Impact of Layering and Faults on Availability and its End-to-End Implications

Ricardo Bianchini, Richard Martin, Thu Nguyen

Department of Computer Science Rutgers University

Layers on Layers on Layers



Dark and Panic Lab

Computer Science, Rutgers University

Global Layering



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Availability

- Correct response within accepted time bound
 - ✤ Fraction correct/90th percentile response time
- ✤ Two components:
 - ✤ Correctness
 - Time bound
- To get to 99.999 nines (5 min unavailability/year)
 - * Not a lot of time to mess around

2 Second Reponse time



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Impact of Faults and Layers

- ✤ Each layer built independently
- Intermediate layers hide exceptional conditions
 - Buffer and continue
 - Retry N
 - Crashes
 - ✤ Punt
- Hard to build availabile systems
 - ✤ React quickly enough?
 - Diagnosis difficult
 - Prediction



End-to-End Implications

- Traditional Philosophy
 - End-to-end checks necessary for correctness,
 - Intermediate checks only a performance enhancement
- Availability oriented:
 - Section End-to-end checks necessary for correctness
 - Intermediate checks and timely cross-layer propagation of information necessary
- How to achieve these properties while maintaining layering?