2018-00352 - Postdoctoral position: Just-Right Consistency for planet-scale storage

Type de contrat : CDD de la fonction publique  
Niveau de diplôme exigé : Thèse ou équivalent  
Fonction : Post-Doctorant  
Niveau d'expérience souhaité : Jeune diplômé

Contexte et atouts du poste

This position is offered in the context of the ANR project RainbowFS and the EU H2020 project LightKone. The position is located in Paris. Some travel may be required within Europe (travel expenses are covered).

Mission confiée

Keywords
Distributed file system; replication and consistency; distributed algorithms; distributed database system; verification; protocol design.

Background

A cloud storage system distributes and replicates data, to ensure availability and persistence despite latency and failures. The CAP theorem shows that there is an unavoidable trade-off between consistency and availability/performance. Strong consistency provides superior guarantees to developers but is inherently slow; weak consistency is highly available and responsive but bug-prone for developers. The Antidote database, developed in the SyncFree and LightKone projects guarantees transaction atomicity and causal ordering, while remaining Available under Partition.

Problem statement

No single consistency model is appropriate for all uses. A promising direction is a hybrid approach, where transactions avoid coordination by default, but specific operations that are essential to application correctness are synchronized. Getting this right is difficult: current practice in building distributed systems rests on programmer expertise, i.e., trial and error, which is costly and dangerous.

Our group is developing a principled approach, called Just-Right Consistency (JRC), based on the understanding of application-level invariants, on formal specifications and tools, and ensuring correctness by design. JRC aims to match consistency guarantees to application requirements on a case-by-case basis, in order to provide the best performance and highest availability at the lowest cost.

Principales activités

Early research on JRC has produced a number of preliminary results and research prototypes. The aim of the post-doc is to consolidate these contributions, and make them readily available to application developers. Ultimately, the aim is to
make the results of research practical: validate this approach experimentally, by applying it to a number of increasingly
demanding, practical large-scale applications. The driving use case is that of a petabyte-scale geo-replicated file
system which we aim to design, prove correct, implement and evaluate. It must be sufficiently consistent to maintain the file
system invariants. Furthermore, we aim to adapt the amount of synchronization to the needs of the application using
the file system.

**Compétences**

A post-doc position is available, supported by the RainbowFS project with industry and academic partners. The
research has both a fundamental and an applied aspect and aims for practical results.

Candidates to this position should hold a PhD in Computer Science/Informatics or a related field. They should have an
excellent academic record and experience in distributed systems, distributed databases, and/or verification tools. In
addition to research experience, he or she should be a good developer and experimenter at large scale, and have
teamwork and communication skills. Industrial experience and good knowledge of Erlang and/or node.js is a plus.

**Avantages sociaux**

- Subsidised catering service
- Partially-reimbursed public transport
- Flexible working hours
- Sports facilities

**Informations générales**

- **Thème/Domaine**: Systèmes distribués et intergiciels
  Système & réseaux (BAP E)
- **Ville**: Paris
- **Centre Inria**: CRI de Paris
- **Date de prise de fonction souhaitée**: 01/03/2018
- **Durée de contrat**: 2 ans
- **Date limite pour postuler**: 30/06/2018

**Contacts**

- **Equipe Inria**: DELYS
- **Recruteur**: Shapiro Marc / marc.shapiro@inria.fr

**Conditions pour postuler**

To apply, please provide the following information:

- A resume or Curriculum Vitæ.
- A list of courses and grades of the last two years of study (an informal transcript is OK).
- A list of your top publications and/or open-source developments.
- Names and contact details of three references (people who can recommend you), whom we will contact directly.

**Sécurité défense**:

Ce poste est susceptible d'être affecté dans une zone à régime restrictif (ZRR), telle que définie dans le décret n°2011-
1425 relatif à la protection du potentiel scientifique et technique de la nation (PPST). L'autorisation d'accès à une zone
est délivrée par le chef d'établissement, après avis ministériel favorable, tel que défini dans l'arrêté du 03 juillet 2012,
relatif à la PPST. Un avis ministériel défavorable pour un poste affecté dans une ZRR aurait pour conséquence
l'annulation du recrutement.

**Politique de recrutement**:

Dans le cadre de sa politique diversité, tous les postes Inria sont accessibles aux personnes en situation de handicap.
Attention: Les candidatures doivent être déposées en ligne sur le site Inria. Le traitement des candidatures adressées par d'autres canaux n'est pas garanti.