QUORUMS AND FAULT TOLERANCE

Module 4
Fall 2020

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UC San Diego

ATTRIBUTION

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- These slides incorporate material from:
  - Tanenbaum and Van Steen, Dist. Systems: Principles and Paradigms
  - Kyle Jamieson, Princeton University (also under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 Creative Commons license)

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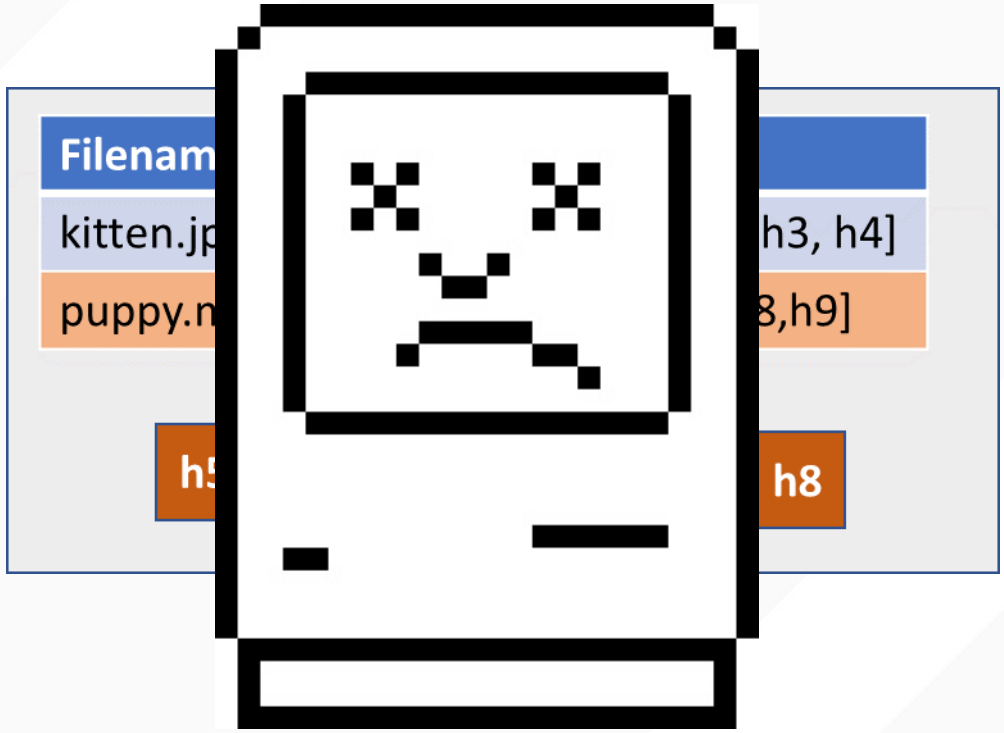
SURFSTORE METADATA SERVER PROBLEM

