Adversarial Effect in Distributed Storage Systems

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Abstract

Objectives: The critical problem of mass storage and access is handled by Distributed Storage System (DSS) by incorporating data Replication and/or Dispersal techniques. Handling the hybrid failures is very crucial for the design of reliable and efficient DSS. The realistic combination of Crash and Non-Crash faults in DSS disallow fail stop assumption in design. This paper provides an insight into different types of failures, adversaries, proposes a systematic scheme to simulate adversarial effect in DSS. Methods/Statistical Analysis: Information Dispersal Algorithm (IDA) and Reed Solomon codes (RS) are the methods used to analyze the performance of the system. Findings: The performance of the system and robustness of the RS Coded DSS is evaluated and analyzed for various Workload, RS \((n,k)\) values, % of Hybrid failures to design reliable and efficient Distributed Storage System. Application/Improvement: Reed Solomon codes improves the performance of the system by handling both errors and erasures compared to Information Dispersal Algorithm.

Keywords: Adversary, Dispersal, Distributed Storage System (DSS), Hybrid failures, Replication, RS Codes

1. Introduction

The volume of data is growing exponentially; the logical solution to handle voluminous data is Distributed Storage System (DSS). Replication and/or Dispersal are employed to provide fault tolerant store and access architectures in DSS. The primary goal of DSS is to provide Availability, Fault tolerance and Scalability. Node failures is inevitable in DSS; where hybrid failures is the combination of Crash and Non-Crash faults. This is an important factor to be considered while designing reliable DSS, guaranteeing Availability, Fault tolerance and Scalability. The presence of hybrid failures in DSS open up investigations into the role and impact of Adversary in designing DSS architecture. This paper provides an insight into hybrid failures and their impact on storage. A simulated environment enabling systematic injection of hybrid failures for distributed storage and access is the focus of this paper. DSS for RS based dispersal is analyzed in the presence of both Crash and Non - Crash faults.

In a distributed environment, a standard approach for data storage is replication where multiple copies of a file (information) are stored at several nodes to provide fault tolerance. This increases the bandwidth consumption and storage efficiency is declined\(^1\)-\(^5\). The alternative choice to provide efficient storage at low cost is Dispersal technique. In Dispersal, data is splitted into \(k\) fragments and parity is added to obtain \(n\) fragments by using dispersal techniques like RS Codes\(^6\)-\(^8\) IDA\(^9\)-\(^11\). These fragments are sent to several nodes where each node is having unique fragments and can be reconstructed if \(k\) out of \(n\) fragments is obtained. In case of network partitioning, sites are partitioned and the partitions may not be able to communicate with each other. Quorum-based technique is the best solution for this problem. When there is a simultaneous read and write request the availability is at risk. In spite of the availability issues the fault tolerance capability of quorum system is remarkable\(^12\). Research of DSS particularly in Quorum based approaches\(^13\)-\(^15\) assume Fail Stop environment. i.e, when a node fails it does not send data to other nodes. This assumption is rather unrealistic in designing DSS's that focus on improving availability, scalability, and fault tolerance. This implies that the operating environment is fully trusted and devoid of adversary. Such an assumption being far-fetched, the need for considering the role and impact of adversary in DSS design

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prompts investigation of adversaries. To assess the impact of fault tolerant techniques at DSS there is a rising need to experiment in the presence of failures. The paper focuses on proposing a model for a systematic injection of failures in DSS.

2. Fault Tolerant Design

The study of role and impact of hybrid failures for DSS techniques of replication and dispersal demands modelling of crash and non-crash faults and formulation of a simulation scheme to inject hybrid failures at storage. The proposed work provides a detailed simulation scheme facilitating the configuration for total number of storage nodes ($n$), $(n,k)$ dispersal (when $k = 1$, equivalently replication), R/W workload, % of malicious effect (non-crash), % of crash effect. The simulation scheme enable failure injection in the DSS under consideration. The robustness of RS codes (dispersal technique) in handling the effects of adversary in DSS-dispersal is brought out. The importance of designing DSS to tolerate both errors & erasures in the presence of adversary is highlighted. The experimentation is performed in a cluster environment using MPI.

2.1 Dispersal Techniques

To provide fault tolerance, either Replication or Dispersal techniques can be used in DSS. The shortcomings of Replication technique is when an adversary gets access to any one of the replica, the data is available and security (confidentiality) is lost. When Dispersal technique is used instead of replication, the adversary needs access to $k$ servers to get the original data which is highly difficult and increases the security (confidentiality). To provide better security, Dispersal technique is suggested in this work. Information Dispersal Algorithm (IDA), Reed Solomon (RS) codes are examples of dispersal techniques. Comparison of these two techniques is done and is found that RS code outperforms IDA. IDA fails to correct the errors in the data and it can tolerate only erasure up to $n-k$. The data which is unavailable or missing is termed as erasure. Let, the message transmitted be 10010100100 and the received message be 10_1010_1_0. In addition to erasure at positions 3,8,10 RS codes are capable of tolerating errors up to $(n-k)/2$; So RS codes standout as the most logical choice for dispersal at DSS. Dispersal using RS Code is illustrated in Figure 1.

