Distributed (Systems) Programming with SALSA (PDCS 9)
Universal Actors, Name Service, Actor Migration, World-Wide Computer Theater (Run-time System)

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• Distributed computing over the Internet.
• Access to *large number* of processors *offsets* slow communication and reliability issues.
• Seeks to create a platform for many applications.
Overview of programming distributed systems

• It is harder than concurrent programming!
• Yet unavoidable in today’s information-oriented society, e.g.:
  – Internet
  – Web services
  – Grid/cloud computing
• Communicating processes with independent address spaces
• Limited network performance
  – Orders of magnitude difference between WAN, LAN, and single machine communication.
• Localized heterogeneous resources, e.g, I/O, specialized devices.
• Partial failures, e.g. hardware failures, network disconnection
• Openness: creates security, naming, composability issues.
Actors/SALSA Revisited

- **Actor Model**
  - A reasoning framework to model concurrent computations
  - Programming abstractions for distributed open systems


- **SALSA**
  - Simple Actor Language System and Architecture
  - An actor-oriented language for mobile and internet computing
  - Programming abstractions for internet-based concurrency, distribution, mobility, and coordination

World-Wide Computer (WWC)

- Worldwide computing platform.
- Provides a run-time system for universal actors.
- Includes naming service implementations.
- Remote message sending protocol.
- Support for universal actor migration.
Abstractions for Worldwide Computing

- **Universal Actors**, a new abstraction provided to guarantee unique actor names across the Internet.

- **Theaters**, extended Java virtual machines to provide execution environment and network services to universal actors:
  - Access to local resources.
  - Remote message sending.
  - Migration.

- **Naming service**, to register and locate universal actors, transparently updated upon universal actor creation, migration, recollection.
Universal Naming

- Consists of *human readable* names.
- Provides location transparency to actors.
- Name to location mappings efficiently updated as actors migrate.
Universal Actor Naming

- UAN servers provide mapping between static names and dynamic locations.
  - Example:

  uan://wwc.cs.rpi.edu:3030/cvarela/calendar

  Name server address and (optional) port.  
  Unique relative actor name.
Universal Actors

• Universal Actors extend the actor model by associating a universal name and a location with the actor.

• Universal actors may migrate between theaters and the name service keeps track of their current location.
Universal Actor Implementation

Thread

collection of objects

mailbox

Theater
WWC Theaters
**WWC Theaters**

- Theaters provide an execution environment for actors.
- Provide a layer beneath actors for message passing and migration.
- Example theater reference, called Universal Actor Locator:

  \[\text{rmsp://wwc.cs.rpi.edu:4040}\]

  Theater’s IP address and port.
Environment Actors

• Theaters provide access to *environment actors*.
• Environment actors perform actions specific to the theater and are not mobile.
• Include standard input, output, and error stream actors.
Remote Message Sending Protocol

- Theaters use the Remote Message Sending Protocol (RMSP) to send messages between remote actors.
- RMSP is implemented using Java object serialization.
- RMSP protocol is used for both message sending and actor migration.
- When an actor migrates, its universal actor locator (UAL) changes but its universal actor name (UAN) does not.
- RMSP is transparent to SALSA programmers. Messages are delivered in a location-transparent manner.
Universal Actor Naming Protocol
Universal Actor Naming Protocol

- UANP includes messages for:
  - Binding actors to UAN, UAL pairs
  - Finding the locator of a universal actor given its UAN
  - Updating the locator of a universal actor as it migrates
  - Removing a universal actor entry from the naming service

- UANP is transparent to SALSA programmers. UANP messages are sent by the WWC run-time system, upon actor creation, lookup, migration, and garbage collection.
UANP Implementations

- Default naming service implementation stores UAN to UAL mapping in name servers specified by UANs.
  - Name server failures may induce universal actor unreachability.

- Distributed (Chord-based) implementation uses consistent hashing and a ring of connected servers for fault-tolerance. For more information, see:


SALSA Language Support for Worldwide Computing

- SALSA provides linguistic abstractions for:
  - Universal naming (UAN & UAL).
  - Remote actor creation.
  - Message sending.
  - Migration.
  - Coordination.

- SALSA-compiled code closely tied to WWC run-time platform.
Universal Actor Creation

• To create an actor locally

```java
TravelAgent a = new TravelAgent();
```

• To create an actor with a specified UAN and UAL:

```java
TravelAgent a = new TravelAgent() at (uan, ual);
```

• At current location with a UAN:

```java
TravelAgent a = new TravelAgent() at (uan);
```
Message Sending

TravelAgent a = new TravelAgent();

a <- book( flight );
Remote Message Sending

- Obtain a remote actor reference by name.

```java
TravelAgent a = (TravelAgent)
    TravelAgent.getReferenceByName("uan://myhost/ta");

a <- printItinerary();
```
module mcell;

behavior Cell implements ActorService{
    Object content;

    Cell(Object initialContent) {
        content = initialContent;
    }

    Object get() {
        standardOutput <- println ("Returning:"+content);
        return content;
    }

    void set(Object newContent) {
        standardOutput <- println ("Setting:"+newContent);
        content = newContent;
    }
}

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module mcell;

behavior GetCellValue {
    void act(String[] args) {
        if (args.length != 1) {
            standardOutput <- println("Usage: salsa mcell.GetCellValue <CellUAN>");
            return;
        }
        Cell c = (Cell) Cell.getReferenceByName(new UAN(args[0]));

        standardOutput <- print("Cell Value") @
        c <- get() @
        standardOutput <- println(token);
    }
}
Migration

