CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 22

Reliable Messaging, Remote Procedure Calls (RPC), Distributed Decision Making

April 16th, 2018

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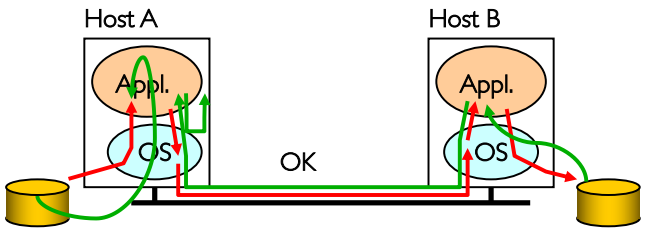
Placing Network Functionality

- Hugely influential paper: "End-to-End Arguments in System Design" by Saltzer, Reed, and Clark ('84)
- "Sacred Text" of the Internet
  - Endless disputes about what it means
  - Everyone cites it as supporting their position

Basic Observation

- Some types of network functionality can only be correctly implemented end-to-end
  - Reliability, security, etc.
- Because of this, end hosts:
  - Can satisfy the requirement without network's help
  - Will/**must** do so, since can't ***rely*** on network's help
- Therefore **don't** go out of your way to implement them in the network

Example: Reliable File Transfer



- Solution 1: make each step reliable, and then concatenate them
- Solution 2: end-to-end **check** and try again if necessary

Discussion

- Solution 1 is incomplete
  - What happens if memory is corrupted?
  - Receiver has to do the check anyway!
- Solution 2 is complete
  - Full functionality can be entirely implemented at application layer with no need for reliability from lower layers
- *Is there any need to implement reliability at lower layers?*
  - Well, it could be more efficient

End-to-End Principle

Implementing this functionality in the network:

- Doesn't reduce host implementation complexity
- Does increase network complexity
- Probably imposes delay and overhead on all applications, even if they don't need functionality
- However, implementing in network can enhance performance in some cases
  - e.g., very lossy link

Conservative Interpretation of E2E

Don't implement a function at the lower levels of the system unless it can be completely implemented at this level

Or,

Unless you can relieve the burden from hosts, don't bother

Moderate Interpretation

- Think twice before implementing functionality in the network
- If hosts can implement functionality correctly, implement it in a lower layer only as a performance enhancement
- But do so only if it does not impose burden on applications that do not require that functionality
- This is the interpretation we are using

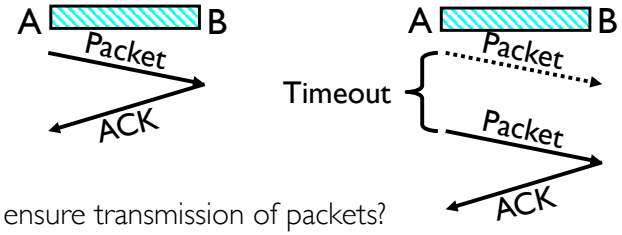
Goals of Today's Lecture

- Reliable Messaging
- RPCs
- Two-Phase Commit

Reliable Message Delivery: the Problem

- All physical networks can garble and/or drop packets
  - Physical media: packet not transmitted/received
    - » If transmit close to maximum rate, get more throughput – even if some packets get lost
    - » If transmit at lowest voltage such that error correction just starts correcting errors, get best power/bit
  - Congestion: no place to put incoming packet
    - » Point-to-point network: insufficient queue at switch/router
    - » Broadcast link: two host try to use same link
    - » In any network: insufficient buffer space at destination
    - » Rate mismatch: what if sender send faster than receiver can process?
- Reliable Message Delivery on top of Unreliable Packets
  - Need some way to make sure that packets actually make it to receiver
    - » Every packet received at least once
    - » Every packet received at most once
  - Can combine with ordering: every packet received by process at destination exactly once and in order

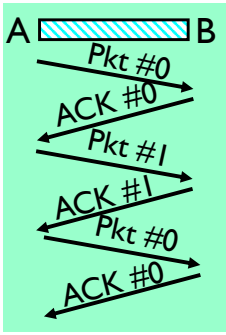
Using Acknowledgements



- How to ensure transmission of packets?
  - Detect garbling at receiver via checksum, discard if bad
  - Receiver acknowledges (by sending "ACK") when packet received properly at destination
  - Timeout at sender: if no ACK, retransmit
- Some questions:
  - If the sender doesn't get an ACK, does that mean the receiver didn't get the original message?
    - » No
  - What if ACK gets dropped? Or if message gets delayed?
    - » Sender doesn't get ACK, retransmits, Receiver gets message twice, ACK each

