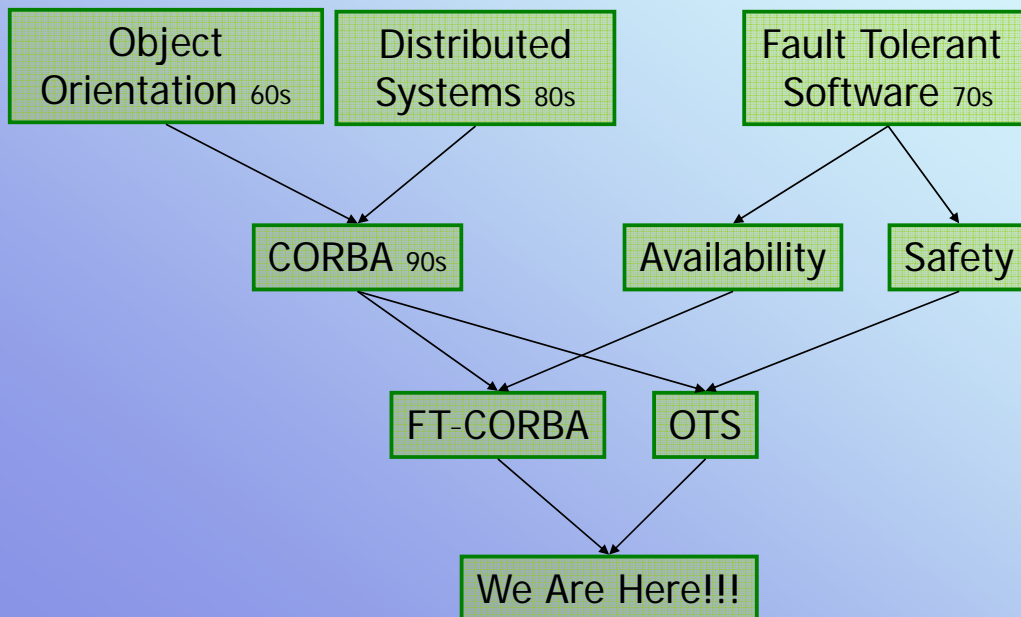


Integrating Transaction and Replication Management Services in CORBA



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January 14, 2006

Where Are We?





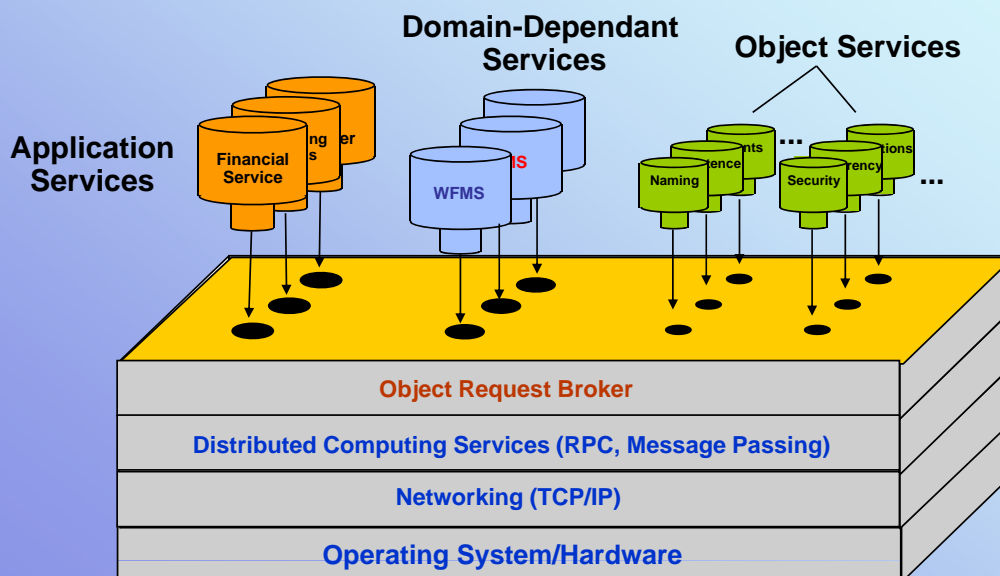
CORBA

- It stands for Common Object Request Broker Architecture.
- OMG, (a consortium over 800 companies) has produced the CORBA standard.
- CORBA [1] allows objects to invoke services from other objects, hiding differences in location, programming language or platform.

3/65



CORBA, A Bird-View



Adopted from [2]

4/65



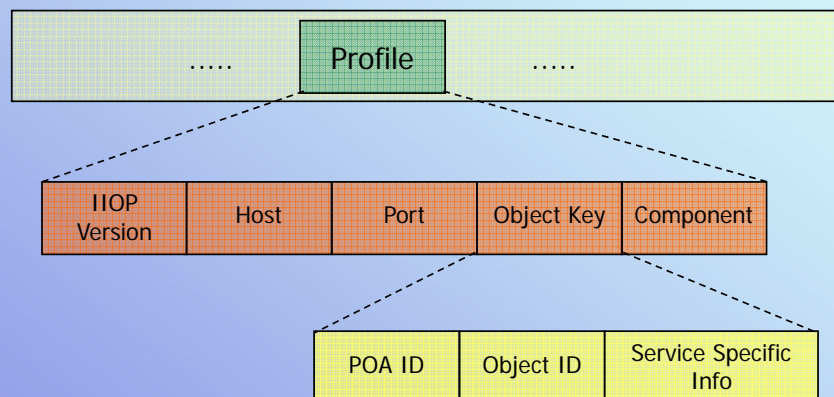
CORBA Features

- Uniform view of the world: everything is an object
- Uniform view of communication: via request invocation
- Communication between objects independent of:
 - Programming languages
 - Physical locations
 - Platform types
 - Networking protocols
- Provides useful Object Services
 - change management, naming, transactions, security, query, etc.

