

# CS 4530: Fundamentals of Software Engineering

## Module 9.2: Distributing Data

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# Learning Goals for this Lesson

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- At the end of this lesson, you should be able to
  - explain the concepts of partition and replication
  - List and explain the major benefits and pitfalls of each of these
  - Explain the CAP theorem

# Dealing with shared data is a challenge

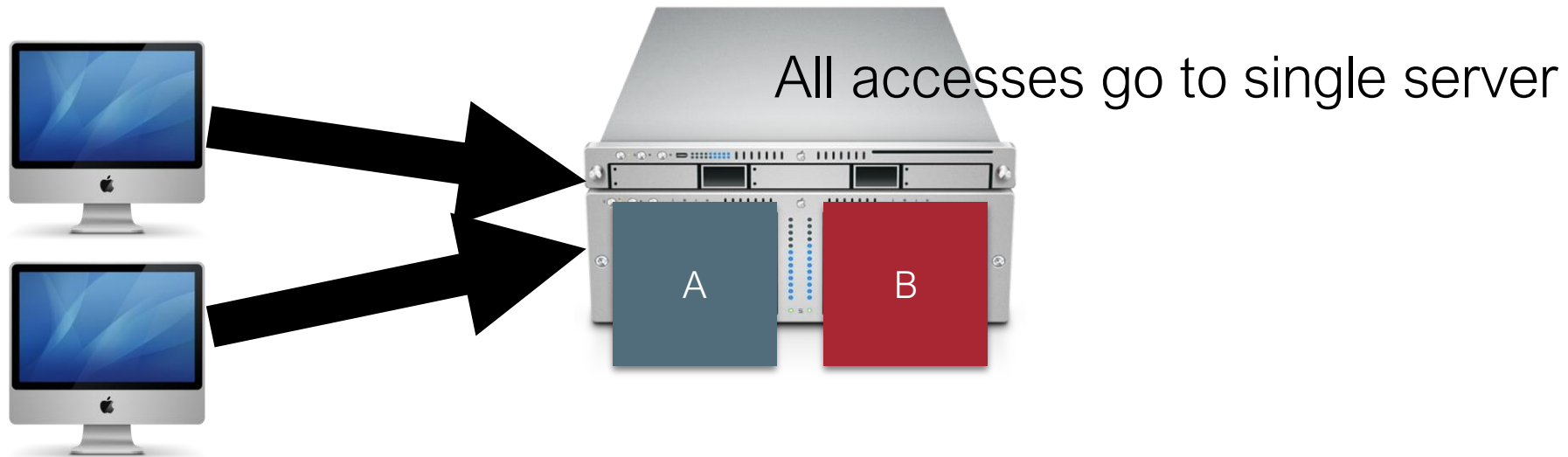
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- Most distributed systems have some shared data
- How important is it to:
  - Retrieve data quickly?
  - Update data quickly?
  - Make sure all users see the same data?
  - Make sure all users can always see (some values of) the data
- This all depends on the goals of the system.

