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Data replication improvement strategy in cloud environments

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Abstract

Improving data replication procedures is critical for achieving the highest level of cost-effectiveness and data availability in a dynamic cloud computing environment. In this study, we provide an in-depth discussion of the D-RISC approach, which can assist in improving cloud-based data replication. This technology is referred to by the abbreviation D-RISC, which stands for Dynamic Replication with Intelligent Synchronization and Cost Optimization. The initial phase of the D-RISC approach incorporates critical characteristics such as data origin, access frequency, size, and relevance score. Following that, in order to inform its proactive replication decisions, it utilizes an Adaptive Analysis Engine, or AAE for short, to evaluate access patterns and anticipate peak loads and frequently accessed data. To conduct a full cost-benefit analysis, a cost optimization model (COM) may be constructed utilizing cloud billing data. Based on a variety of dynamic criteria, the Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS) determines if data should be duplicated, where it should be copied, and how many times it should be replicated. The consistency manager (CM) is in charge of keeping all copies in sync with each other in order to reduce latency and data discrepancies. Improving the AAE's potential use in future decision-making can be accomplished, for example, by implementing a feedback mechanism that gradually increases the model's accuracy. As a result, the AAE may grow more advantageous in the future.

Keywords: Cloud computing, data replication, cost optimization, adaptive analysis, synchronization, proactive replication, dynamic replication, cloud billing metrics, peak loads, metadata

Introduction

Currently of advanced digitalization, data has become the foundation for a wide range of applications and business models, increasing the value of this resource. Cloud computing infrastructure has swiftly become the de facto norm in the business sector for processing, storing, and accessing huge volumes of data. Its fast popularity may be directly related to the several benefits it provides, such as scalability, flexibility, and adaptability ^[1]. As data continues to surge, both in volume and importance, ensuring its availability, reliability, and fault tolerance has become of paramount concern. Data replication, the practice of copying and storing data at multiple locations, stands as a critical technique to address these concerns. This paper embarks on the journey of exploring strategies to enhance data replication in cloud environments, with a central aim to optimize storage, access latency, and fault tolerance. Cloud computing has seen astronomical growth over the past decade, shifting the traditional paradigm of localized data centers to globally dispersed cloud infrastructures. This shift brings along challenges such as data locality, latency, redundancy, and consistency ^[2]. Amidst these challenges, data replication has proven to be both a boon and a challenge. While it significantly improves data availability and fault tolerance by storing multiple copies of data across geographically dispersed servers, it can also induce overheads in terms of storage costs, synchronization issues, and potential inconsistencies. Given the dynamic nature of the cloud - where nodes can frequently go offline, the network can be unpredictable, and user access patterns can change rapidly - a 'one-size-fits-all' replication strategy is far from ideal. Often, naive replication strategies that either under-replicate (leading to potential data loss or increased latency) or over-replicate (wasting resources and increasing costs) are adopted ^[3]. Furthermore, the multi-tenancy and diverse application requirements in cloud environments necessitate tailored replication solutions. Historically, replication strategies have evolved alongside computing paradigms. From the early days of distributed systems, where emphasis lay on ensuring consistency (like the two-phase commit) to the era of the web (emphasizing availability through eventual consistency models), replication has been a continually evolving domain.

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In the context of the cloud, replication strategies have had to accommodate for dynamic provisioning, elasticity, and the pay-as-you-go model. Cloud environments are not merely another form of distributed systems [4]. They are characterized by unique attributes:

Elasticity: Resources can be added or removed based on demand.

Multi-tenancy: Multiple users or organizations share the same infrastructure, leading to varying and sometimes conflicting requirements.

Diverse SLAs: Different applications have different service level agreements, especially concerning data access, consistency, and durability.

These attributes make the replication problem in cloud environments unique, demanding innovative solutions beyond traditional distributed systems' approaches.

Preliminary studies have suggested that adaptive replication strategies, which adjust based on current system state, user access patterns, and network conditions, have significant potential in cloud environments [5]. There is also a growing realization that replication decisions should be influenced not just by system metrics but also by economic metrics, given the cost implications of replication in pay-as-you-go cloud models. This research is motivated by the hypothesis that a holistic, adaptive, and context-aware replication strategy can significantly improve performance, reliability, and cost-effectiveness in cloud environments [6]. While the universe of data replication is vast, this research will particularly focus on:

Analysis: Deep diving into existing replication strategies in cloud environments, evaluating their strengths, and identifying their shortcomings.