5/65



Interoperable Object Reference (IOR)

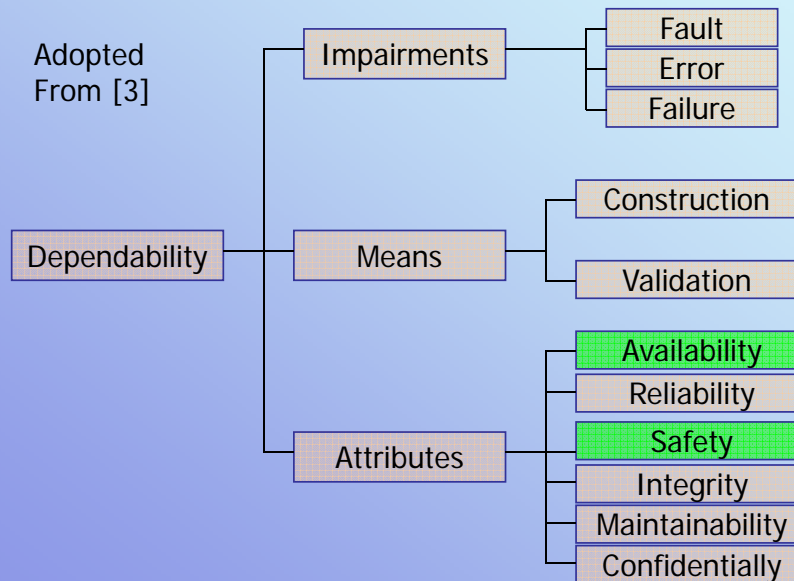


- IORs are used by the ORB to transparently locate objects

6/65



Software Fault Tolerance



7/65



Safety

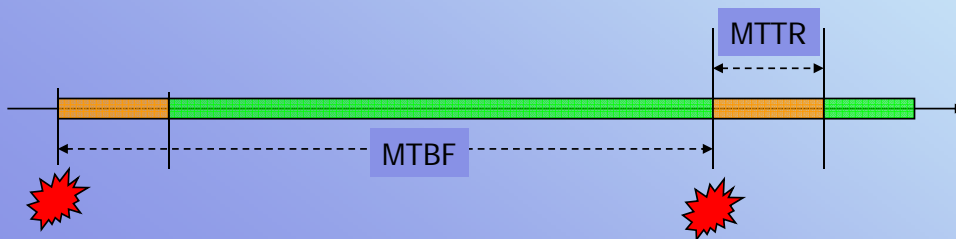
- Software safety can be defined [7] as features and procedures which ensure that the likelihood of an unplanned event is minimized and its consequences are controlled
- Thereby preventing accidental injury or death, whether intentional or unintentional

8/65



Availability

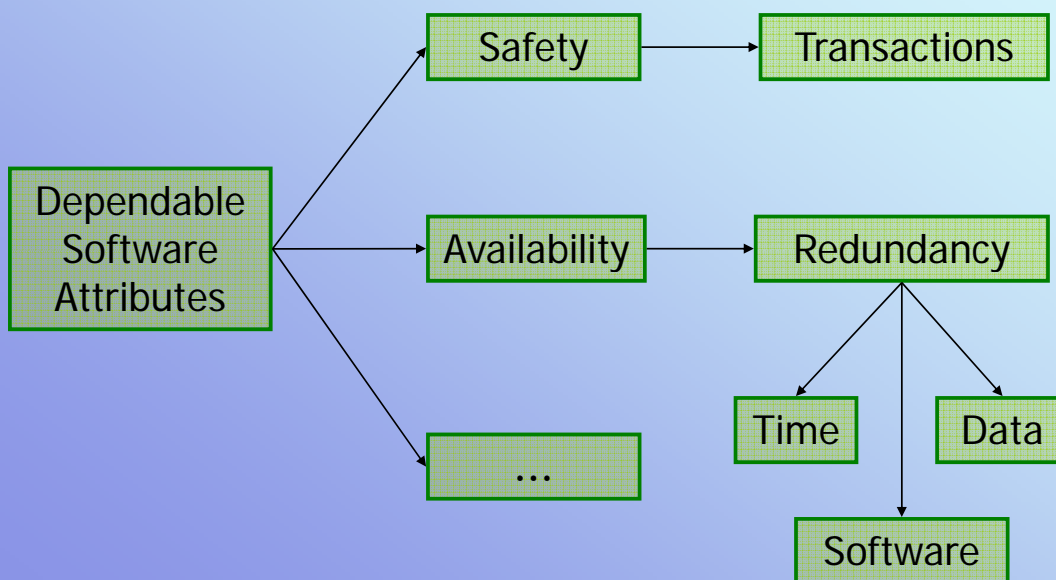
- Measure of the time that the system is available for use
- $A = \text{MTBF} / (\text{MTBF} + \text{MTTR})$ where
 - MTBF is Mean Time Between Failures
 - MTTR is Mean Time to Repair



9/65



Software Techniques



10/65



Transaction

- It was originally developed in the context of database management systems.
- From a database point of view it is a very elegant way to keep the *data* consistent even in the presence of highly *concurrent* data accesses [4].

There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth. Not going all the way and not starting.

---Buddha

11/65



Transaction (cont.)

- Distributed Systems' point of view
 - They allow a process to access and modify multiple distributed resources as a single atomic operation [8].
 - If the process backs out halfway during the transaction, everything is restored to the point just before the transaction started.

12/65



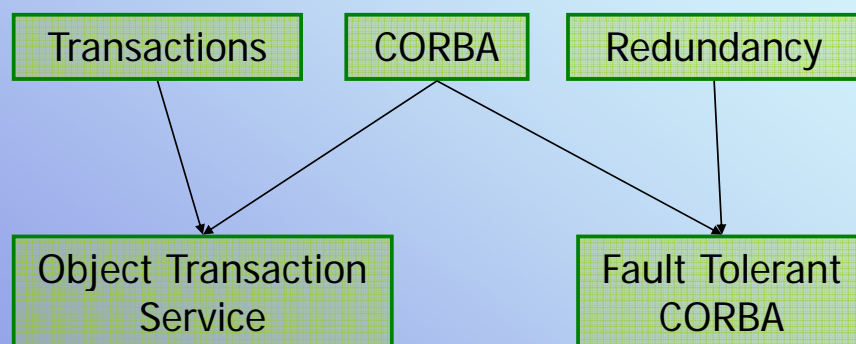
Redundancy

- Software redundancy includes additional programs, modules, functions, or objects used to support fault tolerance [9]
 - Data
 - Time
 - Software

