Scalaris

Users and Developers Guide Version 0.1

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Part I Users Guide

1 Download and Installation

1.1 Requirements

For building and running Scalaris, some third-party modules are required which are not included in the Scalaris sources:

- Erlang R12
- Erlang OTP (included in Erlang R12)
- GNU Make

Note, the Version 12 of Erlang is required. Scalaris will not work with older versions. To build the Java API the following modules are required additionally:

- Java Development Kit 1.6
- Apache Ant

Before building the Java API, make sure that **JAVA_HOME** and **ANT_HOME** are set. **JAVA_HOME** has to point to a JDK 1.6 installation, and **ANT_HOME** has to point to an Ant installation.

1.2 Download

The sources can be obtained from http://code.google.com/p/scalaris.

1.2.1 Development Branch

You find the latest development version in the svn repository:

```
# Non-members may check out a read-only working copy anonymously over HTTP. svn checkout http://scalaris.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/ scalaris-read-only
```

1.2.2 Releases

Releases can be found under the 'Download' tab on the web-page.

1.3 Configuration

Scalaris reads two configuration files from the working directory: bin/scalaris.cfg (mandatory) and bin/scalaris.local.cfg (optional). The former defines default settings and is included in the release. The latter can be created by the user to alter settings. A sample file is bin/scalaris.local.cfg.example. A local configuration file is necessary to run Scalaris on distributed nodes:

File scalaris.local.cfg:

boot_host defines the node where the boot server is running, which is contacted to join the system.

1.4 Build

1.4.1 Linux

Scalaris uses autoconf for configuring the build environment and GNU Make for building the code.

```
%> ./configure
%> make
%> make docs
```

For more details read **README** in the main Scalaris checkout directory.

1.4.2 Windows

We are currently not supporting Scalaris on Windows. However, we have two small bat files for building and running a boot server. It seems to work but we make no guarantees.

- Install Erlang
- Install OpenSSL (for crypto module)
- Checkout scalaris code from SVN
- copy an appropriate EMakefile_for from contrib/win32 to the trunk-directory
- Adapt the path to your Erlang installation in build.bat
- run build.bat
- Go to the bin sub-directory
- Adapt the path to your Erlang installation in boot.bat
- run boot.bat

1.4.3 Java-API

The following commands will build the Java API for Scalaris:

```
%> make java
```

This will build scalaris.jar, which is the library for accessing the overlay network. Optionally, the documentation can be build:

```
%> cd java-api
%> ant doc
```

1.5 Running Scalaris

In Scalaris there are two kinds of processes:

- boot servers
- regular servers

In every Scalaris, at least one boot server is required. It will maintain a list of nodes taken part in the system and allows other nodes to join the ring. For redundancy, it is also possible to have several boot servers.

1.5.1 Running on a local machine

Open at least two shells. In the first, go into the bin directory:

```
%> cd bin
%> ./boot.sh
```

This will start the boot server. On success http://localhost:8000 should point to the management interface page of the boot server. The main page will show you the number of nodes currently in the system. After a couple of seconds a first Scalaris should have started in the boot server and the number should increase to one. The main page will also allow you to store and retrieve key-value pairs.

In a second shell, you can now start a second Scalaris node. This will be a 'regular server'. Go in the bin directory:

```
%> cd bin
%> ./cs_local.sh
```

The second node will read the configuration file and use this information to contact the boot server and will join the ring. The number of nodes on the web page should have increased to two by now. Optionally, a third and fourth node can be started on the same machine. In a third shell:

```
%> cd bin
%> ./cs_local2.sh
```

In a fourth shell:

```
%> cd bin
%> ./cs_local3.sh
```

This will add 3 nodes to the network. The web pages at http://localhost:8000 should show the additional nodes.

1.5.2 Running distributed

Scalaris can be installed on other machines in the same way as described in Sect. 1.6. In the default configuration, nodes will look for the boot server on localhost on port 14195. You should create a scalaris.local.cfg pointing to the node running the boot server.

```
% Insert the appropriate IP-addresses for your setup
% as comma separated integers:
% IP Address, Port, and label of the boot server
{boot_host, {{127,0,0,1},14195,boot}}.
```

If you are using the default configuration on the boot server it will listen on port 14195 and you only have to change the IP address in the configuration file. Otherwise the other nodes will not find the boot server. On the remote nodes, you only need to call ./cs_local.sh and they will automatically contact the configured boot server.

1.6 Installation

For simple tests, you do not need to install Scalaris. You can run it directly from the source directory. Note: **make install** will install scalaris into /usr/local. But is more convenient to build RPMs and install those.

```
svn checkout http://scalaris.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/ scalaris-0.0.1
tar -cvjf scalaris-0.0.1.tar.bz2 scalaris-0.0.1 --exclude-vcs
cp scalaris-0.0.1.tar.bz2 /usr/src/packages/SOURCES/
rpmbuild -ba scalaris-0.0.1/contrib/scalaris.spec
```

Your source and binary rpm will be generated in /usr/src/packages/SRPMS and RPMS. We also build rpms using checkouts from svn and provide them using the openSUSE BuildService at http://download.opensuse.org/repositories/home:/tschuett/. RPM packages are available for

- Fedora 9, 10,
- Mandriva 2008, 2009,
- openSUSE 11.0, 11.1,
- SLE 10, 11,
- CentOS 5 and
- RHEL 5.

Inside those repositories you will also find an erlang rpm - you don't need this if you already have a recent enough erlang version!

