnt
    opt
    proc
   root
    run
    sbin
   srv
    sys
    usr
   - vmlinuz -> boot/vmlinuz-4.2.0-19-generic
   vmlinuz.old -> boot/vmlinuz-4.2.0-18-generic
21 directories, 5 files
```

File system operations

- **File** operations:
 - Open
 - Read
 - Write
 - Close
 - **—** ...

- Directory operations:
 - Create file
 - Mkdir
 - Rename file
 - Rename dir
 - Delete file
 - Delete dir

POSIX Files < stdio.h>

FILE *fopen(const char * filename, const char * mode)

```
Modes
r open text file for reading
w truncate to zero length or create text file for writing
a append; open or create text file for writing at end-of-file
rb open binary file for reading
wb truncate to zero length or create binary file for writing
ab append; open or create binary file for writing at end-of-file
r+ open text file for update (reading and writing)
w+ truncate to zero length or create text file for update
a+ append; open or create text file for update, writing at end-of-file
r+b or rb+ open binary file for update (reading and writing)
w+b or wb+ truncate to zero length or create binary file for update
a+b or ab+ append; open or create binary file for update, writing at end-of-file
```

```
int fflush(FILE *stream);
//Any buffered data is physically persisted
int fclose(FILE *stream);
//File flushed and closed
```

POSIX Directories < stat.h>

```
int mkdir(const char* path, mode t mode)
/* example
mkdir("/home/aj/distributed systems", S IRUSR
      S IWUSR | S IXUSR | S IRWXG );
S IRUSR read permission, owner
        write permission, owner
S IWUSR
S IXUSR execute/search permission owner
S IRWXG read, write, execute/search by group
* /
```

POSIX File Locking <fcntl.h>

```
Multiple threads
int fcntl(int fildes, int cmd, ...);
                                              can lock
                                            different parts
int fd;
                                              of the file
struct flock fl;
fd = open("/home/aj/test.txt");
fl.l type = F WRLCK; //write lock
fl.1 whence = SEEK SET
fl.1 start = 500; //start at byte 500
fl.1 len = 100;
                         //next 100 bytes
fcntl(fd, F SETLK, &fl); //acquire lock
```

```
Types of locks:
F_RDLCK Shared or read lock
F_WRLCK Exclusive or write lock
F_UNLCK Unlock
```

POSIX File Metadata <stat.h>, <unistd.h>

```
//access permissions
int chmod(const char * file, mode_t mode)
```

- 777 read, write, execute for all
- 664 sets read and write and no execution access for owner and group, and read, no write, no execute for all others

```
// set user read and write permission for file.txt
chmod("file.txt", S_IRUSR | S_IWUSR)
```

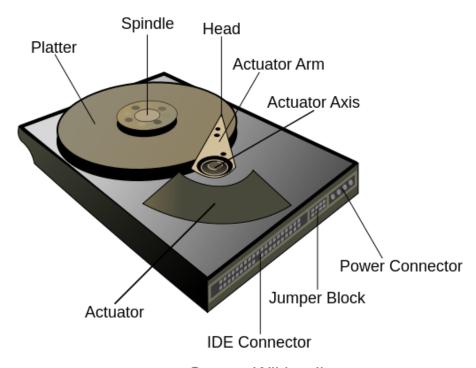
```
//change ownership of a file
int chown(const char *, uid_t, gid_t)

//e.g. chown("file.txt", getpwnam("arno"), -1)
```

/ % ls -l

Hard-disk Drive (HDD)

- Magnetic discs
- Cache (8MB 128MB)
- Cost
 - ~38€/TB (1.1.2014)
 - ~30€/TB (4.12.2014)
 - ~29€/TB (7.12.2015)
 - ~22€/TB (29.11.2017)
- 5400 rpm 15000 rpm
- Seek 4-9ms



Source: Wikipedia

Connected via SATA, SCSI/SAS ...

Solid-state Drive (SSD)

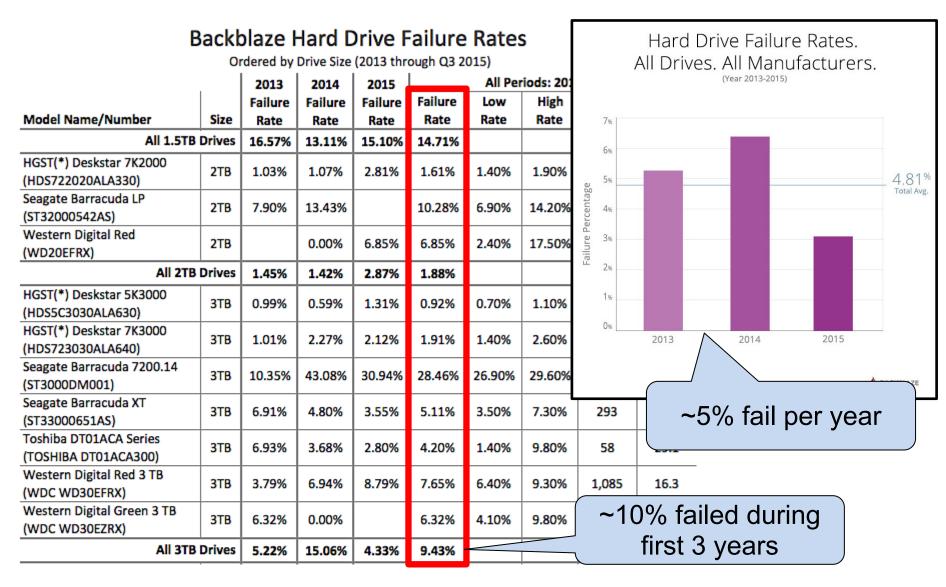
- DRAM (NAND-based flash memory)
- No moving mechanical components
- Cache (16MB 512MB)
- Cost
 - ~600€/TB (1.1.2014)
 - ~350€/TB (4.12.2014)
 - ~260€/TB (7.12.2015)
 - ~250€/TB (29.11.2017)



Source: OCZ

- Can also be connected via PCI Express
- Low-level operations differ a lot compared to HDD
 - On SSD's overwriting costs more → TRIM Command
 - Deleting is delegated to internal firmware which has a garbage collector

How common are HDD failures?



Bitrot on HDD

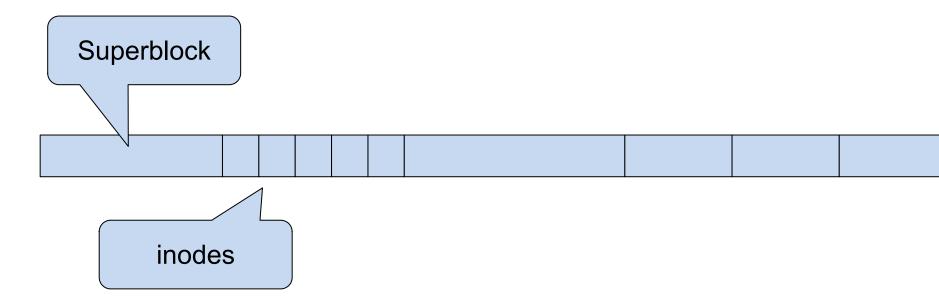
- Bitrot means silent corruption of data
- HDD specifications predict an Uncorrectable bit Error Rate (UER) of 10^{15} (1,000,000,000,000,000 ~ 125 TB)
- Evaluation [1]
 - 8x100GB HDD
 - After 2 PB reads
 - 4 read errors where observed
- How to protect against bitrot?
