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Project Part II: Transactions and Concurrency Control

# **System Architecture & Special Features**

*Part I*

The design of the first part of the project (web service) follows very closely the design that we were given. We left the code given in the *rm* package in that same package. We then created the middleware so it would have most of the same methods. Hence, the client would call the middleware web service the same way it would the resource managers in the given code. In other words, the logic for Car/Flight/Room *add/delete/query* was put in the resource manager, the middleware only acting as a dispatching layer by selecting the right resource manager to send the request to.

*ReserveItinerary* is handled by the middleware. It simply contacts the individual resource managers to reserve the items. It will try to reserve has many items as possible without halting if one item is not available.

Finally, no extra concurrency handling step has been taken. The code we were given was already using 'synchronized' statements to block the *Hashtable* (which is also synchronized).

*Part 2*

For extending the project for programming assignment 2, we added a centralized Transaction Manager (TM) residing as an object the middleware. The TM exposes three main methods: *start*, *commit*, *abort* as described in the requirement document.

In addition to the centralized TM, each resource manager maintains a list of active transactions in order to provide an undoing functionality. It exposes methods *start*, *commit* and *abort*. On *start(id)*, it saves transaction with id *id* as active. The behavior of *commit* and *abort* depends on the approach for making update transaction atomic:

**Update-in-place.** Any request is executed immediately by the resource manager. Any modifying operation in the resource manager will be saved in an *Operation* object and added to the list of operations of the relevant transaction. Then on *abort*, the resource manager goes over the list of operations from most recent to oldest and undoes each of them.

**Deferred-update.** Any request is buffered until commit time. To do so, the resource manager keeps a list of active transactions and operations associated with it. It also keeps a write set for each active transaction so that any *read* will read the most recent value. On commit transaction X, the RM goes over the list of buffered operations of transaction X and performs all the write operations from oldest to newest.

In order to ensure safety, we have created an instance of the *LockManager* within the middleware, and whenever a *read* or *write* operation is being carried out within the middleware (ex: *addFlight*, *deleteFlight*, *queryFlightPrice*), we will lock the **data item** for each transaction. This is then unlocked within the commit/abort methods.

Also, within the *middleware*, we moved the customer logic from a separate server to the *middleware* instance itself. The customer hash table exists within the *middleware*, and the logic creating / removing customers also exists within the *middleware*.

The *TransactionManger*, stored within the middleware is given the proxies of the *ResourceManger*s, so it can forward the one phase commits/aborts to the appropriate RM. We have an *enlist* method, that when an operation (request) is called, it will add the appropriate relationship between the transactions and the RM’s involved with each transaction.

**Time-to-Live(TTL**). In order to create this feature, we maintain a table of transactions with their corresponding expire time. Whenever we start a new transaction we set the time appropriately, and reset the timer every time a new operation comes in. On a set period, we traverse through the table of transactions and abort all whose expire time is less than the currentTime within the ‘clock’.

**System Test**

We tested the system mostly manually (by running it) except for the *LockManager* which add some tests that we adapted for our purposes. To test the system, we launched three resource managers, a middleware and a few clients. We knew from part I that except for the transaction system, everything was working. Hence, we focused on testing the transaction functionality. We tested various scenarios, ranging from very simple (e.g. a single transaction wants to read, then convert lock to write, then commit/abort) to more complex (e.g. three transactions read the same object, one tries to overwrite it (gets a *write* lock), then the others try to write as well but they either abort because after the deadlock timeout or the transaction holding the *write* lock commits/aborts and one of the other gets the lock and is able to commit afterwards.

**Problems Encountered**

Initially, with the basic implementation created, we had problems with the lock manager. Using what seemed to be the simplest and most logical implementation, it was still causing errors. We had to fully read and understand the entire lock manager and associated classes and edit the code appropriately to ensure it was working completely.