1.7 Logging

Scalaris uses the log4erl library (see **contrib**/**log4erl** for logging status information and error messages. The log level can be configured in **bin**/**scalaris.cfg**. The default value is error; only errors and severe problems are logged.

```
%% @doc Loglevel: debug < info < warn < error < fatal < none
{log_level, error}.</pre>
```

In some cases, it might be necessary to get more complete logging information, e.g. for debugging. In 4.2 on page 19, we are explaining the startup process of Scalarisnodes in more detail, here the info level provides more detailed information.

```
%% @doc Loglevel: debug < info < warn < error < fatal < none
{log_level, info}.</pre>
```

2 Using the system

2.1 JSON API

Scalaris supports a JSON API for transactions. To minimize the necessary round trips between a client and Scalaris, it uses request lists, which contain all requests that can be done in parallel. The request list is then send over to a Scalaris node with a POST message. The result is an opaque TransLog and a list containing the results of the requests. To add further requests to the transaction, the TransLog and another list of requests may be send to Scalaris. This process may be repeated as necessary. To finish the transaction, the request list can contain a 'commit' request as last element, which triggers the validation phase of the transaction processing.

The JSON-API can be accessed via the Scalaris-Web-Server running on port 8000 by default and the page <code>jsonrpc.yaws</code> (For example at: http://localhost:8000/jsonrpc.yaws). The following example illustrates the message flow:

Client Scalaris node

Make a transaction, that sets two keys:

Scalaris sends results back

In a second transaction: Read the two keys -

 \leftarrow Scalaris sends results back

Calculate something with the read values and make further requests, here a write and the commit for the whole transaction. Include also the latest translog we got from Scalaris (named **TLOG** here).

← Scalaris sends results back

A sample usage of the JSON API using Ruby can be found in **contrib/jsonrpc.rb**. A single request list must not contain a key more than once! The allowed requests are:

```
{ "read":"any_key" }

{ "write":{"any_key":"any_value"} }

{ "commit":"commit" }
```

The possible results are:

```
{ "op":"read", "key":"any_key", "value":"any_value" }
{ "op":"read", "key":"any_value", "fail":"reason" } // 'not_found' or 'timeout'

{ "op":"write", "key":"any_key", "value":"any_value" }
{ "op":"read", "key":"any_key", "fail":"reason" }

{ "op":"commit", "value":"ok", "key":"ok" }
{ "op":"commit", "value":"fail", "fail":"reason" }
```

2.1.1 Deleting a key

Outside transactions keys can also be deleted, but it has to be done with care, as explained in the following thread on the mailing list: http://groups.google.com/group/scalaris/browse_thread/thread/ffld9237e218799.

Two sample results

2.2 Java command line interface

The jar file contains a small command line interface client. For convenience, we provide a wrapper script called **scalaris** which setups the Java environment:

```
%> cd java-api
%> ./scalaris -help
usage: scalaris
 -g,--getsubscribers <topic> get subscribers of a topic
                             print this message
-help
                             run mini benchmark
-minibench
                            publish a new message for a topic: <topic>
 -p,--publish <params>
                              <message>
-r,--read <key>
                             read an item
 -s,--subscribe <params>
                              subscribe to a topic: <topic> <url>
 -u,--unsubscribe <params>
                             unsubscribe from a topic: <topic> <url>
 -w, --write <params>
                              write an item: <key> <value>
```

Read and write can be used to read resp. write from/to the overlay. getsubscribers, publish, and subscribe are the PubSub functions.

```
%> ./scalaris -write foo bar
write(foo, bar)
%> ./scalaris -read foo
read(foo) == bar
```

The scalaris library requires that you are running a 'regular server' on the same node. Having a boot server running on the same node is not sufficient.

2.3 Java API

The **scalaris**. **jar** provides the command line client as well as a library for Java programs to access Scalaris. The library provides two classes:

- Scalaris provides a high-level API similar to the command line client.
- Transaction provides a low-level API to the transaction mechanism.

For details we refer the reader to the Javadoc:

```
%> cd java-api
%> ant doc
%> firefox doc/index.html
```

3 Testing the system

3.1 Running the unit tests

There are some unit tests in the **test** directory. You can call them by running **make test** in the main directory. The results are stored in a local **index.html** file.

The tests are implemented with the **common-test** package from the Erlang system. For running the tests we rely on **run_test**, which is part of the **common-test** package, but is not installed by default. **configure** will check whether **run_test** is available. If it is not installed, it will show a warning and a short description of how to install the missing file.

Note: for the unit tests, we are setting up and shutting down several overlay networks. During the shut down phase, the runtime environment will print extensive error messages. These error messages do not indicate that tests failed! Running the complete test suite takes about 5 minutes. Only when the complete suite finished, it will present statistics on failed and successful tests.

Part II Developers Guide

4 How a node joins the system

4.1 General Erlang server loop

Servers in Erlang often use the following structure to maintain a state while processing received messages:

```
receive
  Message ->
    State1 = f(State),
    loop(State1)
end.
```

The server runs an endless loop, that waits for a message, processes it and calls itself using tail-recursion in each branch. The loop works on a **State**, which can be modified when a message is handled.

4.2 Starting additional local nodes after boot

After booting a new Scalaris-System as described in Section 1.5.1 on page 9, ten additional local nodes can be started by typing admin:add_nodes(10) in the Erlang-Shell that the boot process opened ¹.

```
scalaris/bin> ./boot.sh
[...]
=INFO REPORT==== 12-May-2009::16:24:18 ===
Yaws: Listening to 0.0.0.0:8000 for servers
    - http://localhost:8000 under ../docroot
[info] [ CC ] this() == {{127,0,0,1},14195}
[info] [ DNC <0.96.0> ] starting DeadNodeCache
[info] [ DNC <0.96.0> ] starting Dead Node Cache
[info] [ RM <0.97.0> ] starting ring maintainer

[info] [ RT <0.99.0> ] starting routingtable
[info] [ Node <0.101.0> ] joining 315238232250031455306327244779560426902
[info] [ Node <0.101.0> ] join as first 315238232250031455306327244779560426902
[info] [ FD <0.74.0> ] starting pinger for {{127,0,0,1},14195,<0.101.0>}
[info] [ Node <0.101.0> ] joined
[info] [ CY ] Cyclon spawn: {{127,0,0,1},14195,<0.102.0>}
(boot@csr-pc9) 1> admin:add_nodes(10)
```

In the following we will trace, what this function does to join additional nodes to the system. The function admin:add_nodes(int) is defined as follows.