 - Erasure codes

[1] http://research.microsoft.com/pubs/64599/tr-2005-166.pdf

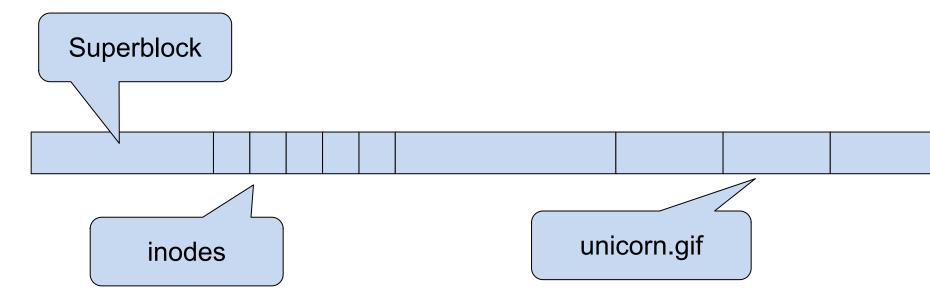
Disk file systems

- Linux
 - ext, ext2, ext3, ext4
 - _ JFS, XFS,
 - BTRFS, ZFS
 - Pooling, snapshots, checksums
- Windows
 - NTFS
 - FAT, FAT32, exFAT, ReFS
- Let's take a quick look at ext2

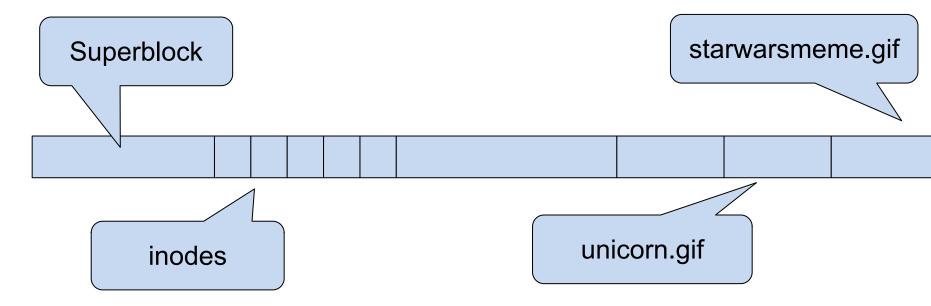
- Superblock, file system metadata (repeated)
 - Defines file system type, size, status, and information about other metadata structures (metadata of metadata)
- Index-nodes (inodes): one per file or directory
- Data blocks



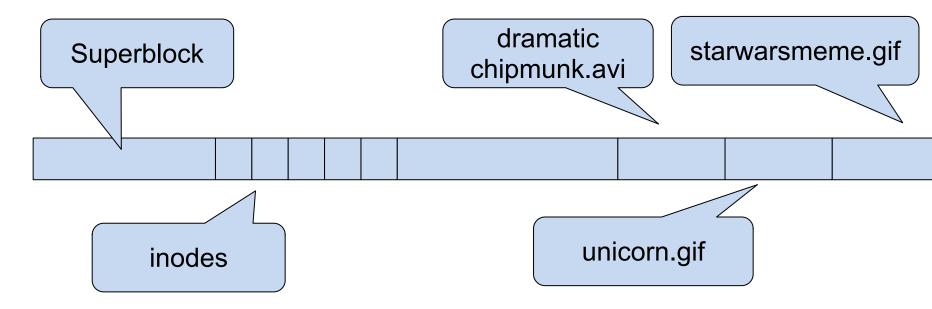
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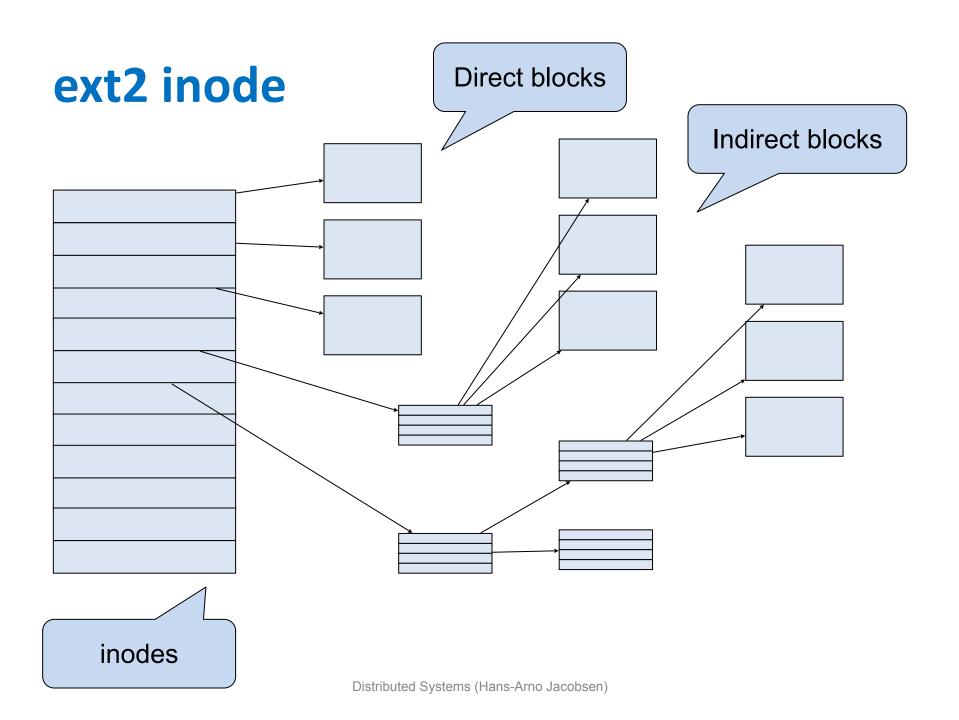
ext2 inode

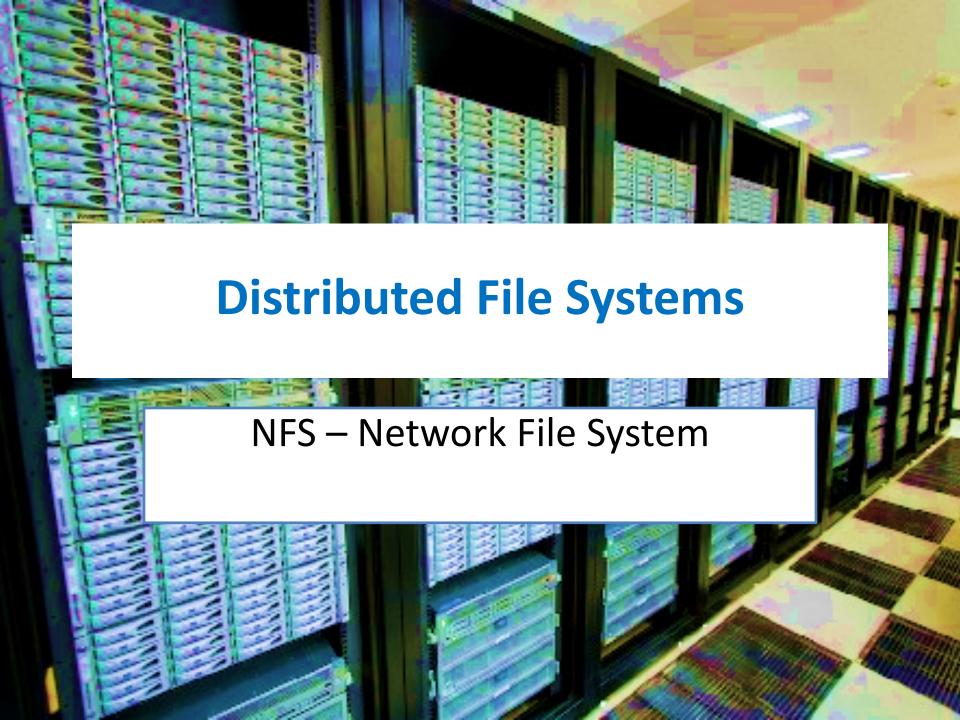
- Owner and group identifiers
- File length
- File type and access rights
- Number of data blocks
- Array of pointers to data blocks
- Timestamp

- Types
 - File
 - Directory
 - Symbolic link

```
Linux/fs/ext2/ext2.h
 * Structure of an inode on the disk
struct ext2 inode {
    le16 i mode; /* File mode */
    le16 i uid; /* Low 16 bits of Owner Uid */
    le32 i size; /* Size in bytes */
    le32 i atime; /* Access time */
    le32 i ctime; /* Creation time */
    le32 i mtime; /* Modification time */
    le32 i dtime; /* Deletion Time */
    le16 i qid; /* Low 16 bits of Group Id */
    le16 i links count; /* Links count */
    le32 i blocks; /* Blocks count */
    le32 i flags;
                     /* File flags */
struct ext2 dir entry {
   le32 inode; /* Inode number */
   le16 rec len; /* Directory entry length */
   le16 name len; /* Name length */
  char name[];
                 /* File name, up to EXT2 NAME LEN */
```

Source: https://github.com/torvalds/linux/blob/master/fs/ext2/ext2.h





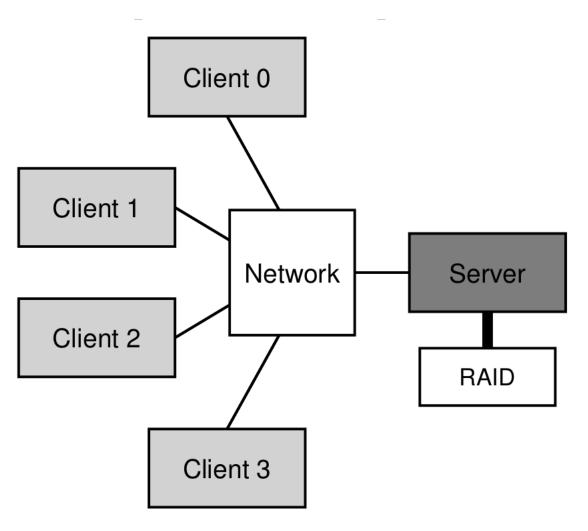
Distributed file systems

Motivation

- Collaboration
 - Shared file directory for projects, etc.
- Resource sharing
 - Pooling resources accross multiple devices
 - Incremental scalability (add hardware over time)