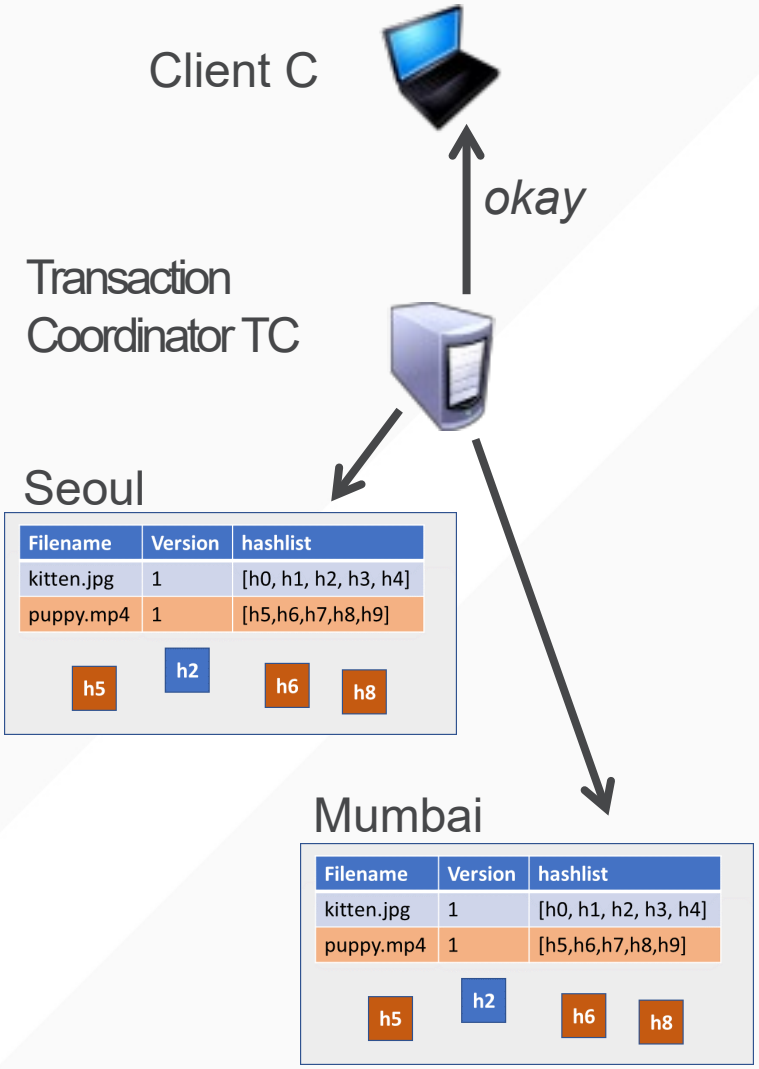
```
UpdateFile(
   file="kitten.jpg",
   ver=2,
   hashlist = {h3,h4}
);
```



All data is lost!

Surfstore Client

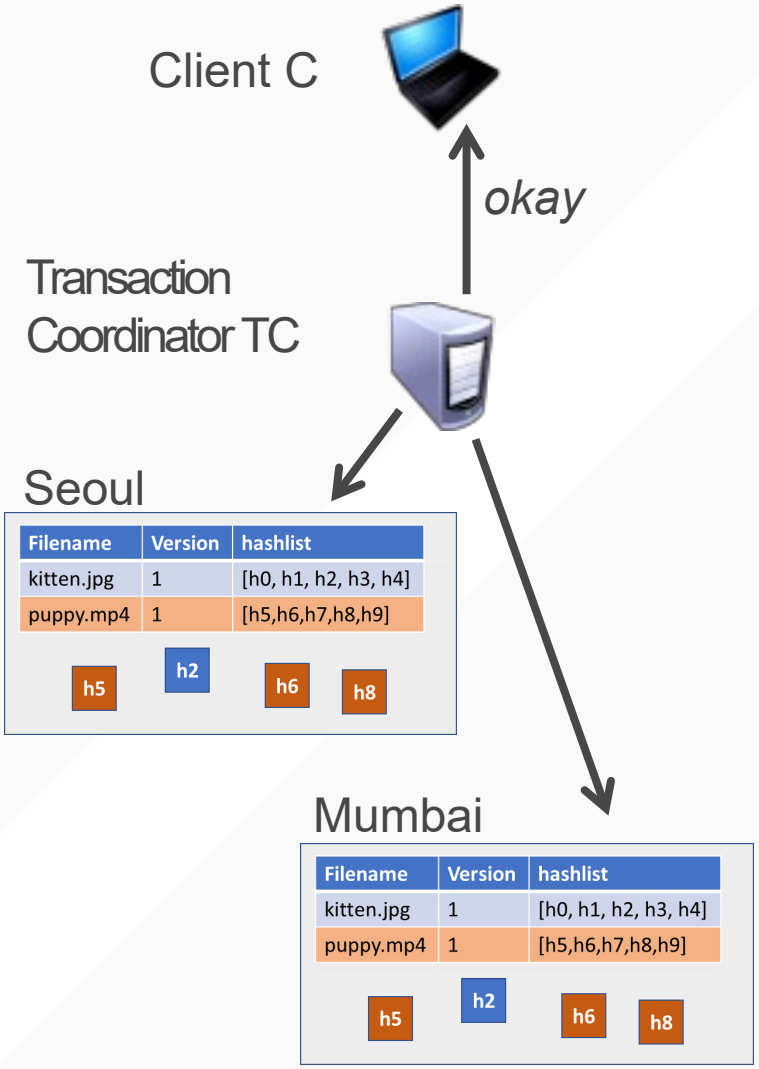
IDEA 1: ADAPT TWO-PHASE COMMIT TO SAVE DATA



