

Challenge #2: Unique *ID* Generation

Nodes receive a “generate” message and they must respond with a unique *ID*. This system must be totally available, meaning it can continue to operate even in the face of network partitions.

Let’s first proceed naively and imagine there’s only one node running the service. The client and service node will communicate over an asynchronous channel, whose specification is based on the one found in chapter 3 of *Lamport’s “Specifying Systems”*.

EXTENDS *Naturals*

CONSTANT *IDS_TO_GENERATE*

CONSTANT *MAX_VAL*

VARIABLE *rdy, val, seen, is_unique, num_ids_generated*

vars \triangleq $\langle rdy, val, seen, is_unique, num_ids_generated \rangle$

TypeInvariant \triangleq $\wedge val \in 1 \dots MAX_VAL$
 $\wedge rdy \in \{0, 1\}$
 $\wedge seen \subseteq 1 \dots MAX_VAL$
 $\wedge is_unique \in \{TRUE, FALSE\}$
 $\wedge num_ids_generated \in 0 \dots IDS_TO_GENERATE - 1$

IsUnique $\triangleq is_unique = TRUE$

Init \triangleq $\wedge val = 0$
 $\wedge rdy = 0$
 $\wedge is_unique = TRUE$
 $\wedge seen = \{\}$
 $\wedge num_ids_generated = 0$

RequestNewID \triangleq $\wedge num_ids_generated < IDS_TO_GENERATE$
 $\wedge rdy = 0$
 $\wedge rdy' = 1$
 $\wedge UNCHANGED\ val$
 $\wedge UNCHANGED\ seen$
 $\wedge UNCHANGED\ is_unique$
 $\wedge UNCHANGED\ num_ids_generated$

HandleNewIDRequest \triangleq $\wedge num_ids_generated < IDS_TO_GENERATE$
 $\wedge rdy = 1$
 $\wedge rdy' = 0$
 $\wedge val' \in (1 \dots MAX_VAL \setminus seen)$
 $\wedge is_unique' = \neg(val' \in seen)$
 $\wedge seen' = seen \cup \{val'\}$
 $\wedge num_ids_generated' = num_ids_generated + 1$

Finished \triangleq $\wedge num_ids_generated \geq IDS_TO_GENERATE$
 $\wedge UNCHANGED\ rdy$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } val \\
& \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } seen \\
& \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } is_unique \\
& \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } num_ids_generated
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Next & \triangleq RequestNewID \vee HandleNewIDRequest \vee Finished \\
Spec & \triangleq Init \wedge \Box[Next]_{vars}
\end{aligned}$$

THEOREM $Spec \Rightarrow \Box TypeInvariant$

\ * Modification History
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