- Challenges
 - Performance
 - Scalability
 - Consistency

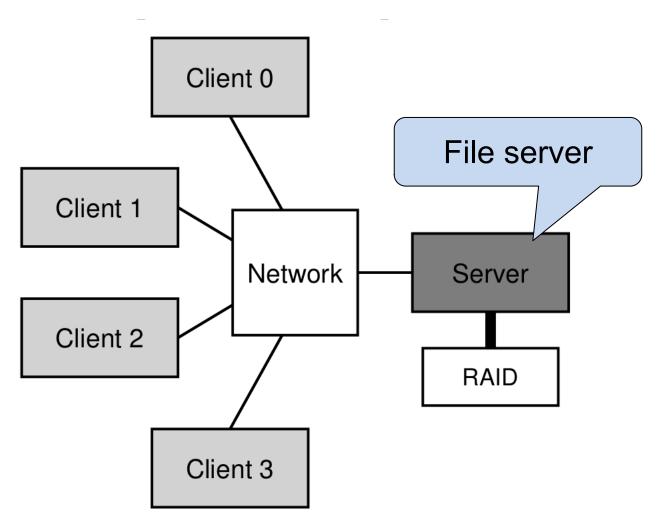
Distributed file system

Simplified



Distributed file system

Simplified



The Network File System (NFS)

Initially, 1984, by Sun Microsystems

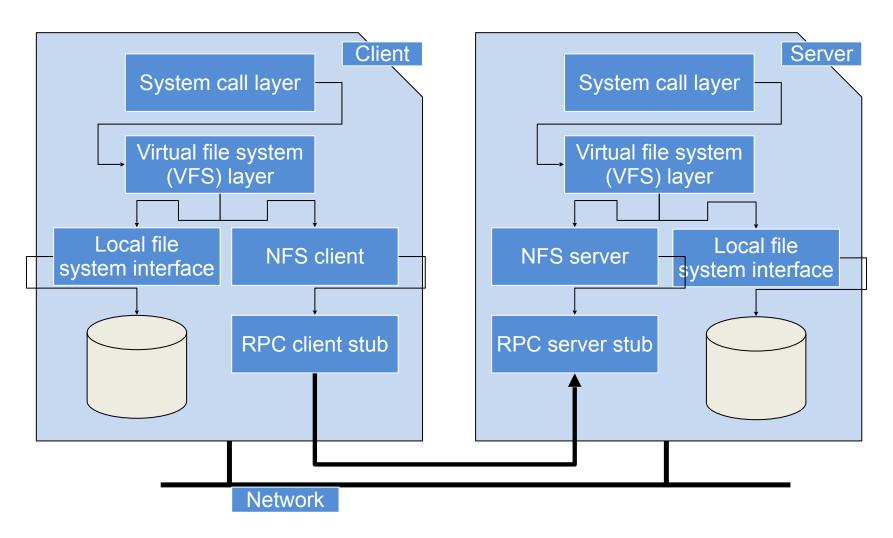
- Goals:
 - Consistent namespace for files across nodes
 - Authorized users can access their files from any node
- NFS protocol designed for LANs
- NFS creates a remote access layer for file systems
 - Each file is hosted on a server and accessed by clients
 - Namespace is distributed across servers
 - Each client treats remote files as local ones ("virtual files")

The Network File System (NFS)

Initially, 1984, by Sun Microsystems

- NFS follows a user-centric design
 - Most files are privately owned by a single user
 - Few concurrent access across clients
 - Reads are more common than writes
- Open protocol
 - Lead to wide adoption
 - Many commercial implementation

Basic NFS architecture



Sending commands

- Essentially, NFS works as a replicated system using remote procedure calls (RPCs) to propagate FS operations from client(s) to server(s)
- Naïve solution: forward every RPC to server
 - Server orders all incoming operations, performs them, returns results
- Downside
 - High access latency due to RPCs
 - Server becomes overloaded by many RPCs

Solution: Caching

 Clients use a cache to store a copy of remote files, called "virtual files"

Clients periodically synchronize with server

- This is essentially multi-primary replication:
 - How should synchronization be done? (eager/lazy)
 - What is the right consistency level?

Original version: Sun NFS

NFSv2, ..., NFSv4, ...

- Developed in 1984
- Uses in-memory caching:
 - File blocks, directory metadata
 - Stored at both clients and servers
- Advantage: no network traffic for open, read, write
- Problems: failures and cache consistency

Failures I

Server crash

Any data not persisted to disk is lost

- What if client does seek(); [server crash]; read()?
