

# Re: Deadlock between Distribution Agent and Distribution Agent Cle

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.replication/2006-01/msg00007.html>

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- *From:* "Patrick Ikhifa" <patisi@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 1 Jan 2006 22:27:03 -0800
- 

Your last comment maybe the cue. If indeed it is stored procedure replication, then you have no way to control the impact the execution of a stored procedure at the subscriber will have. Especially if the proc touches on many tables. Where as the sequence is guaranteed at the publisher it may not be at the subscriber. If as you say you do not have much control over the application because it is a third party application, then you maybe stuck. However, what is not clear is whether the subscriber is also involved in the third party application. If it is not, I would look at transactional, one way, replication to the subscriber and the possibility of moving the subscription DB to another server if that is an option as well. HTH.

"Andrew Pike" <AndrewPike@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:386390FB-46C9-4C93-BC8C-24DC56F13434@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:386390FB-46C9-4C93-BC8C-24DC56F13434@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> I'm back in the office on Wednesday; I'll try to run a trace then.

>

> However, returning to the original SQL involved in the deadlock as given  
> below:

>

> select @max\_xact\_seqno = max(xact\_seqno) from MSrepl\_commands

> (READPAST)

> where

> publisher\_database\_id = @publisher\_database\_id and

> command\_id = 1 and

> type <> -2147483611

>

> Assuming this is executed at the default isolation level of READ COMMITTED

> (I don't have access to a server at the moment to check), the shared locks  
it

> obtains will be released at the end of its execution. Therefore why would

> long running replicated transactions/stored procedure executions have

> an impact? This part of the stored procedure sp\_MSget\_repl\_commands is

> near to the top of the code and is used to find the most recent command

> written by the Log Reader for replication to subscribers. This is then

used

> as an upper bound for further queries.

>

> Kind Regards

> Andrew Pike

Re: Deadlock between Distribution Agent and Distribution Agent Cle

> --  
> SQL Server DBA  
> Accenture UK  
>  
>  
>  
> "Hilary Cotter" wrote:  
>  
>> The complexity of the procs on both sides (they can be different, they  
just  
>> have to have the same name) and the indexes in place on both sides will  
have  
>> an impact on performance, and hence the amount of time it takes to apply  
the  
>> transactions/commands/execute the stored procedures.  
>>  
>> You might want to run profiler and watch for recompiles, duration, CPU  
and  
>> IO.  
>>  
>> --  
>> Hilary Cotter  
>> Looking for a SQL Server replication book?  
>> <http://www.nwsu.com/0974973602.html>  
>>  
>> Looking for a FAQ on Indexing Services/SQL FTS  
>> <http://www.indexserverfaq.com>  
>>  
>> "Andrew Pike" <AndrewPike@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>> <news:91AC92FD-A6BA-4E61-9A72-7E82F83AAEA4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
>>> Our current replication topology involves a single subscriber – in  
fact  
>>> the  
>>> subscription database is located on the same instance as the  
publication  
>>> database.  
>>> All of the articles contained within the publication are stored  
procedure  
>>> executions.  
>>> This is a component of a 3rd party application that I cannot alter,  
>>> although  
>>> I may be  
>>> able to suggest improvements to the vendor.  
>>>  
>>> Kind Regards  
>>> Andrew Pike  
>>> --  
>>> SQL Server DBA  
>>> Accenture UK  
>>>  
>>>

Re: Deadlock between Distribution Agent and Distribution Agent Cle

>>>  
>>> "Hilary Cotter" wrote:  
>>>  
>>>> The commands are shared by multiple subscribers. So when the commands  
are  
>>>> distributed to all subscribers they are marked for deletion. For a  
single  
>>>> subscriber your conclusions are accurate.  
>>>>  
>>>> Note that the delivered commands in distribution db can vary widely  
as  
>>>> some  
>>>> transactions affect more rows than others. Then some transactions  
take  
>>>> longer to be applied on the subscriber, especially text ones. You  
might  
>>>> want  
>>>> to look at replicating the execution of stored procedures. If a large  
>>>> part  
>>>> of your DML affects a large number of rows (in other words a single  
proc  
>>>> will affect more than a singleton) you can get substantial  
performance  
>>>> improvements by doing so.  
>>>>  
>>>> --  
>>>> Hilary Cotter  
>>>> Looking for a SQL Server replication book?  
>>>> <http://www.nwsu.com/0974973602.html>  
>>>>  
>>>> Looking for a FAQ on Indexing Services/SQL FTS  
>>>> <http://www.indexserverfaq.com>  
>>>>  
>>>> "Andrew Pike" <AndrewPike@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>>>> [news:7FE114CB-2234-4053-B5D1-CBD47EBF0484@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:7FE114CB-2234-4053-B5D1-CBD47EBF0484@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>>>> Thanks for the speedy reply Hilary,  
>>>>>  
>>>>> The subscription in question is a named push subscription –  
anonymous  
>>>>> pull  
>>>>> subscriptions are not enabled.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> I ran SELECT \* FROM distribution.dbo.MSdistribution\_status as  
>>>>> requested.  
>>>>> There were two rows in the result set, both of which had a value of  
0  
>>>>> for  
>>>>> UndelivCmdsInDistDB, while the values of DelivCmdsInDistDB were 2  
and  
>>>>> 7.  
>>>>> A