# Recurring Problem #1: Too Much Data

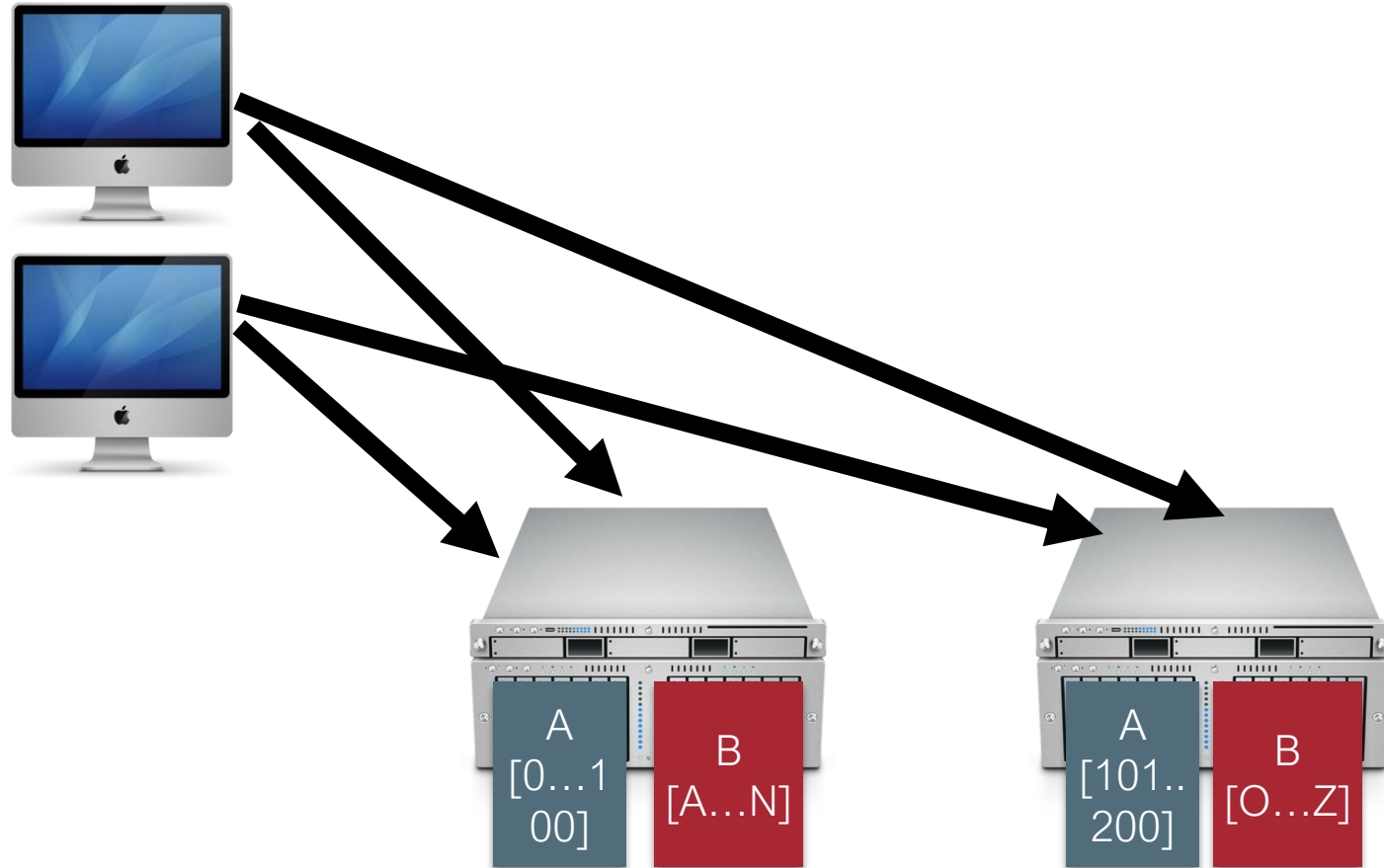
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- In a non-distributed system, all accesses go to a single server.



# Recurring Solution #1: Partitioning

- Divide up the data in some (hopefully logical) way.
- Each server is responsible for only some of the data



# Partitioning has some advantages

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- Each server has 50% of the data
- Requires less processing power per server
- Allows concurrency in reads/writes
- Even if one server goes down, still have access to 50% of the data