 - Seek sets a position offset in the opened file
 - After crash, server forgets offset, read returns incorrect data

Failures II

Communication omission failures

- Client A sends delete (foo), server processes it
- Server acknowledgement of delete is lost, meanwhile Client B issues create (foo)
- Client A times out and send delete (foo) again, deleting the file created by Client B!

Client crash

 Since caching is in memory, lose all updates by client if not synched to server

Solution: Stateless RPC

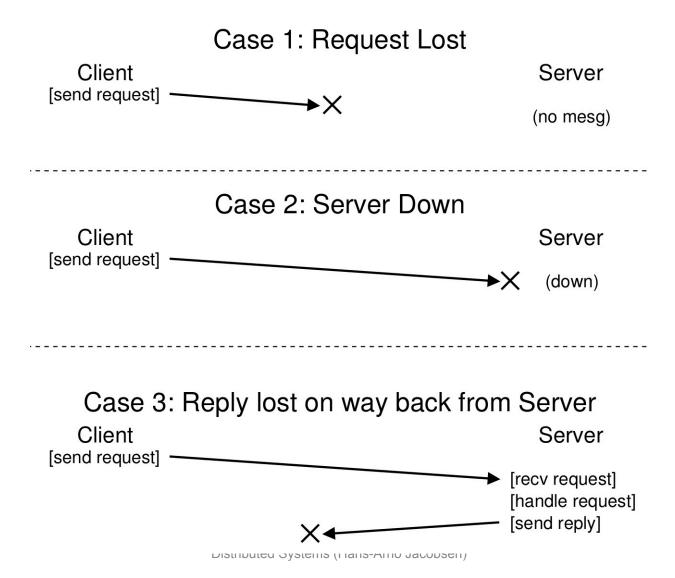
- RPC commands are stateless: server does not maintain state across commands in a "session"
- read() is stateful (server needs to remember seek())
 read(position) is stateless (server has all the information needed for correct read)
- With stateless RPC, server can fail and later continue to serve commands without recovering former state

Solution: Idempotent RPC

- NFS's RPCs are designed to be idempotent
- Repeating a command has no side effect
- Delete ("foo") becomes
 delete (someid, so it cannot wrongly delete a new file named "foo"
- Read, lookup are idempotent
- Write includes, data to write, the file ID, the offset to write at, therefore, idempotent

Common loss scenarios

Handled by client via timeout, retry, idempotent server RPCs



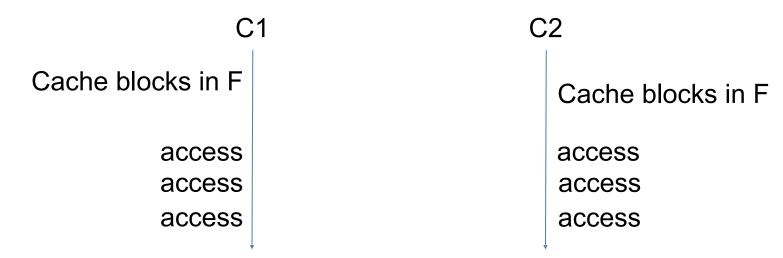
Is mkdir idempotent?

- MKDIR message from client to server
- Server ACKing successful creation is lost
- Client times out and retries MKDIR
- Server responds with error directory exists

NFS designers opted to keep design simple

Cache Consistency

 Clients can cache file blocks, directory metadata, etc.



What happens if both clients want to write?

Solution: Time-bounded consistency

 Flush-on-close: When a file is closed, modified blocks are sent to server synchronously (close() does not return until update is finished)

Each client periodically checks with server for updates

 Clients synchronize their cache after some bounded time if there are no more updates; otherwise they would read stale data

Concurrent Writes in NFS

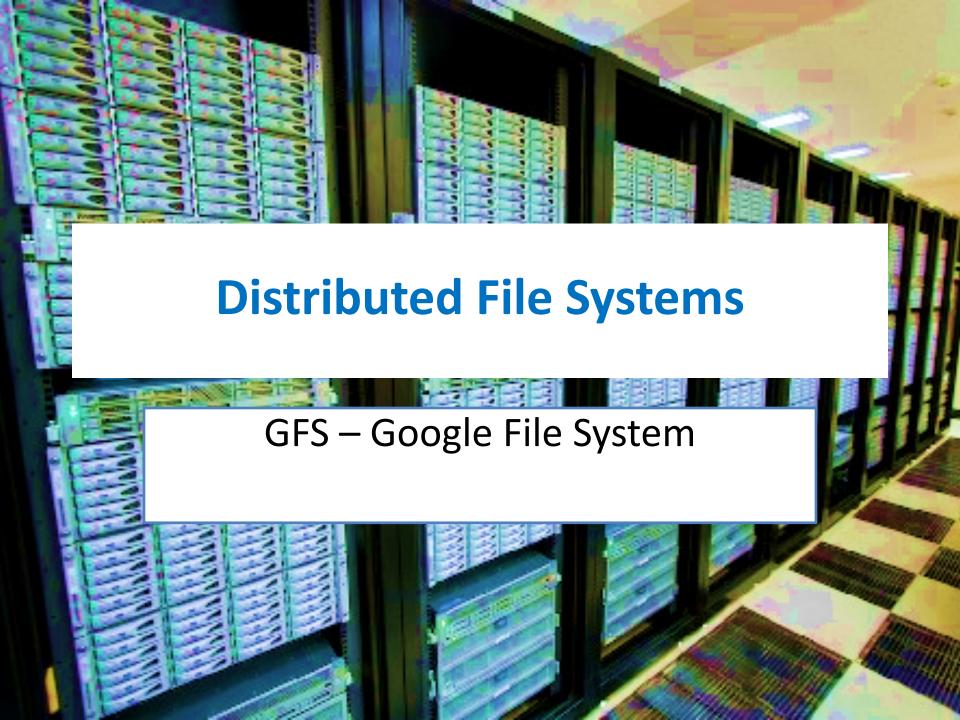
- NFS does not provide any guarantees for concurrent writes!
- Server may update using one client's writes, other's writes, or a mix of both!

