Abstract: Distributed systems have always been the scene of various software and hardware failures. These failures can have diverse sources such as the crash of machines, bugs, misconfigurations, as well as malicious attacks and users that deliberately tamper with their software to gain some benefit. These failures are especially difficult to deal with when the distributed system spans over multiple administrative domains (also referred to as MAD distributed systems). Examples of such systems include peer-to-peer systems, computer grids, network services (e.g., DNS), federated information systems and inter-domain routing. Accountability, which refers to the ability to detect and expose node faults, is a promising paradigm to deal with these types of failures. During this tutorial, I will survey existing solutions that have been proposed in the literature for enforcing accountability in distributed systems (e.g., software solutions, hardware solutions) and will discuss open challenges in this field including the building of accountable and privacy preserving systems.

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