File admin.erl:

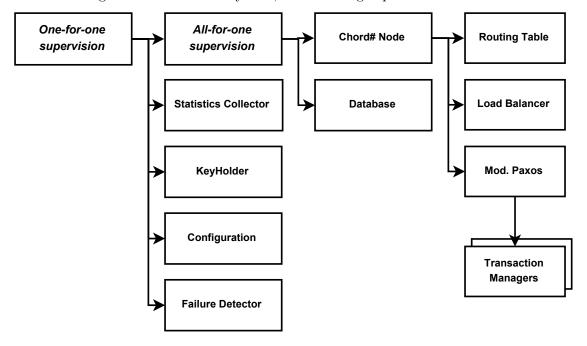
¹Increase the log level to info to get the detailed startup logs. See Sect. 1.7 on page 10

```
45
        add_nodes(Count, 0).
46
47
    % @spec add_nodes(int(), int()) -> ok
48
    add_nodes(Count, Delay) ->
49
        add_nodes_loop(Count, Delay).
50
51
    add_nodes_loop(0, _) ->
52
53
    add_nodes_loop(Count, Delay) ->
54
        supervisor:start_child(main_sup, {randoms:getRandomId(),
55
                                            {cs_sup_or, start_link, []},
56
                                            permanent,
57
                                            brutal_kill,
58
                                            worker,
59
                                            []}),
60
        timer:sleep(Delay) ,
61
        add_nodes_loop(Count - 1, Delay).
```

It calls add_nodes_loop(Count, Delay) with a delay of 0. This function starts a new child for the main supervisor main_sup. As defined by the parameters, to actually perform the start, the function cs_sup_or:start_link is called by the Erlang supervisor mechanism. For more details on the OTP supervisor mechanism see Chapter 18 of the Erlang book [1] or the online documentation at http://www.erlang.org/doc/man/supervisor.html.

4.2.1 Supervisor-tree of a Scalaris node

When starting a new node in the system, the following supervisor tree is created:



4.2.2 Starting the or-supervisor and general processes of a node

Starting supervisors is a two step process: the supervisor mechanism first calls the **init**() function of the defined module (**cs_sup_or:init**() in this case) and then calls the start function (**start_link** here.

So, lets have a look at cs_sup_or:init, the 'Scalaris or supervisor'.

```
File cs_sup_or.erl:
61 init([Options]) ->
```

```
62
         InstanceId = string:concat("cs_node_", randoms:getRandomId()),
63
         boot_server:connect(),
         KeyHolder
 64
              {cs_keyholder,
 65
 66
               {cs_keyholder, start_link, [InstanceId]},
 67
              permanent,
 68
              brutal kill.
 69
               worker,
 70
               []},
         RSE =
 71
 72
              {rse_chord,
 73
               {rse_chord, start_link, [InstanceId]},
 74
              permanent,
 75
              brutal_kill,
 76
              worker.
 77
              []},
 78
         Supervisor AND =
 79
              {cs_supervisor_and,
 80
               {cs_sup_and, start_link, [InstanceId, Options]},
 81
               permanent.
 82
              brutal_kill,
 83
               supervisor,
 84
               []},
 85
         RingMaintenance =
 86
              { ?RM,
 87
               {?RM, start_link, [InstanceId]},
 88
               permanent,
 89
              brutal kill.
 90
               worker,
 91
               111.
         RoutingTable =
 92
 93
              {routingtable,
 94
               {rt_loop, start_link, [InstanceId]},
               permanent
95
 96
              brutal_kill,
97
               worker.
98
               []},
         DeadNodeCache =
99
100
              {deadnodecache,
101
               {dn_cache, start_link, [InstanceId]},
102
              permanent
103
              brutal_kill,
104
               worker,
105
               111.
106
         {ok, {{one_for_one, 10, 1},
107
108
                KeyHolder,
109
            DeadNodeCache,
110
                RingMaintenance,
111
                RoutingTable
112
                 Supervisor_AND
113
                 %RSE
114
                1}}.
```

The return value of the <code>init()</code> function specifies the child processes of the supervisor and how to start them. Here, we define a list of processes to be observed by a <code>one_for_one</code> supervisor. The processes are: <code>KeyHolder</code>, <code>DeadNodeCache</code>, <code>RingMaintenance</code>, <code>RoutingTable</code>, and a <code>Supervisor_AND</code> process.

The term {one_for_one, 10, 1} specifies that the supervisor should try 10 times to restart each process before giving up. one_for_one supervision means, that if a single process stops, only that process is restarted. The other processes run independently.

The cs_sup_or:init() is finished and the supervisor module, starts all the defined processes by calling the functions that were defined in the list of the cs_sup_or:init().

For a join of a new node, we are only interested in the starting of the **Supervisor_AND** process here. At that point in time, all other defined processes are already started and running.