Now mapping these for server faults and failures at DSS we have the following,

- A server may be available but may hold and provide incorrect data because of adversary control, H/W error, CDRAM, CPU errors and the like as illustrated in Figure 2. This part of data is equivalently errors in coding, as it is available for Read/Write operation but is incorrect.
- A server may be unavailable because of crash, N/W partition & the like as illustrated in Figure 3. This part of data is equivalently erasures in coding, as it is not available for Read/Write operation performed in DSS.

![Figure 1. Dispersal using RS Codes](image1)

![Figure 2. Error](image2)

![Figure 3. Erasure](image3)
3. Simulation Scheme

3.1 Failure Injection

To analyze the performance of DSS in the presence of adversary, failure injection is designed and simulated to enable the injection of Crash and Non-crash faults in the Distributed Storage System. The nodes can be classified as crashed and non-crashed nodes. Out of non-crash nodes, 2 possibilities arise. One is nodes are available but corrupted another chance is nodes are available and correct. The nodes which are available and corrupted is controlled by the adversary. It may be any type of adversary as discussed in \(16,17\). Series of test cases will be generated as a result of this simulation to study the performance and behavior of the DSS in presence of adversary.

3.2 Configuration

MPI cluster has been setup using 3 systems having Ubuntu version- 14.04 64 bit OS, Open MPI version - 1.8.4. Adversary model have been simulated based on the configuration details to visualize the behavior of different adversaries present in the DSS. Initial configuration details are specified in Table 1. The configuration parameters are explained in Table 2. The status of nodes at read and writes operations are explained in Table 3.

Based on the \((n,k)\) scheme in the configuration table, files are fragmented. Different test case has been generated to analyze the performance of DSS in presence of adversary and the Robustness of RS codes are realized.

3.3 Test Cases

Case 1-A: No. of. Runs = 2500, workload = Equal Read and Write, RS \((n, k) = (10, 6)\), % of Hybrid failures = 25% and the status of nodes for case 1-A can be referred in Figure 4.

Table 3. Node Status at Read and Write operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Availability and Correctness</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hf-1</td>
<td>Not available for any operation</td>
<td>NA-R/NA-W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hf-2</td>
<td>Available with erroneous data for the specific operations</td>
<td>AE-R/AE-W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hf-3</td>
<td>Available persistently with erroneous data</td>
<td>APE-R/AFE-W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hf-4</td>
<td>Available with correct data</td>
<td>AC_R/AC_W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4. Status of the nodes for case 1-A
**Case 2-B**: No. of. Runs = 4000, workload = Read dominated, RS (n, k) = (14, 10), % of Hybrid failures = 50% and the status of nodes for case 2-B can be referred in Figure 5.

**Case 3-C**: No. of. Runs = 5500, workload = Write dominated, RS (n, k) = (6, 3), % of Hybrid failures = 75% and the status of nodes for case 3-C can be referred in Figure 6.

Varying cases of errors and erasures were injected in the DSS. It is observed that despite adversarial effect and failures varying from (25% to 75%), files were reconstructed successfully. RS code reconstructs the files successfully as long as the combination of errors and erasures are less than or equal to \((n-k) / 2\) and \(n-k\) respectively. It is observed that, the file reconstruction fails if it exceeds this factor. Once a node is crashed it remains the same at every run because it requires a repair mechanism to correct that node. Similarly the static adversary will also remain at same node throughout its execution. Mobile adversary will travel only to its neighbor node in the execution which is the nature of mobile adversary as illustrated in the test cases.

### 3.4 Analysis

Based on the obtained results, the following analysis is performed. Figure 7 illustrates the Read success rate for various \((n,k)\) values for both replication and dispersal technique.

Figure 7 it is clear that we need to access \(k\) servers to reconstruct the original data in case of Dispersal technique and security is also increased compared to that of Replication technique.
Figure 8. Error Tolerance in IDA and RS codes

Figure 9. Erasure Tolerance in IDA and RS codes

Figure 8 illustrates that RS codes outperform IDA in terms of Error correcting capability. Both are equivalent in Erasure tolerance as shown in Figure 9.

4. Conclusion and Future Enhancement

Research in DSS using Quorum based approaches have strived to provide availability, consistency and fault tolerance. They are basically oriented to the replication approach and lack in security (Confidentiality). A classic and secure alternative to replication is dispersal. Dispersal using Reed Solomon codes stand out in their ability to handle both Crash and Non-crash failures at DSS as brought out in section 3. Dual Quorum approach with dispersal DQ-D, brings out the ability of the design for availability, consistency, fault tolerance and security. But does not consider Hybrid failures. This extension is considered in the present work to analyze the performance of DQ-Dispersal with DQ-Replication in the presence of hybrid failures is in progress.

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6. References


