Trenton May

November 26, 2014

Scalable Data Infrastructures

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

1. Define the problem

In this problem it seems that you cannot carry the parrot, the cat, and the bag of seeds over to the other side of the river at the same time. An even bigger problem is that you cannot leave the cat and the parrot alone or the parrot and the seeds alone. So the goal is to get the bird, the cat and the seeds across without losing one.

1. Break the problem apart

The constraints in this are that you cannot leave the parrot alone with the seeds because it will eat them but you cannot leave the cat with the parrot because the cat will eat the parrot. Another problem is that you can get the parrot across the water but then you can’t take the cat or the seeds over second because you will lose the parrot or the seeds.

1. Identify Potential Solutions

To solve this problem the man would have to make multiple trips back and forth. He would have to make sure not to leave the parrot alone with the cat or the seeds; the parrot is the key to this solution. So the parrot would have to go on multiple trips with the man.