Enterprise and Desktop Search

Lecture 5: Desktop Search and Personal Information Management

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Searching Personal Collections with Memex

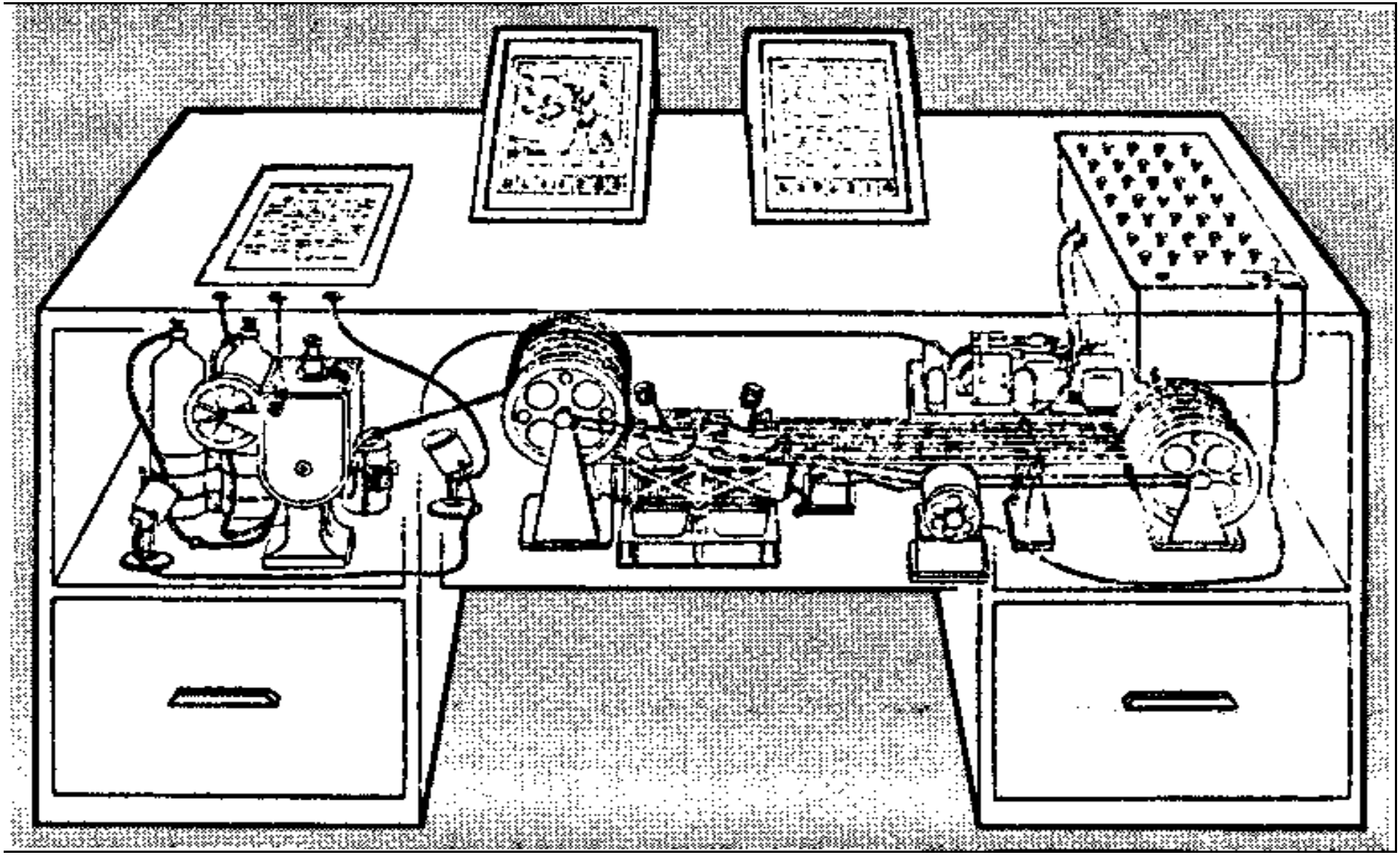
Posited by Vannevar Bush in "As We May Think"
The Atlantic Monthly, July 1945

"A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility"

Supports: Annotations, links between documents, and "trails" through the documents

"yet if the user inserted 5000 pages of material a day it would take him hundreds of years to fill the repository, so that he can be profligate and enter material freely"

Sketch of Memex



Desktop Search and Personal Information Management

- **Desktop search** is the name for the field of search tools which search the contents of a user's own computer files, rather than searching the Internet. These tools are designed to find information on the user's PC, including web browser histories, e-mail archives, text documents, sound files, images and video.

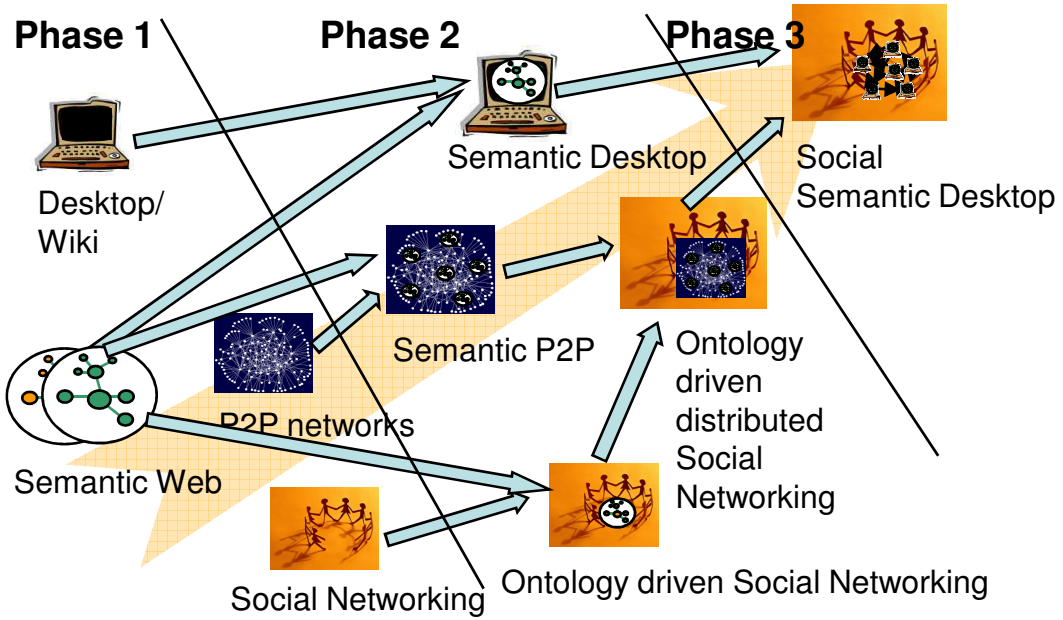
- **Desktop Search** is a part of a more general field of **Personal Information Management** (**PIM**).

- **Personal Information Management** (**PIM**) refers to both the practice and the study of the activities people perform in order to acquire, organize, maintain, retrieve and use information items such as documents (paper-based and digital), web pages and email messages for everyday use to complete tasks (work-related or not) and fulfill a person's various roles (as parent, employee, friend, member of community, etc.)

