Chapter 6
Message-oriented Middleware (MOM)

Outline

- Queues in TP-monitors
  - asynchronous transaction processing
- Stratified transactions
- Message Queuing Systems
  - point-to-point, request-response
  - Java Messaging Service (JMS)
  - EJB Message-driven Beans
- Message Brokers
  - Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) - requirements
  - message routing
  - publish/subscribe
  - message broker architecture components
  - hub-and-spoke topology
- Databases and Message Queuing Systems
  - roles
  - integration approaches
  - DBMS/MQS integration example
Short-term Queues for Load Control

- Load control (during direct transaction processing)
  - Handle temporary load peaks
  - Store request in (temporary) queue to avoid creating new processes
  - Client-side model: direct, synchronous communication
- "exactly-once" has to be guaranteed; concurrent access must preserve correctness of queue structure

Persistent Queues in TP-Monitors

- End-user control
  - Delivering output (e.g., display information, print ticket, hand out money) is a critical step in asynchronous processing
  - Redelivery may be required until user explicitly acknowledges receipt
- Recoverable data entry
  - Some applications are driven by data entry at a high rate, without feedback to the data source
  - Optimize for high throughput (instead of short response times)
  - Input data are taken from queue by running application
  - Input data must not be lost, even during a crash
- Multi-transactional requests
  - Single request is processed in multiple transactions
  - Transaction chaining
Asynchronous Transaction Processing

- Decoupling Request Entry, Request Processing, and Response Delivery, use separate TAs for each task
  - optimize for throughput
  - avoid resource contention of single-transaction (TRPC) approach
  - can be generalized to multi-transaction requests

Queues for Asynchronous Transaction Processing

- Queues are persistent, transactional
  - distinguishable, stable objects
  - can be manipulated through ACID transactions
    - send, receive operations are part of the respective transactions
      - queueing system is yet another transactional resource manager
      - queue operations and operations on other RMs can happen within the same (distributed) transaction
      - request will become visible to other TAs only at commit of sending TA
      - if the receiving TA crashes, the request will be "put back" on the queue by the queuing system
      - server can re-process the request after recovery
  - Client view
    - ACID request handling: request is executed exactly once
    - Request-reply matching: for each request there is a reply
      - request-id for relating requests and responses, provided by the client
    - At-least once response handling: client sees response at least once
      - response may have to be presented repeatedly, e.g., after client failure/restart
Multi-transactional Requests

- Single request processed in a sequence of multiple transactions
  - can be scheduled asynchronously for high throughput, as long as no intermediate user interactions are required
- Based on recoverable input data (persistent queues)

Stratified Transactions

- Generalization of multi-transactional requests
  - Stratum: set of transactions to be coordinated under 2PC
    - connected through message queues
  - Connected strata form a tree structure
Stratified Transactions (2)

Structure
- some $t_i$ should commit at the same time
- disjoint, complete partitioning of $T$ into sets of transactions $S_1, \ldots, S_m$
  \[
  S_i \subseteq T \text{ mit } S_i \neq \emptyset \text{ und } S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset \text{ für } i \neq j \text{ und } \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} S_i = T
  \]
- transactions in $S_i$ are synchronized by 2PC
- set of transactions $S_i$ is called stratum
- each $S_i$ receives requests in a request queue $Q_i$
- a queue $Q_i$ does NOT associate more than 2 $S_i$

Behavior
- requests for stratum is only visible in input queue, if parent stratum commits
  - queues are transactional
- all strata eventually commit if their respective parent stratum commits
  - stratified TA commits if root stratum commits
- if stratum fails repeatedly, then this is an exception that requires manual intervention, compensation

Stratified Transactions (3)

Advantages compared to single, global TA for $T$:
- early commit of individual strata; implies less resource contention, higher throughput
- reduced observed end user response time (commit of root stratum)
- if all transactions in a stratum execute on the same node:
  - no network traffic for executing 2PC
  - TA-Manager coordinating global TA on respective nodes don’t need to support external coordinator

Requirements
- all resources manipulated by transactions (including messages) need to be recoverable
- resource managers need to be able to participate in 2PC
Client Variations

- Non-transactional client
  - transaction support may not be available on the client
  - client still needs to be implemented in a fault-tolerant manner
    - make sure that the same request is not sent more than once
    - make sure that replies are delivered to the end user (at least) once
  - queuing infrastructure can help by
    - guaranteeing that message is stably stored when "enqueue message" operation returns to client
    - providing information (message-ids) about the last request submitted, last reply received when client reconnects after failure
    - allowing a client to
      - explicitly acknowledge receiving a reply
      - re-receive the unacknowledged replies
      - reply is deleted only when explicitly or implicitly acknowledged by the client
- One-way messaging
  - client requires no reply for a request
- Multiple clients submitting requests
  - one reply queue per client, identified as part of the request

