

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

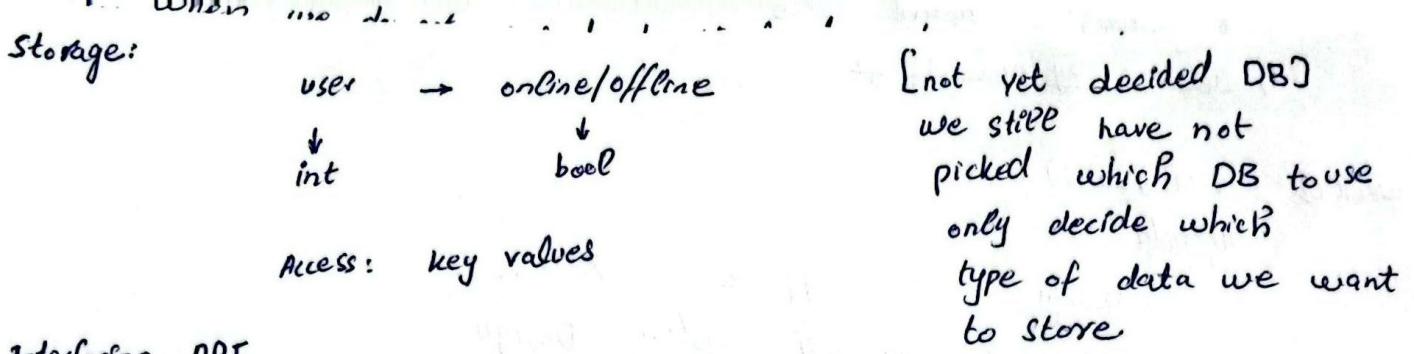
Design DB Websockets
→ where we know who
will be doing so go this
like know about DB,
sockets.

Incremental building

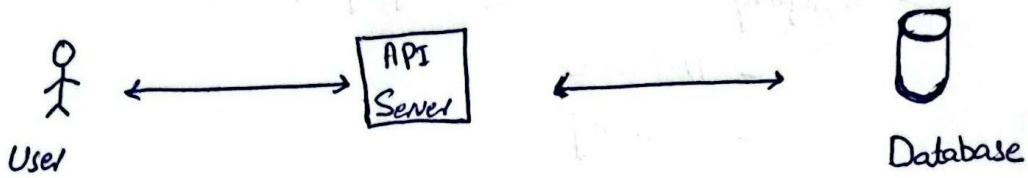
1. Start with a Day zero architecture → simple
2. See how each component would behave
 - ↳ under load
 - ↳ at scale
3. Identify the bottleneck
4. re-architect
5. repeat

Point to remember:

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



Interfacing API

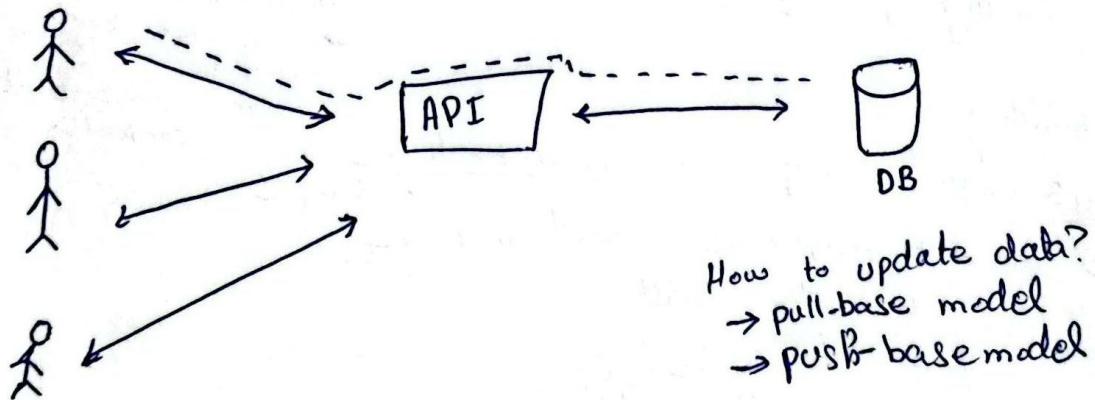


GET /status/users ? ids = U_1, U_2, U_3

{ why we exposed all users because if we want show in UI to status Not call App for each user. }

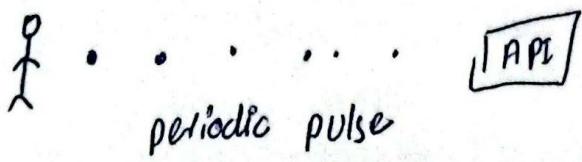
User ids from whom states to be fixed

Updating the database



Push based model: User push their status periodically
Our API servers cannot "pull" from client because we cannot proactively 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

{ Update pulse
Set lasthb = Now()
Where user-id = U2 }

→ its not decide
using SQL its
easy way to
understandable

* User sends heartbeat every 10 seconds.