Source: Wikipedia

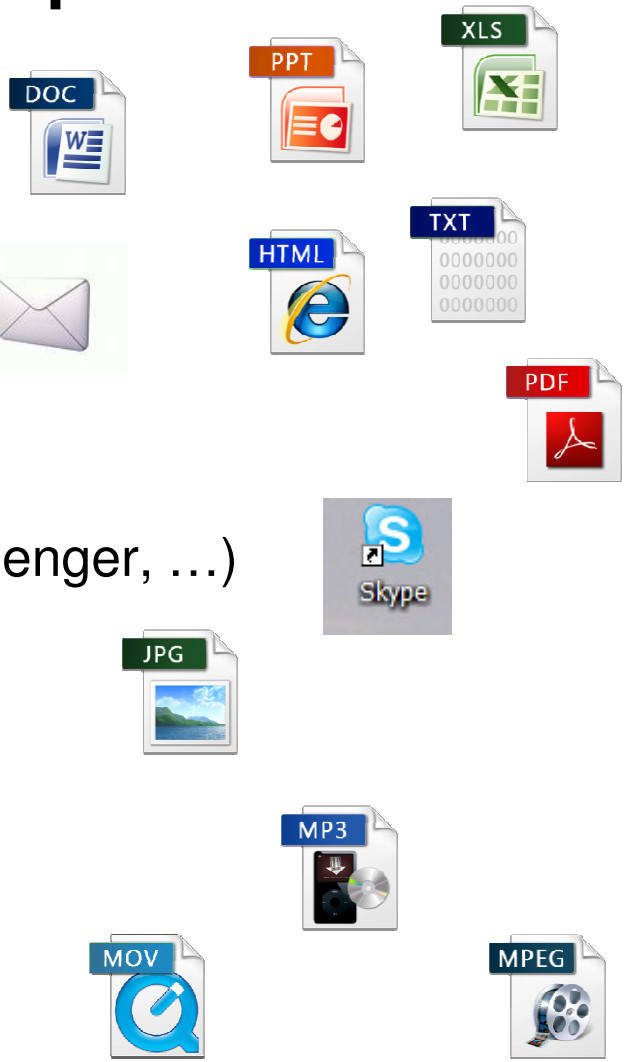
Desktop Search: Motivation

- Why *desktop search*?
  - Size of data on the desktop is big (50k – 500k items) and continously growing
  - Moving towards Social Semantic Desktop
  - Social – communication in a social network
  - Semantic – metadata descriptions and relations



What is Desktop?

- Documents (doc, pdf, ppt, xls, html, txt, …)
- Email
- Calendar
- Instant Messengers (ICQ, Skype, MSN messenger, …)
- Pictures
- Music
- Videos



Desktop Search – Current Status

- Documents on the desktop are not linked to each other in a way comparable to the web
- Simple full text search
  - no personalization
  - no context
  - no ranking possible or too poor
- Metadata enriched search makes use of
  - associations to contexts and activities
  - provenience of information
  - sophisticated classification hierarchies

Spotlight

Windows Search

Differences between Web Search and Desktop Search

- Search on the desktop vs. Search on the Web
  - Re-finding vs. finding
  - Integration across many applications and file formats
  - Users prefer to navigate, not to search
  - Many information types: ephemeral, working, archived
  - Extra sources for ranking improvement:
    - File metadata
    - Usage metadata
    - Folder structure
  - Privacy concerns

Outline

- Today we will talk about:
  - Modern Desktop Search Engines
  - Research prototypes
  - Just-In-Time Retrieval
  - Context on a Desktop
    - Using context to improve Desktop Search
    - Context Detection
  - PIM Evaluation

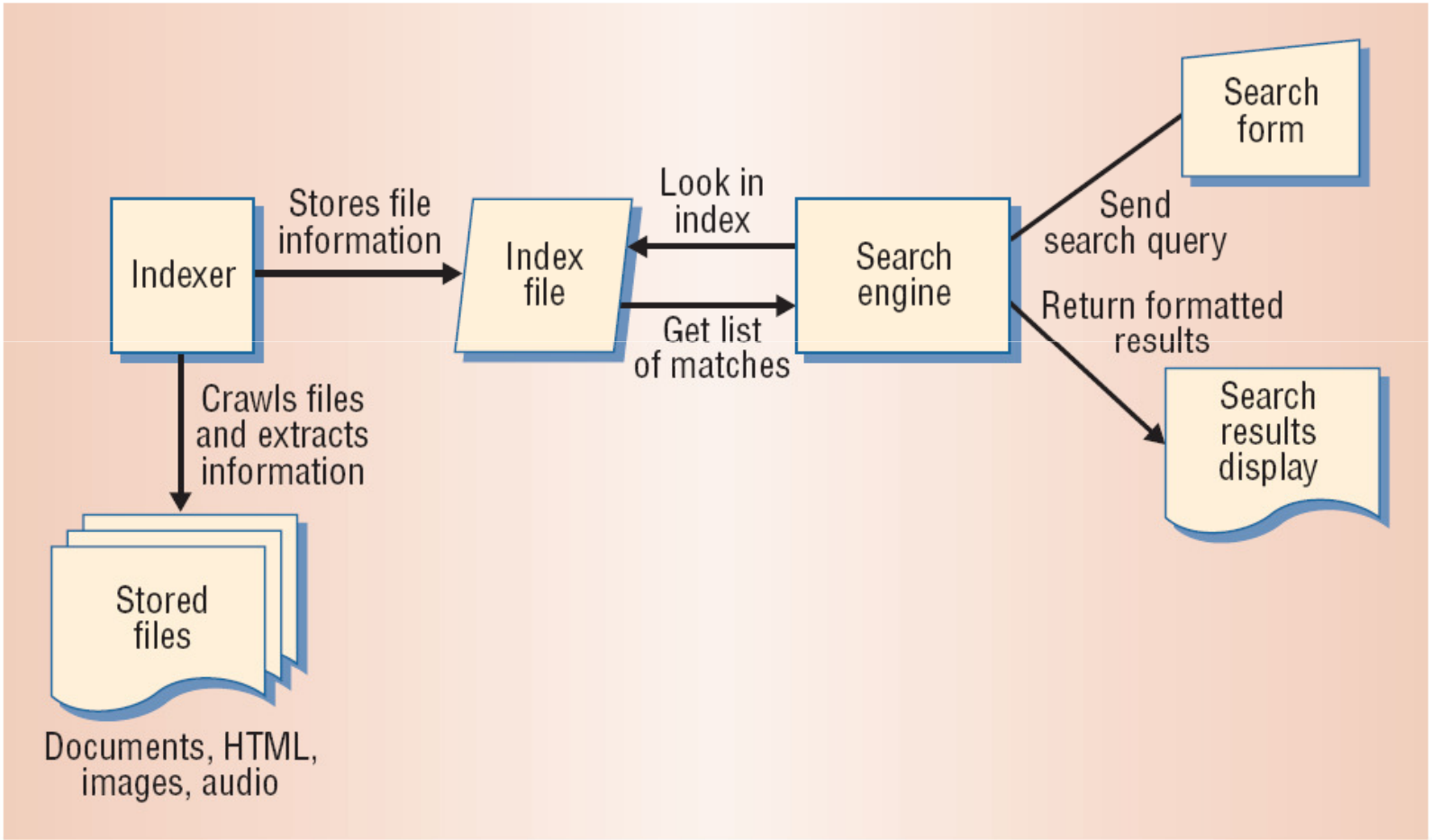
Modern Desktop Search Engines

- Google Desktop (from major web search engine vendor)
- Windows Search (from major OS provider)
- Copernicus (company specialized on DS engines)
- Beagle (open source DS for Linux)
- Yandex (Russian DS)

Some more:

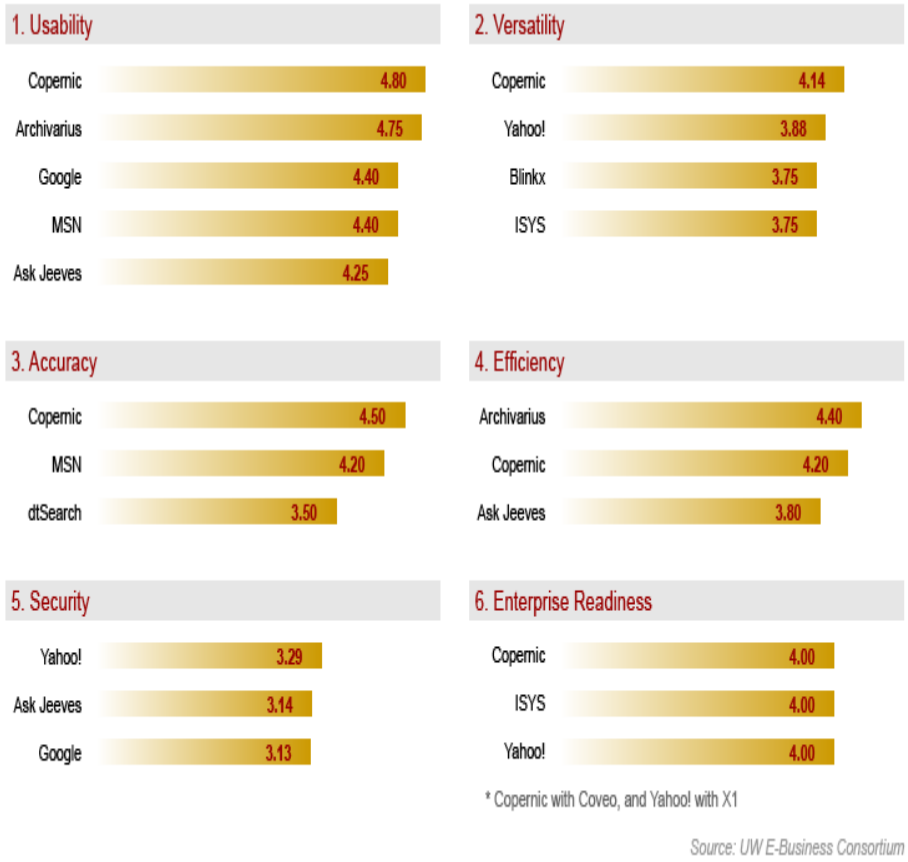
Ask.com, Autonomy, Docco, dtSearch Desktop, Easyfind, Filehawk, Gaviri PocketSearch, GNOME Storage, imgSeek, ISYS Search Software, Likasoft Archivarius 3000, Meta Tracker, Spotlight, Strigi, Terrier Search Engine, Tropes Zoom, X1 Professional Client, etc.

