

8 weeks System Design

week 01 (20 Nov, 2025)

Agenda:

- Design online/offline indicators
- How to approach System Design
- Designing a multi user blogging platform
 - Database
 - Caching

Online offline Indicator

user 1 online
user 2 online
user 3 offline
user 4 offline

Approaching System Design: (Big Organization)



Decide the core &
building your system around it.

Core is user-case specific

Database, communication

↓ Design DB ↓ Websockets

→ where we know who
will be do so go this
like know about DB,
sockets.

Incremental building

1. Start with a Day zero architecture → simple
2. See how each component would behave
 - ↳ under load
 - ↳ at scale
3. Identify the bottleneck
4. re-architect
5. repeat

Point to remember:

- Understanding the core property & access pattern
 - ↳ pick that technology that are required over system
- Affinity towards a tech comes seconds
 - DB
Framework etc
- Build an intuition towards building systems

Storage:

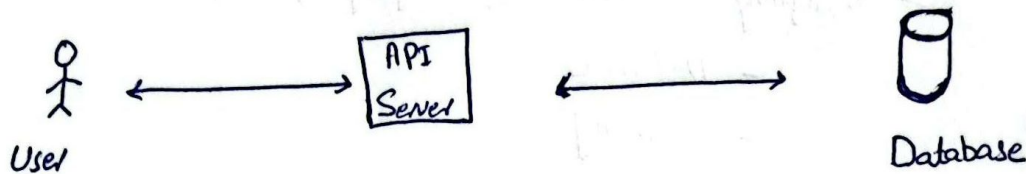
user → online/offline
↓ ↓
int bool

Access: key values

[not yet decided DB]

we still have not
picked which DB to use
only decide which
type of data we want
to store

Interfacing API

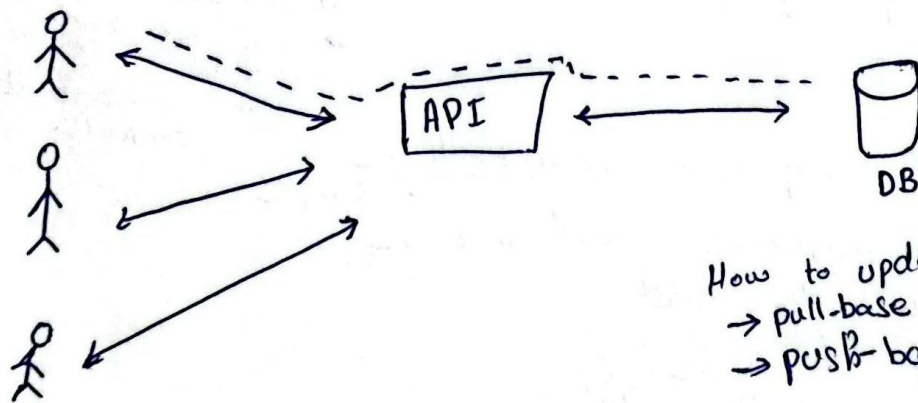


GET /status/users?ids = U_1, U_2, U_3

why we exposed All
users because if we want
Show in UI to status Not
call App for each user.

User ids from
whom status to be
fixed

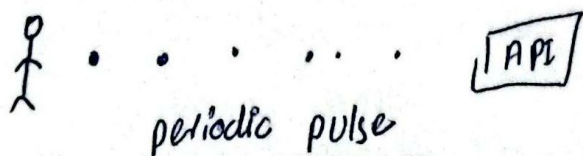
Updating the database



How to update data?
→ pull-base model
→ push-base model

Push based model: User push their status periodically
Our API servers cannot "pull" from client because we cannot
productively talk to client unless there is a persistent connection.
Every user periodically send "heartbeat" to the service

post /heartbeat → the authenticated user will be marked
as 'alive'



why we need send periodically
send because it tell server
I'm alive if it not send
server mark offline.

Offline: when we do not receive heartbeat long time enough
↳ Handle through business logic

Say 30 sec

In database store "time you received the last heartbeat"

pulse

user_id	last_hb
U1	1000
U2	1050
U3	1060

when you received the heartbeat

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Update pulse} \\ \text{Set last_hb} = \text{Now}() \\ \text{Where user_id} = U1 \end{array} \right]$$

→ its not decide using SQL its easy way to understandable

* User sends heartbeat every 10 seconds.

→ Now our GET Method change:

GET /status/{user_id}

→ If no entry in the database for user → offline

→ If entry and entry.last_hb < $\frac{\text{Now}() - 30 \text{ sec}}{\text{current time}}$ → offline

let's estimate the scale

100 users → 100 entries
1000 users → 1000 entries
1B users → 1B entries

B → Byte

Each entry has 2 columns
user_id , last_hb
↓ ↓
int(4B) int(4B)

Total storage required for

Size of each entry > 8B

1B entries > 8GB

Can we do better on Storage? [always think what i do possible way to better]

Requirement:

user 1 → offline
user 2 → online
user 3 → online

we all is
online/offline

what if absence == offline?