# Partitioning also has a big challenge

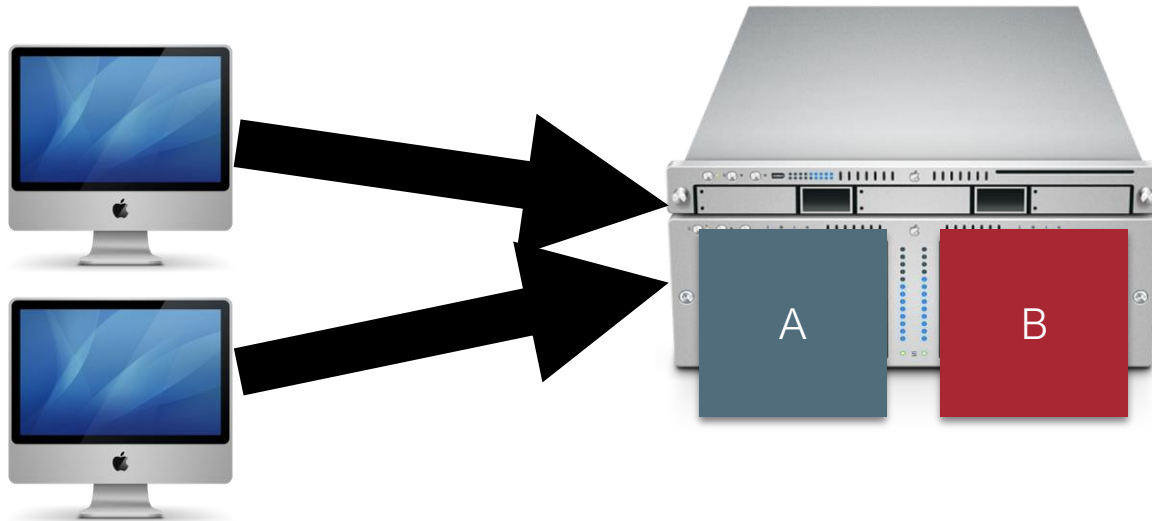
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- What's a good way to divide the data?
  - Depends on the nature of the application
  - We'll see this in our case studies

# Recurring Problem #2: Too Many Requests

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- In a non-distributed system, all requests go to a single server.

