

# Data ring: Turning the network into a database

Serge Abiteboul

INRIA-Futurs and Univ. Paris 11

INSTITUT NATIONAL  
DE RECHERCHE  
EN INFORMATIQUE  
ET EN AUTOMATIQUE



# Outline

1. Introduction – the data ring
2. Web support for distributed information management
3. Logical for distributed data management
4. Algebra for distributed data management
5. Self administration
6. Conclusion

# Introduction – the data ring

# Success stories after the Internet bubble

Google: management of Web pages

Mapquest: management of maps

Amazon: book catalogue

eBay: product catalogue

Napster (emule, bearshare, etc.): music database

Flickr: picture database

Wikipedia: dictionary

del.icio.us: annotations

*In France:*

Meetic: dating database

Kelkoo: comparative shopping

---

They are all about  
publishing some database

# The trends: peer-to-peer and interactivity

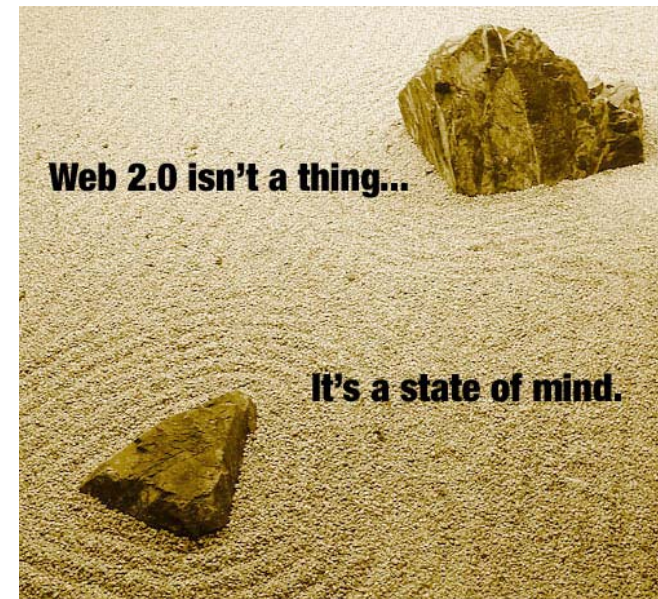
Switch from centralized servers to communities and syndication

Peer-to-peer: *A large and varying number of computers cooperate to solve some particular task without any centralized authority*

seti@home; kazaa; cabal

Interactivity and Web 2.0

Motivations: Social, organizational



# Information management in a P2P network

Private terminology: **data ring**

Management of information: Data + knowledge

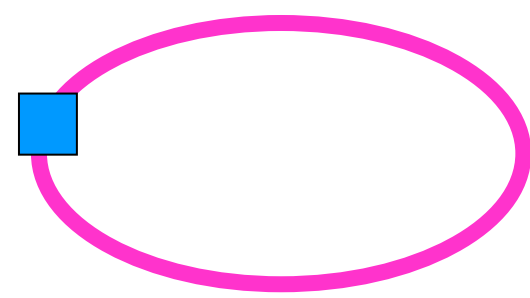
- Data: relations, documents, multimedia, services
- Knowledge: Meta-data, ontologies, view definitions
- Physical data: Indices and materialized views

Information is heterogeneous, distributed, replicated, dynamic

Peers are heterogeneous, autonomous and possibly mobile

Typically very large number of peers

Variety of requirements: QoS, performance, security, etc.



# What is a peer?

A mainframe database

A file system

Web server

A PC

A PDA

A telephone

A sensor

A home appliance

A car

A manufacturing tool

A telecom equipment

A toy

Another data ring

Any connected device or software with some information to share

# Why P2P?

It is easy to get access to lots of processing power

- Cpu, disk, memory, network
- Hardware is cheap
- Lots of available hardware that is not used most of the time

What can we do with this processing power?

- Simulate life (cell, heart, gene, etc.), climate, etc.
- Build new services with all the information available on the net

## Advantages of P2P

- Performance
- Scalability
- Availability
- Cost

## Disadvantages

- Complexity
- Updates and transactions
- Quality of Services
- Access rights

# Examples

## Content sharing community

- *A group of users that share and query information within some domain*
- Flickr, an association, a company, a consortium

## Personal data management

- Pda, phone, pc, home appliance, car, tv...

