Server Design Issues



- Server Design
 - Iterative versus concurrent
- How to locate an end-point (port #)?
 - Well known port #
 - Directory service (port mapper in Unix)
 - Super server (inetd in Unix)



CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 2

Stateful or Stateless?

- Stateful server
 - Maintain state of connected clients
 - Sessions in web servers
- Stateless server
 - No state for clients
- Soft state
 - Maintain state for a limited time; discarding state does not impact correctness



Server Clusters



- Web applications use tiered architecture
 - Each tier may be optionally replicated; uses a dispatcher
 - Use TCP splicing or handoffs



CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 4

Server Architecture

- Sequential
 - Serve one request at a time
 - Can service multiple requests by employing events and asynchronous communication
- Concurrent
 - Server spawns a process or thread to service each request
 - Can also use a pre-spawned pool of threads/processes (apache)
- Thus servers could be
 - Pure-sequential, event-based, thread-based, process-based
- Discussion: which architecture is most efficient?



Scalability

- *Question*: How can you scale the server capacity?
- Buy bigger machine!
- Replicate
- Distribute data and/or algorithms
- Ship code instead of data
- Cache



CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 6

Code and Process Migration

- Motivation
- How does migration occur?
- Resource migration
- Agent-based system
- Details of process migration



Motivation

- Key reasons: performance and flexibility
- Process migration (aka *strong mobility*)
 - Improved system-wide performance better utilization of system-wide resources
 - Examples: Condor, DQS
- Code migration (aka *weak mobility*)
 - Shipment of server code to client filling forms (reduce communication, no need to pre-link stubs with client)
 - Ship parts of client application to server instead of data from server to client (e.g., databases)
 - Improve parallelism agent-based web searches



CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 8

Motivation

- Flexibility
 - Dynamic configuration of distributed system
 - Clients don't need preinstalled software download on demand





Migration models

- Process = code seg + resource seg + execution seg
- Weak versus strong mobility

 Weak => transferred program starts from initial state
- Sender-initiated versus receiver-initiated
- Sender-initiated
 - migration initiated by machine where code resides
 - Client sending a query to database server
 - Client should be pre-registered
- Receiver-initiated
 - Migration initiated by machine that receives code
 - Java applets
 - Receiver can be anonymous

Computer Science

CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 10

Who executes migrated entity?

- Code migration:
 - Execute in a separate process
 - [Applets] Execute in target process
- Process migration
 - Remote cloning
 - Migrate the process



Models for Code Migration



Do Resources Migrate?

- Depends on resource to process binding
 - By identifier: specific web site, ftp server
 - By value: Java libraries
 - By type: printers, local devices
- Depends on type of "attachments"
 - Unattached to any node: data files
 - Fastened resources (can be moved only at high cost)
 - Database, web sites
 - Fixed resources
 - Local devices, **communication end points**



Resource Migration Actions

Resource-to machine binding

	Unattached	Fastened	Fixed
By identifier	MV (or GR)	GR (or MV)	GR
By value	CP (or MV, GR)	GR (or CP)	GR
By type	RB (or GR, CP)	RB (or GR, CP)	RB (or GR)
	By identifier By value By type	UnattachedBy identifierMV (or GR)By valueCP (or MV, GR)By typeRB (or GR, CP)	UnattachedFastenedBy identifierMV (or GR)GR (or MV)By valueCP (or MV, GR)GR (or CP)By typeRB (or GR, CP)RB (or GR, CP)

- Actions to be taken with respect to the references to local resources when migrating code to another machine.
- GR: establish global system-wide reference
- MV: move the resources
- CP: copy the resource
- RB: rebind process to locally available resource

Computer Science

CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 14

Migration in Heterogeneous Systems

- Systems can be heterogeneous (different architecture, OS)
 - Support only weak mobility: recompile code, no run time information
 - Strong mobility: recompile code segment, transfer execution segment [migration stack]
 - Virtual machines interpret source (scripts) or intermediate code [Java]





Virtual Machine Migration

- VMs can be migrates from one physical machine to another
- Migration can be live no application downtime
- Iterative copying of memory state
- How are network connections handled?



CS677: Distributed OS

Lecture 7, page 16

Case Study: Viruses and Malware

- Viruses and malware are examples of mobile code
 - Malicious code spreads from one machine to another
- Sender-initiated:
 - proactive viruses that look for machines to infect
 - Autonomous code
- Receiver-initiated
 - User (receiver) clicks on infected web URL or opens an infected email attachment

