Hierarchical Replication Control

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Motivations

- Emerging global scientific collaborations
 - demand reliable, efficient, and convenient data access on widely distributed data
- Our solution
 - a mutable replicated file system that dynamically elects primary servers to coordinate concurrent writes

Hierarchical Locking

- Primary server election is costly over WAN
- Solution hierarchical locking
 - a primary server can lock data with different granularities

Two Lock Types – Shallow Lock



A server with a shallow lock on a file or directory is the primary server for that single object

Two Lock Types – Deep Lock



A server with a deep lock on a directory is the primary server for everything in the subtree rooted at that directory

Deep Locks vs. Shallow Locks Only



Duration to Hold a Lock

- The primary server associates a timer with a lock to control the duration to hold the lock
 - Restart the timer if a subsequent client update arrives before timeout
 - Relinquish the lock when the timer expires

Deep Lock Timer



Future Work

- Optimize the prototype implementation
- Investigate the impact of hierarchical locking on currency and availability
- Evaluate our design with real distributed applications



http://www.citi.umich.edu/techreports/ reports/citi-tr-06-3.pdf