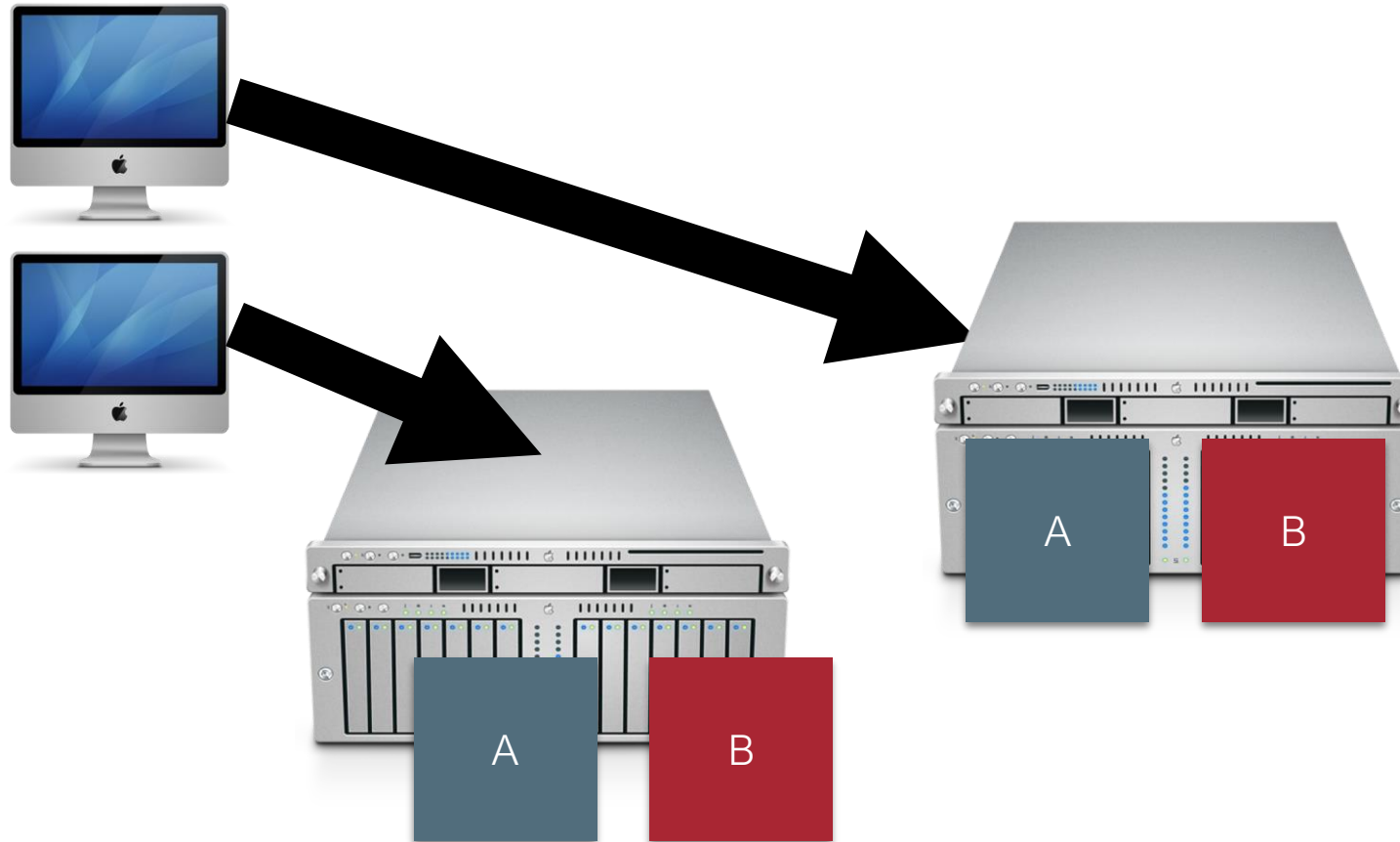




# Recurring Solution #2: Replication

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- Entire data set is copied
- Either server can handle any request



