

**6.033 Spring 2015**  
**Paper Critique #3**  
**Due April 24th, 5:00pm**

This assignment builds on the analysis skills you've learned in the previous two critiques. Your job is to write a 750-word<sup>1</sup> analysis of GFS, as described in "The Google File System" by Ghemawat, et al. Your audience is a community of peers who are somewhat familiar with GFS. Since your audience has some familiarity with the system, you only need to include a brief summary of GFS along with your analysis. This summary should give context for your analysis.

As you're writing, remember that your write-up is meant to be a full analysis of the system. It should not just contain an analysis of the things that GFS does poorly (if any), but also explain the things it does well (if any).

Like the previous critiques, use the [Guide to Analyzing Systems](#) to get started. At this point in the semester, you should be aware that fault tolerance, scalability, and security are important, but are not the only design principles that we care about. Moreover, not all of them are relevant to every system. Be sure to think about whether additional design principles apply to GFS, and whether any of the above three are irrelevant.

To provide some more guidance for this critique, we've developed a [preparation worksheet](#) that you should use as you read the paper. This worksheet will help you answer some of the questions in the Guide to Analyzing Systems, and to think about design principles beyond the ones in the guide. We have also posted an example of a [particularly good Paper Critique #2](#) for your reference.

**Note that this assignment is due at 5:00pm, not 11:59pm.**

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<sup>1</sup> As always, use this word count as a guideline. If you are writing significantly more than 750 words, you're giving us too much detail. If you are writing significantly fewer than 750 words, you are giving us too little. If you need 751 words, we are not going to penalize you for the extra word. We care much more about the content of your paper than the exact word count.