W08 – HADIS ’06

2nd International Workshop on High Availability of Distributed Systems

Message from the Workshop Organisers

High availability (HA) of mission-critical IT services is becoming indispensable. HA is receiving rapidly increasing attention, since many services need to be reachable and reliable at any place and any time. Increasingly many mission-critical governmental, institutional, and commercial services are in demand of HA, for improving their dependability. System downtimes resulting in a lack of availability are undesirable or even intolerable, due to ergonomic, economical, and security reasons. HA has established itself as a benchmark for user acceptance, market viability, system dependability, and trustworthiness of distributed systems.

In general, HA refers to the continuous availability and seamless recovery of resources in a computer system, particularly in the wake of component failures. HA is concerned with avoiding single points of failure in a system. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, ranging from vendor-specific support, redundant software and hardware, to solutions that provide consistent replication of data and processes, reliable group communication, membership management, quorum subsystems, concurrency control, and various other forms of middleware support.

HADIS ’06 provides a forum for presenting and discussing novel, state-of-the-art, and ongoing research and development in HA. Corresponding to an acceptance rate of 60%, six papers have been selected for presentation and publication. Thematically, they can be grouped into two focal points of the workshop. The first, middleware-based replication, is approached from three different angles. Two of them deal with specific middleware platforms. Slomber and Narasimhan present and analyse an open-source CORBA implementation, while Osrael, Froihofer, Stoifl, Weigl, Zagar, Habjan, and Goeschka address .NET-based applications. A platform-independent survey of past, present, and future trends in middleware-based replication is given in the paper by Armendáriz-Íñigo, Decker, González de Mendivil, and Muñoz-Escoí.

The second thematic focus, fault tolerance and recovery, is investigated for systems that can be distinguished by three different aspects. Gorawski and Marks examine stream processing systems, Larrea and Martín highlight failure detection in networks with partial connectivity or other characteristics, and, so as to close the thematic circle, Beyer, Muñoz-Escoí, and Galdámez come back on CORBA to discuss fault tolerance support in partitionable distributed systems.

In conclusion, the organisers should like to sincerely thank all who have contributed to HADIS ’06 as authors, program committee members, and reviewers for a successful outcome of the workshop.

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