## Scientific data management

- Experiments and simulations generate huge quantity of data

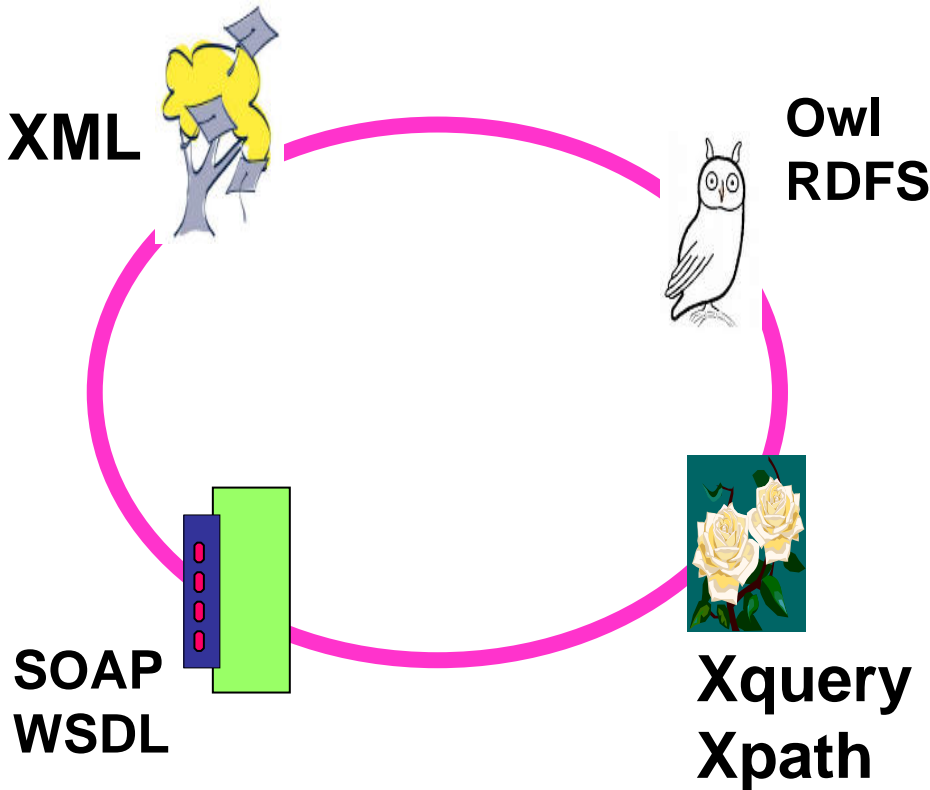
## Google search in P2P

## Taxonomy

- Volume of information & number/volatility of peers
- Quality of service

# Web support for distributed data management

# Crash course on Web standards



# Information used to live in islands but it is changing

Different formats: relational, metadata, documents, text, DXF

- A Web standard for data exchange, XML, is fixing it
- XML captures all kinds of information over a wide spectrum
- XML comes with a family of emerging standards: XML schema, XSL/T, Xquery, domain specific schemas...

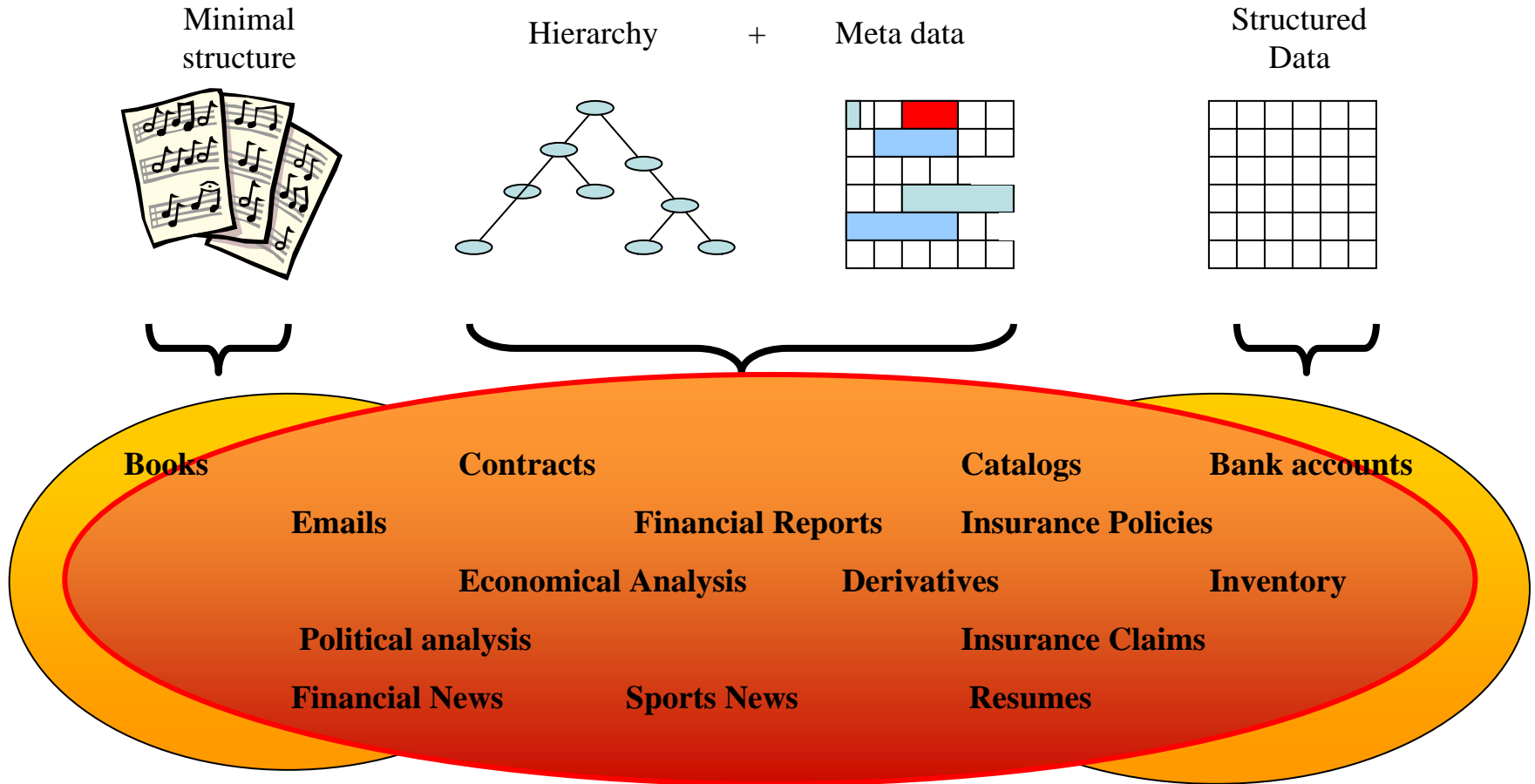
Different computers, platforms, languages, applications

- A standard for Web services, SOAP, is fixing it
- SOAP allows ubiquitous computing on the Internet
- SOAP comes with a family of emerging standards: WSDL, UDDI

Do you like these standards?