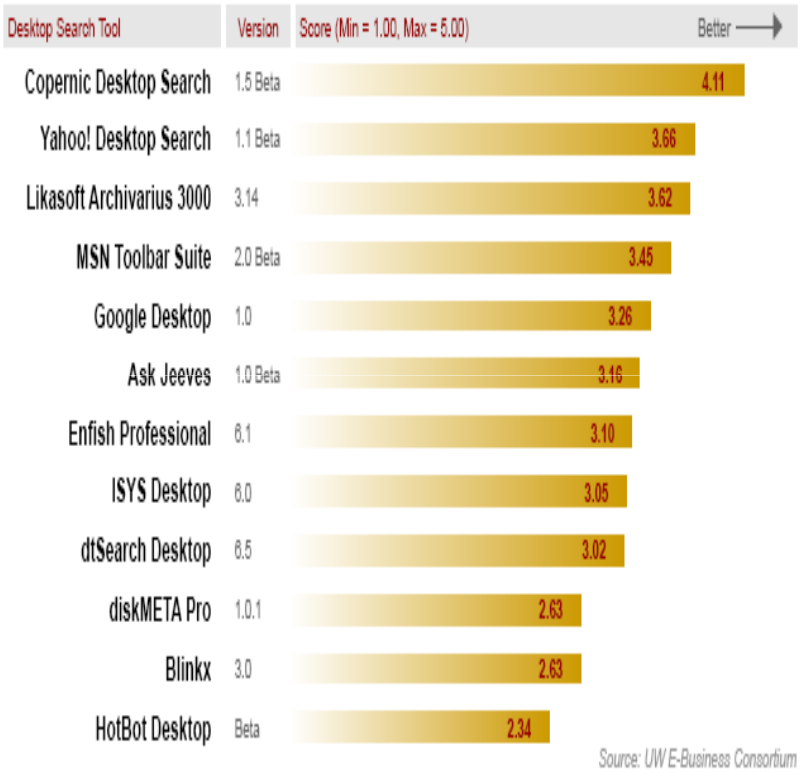
Desktop Search Architecture



Search Engines Tackle the Desktop, Bernard Cole, Computer 2005.

Desktop Search Engines in 2005





Benchmark Study of Desktop Search Tools, Tom Noda and Shawn Helwig, Technical Report 2005, http://www.uwebi.org/reports/desktop_search.pdf.

Sample Criteria for DS Comparison

Search Format

Plain text

HTML pages stored locally

Microsoft Word (.doc)

Microsoft Excel (.xls)

Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)

Rich Text Format (.rtf)

Portable Document Format (.pdf)

Microsoft Outlook email

Microsoft Outlook Express email

Microsoft address books

AOL Instant Messenger

Standard email folder support

Standard news folder support

Browser web history

Browser secure web history

Browser bookmarks

Browser address books

Platform(s)