- Not usually a concern due to the user-centric design: assuming there are no concurrent writes
- A big problem if one needs to support concurrent writes

NFS Summary

- Transparent remote file access
- Client-side caching for improved performance
- Stateless and idempotent RPCs for fault-tolerance
- Periodical synchronization with the server, with flush-onclose semantics

No guarantees for concurrent writes



The Google File System (GFS)

Design assumptions

- Designed for Big Data workloads
 - Huge files (100MB+), not optimized for small files
- Fault tolerance while running on inexpensive commodity hardware
 - 1000s machines where failure is the norm
- Introduces an API which is designed to be implemented scalably (non-POSIX)
- Architecture: one master, many chunk (data) servers; can operate across WAN links
 - Master stores metadata and monitors chunkservers
 - Chunkservers store and serve data chunks

Design assumptions

- Read workload
 - Large streaming reads (data caching not beneficial); no client-side data caches
 - Small random reads
- Write workload
 - File append via producer-consumer pattern
 - Hundreds of concurrently appending clients
 - Modification supported but not a design goal
- Bandwidth is more important than low latency

Interface

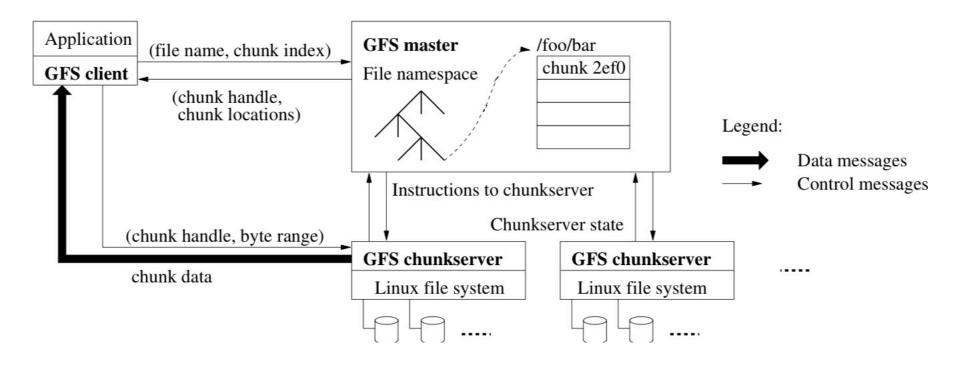
- Supported operations
 - Create, delete, open, close, read, write
 - Record append
 - Allows multiple clients to append data to the same file while guaranteeing atomicity
 - Snapshot
 - Creates a copy of a file or a directory tree at low costs
- Does not support full POSIX interface
 - POSIX requires many guarantees which are hard to fulfill in distributed applications

Architecture

Files

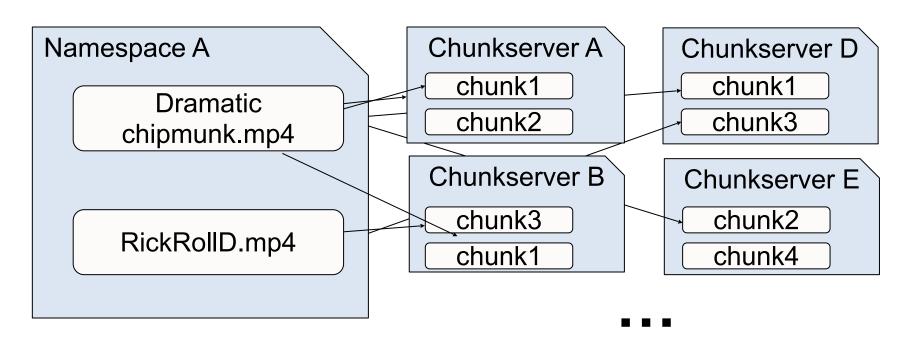
- Divided into fixed-size chunks (64MB)
- Identified by an immutable and unique id (chunk handle)
- Single master
 - Maintains GFS metadata
 - Namespace, access control information, mapping from files to chunks, location of chunks
 - Heartbeats chunkservers
- Multiple chunkservers
 - Chunks are stored on disk as Linux files
 - Each chunk is replicated to multiple chunkservers (depending on a replication factor defaulting to 3)

GFS architecture



Metadata kept at Master

- File and chunk namespaces
- Mapping from files to chunks
- Location of each chunk's replicas



Metadata management by Master

- Replicated to a shadow master and logged to operation log
 - Namespaces
 - File to chunk mapping
- Location of chunks is in-memory only (fast)
 - At start-up, periodically, upon failover, master asks chunkservers which chunks they have to rebuild location-to-chunk mapping
 - Periodic scanning is used to implement
 - Garbage collection (when files are deleted)
 - Re-replication (chunkserver failure)
 - Chunk migration (to balance load and disk space)
- Metadata has to fit in memory (64 bytes/chunk)

Operation log at Master

- Maintains all file creating, renaming, deletion operations etc.
- Only persistent, historical record of metadata changes
- Persisted to local disk and replicated to shadow master(s)
- Metadata changes are only visible after they are persisted
- Serves for Master recovery by replaying operation log
- Periodic checkpointing of Master state to minimize replaying effort

How is fault-tolerance achieved?

Master

Operation log, replication of log and metadata to shadow master

Chunkserver

- All chunks are versioned
- Version number updated upon modification
- Chunks with old versions are not served and are deleted

Chunks

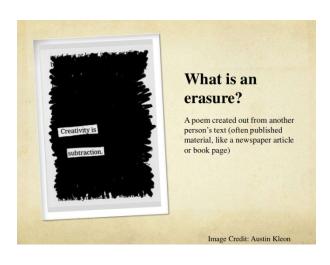
- Re-replication triggered by master, maintains replication factor
- Rebalancing to distribute load among chunkservers
- Data integrity checks

How is high-availability achieved?

- Fast recovery of master
 - Checkpointing and operation log
- Shadow master(s)
 - Serve read traffic, reduces downtime during failover
- Heartbeat messages (often include piggy-backed status updates)
 - Discover chunkserver failure
 - Trigger re-replication
 - Share current load
 - Trigger garbage collection
- Diagnostic tools

Summary on GFS

- Highly concurrent reads and appends
- Highly scalable
- On cheap commodity hardware
- Built for map-reduce kind of workloads
 - Reads
 - Appends
- Developers have to understand the limitations and may have to use other mechanisms to work around
- No POSIX API, would require many guarantees which are difficult to fulfill in DS



ERASURE CODES

INTRODUCTION

Erasures

 Byte errors where we know the position of the dropped or corrupted bytes is called an erasure

 As opposed to byte errors where we don't know the position of the dropped or corrupted bytes

Types of Erasure Codes

Linear block code

- Reed Solomon Code
- Can sustain lost bytes of known position
- Distributed file systems

Fountain code

- LT Codes (Luby Transform)
- Can sustain lost bytes of unknown position
- P2P systems, torrents, video streaming ...

