

Systematic Composition of Real-Time Dependable Distributed Computing Systems

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Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

A. Real-Time (RT) Distributed Computing (DC) Software Components

- Components must be **hard-RT components**
 - This means there must be easily determinable hard bounds on the service times of the components.
 - Compositionality in the temporal dimension is then strong.
- Components must be **powerful**
 - in that all conceivable RT DC applications must be implementable as networks of components of the type and nothing else.



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

A. Real-Time (RT) Distributed Computing (DC) Software Components

- Components must be **highly abstract** (with no ambiguity embedded)
 - in that the mental effort required for designing and programming a component should be far less than that required for programming a construct that has equivalent computational effect and consists of threads, thread-priorities, and sockets.
- Components must incorporate a **global time base**
 - to enable TCoDA (Global-Time-based Coordination of Distributed computing Actions).
- Components must expose **parallelism** to a **maximally practical extent**.



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

A. Real-Time (RT) Distributed Computing (DC) Software Components

- Components must yield **cost-effective methods for deriving tight service time bounds (STBs)** of the components.



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

B. Dependable Configurations of RT DC Components & Systems

- Fault-tolerant (FT) configurations of components must yield **tight bounds for recovery times**
 - Recovery time here is defined as the service time increase due to failure occurrences
 - One could conceivably seek **acceptable recovery time distributions** rather than tight bounds but
 - Will it be really easy to produce credible, acceptable recovery time distributions when there is lack of deep insights into how to realize attractive tight bounds for recovery times ??



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

B. Dependable Configurations of RT DC Components & Sys

- The **less special hardware parts** in the FT configurations the better off.
- Component replication schemes , cooperative fault detection schemes, and system reconfiguration schemes must be seamlessly **integrated in cost-effective and analyzable forms**.
- **Access control and encryption** mechanisms must be incorporated in harmonious forms into RT DC components.



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

C. Software Engineering Environments (SEEs) for Component-oriented RT DC Systems & FT Configurations

- Given specifications on the fault types and rates to be concerned with,

appropriate selection and tuning of fault tolerance mechanisms and configurations must be supported extensively by **well-formed additions to SEEs for component-oriented RT DC systems.**



Dreamer's View on Desirable Characteristics of a Composition Technology Sought

C. SEEs for Component- oriented RT DC Systems & FT Configurations

- **Application-dependent parts** of FT RT DC components and systems must be engineered under the support of well-formed SE tools.



Earlier Expectations & Current Status

A. RT DC Software Components

- **Expectations in 20th Century**

Some reasonable component models will mature by 2000 – 2005.

- **Status in 2008**

Nothing is mature &

No major industry is pushing in recognizable forms.

- **Is the defense industry the only industry-segment that cares for it ?**



Earlier Expectations & Current Status

A. RT DC Software Components

- **TTP Programming Model**
 - About the only effort being examined seriously by a major industry, i.e., automobile industry.
 - Based on combinations of statically scheduled tasks interacting via statically scheduled messages.
 - Compositionality is fine but the component model is viewed as a low-level model w.r.t. its use in a millisecond-level or coarser-grain timing-sensitive DC applications.



Earlier Expectations & Current Status

A. RT DC Software Components

- Other serious efforts need at least 5 – 10 years to reach maturity.

| | RT CORBA | RT Java | TMO |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Start | 1996 | 1998 | 1992 |
| Led by | OMG SIGRT | SunMicro + A consortium + Academic Groups | Academic Groups + a small consortium |
| Progress | Version 1: Regarded as a failed approach Version 1.2: Basic research phase | Cautious slow move – Not addressing DC cases yet. Demos of single-node applications only. | Strong demos started appearing in 2004 (Remote Joystick, Digital Music Ensemble, MPVC, CAMIN--) Taught to undergrads in UCI and a small number of other univs. |



Earlier Expectations & Current Status

B. Dependable Configurations of RT DC Components & Systems

- Status in 2008

Partly due to the slowness of the development of RT DC components, this technology area is getting delayed by 5 – 10 years from the original expectation.

C. SEEs for Component-oriented RT DC Systems & FT Configurations Status in 2008

- Status in 2008 : Same as in B



Future Prospects

Progresses are expected to be accelerated because

- Heightened international competition in realizing ubiquitous computing societies (which inevitably involve increasing numbers of safety-critical computing applications) and
- Computer systems and software technology researcher population in BRICs is still growing.