Windows Vista

Windows XP

Mac OS X

Linux

Mozilla/Firefox

Internet Explorer

Opera

Safari

Languages

Feature

Specifying index location

Incremental indexing

Legacy index by scanning

Engine download size

Install size

Combined local/remote search

Non-anonymous connections

Excluding files

Indexing progress indicator

Recoverable index

File type filtering

Deskbar

Support for compressed files

Support for legacy file formats

Ignoring networked drives

Click to suspend

Click to exit

Opt-in Feature

Default search engine

Web integration

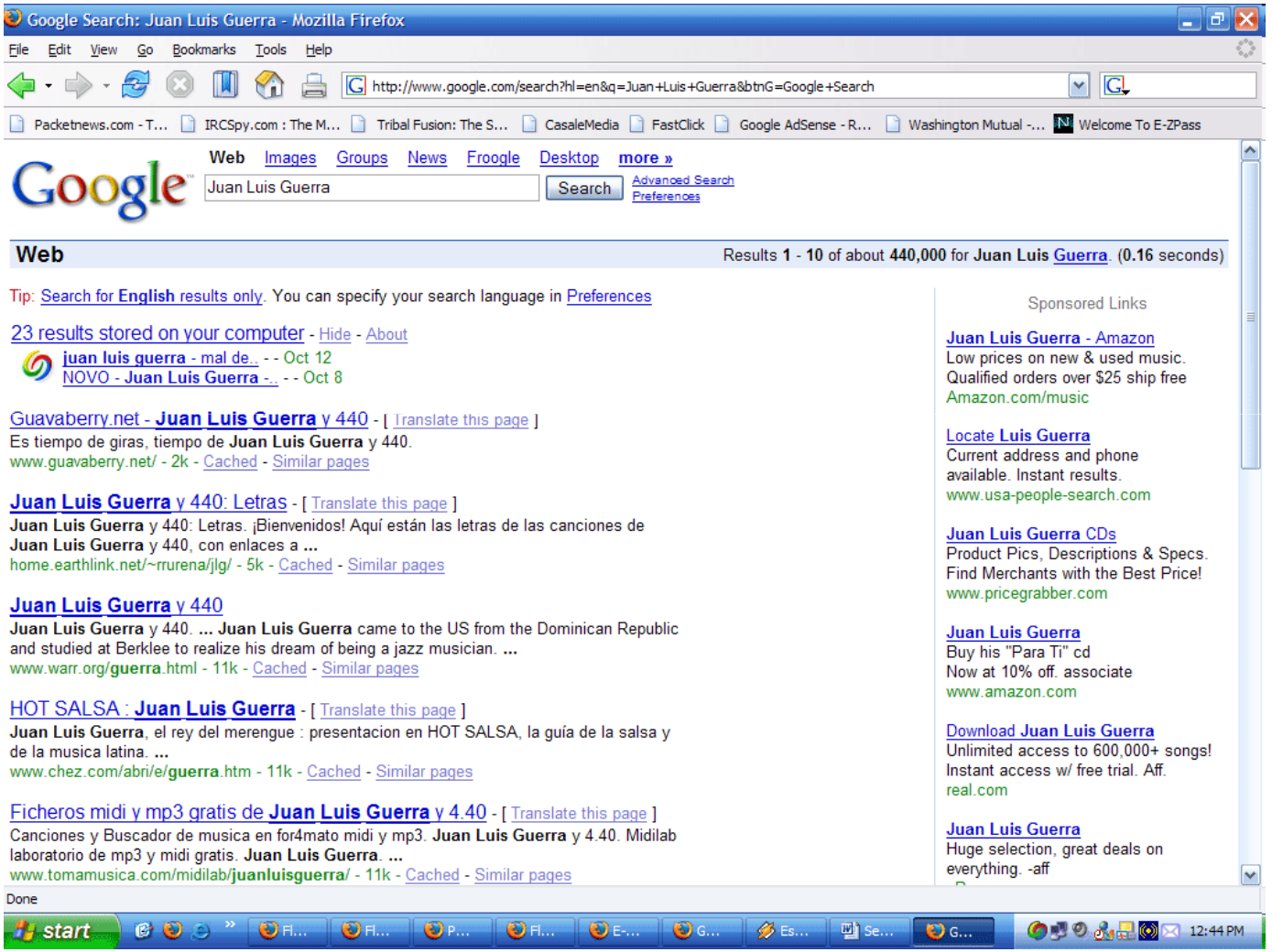
Insecure search

Registration

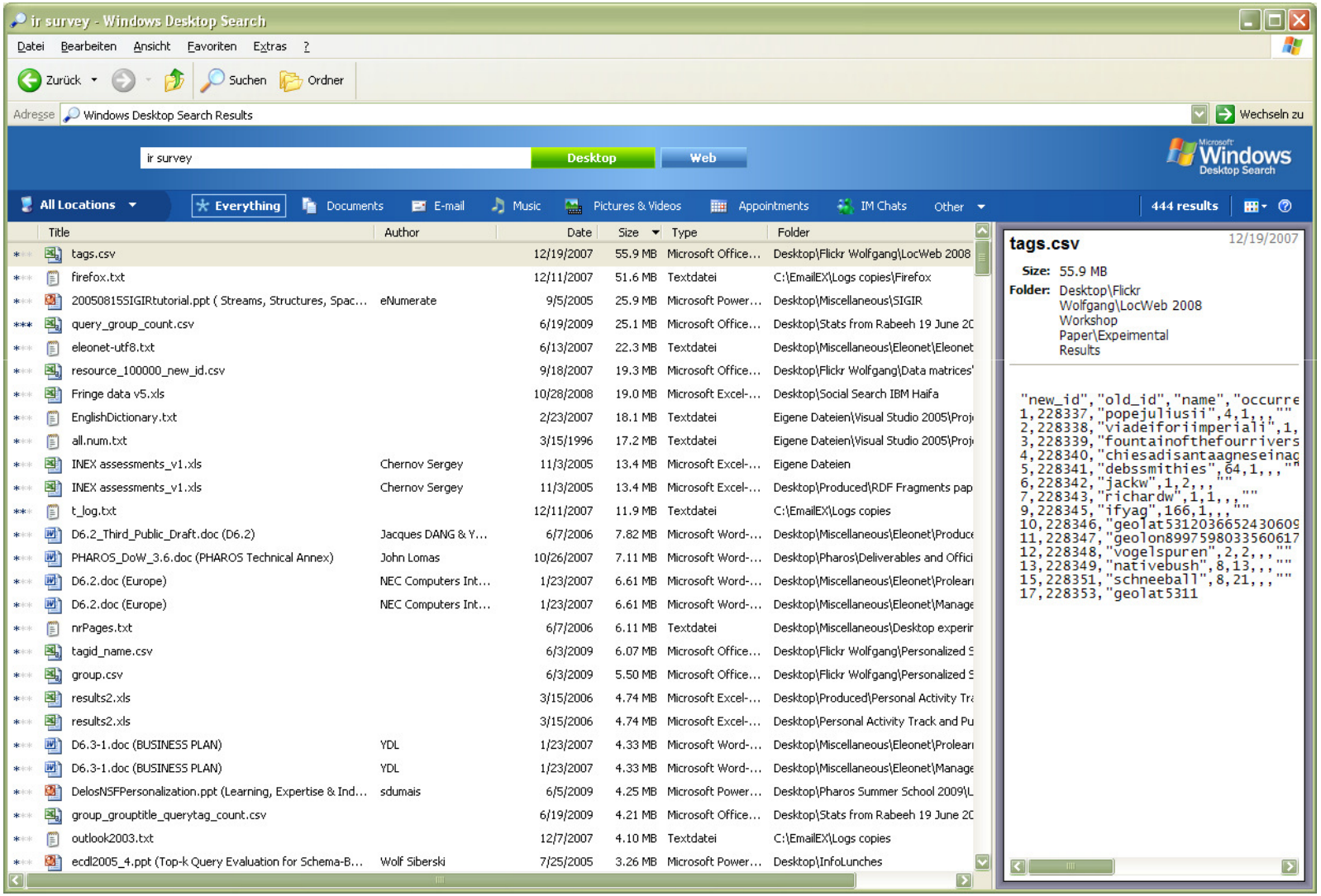
Engineering feedback

Software updates

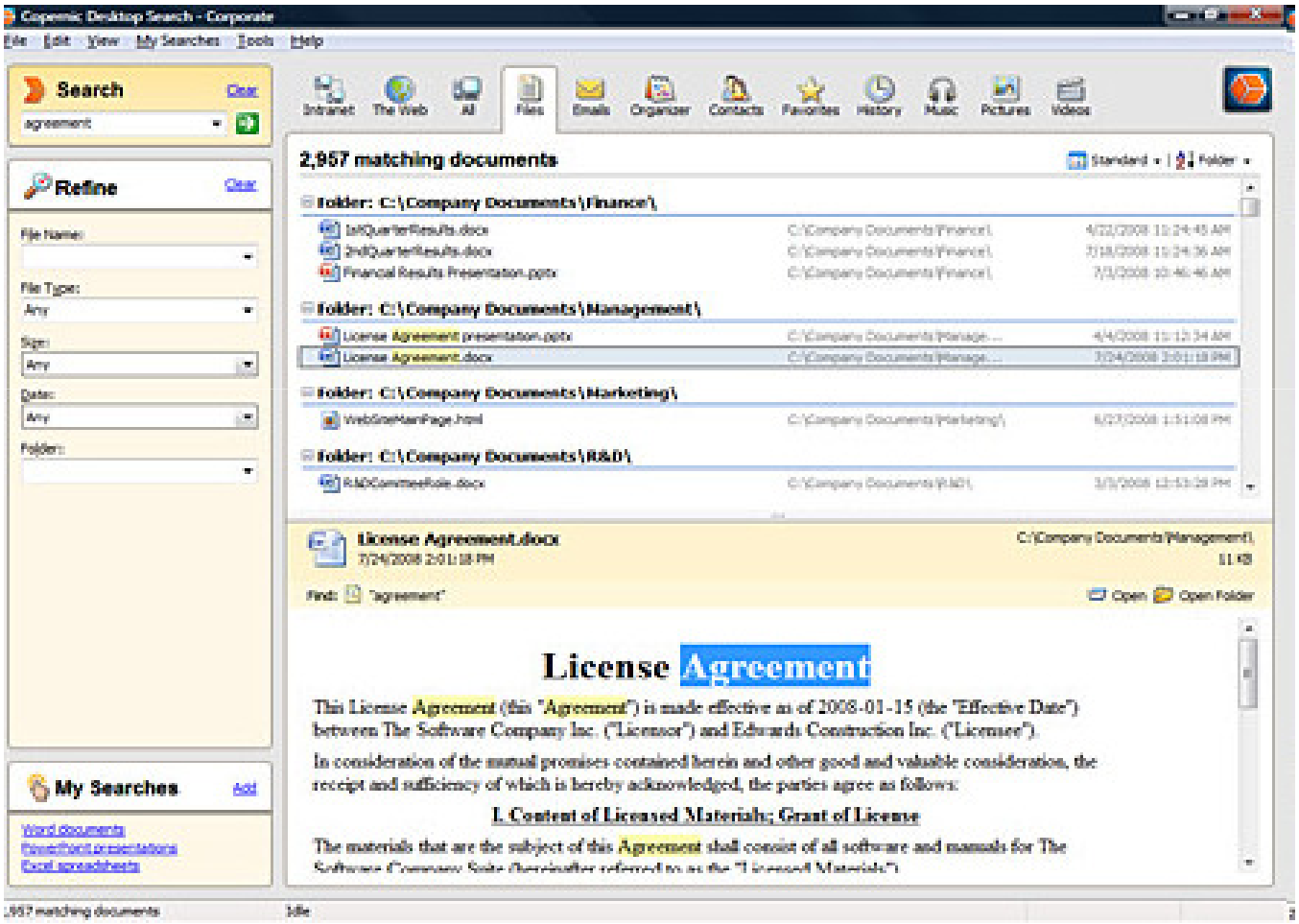
Google Desktop Search



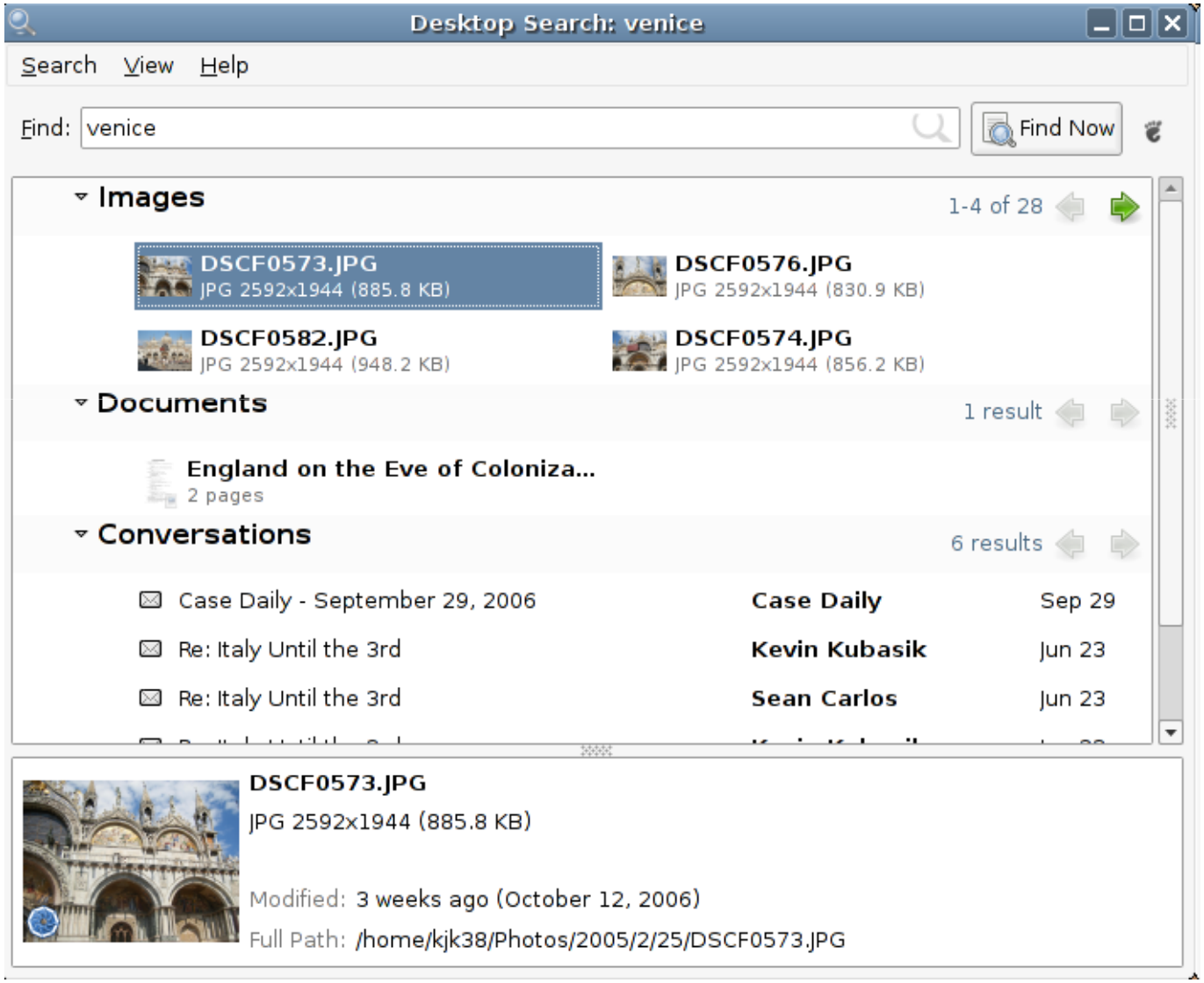
Windows Desktop Search



Copernicus Desktop Search

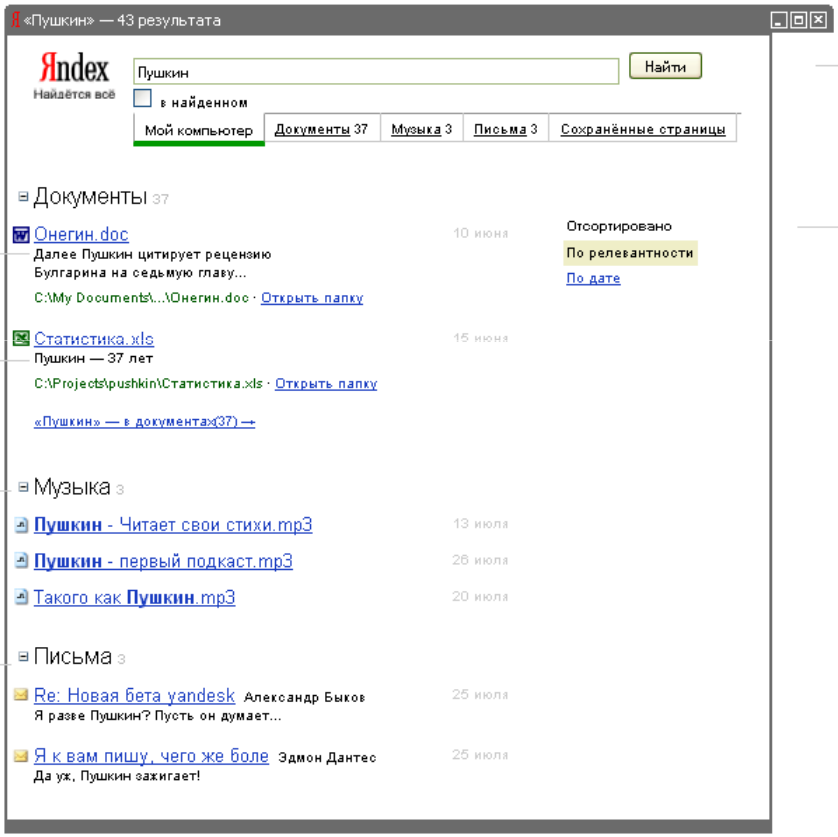


Beagle Desktop Search



Yandex Desktop Search

Персональный поиск Яндекса — это программа на вашем компьютере, осуществляющая поиск по файлам и письмам с учётом морфологии русского языка.



Форма поиска

Управление представлением результатов
Можно выбрать способ группировки и сортировки.

Конфиденциальность
Можно запретить искать в определенных папках или целых дисках.

Цитаты из найденных документов
Повышают информативность результатов поиска.

Группировка результатов по типам
Помогает ориентироваться в большом количестве найденных файлов.