Reed Solomon Code

- Error-correcting code
 - Used in QR codes

- Block encoding
 - Data blocks
 - Error-correcting blocks (parity blocks)
 - Read data blocks first
 - Else, decode with parity blocks

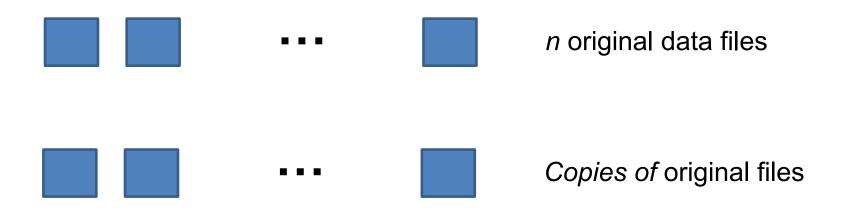
General Problem



(*n*, *m*)-code

- We have n data files, guard against losing m of them
- Generate m parity files
- Lose up to m data files, can use equal number of parity files to recover data files
- Also works if some parity files are lost, as long as there are *n* files left (parity or data), can recover original data files
- Compare creating n parity files to making a copy of n data files (a.k.a. common backup strategy)

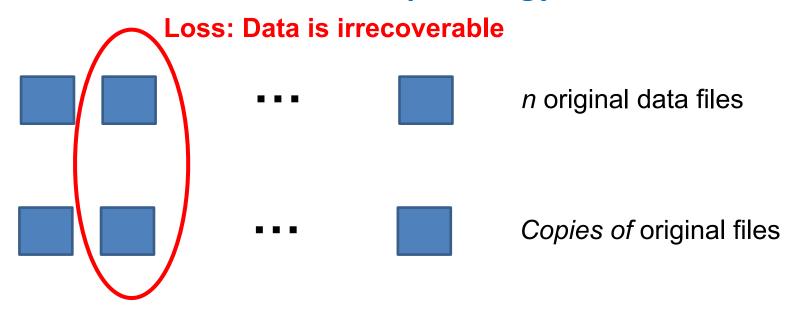
Recoverability Via backup strategy



- With n original files and n copies (one each), if we loose two files (original and its copy), we can't recover loss
- Total storage requirement is 2*n*

Recoverability

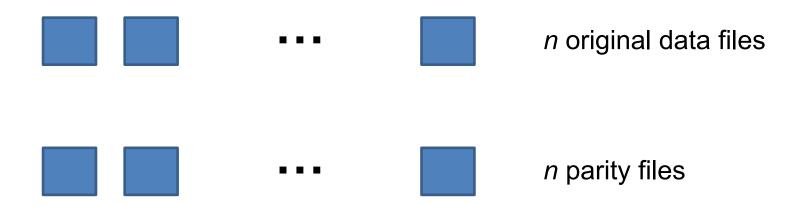
Via backup strategy



- With n original files and n copies (one each), if we loose two files (original and its copy), we can't recover loss
- Total storage requirement is 2n

Recoverability

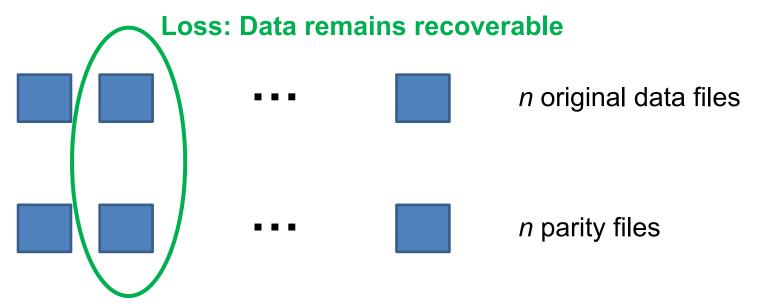
Via an (n, m)-code



- With an (n, m)-code, we can protect n data files against the loss of m of them by generating m parity files
- Say, we use an (n, n)-code with total storage requirement 2n
- Could loose up to n files (any combination of data and parity files)

Recoverability

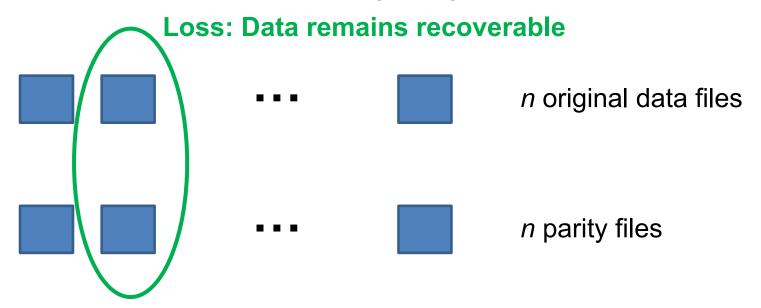
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- With an (n, m)-code, we can protect n data files against the loss of m of them by generating m parity files
- Say, we use an (n, n)-code with total storage requirement 2n
- Could loose up to n files (any combination of data and parity files)

Parity files take same amount of space but provide superior (recovery capabilities!

Via an (n, m)-code



- With an (n, m)-code, we can protect n data files against the loss of m of them by generating m parity files
- Say, we use an (n, n)-code with total storage requirement 2n
- Could loose up to n files (any combination of data and parity files)

Optimal Erasure Code

- Above sketched (n, m)-code is an erasure code because it guards against byte erasures
- It does not guard against more general errors where we don't know which data bytes have been corrupted
- Called optimal because in general, we need at least n known bytes to recover n data bytes, bound achieved here

Erasure Code Computations

Parity & Data Reconstruction Computation

- Given a pair (n, m) and n data bytes
- Compute parity data: compute m parity bytes, given n data bytes
- Reconstruct data: given a partial list of at least n data and parity bytes
 - Return full list of data bytes, i.e., there are no more than m omitted data or parity bytes
 - Error otherwise
- Generally, operates on byte level

Erasure Code

$$n, m = 1$$

• For d_i a data byte, compute parity byte p

$$- p = d_0 + d_1 + ... + d_{n-1}$$

• For m = 1, guard against loss of a single d_i

Reconstruct data

$$-\mathbf{d_i} = \mathbf{p} - (\mathbf{d_0} + \mathbf{d_1} + \mathbf{d_{i-1}} + \mathbf{d_{i+1}} + ... + \mathbf{d_{n-1}})$$

Nota Bene

Above Erasure Code with n, m=1

- Based on bytes in practice
- Computation is done via modulo 256 arithmetic
- Addition and subtraction wrap around
- Multiplication and division are not required

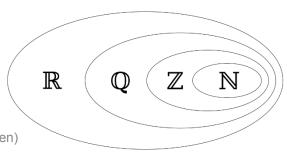


Pixabay.com

EC Computations

More Generally Speaking

- Based on bytes in practice
- Computations done over fields (e.g., Galois Fields) where
 - addition and subtraction
 - multiplication and division
 - existance of additive inverse –a for all elements a, and of a multiplicative inverse b⁻¹ for every nonzero element b
 - are defined (i.e., computation over bytes with Galois Field)
- For simplicity and illustration, here, we use the Rationales Q in our calculations (Q is a field as well so all operations we need are defined)
- Including in assignments, etc.,
 unless explicitly stated otherwise!

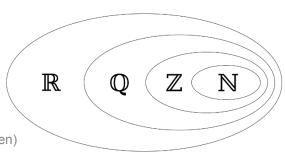


EC Computations

More Generally Speaking

1/8
1/4
1/3

- Based on bytes in practice
- Computations done over fields (e.g., Galois Fields) where
 - addition and subtraction
 - multiplication and division
 - existance of additive inverse –a for all elements a, and of a multiplicative inverse b⁻¹ for every nonzero element b
 - are defined (i.e., computation over bytes with Galois Field)
- For simplicity and illustration, here, we use the Rationales Q in our calculations (Q is a *field* as well so all operations we need are defined)
- Including in assignments, etc.,
 unless explicitly stated otherwise!