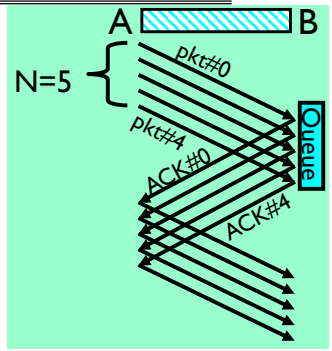
How to Deal with Message Duplication?

- Solution: put sequence number in message to identify re-transmitted packets
  - Receiver checks for duplicate number's; Discard if detected
- Requirements:
  - Sender keeps copy of unACK'd messages
    - » Easy: only need to buffer messages
  - Receiver tracks possible duplicate messages
    - » Hard: when ok to forget about received message?
- Alternating-bit protocol:
  - Send one message at a time; don't send next message until ACK received
  - Sender keeps last message; receiver tracks sequence number of last message received
- Pros: simple, small overhead
- Con: Poor performance
  - Wire can hold multiple messages; want to fill up at (wire latency × throughput)
- Con: doesn't work if network can delay or duplicate messages arbitrarily



Better Messaging: Window-based Acknowledgements

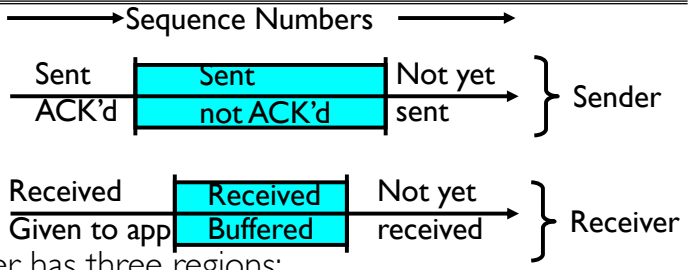
- Windowing protocol (not quite TCP):
  - Send up to N packets without ack
    - » Allows pipelining of packets
    - » Window size (N) < queue at destination
  - Each packet has sequence number
    - » Receiver acknowledges each packet
    - » ACK says "received all packets up to sequence number X"/send more
- ACKs serve dual purpose:
  - Reliability: Confirming packet received
  - Ordering: Packets can be reordered at destination
- What if packet gets garbled/dropped?
  - Sender will timeout waiting for ACK packet
    - » Resend missing packets ⇒ Receiver gets packets out of order!
  - Should receiver discard packets that arrive out of order?
    - » Simple, but poor performance
  - Alternative: Keep copy until sender fills in missing pieces?
    - » Reduces # of retransmits, but more complex
- What if ACK gets garbled/dropped?
  - Timeout and resend just the un-acknowledged packets



Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)

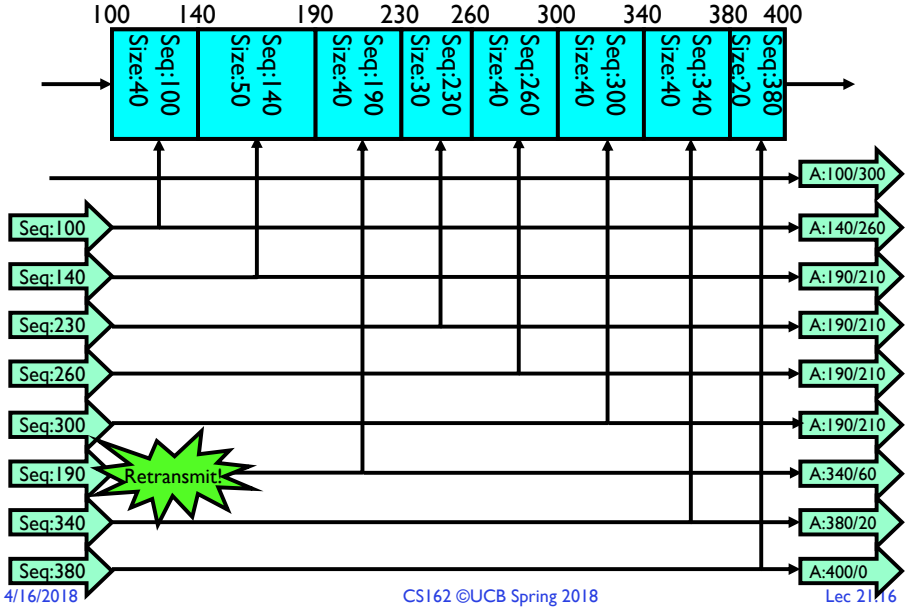
- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
  - TCP (IP Protocol 6) layered on top of IP
  - Reliable byte stream between two processes on different machines over Internet (read, write, flush)
- TCP Details
  - Fragments byte stream into packets, hands packets to IP
    - » IP may also fragment by itself
  - Uses window-based acknowledgement protocol (to minimize state at sender and receiver)
    - » "Window" reflects storage at receiver – sender shouldn't overrun receiver's buffer space
    - » Also, window should reflect speed/capacity of network – sender shouldn't overload network
  - Automatically retransmits lost packets
  - Adjusts rate of transmission to avoid congestion
    - » A "good citizen"

