Data-Intensive Distributed Computing
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Part 2: MapReduce Algorithm Design (2/3)

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These slides are available at https://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs451/
Although we argued about having an abstraction layer to hide the complexities of underlying infrastructure, today we want to have a quick look at the architecture of datacenters. This will help us later to understand the performance trade offs different algorithms. It also makes us appreciate these systems more 😊
A quick review of data center architecture
The anatomy of a server

Left: Top view of a server
Right: the two top figures are the front of the server with two storage configurations:
1) 16 2.5 inch drives 2) 8 3.5 inch drivers
Right: bottom is the back of the server. We can see network interfaces (7)
We put multiple servers in a server rack. There is a network switch that connects the servers in a rack. This switch also connects the rack to other racks.
Clusters of racks of servers build a data center. This is a very simplistic view of a data center.
Capacity, latency, and bandwidth for reading data change depending on where the data is.
The lowest latency and highest bandwidth is achieved when the data we need is on our local server.
We can increase capacity by utilizing other servers but at the cost of higher latency and lower bandwidth.
Latency numbers every programmer should know

Demo

https://colin-scott.github.io/personal_website/research/interactive_latency.html
The anatomy of a data center
Google’s data center video

https://youtu.be/XZmGGAbHqa0
Abstraction

Storage/computing

Cluster of computers
Distributed File System

How can we store a large file on a distributed system?
Assume that we have 20 identical networked servers each with 100 TB of disk space. How would you store a file on these servers? This is the fundamental question in distributed file systems.
We can split the file into smaller chunks.
And assign the chunks (e.g., randomly) to the servers.
We need to track where each chunk is stored so that we can retrieve the file.
If a server that contains one of the chunks fails, the files become corrupted. Since failure rate is high on commodity servers, we need to figure out a solution.
If each chunk is stored on multiple server, if a server fails there is a backup. The number of copies determines how much resilience we want.
From our made-up distributed file system to a real one
Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS)
Goals of HDFS

• Very Large Distributed File System
  • 10K nodes, 100 million files, 10PB

• Assumes Commodity Hardware
  • Files are replicated to handle hardware failure
  • Detect failures and recover from them

• Optimized for Batch Processing
  • Provides very high aggregate bandwidth
HDFS is not like a typical file system you use on Windows or Linux. It was specifically designed for Hadoop. It cannot perform some of the typical operations that other file systems can do like random write. Instead it is optimized for large sequential reads and append only writes.
Note that the namenode is relatively lightweight, it's just storing where the data is located on datanodes not the actual data.

May still have a redundant namenode in the background if the primary one fails

HDFS client gets data information from namenode and then interacts with datanodes to get that data

Note that namenode has to communicate with datanodes to ensure consistency and redundancy of data (e.g., if a new clone of the data needs to be created)
Functions of a NameNode

- Manages File System Namespace
  - Maps a file name to a set of blocks
  - Maps a block to the DataNodes where it resides
- Cluster Configuration Management
- Replication Engine for Blocks
NameNode Metadata

• Metadata in Memory
  • The entire metadata is in main memory
  • No demand paging of metadata

• Types of metadata
  • List of files
  • List of Blocks for each file
  • List of DataNodes for each block
  • File attributes, e.g. creation time, replication factor

• A Transaction Log
  • Records file creations, file deletions etc
DataNode

• A Block Server
  • Stores data in the local file system (e.g. ext3)
  • Stores metadata of a block (e.g. CRC)
  • Serves data and metadata to Clients

• Block Report
  • Periodically sends a report of all existing blocks to the NameNode

• Facilitates Pipelining of Data
  • Forwards data to other specified DataNodes
Block Placement

• Current Strategy
  • One replica on local node
  • Second replica on a remote rack
  • Third replica on same remote rack
  • Additional replicas are randomly placed

• Clients read from nearest replicas
Heartbeats

- DataNodes send heartbeat to the NameNode
  - Once every 3 seconds
- NameNode uses heartbeats to detect DataNode failure
Replication Engine

- NameNode detects DataNode failures
  - Chooses new DataNodes for new replicas
  - Balances disk usage
  - Balances communication traffic to DataNodes
HDFS Demo
Google File System (GFS)

Terminology differences:
GFS master = Hadoop namenode
GFS chunkservers = Hadoop datanodes

Implementation differences:
Different consistency model for file appends
Implementation language
Performance
Abstraction

Cluster of computers

HDFS \rightarrow MapReduce

Storage/computing
Hadoop Cluster Architecture
How do we get data to the workers?
Let’s consider a typical supercomputer...

SAN: Storage Area Network
This makes sense for compute-intensive tasks as the computations (for some chunk of data) are likely to take a long while even on such sophisticated hardware, so the communication costs are greatly outweighed by the computation costs. For data-intensive tasks, the computations (for some chunk of data) aren’t likely to take nearly as long, so the computation costs are greatly outweighed by the communication costs. Likely to experience latency and bottleneck even with high speed transfer.
If a server is responsible for both data storage and processing, Hadoop can do a lot of optimization. For example, when assigning mapreduce tasks to servers, Hadoop considers which servers contain what part of the file locally to minimize copy over network. If all of the data can be process locally where it is stored there will be no need to move the data.
This figure shows how computation and storage is co-located on a Hadoop cluster. Node manager manages running tasks on a node (e.g., if we have spare resources, do the next job assigned to us)

Resource manager is responsible for managing available resources in the cluster