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Scalable Data Infrastructures

Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed:

1. A man finds himself on a riverbank with a cat, a parrot and a bag of seed. He needs to transport all three to the other side of the river in his boat. However, the boat has room for only the man himself and one other item (either the cat, parrot or seed). In his absence, the cat could eat the parrot, and the parrot would eat the bag of seed. Show how he can get all the passengers to the other side, without leaving the wrong ones alone together.
2. The man must take the parrot across the river first because the cat won’t eat the bag of seed.
3. The man must travel back across the river and pick up the bag of seed and take it across the riverbank.
4. He will then need to bring the parrot back across so he doesn’t eat the seed.
5. Once he drops the parrot off, he needs to take the cat across the river so the cat doesn’t eat the parrot.
6. Since we know the cat won’t eat the seed, we can leave those two together and go get the parrot and bring it back across the river bank.