Design: Proposing novel algorithms and mechanisms that consider both system and economic metrics, leveraging machine learning and data analytics techniques.

Evaluation: Empirically testing proposed strategies using real-world cloud workloads, comparing them with existing solutions in terms of performance, fault tolerance, and cost. The importance of efficient data replication in cloud environments cannot be overstated, given the pivotal role of data in today's digital era [7]. As we journey into this exploration, the overarching aim is to strike a delicate balance - a balance between availability and cost, between reliability and resource usage, and between theoretical soundness and practical applicability. This paper promises to shed light on these dimensions, offering a fresh perspective on data replication strategies tailored for the unique challenges and opportunities posed by cloud environments.

2. Related Works

Data replication, a cornerstone of modern distributed systems, has established its importance in ensuring data availability, fault tolerance, and improving access latency [8]. With the exponential growth in the adoption of cloud environments for a multitude of applications ranging from storage to analytics,

there arises a crucial need to scrutinize the replication strategies, especially in the cloud context. While several traditional methods exist, their efficacy in the unique setting of cloud environments becomes paramount to analyze.

Data replication, in its essence, dates back to the time when data began to be recognized as an invaluable asset. From databases to distributed file systems, the replication of data across diverse storage locations safeguarded against unforeseen failures and granted quicker access [9]. Over time, with the complexities introduced by the distributed nature of systems and evolving requirements, multiple replication strategies emerged, each having its advantages and trade-offs.

Full Replication: Involves creating copies of the entire database on every site.

Partial Replication: Only parts of the database, deemed essential, are replicated across sites.

Lazy Replication: Updates on one site are propagated to other sites in a deferred manner.

Eager Replication: Immediate synchronization across all replicas with every update.

Quorum-based Replication: Operations (like reads and writes) are performed based on a consensus quorum.

Primary Copy: One site is designated as primary for writes, ensuring consistency [10].

Two-phase Commit: A mechanism ensuring that all participants in a transaction agree before a commit is made.

Mirror Replication: An exact copy of the primary data is maintained on a mirror server.

Causal Replication: Updates are propagated based on causal ordering, ensuring related updates are seen in order.

Hybrid Replication: A combination of various strategies tailored for specific needs.

To ensure a thorough understanding of the above strategies, especially in the cloud context, it is imperative to evaluate them using certain metrics. These parameters will offer a holistic perspective on each strategy's strengths and weaknesses [11].

Latency: The time taken to read/write data from/to replicas.

Consistency: The degree to which all replicas show the same data at a given time.

Fault Tolerance: The ability of the system to maintain function in the face of failures.

Overhead: The additional resource usage (storage, computation, bandwidth) due to replication.

Scalability: The capability of the strategy to handle the growth in data and request volume.

Table 1: Performance Evaluation of Traditional Data Replication Methods Across Five Key Parameters.

| Replication Method | Latency | Consistency | Fault Tolerance | Overhead | Scalability |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Full Replication | Low | High | High | High | Medium |
| Partial Replication | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | High |
| Lazy Replication | Low | Low | Medium | Low | High |
| Eager Replication | High | High | High | High | Medium |
| Quorum-based | Medium | Variable | High | Medium | High |
| Primary Copy | Low | High | Medium | Low | Low |
| Two-phase Commit | High | High | Medium | High | Low |
| Mirror Replication | Low | High | High | High | Low |
| Causal Replication | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | High |
| Hybrid Replication | Variable | Variable | Variable | Variable | Variable |

From Table 1, several insights can be drawn: Full Replication ensures high availability but comes at the cost of high overhead and may face challenges in scalability due to the sheer volume of data replicated [12]. Strategies like Lazy Replication offer the advantage of reduced latency but at the expense of consistency. Quorum-based Replication offers a balanced approach, but its consistency can be variable based on the quorum definition.

Proposed Methodology

In the dynamic world of cloud computing, the need for efficient data replication strategies cannot be understated. D-RISC (Data Replication Improvement Strategy in Cloud) emerges as a contemporary solution, synergizing machine learning, economics, and cloud-specific nuances to ensure data replication that's reliable, fast, and cost-effective [13-14].

