

Distributed systems, for the interview

What do I actually remember about distributed systems?

30 min · A4

Colour language: choose yours

This prints black and white; the colour is your own ink. Colour each box with the pen you will use, then keep this page beside you as your key. No pen for a role? Write its letter in a circle.

YOUR COLOUR	CODE	ROLE	MEANING	PEN
☐	Q	Ask	a numbered question for the AI	your pen, or write (Q)
☐	R	Stop	blocker, risk, broken, or not understood	your pen, or write (R)
☐	G	Keep	evidence, confident, something that worked	your pen, or write (G)
☐	X	Crux	the one thing that matters most	highlighter
☐	O	Maybe	an idea, a possibility, a what-if	your pen, or write (O)
☐	P	Sense	gut feeling, intuition, felt reaction	your pen, or write (P)
☐	D	Draft	provisional; do not trust yet	your pen, or write (D)
☐	B	Reason	what you think; the main content	black

How to use this

1. Phone in another room.
2. Work in ink, in the colours on this page.
3. When the time is up, stop mid-sentence.
4. Photograph every page and send them back.

Write everything you can recall about consensus, replication and failure before you check a single note.

1. Consensus

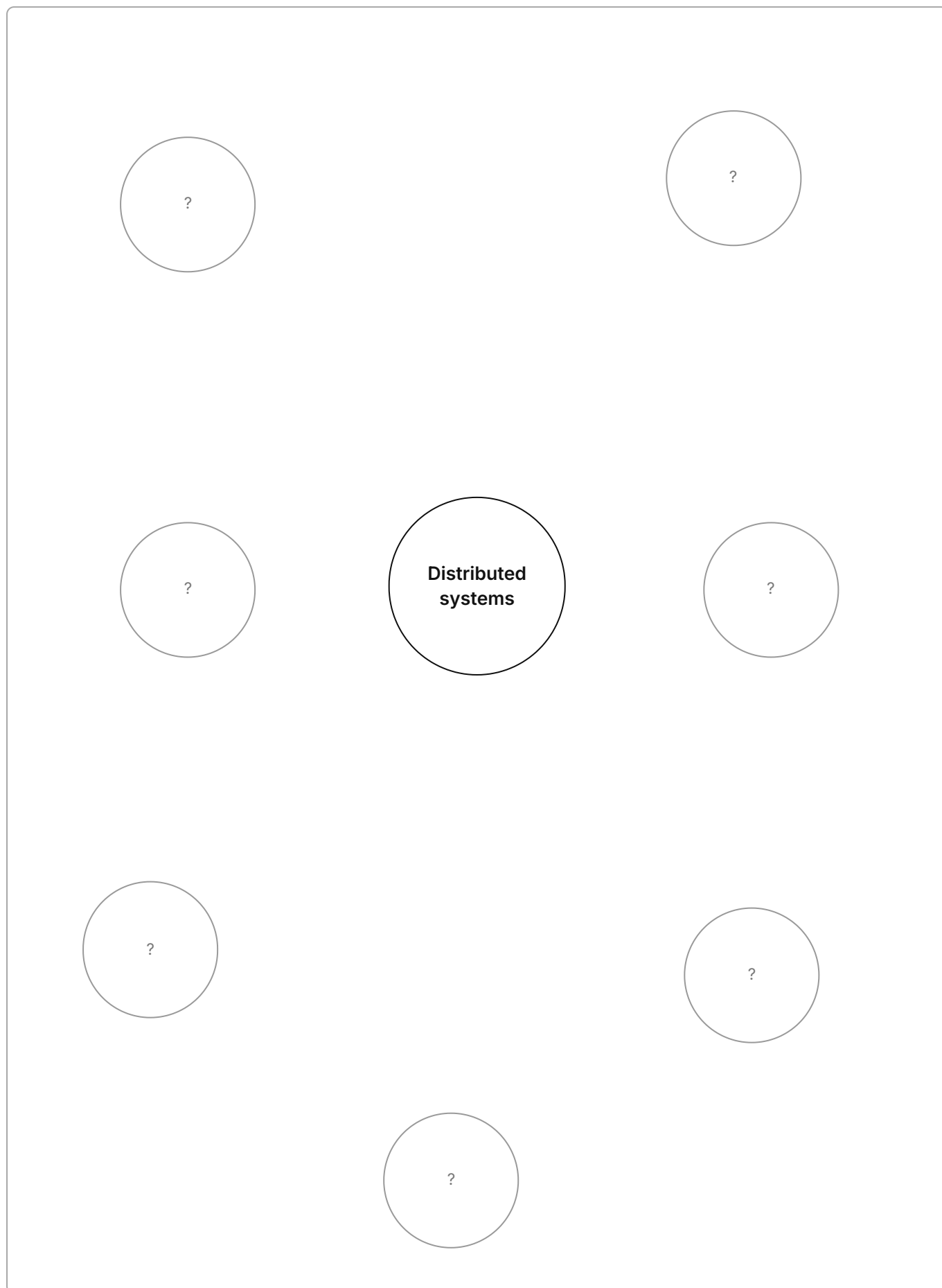
2. Replication

3. Partition tolerance

4. Consistency models

What I missed: next round starts here

Put the topic in the centre and grow the map from what W1-P2 surfaced.



Explain replication to someone who has never heard of it, in plain words.

Where I got stuck, or reached for jargon

Whatever you had to skip is the thing to ask about.

Write your questions for the AI with your Ask pen (or a circled Q), numbered. These come back with the photos.

Q 1.

Q 2.

Q 3.

Q 4.

Q 5.

Q 6.

Q 7.

Q 8.

Photograph each page flat and send them back together.

- ☐ Photograph W1-P1 flat, page ID visible
- ☐ Photograph W1-P2 flat, page ID visible
- ☐ Photograph W1-P3 flat, page ID visible
- ☐ Photograph W1-P4 flat, page ID visible
- ☐ Photograph W1-P5 flat, page ID visible
- ☐ Check the colour marks are readable in the photo
- ☐ Check no page is missing
- ☐ Write your Ask questions before you send

i Fill the frame, avoid your own shadow, and keep the corner marks visible so the page can be straightened.