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Transactions in Java EE Applications



- In a Java EE application, a transaction
 - is a series of actions that must all complete successfully, or else all the changes in each action are backed out. Transactions end in either a commit or a rollback.
- The Java Transaction API (JTA) allows applications
 - to access transactions in a manner that is independent of specific implementations
- The JTA defines the UserTransaction interface that applications use to start, commit, or roll back transactions.
 - Application components get a UserTransaction object through a JNDI lookup by using the name java:comp/UserTransaction or by requesting injection of a UserTransaction object.

What Is a Transaction?



Pseudocode:

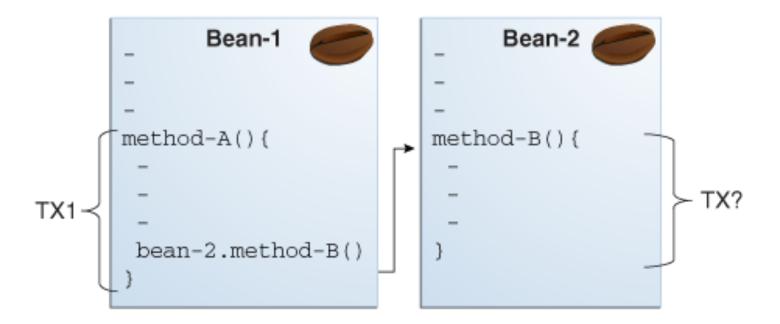
```
begin transaction
debit checking account
credit savings account
update history log
commit transaction
```

- A **transaction** is often defined as an indivisible unit of work
 - Either all or none of the three steps must complete.
- A transaction can end in two ways:
 - with a commit or with a rollback.

Container-Managed Transactions



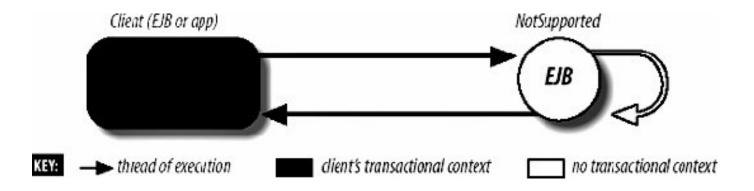
- In an enterprise bean with container-managed transaction demarcation,
 - the EJB container sets the boundaries of the transactions.





NotSupported

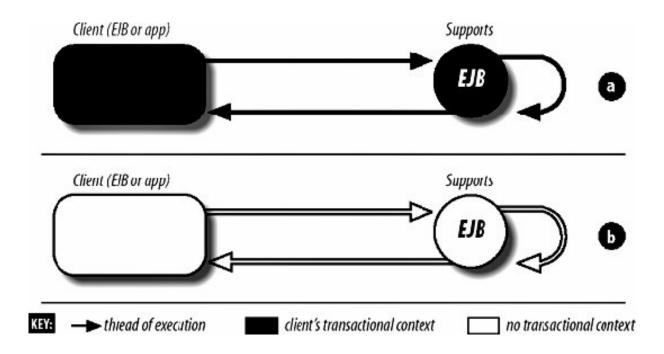
 Invoking a method on an EJB with this transaction attribute suspends the transaction until the method is completed.





Supports

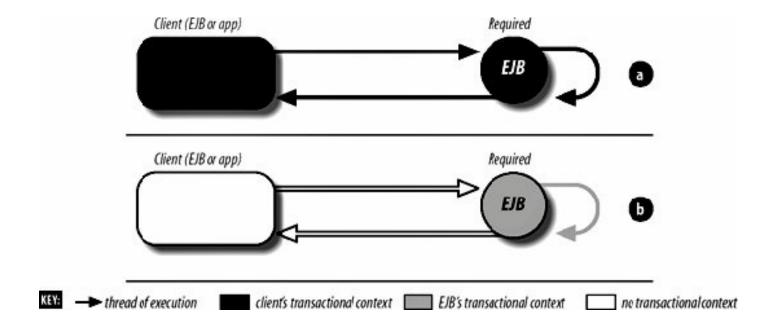
 This attribute means that the enterprise bean method will be included in the transaction scope if it is invoked within a transaction.