TCP Windows and Sequence Numbers



- Sender has three regions:
  - Sequence regions
    - » sent and ACK'd
    - » sent and not ACK'd
    - » not yet sent
  - Window (colored region) adjusted by sender
- Receiver has three regions:
  - Sequence regions
    - » received and ACK'd (given to application)
    - » received and buffered
    - » not yet received (or discarded because out of order)

Window-Based Acknowledgements (TCP)



Congestion Avoidance

- Congestion
  - How long should timeout be for re-sending messages?
    - » Too long → wastes time if message lost
    - » Too short → retransmit even though ACK will arrive shortly
  - Stability problem: more congestion ⇒ ACK is delayed ⇒ unnecessary timeout ⇒ more traffic ⇒ more congestion
    - » Closely related to window size at sender: too big means putting too much data into network
- How does the sender's window size get chosen?
  - Must be less than receiver's advertised buffer size
  - Try to match the rate of sending packets with the rate that the slowest link can accommodate
  - Sender uses an adaptive algorithm to decide size of N
    - » Goal: fill network between sender and receiver
    - » Basic technique: slowly increase size of window until acknowledgements start being delayed/lost
- TCP solution: "slow start" (start sending slowly)
  - If no timeout, slowly increase window size (throughput) by 1 for each ACK received
  - Timeout ⇒ congestion, so cut window size in half
  - "*Additive Increase, Multiplicative Decrease*"

Goals of Today's Lecture

- Reliable Messaging
- RPCs
- Two-Phase Commit

Remote Procedure Call (RPC)

- Raw messaging is a bit too low-level for programming
  - Must wrap up information into message at source
  - Must decide what to do with message at destination
  - May need to sit and wait for multiple messages to arrive
- Another option: Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
  - Calls a procedure on a remote machine
  - Client calls:

```
remoteFileSystem→Read("rutabaga");
```

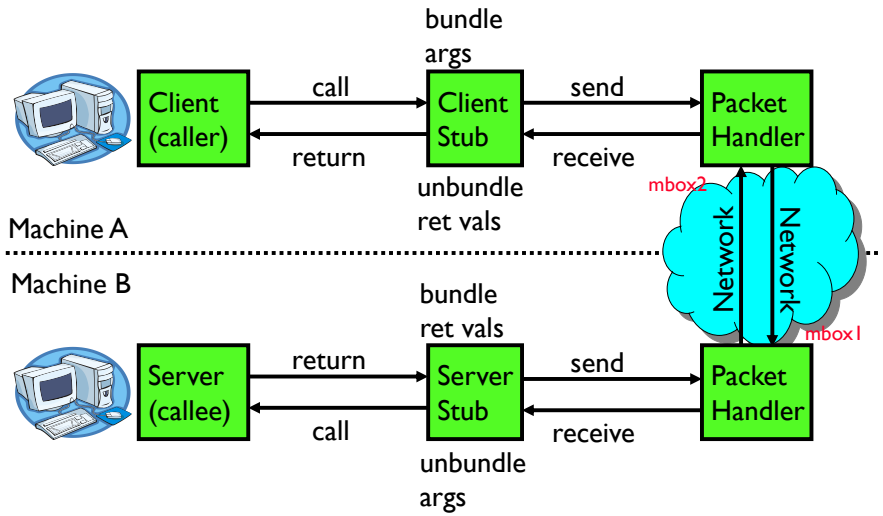
  - Translated automatically into call on server:

```
fileSys→Read("rutabaga");
```


RPC Implementation

- Request-response message passing (under covers!)
- "Stub" provides glue on client/server
  - Client stub is responsible for "marshalling" arguments and "unmarshalling" the return values
  - Server-side stub is responsible for "unmarshalling" arguments and "marshalling" the return values.
- Marshalling involves (depending on system)
  - Converting values to a canonical form, serializing objects, copying arguments passed by reference, etc.