- Obtaining a remote actor reference and migrating the actor.

```
TravelAgent a = (TravelAgent)
    TravelAgent.getReferenceByName
        (“uan://myhost/ta”);

a <- migrate(“yourhost:yourport”) @
a <- printItinerary();
```
Moving Cell Tester Example

module mcell;

behavior MovingCellTester {

    void act(String[] args) {

        if (args.length != 3) {
            standardOutput <- println("Usage: salsa mcell.MovingCellTester <UAN> <UAL1> <UAL2>");
            return;
        }

        Cell c = new Cell(“Hello”) at (new UAN(args[0]), new UAL(args[1]));

        standardOutput <- print("Initial Value:") @
        c <- get() @ standardOutput <- println(token) @
        c <- set("World") @
        standardOutput <- print("New Value:") @
        c <- get() @ standardOutput <- println(token) @
        c <- migrate(args[2]) @
        c <- set("New World") @
        standardOutput <- println("New Value at New Location:") @
        c <- get() @ standardOutput <- println(token);
    }
}

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Agent Migration Example

module migrate;

behavior Migrate {

    void print() {
        standardOutput<-println( "Migrate actor is here." );
    }

    void act( String[] args ) {

        if (args.length != 3) {
            standardOutput<-println("Usage: salsa migrate.Migrate <UAN> <srcUAL> <destUAL>");
            return;
        }

        UAN uan = new UAN(args[0]);
        UAL ual = new UAL(args[1]);

        Migrate migrateActor = new Migrate() at (uan, ual);

        migrateActor<-print() @
        migrateActor<-migrate( args[2] ) @
        migrateActor<-print();
    }
}

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Migration Example

• The program must be given *valid* universal actor name and locators.
  – Appropriate name server and theaters must be running.
  – Theater must be run from directory with access to migrating actor behavior code.

• After remotely creating the actor. It sends the `print` message to itself before migrating to the second theater and sending the message again.
Compilation and Execution

$ salsac migrate/Migrate.salsa
SALSA Compiler Version 1.0: Reading from file Migrate.salsa . . .
SALSA Compiler Version 1.0: SALSA program parsed successfully.
SALSA Compiler Version 1.0: SALSA program compiled successfully.
$ salsa migrate.Migrate
Usage: salsa migrate.Migrate <UAN> <srcUAL> <destUAL>

- Compile Migrate.salsa file into Migrate.class.
- Execute Name Server
- Execute Theater 1 and Theater 2 (with access to migrate directory)
- Execute Migrate in any computer
The actor will print "Migrate actor is here." at theater 1 then at theater 2.
## World Migrating Agent Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>OS/JVM</th>
<th>Processor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yangtze.cs.uiuc.edu</td>
<td>Urbana IL, USA</td>
<td>Solaris 2.5.1 JDK 1.1.6</td>
<td>Ultra 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vulcain.ecoledoc.lip6.fr</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td>Linux 2.2.5 JDK 1.2pre2</td>
<td>Pentium II 350Mhz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>solar.isr.co.jp</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
<td>Solaris 2.6 JDK 1.1.6</td>
<td>Sparc 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local actor creation</td>
<td>386µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local message sending</td>
<td>148 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN message sending</td>
<td>30-60 ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAN message sending</td>
<td>2-3 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN minimal actor migration</td>
<td>150-160 ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAN 100Kb actor migration</td>
<td>240-250 ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAN minimal actor migration</td>
<td>3-7 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAN 100Kb actor migration</td>
<td>25-30 s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
module addressbook;
import java.util.*

behavior AddressBook implements ActorService {
    Hashtable name2email;
    AddressBook() {
        name2email = new HashTable();
    }
    String getName(String email) { ... }
    String getEmail(String name) { ... }
    boolean addUser(String name, String email) { ... }

    void act(String[] args) {
        if (args.length != 0){
            standardOutput<-println("Usage: salsa -Duan=<UAN> -Dual=<UAL> addressbook.AddressBook");
        }
    }
}

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module addressbook;

behavior AddUser {
    void act( String[] args ) {
        if (args.length != 3){
            standardOutput<-println(“Usage: salsa
                addressbook.AddUser <AddressBookUAN> <Name> <Email>”);
            return;
        }
        AddressBook book = (AddressBook)
            AddressBook.getReferenceByName(new UAN(args[0]));
        book<-addUser(args(1), args(2));
    }
}
Address Book Get Email Example

module addressbook;

behavior GetEmail {
    void act( String[] args ) {
        if (args.length != 2){
            standardOutput <- println("Usage: salsa
                addressbook.GetEmail <AddressBookUAN> <Name>");
            return;
        }
        getEmail(args(0),args(1));
    }
    void getEmail(String uan, String name){
        try{
            AddressBook book = (AddressBook)
                AddressBook.getReferenceByName(new UAN(uan));
            standardOutput <- print(name + "'s email: ") @
                book <- getEmail(name) @
                standardOutput <- println(token);
        } catch (MalformedUANException e){
            standardError<-println(e);
        }
    }
}

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module addressbook;

behavior MigrateBook {
  void act(String[] args) {
    if (args.length != 2) {
      standardOutput<-println(“Usage: salsa addressbook.MigrateBook <AddressBookUAN> <NewUAL>”);
      return;
    }
    AddressBook book = (AddressBook)
        AddressBook.getReferenceByName(new UAN(args[0]));
    book<-migrate(args[1]);
  }
}
Exercises

78. How would you implement the join continuation linguistic abstraction considering different potential distributions of its participating actors?

79. Download and execute the Migrate.salsa example.

80. Modify the lock example in the SALSA distribution to use a wait/notify protocol, as opposed to “busy-waiting” (or “busy-asking”).

81. CTM Exercise 11.11.3 (page 746). Implement the example using SALSA/WWC.

82. PDCS Exercise 9.6.9 (page 204).