4.2.3 Starting the and-supervisor with a peer and its local database

Again, the OTP will first call the init() function of the corresponding module:

File cs_sup_and.erl:

```
58
    init([InstanceId, Options]) ->
59
        Node
60
61
              {cs_node, start_link, [InstanceId, Options]},
62
              permanent
63
              brutal_kill,
64
              worker,
65
              []},
        DB =
66
             {?DB,
67
68
              {?DB, start_link, [InstanceId]},
69
              permanent
70
              brutal_kill,
71
              worker,
72
              []},
73
        Cyclon =
74
             {cyclon,
              {cyclon.cyclon, start_link, [InstanceId]},
75
76
              permanent,
77
              brutal kill,
78
              worker,
79
              []},
         {ok, {{one_for_all, 10, 1},
80
81
82
                DB,
83
                Node.
84
                Cyclon
85
               111.
```

It defines three processes, that have to be observed using an **one_for_all**-supervisor, which means, that if one fails, all have to be restarted. Passed to the **init** function is the **InstanceId**, a random number to make nodes unique. It was calculated a bit earlier in the code. Exercise: Try to find where.

As you can see from the list, the **DB** is started before the **Node**. This is intended and important, because **cs_node** uses the database, but not vice versa. The supervisor first completely initializes the DB process and afterwards calls **cs_node:start_link**. We only go into details here, for the latter.

File cs_node.erl:

cs_node implements the **gen_component** behaviour. This component was developed by us to enable us to write code which is similar in syntax and semantics to the examples in [2]. Similar to the **supervisor** behaviour, the component has to provide an **init** function, but here it is used to initialize the state of the component. This function is described in the next section.

Note: **?MODULE** is a predefined Erlang macro, which expands to the module name, the code belongs to (here: **cs_node**).

4.2.4 Initializing a cs_node-process

File cs node.erl:

```
%% @doc joins this node in the ring and calls the main loop
354
355
     -spec(init/1 :: ([any()]) -> cs_state:state()).
356
     init([_InstanceId, Options]) ->
357
         case lists:member(first, Options) of
358
             true ->
359
                 ok:
360
             false ->
361
                 timer:sleep(crypto:rand_uniform(1, 100) * 100)
362
         end.
363
         Id = cs_keyholder:get_key()
364
         {First, State} = cs_join:join(Id),
365
         i.f
366
             not First ->
367
                 cs_replica_stabilization:recreate_replicas(cs_state:get_my_range(State));
368
             true ->
369
370
         end.
         log:log(info,"[ Node ~w ] joined",[self()]),
371
372
         State.
```

The gen_component behaviour registers the cs_node in the process dictionary. Formerly, the process had to do this himself, but we moved this code into the behaviour. If the cs_node is the first node, he will start immediately. Otherwise, the process sleeps for a random amount of time. Ff you would start 1000 processes with admin:add_nodes(1000), the boot-server would receive many join requests at the same time, which is not intended. It will also make the ring stabilization process more complicated. Adding 100s of nodes within a short period of time induces more churn into the system, than the ring maintenance can handle.

Then, the node retrieves its Id from the keyholder: Id = cs_keyholder:get_key(). In the first call, a random identifier is returned, otherwise the latest set value. If the cs_node-process failed and is restarted by its supervisor, this call to the keyholder ensures, that the node still keeps its Id, assuming that the keyholder process is not failing. This is important for the load-balancing and for consistent responsibility of nodes to ensure consistent lookup in the structured overlay. Note: the name Key-holder actually is an id-holder.

If a node changes its position in the ring for load-balancing, the key-holder will be informed and the **cs_node** finishes itself. This triggers a restart of the corresponding database process via the and-supervisor. When the supervisor restarts both processes, they will retrieve the new position in the ring from the key-holder and join the ring there.

The supervisor was configured to restart a node at most 10 times. Does that mean, that a node can only change its position in the ring 10 times (caused by load-balancing)?

After retrieving its identifier, the node starts the join process.

4.2.5 Actually joining the ring

cs_join:join is called next in cs_node:init().

File cs_join.erl:

```
%% @doc join a ring and return initial state
            the boolean indicates whether it was the first
88
    응응
89
            node in the ring or not
90
    %% @spec join(Id) -> {true|false, state:state()}
91
         Id = term()
92
    join(Id) ->
        log:log(info,"[ Node ~w ] joining ~p",[self(), Id]),
93
94
        Ringsize = boot_server:number_of_nodes(),
95
            Ringsize == 0 ->
96
97
                State = join_first(Id),
```

```
98
                 cs reregister:reregister(),
99
                 {true, State};
100
             true ->
101
                 case cs_lookup:reliable_get_node(erlang:get(instance_id),
102
                                                    Id, 60000) of
                     error ->
103
104
                         join(Id);
105
                      {ok, Succ} ->
106
                         State = join_ring(Id, Succ),
107
                         cs_reregister(),
108
                          {false, State}
109
                 end
110
         end.
```

The boot-server is contacted to retrieve the known number of nodes in the ring. If the ring is empty, join_first is called. Otherwise, join_ring is called.

join_first just creates a new state for a Scalaris node consisting of an empty routing table, a successorlist containing itself, itself as its predecessor, a reference to itself, its responsibility area from Id to Id (the full ring), and a load balancing schema.

File cs_join.erl:

The macro ?RT maps to the configured routing algorithm. It is defined in **chordsharp.erl**. For further details on the routing see Chapter 5 on page 27.

The state is defined in

File cs state.erl:

```
57
    new(RT, Successor, Predecessor, Me, MyRange, LB, DB) ->
58
        #state{
59
         routingtable = RT.
60
         successor = Successor,
61
         predecessor = Predecessor,
62
         me = Me.
         my_range = MyRange,
63
64
         lb=LB,
65
         join_time=now(),
66
         deadnodes = gb_sets:new(),
67
         trans_log = #translog{
68
           tid_tm_mapping = dict:new(),
69
           decided = gb_trees:empty(),
           undecided = gb_trees:empty()
70
71
          },
72
         db = DB
73
        }.
```

If a node joins an existing ring, reliable_get_node for the own Id is called in cs_join:join(). This lookup delivers the successor for the joining node. The node, that is currently responsible for Id, but which has a larger Id itself. If this lookup fails for some reason, it is tried again, by recursivly calling the join().

