

## Summary Dialogue on Distribution

**Student:** *Well, that was quick. Too quick, in my opinion!*

**Professor:** *Yes, distributed systems are complicated and cool and well worth your study; just not in this book (or course).*

**Student:** *That's too bad; I wanted to learn more! But I did learn a few things.*

**Professor:** *Like what?*

**Student:** *Well, everything can fail.*

**Professor:** *Good start.*

**Student:** *But by having lots of these things (whether disks, machines, or whatever), you can hide much of the failure that arises.*

**Professor:** *Keep going!*

**Student:** *Some basic techniques like retrying are really useful.*

**Professor:** *That's true.*

**Student:** *And you have to think carefully about protocols: the exact bits that are exchanged between machines. Protocols can affect everything, including how systems respond to failure and how scalable they are.*

**Professor:** *You really are getting better at this learning stuff.*

**Student:** *Thanks! And you're not a bad teacher yourself!*

**Professor:** *Well thank you very much too.*

**Student:** *So is this the end of the book?*

**Professor:** *I'm not sure. They don't tell me anything.*

**Student:** *Me neither. Let's get out of here.*

**Professor:** *OK.*

**Student:** *Go ahead.*

**Professor:** *No, after you.*

**Student:** *Please, professors first.*

**Professor:** *No, please, after you.*

**Student:** *(exasperated) Fine!*

**Professor:** *(waiting) ... so why haven't you left?*

**Student:** *I don't know how. Turns out, the only thing I can do is participate in these dialogues.*

**Professor:** *Me too. And now you've learned our final lesson...*