Erasure Code

$$n = 3, m = 2$$

- (3, 2)-code
- Here, p_i parity bytes, d_i data bytes (i.e., numbers)
- Parity byte equations must be "sufficiently different"

$$p_0 = d_0 + d_1 + d_2$$

$$p_1 = 1 * d_0 + 2 * d_1 + 3 * d_2$$

· For example, the following is not "sufficiently different"

$$p_1 = 2 * d_0 + 2 * d_1 + 2 * d_2$$

• Here, $p_1 = 2 p_0$ (avoid linear combinations)

For two **missing data bytes**, d_i , d_j i < j, and **given parity bytes** $p_{0,}$ p_1 , we rearrange parity equations to move unknown (i.e., missing data bytes) to left hand side:

Given parity equations: $p_0 = d_0 + d_1 + d_2$ $p_1 = 1*d_0 + 2*d_1 + 3*d_2$

Rearranged (to solve for missing data bytes):

$$d_i + d_j = X = p_0 - d_k$$

$$(i+1) * d_i + (j+1) * d_j = Y = p_1 - (k+1) * d_k$$

where d_k is the known (not missing) data byte

For two **missing data bytes**, d_i , d_j i < j, and **given parity bytes** p_{0_i} p_1 , we rearrange parity equations to move unknown (i.e., missing data bytes) to left hand side:

Given parity equations:

$$p_0 = d_0 + d_1 + d_2$$

$$p_1 = 1 * d_0 + 2 * d_1 + 3 * d_2$$

Rearranged (to solve for missing data bytes):

Equations kept generic since we don't know upfront which bytes get lost

$$d_i + d_j = X = p_0 - a_k$$

$$(i+1)*d_i + (j+1)*d_j = Y = p_1 - (k+1)*d_k$$

where d_k is the known (not missing) data byte

For two **missing data bytes**, d_i , d_j i < j, and **given parity bytes** $p_{0,}$ p_1 , we rearrange parity equations to move unknown (i.e., missing data bytes) to left hand side:

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where d_k is the known (not missing) data byte

Multiply first equation by (i+1) and subtract it from second one to cancel the d_i term; then, use first equation to solve for d_i

$$d_i + d_j = X = p_0 - d_k$$

$$(i+1) * d_i + (j+1) * d_j = Y = p_1 - (k+1) * d_k$$

$$d_{j} = (Y - (i - 1) * X)/(j - i)$$

$$d_{i} = X - d_{j} = (((j + 1) * X - Y)/(j - i)$$

We now have equations for d_i , d_j , i < j to reconstruct the missing data from know parity bytes.

Multiply first equation by (i+1) and subtract it from second one to cancel the d_i term; then, use first equation to solve for d_i

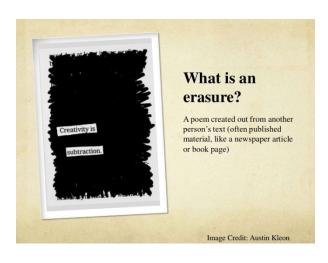
$$d_i + d_j = X = p_0 - d_k$$

$$(i+1) * d_i + (j+1) * d_j = Y = p_1 - (k+1) * d_k$$

$$d_j = (Y-(i-1)*X)/(j-i)$$

$$d_i = X-d_j = ((\left(j+1\right)*X-Y)/(j-i)$$

We now have equations for d_i , d_j , i < j to reconstruct the missing data from know parity bytes.



ERASURE CODES

BASIC LINEAR ALGEBRA

Basic Linear Algebra

Digression

Equations of parity numbers from above example are of the form:

$$p = a_0 * d_0 + a_1 * d_1 + a_2 * d_2$$

where ai are constants

These are **linear combinations** of d_i s and written as

$$p = (a_0 \quad a_1 \quad a_2) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Correspondence

Linear Functions and Matrices: Taking n inputs to m outputs

Two parity numbers, each a linear combination of d_i s:

$$p_0 = a_{00} * d_0 + a_{01} * d_1 + a_{02} * d_2$$

$$p_1 = a_{10} * d_0 + a_{11} * d_1 + a_{12} * d_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{00} & a_{01} & a_{02} \\ a_{10} & a_{11} & a_{12} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Function vs. Matrix

Deleting a row of a matrix corresponds to deleting an output of a linear function

Output
$$\begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{00} & a_{01} & a_{02} \\ a_{10} & a_{11} & a_{12} \end{pmatrix} . \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Function vs. Matrix

Deleting a row of a matrix corresponds to deleting an output of a linear function

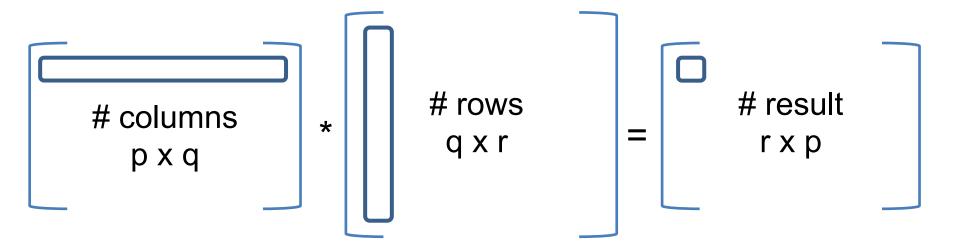
 Swapping two rows of a matrix corresponds to swapping two outputs of a linear function

 Appending a row to a matrix corresponds to adding an output to a linear function

Matrix Multiplication

- Multiply matrices A, B, if they are compatible
- Number of columns of A must equal number of rows of B
 - A is p x q matrix (#rows x #columns)
 - B is a q x r matrix
 - Resulting C is an rxp matrix

Matrix Multiplication



Matrix Multiplication

```
MATRIX-MULTIPLY (A, B)
1. if A.columns ≠ B.rows
     error "incomplete dimensions"
3. else let C be a new A.rows × B.columns
  matrix
4. for i=1 to A.rows
5.
           for j = 1 to B.columns
           c_{ii} = 0
6.
           for k = 1 to A.columns
7.
                   c_{ij} = c_{ij} + a_{ik} * b_{ki}
8.
9. return C
```

Identity Matrix

Identity function returns its *n* inputs as its outputs, corresponding matrix is the **identity matrix**

$$I_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The Inverse

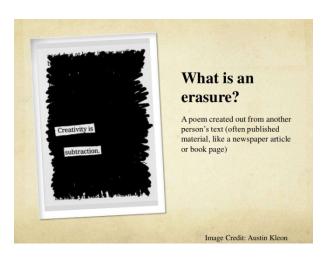
M a square matrix (n x n) andM-1 its inverse, if it exists

$$M * M^{-1} = M^{-1} * M = I_n$$

M Invertible

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M * M^{-1} = M^{-1} * M = I_n$$



ERASURE CODES

(3, 2)-CODE EXAMPLE CONTINUED

Erasure Codes

n = 3, m = 2 from above example (3, 2)-code

$$p_0 = d_0 + d_1 + d_2$$

$$p_1 = 1 * d_0 + 2 * d_1 + 3 * d_2$$

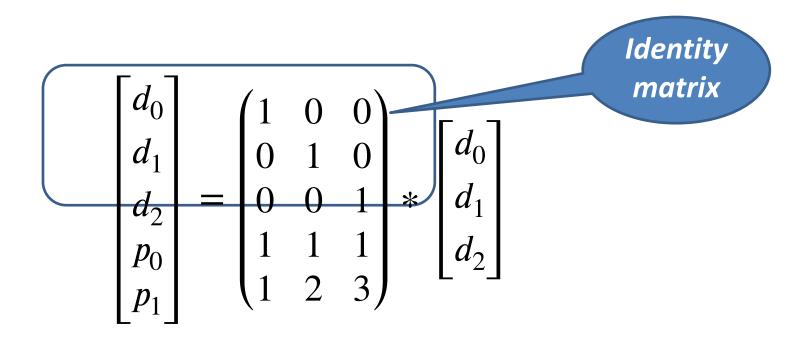
$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$egin{bmatrix} p_0 \ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot egin{bmatrix} d_0 \ d_1 \ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

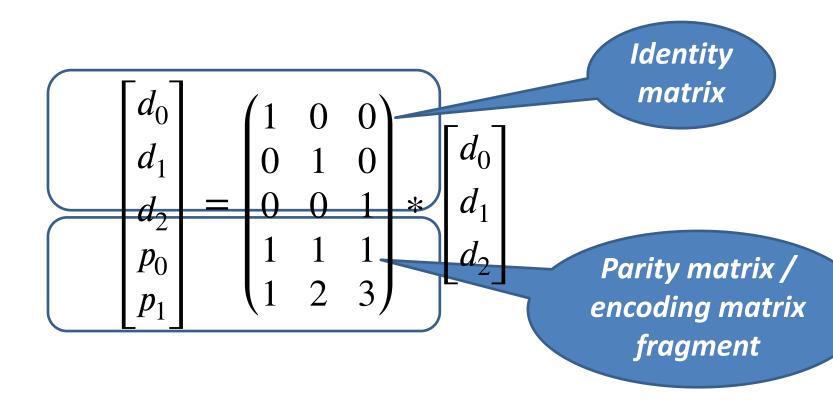
A.k.a. encoding matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

A.k.a. encoding matrix



A.k.a. encoding matrix



A.k.a. encoding matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ d_1 \\ a_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 & b_1 & b_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ d_1 \\ a_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear function mapping data bytes to non-lost data and parity bytes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} . \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear function mapping data bytes to non-lost data and parity bytes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

Solve for d_is

Need Inverse of Reconstruction Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Solve for d_is

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$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Gives us **original data bytes** in terms of **known data** and **parity bytes**!