What, if the **Id** is exactly the same as that of the existing node? This could lead to lookup and responsibility inconsistency? Can this be triggered by the load-balancing? This is a bug, that should be fixed!!!

Then, cs_join:join_ring is called:

File cs_join.erl:

```
61
    join_ring(Id, Succ) ->
        log:log(info,"[ Node ~w ] join_ring ~w",[self(), Id]),
62
63
        Me = node:make(cs_send:this(), Id),
64
        UniqueId = node:uniqueId(Me),
65
        cs_send:send(node:pidX(Succ), {join, cs_send:this(), Id, UniqueId}),
66
        receive
67
            {join_response, Pred, Data} ->
68
                log:log(info,"[ Node ~w ] got pred ~w",[self(), Pred]),
                case node:is_null(Pred) of
69
70
                    true ->
71
                        DB = ?DB:add_data(?DB:new(), Data),
72
                        ?RM:initialize(Id, Me, Pred, Succ)
73
                        routingtable:initialize(Id, Pred, Succ),
74
                        cs_state:new(?RT:empty(Succ), Succ, Pred, Me, {Id, Id}, cs_lb:new(), DB);
75
                    false ->
76
                        cs_send:send(node:pidX(Pred), {update_succ, Me}),
                        DB = ?DB:add_data(?DB:new(), Data),
77
78
                         ?RM:initialize(Id, Me, Pred, Succ)
79
                        routingtable:initialize(Id, Pred, Succ),
80
                        cs_state:new(?RT:empty(Succ), Succ, Pred, Me, {node:id(Pred), Id},
81
                                      cs_lb:new(), DB)
82
                end
83
        end.
```

First the node is initialized. Then it sends a **join** message to the successor including a reference to itself and the chosen **Id**.

The message is received by the old node in cs_node.erl. There exists a {join, X} handler.

File cs_node.erl:

This triggers to call join_request on the old node.

File cs_join.erl:

```
join_request(State, Source_PID, Id, UniqueId) ->
    Pred = node:new(Source_PID, Id, UniqueId),
    {DB, HisData} = ?DB:split_data(cs_state:get_db(State), cs_state:id(State), Id),
    cs_send:send(Source_PID, {join_response, cs_state:pred(State), HisData}),
    ?RM:update_pred(Pred),
    cs_state:set_db(State, DB).
```

This resets the local predecessor to the new node and splits the data. Then it sends a **join_response** to the new node with its former predecessor, the data, it has to host, and its successorlist. Additionally, the new node will be observed by the failuredetector.

Note: Here, the observation of the former predecessor could be deleted from the failure detector. But periodically, all known hosts are reregistered with the failure detector, and then all other nodes are thrown away from the list of nodes to observe in the failure detector. So, we do not care here. Finally, the new predecessor is set and the <code>join_request()</code> is finished.

Back on the new node: it waits for the <code>join_response</code> message in <code>cs_join:join_ring()</code>. The next steps after the message was received from the old node are to register the predecessor, to register all new nodes in the failure detector, to send a message to the predecessor, that its successor has changed.

Finally, all data are added to the database and the succlist is build by putting the successor to the head of the successor list of the successor (old node): [Succ | SuccList].

The next step in <code>cs_join:join()</code> is to call <code>cs_reregister:reregister</code> which reregisters the node periodically with the boot server. Then <code>{false, State}</code> is returned, which means 'this was not the first node in the ring'. Now, the <code>cs_join:join()</code> is completed.

4.2.6 Beginning to serve requests

cs_join:join() was called from cs_node:start(), which now continues

File cs node.erl:

```
354
    %% @doc joins this node in the ring and calls the main loop
355
     -spec(init/1 :: ([any()]) -> cs_state:state()).
356
    init([_InstanceId, Options]) ->
357
         case lists:member(first, Options) of
358
             true ->
359
                 ok;
360
             false ->
                 timer:sleep(crypto:rand_uniform(1, 100) * 100)
361
362
         end,
363
         Id = cs_keyholder:get_key(),
364
         {First, State} = cs_join:join(Id),
365
366
             not First ->
367
                 cs_replica_stabilization:recreate_replicas(cs_state:get_my_range(State));
368
369
370
         log:log(info,"[ Node ~w ] joined",[self()]),
371
372
         State.
```

The **cs_replica_stabilization:recreate_replicas**() function is called, which is not yet implemented. It would recreated necessary replicas that were lost due to load-balancing and node failures.

Finally all the self-management services are started with timer:after and the loop for request handling is started.

4.2.7 FAQ

Question: How are the routing-table, load-balancing and paxos processes started, that can be seen in the supervisor tree?

Answer: They are currently not implemented as separate Erlang processes. All the requests are handled by the loop started by **cs_node:start()**. Nevertheless, they could be implemented as separate processes to make the software architecture cleaner.

5 Routing and routing tables in the Overlay

2008-07-25, SVN revision 12

Each node of the ring can perform searches in the overlay.

A search is done by a lookup in the overlay, but there are several other demands for communication between peers, so Scalaris provides a general interface to route a message another peer, that is currently responsible for a given **key**.

File cs_lookup.erl:

```
[...]
unreliable_lookup(Key, Msg) ->
    get_pid(cs_node) ! {lookup_aux, Key, Msg}.

unreliable_get_key(Key) ->
    unreliable_lookup(Key, {get_key, cs_send:this(), Key}).
[...]
```

The message Msg could be a get which retrieves content from the responsible node or a get_node message, which returns a pointer to the node.

All currently supported messages are listed in the file cs_node.erl.