1. **C → TC:** *"go!"*
2. **TC → Seoul (S), Mumbai (M):** *"prepare!"*
3. **S, M → P:** *"yes"* or *"wrong_version"*
4. **TC → S, M:** *"commit!"* or *"abort!"*
   - **TC** sends ***commit*** if **both** say *yes*
   - **TC** sends ***abort*** if **either** say *no*
5. **TC → C:** *"okay"* or *"failed"*

- **S, M** commit on receipt of commit message

IDEA 2: ASSUME TC DOESN'T FAIL (FOR NOW)



1. **C → TC:** *"go!"*
2. **TC → Seoul (S), Mumbai (M):** *"prepare!"*
3. **S, M → P:** *"yes" [why always yes?]*
4. **TC → S, M:** *"commit!"*
   - **TC** sends ***commit***
5. **TC → C:** *"okay"*

- **S, M** commit on receipt of commit message
- ***Why do we still need the commit?***

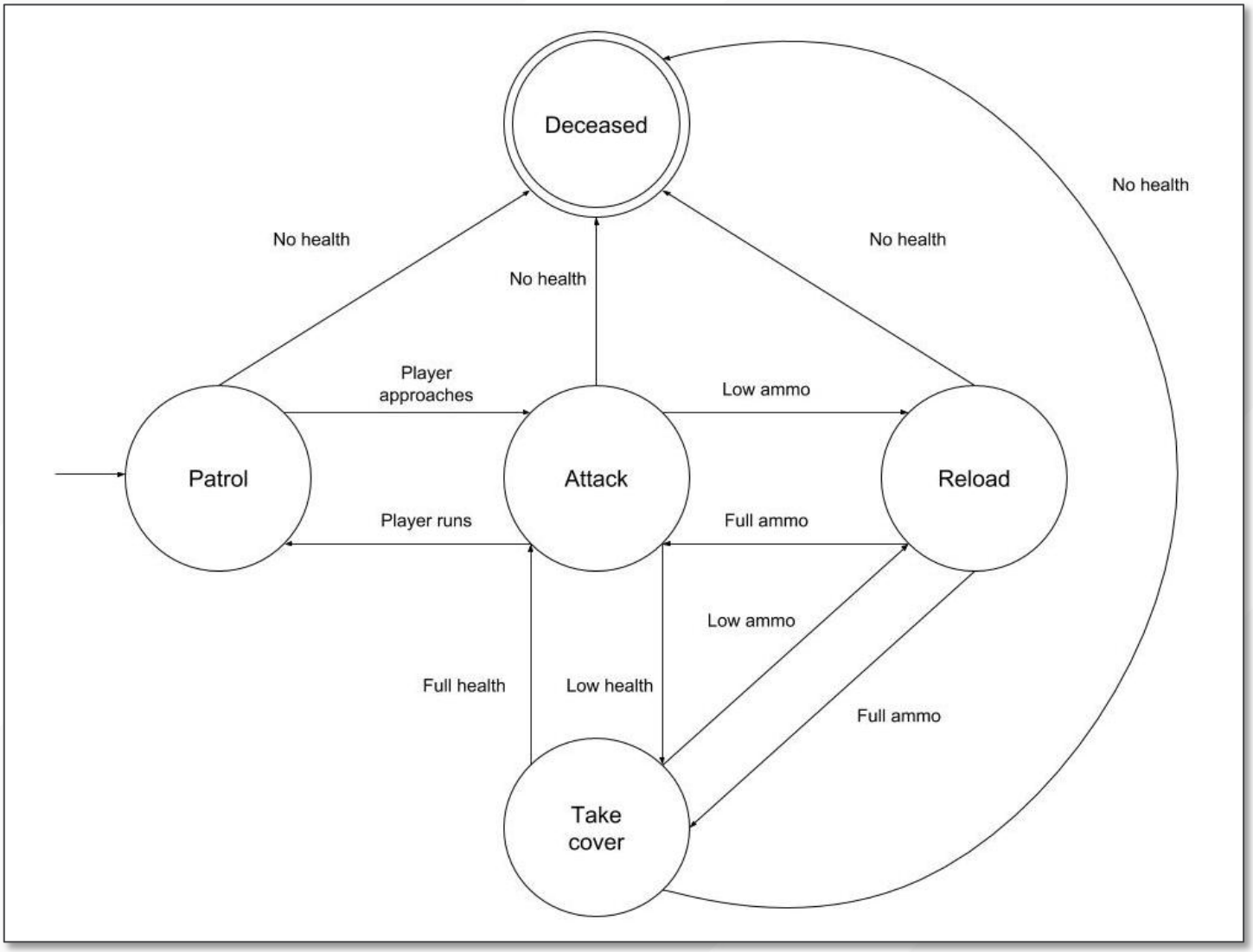
NETWORK PARTITIONS

- Some failure (either network or host) keeps replicas from communicating with one another
- Two-phase commit (even if we assume all replicas agree) only works if all nodes can be contacted
