## 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...