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Web Programming Fundamentals

Problem Solving

A cat, a parrot and a bag of seed

1-a. A man has a cat a parrot and a bag of seed he must transport across a riverbank in a boat with only enough room to carry himself and one other item. If he leaves the parrot alone with the cat, the cat will eat it. If he leaves the parrot alone with the seed he will eat that.

1-b. Birds can fly. If the water is not too deep he could simply walk across letting the cat have the boat, carrying the seed and letting the bird fly.

1-c. the overall goal is to get yourself and the three items across the riverbank.

2a. the constraints in this problem are the two items that will eat each other, the size of the boat and the mans emotional attachment to these items.

2b. the sub goals are to do this without getting something eaten along the way and to get the items across as quickly as possible.

3. Possible solutions include the one mentioned above and the obvious simply taking the bird across first as the cat will not eat the bird seed.