Dear students,

the current situation also impacts the organization of the Master seminar

**Advanced Topics in Distributed Systems.**

First of all, the most important information: this seminar will take place, although with some changes in the organization!

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, in-person meetings of larger groups are not allowed. Therefore, we will switch to a fully virtual format.

We still try our best to make the seminar as interactive as possible using online presentations and online meetings wherever possible. After all, interaction is essential for a seminar. Currently, we see many meetings, workshops, and even bigger conferences using a purely virtual format. Therefore, this seminar gives everybody the chance to practice what will become more and more popular anyway, with COVID-19 acting as a booster to this development.

We hope that, despite all the challenges, we can make this an interesting and great experience for everybody!

**First Meeting and Topic Assignment**

The official start of the lecture time has been postponed to April 20, 2020. Therefore, also the first (online) meeting of the seminar will take place later on

**April 24, 2020, 11:30-13:00.**

Until April 20, we will upload a video (screencast) to ILIAS, which presents both, the organizational points and the topics of the seminar.

In contrast to the usual procedure, visiting the first meeting is not mandatory this time. However, we strongly encourage everybody to join this first meeting. If you are not able to join, please send an e-mail to Frank Dürr (see below) since otherwise topics can be assigned to students on the waiting list.

The first online meeting is planned as questions and answers (Q&A) session. We will use WebEx or a similar tool for this meeting. Information on how to join the meeting online will be posted on ILIAS. Please watch the video (see above) before the meeting since we will not present the slides again in the Q&A session, but rather focus on answering your questions.

We will assign topics offline using an optimized procedure (algorithms) to find the optimal topic assignment based on your preferences (topic priority list). Details will be presented in the video.

**Student Presentations (Talks)**

Student presentations will take place at the very end of the lecture period (block seminar). Exact dates will be announced on ILIAS. This gives us the chance to switch to in-person meetings if the regulations would change.

For now, **student presentations are planned as online presentations** using WebEx or a similar tool.

**Report**

Also the deadline for reports will be as late as possible in the lecture free time. In particular, the deadline for the report will be after the talk to give everybody ample time to prepare both, the presentation and the report.
Meetings with the Supervisor

You can arrange individual meetings with the supervisor for the talk as well as for the report. Drafts of the slides or report will have to be submitted to the supervisor before the meeting, so they can be discussed during the meeting.

Meetings with the supervisor will again take place online, using WebEx for instance.

Further Information

Your primary source of information for this course is ILIAS:

https://ilias3.uni-stuttgart.de/goto_Uni_Stuttgart_crs_1857662.html

As usual, you will automatically get access to the course when you have (been) registered for it (which has already been done).

In ILIAS you will find all dates and material (videos, slides, ...).

Moreover, you will find a forum there, where you can post questions to everybody, including your supervisor. We strongly encourage you to use the forum to ask questions since then everybody will benefit from the answers.

In addition, you can ask questions during the first (online) meeting (see above).

Non-public questions can be sent by e-mail to Frank Dürr at frank.duerr@ipvs.uni-stuttgart.de.

Stay healthy! I am looking forward to seeing you (online) at the seminar!

Dr. rer. nat. Frank Dürr