

Transactions

Weak Isolation Levels

Preventing Lost Updates

solutions

- Atomic write operations
- Explicit locking
- Automatically detecting lost updates
- Compare and set
- Conflict resolution and replication(eg: last write wins LWW)

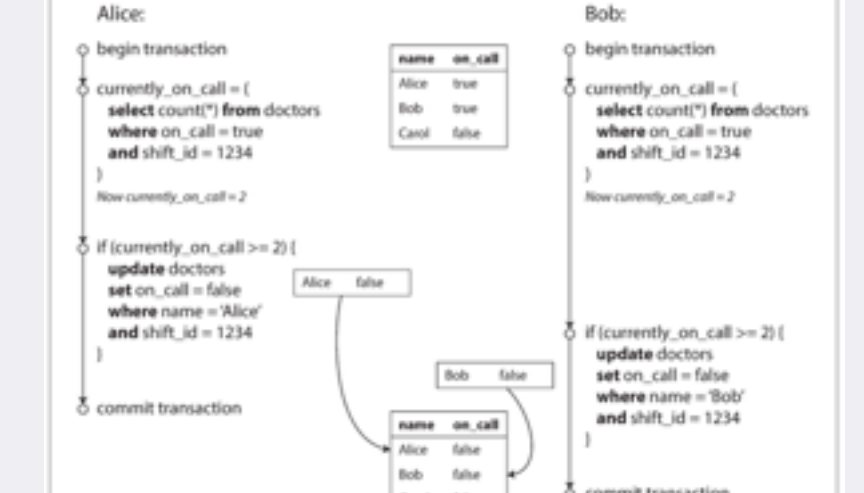


Figure 7.6. Example of write skew causing an application bug.

Snapshot Isolation and Repeatable Read

Implementing snapshot isolation

The database must potentially keep several different committed versions of an object, because various in-progress transactions may need to see the state of the database at different points in time. Is known as multi-version concurrency control(MVCC).

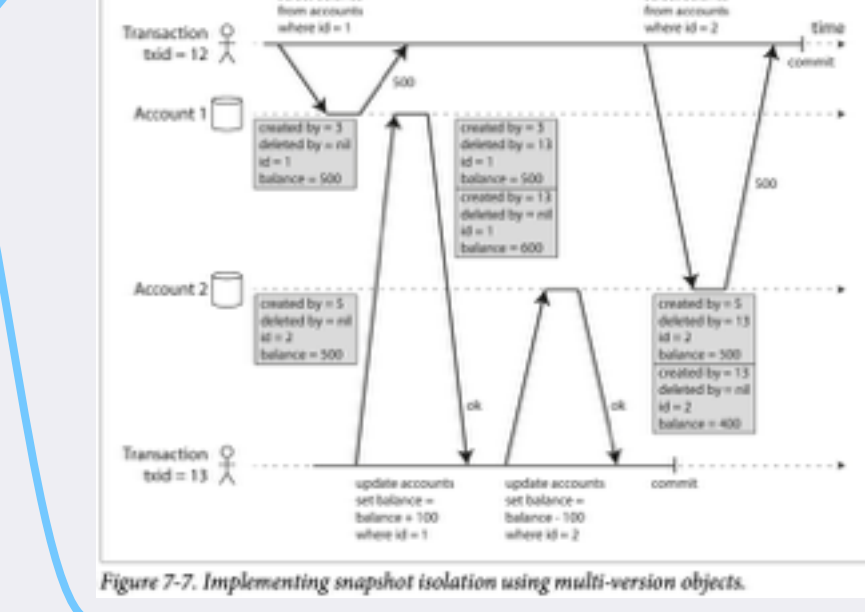


Figure 7.7. Implementing repeatable isolation using multi-version objects.

Visibility rule for observing a consistent snapshot

Indexes and snapshot isolation

How indexes work? Index simply point to all versions of an object and require an index query to filter out any object versions that are not visible to the current transaction. When garbage collection removes old object versions that are no longer visible to any transaction, the corresponding index entries can also be removed.

Repeatable read and naming confusion

Many databases that implement it call it by different names. DB2 uses "repeatable read" to refer to serializability.

Read Committed

Two guarantees

When reading from the database, you will only see data that has been committed(no dirty reads).

When writing to the database, you will only overwrite data that has been committed(no dirty writes).

No dirty reads

Figure 7.4. No dirty reads: user 2 sees the new value for a only after user 1's transaction has committed.

No dirty writes

Figure 7.5. With dirty writes, conflicting writes from different transactions can be mixed up.

Does not prevent the race condition between two counter increments.

Figure 7.3. A race condition between two clients concurrently incrementing a counter.

Implementing read committed

Prevent dirty writes by using row-level locks.

Prevent dirty reads:while the transaction is ongoing ,any other transactions that read the object are simply given the old value.Only when the new value is committed do transactions switch over to reading the new value.

Figure 7.4. Read skew: Alice observes the database in an inconsistent state.

Nonrepeatable read or read skew.

Not a lasting problem and some situations cannot tolerate such temporary inconsistency.

Backups
Analytic queries and integrity checks.

Single-Object and Multi-Object Operations

Single-object writes

Read-modify-write and Compare-and-set

They can prevent lost updates when several clients try to write to the same object concurrently.

The need for multi-object transactions

Many distributed datastores have abandoned multi-object transactions because they are difficult to implement across partitions .

Handling errors and aborts

If the database is in danger of violating its guarantee of atomicity, isolation, or durability, it would rather abandon the transaction entirely than allow it to remain half-finished.

Some problem

Figure 7.2. Violating isolation: one transaction reads another transaction's uncommitted writes in "dirty read".

Figure 7.3. Atomicity requires that if one transaction aborts any prior writes from that transaction are undone, treated as transactions did not.

The meaning of ACID: vague

Atomicity

In general, atomic refers to something that cannot be broken down into smaller parts.

If a transaction was aborted, the application can be sure that it didn't change anything, so it can safely be retried.

Consistency

Consistency refers to an application-specific notion of the database being in a "good state".

Consistency is a property of the application. Thus, the letter C doesn't really belong in ACID.

Isolation

Isolation means that concurrently executing transactions are isolated from each other: they cannot step into each other's toes.

If one transaction makes several writes, then another transaction should see either all or none of those writes, but not some subset.

Durability

Durability is the promise that once a transaction has committed successfully, any data it has written will not be forgotten.

Slippery of Concept:large-scale system would have to abandon transaction in order to maintain good performance and high availability; Is an essential requirement for "serious applications".

Serializability:It guarantees that even though transactions may execute in parallel, the end result is the same as if they had executed one at a time, serially, without any concurrency.

Three techniques

Literally executing transaction in a serial order.

Two-phase locking, which for several decades was the only viable option.

Optimistic concurrency control techniques such as snapshot isolation.

Two developments caused this rethink.

RAM became cheap enough.

Database designers realized that OLTP are usually short and only make a small number of reads and writes.

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