RPC Information Flow



RPC Details (1/3)

- Equivalence with regular procedure call
  - Parameters ⇔ Request Message
  - Result ⇔ Reply message
  - Name of Procedure: Passed in request message
  - Return Address: mbox2 (client return mail box)
- Stub generator: Compiler that generates stubs
  - Input: interface definitions in an "interface definition language (IDL)"
    - » Contains, among other things, types of arguments/return
  - Output: stub code in the appropriate source language
    - » Code for client to pack message, send it off, wait for result, unpack result and return to caller
    - » Code for server to unpack message, call procedure, pack results, send them off

RPC Details (2/3)

- Cross-platform issues:
  - What if client/server machines are different architectures/ languages?
    - » Convert everything to/from some canonical form
    - » Tag every item with an indication of how it is encoded (avoids unnecessary conversions)
- How does client know which mbox to send to?
  - Need to translate name of remote service into network endpoint (Remote machine, port, possibly other info)
  - Binding: the process of converting a user-visible name into a network endpoint
    - » This is another word for "naming" at network level
    - » Static: fixed at compile time
    - » Dynamic: performed at runtime

RPC Details (3/3)

- Dynamic Binding
  - Most RPC systems use dynamic binding via name service
    - » Name service provides dynamic translation of service → mbox
  - Why dynamic binding?
    - » Access control: check who is permitted to access service
    - » Fail-over: If server fails, use a different one
- What if there are multiple servers?
  - Could give flexibility at binding time
    - » Choose unloaded server for each new client
  - Could provide same mbox (router level redirect)
    - » Choose unloaded server for each new request
    - » Only works if no state carried from one call to next
- What if multiple clients?
  - Pass pointer to client-specific return mbox in request

Problems with RPC: Non-Atomic Failures

- Different failure modes in dist. system than on a single machine
- Consider many different types of failures
  - User-level bug causes address space to crash
  - Machine failure, kernel bug causes all processes on same machine to fail
  - Some machine is compromised by malicious party
- Before RPC: whole system would crash/die
- After RPC: One machine crashes/compromised while others keep working
- Can easily result in inconsistent view of the world
  - Did my cached data get written back or not?
  - Did server do what I requested or not?
- Answer? Distributed transactions/Byzantine Commit

Problems with RPC: Performance

- Cost of Procedure call « same-machine RPC « network RPC
- Means programmers must be aware that RPC is not free
  - Caching can help, but may make failure handling complex

Administrivia

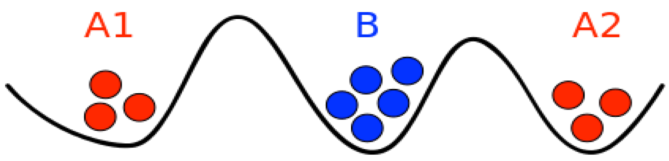
- Midterm 3 coming up on Wed 4/25 6:30-8PM
  - All topics up to and including Lecture 23
    - » Focus will be on Lectures 17 – 23 and associated readings, and Projects 3
    - » But expect 20-30% questions from materials from Lectures 1-16
  - LKS 245, Hearst Field Annex A1, VLSB 2060, Barrows 20, Wurster 102 (see Piazza for your room assignment)
  - Closed book
  - 2 pages hand-written notes both sides

BREAK

Goals of Today's Lecture

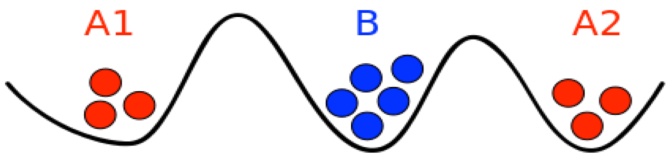
- TCP flow control
- RPCs
- Two-Phase Commit

