

Topics: Multiple clients, servers with sensitive data

Approach: Investigate license management in detail

Today's New Ideas: datagrams, the ticket model, transactions

Outline

The Ideal World - Where systems never crash

1. What is a product license
A means for controlling where/who/how many users
2. What is a license server
A program that enforces product licensing in a multi-user setting.
3. The ticket model
How the license server limits usage of an application
4. The Communication Model
Simple transactions - a request and a response
Datagrams - postcards from one socket to another
5. Flow of Control
In the client
In the Server
6. The code itself.

The Real World - where bad things can happen to good programs

Possible problems:

1. Clients can crash - natural disasters
2. Servers can crash - unnatural disasters.

Solutions:

1. Clients who crash leave tickets stuck - server can "expire" these tickets.
- The ball_move() model for ticket expiration.
2. When the server crashes, the database is lost.
- The clients can "check in" to be sure their tickets are still good.
- Ticket validation as a means of recovery.