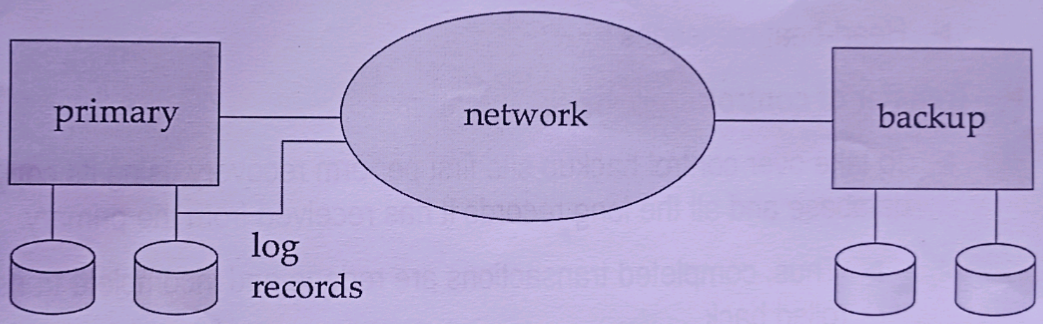
Remote Backup Systems

- Remote backup systems provide high availability by allowing transaction processing to continue even if the primary site is destroyed.



Remote Backup Systems (Cont.)

- **Detection of failure**: Backup site must detect when primary site has failed
  - to distinguish primary site failure from link failure maintain several communication links between the primary and the remote backup.
  - Heart-beat messages
- **Transfer of control**:
  - To take over control backup site first perform recovery using its copy of the database and all the long records it has received from the primary.
    - Thus, completed transactions are redone and incomplete transactions are rolled back.
  - When the backup site takes over processing it becomes the new primary
  - To transfer control back to old primary when it recovers, old primary must receive redo logs from the old backup and apply all updates locally.

Remote Backup Systems (Cont.)

- **Time to recover**: To reduce delay in takeover, backup site periodically proceses the redo log records (in effect, performing recovery from previous database state), performs a checkpoint, and can then delete earlier parts of the log.
- **Hot-Spare** configuration permits very fast takeover:
  - Backup continually processes redo log record as they arrive, applying the updates locally.
  - When failure of the primary is detected the backup rolls back incomplete transactions, and is ready to process new transactions.
- Alternative to remote backup: distributed database with replicated data
  - Remote backup is faster and cheaper, but less tolerant to failure
    - more on this in Chapter 19

Remote Backup Systems (Cont.)

- Ensure durability of updates by delaying transaction commit until update is logged at backup; avoid this delay by permitting lower degrees of durability.
- **One-safe:** commit as soon as transaction's commit log record is written at primary
  - Problem: updates may not arrive at backup before it takes over.
- **Two-very-safe:** commit when transaction's commit log record is written at primary and backup
  - Reduces availability since transactions cannot commit if either site fails.
- **Two-safe:** proceed as in two-very-safe if both primary and backup are active. If only the primary is active, the transaction commits as soon as is commit log record is written at the primary.
  - Better availability than two-very-safe; avoids problem of lost transactions in one-safe.