

1 Design Overview

1.1 Files

1. `storage.cpp`

This file defines the structure for each storage nodes in the homogeneous structure that powers this distributed file system.

2. `client.cpp`

This class abstracts interactions with the manager for the user.

3. `manager.cpp`

This class is in charge of managing each storage node. Client nodes contact the server before making any GET or PUT requests to client nodes.

2 Storage Components

2.1 Sockets

Each node (client, manager, storage) exposes a unique port that can be connected to by multiple processes. This is the "listen" port. For the manager class, this port is static and can only be configured before runtime. For the other nodes, their listen port is randomly chosen by the OS at runtime and it is their responsibility to make the manager aware of their listening port number. In our case, all nodes are on the same local IP address. However, in the event that nodes are spread out on different machines, the user or daemon starting the storage and client nodes would be responsible for knowing which IP address the manager is on, and the code would be edited to take in a command line input to set the manager IP address they would be connecting to. The discovery message the storage node sends to the manager would also be changed to contain a return ip address in addition to a return port. This information would also need to be passed to the client when giving out primary nodes to connect to, and to storage nodes when passing out replica information.

2.2 Packet Types

There are multiple types of packets in our architecture but each type begins with a `uint.8` header describing the packet type for easy parsing.

The packet types are as follows

1. DISC

used for storage node initialization. This is how the manager discovers the children.

2. PUT

used when a client or storage node wants to store a key

3. GET

used when a client wishes to receive a value at a given key

4. ACKPUT

response given by storage node when PUT was successful

5. ACKGET

response given by storage node when GET was successful

6. FAIL

General Failure message sent by storage node or client upon connection timeout. Sent to manager, and contains failing node to purge from the record

7. S_INIT

and informs them that they are a primary in the event of node failure or system initialization. From a storage nodes perspective, there is no distinction between the two.

2.3 Storage Node/Initialization

Storage nodes are initialized separately from the manager daemon. When a storage node is spawned, it sends a `DESC` packet to the manager and is added to the pool of available nodes. Each storage node is apart of a group as determined by the manager. Groups are assigned in a round robin fashion to ensure a balanced load across all nodes. In every group there exists one primary node that is the primary communication device for the client. The primary within a group is made aware of its neighbors by an `S_INIT` packet from the server. If the primary were to die, the manager will send a `S_INIT` with a new group with the dead node purged to the next replica in line. If a replica were to die, the manager will update the primary with a new group with the dead node purged with the same message.

2.4 Client PUT operation

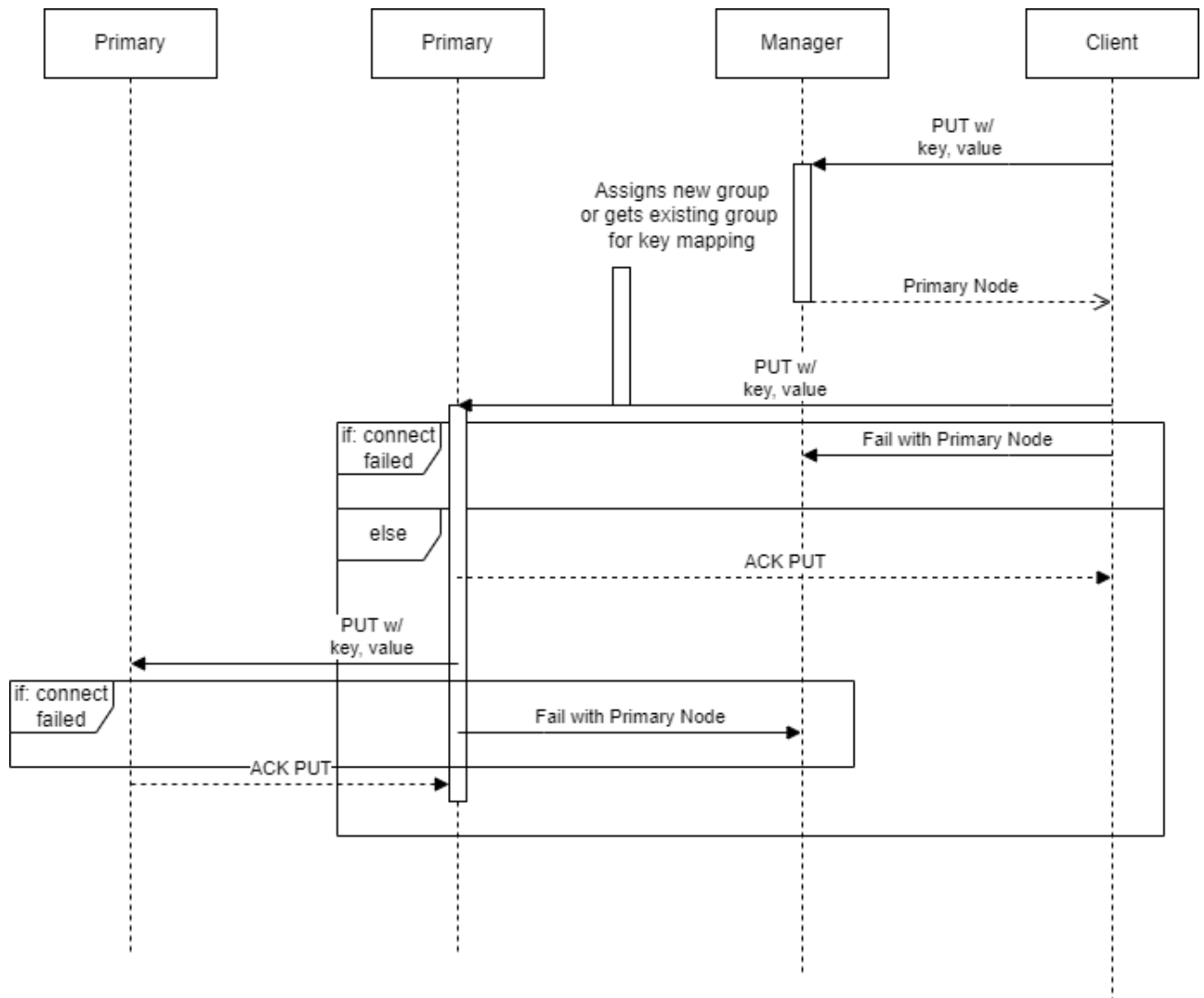
When a client wants to store a value at a given key into a node, it first asks the manager for the node group responsible for that key. The packet sent to the manager has a field for key and a field for value. The value field is a stringified version of the original vector in which each value is joined by a pipe delimiter. If that key has yet to be tracked, the server uses round robin to find an available group and assigns it to the given key. This ensures balance among existing groups.

