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Fault-Tolerant
Distributed Computing

Editors

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Preface

The goal of the Asilomar Workshop on Fault-Tolerant Distributed Computing was to facilitate interaction between theoreticians and practitioners. To achieve this goal, speakers were invited and topics chosen so that a broad overview of the field would be presented. Because the attendance at the Workshop was diverse, the presentations/papers were in many instances designed to appeal to a general audience. The presentations were also designed to span a body of research from the theoretical to the pragmatic. Since the material seemed ideal for a book, this book was planned together with the planning of the workshop.

Held in the spring of 1986, the workshop brought together approximately 70 active researchers from academia and industry. Most of the chapters were written following the workshop and subsequently revised. Consequently, some of the results that are described were obtained after the workshop. However, six of the chapters (those by Bernstein, Cohn, Finkelstein, Liskov, Spector, and Wensley) were recorded, transcribed, and edited for inclusion. This transcription format makes for easy-to-read, though somewhat chatty, articles. The chapters are arranged in the order of presentation at the workshop.

Given the scope of this book, we feel that it should be of use to students, researchers, and developers. We hope that it will promote greater understanding within the world of fault-tolerant research and development.

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