Message Queuing Systems (MQS)

- Have evolved from queuing systems in TP-monitors
- Message-oriented interoperability
  - programming model: message exchange
- Loosely-coupled systems/components
  - "client" is not blocked during request processing
  - "server"
    - can flexibly choose processing time
    - can release resources/locks early
  - components don't need to be running/active at the same time
- Provide persistent message queues
  - reliable message buffer for asynchronous communication
  - "store and forward" behavior
- Transactional MQS ("reliable MQS")
  - persistent MQS
  - guaranteed "exactly-once" semantics
  - transactional enqueue/dequeue operations
Interacting with MQS

- Point-to-point messaging
  - Application explicitly interacts with message queues
  - Request/reply model needs to be built "on top"

- Basic operations:
  - Connect/Disconnect to/from MQS
  - Send or Enqueue: appends a message to a MQ
    - usually multiple producers can send/enqueue in the same queue associated with receiver
  - Receive or Dequeue: reads and removes message from a (its) MQ

- Variations
  - Shared Queues
    - support for multiple consumers per queue
      - example: load balancing by using multiple "server" components
      - but a particular message only has a single consumer
  - Additional properties for messages
    - priority, time-out, ...
  - Enhanced flexibility for "receive"
    - beyond FiFO

JMS – Standardized Interaction with MQS

- Administered objects
  - connection factories (containing provider details)
  - (static) destinations/message queues
  - registered/bound through JNDI

- Connection
  - represents connection to the JMS provider
  - start/stop messaging service

- Session
  - execution context for sending and receiving messages by creating messages, producers, consumers
  - may encompass a sequence of transactions

- Message
  - Message producer
    - sends messages to queue
  - Message consumer
    - receives messages from queue
      - synchronous receive() method
      - asynchronous using sendMessage() method of Message Listener
Messaging Model

- Message delivery modes
  - PERSISTENT – exactly-once
  - NON_PERSISTENT – at-most-once
    - non-persistent messages may be lost in case of a provider failure
- Message order
  - messages sent by a single session are received in the order in which they are sent
    - order is not defined across multiple queues or multiple session sending to the same queue
  - the sending order is affected by the following
    - message priority – messages with higher priority may jump ahead
    - order is only guaranteed within a delivery mode (persistent/non-persistent), if both are used
    - a transaction’s order of messages
  - the receiving order may further be influenced by the receiver (see subsequent chart)

Transactions and Message Acknowledgement

- Transactions
  - MQ interactions may occur in context of a transactional session
    - distributed TA-support based on JTS/TA
    - session object provides commit/rollback methods with the obvious semantics on queues
      - implicitly starts a new transaction, resulting in a sequence of transactions
- Message acknowledgement
  - messages need to be acknowledged after receiving them
    - queues can be recovered, resulting in redelivery of unacknowledged messages
      - messages are flagged as redelivered
  - Transactional sessions
    - messages are automatically acknowledged at TA commit
    - queues are recovered automatically at rollback
  - Non-transactional sessions
    - acknowledgement options
      - lazy acknowledgement - is likely to result in duplicate messages after a JMS failure
      - auto-acknowledge – automatically after a successful receive
      - client acknowledge – explicit by calling Message.acknowledge()
        - automatically acknowledges all messages that have been delivered by its session
      - recover-method of a session will stop a session and restart it with its first unacknowledged message
Message Structure

- **Header**
  - standard message attributes set by JMS provider or message producer
  - message-id, correlation-id, delivery mode (persistent/not persistent), destination (queue), priority, redelivered, reply-to, timestamp
- **Properties (optional)**
  - application-specific, vendor-specific, and optional properties
  - used for optional and "customized" message header fields
- **Body**
  - actual message content
  - support for multiple content types (bytes, text, Java object, ...)
  - format of the method body is up to the applications
    - implicit agreement
    - no meta-data available

Message Selectors

- Message processing applications may implement components only interested in a subset of messages on a queue
- Queue receiver may specify a selector
  - messages that are not selected remain in the queue
  - message order is not guaranteed anymore
- **Selector syntax**
  - logical conditions based on a subset of SQL92 conditional expression syntax
    - literals, identifiers (field/property names)
    - logical connectors, comparison operators, arithmetic expressions
  - can reference message header fields and properties
    - no references to message body allowed
EJB Message-Driven Beans (MDB)