General's Paradox

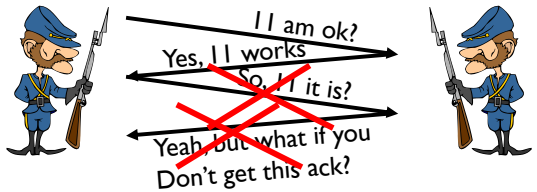


- Constraints of problem:
  - Two generals, on separate mountains
  - Can only communicate via messengers
  - Messengers can be captured
- Problem: need to coordinate attack
  - If they attack at different times, they all die
  - If they attack at same time, they win

General's Paradox



- Can messages over an unreliable network be used to guarantee two entities do something simultaneously?
  - Remarkably, "no", even if all messages get through



  - No way to be sure last message gets through!

Two-Phase Commit

- Since we can't solve the General's Paradox (i.e. simultaneous action), let's solve a related problem
- Distributed transaction: Two or more machines agree to do something, or not do it, atomically
- Two-Phase Commit protocol: Developed by Turing award winner Jim Gray (first Berkeley CS PhD, 1969)

Two-Phase Commit Protocol

- Persistent stable log on each machine: keep track of whether commit has happened
  - If a machine crashes, when it wakes up it first checks its log to recover state of world at time of crash
- Prepare Phase:
  - The global coordinator requests that all participants will promise to commit or rollback the transaction
  - Participants record promise in log, then acknowledge
  - If anyone votes to abort, coordinator writes `"Abort"` in its log and tells everyone to abort; each records `"Abort"` in log
- Commit Phase:
  - After all participants respond that they are prepared, then the coordinator writes `"Commit"` to its log
  - Then asks all nodes to commit; they respond with ACK
  - After receive ACKs, coordinator writes `"Got Commit"` to log
- Log used to guarantee that all machines either commit or don't

2PC Algorithm

- One coordinator
- N workers (replicas)
- High level algorithm description:
  - Coordinator asks all workers if they can commit
  - If all workers reply "VOTE-COMMIT", then coordinator broadcasts "GLOBAL-COMMIT"

    Otherwise coordinator broadcasts "GLOBAL-ABORT"
  - Workers obey the GLOBAL messages
- Use a persistent, stable log on each machine to keep track of what you are doing
  - If a machine crashes, when it wakes up it first checks its log to recover state of world at time of crash

Detailed Algorithm

Coordinator Algorithm

Coordinator sends **VOTE-REQ** to all workers

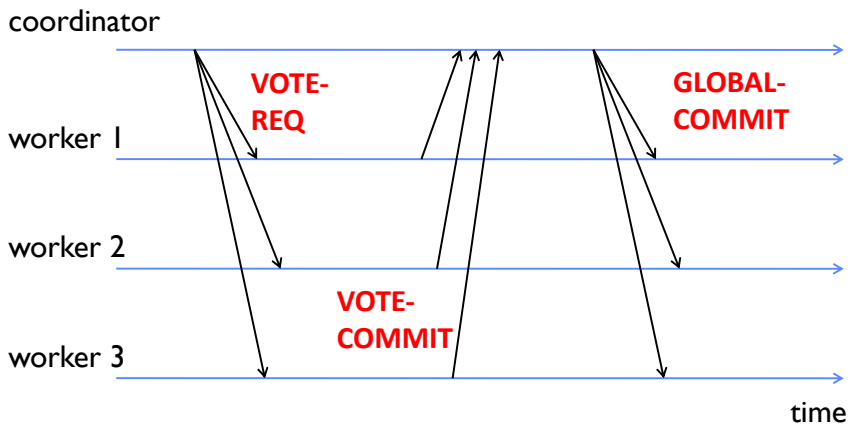
- If receive **VOTE-COMMIT** from all N workers, send **GLOBAL-COMMIT** to all workers
- If doesn't receive **VOTE-COMMIT** from all N workers, send **GLOBAL-ABORT** to all workers

Worker Algorithm

- Wait for **VOTE-REQ** from coordinator
- If ready, send **VOTE-COMMIT** to coordinator
- If not ready, send **VOTE-ABORT** to coordinator
  - And immediately abort