- I find them sometimes too complicated
- But this is just not the right question

# The information spectrum and XML



# A standard for information exchange: XML

*Labeled ordered trees where leaves are text*

Marriage of document and database worlds

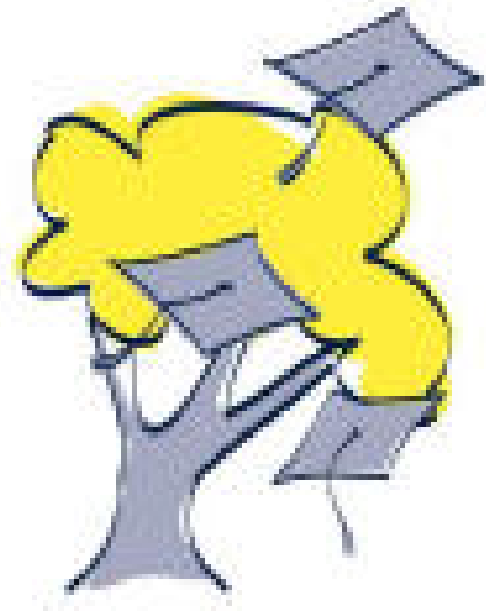
Marriage of full text indexing and structure indexing

Applications need typing

- XML typing: DTD and XML schema
- **Tree automata**

Semantics and structure are in tags and paths

- product-table/product/reference
- product-table/product/price



# Standards for distributed computing: Web services

Possibility to activate a method on some remote Web server  
(something like Corba in less elaborate)

Exchange information in XML: input and result are in XML

***Ubiquitous XML distributed computing infrastructure***

With XML and Web services, it is possible

- To get information from virtually anywhere
- To provide information to virtually anywhere

A family of standards: SOAP, WSDL, UDDI, BPEL

# A standard for XML queries: Xquery

## A “logic” for labeled, ordered, unranked tree

– a declarative language

Inspired by SQL: standard for relation data

Inspired by OQL: standard for object databases

- Functional as OQL
- Not as clean

Mixes structure and content – information retrieval

- Give me the documents where the word XML appears in title
- Some full-text extension is coming