13/65



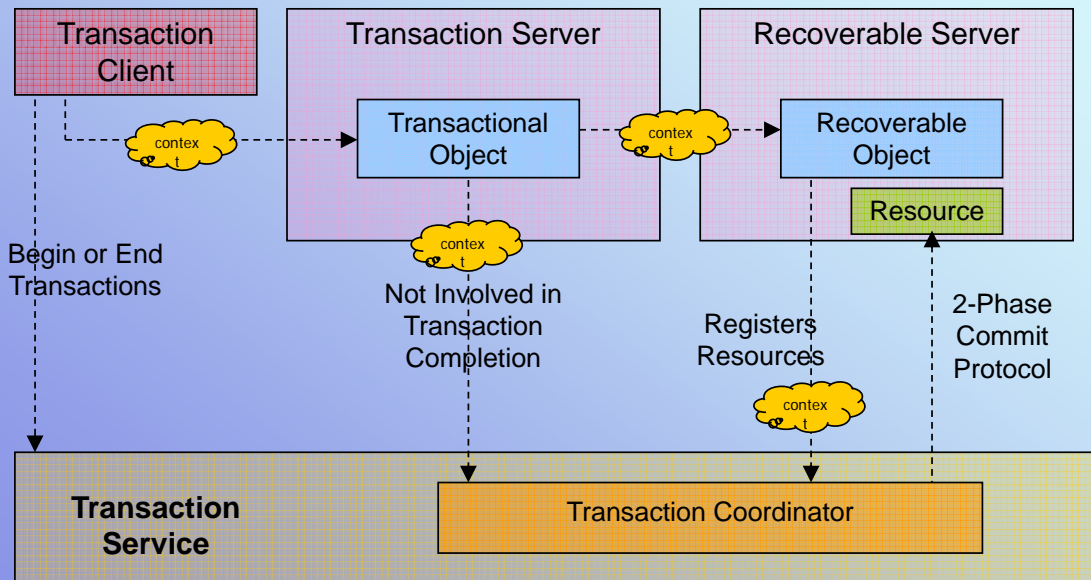
CORBA & FT



14/65



OTS Architecture [10]



15/65



FT-CORBA [11]

- At 1998 OMG issued the RFP
- In early 2000 the first version released
- The last version, December 2001
- Using
 - Replication
 - Object Groups

16/65



Replication

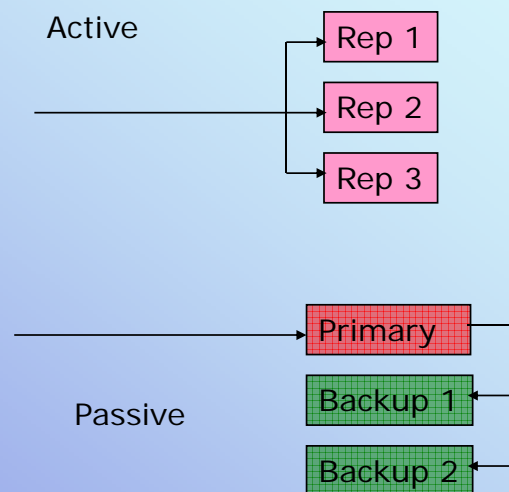
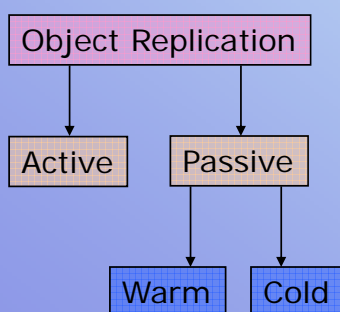
- The various approaches to fault-tolerant CORBA are alike on their use of replication [12].
- The behind idea is to mask the failure of an object by making extra objects.
- In the case of a failure, the fault tolerant ORB transparently redirects a failed request to a live replica.

17/65



Replication Models

How to keep replicas consistent?



18/65



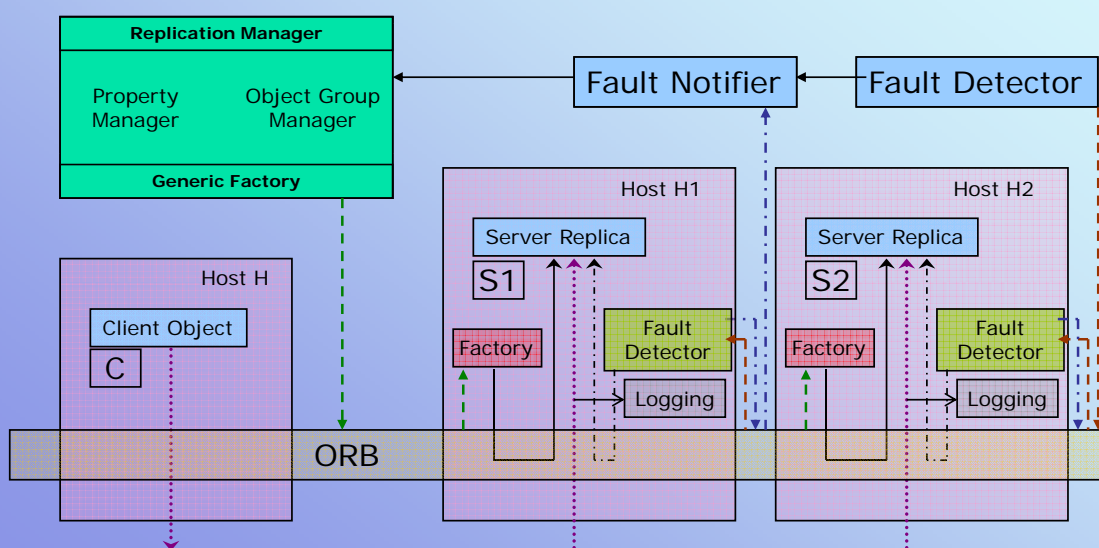
Object Groups

- Object group represents a replicated object and the group members represent the individual replicas of the object.
- Each object group has an Interoperable Object Group Reference (IOGR).
- Using an IOGR, a fault tolerant ORB is capable of accessing each object replica.

19/65



FT-CORBA Architecture



20/65



FT-CORBA Implementations

- Delta-4 [13]
 - 1990 – supported by CEC through ESPRIT Project
- Arjuna [14]
 - 1994 – Newcastle University
- Orbix-Isis [15]
 - 1994 – IONA Technologies Co.
- Electra [16]
 - 1995 – Zurich University
- DOORS [17]
 - 1997 - Bell Labs Research
- OGS [31]
 - 1998 – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
- IRL [18]
 - 1999 – Rome University
- AQuA [30]
 - 1999 – Illinois University
- Eternal [19]
 - 2001 – US Air force research Lab.

21/65



Why Integration?