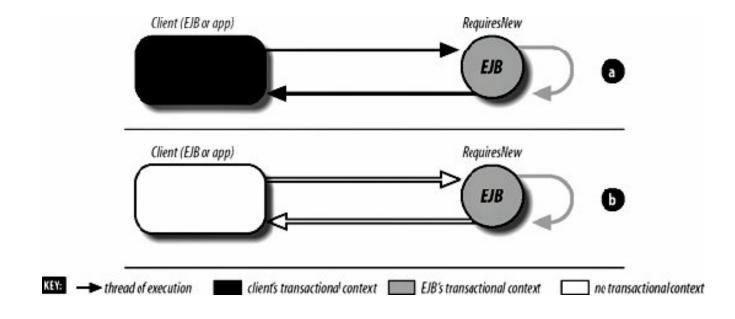
Required

 This attribute means that the enterprise bean method must be invoked within the scope of a transaction.





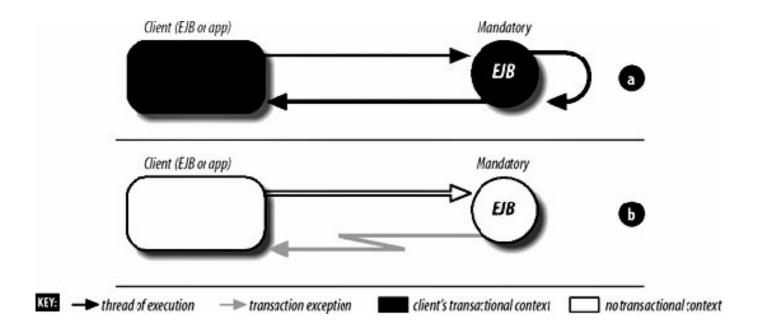
- RequiresNew
 - This attribute means that a new transaction is always started.





Mandatory

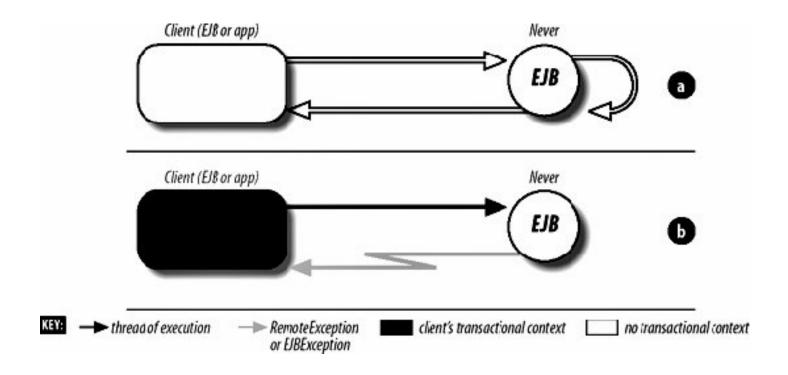
 This attribute means that the enterprise bean method must always be made part of the transaction scope of the calling client.





Never

 This attribute means that the enterprise bean method must not be invoked within the scope of a transaction.



Transaction Attributes and Scope



Transaction Attribute	Client's Transaction	Business Method's Transaction
Required	None	T2
Required	T1	T1
RequiresNew	None	T2
RequiresNew	T1	T2
Mandatory	None	Error
Mandatory	T1	T1
NotSupported	None	None
NotSupported	T1	None
Supports	None	None
Supports	T1	T1
Never	None	None
Never	T1	Error

Setting Transaction Attributes



- Transaction attributes are specified by
 - decorating the enterprise bean class or method with a javax.ejb.TransactionAttribute annotation
 - and setting it to one of the javax.ejb.TransactionAttributeType constants.

Transaction Attribute	TransactionAttributeType Constant
Required	TransactionAttributeType.REQUIRED
RequiresNew	TransactionAttributeType.REQUIRES_NEW
Mandatory	TransactionAttributeType.MANDATORY
NotSupported	TransactionAttributeType.NOT_SUPPORTED
Supports	TransactionAttributeType.SUPPORTS
Never	TransactionAttributeType.NEVER

Setting Transaction Attributes



• The following code snippet demonstrates how to use the @TransactionAttribute annotation:

```
@TransactionAttribute(NOT SUPPORTED)
@Stateful
public class TransactionBean implements Transaction {
 @TransactionAttribute(REQUIRES_NEW)
 public void firstMethod() {...}
 @TransactionAttribute(REQUIRED)
 public void secondMethod() {...}
 public void thirdMethod() {...}
 public void fourthMethod() {...}
```

Rolling Back a CMT



- There are two ways to roll back a container-managed transaction.
 - First, if a system exception is thrown, the container will automatically roll back the transaction.
 - Second, by invoking the setRollbackOnly method of the EJBContext interface, the bean method instructs the container to roll back the transaction.
 - If the bean throws an application exception, the rollback is not automatic but can be initiated by a call to setRollbackOnly.

