

A Dialogue on Virtual Machine Monitors

Student: *So now we're stuck in the Appendix, huh?*

Professor: *Yes, just when you thought things couldn't get any worse.*

Student: *Well, what are we going to talk about?*

Professor: *An old topic that has been reborn: **virtual machine monitors**, also known as **hypervisors**.*

Student: *Oh, like VMware? That's cool; I've used that kind of software before.*

Professor: *Cool indeed. We'll learn how VMMs add yet another layer of virtualization into systems, this one beneath the OS itself! Crazy and amazing stuff, really.*

Student: *Sounds neat. Why not include this in the earlier part of the book, then, on virtualization? Shouldn't it really go there?*

Professor: *That's above our pay grade, I'm afraid. But my guess is this: there is already a lot of material there. By moving this small aside on VMMs into the appendix, a particular instructor can choose whether to include it or skip it. But I do think it should be included, because if you can understand how VMMs work, then you really understand virtualization quite well.*

Student: *Alright then, let's get to work!*