Вы сможете найти ваши письма в Outlook, Outlook Express, Thunderbird и TheBat!

Окно запроса и результатов поиска открывается в обычном браузере

Доступ к Персональному поиску из панели задач

Research prototypes and Semantic Desktops

- Beagle++ (extended open source DS)
- Semex (includes Malleable Schemas)
- Haystack and Magnet (Semantic Web approach)
- Stuff I've Seen (Phlat predecessor)
- Phlat (was used as a basis for Windows DS)
- PIA (semantic desktop solution from DB area)

Some more:

Gnowsis, CALO

Next 14 slides are adapted from Wolfgang Nejdl and Raluca Paiu

Beagle++

P.-A. Chirita, S. Costache, W. Nejdl, and R. Paiu. Beagle++ : Semantically enhanced searching and ranking on the desktop. In ESWC 2006.

- Why is it so hard to find what you need on your desktop – "You still use Google even for files stored on your computer?"
- Current desktop search engines use only full text index
- People tend to associate things to certain contexts
- For desktop search we need to support contextual information in addition to full text!
  - Relationships between information items (citations)
  - Relationships based on interactions (email exchange, browsing history)
  - Relationships between different types of items (authorship, publication venues, email sender information, recommendations)
  - Other situational context

Semantically Rich Recommendations in Social Networks for Sharing, Exchanging and Ranking Semantic Context, Stefania Ghita, Wolfgang Nejdl, and Raluca Paiu. In ISWC 2005.