- How to proceed with read/write transactions in case where not all replicas can be contacted?

QUORUM-BASED PROTOCOLS

- Idea: Tell client that a file's version is updated after a majority of SurfStoreServers get the update
- Form a "read quorum" of size N_R
  - Contact N_R servers and read all their versions
  - Select highest version as the "correct" version
- Form a "write quorum" of size N_W
  - Contact N_W servers
  - Increment the highest version from that set
  - Write out that new version to the servers in the write quorum

REPRESENTING A SERVICE AS A FINITE STATE MACHINE

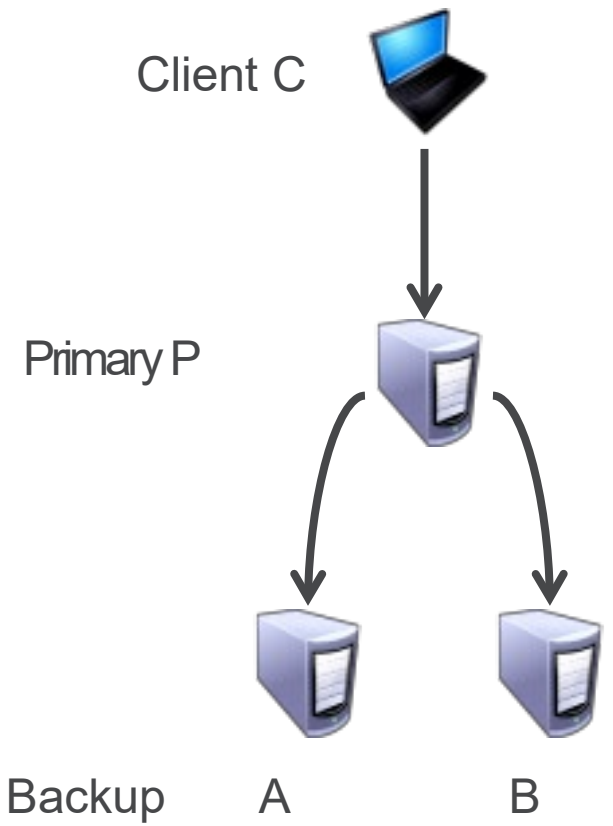


STATE MACHINE REPLICATION

- **Any server** is essentially a ***state machine***
  - Operations **transition** between states

- Need an op to be executed on all replicas, or none at all
  - *i.e.,* we need **distributed all-or-nothing atomicity**
  - If op is deterministic, replicas will end in same state

