Lamport's distributed mutual exclusion algorithm

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(Redirected from Lamport's Distributed Mutual Exclusion Algorithm)

It has been suggested that this article be merged into *Lamport's bakery algorithm*. (Discuss) *Proposed since October 2013.*

Lamport's Distributed Mutual Exclusion Algorithm is a contention-based algorithm for mutual exclusion on a distributed system.

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Algorithm [edit]

Nodal properties [edit]

1. Every process maintains a queue of pending requests for entering critical section in order. The queues are ordered by virtual time stamps derived from Lamport timestamps.[1]

Algorithm [edit]

Requesting process

1. Enters its request in its own queue (ordered by time stamps)
2. Sends a request to every node.
3. Wait for replies from all other nodes.
4. If own request is at the head of its queue and all replies have been received, enter critical section.
5. Upon exiting the critical section, remove its request from the queue and send a release message to every process.

Other processes

1. After receiving a request, enter the request in its own request queue (ordered by time stamps) and reply with a time stamp.
2. After receiving release message, remove the corresponding request from its own request queue.
3. If own request is at the head of its queue and all replies have been received, enter critical section.

Message complexity [edit]

This algorithm creates $3(N-1)$ messages per request, or $(N-1)$ messages and 2 broadcasts. $3(N-1)$ messages per request includes:

- $(N-1)$ total number of requests
- $(N-1)$ total number of replies
- $(N-1)$ total number of releases

Drawbacks [edit]

There exist multiple points of failure.

See also [edit]

- Ricart-Agrawala algorithm (an improvement over Lamport's algorithm)

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References [edit]

1. ^ Kshemkalyani, A., & Singhal, M. Chapter 9: Distributed Mutual Exclusion Algorithms. Distributed Computing: Principles, Algorithms, and Systems (Page 10 of 93). Cambridge University Press.

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