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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 whatever), 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...*