→ Now our GET Method change:

GET /status/userIds

- If no entry in the database for user → offline
- If entry and entry.lasthb < Now() - 30 sec
↓
onLine current time

let's estimate the scale

100 users → 100 entries

B → Byte

1000 users → 1000 entries

Each entry has 2 columns

1B users → 1B entries

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]

Requirements:
User 1 → offline
User 2 → online
User 3 → online } we all is
online/offline

what if absence == offline?

→ we can do for
every system

Ideal: if user not present in the DB, we return offline

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

So, let's expire the entries after 30 seconds

↓
delete

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

Total entries = Active users

If 2B total users and took active then total entries = 100K

Total size = 800KB

How to auto delete?

Approach 01: Write a CRON job that deletes expired entries → Implement

- 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
→ DynamoDB

Upon receiving an heartbeat

- update entry in redis/BodynamoDB Every heartbeat move the expiration time forward!
with ttl = 30 sec
→ Time to Live

which one would you pick & Why?

Redis

DynamoDB

- ✓ — persistence
- ✓ — Managed why we need?
↳ by AWS
- ✓ — (team size & expertise)

✓
Vendor locking (lost/issue)

why vendor locking?

→ Redis persistence

How they give us?

→ we can change one provider to another.

✓ time sensitivity

* Stateless

Note: In real-world are used in such.

Redis - key-value store with expiration

SET user_id "123" EX 3600

→ Database taking care of deleting & storage

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

→ GCP
↳ Google Cloud platform
→ Vendor locking means you depend on one cloud provider, and it becomes difficult or expensive to move to another provider.
e.g. AWS DynamoDB

Websocket

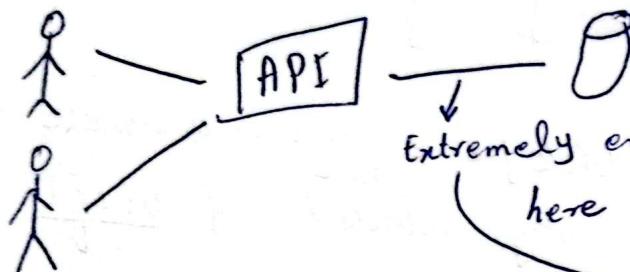
How is our DB doing?

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

Have established TCP
Connect → 3 way
Hand Shake

How to make it better?

What's hectic? Creating a new connect everytime

Connection Pool ^(always used)

is a technique where a set of initial connections is established and maintained for reuse.



pre-established connections

It save browser networks, reduce load on DB

How it implement

How many connection Established?

min = 3
max = 100

→ if start 3 connection 3 request

→ if 4 request it established 4 connection

→ but less than 100

→ terminate connection that are not used for 10 min

Fundation Topic In System Design

Database

Scaling

Concurrency

Caching

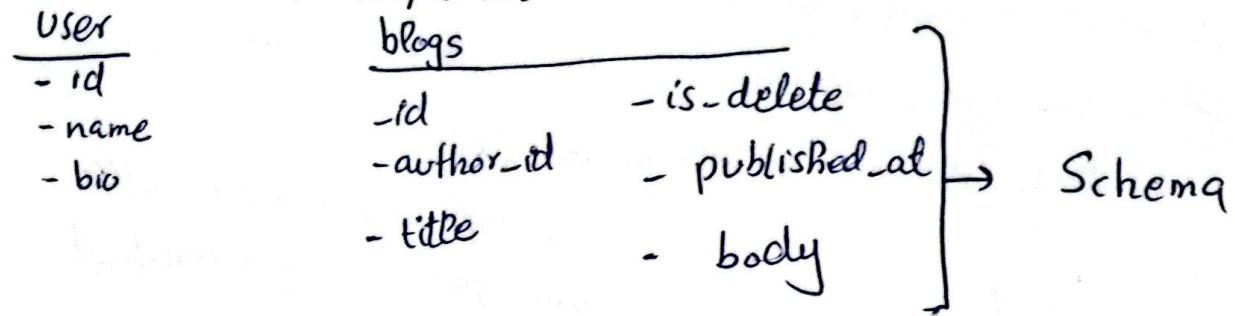
Delegation

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 many time when user invokes delete blog, instead of DELETE we UPDATE

key reasons: Recoverability, Archival, Audit, Delete
Crocodile Drive

Not hard
Deleted
Further use

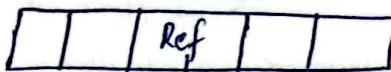
re-balancing

delete is batching
like google drive
delete

* Easy on the database engine [No tree]