The client is then given a group struct with the port number for the primary storage node and a list of it's neighbors for redundancy. This list is never used directly by the client.

A client then sends the same PUT packet to the primary node and is given a ACKPUT response if successful.

In the background, the primary storage node broadcasts that same packet out to all of it's neighbors. If the client or primary server time out a connection to a node, it sends a failure connection with the failing port to the manager, which will purge the group of that port.

A diagram of the program flow is included below:



2.5 Client GET operation

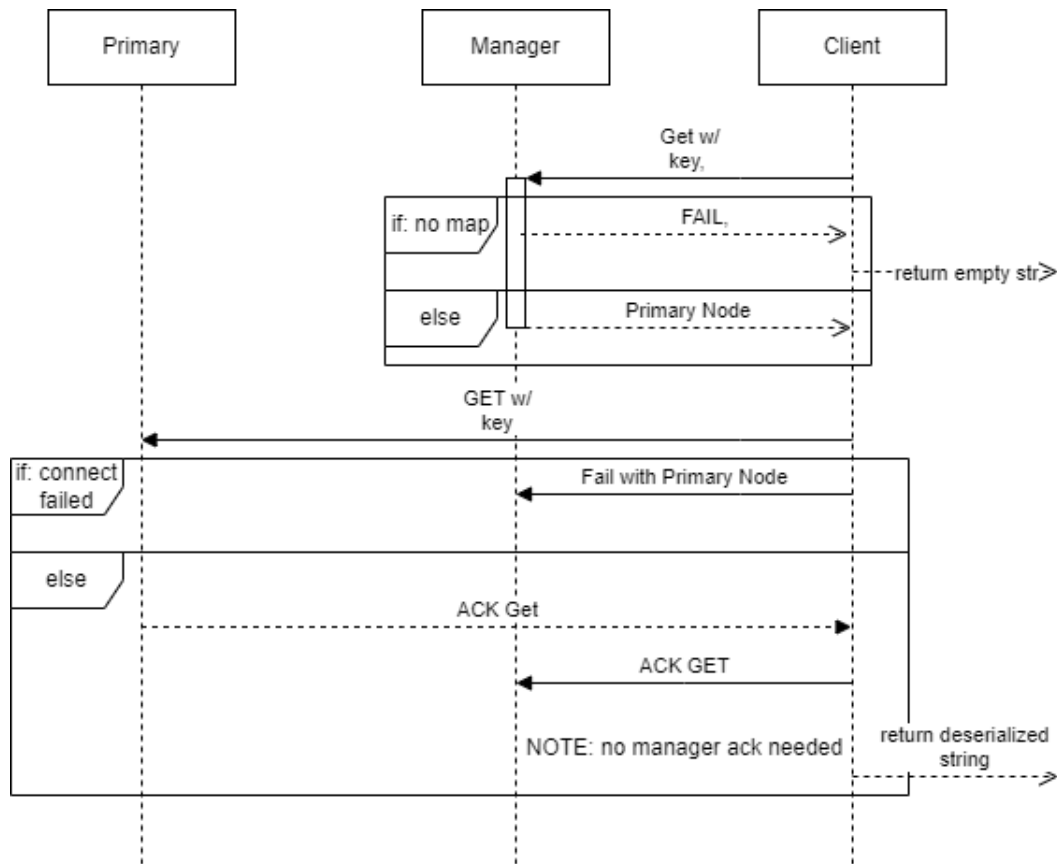
When a client desires a value for a given key, it first asks the manager to find the group responsible for that key. If that key does not exist in the manager's housekeeping, a generalized **FAIL** packet is returned. The client should then fail the get request.