- Entity and session beans can use JMS to send asynchronous messages
  - Receiving messages would be difficult, requires explicit client invocation to invoke a bean method "listening" on a queue
    - may block the thread until message becomes available
- Message-driven beans should be used to receive and process messages
  - Implement a message listener interface ("onMessage(...)"
  - Stateless: no conversational state, can be pooled like stateless session beans
  - Not invocable through RMI: don't have component interfaces (home, remote)
  - Concurrent processing of messages
    - Container can execute multiple instances, handles multi-threading
- Deployment
  - CMT for MDBs: only REQUIRED and NOT_SUPPORTED is permitted
  - Descriptor includes additional attributes mapping to JMS processing properties
    - Acknowledge-mode
    - Message-selector
  - The queue from which a MDB should receive messages is fixed at deployment time

Message Queuing and Application Integration

- Message queuing characteristics
  - Explicit definition, agreement regarding message destination
  - Point-to-point, request-response
  - Fixed message structure (content)
  - A particular message is always consumed by a single receiver
- Enterprise Application Integration (EAI)
  - Goal: bring together disparate application systems to exchange data and requests
  - Example: Supply Chain Automation
    - Supplier/customer management, quotation, order processing, procurement, shipping, ...
  - Involves for each application
    - Definition of a message set representing data/requests
    - Developing an adapter that maps messages to invocation of application functions
      - Front-end vs. back-end adapter
- Using plain message queuing for EAI
  - Messaging application/adapter has to perform complex routing logic and required message transformations for every application to be integrated
  - Hard to maintain, extend
Message Routing

- Idea: separate the routing and transformation logic from the applications
  - script defines sequences of application invocations and message transformation steps
    - transformations are program components invoked by the message router

Publish/Subscribe Paradigm

- Publish and Subscribe
  - further generalizes message routing aspects
  - applications may simply publish a message by submitting it to the message broker
  - interested applications subscribe to messages of a given type/topic
  - message broker delivers copies of messages to all interested subscribers
- Subscription
  - can be static (fixed at deployment or configuration time) or dynamic (by application at runtime)
  - type-based subscription
    - based on defined message types
    - type namespace may be flat or hierarchical (e.g., SupplyChain.newPurchaseOrder)
    - also identified by the publisher
  - parameter-based subscription
    - boolean subscription condition identifying the messages a subscriber is interested in
    - example: type = "new PO" AND customer = "ACME" AND quantity > 1000
    - condition refers to message fields
  - non-durable subscription: published messages are not delivered if the subscriber is not active
  - durable subscription: messages are delivered until subscription expires
- JMS supports Publish/Subscribe
  - Publishers send messages to topics instead of queues
  - Subscribers create a special kind of receiver (topic subscriber) for a topic
Message Brokering

- **Message Transformations**
  - restructuring (schema conversion)
  - data conversion, data cleaning (see data warehousing)
  - based on a neutral message format to reduce transformation complexity

- **Message Routing and Transport**
  - employs queues as input/output infrastructure
  - asynchronous communication, store-and-forward
  - performs message flow control (intelligent routing)
    - dynamic, based on message content

- **Rules-based processing and distribution of messages based on message fields**

- **Message annotation**
  - message can be combined with data from a database, from other messages, or both
  - annotations are defined in routing scripts or subscription requests

Message Brokering (2)

- **Message repository**
  - definition of message structure (of all message sets)
  - mapping rules
  - special transformation functions
  - routing scripts
  - subscription requests

- **Message warehouse**
  - implements message persistence
  - can be used to permanently store messages of predefined types
    - may be retrieved, annotated, projected on demand
    - basis for further analytical processing of messages
  - message archiving, auditing

- **Message-flow programming model**
  - interconnected message processing “nodes” (operators)
Message Broker Topologies

- **Hub-and-spoke**
  - message broker as a neutral hub for message processing
  - applications connected to broker in a “star” architecture

- **Multi-hub**
  - simple extension of hub-and-spoke for scalability
  - multiple message brokers are linked together
  - applications can be connected to any of the participating brokers

- **Federation**
  - generalizes multi-hub topology
  - heterogeneous message brokers
    - need to interact based on a common interchange format (e.g., XML)
  - applications are connected/bound to specific broker

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Databases and Messaging Systems

- **Roles of DBMS in a messaging world**
  - persistence manager for messaging systems
    - store/retrieve messaging data and state information
    - reliable, transactional
  - provide advanced DBMS capabilities to achieve a DBMS/MQS synergy
    - querying messaging data