Also an update language

# Some emerging standards for semantics

## Owl and RDF

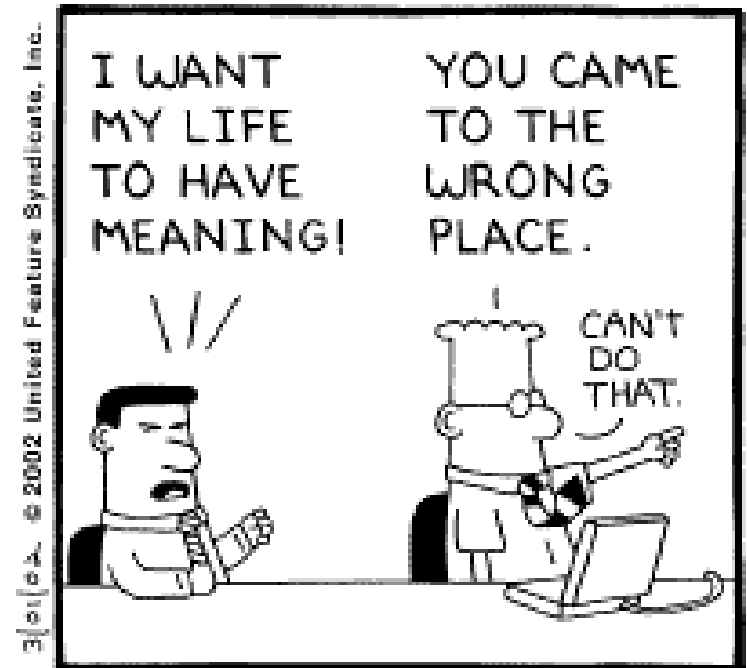
### To describe Web resources

- Domain specific ontologies
- Web page & service meaning

### *Semantic Web*

Standards: still unclear

Personal opinion: too complex



# Summary of crash course

Data exchange format

XML

**Labeled, unranked, ordered trees**

Distributed computing protocol

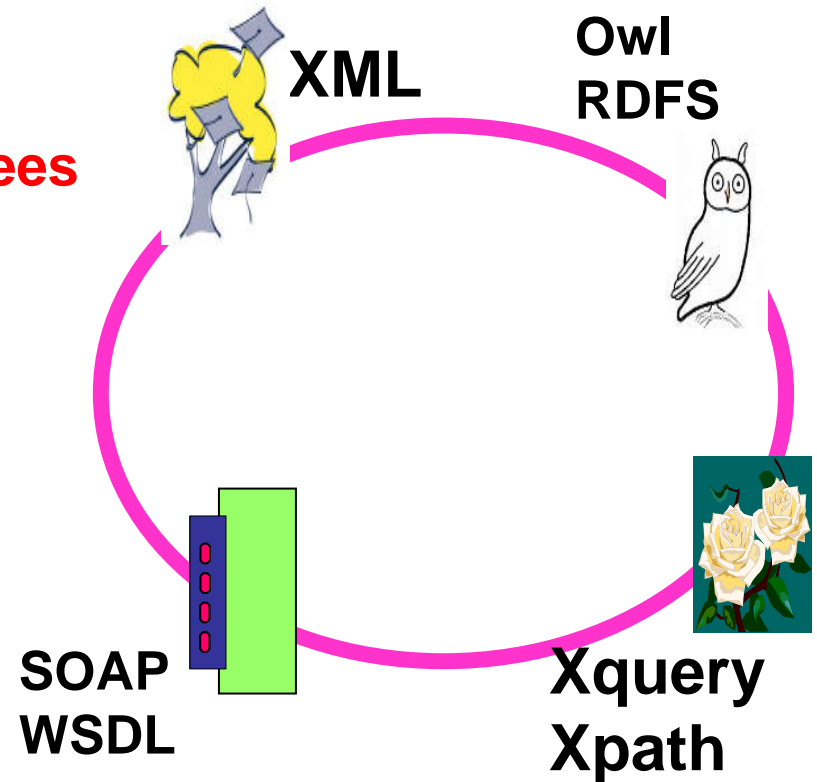
Web services

Query languages

XPath and XQuery

Knowledge representation

Owl or RDF/S



**Uniform access to  
information...  
...the dream for  
distributed data management**

THE INTERPRETATION  
OF DREAMS



SIGMUND FREUD



# To do what? Answer queries precisely

Query: what is the email of the director of INRIA Sophia?

Yesterday's Web: a human asks the query, gets a list of pages and browse them to find the answer

Tomorrows Web:

To: ? the director of INRIA Sophia ?

my Webmail finds [Gerard.Giraudon@inria.fr](mailto:Gerard.Giraudon@inria.fr)

How: with more semantics

- The web site of INRIA Sophia should specify the meaning of web pages and services

# Challenging problems

Data management

Knowledge management

Natural language processing

- The main source of information is text

Distributed system

Data mining

Personal bias: data management and distributed systems

- A logic for distributed information management
- An algebra for distributed information management
- Self administration

# The success of databases

Main impact of mathematical logic  
in computer science

Slogan: First-order logic on the  
everybody's desk

A huge industry (Oracle server, IBM  
DB2, MS Access...)

Crux: specify declaratively your  
needs, not by some complicated  
code

- Easier to specify
- Cleaner code
- Optimizable queries

First-order logic  
Tarski/Coddd's algebraization  
Rewrite-based optimization



Relational systems

# Thesis: do the same for distributed information management!

The success of the relational model, i.e., of 2D-tables on a server :

1. A logic for defining tables
2. An algebra for describing query plans over tables

By analogy, we need for trees in a P2P system

1. A logic for defining distributed tree data and data services
2. An algebra for optimizing queries over trees/services

XQuery is fine for local XML processing and publishing but not for distributed data management

On-going work – ActiveXML –

# Guidelines for logic and algebra

## Manage trees in a distributed setting

- Mention explicitly the topology if desired
- Ignore it if preferred

## Support for streams

- Essential for subscription services
- Also necessary to support recursion

## Handle both extensions and intensions

- Extensional information: e.g., documents and xml pages
- Intensional information (views): web services
- Seamless transition between them
  - What is the email of the director of INRIA Sophia?
  - Find the name in Web page and call a service to obtain email

# Active XML: a logic for distributed data management

Joint work with

Omar Benjelloun (Google) and Tova Milo (Tel Aviv)

# The basis

AXML is a declarative language for distributed information management and an infrastructure to support the language in a P2P framework

Simple idea: ***XML documents with embedded service calls***

## Intensional data

- Some of the data is given explicitly whereas for some, its definition (i.e. the means to acquire it when needed) is given

## Dynamic data

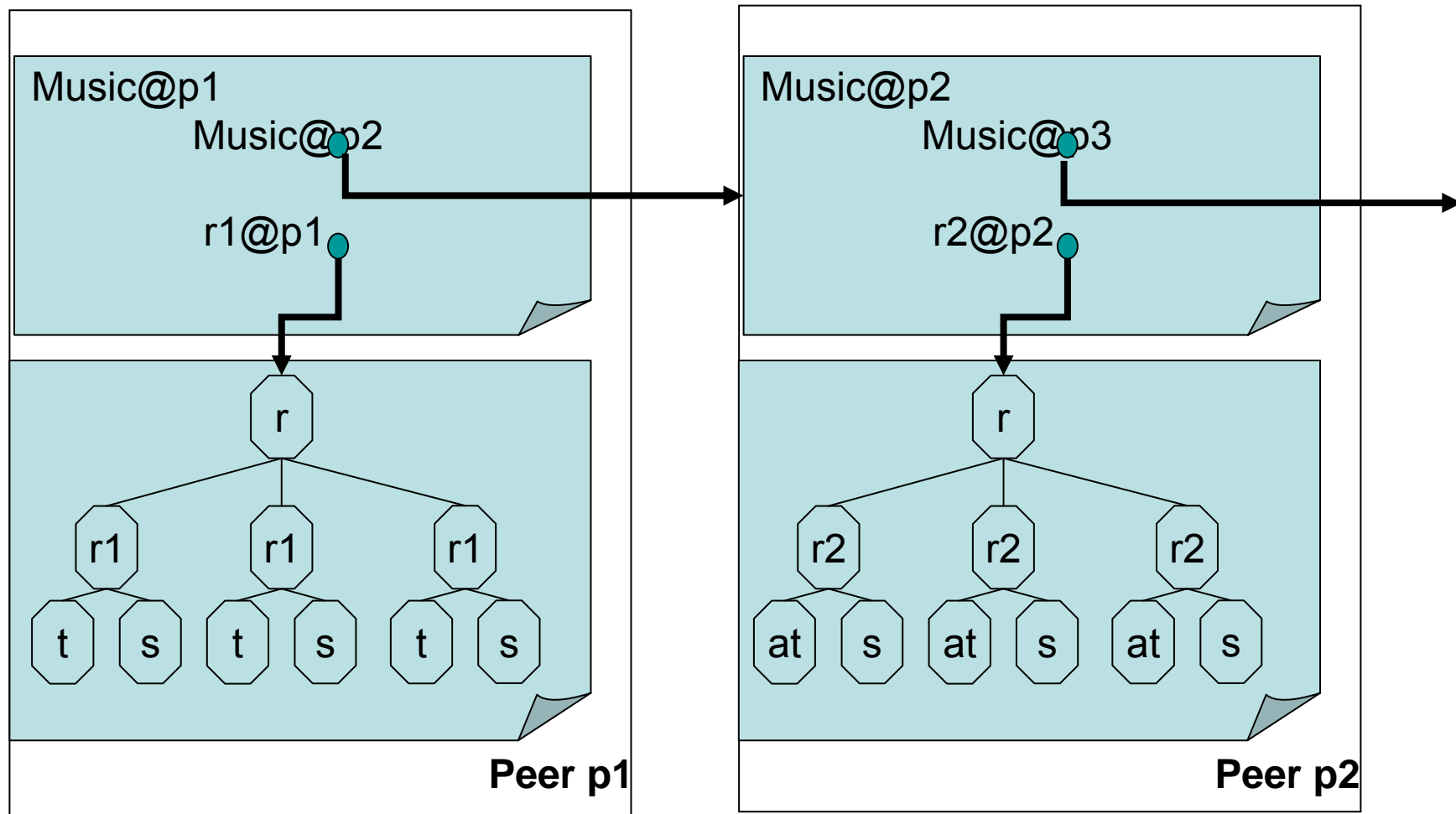
- If the data sources change, the same document will provide different information