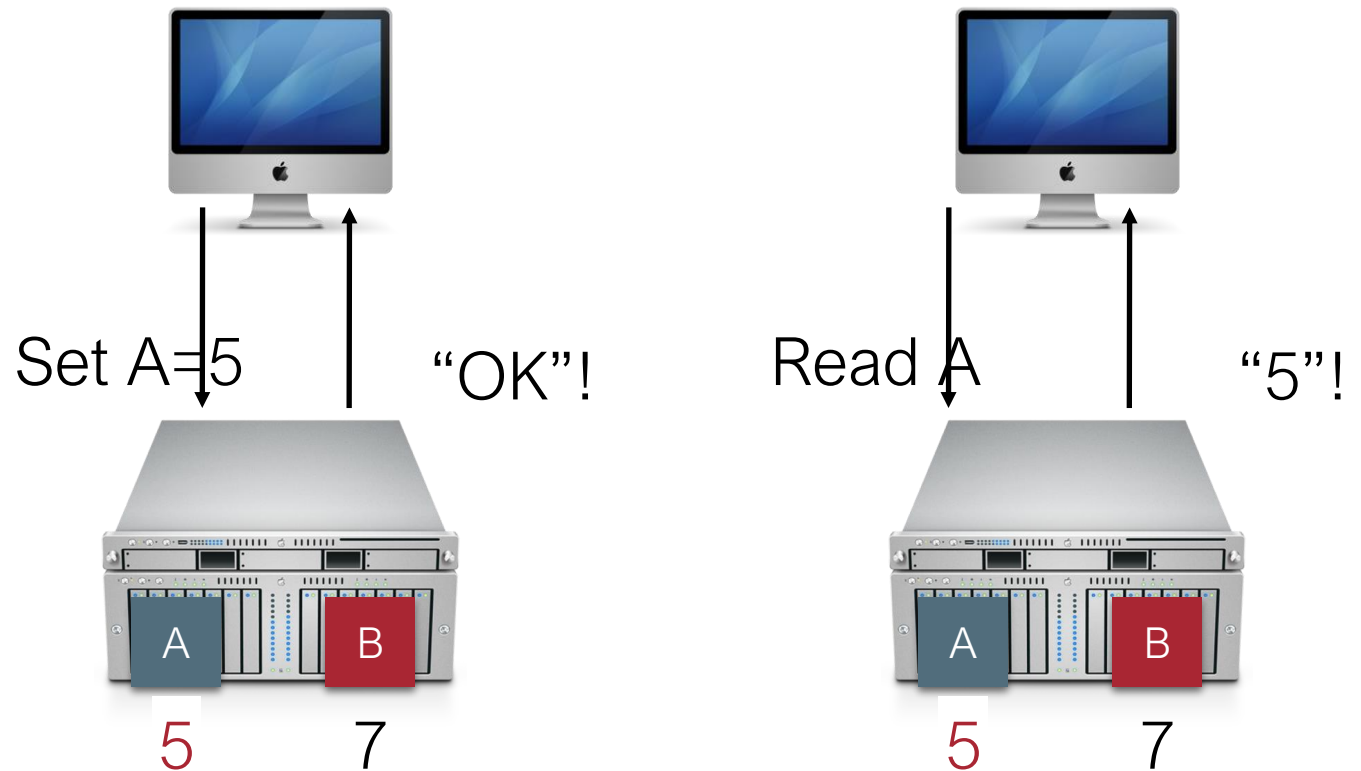
# Replication has advantages

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- Improves performance:
  - Client load can be evenly shared between servers
  - Reduces latency: can place copies of data nearer to clients
- Improves availability:
  - One replica fails, still can serve all requests from other replicas

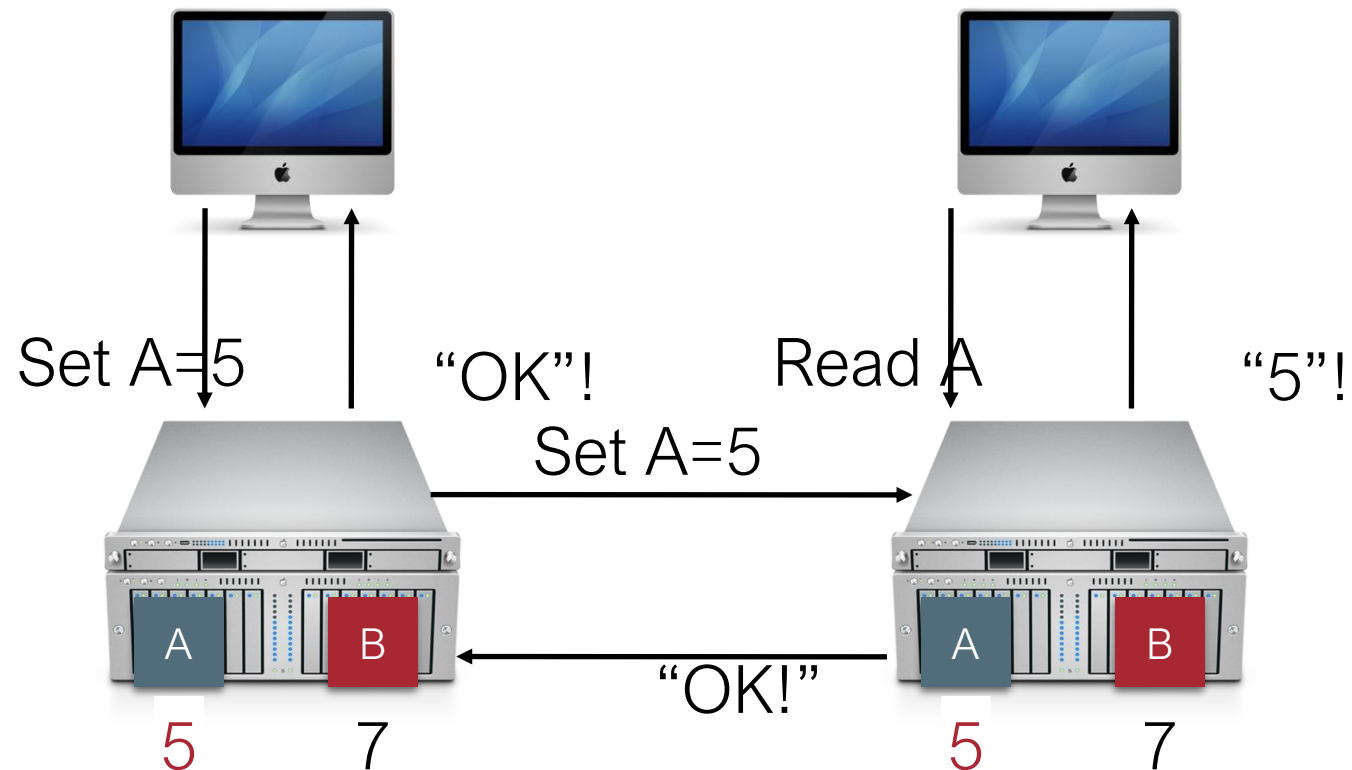
# But replication has a big problem: Consistency