If the key does exist, the client is returned a group struct with the port number for the primary storage node and a list of it's neighbors for redundancy. Again, this list is never used directly by the client.

The client then forwards the **GET** packet to the primary node and is given a **ACKGET** response if successful.

In this packet, the **value** field is now non-null. In it is a string delimited by —. The client library splits this string into substrings based around this delimiter and returns a vector to the original caller.

A diagram of the program flow is included below. Note that because there is no need to contact replicas, the flow is significantly less complex:



2.6 GTStore Manager (Data Partitioning)

The manager is responsible for assigning and maintaining an active map of keys to storage groups. It is the first point of contact for any client API call. The manager's primary function is to return to the client an accurate, up to date port for the key request, regardless of which operation. It is also responsible for updating groups by purging dead storage nodes in the event of Primary or Client timeouts.

- **Load Balancing and Group Assignment:** The manager initially assigns discovered storage nodes to storage groups, where the first node in the group is a primary, and the rest are replicas. It propagates this info to the primary node. Every time a new key is called, it assigns a group to the key in a round robin fashion. This implements a load balancing scheme where all groups have a comparable amount of keys assigned to them.
- **Node Failure:** When a primary or a client fails to connect to a replica or a primary respectively, a **FAIL** message is sent to the manager. The manager identifies if the failure is a primary or a replica (by where it is in the group, primaries are always the head), and purges it from the group. If the

purged node is a primary, it assigns a new primary and sends it a `S_INIT` packet. If the node is a replica, it sends the existing primary a `S_INIT` packet with the new group assignments.

2.7 Data Management

1. manager has key group map

PUT: the key map is used to determine if an existing group holds the key. If it does, the manager returns this group. Otherwise, the manager assigns a new group with the Round robin scheme discussed above.

GET: the key map is used to determine if an existing group holds the key. If it does, the manager returns this group. Otherwise, the manager returns a `FAIL` message as an indication that the client should return an empty string.

2. each node has a view of what keys it has. Only the primary needs it, but all nodes have it for flexibility.

2.8 Data Redundancy

The primary is responsible for propagating data to its replicas. This ensures that there are copies of any given put in the system. Once a client fails to connect to a primary, it notifies the manager and a new primary is assigned to take the old one's place. After all primaries in the group have been exhausted, the manager will fail out, as per the project specs.

2.9 Node Failure

1. We do not use a heartbeat. This only serves to clog the manager with addition messages that perform a redundant operation that a client or primary storage node timeout serves to indicate. All a heartbeat serves to do is to ensure that the manager can self-discover failed nodes. This requires it to timeout on every node it sends a heart beat too. Since a socket can only connect to a single node, we must open N sockets, likely in N threads, to perform a polling operation. Our scheme performs the same functionality but does it in a greedy fashion. It only handles node failures when it NEEDS to. This results in less complexity and overhead for the manager at the expense of marginal performance gains on the client side. The scenario in which the heartbeat would benefit the manager is when a node dies when a client has not attempted to interact with it for a long time. This heartbeat ensures that the next time the client tries to access that particular storage group, the manager will provide up to date information. However, this situation is relatively rare, and we would still need to handle the case in which the primary node dies in between the time when a heartbeat occurs and a manager sends a group to the client. Considering all of these factors combined, we decide to not use a heartbeat to discover dead nodes.
2. There are two cases of node failures: primary node death and replica node death. When a primary dies, it will be discovered by the client trying to perform an action. This is handled by sending a `FAIL` message to the manager, and the manager performing the necessary primary reassignment discussed above. The next is replica death. From the perspective of the client, replica death has no ramification to expected behavior. The client still receives the queried value or puts the requested value on the primary group. This is why the primary sends an ack back to the client BEFORE it begins propagation to its replicas. The client simply does not care. The primary then sends a `PUT` message to each of its replicas and sends a `FAIL` message to the manager for each node that fails. The manager performs the necessary purging, as does the primary to maintain consistent lists.

2.10 Data Consistency

Data consistency is maintained through replication. A node that fails a connection during replication for any reason is considered dead, even if it restarts on the same address later. This ensures that nodes within a group have consistent data. Since the client contacts the storage nodes directly, there is no need to keep data consistent from a manager, storage node perspective. In fact, the manager does not even store values, or use the value field in a put message in any way. Storage nodes are the only nodes to ever handle the actual storage of data.

3 Results