# Example (omitting syntactic details)

```
<resorts state='Colorado'>
  <resort>
    <name> Aspen </name>
    <sc> Unisys.com/snow("Aspen") </sc>
    <depth unit="meter">1</depth>
    <hotels ID=AspHotels > ....
    Yahoo.com/GetHotels(<city name="Aspen"/>)
  </hotels>
</resort> ...
</resorts>
```

May contain calls  
to any SOAP web service :  
• e-bay.net, google.com...  
to any AXML web services  
• **to be defined**

# ActiveXML: XML documents with embedded service calls



# Marketing ∨ Philosophy

***Active answer = intensional and dynamic and flexible***

Embedding calls in data is an old idea in database

Manon: What's the capital of Brazil?

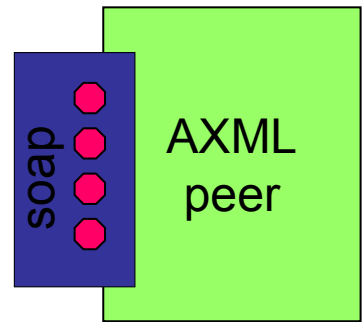
Dad: Let's ask Wikipedia.com!

Manon: How do I get a cheap ticket to Galapagos?

Dad: Let's place a subscription on LastMinute.com!

Manon: What are the countries in the EC?

Dad: France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and hum... Let's ask YouLists.com for more!



# Active XML peer

Peer-to-peer architecture

Each Active XML peer

- **Repository**: manages Active XML data
- **Web client**: calls the services inside a document
- **Web server**: provides (parameterized) queries/updates over the repository as web services

Exchange of AXML instead of XML

# What is an AXML peer?

Any connected device or software with some information to share

# A key issue: call activation

## When to activate the call?

- Explicit pull mode: active databases
- Implicit pull mode: deductive databases
- Push mode: query subscription

## What to do with its result?

## How long is the returned data valid?

- Mediation and caching

## Where to find the arguments?

- Under the service call: XML, XPATH or a service call





## Another key issue: what to send?

Send some AXML tree t

- As result of a query or as parameter of a call

The tree t contains calls, do we have to evaluate them?

- If I do, I may introduce service calls, do we have to evaluate all these calls before transmitting the data?

*Hi John, what is the phone number of the Prime Minister of France?*

- *Find his name at whoswho.com then look in the phone dir*
- *Look in the yellow pages for deVillepin's in phone dir of www.gov.fr*
- *(33) 01 56 00 01*

# Active XML

cool idea – complex problems

Blasphemous claim:

Active XML is the proper paradigm for data exchange!

Not XML + not XQuery

Brings to a unique setting

distributed db, deductive db, active db, stream data

warehousing, mediation

This is unreasonable? Yes!

Plenty of works ahead... to make it work

But first, the algebra

# Active XML algebra for distributed data management

Joint work with Ioana Manolescu (INRIA-Saclay)

