

The Power of Simplicity on Dependable Distributed Systems

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Abstract

Contrary to a (somewhat) common belief, the most important property of a practical distributed algorithm is not its efficiency or performance but its simplicity. This fact is even more evident when considering dependable distributed systems. In this talk, I will present some cases in which simple protocols and elegant abstractions – which were not the most efficient for the problem at hand – enabled the deployment of dependable solutions that changed the practice of distributed computing. I will also discuss how the quest for simplicity influenced my work on BFT and multi-cloud storage. Ultimately, I aim to convince the audience that “simplicity is the ultimate sophistication” in distributed computing.

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