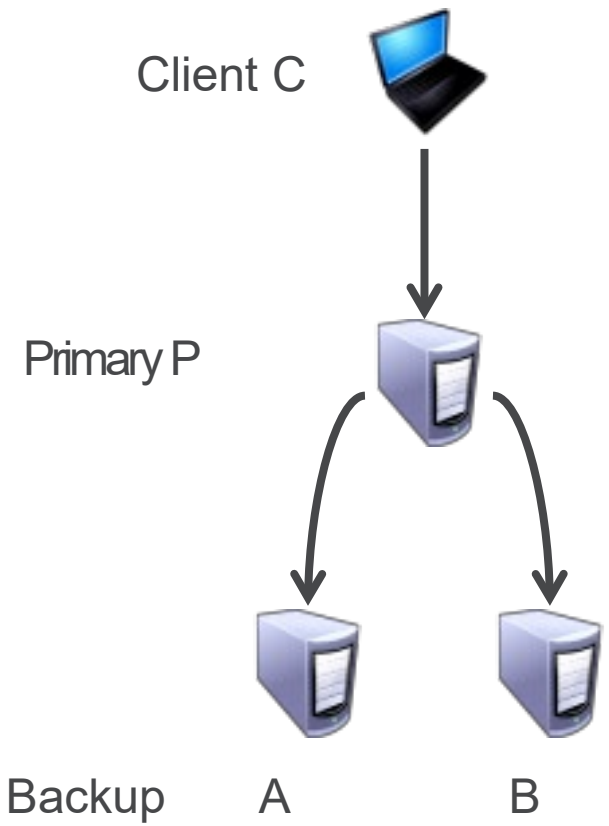
Two phase commit protocol



1. **C → P:** *"request <op>"*
2. P → **A, B:** *"prepare <op>"*
3. **A, B → P:** *"prepared"* or *"error"*
4. P → **C:** *"result exec<op>" or "failed"*
5. P → A, B: *"commit <op>"*

What if primary fails?
Backup fails?

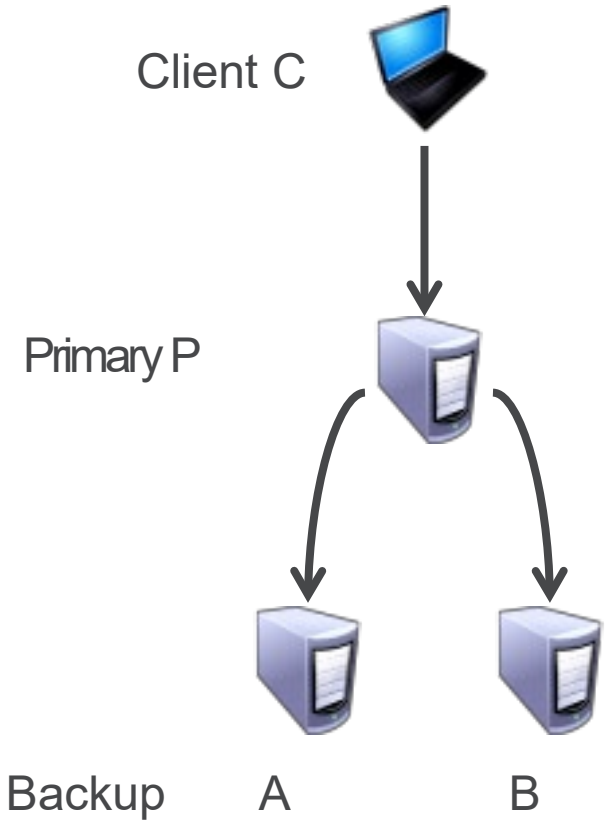
Two phase commit protocol

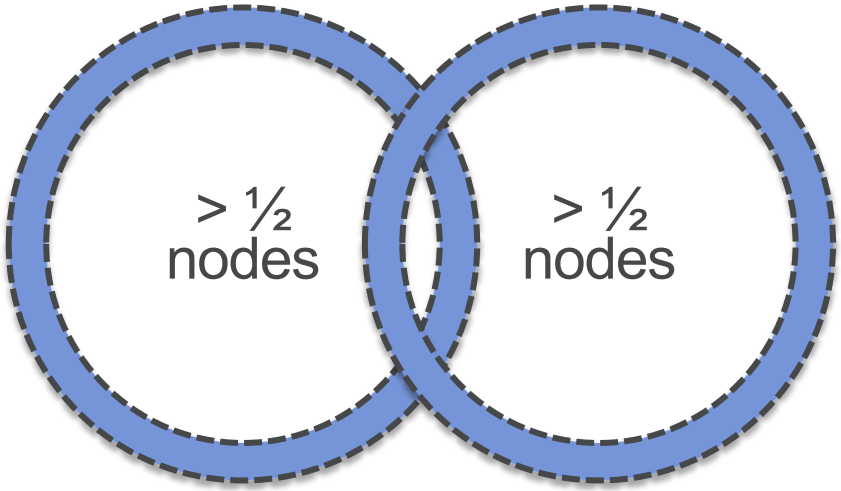


1. **C → P:** *"request <op>"*
2. P → **A, B:** *"prepare <op>"*
3. **A, B → P:** *"prepared"* or *"error"*
4. P → **C:** *"result exec<op>" or "failed"*
5. P → A, B: *"commit <op>"*