# Motivation

Relational model: **centralized tables**

optimization: algebraic expression and rewriting

Active XML model: **distributed trees**

optimization: algebraic expression and rewriting

***Distributed query optimization based on algebraic rewriting of Active XML trees***

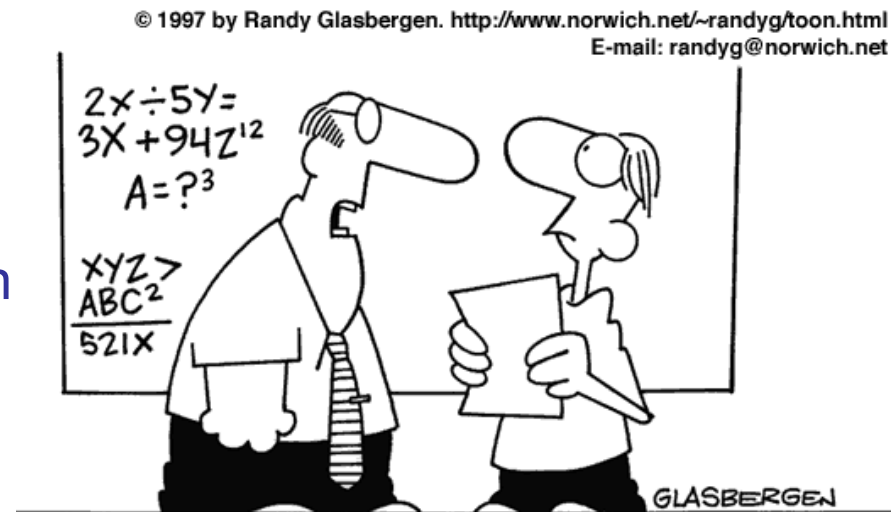
Based on experiences with AXML optimization

# ActiveXML algebra

## Why an algebra?

- Specify a query declaratively
- Compile it into a distributed query plan
- Optimize the query plan in a distributed manner
- Exchange query plans between peers

Example: title of songs by Carla Bruni?



**“Why is it important for today’s kids to learn algebra? Because *I* had to learn this junk in school and now it’s *your* turn, that’s why!”**

# Active XML peers

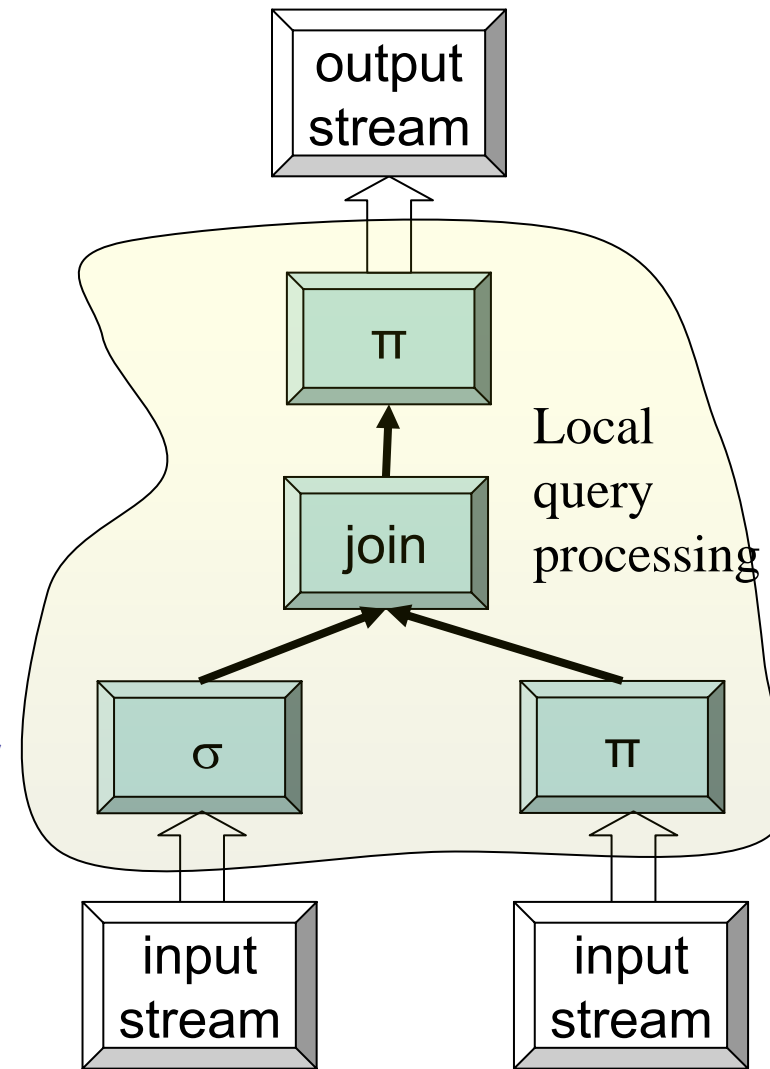
We focus on positive AXML

- Set-oriented data
- Positive/monotone services

Services = tree-pattern-query-with-join queries

Services produce streams

- Optimized by a local query optimizer
- Evaluated by a local query processor
- Out of our scope



# The problem

## An AXML system

- A set of peers
- For each peer a set of documents and services
- Extensional data is distributed
- Intensional data (knowledge) is distributed
  - Defined using query services (TPQJ queries)
  - These services are generic: any peer can evaluate a query

