

CS525  
**Advanced Distributed Systems**  
Spring 2010  
[ ]  
Indranil Gupta (Indy)  
Wrap-Up  
January 19 – May 4, 2010



All Slides © IG

## Agenda

- Wrap-Up of Discussion started at Course Beginning
- Articles

2

Can you name some examples of Operating Systems?

3

Can you name some examples of Operating Systems?

...  
Linux WinXP Unix FreeBSD Mac  
2K Aegis Scout Hydra Mach SPIN  
OS/2 Express Flux Hope Spring  
AntaresOS EOS LOS SQOS LittleOS TINOS  
PalmOS WinCE

...

4

What is an Operating System?

5

What is an Operating System?

- User interface to hardware (device driver)
- Provides abstractions (processes, file system)
- Resource manager (scheduler)
- Means of communication (networking)
- ...

6

## Can you name some examples of Distributed Systems?

7

## Distributed Systems Examples

- Client-server (e.g., NFS)
- The Internet
- The Web
- An ad-hoc network
- A sensor network
- DNS
- Kazaa (peer to peer overlays)

8

## What is a Distributed System?

9

## The definition we started with

*A distributed system is a collection of entities, each of which is **autonomous, programmable, asynchronous and failure-prone**, and which communicate through an **unreliable communication medium**.*

- Our interest in distributed systems involves
  - algorithmics, design and implementation, maintenance, study
- Entity=a process on a device (PC, PDA, mote)
- Communication Medium=Wired or wireless network

10

## A range of interesting problems for Distributed System designers

- 
- Routing and Multicast [IP multicast, SRM, RMTP]
- Post and retrieve [Usenet]
- Search [BitTorrent, Google]
- Programming [MapReduce, Pig, Dryad]
- Storage [Databases, HDFS]
- Coordination and Scheduling [EC2, SETI@Home]
- Infrastructures [EC2, S3, AppEngine, CCT, OpenCirrus]
- 
- 

11

## A range of challenges

- 
- Failures
- Asynchrony
- Scalability
- Security
- 

12

## Laundry List of Topics we've Covered

- Clouds and their predecessors (e.g., Grids)
- Overlays and DHTs
- Sensor motes and TinyOS
- Basics – Lamport timestamps, Consensus, Snapshots, Failure detectors
- Epidemics
- Cloud Scheduling
- Cloud Storage
- Effect of Flash/SSDs
- Peer to peer applications – file systems
- Sensor net routing
- In-network processing in sensor nets
- Distributed monitoring and management

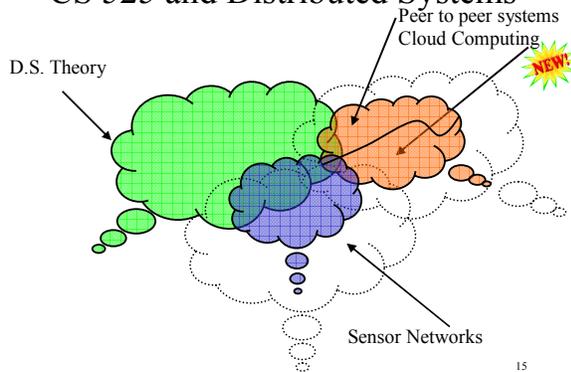
13

## Laundry List (Continued)

- Probabilistic Membership protocols
- Byzantine-tolerant protocols
- Publish-subscribe
- Distributed debugging
- Real measurement studies
- Industrial Systems
- Green Clouds
- End to end argument
- Old Wine: Old Concepts still applicable
- Structure of Networks
- H. G. Wells, G. Hardin, Christensen, Levin-Redell, Hoffman, Feynman

14

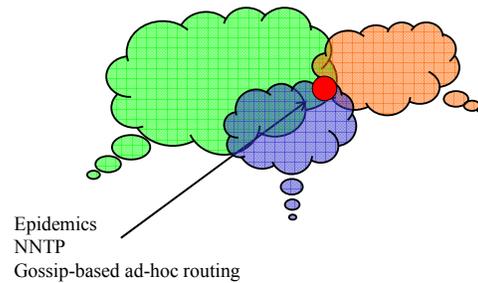
## CS 525 and Distributed Systems



15

## Interesting: Area Overlaps

<Course Project Names Removed since in progress>



16

## Leftover Work

- Final Project Report Submissions – 11.59 pm, **Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010** (email softcopy to [indy@cs.uiuc.edu](mailto:indy@cs.uiuc.edu), turn hardcopy in to 3112 SC).
  - At most 12 pages, at least 12 pt font
- **Final extension, Hard deadline**
  - (should contain hard and comprehensive data)
- **Three Best Projects** will be up on website soon after the 7<sup>th</sup>
- We will work on all projects after the semester, in order to submit them to conferences/workshops!
  - Past CS525 projects (since Fall 2003) have produced a total of about 10 journal papers, about 20 conference papers, and about 10 workshop papers

17

## Presentations

I hope you liked the selection of papers.