The message routing is implemented in lookup.erl

File lookup.erl:

Each node is responsible for a certain key interval. With the function util:is_between it is decided, whether the key is between the current node and its successor. If that is the case, final step is done using lookup_fin(), which delivers the message to the local node. Otherwise, the message is forwarded to the next nearest known peer (listed in the routing table) determined by ?RT:next_hop.

routingtable.erl is a generic interface for routing tables, like a Java interface. In Erlang interfaces can be defined using a 'behaviour'. The files rt_simple and rt_chord implement the behaviour 'routingtable'.

The macro ?RT in other files replaces to the active module, which is defined in chordsharp.hrl.

File chordsharp.hrl:

```
[...]
%%This file determines which kind of routingtable is used. Uncomment the
```

```
%%one that is desired.

%%Standard Chord routingtable
-define(RT, rt_chord).

%%Simple routingtable
%-define(RT, rt_simple).
[...]
```

The functions, that have to be implemented for a routing mechanism are defined in the following file:

File routingtable.erl:

```
behaviour_info(callbacks) ->
     % create a default routing table
     {empty, 1},
     % key space -> identifier space
     {hash_key, 1}, {getRandomNodeId, 0},
     % routing
     {next_hop, 2},
     % trigger for new stabilization round
     {stabilize, 1},
     % dead nodes filtering
     {filterDeadNodes, 2},
     {to_pid_list, 1}, {to_node_list, 1}, {get_size, 1},
     % for symmetric replication
     {get_keys_for_replicas, 1},
     % for debugging
     {dump, 1}
behaviour_info(_Other) ->
   undefined.
[...]
```

empty/1 gets a successor passed and generates an empty routing table. The data structure of the routing table is undefined. It can be a list, a tree, a matrix ...

hash_key/1 gets a key and translates it to an id for the overlay.

getrandomnodeid/0 returns a random node id.

next_hop/2 gets a routing table and a key and returns the node, that should be contacted next (is nearest to the id).

stabilize/1 is called periodically to rebuild the routing table.

filterDeadNodes is called by the failured etector and tells the routing table about dead nodes to be eliminated from the routing table. This function cleans the routing table.

to pid list/1 get all PIDs of the routing table entries.

to_node_list/1 get all nodes in the routing table as complete reference including IP, range, etc. get_size/1 get the size of the routing table.

get_keys_for_replicas/1 Returns for a given **Key** the keys of its replicas. Thereby one can implement successorlist replication or symmetric replication or any other schema.

dump/1 dump the state. Not mandatory, may just return ok.

5.1 Simple routing table

One implementation of a routing table is the **rt_simple**, which routes via the successor, which is inefficient, as it needs a linear number of hops to reach its goal. A more robust implementation, would use a successor list. This implementation is not very efficient on churn.

5.1.1 Data types

First, the data structure of the routing table is defined:

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @type rt() = {node:node(), gb_trees:gb_tree()}. Sample routing table
%% @type key() = int(). Identifier
[...]
```

A routing table is a pair of a node (the successor) and an (unused) gbtree. Keys in the overlay are identified by integers.

5.1.2 A simple routingtable behaviour

File rt_simple.erl:

The empty routing table consists of the successor.

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc hashes the key to the identifier space.
%% @spec hash_key(string()) -> key()
hash_key(Key) ->
    BitString = binary_to_list(crypto:md5(Key)),
    % binary to integer
    lists:foldl(fun(El, Total) -> (Total bsl 8) bor El end, 0, BitString).

%% @doc generates a random node id
%%    In this case it is a random 128-bit string.
%% @spec getRandomNodeId() -> key()
getRandomNodeId() ->
    % generates 128 bits of randomness
    hash_key(integer_to_list(random:uniform(65536 * 65536))).
[...]
```

Keys are hashed using MD5 and have a length of 128 bits.

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc returns the next hop to contact for a lookup
%% @spec next_hop(cs_state:state(), key()) -> pid()
next_hop(State, _Key) ->
    cs_state:succ_pid(State).
[...]
```

Next hop is always the successor.

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc triggers a new stabilization round
%% @spec stabilize(cs_state:state()) -> cs_state:state()
stabilize(State) ->
```

```
% trigger the next stabilization round
timer:send_after(config:pointerStabilizationInterval(), self(), {stabilize_pointers}),
% renew routing table
cs_state:set_rt(State, empty(cs_state:succ(State))).
[...]
```

The **stabilize**/1 first triggers to be called again after the pointer stabilization interval defined in the configuration. Then it resets its routing table with the current successor.

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc removes dead nodes from the routing table
%% @spec filterDeadNodes(rt(), [node:node()]) -> rt()
filterDeadNodes(RT, _DeadNodes) ->
    RT.
[...]
```

FilterDeadNodes/2 does nothing, as only the successor is listed in the routing table and that is reset periodically in stabilize/1.

File rt_simple.erl:

to_pid_list/1 return the pids of the routing tables, as defined in node.erl.

File rt_simple.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc returns the pids of the routing table entries .
%% @spec to_node_list(rt()) -> [node:node()]
to_node_list({Succ, _RoutingTable} = _RT) ->
        [Succ].
[...]
```

Return whole node definitions as defined in node.erl

File node.erl:

```
[...]
-record(node, {pid, id, uniqueId}).
[...]
```

File node.erl:

The get_keys_for_replicas/1 implements symmetric replication, here. The call to normalize implements the modulo by throwing high bits away.