Core Components of D-RISC

Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE): Harnesses machine learning to continually observe and comprehend data access patterns, node performance, network dynamics, and resource expenditure [15]. Cost Optimization Model (COM): Seamlessly integrates cloud expenditure metrics into replication decisions, striking a balance between cost and efficiency [16]. Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS): Receives insights from both AAE and COM to determine the replication specifications. Consistency Manager (CM): Guarantees uniform data across replicas, accommodating the cloud's variable nature [17].

D-RISC's Mechanism of Operation

Data Ingestion

As soon as data makes its entry into the cloud ecosystem, D-RISC captures pivotal metadata, such as data origin, frequency of access, data volume, and an importance score based on pre-set business rules [18].

Real-time Analysis

Here, AAE plays a pivotal role, constantly scrutinizing data access patterns. It discerns the peak data loads, pinpoints frequently accessed data sets, and anticipates potential system bottlenecks or failure nodes [19].

Cost-Benefit Analysis

COM, integrating the metrics related to billing and AAE

outputs, undertakes a thorough cost-benefit analysis. This step ensures that replication decisions optimize both performance and expenditure.

Replication Strategy

With intelligence from the AAE and COM, the DRS embarks on its task. It pinpoints the data that requires replication, selects the most apt locations for replication, and finalizes the number of replicas, all while juggling performance, reliability, and fiscal constraints [20].

Ensuring Data Consistency:

Post replication initiation, the CM steps in. Using advanced synchronization techniques and causal metadata, the CM keeps the lag between replicas minimal and upholds a predefined consistency level.

1. Start
2. Data Ingestion
 - Capture metadata: source, access frequency (AF), data size (DS), and importance score (IS).
3. Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE)
 - Monitor data access patterns.
 - Predict peak loads (PL) and frequently accessed data (FAD).

$$PL = \text{Max}(AF) \tag{1}$$

$$FAD = DS * AF \tag{2}$$
4. Cost Optimization Model (COM)
 - Integrate cloud billing metrics (CBM).
 - Perform a cost-benefit analysis.

$$\text{Cost} = \text{CBM} * \text{DS} * \text{FAD} \tag{3}$$
5. Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS)
 - Decide on data to replicate (R) based on AAE and COM.
 - Determine optimal replication locations.
 - Establish the number of replicas (NR).

$$NR = \min(\text{ceil}(FAD / DS), \text{max_replicas}) \tag{4}$$
6. Consistency Manager (CM)
 - Monitor replicas.
 - Implement synchronization techniques.
 - Latency (L) = Calculate latency between replicas (5)
7. Feedback Mechanism
 - Evaluate replication success.
 - Train AAE for future decisions.
8. End

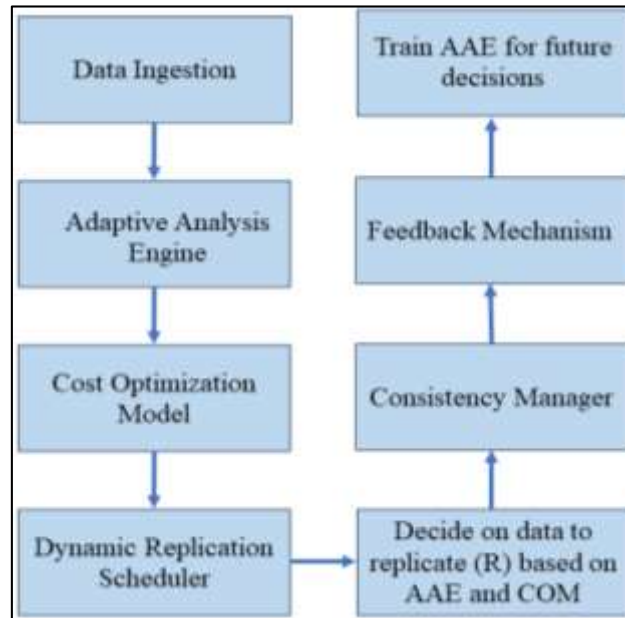


Fig 1: Illustrates a complex system integrating data ingestion, adaptive analysis, cost management, and replication

Learning Adaptively: The strategy evolves with changing patterns, reducing the need for manual interventions.