Special mention presentations

- Everyone! (difficult to pick “best ones”)
- General comments to all for future presentations:
  - Keep an eye on the clock
  - Defer questions to end or offline if necessary
  - Plan for > 1 minute per slide

18

## Reviews

Tough work, but  
only way to ensure you remember  
main ideas in paper  
and your thoughts when you read it

**Please preserve your reviews!**

I hope you enjoyed writing them.

If your complaint is about the large number of  
papers....

19

## Reviews

Tough work, but  
only way to ensure you remember  
main ideas in paper  
and your thoughts when you read it

**Please preserve your reviews!**

I hope you enjoyed writing them.

If your complaint is about the large number of  
papers....you're right

20

## Articles

21

## Articles for this Class

- H. G. Wells, "World Brain"
- G. Hardin, "The tragedy of the commons"
- C. M. Christensen, "How can great firms fail? Insights from the hard disk drive industry"
- Levin and Redell, "How (and how not to) write a good SOSP paper"
- R. Hoffman, "Why Buy That Theory?"
- R. P. Feynman, "The Chief Research Scientist..."

22

## H. G. Wells

- H. G. Wells, "World Brain" (1938)
  - Encyclopedias written "for gentlemen by gentlemen"
  - H. G. Wells seeks a University that is world-wide, and a base of knowledge that is global
  - He seeks a "Permanent World Encyclopedia"
    - That can be read by anyone anywhere
    - That can be updated by anyone and from anywhere
    - That will be an archive of humanity and its actions
    - That will be an extension of humanity's memory
  - And he wrote this before the Internet was invented!
  - Has this been realized?  
*(article taken from book "World Brain", published 1938)*

23

## G. Hardin

- G. Hardin, "The tragedy of the commons" (1968)
  - Adam Smith in 1776 in "*The Wealth of Nations*" popularized the "invisible hand," the idea that an individual who "intends only his own gain," is, as it were, "led by an invisible hand to promote...the public interest"
    - Basis for stock markets and much of today's economics!
  - However, if there is a commons (think: open pastures, stock market, Internet, p2p, clouds, national parks, etc.), then the tragedy is that everything will be depleted so much that nothing will stay common anymore
  - Example of free pastures for farmers with herds of sheep: "Each man is locked into a system that compels him to increase his herd without limit -- in a world that is limited."
  - Hardin concludes: "It is our considered professional judgment that this dilemma has no technical solution."
  - This essay motivated the development of game theory, and more recently selfish routing algorithms
  - The tragedy of the commons is very visible in p2p systems (freeloading). Does it also reflect in Wikipedia?
    - The argument says there are no technical solutions, which means you need to incentivize (or de-incentivize) humans to solve the problem

24

## Levin-Redell, Christensen

- Levin and Redell, “How (and how not to) write a good SOSP paper”
    - original idea to a real problem
    - comprehensive and mature evaluation
    - chronological and logical presentation
  - C. M. Christensen, “How can great firms fail? Insights from the hard disk drive industry”
    - “Disruptive technologies”: Fig 1.7, page 17
    - Can replace existing technology overnight – when enough for market’s requirements.
    - Examples of disruptive technologies seen in CS525: Clouds, p2p, sensor networks
- (article taken from Innovator’s Dilemma, C. M. Christensen)*

25

## R. Hoffman, Why Buy that Theory

A theory that explains an observable phenomenon

– Occam’s Razor –

“Plurality should not be assumed beyond necessity”

The simplest explanation of a phenomenon is the best one

- Is Portable: are lessons applicable to other areas?
- Stimulates other Research: other people to work in the same / similar areas
- Story telling matters: breaking the complex world down into simple and understandable parts

*(article taken from “Best American Science Writing, 2003”, Ed: J. Cohen)*

26

## Richard Feynman

- R. P. Feynman, “The Chief Research Scientist of the Metaplast Corporation”
  - The wilder the idea, the better it is. But only as long as you keep working on it.

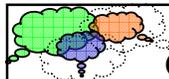
*(article taken from “Surely you’re joking, Mr. Feynman”, R.P. Feynman)*

27

Questions?

28

(Don’t forget!)



## CS525 Course Evaluations

- Main purpose: to evaluate how useful this course was to you (and to get your feedback that will help improve future versions of the course)
- I won’t see these evaluations until after you see your grades
- Fill them online (ICES has/will send you instructions)
- Optional Instructor Questions (please write answers on reverse side)
  - **Item:** Should the course projects remain open or be assigned like Machine Problems?
  - **Item:** How much has the peer reviews helped with respect to your project? State any positives and/or negatives you see.
- You will be able to fill out course evaluations online until next week, but don’t forget!

All the Best for Your Project!

Have a good summer.

30