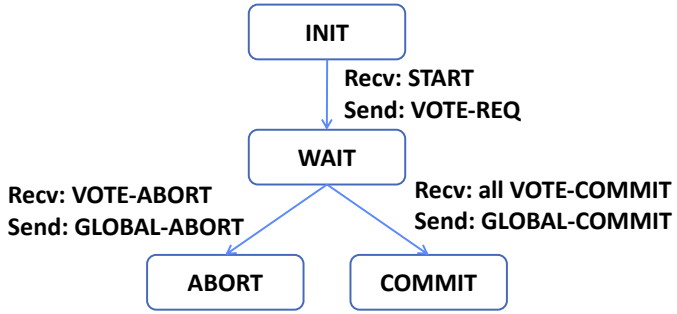
- If receive **GLOBAL-COMMIT** then commit
- If receive **GLOBAL-ABORT** then abort

Failure Free Example Execution

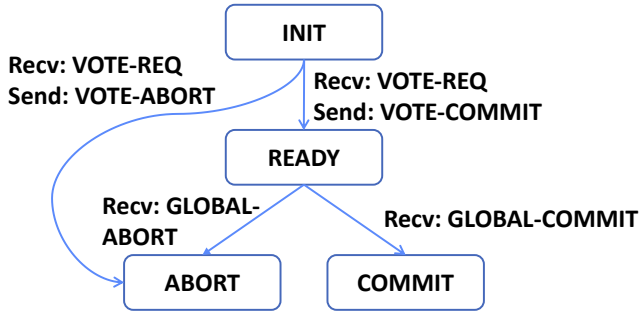


State Machine of Coordinator

- Coordinator implements simple state machine:

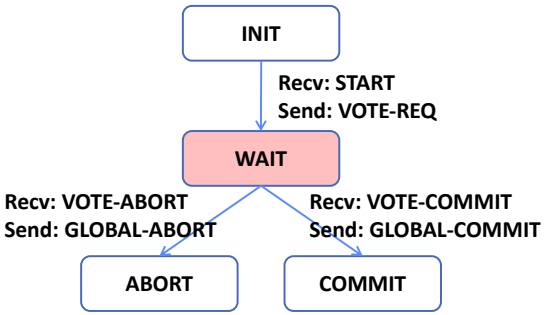


State Machine of Workers

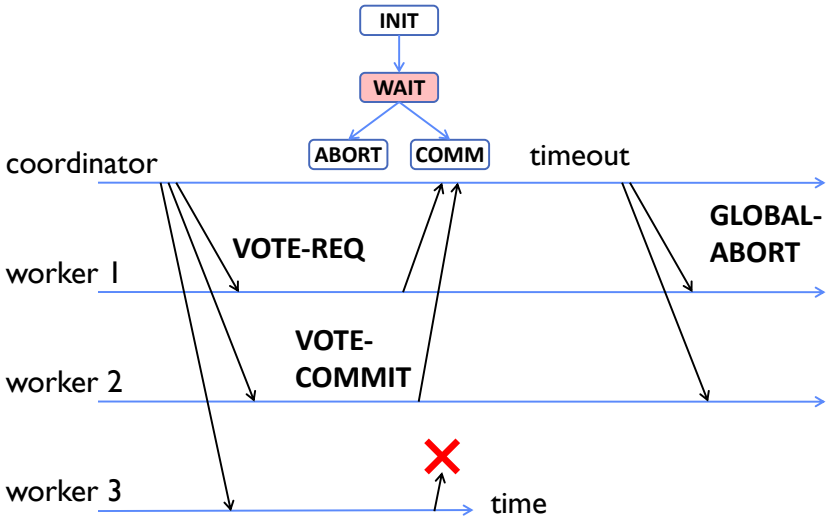


Dealing with Worker Failures

- Failure only affects states in which the coordinator is waiting for messages
- Coordinator only waits for votes in "WAIT" state
- In WAIT, if doesn't receive N votes, it times out and sends GLOBAL-ABORT