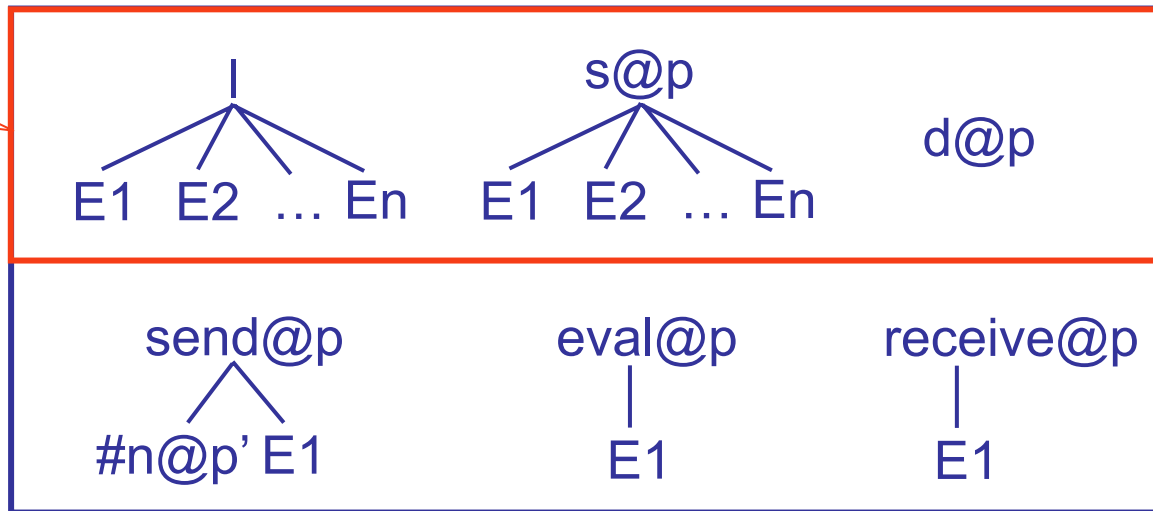
A query  $q$  to some peer

Evaluate the answer to  $q$  with optimal response time

# AXML algebra

(AXML) algebraic expressions:

AXML  
logic



Each such expression lives at some peer  
Includes the AXML trees

# The AXML algebra – conclusion

Captures distributed XML query processing/optimization

Based on a communication model *a la* CCS

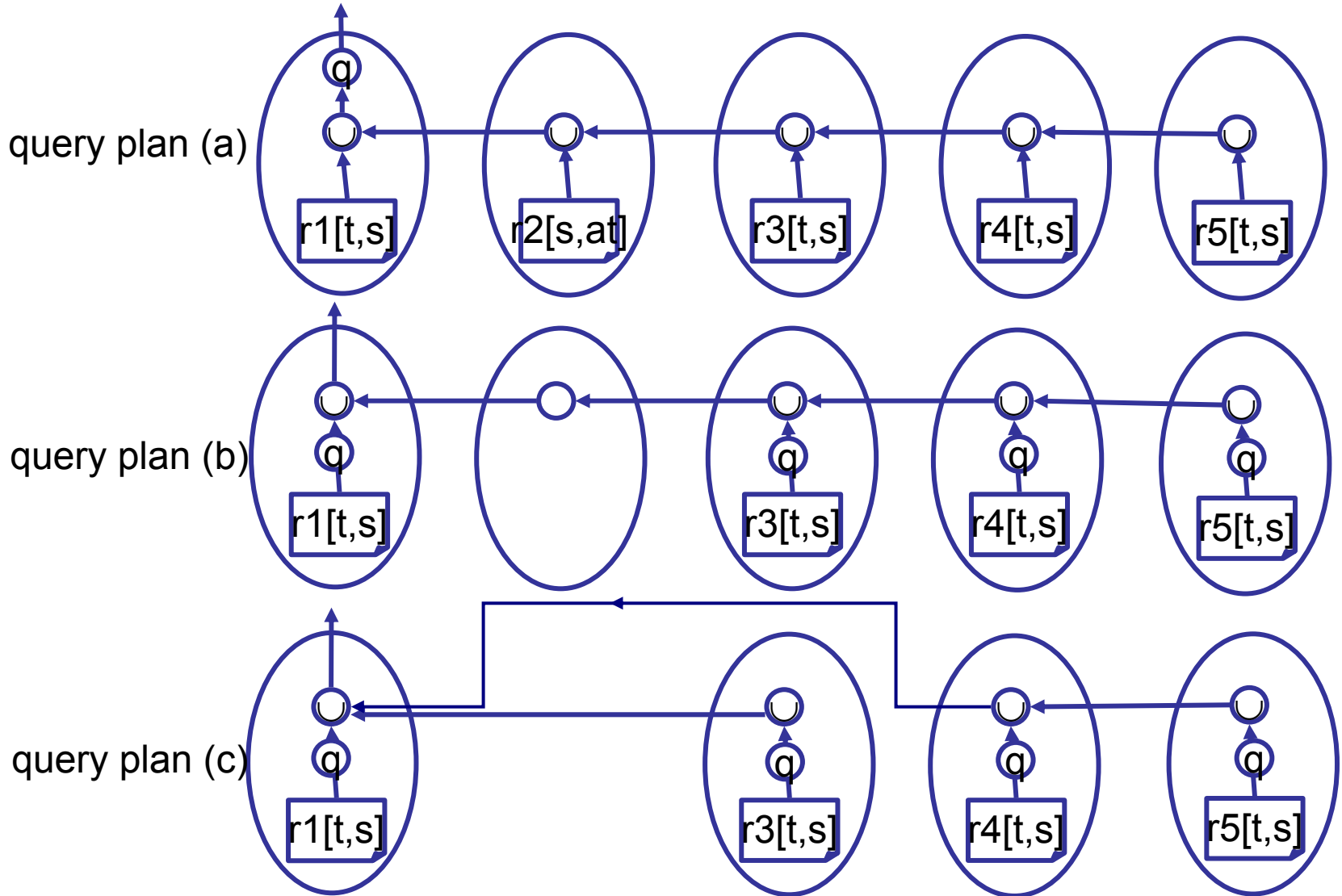
Algebraic – stream-oriented

Orthogonal to the local XML query optimizer

Orthogonal to the network support (DHT, small world etc.)