Idea: if user not present in the DB. we return offline

So, lets expire the entries after 30 seconds
↓
delete

if we delete entries → we save a bunch of space
by not storing data of inactive users

→ we can do for every system step

→ every system we make ask question
can we change this
can i go alternative

Total entries = Active users
If 1B total users and 100K active then total entries = 100K
Total size = 800KB

How to auto delete?

Approach 01: Write a CRON job that deletes expired entries

- Not a robust solution

- We need to handle edge case in the business logic

Approach 02: Can we not offload this to our data store?

Never re-invent the wheel!

DB with KV + expiration → Redis
key-value → DynamoDB

Upon receiving an heartbeat

- update entry in Redis/DynamoDB Every heartbeat move the expiration time forward!
with TTL = 30 sec
↳ Time to Live

A cron job is an auto scheduled task that runs at specific times (daily, hourly, weekly etc) using the system's cron scheduler

which one would you pick & why?

Redis

DynamoDB

✓
Vendor Locking (Cost/issue)

why vendor locking?

→ Redis persistence

How they give us?

→ we can change one provider to another.

✓ time sensitivity

✓ persistence

✓ Managed why we need?

↳ by AWS
(team size & expertise)

walmart not on AWS because it used their data Amazon
Not used competitor of cloud used

X Stateless

Redis - key-value Store with Expiration

SET user_id "123" EX 3600

→ Database taking care of deleting & Storage

→ Google Cloud platform

→ GCP

Vendor Locking means you depend on one cloud provider, and it becomes difficult or expensive to move to another provider.

e.g. AWS DynamoDB

websites

Note: In real-world are used in such.

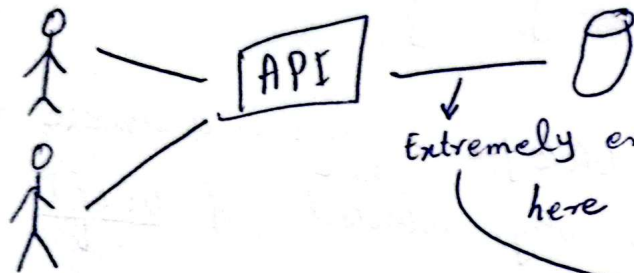
How is our DB doing?

Heartbeat is send every 10sec

So, one user in 1 min sends 6 heartbeats

If there are 1m active user, our system will get 6m req/min

Each heartbeat request result in DB call



Our DB needs to handle 6m updates per minute!!

Extremely expensive

here computation is problem

How to make it better?

what's hectic? creating a new connect everytime

Have established TCP
Connect \rightarrow 3 way
Hand
Shake

Connection Pool (always used)

is a technique where a set of initial connections is established and maintain for reused.



pre-established connections

it save browser networks, reduce load on DB

How it implement

How many connection Established?

min = 3
max = 100

\rightarrow if start 3 connection 3 request

\rightarrow if 4 request it established 4 connection

\rightarrow but less than 100

\rightarrow terminate connection that are not used for 10 min

Foundation Topic In System Design

Database

Scaling

Concurrency

Caching

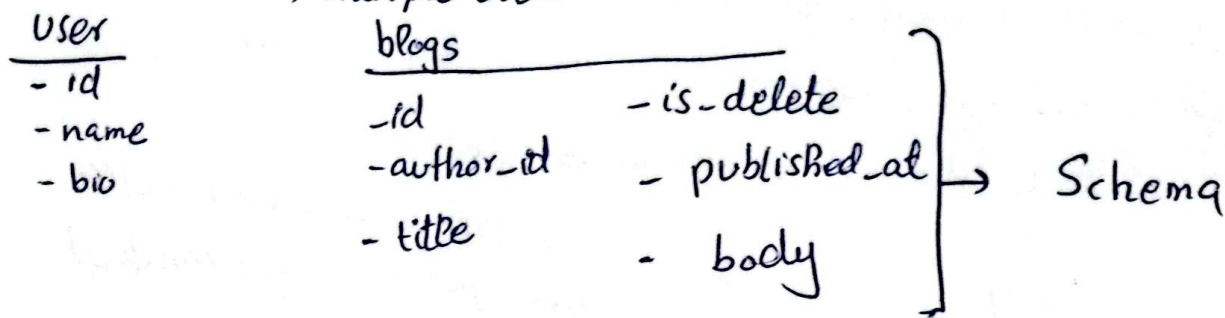
Delegation

Communication

} most of system not all

Database:

- one user multiple blogs
- multiple users



Importance of is deleted [soft delete] → every time hard delete re-balancing
when user invokes delete blog, instead of DELETE we
UPDATE

key reasons: Recoverability, Archival, Audit
Groove Drive

Not hard Deleted
Further use

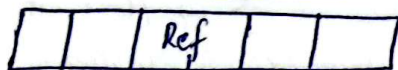
* Easy on the database engine [No tree re-balancing]

Column Type:

body vs bio

long text

short text



large text



stored as reference

short text

stored along with other columns

LONGTEXT

Stored disk location and store reference

Expensive Read

VARCHAR

Stored on location

delete is batching like garbage drive delete

Storing datetime in DB

datetime as datetime

↑
Convenient
Sub-optimal
heavy on size and Index

02-04-2025 T 9:01:36Z

↑
Serialized in some format

datetime as epoch integer

efficient

optimal, light weight

seconds since 1st Jan 1978

4 byte

179862347162

stored as Integer

→ Not is able to read.