File node.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc
%% @spec dump(cs_state:state()) -> term()
dump(_State) ->
    ok.
[...]
```

dump/1 is not implemented.

5.2 Chord routing table

The file rt_chord.erl implements Chord's routing.

5.2.1 Data types

```
File node.erl:
[...]
%% @type rt() = gb_trees:gb_tree(). Chord routing table
%% @type key() = int(). Identifier
[...]
```

The routing table is a **gb_tree**. Identifiers in the ring are integers.

5.2.2 The routingtable behaviour for Chord

```
File node.erl:
```

This function should return _Succ?

hash_key(Key) and getRandomNodeId call their counterparts from rt_simple.erl

File rt chord.erl:

next_hop traverses the routing table beginning with the longest finger (2^{127}) by calling the helper function **next_hop**/5.

File rt_chord.erl:

```
% @private
next_hop(N, RT, Id, Index, Candidate) ->
   case gb_trees:is_defined(Index, RT) of
        true ->
            case qb_trees:get(Index, RT) of
                null ->
                    Candidate;
                Entry ->
                    case util:is_between_closed(N, node:id(Entry), Id) of
                        true ->
                            node:pidX(Entry);
                        false ->
                            next_hop(N, RT, Id, Index - 1, Candidate)
                end;
        false ->
            Candidate
   end.
[...]
```

If the entry exists, it is retrieved from the **gb_tree**. If the id of the routing table entry is between ourselves and the searched id, the finger is chosen. If anything fails, **Candidate** (the successor) is chosen.

Why could a routing table entry be null? filterDeadNodes changes entries to null.

BUG: Instead of directly returning **Candidate** one should further traverse the routing table for shorter appropriate fingers. If doing so, a check whether **Index** is zero, would become necessary.

If the finger is to long, recursivly try the next shorter finger.

File rt_chord.erl:

```
[...]
%% @doc starts the stabilization routine
%% @spec stabilize(cs_state:state()) -> cs_state:state()
stabilize(State) ->
    % trigger the next stabilization round
    timer:send_after(config:pointerStabilizationInterval(), self(), {stabilize_pointers}),
    % calculate the longest finger
    Key = calculateKey(State, 127),
    % trigger a lookup for Key
    cs_lookup:unreliable_lookup(Key, {rt_get_node, cs_send:this(), 127}),
    State.
[...]
calculateKey(State, Idx) ->
    % n + 2^Idx
    rt_simple:normalize(cs_state:id(State) + (1 bsl Idx)).
```

The routing table stabilization is triggered with the index 127 and then runs asynchronously, as we do not want to block the **cs_node** to perform other request while recalculating the routing table. We have to find the node responsible for the calculated finger and therefore perform a lookup for the node with a **rt_get_node** message, including a reference to ourselves as the reply-to address and the index to be set.

The lookup performs an overlay routing by passing the massage until the responsible node is found. There, the message is delivered to the **cs_node**.

At the destination the message is handled in cs_node.erl:

File cs node.erl:

The remote node just sends the requested information back directly in a **rt_get_node_response** message including a reference to itself.

When receiving the routing table entry, we call **stabilize**/3!, which is different from the **stabilize**/1 above.

File rt_chord.erl:

```
stabilize(State, Index, Node) ->
   RT = cs_state:rt(State)
    case node:is_null(Node) of
       true ->
            State;
        false ->
            case cs_state:succ(State) == Node of
                true ->
                    State;
                false ->
                    NewRT = gb_trees:enter(Index, Node, RT),
                    Key = calculateKey(State, Index - 1),
                    self() ! {lookup_aux, Key, {rt_get_node, cs_send:this(), Index - 1}},
                    cs_state:set_rt(State, NewRT)
            end
    end.
[...]
```

stabilize/3 assigns the received routing table entry and triggers to fill the next shorter one using the same mechanisms as described.

When the shortest finger is the successor, then filling the routing table is stopped, as no further new entries would occur. It is not necessary, that **Index** reaches 1 to make that happen. If less than 2^{128} nodes participate in the system, it may happen earlier.

filterDeadNodes updates the gb tree accordingly.

File rt chord.erl:

```
case node:uniqueId(Value) == Id of
       true ->
           filter_intern(Next, gb_trees:delete(Index, RT), Id);
       false ->
           filter_intern(Next, RT, Id)
%% @doc returns the pids of the routing table entries .
%% @spec to_pid_list(rt()) -> [pid()]
to_pid_list(RT) ->
   lists:map(fun ({_Idx, Node}) -> node:pidX(Node) end, gb_trees:to_list(RT)).
%% @doc returns the pids of the routing table entries .
%% @spec to_node_list(rt()) -> [node:node()]
to_node_list(RT) ->
   lists:map(fun ({_Idx, Node}) -> Node end, gb_trees:to_list(RT)).
%% @doc returns the size of the routing table.
      inefficient standard implementation
%% @spec get_size(rt()) -> int()
get_size(RT) ->
   length(to_pid_list(RT)).
%% @doc returns the replicas of the given key
%% @spec get_keys_for_replicas(key() | string()) -> [key()]
get_keys_for_replicas(Key) ->
   rt_simple:get_keys_for_replicas(Key).
```

Also the remaining functions are implemented as one would expect.

6 Directory Structure of the Source Code

The directory tree of Scalaris is structured as follows:

bin contains shell scripts needed to work with Scalaris (e.g. start the boo				
	services, start a node,)			
contrib necessary third party packages				
doc generated erlang documentation				
docroot root directory of the integrated webserver				
java-api a java api to Scalaris				
log log files				
src contains the Scalaris source code				
tests unit tests for Scalaris				
user-dev-guide	contains the sources for this document			

7 System Components

8 Processes

9 Troubleshooting

9.1 ApplicationMonitor appmon:start()

A Java API

A.1 de.zib.chordsharp.ChordSharp

public class ChordSharp

Public ChordSharp Interface.

Version: 1.1

Author: Nico Kruber, kruber@zib.de

Method Summary	
static Vector <string></string>	getSubscribers(String topic)
	Gets a list of subscribers of a topic.
static void	publish(String topic, String content)
	Publishes an event under a given topic.
static String	read(String key)
	Gets the value stored with the given key.
static void	subscribe(String topic, String url)
	Subscribes a url for a topic.
static void	write(String key, String value)
	Stores the given key/value pair.

read

Gets the value stored with the given key.

Parameters: key - the key to look up

Returns: the value stored under the given key

Throws:

ConnectionException if the connection is not active or a

communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie

TimeoutException if a timeout occurred while trying to fetch the

value

NotFoundException if the requested key does not exist

UnknownException if any other error occurs

write

Stores the given key/value pair.

Parameters: key - the key to store the value for value - the value to store

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TimeoutException - if a timeout occurred while trying to write the value UnknownException - if any other error occurs

publish

Publishes an event under a given topic.

Parameters: topic - the topic to publish the content under content - the content to publish

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie

subscribe

Subscribes a url for a topic.

Parameters: topic - the topic to subscribe the url for url - the url of the subscriber (this is where the events are send to)

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie

getSubscribers

Gets a list of subscribers of a topic.

Parameters: topic - the topic to get the subscribers for

Returns: the subscriber URLs

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie UnknownException - is thrown if the return type of the erlang method does not match the expected one

de.zib.chordsharp.Transaction