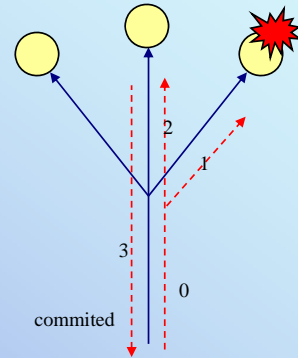
| | Replication | Transaction |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Standard | FT-CORBA | OTS |
| Tier | Control Tier | Data Tier |
| Attribute | Availability | Safety |
| Technique | Roll-forward | Roll-back |

22/65



Roll-Forwarding

- Replication has brought a new termination style into transaction literature.
- Roll-forwarding means although there are errors during the execution of a transaction, the transaction can be committed safely, just by redirecting the failed request to a fresh replica.



23/65



Related Work

- The new models of replication and transaction are a bit different from their traditional concepts.
- As an example:
 - Concurrency is considered separately.
 - The support of transaction server variety is essential.
 - The granularity of transactional elements is coarser.

24/65



Related Work (cont.)

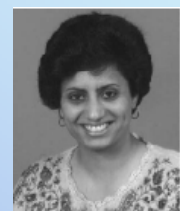
- So, the related works can be categorized into:
 - Integration of traditional concepts
 - Is not interested here, you can refer to [21], [22], [23], [24], [25] and [26].
 - Integration of new concepts
 - Have mainly focused on reconciling replication and transaction in distributed systems, specially the ones that are built my means of CORBA.

25/65



Related Work 1

- *Felber* and *Narasimhan* who are pioneers in FT-CORBA, have issued a new publication [27] recently.
- They have indicated that reconciling replication and transaction concepts in CORBA is still an open issue.



26/65



Related Work 2

- Froland and Guerraoui have claimed that [28] the current standards can not be integrated due to some limitations:
 - OTS does not support fine-grained replication.
 - *Duplicated elimination* cannot be guaranteed.
 - *Output determinism* problem.

27/65



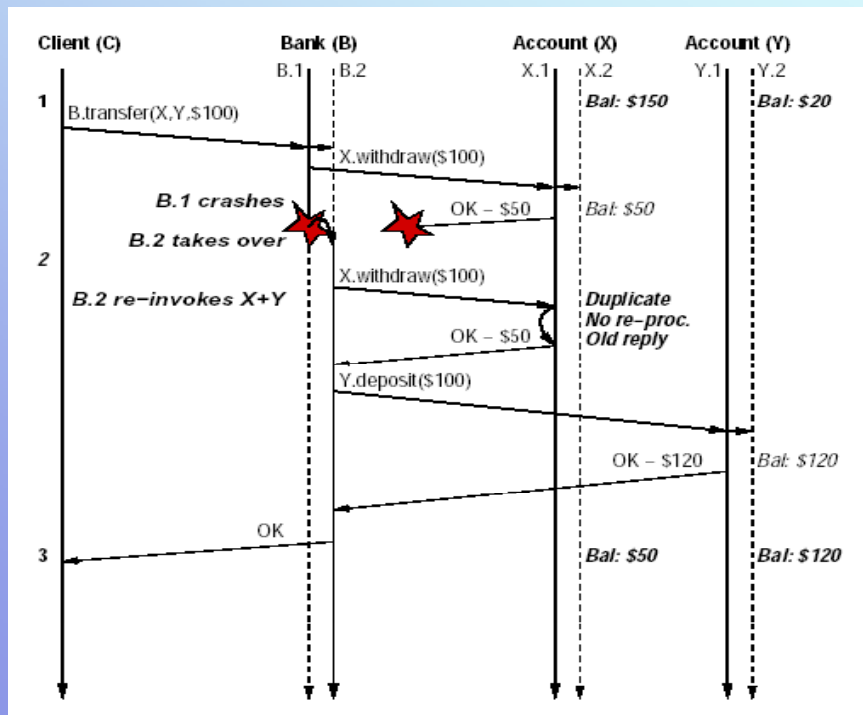
Related Work 3

- Felber and Narasimhan have introduced a protocol [20] in order to use transactional operations on replicated objects.
- They have clarified their protocol with a simple bank balance transfer operation example.

28/65



Related Work 3 (cont.)

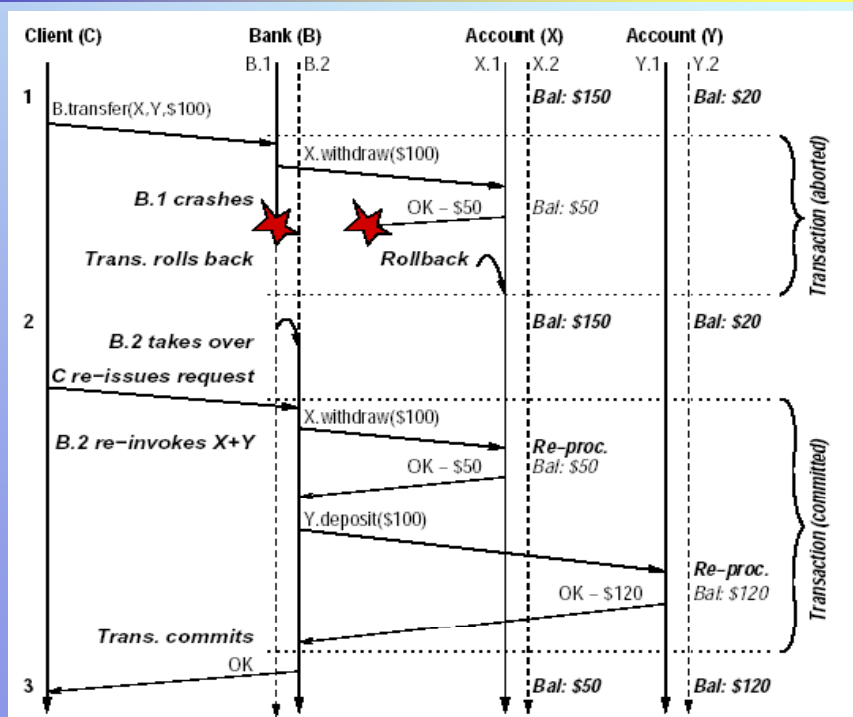


Roll-Forward Approach

29/65



Related Work 3 (cont.)