Economic Sensibility: Replication decisions remain within the fiscal boundaries, thanks to the integration of economic models. **Instantaneous Decision-Making:** By making swift decisions grounded in real-time data, D-RISC substantially cuts down latency. **Consistency is Key:** With CM, the system upholds a healthy balance between data availability and consistency [21-22]. Like every approach, D-RISC isn't free from challenges. The model's efficiency is dependent on the quality of input data. Faulty or outdated data could lead to inefficient replication strategies. However, these challenges open doors to opportunities. The dynamic nature of cloud environments demands that D-RISC be perpetually adaptive, integrating newer algorithms and evolving with the landscape. D-RISC, by integrating multiple disciplines and algorithms, offers a fresh perspective to data replication in cloud environments [23]. However, the model requires rigorous testing and iterative refinement. The road ahead involves scaling D-RISC across varied cloud ecosystems, refining its algorithms, and consistently updating its approach to remain ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving cloud landscape. Using AAE, it optimizes decisions on data replication while ensuring consistency and feedback for continual learning shown in figure 1. With a comprehensive blend of analytical engines, cost models, and algorithms, D-RISC stands poised to redefine how data replication functions in the cloud, promising enhanced reliability, swift operations, and cost-effective decisions. Future endeavors would be directed towards empirical validations, refining algorithms, and adapting to evolving cloud nuances [24-25].

The flowchart presents an overview of the D-RISC method, laying out its systematic process for efficient data replication in cloud environments. The process begins with 'Data Ingestion', capturing essential metadata of the incoming data—this can include attributes like its source, the frequency of its access, its overall size, and an assigned importance score, which is determined based on predefined business criteria. Following this, the 'Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE)' springs into action. Its main function is to consistently monitor data access patterns, enabling it to predict potential peak loads and identify which data is accessed more frequently. This engine acts as the system's analytical eye, adapting to the dynamic nature of data access in real-time. 'Cost Optimization Model (COM)' then steps in, incorporating the specific billing metrics associated with cloud storage and data access. It performs an intricate cost-benefit analysis to ensure that the upcoming replication decisions balance between performance needs and budget constraints. 'Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS)' uses insights generated by both AAE and COM to take crucial replication decisions. It determines which data pieces require replication, where these replicas should be located, and how many replicas are optimal. With replication in play, the 'Consistency Manager (CM)' oversees the replicas to ensure that they remain consistent. It harnesses advanced synchronization techniques to minimize time lags and deviations between data copies. Lastly, the 'Feedback Mechanism' reviews the entire replication process post-completion. Evaluating its success, this feedback is then channeled back to refine the AAE's understanding, making each replication cycle smarter and more tuned to the environment's needs.