"Okay" (i.e., op is stable) if written to > ½ backups

Two phase commit protocol





- Commit sets always overlap ≥ 1 node
- Any >½ nodes guaranteed to see committed op

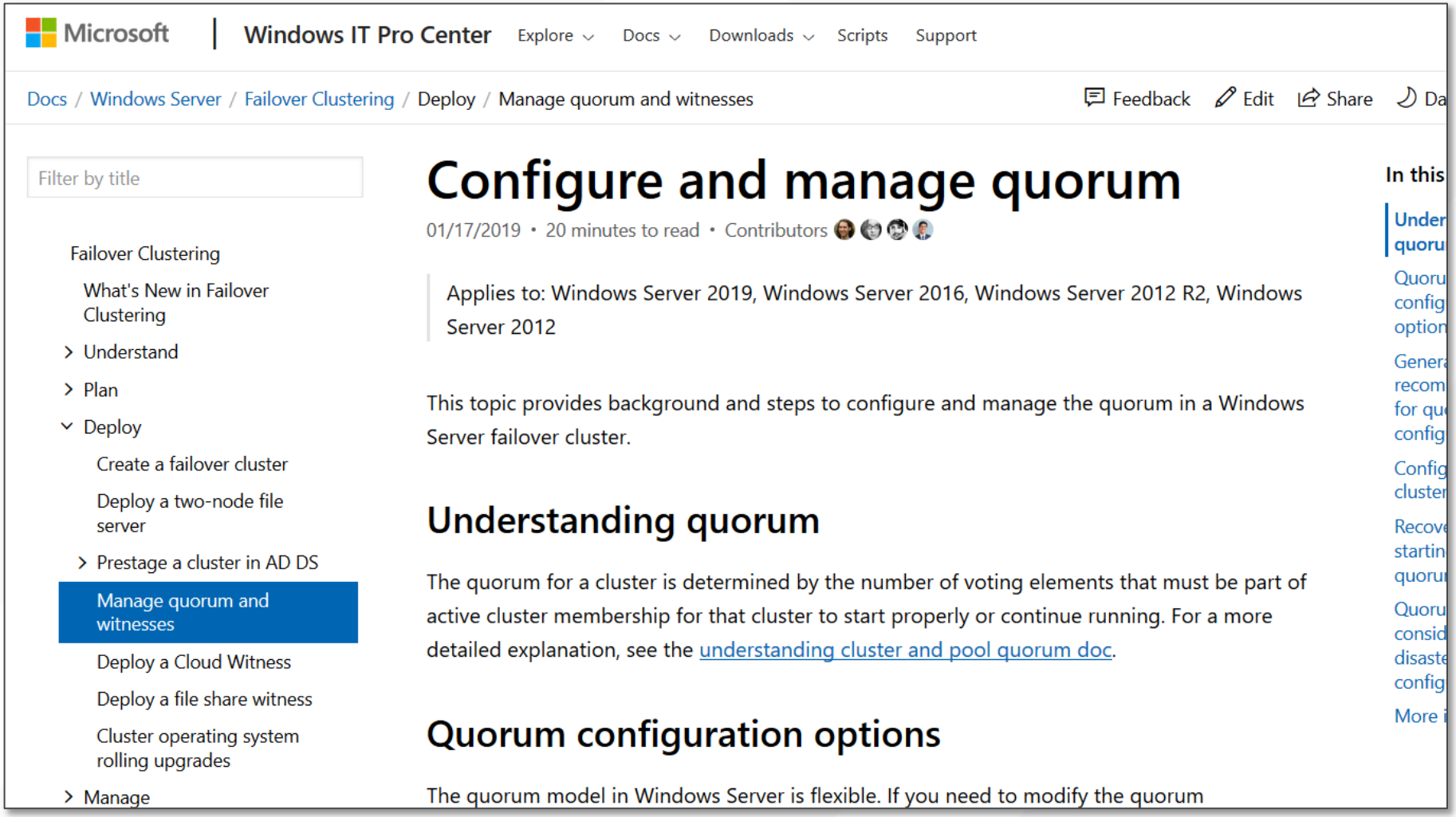
CONSTANTS AND CONSTRAINTS

- N: Total #Replicas
- N_R: #Replicas in Read Quorum
- N_W: #Replicas in Write Quorum
- Constraints for *strong* consistency:
  1. $N_R + N_W > N$
  2. $N_W > N/2$