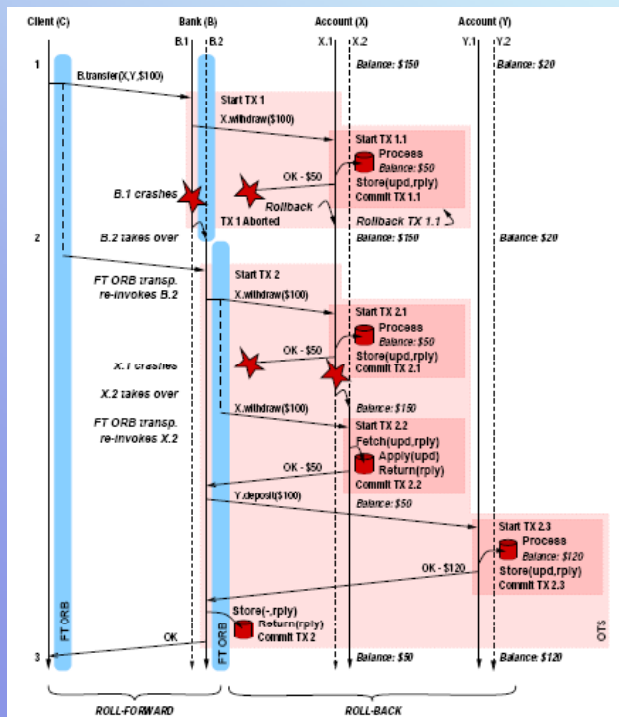


Roll-Back Approach

30/65



Related Work 3 (cont.)



Their proposed approach

31/65



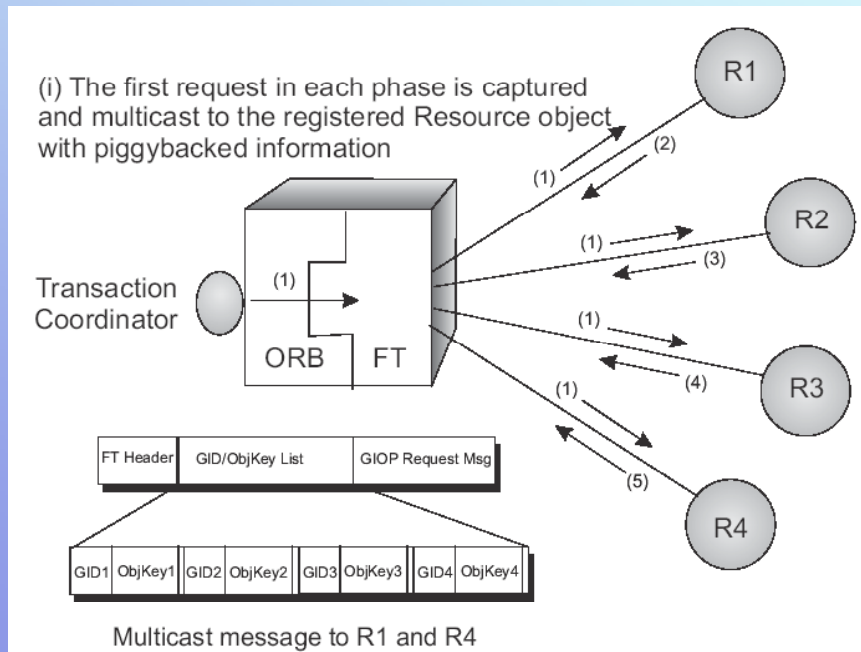
Related Work 4

- Zhao and Moser [29] have shown that sending a multicast message to all transaction resources can decrease the overhead of 2-phase commit protocol.

32/65



Related Work 4 (cont.)



33/65



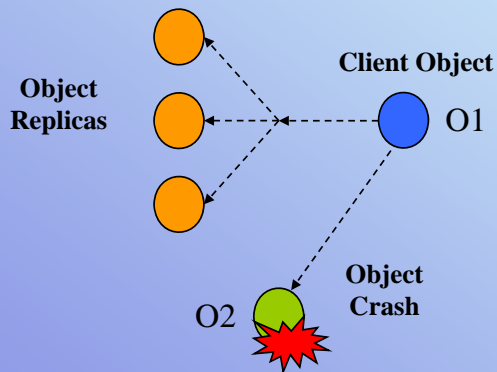
Why they do not add up?

- Almost all of them suppose that middle tier objects are stateless.
- All of them use total order multicast protocols. The drawback of these protocols will be highlighted.
- All of them suppose the existence of nested transaction.

34/65



Total Order Multicast Protocols



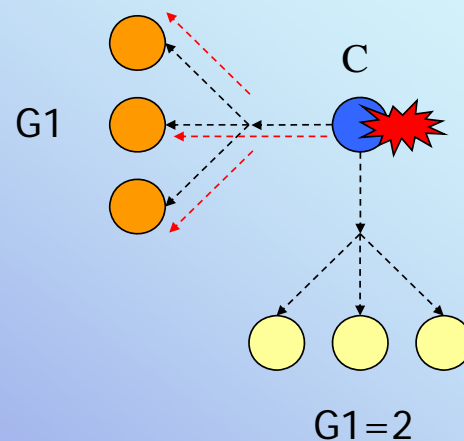
- Suppose that O1 intends to make an atomic call to some objects.
- What will happen if O2 fail during this operation?

35/65



Total-Order Multicast Protocols

- What will happen if C fails after updating G1, but just right before updating G2?

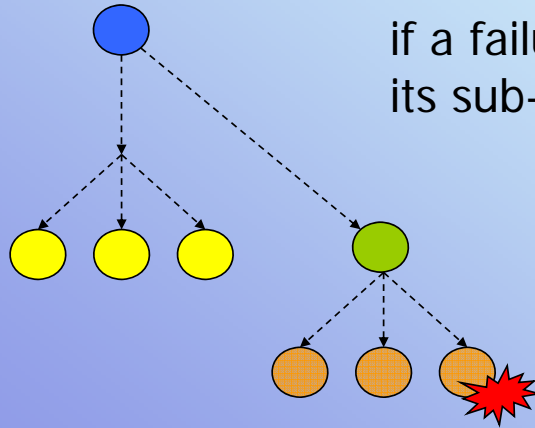


36/65



Nested Transaction

- A nested transaction can be committed successfully if a failure occur in one of its sub-transactions



37/65



Replication-Aware Transactions (RATs)

- From another point of view, any failure in the scope of a transaction that is executing on a group of replicated objects can be easily ignored by using *Replication-Aware Transactions (RATs)*:
 - In the case of stateless objects, redirecting a failed request to a live replica is the remedy.
 - But in the case of statefull objects, this technique is not enough.