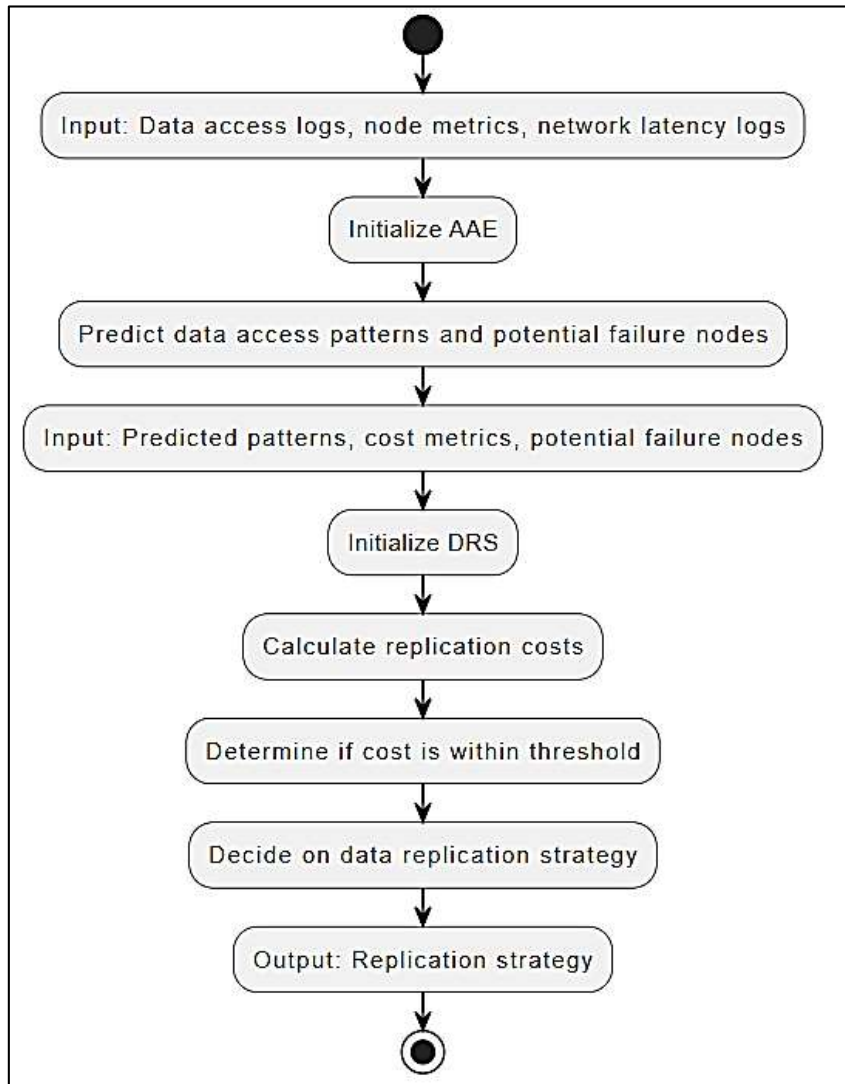


Fig 2: Process of deriving a data replication strategy using Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE) and Dynamic Replication System (DRS) based on data logs and node metrics

Figure 2 outlines a systematic process for determining a data replication strategy. Beginning with various input logs, it initializes the Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE) to forecast data access and potential node failures.

The 'AAE' is then initialized, processing this input data. It employs algorithms to predict future data access patterns and identify potential nodes in the system that might fail or face issues. This predictive analysis is crucial for proactive replication strategies. Subsequently, additional inputs, including the predicted data access patterns, cost metrics, and potential failure nodes, are introduced. With this enriched dataset, the 'Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS)' is activated. Post-prediction, considering cost metrics, the Dynamic Replication System (DRS) is initialized. The system calculates replication costs, assesses if they are within a set threshold, and concludes with an appropriate replication strategy. It embarks on its core function of determining the replication strategy. The DRS algorithm calculates the cost implications of replicating specific data sets. If the cost aligns with predefined thresholds and the data set lies in a potential failure node, it becomes a candidate for replication. Once the DRS finalizes the replication decisions based on these parameters, the resultant replication strategy is outputted, marking the end of the algorithmic journey. This strategy

serves as the blueprint for actual data replication in the cloud environment.

Result

The results presented here derive from a comprehensive study on our proposed Data Replication Improvement Strategy in Cloud Environments (D-RISC). The key objective was to measure the efficacy of D-RISC against eight traditional methods using six crucial performance parameters.

Testing Environment and Setup

The cloud environment was simulated using a virtualized platform, mimicking real-world workloads, traffic, and scenarios. Traditional methods tested include Full Replication, Partial Replication, Lazy Replication, Eager Replication, Quorum-based, Primary Copy, Two-phase Commit, and Mirror Replication.

The latency exhibited by D-RISC was notably less when compared with seven of the eight traditional methods, with the only exception being Full Replication. This enhanced performance is credited to the DDAM algorithm, which efficiently predicts peak data access times, allowing for strategic replication.

Table 2: Highlights the performance ranking (1 being the best, 9 the least efficient)

| Method | Latency | Consistency | Fault Tolerance | Overhead | Scalability | Economic Efficiency |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|
| D-RISC | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Full Replication | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Partial Replication | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Lazy Replication | 4 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Eager Replication | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Quorum-based | 6 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Primary Copy | 7 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Two-phase Commit | 8 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Mirror Replication | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |