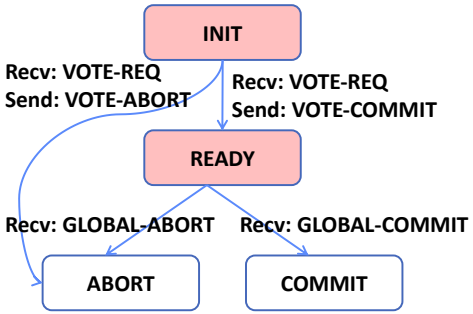


Example of Worker Failure

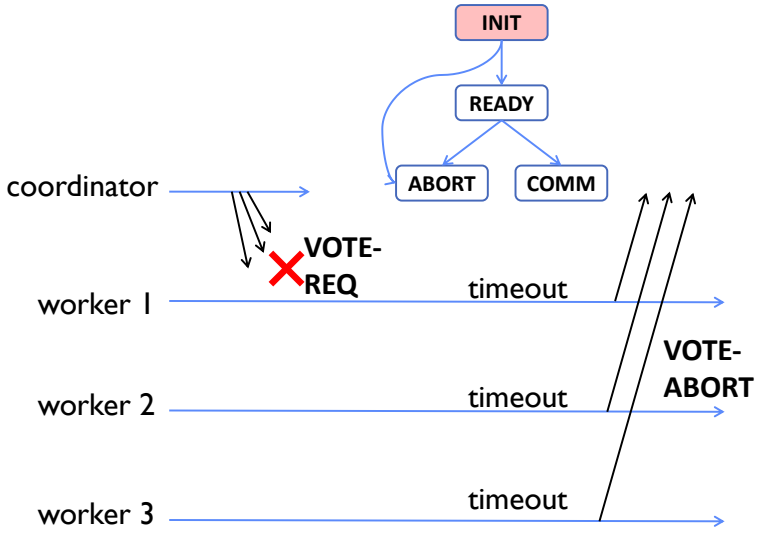


Dealing with Coordinator Failure

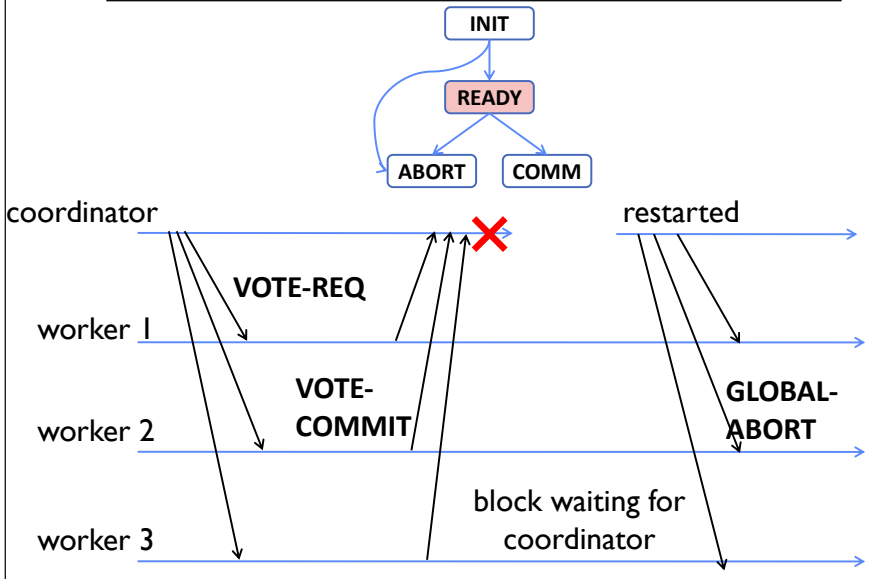
- Worker waits for VOTE-REQ in INIT
  - Worker can time out and abort (coordinator handles it)
- Worker waits for GLOBAL-* message in READY
  - If coordinator fails, workers must **BLOCK** waiting for coordinator to recover and send GLOBAL_* message



Example of Coordinator Failure #1



Example of Coordinator Failure #2

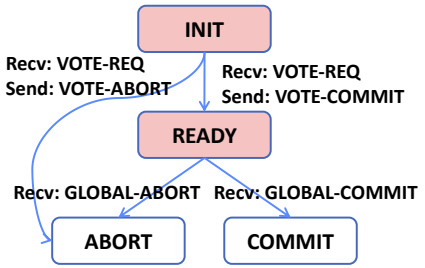


Durability

- All nodes use stable storage to store current state
  - stable storage is non-volatile storage (e.g. backed by disk) that guarantees atomic writes.
- Upon recovery, it can restore state and resume:
  - Coordinator aborts in INIT, WAIT, or ABORT
  - Coordinator commits in COMMIT
  - Worker aborts in INIT, ABORT
  - Worker commits in COMMIT
  - Worker asks Coordinator in READY