Synchronizing Instance Variables



- The SessionSynchronization interface, which is optional, allows stateful session bean instances to receive transaction synchronization notifications.
 - The container invokes the SessionSynchronization methods (afterBegin, beforeCompletion, and afterCompletion) at each of the main stages of a transaction.

```
afterBegin:
   oldvalue = value;

afterCompletion(boolean b):
   if (!b)
    value = oldvalue;
```

Methods Not Allowed in CMT



- The list of prohibited methods follows:
 - The commit, setAutoCommit, and rollback methods of java.sql.Connection
 - The getUserTransaction method of javax.ejb.EJBContext
 - Any method of javax.transaction.UserTransaction

Bean-Managed Transactions



- In bean-managed transaction demarcation,
 - the code in the session or message-driven bean explicitly marks the boundaries of the transaction.

Pseudocode:

```
begin transaction

...

update table-a

if (condition-x)

commit transaction

else if (condition-y)

update table-b

commit transaction

else rollback transaction

begin transaction

update table-c

commit transaction
```

Transaction Timeouts



- For container-managed transactions,
 - you can use the Administration Console to configure the transaction timeout interval.
- For enterprise beans with bean-managed JTA transactions,
 - you invoke the setTransactionTimeout method of the UserTransaction interface.

Isolation and Database Locking



 Let's think about two separate client applications accessing the same data specifically.

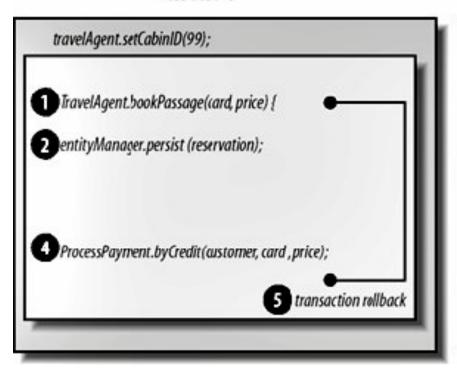
```
public List listAvailableCabins(int bedCount) {
   Query query = entityManager.createQuery(
                 "SELECT name FROM Cabin c
                  WHERE c.ship = :ship AND
                  c.bedCount = :beds AND NOT ANY (
                  SELECT cabin from Reservation res
                 WHERE res.cruise = :cruise");
  query.setParameter("ship", cruise.getShip( ));
  query.setParameter("beds", bedCount);
 query.setParameter("cruise", cruise);
  return query.getResultList( );
```

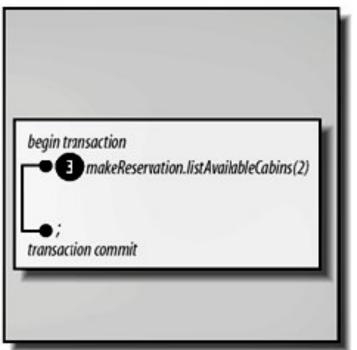
 For this example, assume that both methods have a transaction attribute of Required.

Dirty Reads



Client 1 Client 2

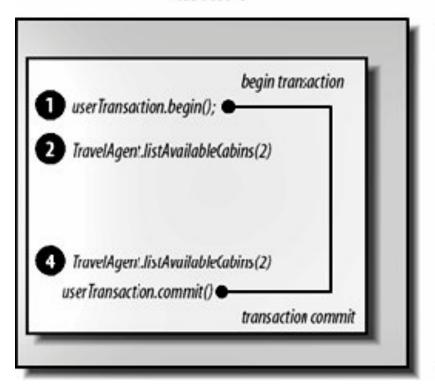




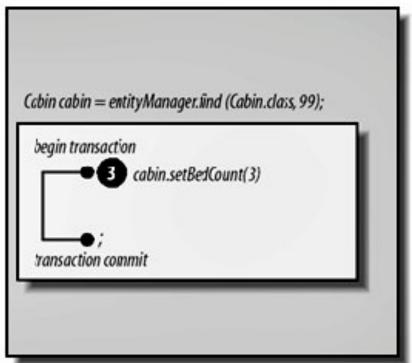
Repeatable Reads



Client 1



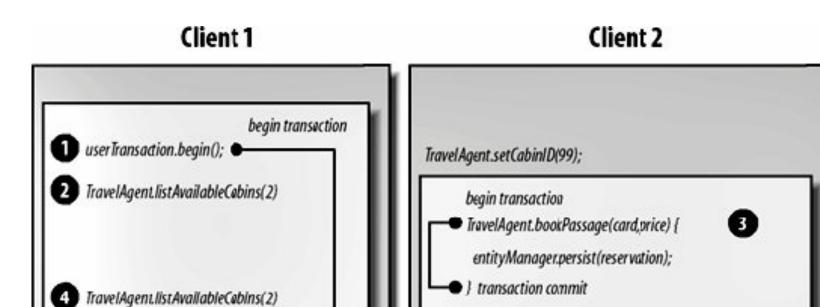
Client 2



Phantom Reads

user Transaction.commit()





