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Crash Recovery Bugs in Distributed Systems and Study Methodology



Main research questions

✓ RQ1: What are the root causes for crash recovery bugs? ✓ RQ2: How is a crash recovery bug triggered? ✓ RQ3: What impacts do crash recovery bugs have?

Methodology

✓ We study **4** distributed systems:

ZooKeeper, Hadoop MapReduce, HBase, Cassandra

✓ We select CBS [1] as our study base:

■ 3,655 vital cloud issues reported from Jan 2011 to Jan 2014

✓ We collect **103** crash recovery bugs from CBS and analyze each bug to answer our four research questions by studying: Developer comments, patches and source code

Key Findings – Root Causes

We got five bug patterns and each bug pattern contains multiple subcategories.

<u>No backup</u>	No crash detection	No handling of leftovers
Observer Leader	AM RM	TaskAttempt1 RM
Commit TXN_i"		Add tack V to



- \checkmark Important data should be backed up in all cases.
- Crashes and reboots can happen at any time. Missing/untimely crash/reboot detection indicates CR bugs. ✓ Unhandled leftovers of a crash node indicates CR bugs.



◆ 97% of CR bugs involve four nodes or fewer

• No more than **three** crashes can trigger 99% of CR bugs

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- \bullet No more than one reboot \bullet 92% of CR bugs require no can trigger 87% of CR bugs more than **three** user requests.
- ✓ CR bugs can be detected in a small cluster, with injection of limited crashes and reboots.

✓ Compared with the bugs in CBS [1] (18%) and TaxDC [2] (17%), crash recovery bugs are more likely to cause fatal failures.

References

[1] H. Gunawi et al., "What Bugs Live in the Cloud? A Study of 3000+ Issues in Cloud Systems", SoCC 2014. [2] T. Leesatapornwongsa et al., "TaxDC: A Taxonomy of Non-Deterministic Concurrency Bugs in Datacenter Distributed Systems", ASPLOS 2016.