Blocking for Coordinator to Recover

- A worker waiting for global decision can ask fellow workers about their state
  - If another worker is in **ABORT** or **COMMIT** state then coordinator must have sent **GLOBAL-***
    - » Thus, worker can safely abort or commit, respectively
  - If another worker is still in **INIT** state then both workers can decide to abort
  - If all workers are in ready, need to **BLOCK** (don't know if coordinator wanted to abort or commit)



Distributed Decision Making Discussion (1/2)

- Why is distributed decision making desirable?
  - Fault Tolerance!
  - A group of machines can come to a decision even if one or more of them fail during the process
    - » Simple failure mode called "failstop" (different modes later)
  - After decision made, result recorded in multiple places

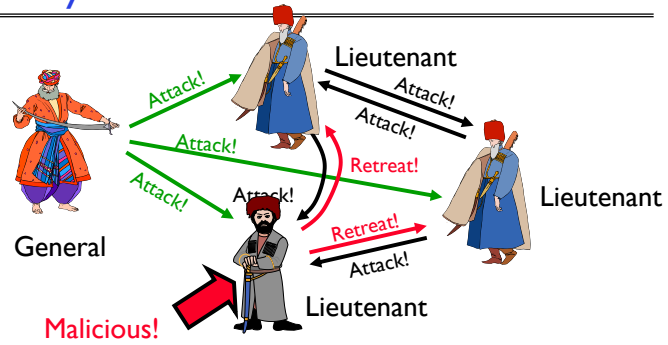
Distributed Decision Making Discussion (2/2)

- Undesirable feature of Two-Phase Commit: Blocking
  - One machine can be stalled until another site recovers:
    - » Site B writes `"prepared to commit"` record to its log, sends a `"yes"` vote to the coordinator (site A) and crashes
    - » Site A crashes
    - » Site B wakes up, check its log, and realizes that it has voted `"yes"` on the update. It sends a message to site A asking what happened. At this point, B cannot decide to abort, because update may have committed
    - » B is blocked until A comes back
  - A blocked site holds resources (locks on updated items, pages pinned in memory, etc) until learns fate of update

PAXOS

- PAXOS: An alternative used by Google and others that does not have this blocking problem
  - Develop by Leslie Lamport (Turing Award Winner)
- What happens if one or more of the nodes is malicious?
  - Malicious: attempting to compromise the decision making

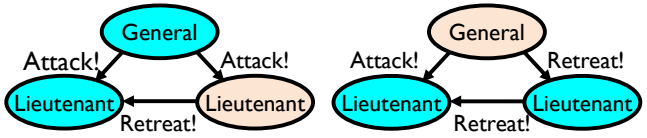
Byzantine General's Problem



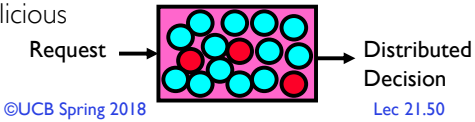
- Byazantine General's Problem (n players):
  - One General and n-1 Lieutenants
  - Some number of these (*f*) can be insane or malicious
- The commanding general must send an order to his n-1 lieutenants such that the following Integrity Constraints apply:
  - IC1: All loyal lieutenants obey the same order
  - IC2: If the commanding general is loyal, then all loyal lieutenants obey the order he sends

Byzantine General's Problem (con't)

- Impossibility Results:
  - Cannot solve Byzantine General's Problem with *n=3* because one malicious player can mess up things



  - With *f* faults, need $n > 3f$ to solve problem
- Various algorithms exist to solve problem
  - Original algorithm has #messages exponential in n
  - Newer algorithms have message complexity $O(n^2)$
    - » One from MIT, for instance (Castro and Liskov, 1999)
- Use of BFT (Byzantine Fault Tolerance) algorithm
  - Allow multiple machines to make a coordinated decision even if some subset of them ($< n/3$) are malicious



Summary

- Remote Procedure Call (RPC): Call procedure on remote machine
  - Provides same interface as procedure
  - Automatic packing/unpacking of args without user programming
- Two-phase commit: distributed decision making
  - First, make sure everyone guarantees they will commit if asked (prepare)
  - Next, ask everyone to commit
- Byzantine General's Problem: distributed decision making with malicious failures
  - One general, n-1 lieutenants: some number of them may be malicious (often "f" of them)
  - All non-malicious lieutenants must come to same decision
  - If general not malicious, lieutenants must follow general
  - Only solvable if $n \geq 3f+1$