38/65



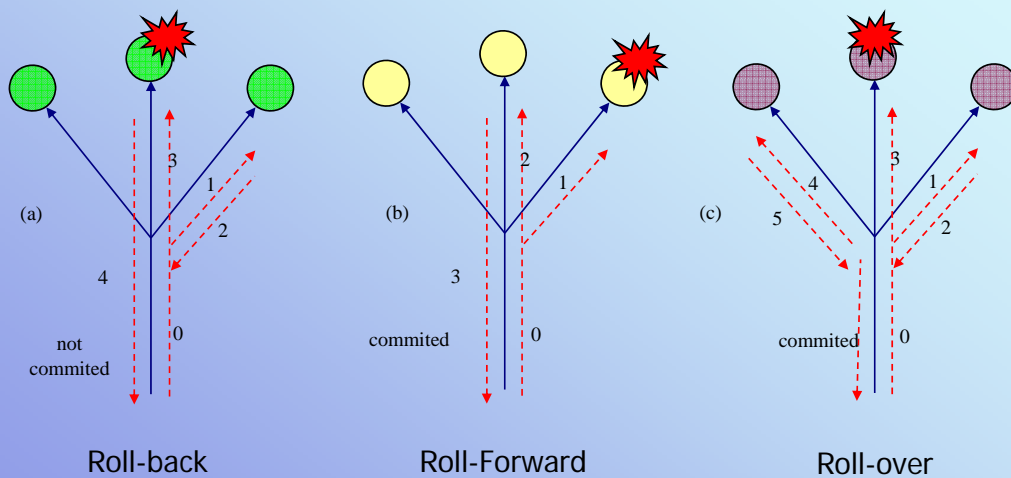
Replication-Aware Transactions (cont.)

- In the case of statefull objects, omitting the object from its group and recreating it will solve the problem.
- We call this termination style *roll-over*.
- For each object recreation, the state of the object should be transmitted.

39/65



Roll back-forward-over



40/65



OTS Extension

```
void
ResourceManager::registerResource(
    CosTransactions::Resource_ptr r ,
    const char* name) throw()
{
    ResourceRecord      record;
    Record.name = name;
    //... other initializations for record

    if (strstr(name , "~$Replicated$~")
        record.setReplicated(true)
    else
        record.setReplicated(false);

    resources_.push_back(record);
}
```

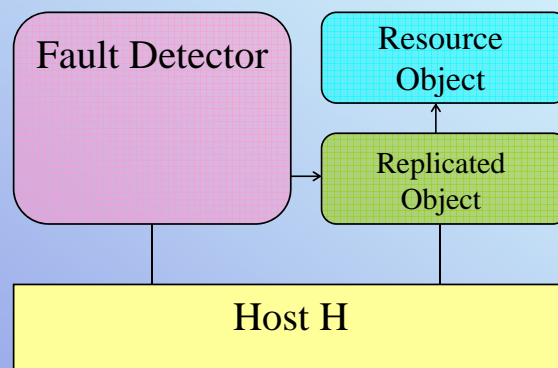
```
CosTransactions::Vote
ResourceManager::prepare()
{
    .....

    switch(v)
    {
    case CosTransactions::VoteRollback:
        if (res -> isReplicated())
            resources_.Remove(res);
        else return v;
        //other cases come here
    }
}
```

41/65



Fault Detection



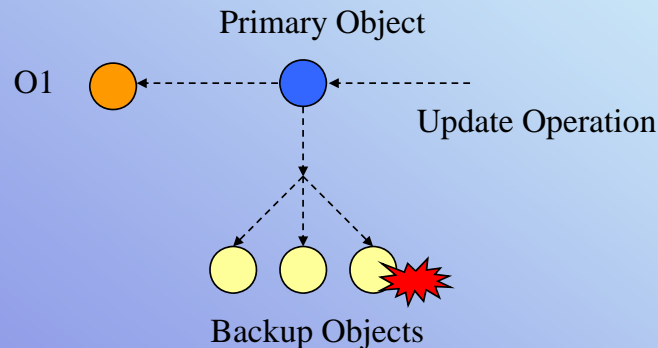
- How to detect the:
 - Crash of H
 - Crash of Replicated Object
 - Crash of Resource Object

42/65



Replication Style Support (cont.)

- Warm-Passive Replication:
 - In this case, the primary object should update the backup objects in the scope of a RAT.

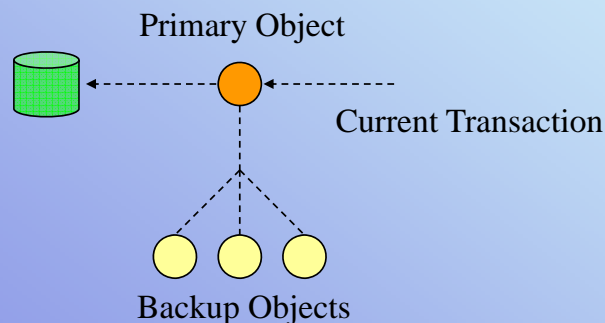


45/65



Replication Style Support (cont.)

- Cold-Passive Replication:
 - Checkpointing should be performed in the scope of the transaction that the primary object participates in it.



46/65



Implementation

- My Implementations:
 - Extending OTS in such a way that can support roll-over approach.
 - Implementing a light-weight Replication Manager.
 - Implementing a prototype to evaluate our model.

