ASSIGNMENT 4
Due: Tuesday 5/11 by class time
Preferred hand-in method: email document to {franklin,kkeeton}@cs.berkeley.edu

Like the previous assignment, assignment 4 has two parts: the normal summary and discussion section, as well as an open-ended question we'd like you to answer.

Part 1: Write a 3-5 page summary sharing your evaluation, insights and conclusions on the distributed systems papers covered in class. This set includes the papers on distributed query processing, distributed file systems, clever file system tricks, file system measurements, transactional caching, and data management for weakly connected systems.

As with previous assignments, we're looking for a combination of original thoughts and synthesis, as well as evidence that you've read the papers. The format of this part of the assignment is fairly unrestricted. You should address interesting and relevant issues raised by the papers and the class discussion. Again, we encourage you to discuss the material and your ideas with your fellow students, but we ask that each of you write and submit your own summary.

Part 2: In our discussions of versioning, consistency control and hoarding for disconnected operation, we concluded that the best solution to these problems involved some amount of (OS or DB) system support, some application (semantic) support and some user input. Several open questions remained from the discussion, which we'd like you to explore in this assignment:

- How do we decide where to draw the lines between the different components of the solution?
- Given that lines must be drawn somewhere, how do we as system designers provide the right interfaces to allow the different components to share information appropriately?