- We probably want our system to work like this



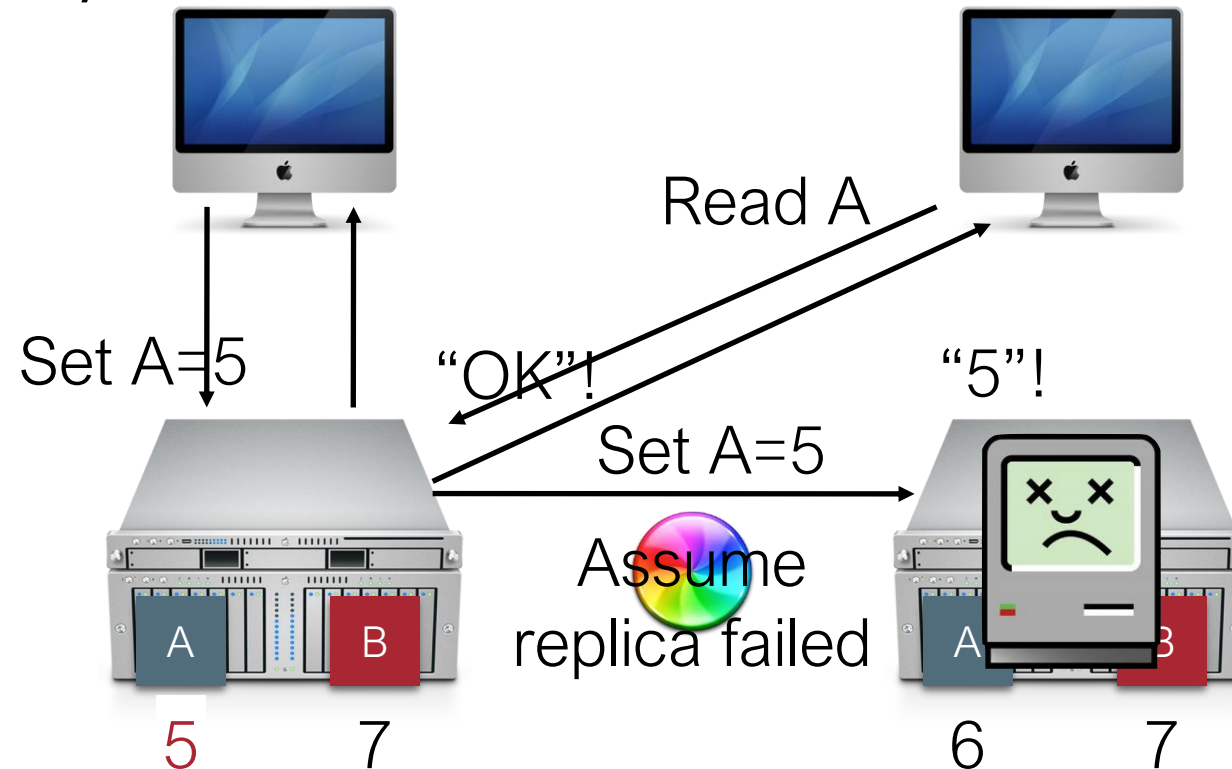
# Sequential Consistency is the Ideal

- AKA: Behaves like a single machine would
- But unattainable!