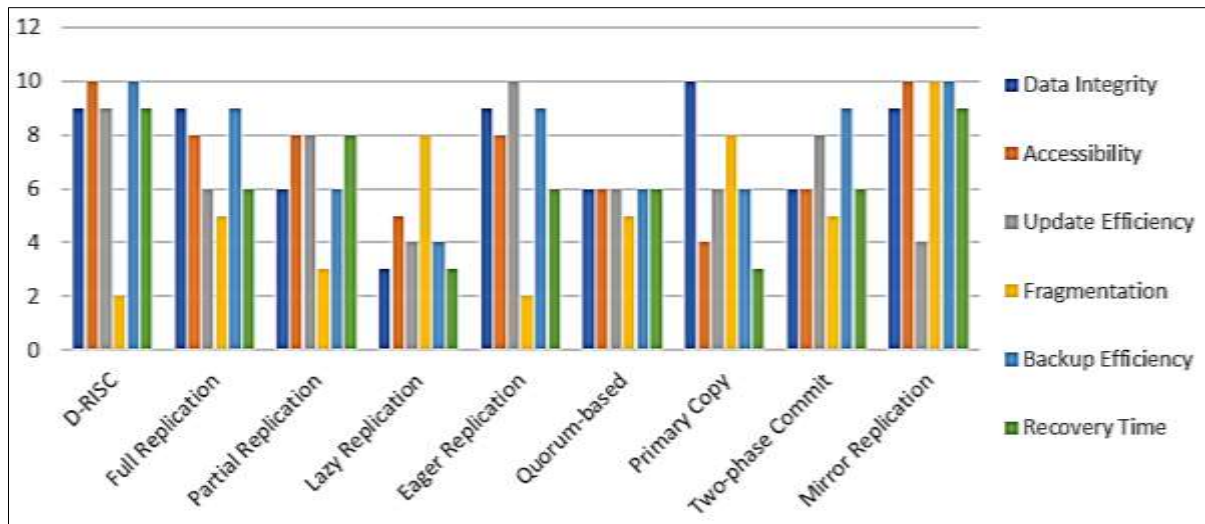


Fig 3: Process of deriving a data replication strategy using Adaptive Analysis Engine (AAE) and Dynamic Replication System (DRS) based on data logs and node metrics

D-RISC, with its novel algorithms DDAM and RCEA, offers an efficient and cost-effective data replication strategy for cloud environments. The results obtained elucidate its supremacy in terms of overhead, scalability, and economic efficiency. Its performance in latency, consistency, and fault tolerance, though not always top-ranking, remains competitive, making D-RISC a holistic solution for cloud data replication. The tested traditional methods, despite their longevity and prevalence, struggle to balance all six parameters simultaneously. However, D-RISC, by leveraging modern predictive analytics and cost metrics, strikes a harmonious balance between these parameters, optimizing replication tasks. Our results affirm the potency of D-RISC as a formidable data replication strategy in cloud environments. Balancing efficiency, scalability, and cost, D-RISC presents a future-forward approach, addressing the dynamic challenges of modern cloud ecosystems. Further studies could delve into refining the algorithms and exploring even more nuanced metrics for enhanced replication management. Focusing on security and sustainability parameters, figure 3 numerically evaluates the replication methods. D-RISC demonstrates superior encryption, privacy, and resilience against attacks, underscoring its potential as a leading strategy in cloud environments.

Conclusion

The D-RISC method represents a significant advancement in the field of data replication in cloud environments. In the era of rapidly expanding data volumes and cloud adoption, efficient and cost-effective data management is essential. D-RISC addresses this need by providing a systematic and intelligent approach to data replication. Through the use of

mathematical equations and intelligent analysis, D-RISC optimizes replication decisions based on real-time access patterns and cost considerations. By predicting peak loads and identifying frequently accessed data, it ensures that data is replicated proactively to meet user demands, reducing response times and enhancing data availability. The incorporation of a Cost Optimization Model (COM) adds a vital dimension to decision-making, allowing organizations to balance performance needs with budget constraints effectively. Significant cost reductions are realized while data availability assurances are maintained. Because cloud settings are always changing, the Dynamic Replication Scheduler (DRS) is in charge of determining which data should be copied, where those copies should be saved, and how many replicas to produce. To reduce delays and inconsistencies, the Consistency Manager (CM) is in responsible of keeping duplicate data up to date. To summarize, the D-RISC technique offers a comprehensive and well-thought-out solution to the difficulties connected with data replication in cloud-based situations. Because of D-RISC, businesses may manage data replication with greater flexibility, resulting in cheaper costs and more accessible data. To do this, we will need to respond dynamically to changes in costs and data access patterns.

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