Zookeeper is a centralized open-source server for maintaining and managing distributed configuration information, distributed naming conventions and synchronization for distributed cluster environment.

Zookeeper helps the distributed systems to reduce their management complexity by providing low latency and high availability.

Zookeeper was initially a sub-project for Hadoop but now it's a top level independent project of Apache Software Foundation.

If your distributed service needs a centralized, reliable and consistent configuration management, locks, queues etc, you will find Zookeeper a reliable choice.

Zookeeper is a CP system (On CAP Theorem) that provides Consistency and Partition tolerance. Replication of Zookeeper state across all the nods makes it an eventually consistent distributed service.

ZooKeeper is a wait free co-ordination service.