47/65



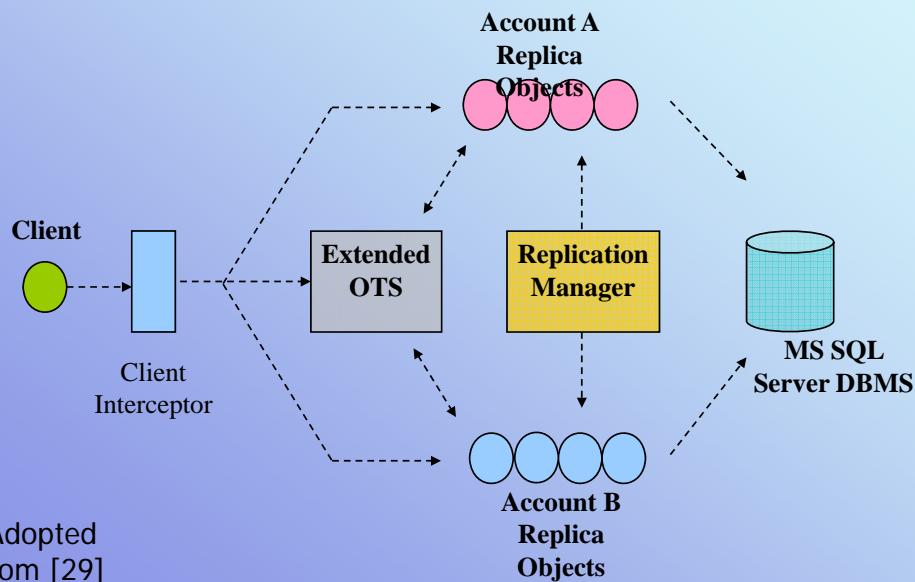
Replication Manager

- Our implemented replication manager:
 - Keeps an object factory for each host
 - Recreates objects whenever they fail
 - Keeps object groups as a bunch of replica object
 - Assigns each object group a set of properties (e.g. minimum number of replica objects)

48/65



The Prototype



49/65



Measurement Parameters

- We ran the implemented prototype with the change on:
 - Number of Replica Objects (N)
 - Failure Probability of a replica object (P)
 - Transaction Model (TM)
- And for each run we measured:
 - The overall transaction throughput (T) in terms of the number of committed transaction per second.

50/65



Performance Evaluation

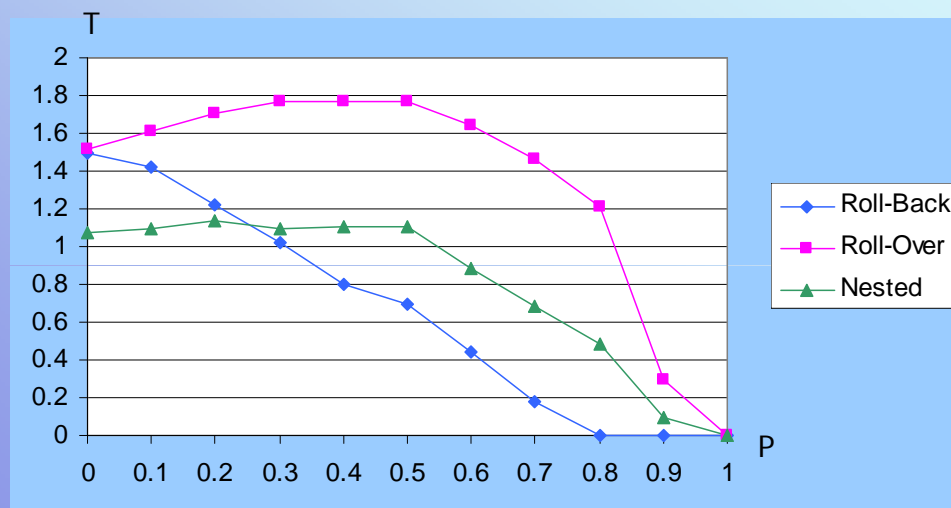
- We compared the transaction throughput of our approach with the transaction throughput of:
 - Felber's approach [20], which uses nested transactions
 - Zhao's approach [29], that uses roll-back approach.

51/65



Experimental Results

- $N=2$

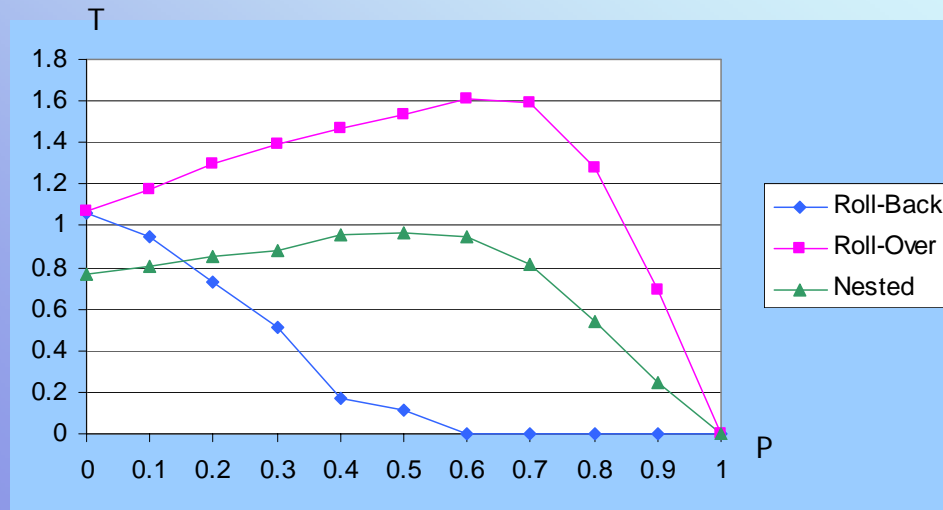


52/65



Experimental Results (cont.)

