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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.

1. Evaluate each potential solution

I believe that this solution could meet the goals. It will be like having your cake and eating it too.

1. Choose a solution and develop a plan to implement it

To get each passenger across safely you would first have to start with taking the parrot across the river. Then you would have to take the seeds with you on the second trip. Upon dropping the seeds off you would then need to take the parrot back with you across the river. Once on the other side, drop off the parrot and pick up the cat. Once you drop the cat off go back to the other side and get the parrot and bring him across the river. If the plan is implemented correctly none of the wrong passengers will be left together and everyone will get across the river safely. I’ve drawn this out on paper to make sure that this would work and I’ve gone over it in my head many times. I do believe it is full proof.