The Beagle++ Toolbox: Towards an Extendable Desktop Search Architecture, Ingo Brunkhorst, Paul - Alexandru Chirita, Stefania Costache, Julien Gaugaz, Ekaterini Ioannou, Tereza Iofciu, Enrico Minack, Wolfgang Nejdl and Raluca Paiu. Technical Report 2006.

Scenario 1: The Need for Context Information

- Alice and Bob are working together in the research group
- Alice is currently writing a paper about searching and ranking on the semantic desktop and wants to find some good papers on this topic, which she remembers she stored on her desktop
- Some time ago Bob sent her a very useful paper on this topic as an attachment to an email, together with some useful comments about its relevance to her new semantic desktop ideas
- ***Will Alice find the paper from Bob when issuing a query on the desktop, using the search terms "semantic desktop" ?***

Context Information is necessary!

- **Problems**:
  - (Mail) Documents sent as attachments lose all contextual information as soon as they are stored on the PC
  - (Web) When searching for a document we downloaded from the CiteSeer repository, we would like to retrieve not only the specific document, but all the referenced and referring papers which we already downloaded as well

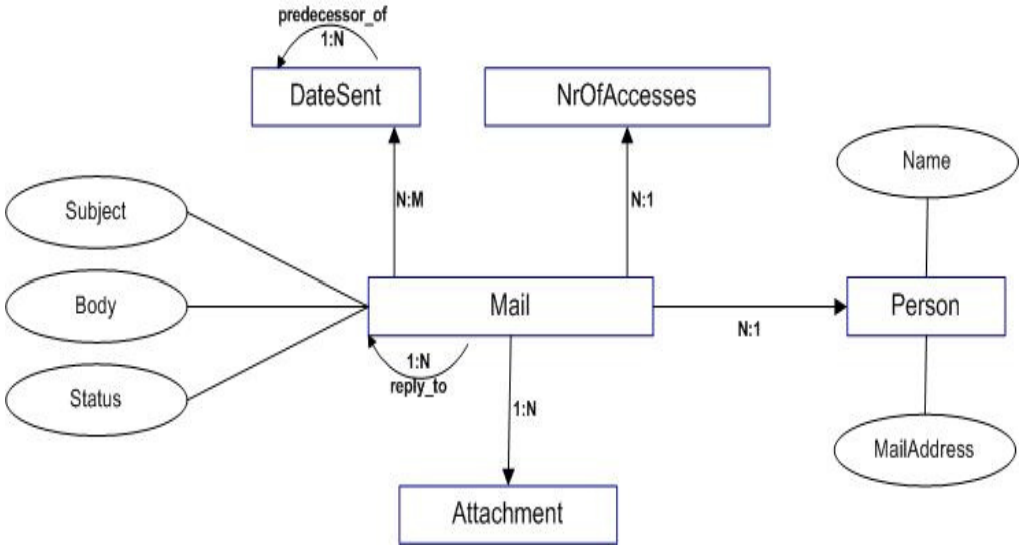
- Current desktop search approaches don't make use of desktop specific information, especially contextual information, like:
  - **Email** context
  - **Web** context
  - **Publication** context

Representing Context by Semantic Web Metadata

- Metadata for resources can be created by appropriate metadata generators
- Ontologies specify context metadata for:
  - Emails
  - Files
  - Web pages
  - Publications
- Metadata have to be application-independent!

→ Store Metadata as RDF

  - generated and used by whatever application you can think of



Beagle++ Layer Architecture

Beagle++ is our extension of the open source Beagle search project, enabling it to exploit context information

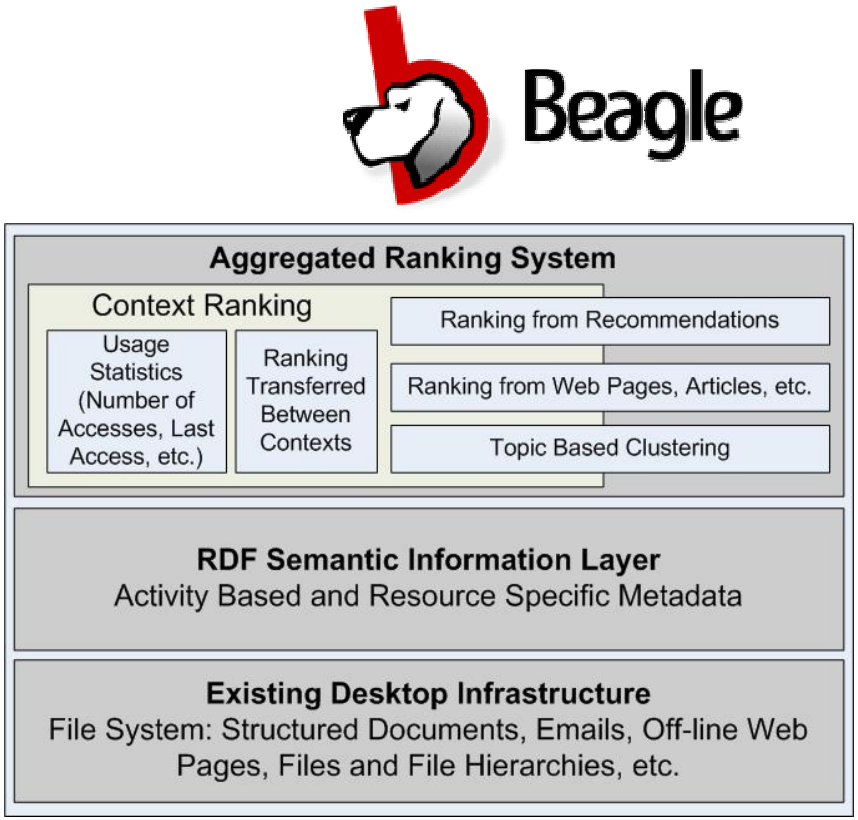
RDF metadata are generated based on ontologies for specific contexts (email, web, etc.)

Indexing and metadata generation on the fly - triggered by events upon occurrence of file system changes (*inotify-enabled linux kernel)*

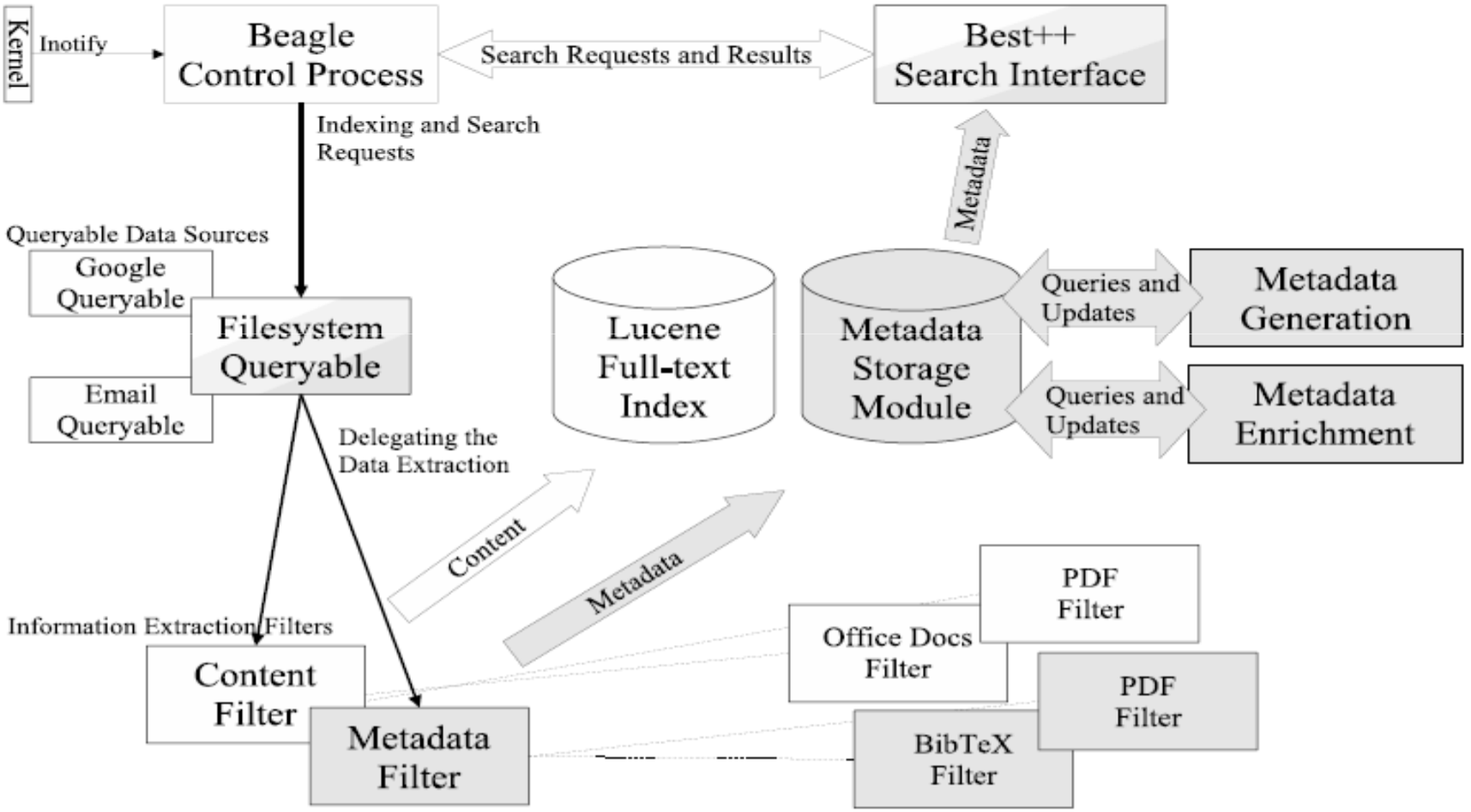
Benefits:

Context allows us to better organize and find information

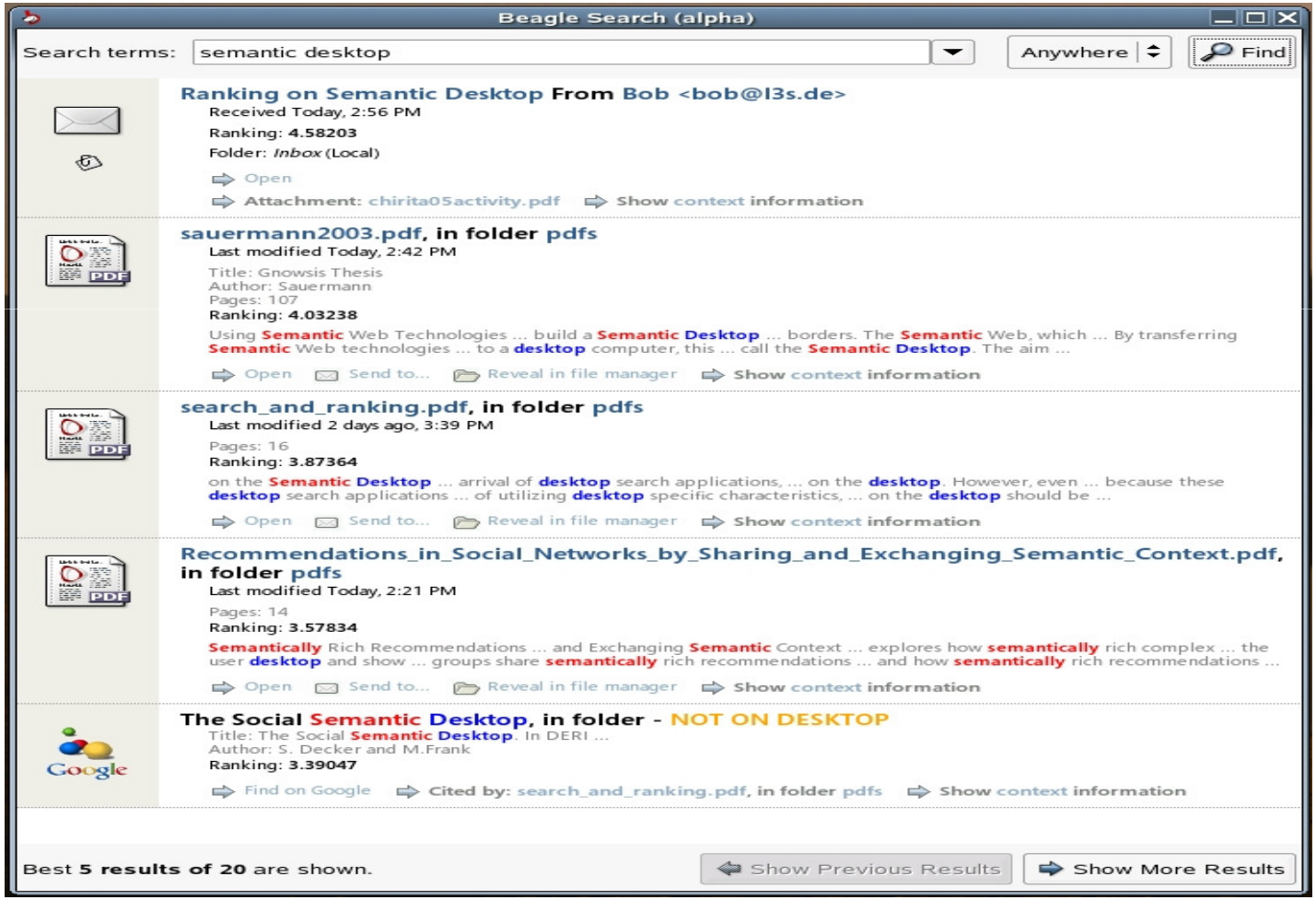
Context gives us the possibility to compute the value / importance of resources