↳ take time

datetime as custom format
(int)

YYYYMMDD - 20250402

↑
Readability

here
we get

[be creative about
solution]

local device

Time if we
need

Every is have trade-off

→ How to store SQL Datetime

Doc

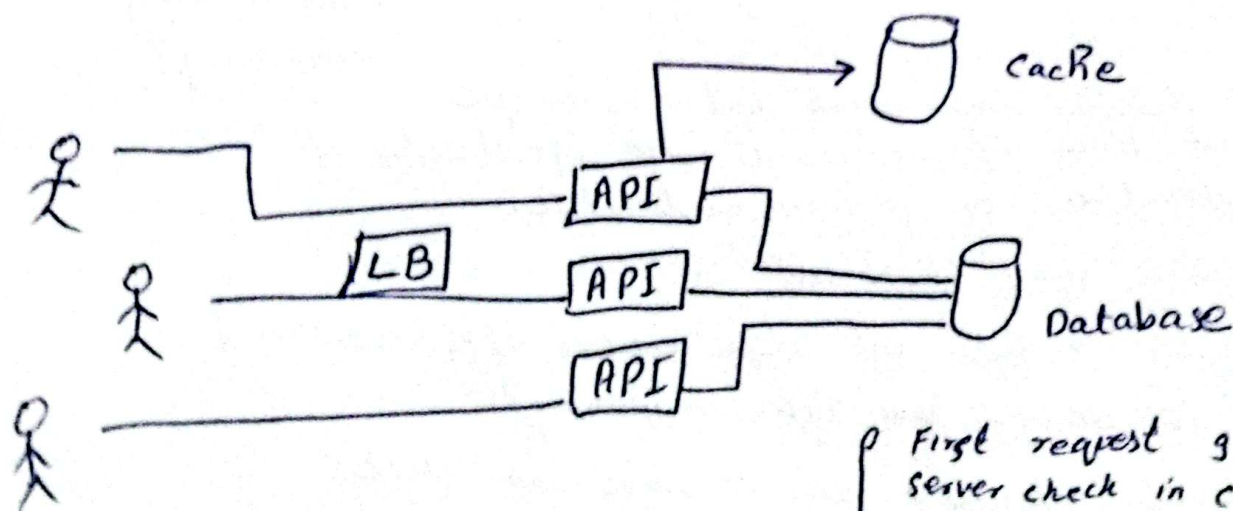
Caching

- Reduces response time by saving, having computation → Any Dynamic Programming memoization caching
- + Cache are not only RAM based

Typical use: reduce disk I/O on network I/O or compute

Caches are just glorified Hash Tables → key-values

↓
with some advanced data
structures



First request go server,
server check in cache then
query go on database,
Much faster
reduce Expense's DB I/O

Fun exercise:

Find possible place that you
can as cache with an example

e.g. Central cache (RAM) for Application-level
Cache
↓
Save DB computations

① Why we can't add cache in DB as component? Why not this
(RAM)

② In client side when we used global storage in some cache?

③ When we do soft-delete it increase size of database?
↳ but we do periodic delete / move
at for specific time e.g. google
Drive

④ When we do soft-delete to hard-delete?
↳ e.g. facebook account
Delete in 30
Days

⑤ Do we de-compression on caching
like reduce data? depend time
& space What is GDPR?

⑥ When we delete by CORN job it would be possible
soft ↳ make
down-time? Time &
Delete what is strong
consistency?

⑦ When we delete like email that is unique
index that time if we want with soft-delete it
over duplication so go with hard-delete.

⑧ Is that DB is doing CRON job?

⑨ There are function in Redis that delete entities after certain of
time, how is doing, how TTL happening?

⑩ How database Indexing → Does it store on disk
or RAM
How indexing make faster Database search?

- ⑪ Is soft-delete or archival same thing?
↳ Move on
other place
our main DB
we do hard delete
- ⑫ When we doing comparison Redis vs DynamoDB? Why
- ⑬ When we do scaling DB what we do in connection pooling?
→ its depend on implementation ↳ Implement
- ⑭ How we do horizontal scaling database?
- ⑮ Is there any pros and cons when we using connection pooling?
→ worry about how properly doing pooling?
connection pooling.
→ just blindly connection pooling is
not good idea.
- ⑯ When we choose we take write
decision choose that particular
tech stack?
- Life is build
of problem
Just Find
Optimal Solution ☺