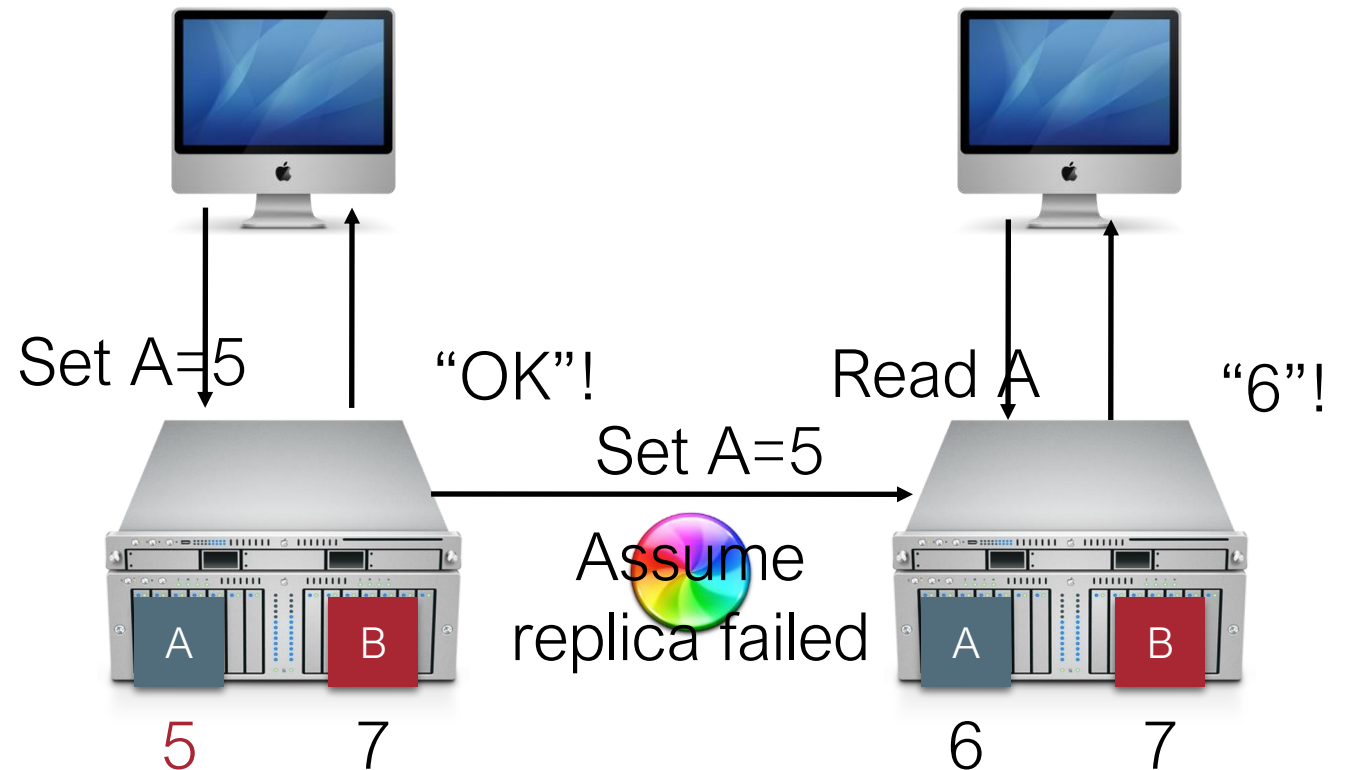
# Consistent + Available

- On timeout, assume node is crashed



# What if the *network* fails?

- No way to tell whether it's the network or the remote machine.



# CAP Theorem: Consistency or Availability

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- Pick two of three:
  - Consistency: All nodes see the same data at the same time (strong consistency)
  - Availability: Individual node failures do not prevent survivors from continuing to operate
  - Partition tolerance: The system continues to operate despite message loss (from network and/or node failure)
    - Can't drop this for a DS - networks can always fail

# Luckily, there are possible compromises

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- Sacrifice some availability for consistency (eg in a chat system: you want the chats to appear in order)
- Sacrifice some consistency for availability (eg you may not care in what order the cats appear)
- Or you may want different policies for reads vs. writes.
- Doing this is beyond the limits of this course (whew!)



# Most distributed systems combine both partitioning and replication

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# Learning Goals for this Lesson

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- You should now be able to
  - explain the concepts of partition and replication
  - List and explain the major benefits and pitfalls of each of these
  - Explain the CAP theorem