COMMENTARY
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ACM Special Interest Group on Operating Systems (SIGOPS)
SPECIAL ISSUE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM ON
DISTRIBUTED
OPERATING SYSTEM
PRINCIPLES

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ACM DISTRIBUTED
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON OPERATING SYSTEM
(SIGOPS)
PATTERN FOR DIST. SYSTEM CASE STUDY PAPERS:

1. Say: Distributed is good

2. Notice: wires → messages

3. IDEA: post facto wires ↓ use messages everywhere

4. Resolve 99 details of message semantics

If implementation is up before paper deadline:

5. Express astonishment about path length to send a message
If there are idle cycles about, someone will covet them.
NEW HAZARD: Robustness

unplanned total dependence

If service-available use service

else do-it-yourself

law: little-used functions become flaky
THE RECOVERY AND COORDINATION JUNGLE
Lots of not-quite-orthogonal abstractions

(Resembles quantum chromodynamics)
HEADLINES WE HAVEN'T SEEN YET

AIR FORCE LOGISTICS SYSTEM
UP SIX MONTHS EARLY

WWMCCS NETWORK 50% UNDER BUDGET

SECURITY PACIFIC BANK FOILS
45 M COMPUTERIZED ROBBERY TRY

AIR LINE CONTROLLERS PRAISE
ARTC COMPUTER SYSTEM