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 what-

ever), 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...