transaction commit

Database Locks



Read locks

- Read locks prevent other transactions from changing data read during a transaction until the transaction ends, thus preventing nonrepeatable reads.
- Other transactions can read the data but not write to it. The current transaction is also prohibited from making changes.

Write locks

- Write locks are used for updates. A write lock prevents other transactions from changing the data until the current transaction is complete but allows dirty reads by other transactions and by the current transaction itself.
- In other words, the transaction can read its own uncommitted changes.

Database Locks



Exclusive write locks

- Exclusive write locks are used for updates. An exclusive write lock prevents other transactions from reading or changing the data until the current transaction is complete.
- It also prevents dirty reads by other transactions.

Snapshots

- A snapshot is a frozen view of the data that is taken when a transaction begins. Some databases get around locking by providing every transaction with its own snapshot.
- Snapshots can prevent dirty reads, nonrepeatable reads, and phantom reads. They can be problematic because the data is not real-time data; it is old the instant the snapshot is taken.

Transaction Isolation Levels



Read Uncommitted

- The transaction can read uncommitted data (i.e., data changed by a different transaction that is still in progress).
- Dirty reads, nonrepeatable reads, and phantom reads can occur.
- Bean methods with this isolation level can read uncommitted changes.

Read Committed

- The transaction cannot read uncommitted data; data that is being changed by a different transaction cannot be read.
- Dirty reads are prevented; nonrepeatable reads and phantom reads can occur.
- Bean methods with this isolation level cannot read uncommitted data.

Transaction Isolation Levels



Repeatable Read

- The transaction cannot change data that is being read by a different transaction.
- Dirty reads and nonrepeatable reads are prevented; phantom reads can occur.
- Bean methods with this isolation level have the same restrictions as those in the Read Committed level and can execute only repeatable reads.

Serializable

- The transaction has exclusive read and update privileges; different transactions can neither read nor write to the same data.
- Dirty reads, nonrepeatable reads, and phantom reads are prevented.
- This isolation level is the most restrictive.

Controlling isolation levels



- You to specify the transaction isolation level using the database's API.
- For example:

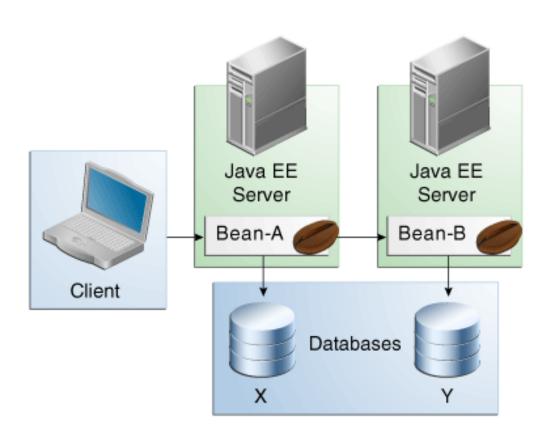
```
DataSource source = (javax.sql.DataSource)

jndiCntxt.lookup("java:comp/env/jdbc/titanDB");
    Connection con = source.getConnection();

con.setTransactionIsolation(Connection.TRANSACTION_SERIALIZABLE);
```

