Replicable Services:

Running dCache in a High Availability Configuration

11th International dCache Workshop

Jürgen Starek
on behalf of the project team
Overview

• What changed?
  A review of the new features since 2.16

• How to profit from it?
  An update demo resulting in an HA setup
A look at the status quo

• Hierarchy:
  - Domains (containers for cells, each with own VM)
    • Cells (doors, pools, ...)

• Cells communicate through messages

• Expectation: “dCacheDomain” as center of communication
Topology issues

- Single point(s) of failure
- Network partitioning can cause system failure even while all components are up
- Performance may hinge on single component
New since 2.16: Replicable Services

- More than one instance of any crucial component
- No single points of failure
  - Overall system integrity preserved in the face of network or server issues
  - Individual transfers may be aborted
- Rolling updates without downtimes
- Scalability
  - HA-aware doors and SRM
  - HA proxy enabled
Definitions

• Load Balancing
  - analyzing load on nodes and distributing work so that the load is spread evenly (think poise)

• Load Distribution
  - assigning load to nodes without knowing about their status, relying on statistical averaging

• High Availability
  - Availability of overall system functionality in the face of technical problems, without regard for performance
Replicable Services

• Differentiate between service name and instance name(s)
  - PnfsManager: Service name (logical level)
  - PnfsManager@somedomain: cell instance (physical level)

• A replicable service supports
  - this separation
  - having multiple instances
List of Replicable Services

• Critical Services
  - Spacemanager
  - Pinmanager
  - SRM Manager
  - PNFS Manager
  - gPlazma

• Other Services
  - admin
  - httpd
  - info
  - topo
  - statistics
Towards replacing instances

- Established load balancing mechanisms between several doors already allows rolling updates
  - srm
  - DNS round robin
  - BDII
  - load balancing proxy

```bash
DNS-RR
rrset-order {order cyclic;};

door IN A 10.0.0.1
door IN A 10.0.0.2
...```

```
dCache
  door1
  door2
  door3
  door4
  door5
```
Towards replacing instances

• But what about central services like Pin Manager or PNFS Manager?
  - there’s only one „true“ status
  - avoid inconsistencies of distributed systems
Challenges

• System needs
  – Common consensus about system status
  – Topology discovery

• Architecture
  – Avoid non-replicated components also beyond core dCache
Zookeeper

- Central component
- Distributed key-value-store
- Source of Truth and Consensus
- Ideally deployed as standalone cluster
  - alternatively: built-in
Zookeeper and HA

• **CAP** theorem: Choose two of [Consistency, Availability, Partition resistance]
  - Zookeeper as a „source of truth“ system implicitly chooses C
  - Between the remaining A and P, it chooses P, so we need to tolerate short outages!

• Bottom line: expect short outages
  - “Zookeeper is down” is actually a feature when the network is flaky! It is not A until C can be ensured again.

Zookeeper as a topology information service

• Replaced location manager

• Informs other dCache services which service instances are up
  - instances auto-register at Zookeeper
  - Zookeeper connection info must be configured manually on dCache nodes

• keeps information consistent throughout cluster
PostgreSQL

• HA configuration beyond dCache scope
  - not strictly necessary if only rolling updates are desired

• General PostgreSQL concept:
  - primary server with active DB
  - standby servers with copies of primary, read-only active, prepared for failover
Not yet awesome

• Transfers can’t be interrupted and resumed mid-flight
  – movers only started on request by clients
  – doors can’t be restarted without clients reconnecting

• We still rely on clients to retry after a reasonably long timeout

• Writing into breaking connection: Client must react to I/O errors
Changing to an HA architecture

• Plan ahead, with network topology in mind
• Set up a ZooKeeper cluster of at least three nodes
• Replicate PostgreSQL Server
• Update dCache to 3.0
  - connect to ZK
• add instances as needed
Topology changes for HA
Topology changes for HA
Topology changes for HA
Topology changes for HA
Topology changes for HA

- Database rep.
- Database
- Core Domain / Other Core Services
- PNFS Manager
- Door
- Pool
- Zookeeper
Topology changes for HA
Saving hardware

• Instead of adding physical machines, distribute services

• Plan according to needs for availability, load / scalability
Demo