```
public class \textbf{Transaction}
```

Provides means to realise a transaction with the chordsharp ring using Java.

It reads the connection parameters from a file called ChordSharpConnection.properties or uses default properties defined in ChordSharpConnection.defaultProperties.

```
OtpErlangString otpKey;
OtpErlangString otpValue;
OtpErlangString otpResult;
String key;
String value;
String result;
Transaction transaction = new Transaction(); // Transaction()
transaction.start(); // start()
transaction.write(otpKey, otpValue); // write(OtpErlangString, OtpErlangString)
transaction.write(key, value); // write(String, String)
otpResult = transaction.read(otpKey); //read(OtpErlangString)
result = transaction.read(key); //read(String)
transaction.commit(); // commit()
```

For more examples, have a look at TransactionReadExample, TransactionParallelReadsExample, TransactionWriteExample and TransactionReadWriteExample.

Attention:

If a read or write operation fails within a transaction all subsequent operations on that key will fail as well. This behaviour may particularly be undesirable if a read operation just checks whether a value already exists or not. To overcome this situation call revertLastOp() immediately after the failed operation which restores the state as it was before that operation.

The TransactionReadWriteExample example shows such a use case.

Version: 1.0

Author: Nico Kruber, kruber@zib.de

Constructor Summary

Transaction()

Creates the object's connection to the chordsharp node specified in the "ChordSharpConnection.properties" file.

Method Summary	
void	abort()
	Cancels the current transaction.
void	$\mathbf{commit}()$
	Commits the current transaction.
OtpErlangString	read(OtpErlangString key)
	Gets the value stored under the given key.
String	read(String key)
	Gets the value stored under the given key.
void	$\mathbf{revertLastOp}()$
	Reverts the last (read or write) operation by
	restoring the last state.
void	$ \mathbf{start}() $
	Starts a new transaction by generating a new transaction log.
void	write(OtpErlangString key, OtpErlangString value)
	Stores the given key/value pair.
void	write(String key, String value)
	Stores the given key/value pair.

Transaction

Creates the object's connection to the chordsharp node specified in the "ChordSharpConnection.properties" file.

Throws: Connection Exception - if the connection fails

start

Starts a new transaction by generating a new transaction log.

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TransactionNotFinishedException - if an old transaction is not finished (via commit() or abort()) yet UnknownException - if the returned value from erlang does not have the expected type/structure

commit

Commits the current transaction. The transaction's log is reset if the commit was successful, otherwise it still retains in the transaction which must be successfully committed or aborted in order to be restarted.

Throws: UnknownException - If the commit fails or the returned value from erlang is of an unknown type/structure, this exception is thrown. Neither the transaction log nor the local operations buffer is emptied, so that the commit can be tried again. ConnectionException if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie

See Also: abort()

abort

```
public void abort()
```

Cancels the current transaction.

For a transaction to be cancelled, only the transLog needs to be reset. Nothing else needs to be done since the data was not modified until the transaction was committed.

read

Gets the value stored under the given key.

Parameters: key - the key to look up

Returns: the value stored under the given key

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TimeoutException - if a timeout occurred while trying to fetch the value NotFoundException - if the requested key does not exist UnknownException - if any other error occurs

read

Gets the value stored under the given key.

Parameters: key - the key to look up

Returns: the value stored under the given key

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TimeoutException - if a timeout occurred while trying to fetch the value NotFoundException - if the requested key does not exist UnknownException - if any other error occurs

write

Stores the given key/value pair.

Parameters: key - the key to store the value for value - the value to store

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TimeoutException - if a timeout occurred while trying to write the value UnknownException - if any other error occurs

write

Stores the given key/value pair.

Parameters: key - the key to store the value for value - the value to store

Throws: ConnectionException - if the connection is not active or a communication error occurs or an exit signal was received or the remote node sends a message containing an invalid cookie TimeoutException - if a timeout occurred while trying to write the value UnknownException - if any other error occurs

revertLastOp

```
public void revertLastOp()
```

Reverts the last (read, parallelRead or write) operation by restoring the last state. If no operation was initiated yet, this method does nothing.

This method is especially useful if after an unsuccessful read a value with the same key should be written which is not possible if the failed read is still in the transaction's log.

Bibliography

- [1] J. Armstrong. Programming Erlang: Software for a Concurrent World. Pragmatic Programmers, ISBN: 978-1-9343560-0-5, July 2007
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