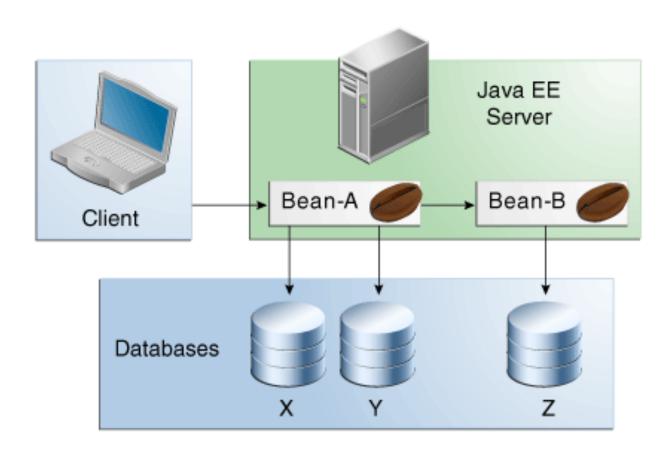
Updating Multiple Databases





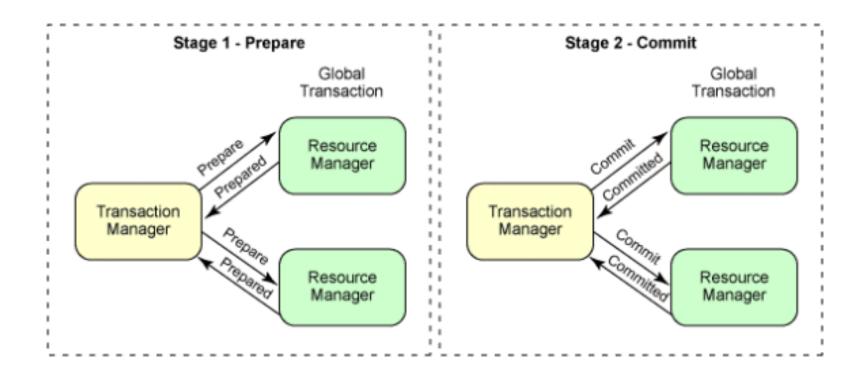
Updating Multiple Databases





Two-phase commit





Concurrency

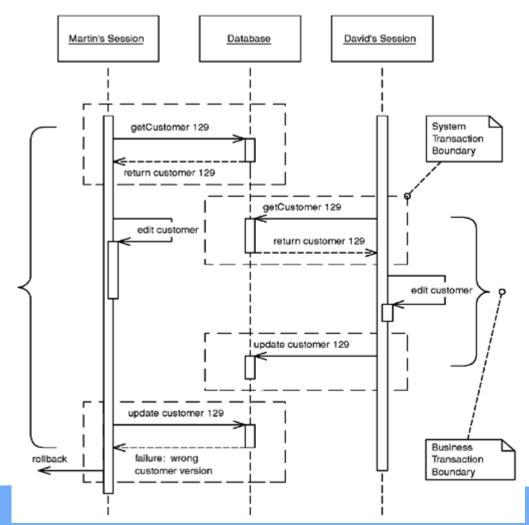


- Since we use O/R mapping, and it is an offline way to access database, we should manage the concurrent access to data.
- The core is how to prevent confliction between business transactions.
- Locking is the solution
 - What kind of lock?

Optimistic Offline Lock



 Optimistic Offline Lock solves this problem by validating that the changes about to be committed by one session don't conflict with the changes of another session.



Optimistic Offline Lock-How It Works



- An Optimistic Offline Lock is obtained by validating that, in the time since a session loaded a record, another session hasn't altered it.
 - It can be acquired at any time but is valid only during the system transaction in which it is obtained.
 - Thus, in order that a business transaction not corrupt record data it must acquire an Optimistic Offline Lock for each member of its change set during the system transaction in which it applies changes to the database.
- The most common implementation is to associate a version number with each record in your system.
 - With an RDBMS data store the verification is a matter of adding the version number to the criteria of any SQL statements used to update or delete a record.

Optimistic Offline Lock-Example



- Our data is stored in a relational database,
 - so each table must also store version and modification data.
 - Here's the schema for a customer table as well as the standard CRUD SQL necessary to support the Optimistic Offline Lock:

```
table customer...
```

create table customer(id bigint primary key, name varchar, createdby varchar, created datetime, modifiedby varchar, modified datetime, version int)

SQL customer CRUD...

INSERT INTO customer VALUES (?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?)

SELECT * FROM customer WHERE id = ?

UPDATE customer SET name = ?, modifiedBy = ?, modified = ?, version = ?

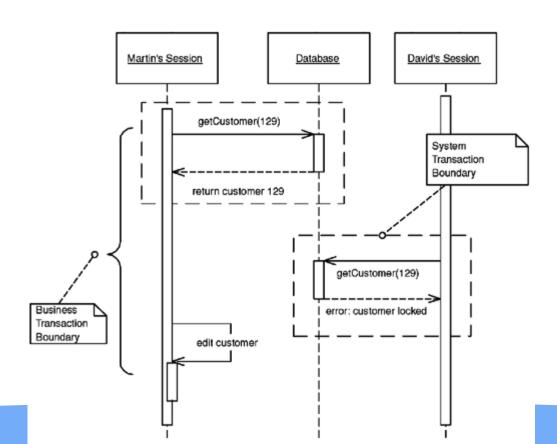
WHERE id = ? and version = ?