Column Type: body vs bio

long text



large text

LONGTEXT

Stored disk location
and store reference

Expensive Read

Stored as reference

short Text

Short Text



stored along
with other columns

VARCHAR

Stored on location

Storing datetime in DB

datetime as datetime

Convenient

Sub-optimal

heavy on size and index

02-04-2025 + 9:01:362

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

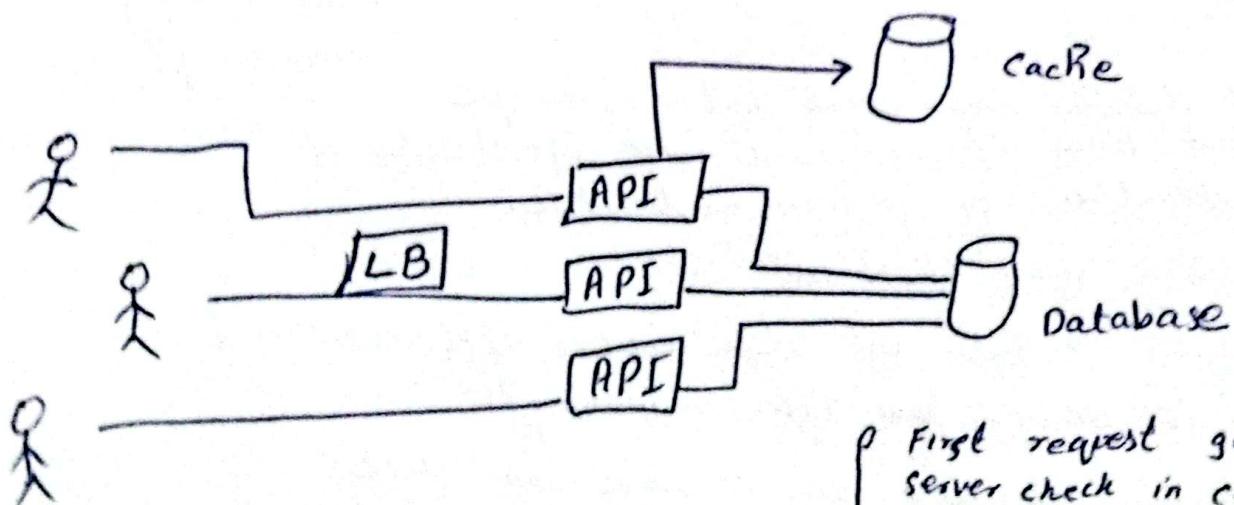
↓
Doc

Caching

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

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

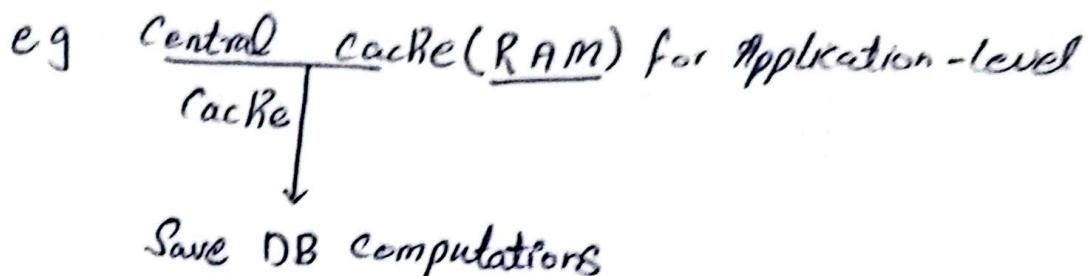
Caches are just generalized Hash Tables → key-values
with some advanced data
structures



{ First request go server,
server check in cache then
query go on database,
Much faster
reduce Expenses DB I/O

Fun exercise:

Find possible place that you can use cache with an example



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

- ① In client side when we used global storage in come cache?
- ② When we do soft-delete it increase size of database?
 - ↳ but we do periodic delete/move at for specific time e.g google Drive
- ③ When we do soft-delete to hard-delete?
 - ↳ e.g. facebook account
- ④ Do we compression on caching like reduce data?
 - ↳ decompression
 - ↳ depend time
 - ↳ space
 - ↳ Delete in 30 days
 - ↳ what is GDPR?
- ⑤ When we delete by CORN Job it would be possible
daon-time?
 - ↳ soft
 - ↳ make
 - ↳ Time & Delete
 - ↳ what is strong consistency?
- ⑥ 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.
- ⑦ Is that DB is doing CRON Job?
- ⑧ There are function in Redis that delete entries after certain of time, how is doing, how TTL happening?
- ⑨ 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

→ 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 ☺