Re: Deadlock between Distribution Agent and Distribution Agent Cle

>>>> couple of minutes later this query returned no rows – the Cleanup  
job  
>>>> had  
>>>> run  
>>>> I presume. Would I be correct in stating that the sum of the  
>>>> DelivCmdsInDistDB column will correlate with the number of commands  
>>>> purged  
>>>> by  
>>>> the Cleanup job?  
>>>> The job history of the last execution reads:  
>>>>  
>>>> Removed 9 replicated transactions consisting of 9 statements in 0  
>>>> seconds  
>>>> (0  
>>>> rows/sec)  
>>>>  
>>>> It certainly looks that way.  
>>>> These don't look to be particularly high numbers to me, although it  
is  
>>>> just  
>>>> past midnight here! The deadlock does occur at many different  
times  
>>>> though.  
>>>> The job history that relates to the last occurrence of the deadlock  
is  
>>>> as  
>>>> follows:  
>>>>  
>>>> Removed 31 replicated transactions consisting of 9669 statements in  
2  
>>>> seconds (4850 rows/sec)  
>>>>  
>>>> You're right about the READPAST hint, it's there to prevent  
blocking  
>>>> caused  
>>>> by the Log Reader Agent. I suppose the PAGLOCK hint has the  
>>>> alternative  
>>>> of  
>>>> ROWLOCK, although as you suggest Microsoft have almost certainly  
tested  
>>>> this  
>>>> to the nth degree. ROWLOCK would undoubtedly incur much greater  
lock  
>>>> resources given very large volumes of replicated commands.  
>>>>  
>>>> Kind Regards,  
>>>> Andrew Pike  
>>>> —  
>>>> SQL Server DBA  
>>>> Accenture UK  
>>>>

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>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> "Hilary Cotter" wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>>> Do you have anonymous subscribers or named. With named subscribers  
the  
>>>>> distribution clean up agent cleans up more aggressively and you  
may  
>>>>> see  
>>>>> problems like this when a subscriber has been offline for some  
time.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> First off issue a select \* from  
distribution.dbo.MSdistribution\_status  
>>>>> to  
>>>>> see how many undelivered vs delivered commands there are. If there  
are  
>>>>> a  
>>>>> high number of delivered commands, I would stop the SQL Server  
Agent  
>>>>> and  
>>>>> run  
>>>>> the distribution clean up agent manually.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> I can't comment on why the decision was made to implement the two  
>>>>> types  
>>>>> of  
>>>>> locks, but in general MS has done a lot of research to deliver  
optimal  
>>>>> performance. For example the 27 in sp\_MSadd\_repl\_commands27 comes  
>>>>> from  
>>>>> tests that they did to find the optimal number of commands to send  
to  
>>>>> the  
>>>>> distribution database in a batch from the log reader agent. And  
yes,  
>>>>> they  
>>>>> tested a range of commands to find which offered best performance.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> It looks like the readpast is to prevent locking, and the page  
lock is  
>>>>> to  
>>>>> prevent a table lock.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> --  
>>>>> Hilary Cotter  
>>>>> Looking for a SQL Server replication book?  
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>>>>>  
>>>>> Looking for a FAQ on Indexing Services/SQL FTS  
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>>>>>  
>>>>> "Andrew Pike" <AndrewPike@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
message  
>>>>> news:CFB322D7-1D17-4064-AB36-6338A49C90A4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
>>>>> This is occurring regularly on SQL Server 2000 build 878.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> The problem is a deadlock in the Distribution database. The  
>>>>> Distribution  
>>>>> Agent spid is executing the SELECT statement below:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> select @max\_xact\_seqno = max(xact\_seqno) from MSrepl\_commands  
>>>>> (READPAST)  
>>>>> where  
>>>>> publisher\_database\_id = @publisher\_database\_id and  
>>>>> command\_id = 1 and  
>>>>> type <> -2147483611  
>>>>>  
>>>>> which is found in sp\_MSget\_repl\_commands. It holds an Intent  
Shared  
>>>>> page  
>>>>> lock on a data page in the MSrepl\_commands table.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> The Distribution Agent Cleanup spid is found to be running the  
>>>>> command  
>>>>> below:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> DELETE MSrepl\_commands WITH (PAGLOCK) where  
>>>>> publisher\_database\_id = @publisher\_database\_id and  
>>>>> xact\_seqno <= @max\_xact\_seqno  
>>>>>  
>>>>> located in the stored procedure sp\_MSdelete\_publisherdb\_trans.  
This  
>>>>> spid  
>>>>> holds an exclusive page lock on another data page in  
>>>>> MSrepl\_commands.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Both spids then attempt to obtain the same lock type on the page  
>>>>> which  
>>>>> is  
>>>>> locked by the other.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> The Distribution Agent runs continuously and the Cleanup job is  
>>>>> scheduled  
>>>>> for every 10 minutes. The Publication, Distribution and  
>>>>> Subscription  
>>>>> databases are all on the same instance (3rd party vendor  
solution,  
>>>>> not  
>>>>> mine!)  
>>>>> in an active/active Win2003 cluster configuration. The articles  
are