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$



ERASURE CODESGENERALIZING TO (N, M)-CODES

Generalizing

Arbitrary *n*, *m* - compute parity matrix

Generate an *m* x *n* **parity matrix** *P* (rows need to be "sufficiently different")

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ \vdots \\ p_{m-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_0 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{p}_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

 p_i are rows of $P - an m \times n$ parity matrix

Compute Data Reconstruction Matrix

Append rows of P to I_n , denoted as e_i

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n-1} \\ p_0 \\ \vdots \\ p_{m-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e_0 \\ \vdots \\ e_{n-1} \\ p_0 \\ \vdots \\ p_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Data Loss with Resulting Matrix

- Indices k ≤ m of missing data bytes are i₀, ..., i_{k-1}
- Remove rows corresponding to missing data bytes
- Keep k parity rows $p_0, ..., p_{k-1}$
- j_0, \ldots, j_{n-k-1} indices of present n-k data bytes

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_{j0} \\ \vdots \\ d_{jn-k-1} \\ p_0 \\ \vdots \\ p_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e_{j0} \\ \vdots \\ e_{jn-k-1} \\ p_0 \\ \vdots \\ p_{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute M's Inverse M-1

Reconstruct data by multiplying with M-1

If P was chosen correctly, M^{-1} exists.

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ \vdots \\ d_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} = M^{-1} * \begin{bmatrix} d_{j0} \\ \vdots \\ d_{jn-k-1} \\ \boldsymbol{p}_0 \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{p}_{k-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Loose Ends

How do we compute matrix inverses?

How do we generate "optimal" parity matrices
 P s.t. M⁻¹ always exists?

 How do we compute parity bytes instead of parity numbers (informally referred to as bytes, above)?

Facts: Non-invertible Matrix

More a negative result

 M has a row that can be expressed as a linear combination of other rows of M then M is noninvertible

Said differently:

– Linear function corresponding to M has one of its outputs redundant with the other outputs, so it is essentially a linear function taking n inputs to fewer than m outputs

"Not Sufficiently Different"

- If one parity function is a linear combination of other parity functions then it is redundant, i.e., not sufficiently different
- Therefore, choose P wisely
- No row of P should be expressed as linear combination of other rows of P

• ...



ERASURE CODESANOTHER EXAMPLE

Erasure Coding Example

- Storage: "My private key"
- Pad with spaces to obtain right length if needed
 - "My private key_ _" (added two spaces to obtain length of 16 characters)
- Build data matrix, here, a 4x4 matrix (ASCII code)

```
My p riva te k ey___
```

Protect against loss of 2 bytes

Identity matrix appended with

- Parity matrix
 - Derived form parity equations, i.e., one per parity byte (a.k.a. encoding matrix fragment)

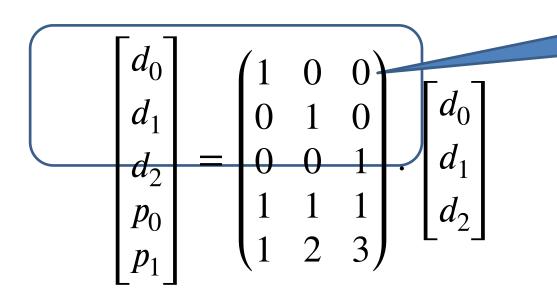
Results in full encoding matrix

(For a (3, 2)-code)

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Parity equations need to be "sufficiently different," e.g., not be linear combinations of each other.

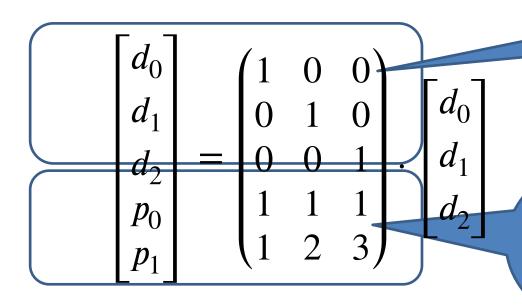
(For a (3, 2)-code)



Identity matrix

Parity equations need to be "sufficiently different," e.g., not be linear combinations of each other.

(For a (3, 2)-code)



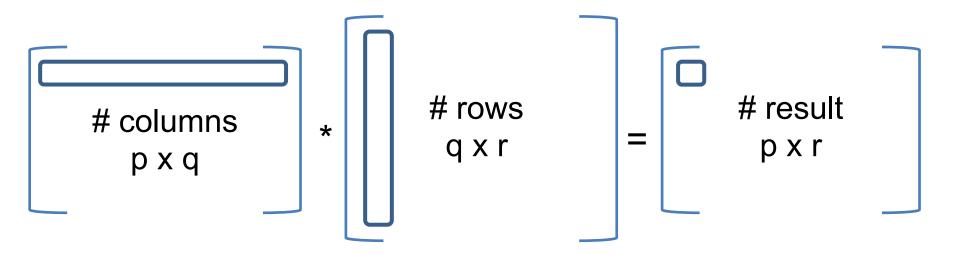
Identity matrix

Encoding matrix fragment – derived from parity equations

Parity equations need to be "sufficiently different," e.g., not be linear combinations of each other.

Parity Matrix

 Results from multiplying encoding matrix with original data matrix



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_0 \\ d_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_2 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 & \mathbf{a}_4 \\ \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_3 & \mathbf{a}_4 \\ \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \mathbf{a}_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Data reconstruction matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_0 \\ d_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Data reconstruction matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recovering Lost Data

 Find Inverse to data reconstruction matrix (from previous slide; it is a square matrix)

For large matrix, use online tools to determine matrix inverse

 Recover data by multiplying Inverse with relevant rows of parity matrix (rows not affected by data loss)

Solve for d_is

Need Inverse of Data Reconstruction Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve for d_is

Need Inverse of Data Reconstruction Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Gives us original data bytes in terms of known data and parity bytes!

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_0 \\ d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix}$$