What is not yet available? A cost model and heuristics

$$q = \prod_t \sigma_{s=\text{"Bruni"}} \cup (r_i) \quad \text{where } \cup = \text{outer join}$$



# Self-administration

Joint work with Alkis Polyzotis (UCSC)

# The data ring is self administered

## No experts

- The users of the system, e.g., scientists, are not experts

## No central authority that can be responsible for administration

## No centralized servers

## Requirements

- Ease of deployment (zero-effort)
- Ease of administration (zero-effort)
- Ease of publication (epsilon-effort)
- Ease of exploitation (epsilon-effort)
- Participation in community building notably via annotations



Happy info admin

# What should be made automatic

## Self-statistics from the monitoring of the data ring

- Logs and statistics on system operation
- Models of system performance

## Self-tuning based on the self-statistics

- Enrichment of physical layer with access structures
- Decide to install access structures: indexes, views, etc.
- Control replication of data and services

## Self-healing

- Recovery from peer and network failures
- Recovery from unexpected anomalies

## And automatic file management



# Monitoring and surveillance

Essential aspects

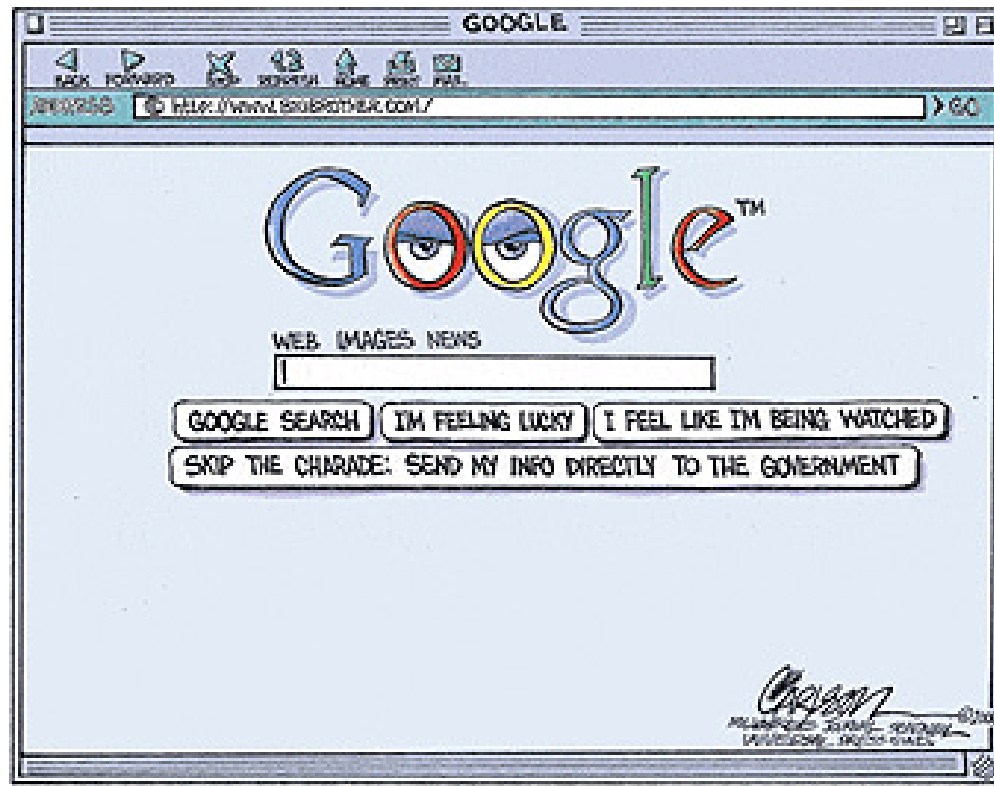
Monitor web service calls,  
database updates, RSS feeds

Produces a stream of events

Query subscriptions

Info-surveillance

Self-statistics and tracing



# Any hope?

Technology exists (database self-tuning, machine learning, etc.)

But self-tuning for databases has advanced very slowly

Why can this work?

1. There is no alternative (for db, this was just a cool gadget)
2. KISS (keep it simple stupid!)
3. The power of parallelism

This is assuming lots of machine have free cycles (true) and bandwidth is generous (not always true)

# 6. Conclusion

# The data ring

Several challenging and interesting problems

Leverage existing technology

Need to tackle lots of open issues

# Related systems

Structured P2P nets: Pastry, Chord

Content delivery net: Coral, Akamai

XML repositories: Xyleme, DBMonet

Multicas systems: Avalanche, Bullet

File sharing systems: BitTorrent, Kazaa

Pub/Sub systems: Scribe, Hyper

Distributed storage systems: OceanStore, GoogleFS

Etc.

Lots of system developments but fundamental research is left behind

# Personal on-going work

Logic and algebra for distributed data management

Algebraic optimization

P2P indexing

On-line tuning

Imprecise data and exploitation of web services

## Projects

- EC Project Edos on Linux distribution
- ANR platform webContent on Web surveillance
- ACI docFlow on P2P monitoring and data-centric workflow

# Many open issues

## P2P

- query optimization
- Monitoring
- semantic integration
- P2P inference
- system analysis and verification...

## More

data, semantics, peer, dynamicity, interactivity

**Very complex problem**

**be modest and have fun**

# Many open issues

Pick your favorite problem for data or knowledge management and study it in a P2P setting

- With gigabytes of data and thousands of peers

If you find it boring, consider it

- With terabytes of data and/or millions of peers

**Merci**

*Colloquium Jacques Morgenstern*

INSTITUT NATIONAL  
DE RECHERCHE  
EN INFORMATIQUE  
ET EN AUTOMATIQUE