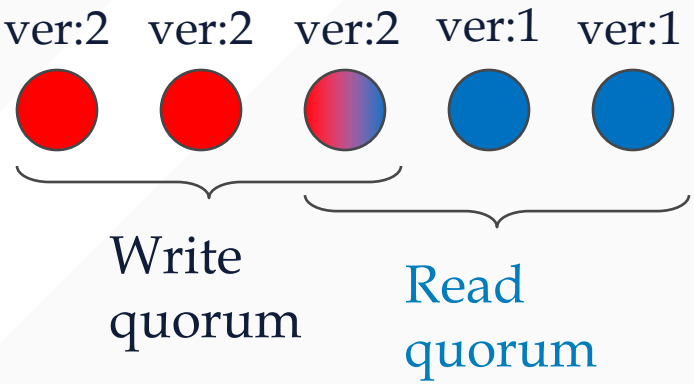
QUORUM CONSENSUS

- Write operations can be propagated in background to replicas not in quorum
  - Assumes eventual repair of any network partition
- Operations are slowed by the necessity of first gathering a quorum
  - Though previously, all writes had to go to all replicas
    - With quorum system, must only contact subset of replicas

QUORUMS IN MICROSOFT ACTIVE DIRECTORY

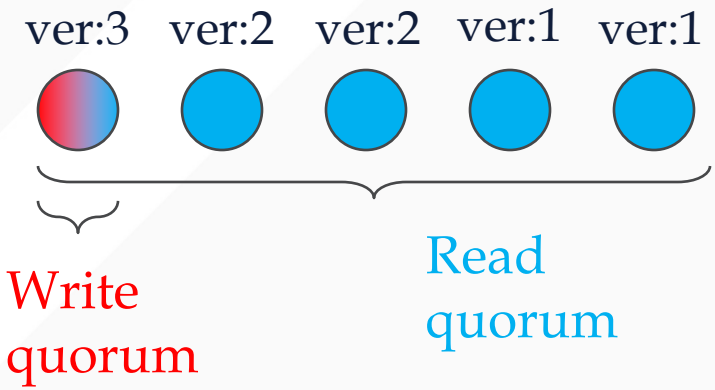


QUORUM EXAMPLE



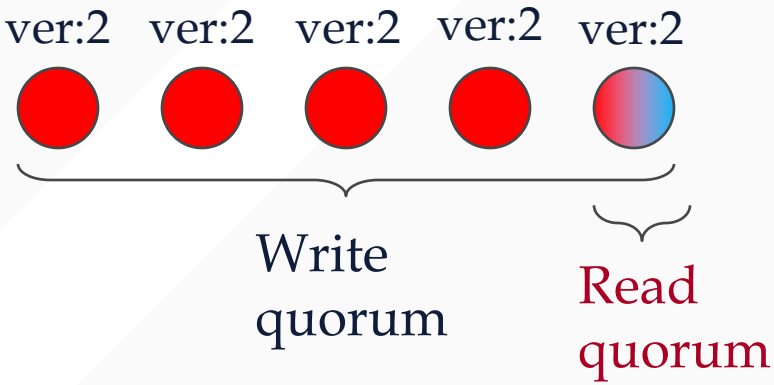
- 5 replicas, read quorum: 3, write quorum: 3
  - R+W>5 votes ensures overlap between any read/write quorum
- How does this perform for reads?
- How does this perform for writes?

QUORUM EXAMPLE



- 5 replicas, read quorum: 5, write quorum: 1
  - R+W>5 votes ensures overlap between any read/write quorum
- How does this perform for reads?
- How does this perform for writes?

QUORUM EXAMPLE



- 5 replicas, read quorum: 1, write quorum: 5
  - R+W>5 votes ensures overlap between any read/write quorum
  - Also called ROWA (read one, write all)
- How does this perform for reads?
- How does this perform for writes?

STRONGLY CONSISTENT AND EVENTUALLY CONSISTENT EXAMPLES

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