A Java Implementation of a Linda-like Tuplespace System with Nested Transactions

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the

requirements for the degree of

Master of Science

in

Computer Science

at Massey University, Albany, New Zealand

Yinan Yao

2006

Abstract

The *Tuplespace* model is considered a powerful option for the design and implementation of loosely coupled distributed systems. In this report, the features of the Tuplespace model are examined as well as the issues involved in implementing such a Tuplespace system based on Java. The system presented includes the function of *Transactions*: a collection of operations that either all succeed or all fail. The system also permits *Nested Transactions*: an extension of transactions. Nested transactions have a multi-level grouping structure: each nested transaction consists of zero or more operations and possibly some nested transactions. The key advantages offered by nested transactions include that they enable the failure of an operation to be isolated within a certain scope without necessarily aborting the entire transaction, and they allow programmers to sub-divide a complex operation into a number of smaller and simpler concurrent operations. The other features of nested transactions are also examined in this report. Finally, the testing results indicate that it is possible to build an efficient, scalable, and transaction secured distributed application that relies on the Tuplespace model and the system developed for this research.

Acknowledgements

First, thanks to my research supervisor Heath James who has aided me greatly throughout my 2 years of postgraduate study. I know I couldn't finish my thesis without his excellent guidance and support. Thanks to many other lecturers in the Computer Science department who taught me a lot in my first year study at Massey University.

Next, the research facilities provided by Massey University were great. I was given 24-hour access to the computer laboratory. The university library contains a large number of useful materials. And also, I have to thank Massey University for the Masterate Scholarship that was a great financial support.

Last, I have to thank my parents who have offered me constant support and encouragement. Their support was always the key reason that kept me going.

Table of Contents

Table of Figures

Table of Code Samples