■ N=3

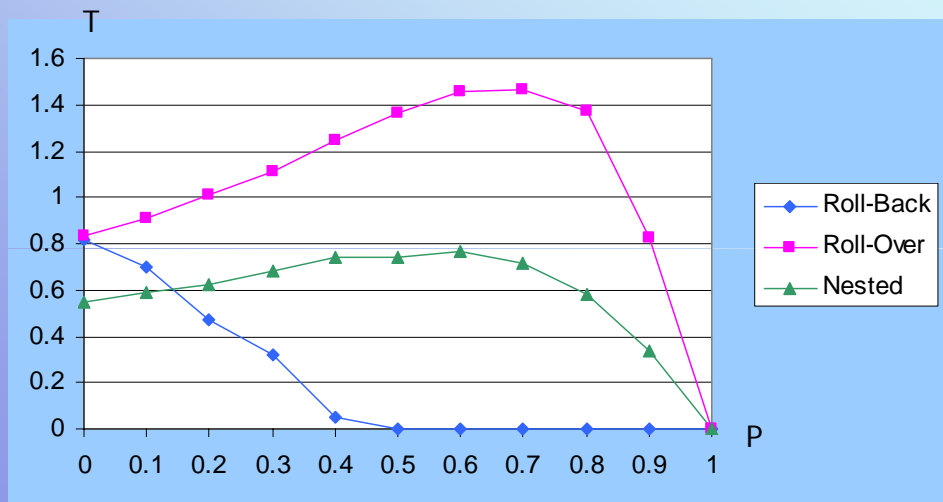


53/65



Experimental Results

■ N=4

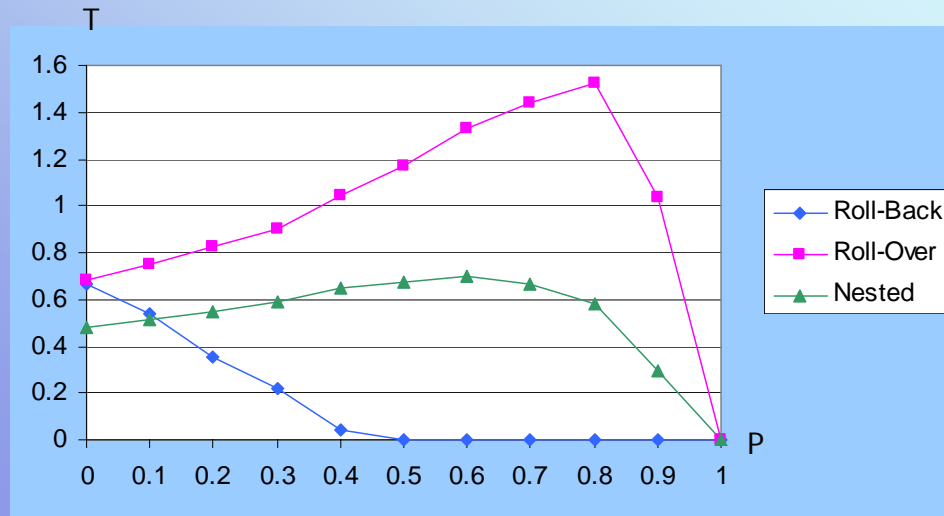


54/65



Experimental Results

■ N=5

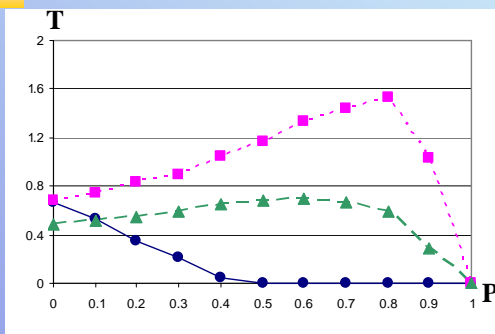


55/65

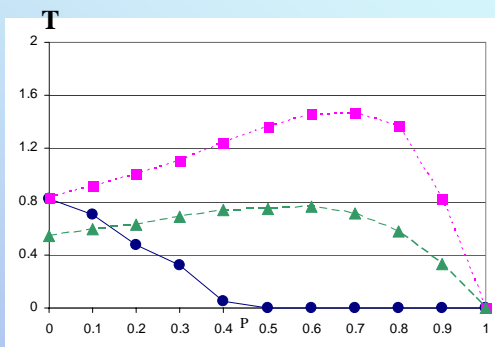


All together

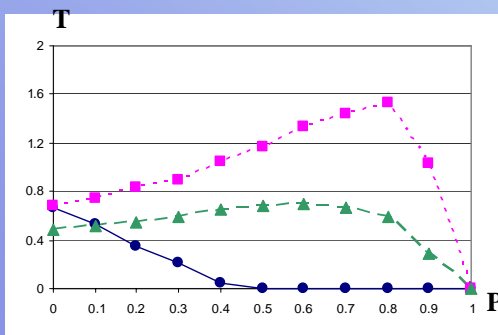
N=3



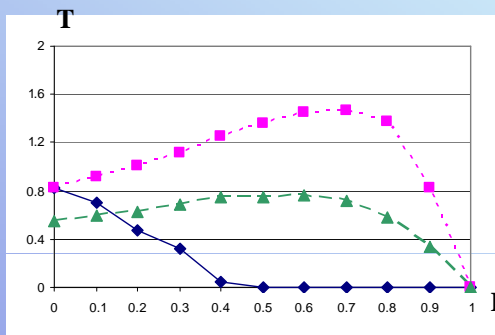
N=2



N=5



N=4

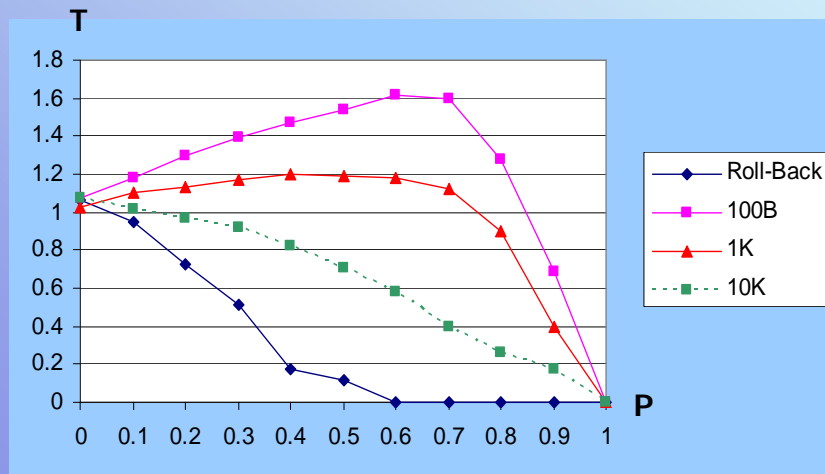


56/65



Object Size

- The object size can affect the performance of RATs, because the object state needs to be transmitted on each object recreation.



57/65



Conclusion

- We showed that current replica consistency techniques that are based on total order multicast protocols cannot guarantee system safety.
- We presented a new transaction model that can be applied to replicated objects.
- In this model, a failure in the scope of a transaction that is running on a group of replicated objects can be ignored.

58/65



Conclusion (cont.)

- We implemented a prototype to evaluate this extension.
- The experimental results show that this model is particularly beneficial:
 - When dealing with crowded object groups
 - In faulty environments
 - For light weight objects

59/65



Other Open Issues

- Active_With_Voting (Quorum-Based or Consensus-Based) Replication [33]
- Applying transactions on active with voting replication style
- Fault Tolerant CCM
- Modeling of this approach [32]
- Transaction and Concurrency Integration

60/65



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61/65



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62/65



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63/65



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64/65



Thanks ...

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