DELETE FROM customer WHERE id = ? and version = ?

Pessimistic Offline Lock



- Pessimistic Offline Lock prevents conflicts by avoiding them altogether.
 - It forces a business transaction to acquire a lock on a piece of data before it starts to use it, so that, most of the time, once you begin a business transaction you can be pretty sure you'll complete it without being bounced by concurrency control.



Pessimistic Offline Lock-How It Works

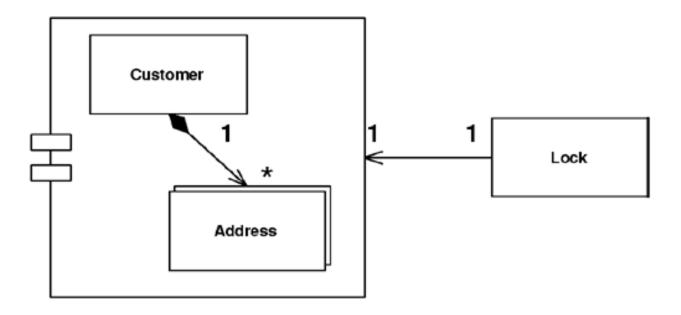


- You implement Pessimistic Offline Lock in three phases:
 - determining what type of locks you need,
 - building a lock manager,
 - and defining procedures for a business transaction to use locks.
- Lock types:
 - exclusive write lock
 - exclusive read lock
 - read/write lock
 - Read and write locks are mutually exclusive.
 - Concurrent read locks are acceptable.
- In choosing the correct lock type think about maximizing system concurrency, meeting business needs, and minimizing code complexity.
 - Also keep in mind that the locking strategy must be understood by domain modelers and analysts.

Coarse-Grained Lock



Locks a set of related objects with a single lock.

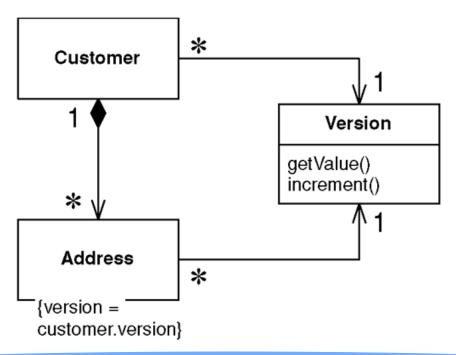


- A Coarse-Grained Lock
 - is a single lock that covers many objects.
 - It not only simplifies the locking action itself but also frees you from having to load all the members of a group in order to lock them.

Coarse-Grained Lock-How It Works



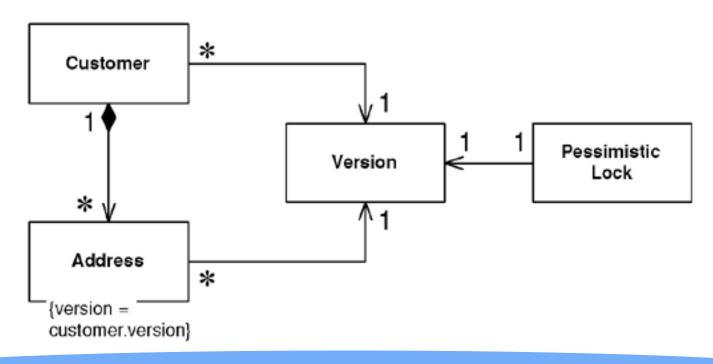
- With Optimistic Offline Lock, having each item in a group share a version creates the single point of contention, which means sharing the same version, not an equal version.
 - Incrementing this version will lock the entire group with a shared lock.
 - Set up your model to point every member of the group at the shared version and you have certainly minimized the path to the point of contention.



Coarse-Grained Lock-How It Works



- A shared Pessimistic Offline Lock requires that each member of the group share some sort of lockable token, on which it must then be acquired.
 - As Pessimistic Offline Lock is often used as a complement to Optimistic Offline Lock, a shared version object makes an excellent candidate for the lockable token role.



Project



- To improve the quality of your book store website, please add necessary transaction management into it, including:
 - To setup proper isolation level of your DB.
 - To implement data access with declarative transactions.
 - To manage the declarative transactions with at least 3 types.

References



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- Mastering EJB 3
- IBM WebSphere Developer Technical Journal: Exploiting the J2EE Connector Architecture
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Thank You!