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Database as a Message Store

- Database serves as a backing store
- Messaging systems can exploit integral database features, such as
  - storage definition, management, and underlying media/fabric exploitation
    - single DB table for storing similar messages of a single/few queues
    - administrator can configure the tables appropriately
  - buffer, cache, spill management
    - DB cache allows for quick access during timely message consumption
  - index creation, management, reorganization
    - on (unique) message ids, sequence numbers, subscription topics, ...
  - latching and lock management
    - avoid consumer/producers blocking on each other
    - row-level locking
    - lower isolation semantics (skip over locked messages, etc.)
  - transaction management and coordination
    - synchronous or asynchronous message store/commit in local TAs, based on QoS requirements
    - global TA support
  - high-speed and scalable logging services

Improved Database and Messaging Synergy

- DBMS helps accessing messaging data and destinations, possibly in combination with operational data
  - requires closer cooperation in terms of message schema and typing information
- Potential DBMS features
  - mapping message payloads structure to table structure
  - exploit object-relational and XML data capabilities of DBMS
  - message warehousing and replay functionality
  - tracking and analysis of message data
  - enabling the database for asynchronous operations
    - messaging triggers
  - use of SQL, SQL/XML, XQuery with MQS
  - publishing to message destinations as reaction to updates
    - triggers, messaging functions
    - replication
  - storing durable subscriptions
  - consume-with-wait support
    - instead of continued polling
Integration Strategies

- Database System using/integrating messaging capabilities
  - database-specific messaging and queuing
    - queuing support added to the DBMS engine
  - interfacing with message engines
    - "light integration"
  - messaging data lives in DBMS, new built-in or user-defined routines to interface with a (co-located) messaging system

- Messaging system using/integrating DBMS
  - message-system-specific persistence, transactions, logging
  - messaging engine implements all of the above by itself
  - database as a persistent message store

- Integrated Database Messaging
  - leverage the strengths of both DBMS and MQS, without reimplementation
  - potentially utilize additional middleware to achieve the integration
    - example: leverage (information integration) wrapper technology

Integrated Database Messaging – Example

- IBM research prototype based on DB2 Universal Database, WebSphere Platform Messaging (WPM)

```
SEND/RECEIVE/SELECT

DB2 Engine
Parser
Compiler
Runtime
Msg Wrapper

WPM Engine (WebSphere AS)
```

Mapping SEND/RECEIVE to SQL
Query rewrite for complex predicates
2PC optimization for transactional integration
"Virtual table" representing sets of messages
remote destinations
SQL Language Extensions

- **SEND statement**
  - creates and puts a message into specific destination
  - example:
    ```sql
    SEND TO stockdisplay ($body)
    SELECT n.name || '#' || CHAR(q.price)
    FROM quotes q, stocknames n
    WHERE q.symbol = n.symbol
    ```
  - WPM initializes message properties
    - can be accessed by the sending application using additional syntax
    - internally represented as SELECT -> INSERT into virtual table

- **RECEIVE statement**
  - destructively reads a message from a destination
  - example:
    ```sql
    RECEIVE $body
    FROM stockdisplay
    WHERE MINUTEDIFF (CURRENT TIMESTAMP - TIMESTAMP($timestamp)) < 60
    ```
  - internally represented as DELETE -> SELECT from virtual table

Message Wrapper

- Message wrapper provides a relational view of a JMS message destination
  - "virtual" table (see chapter on wrappers)
  - structure
    - each standard header field -> column
    - all application-defined properties -> single column
    - message body -> column
  - operations
    - maps DML operations and filter predicates to appropriate operations on message destinations
    - implements set-oriented semantics
  - WPM does not support complex filter conditions
  - DB2 needs to compensate for lack of capabilities
  - requires two-step interaction to preserve semantics of message destination operations
    - step one
      - browse all messages that fulfill subset of search criteria supported by WPM
    - step two
      - destructively read only the qualifying messages from the destination
2PC Optimization

- DB2 and WPM are located on the same machine, can use the same DB for operational data and (local) message storage
- 2PC semantics may have to be enforced, but can be optimized
  - DB and WPM interactions with DB still occur through separate DB connections
  - tight coupling possible based on XA join/suspend behavior
    - transaction context passed along to messaging system
    - then back to DB during message interactions
    - DB2 TA-Mgr recognizes context, avoids full 2PC

Summary

- Message Queuing
  - asynchronous interactions, communication
  - persistent and transactional message queues
  - asynchronous transaction processing
  - supported by
    - TP monitors
    - Workflow Management Systems
    - Message Queuing Middleware
- Message Broker
  - focus on application integration
  - message routing, pub/sub
  - neutral message hub
  - rule-based processing, routing, transformation of messages
- Databases and Messaging Systems
  - database as a message store
  - DBMS/MQS synergy
  - different integration strategies
    - DBMS-extension, MQS-extension, integration
  - integration example
    - SQL extensions for messaging
    - messaging wrapper
    - 2PC integration