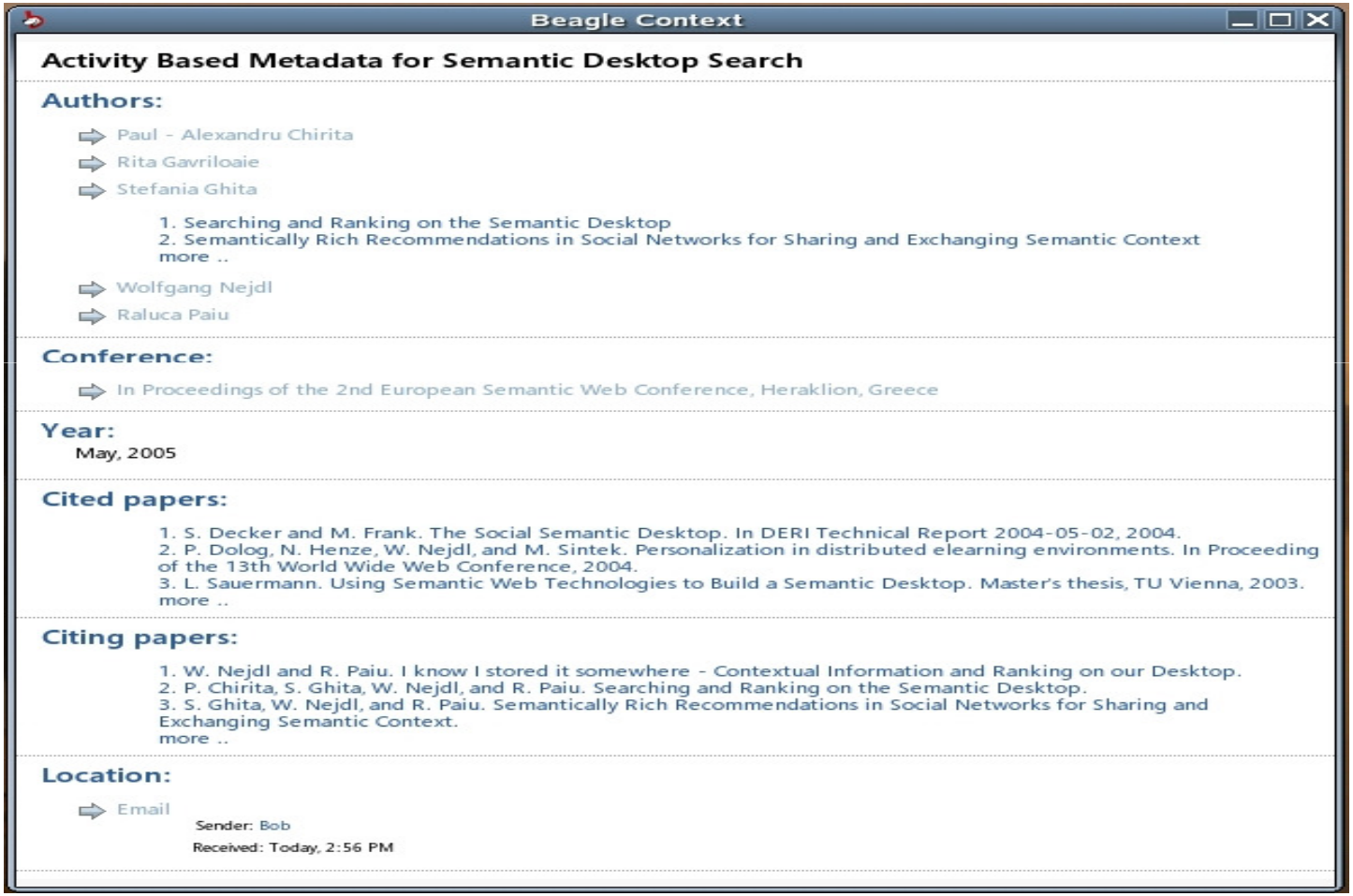
Beagle++ Architecture



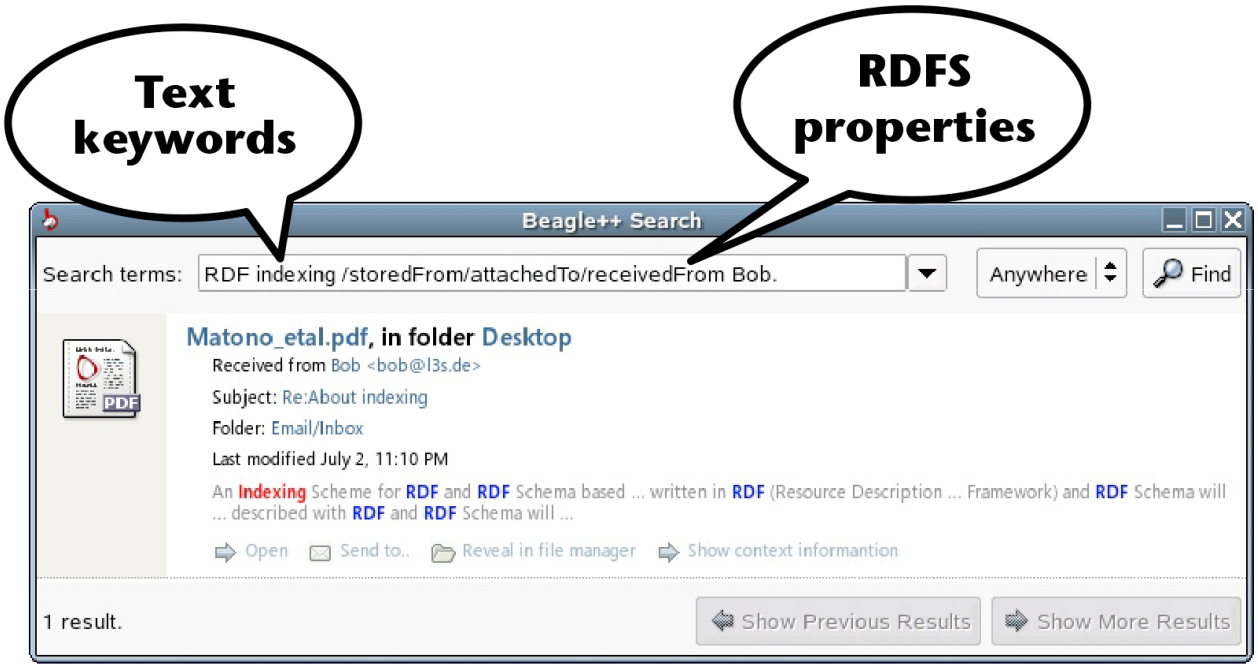
Beagle++: Find more than documents



Beagle++: Display additional context



Integrating Keyword and Metadata Search

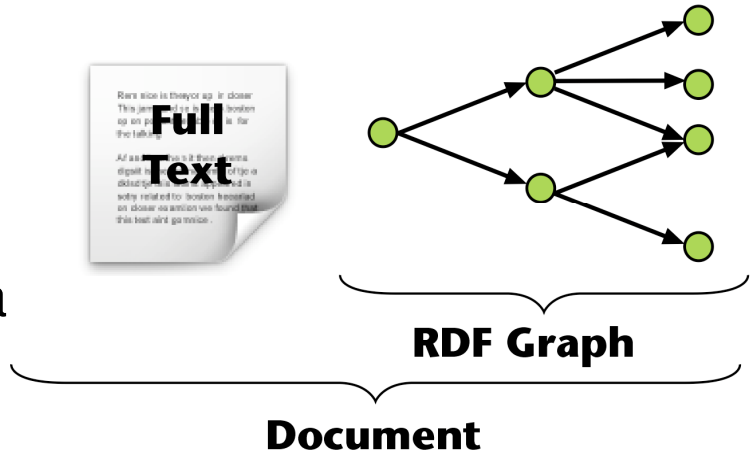


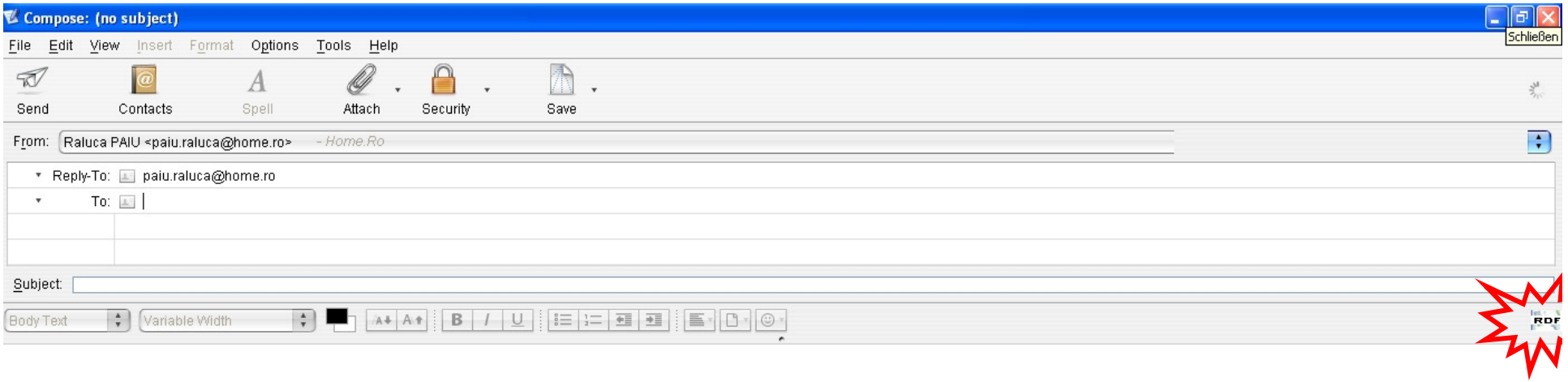
- Search text and metadata on the desktop
- Search efficiently in a user-friendly way
- Simple query language
- No complete schema knowledge necessary

Documents / RDF Fragments

- Metadata stored as RDF graphs, each document has a corresponding RDF fragment
- Extended documents consisting of both full-text and metadata properties
- Query model supports the operator selection, projection and union, intersection and set difference

- Support for approximate and imprecise metadata queries
- Separation between metadata statements is ensured by positional indices




Compose: (no subject)
Schließen
File Edit View Insert Format Options Tools Help
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Security
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From: Raluca PAIU <paiu.raluca@home.ro> - Home.Ro
Reply-To: paiu.raluca@home.ro
To:
Subject:
Body Text
Variable Width
RDF

Start
Publications_Beagle
Microsoft PowerPoint ...
Inbox for paiu.raluca...
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Peer-Sensitive ObjectRank [1]

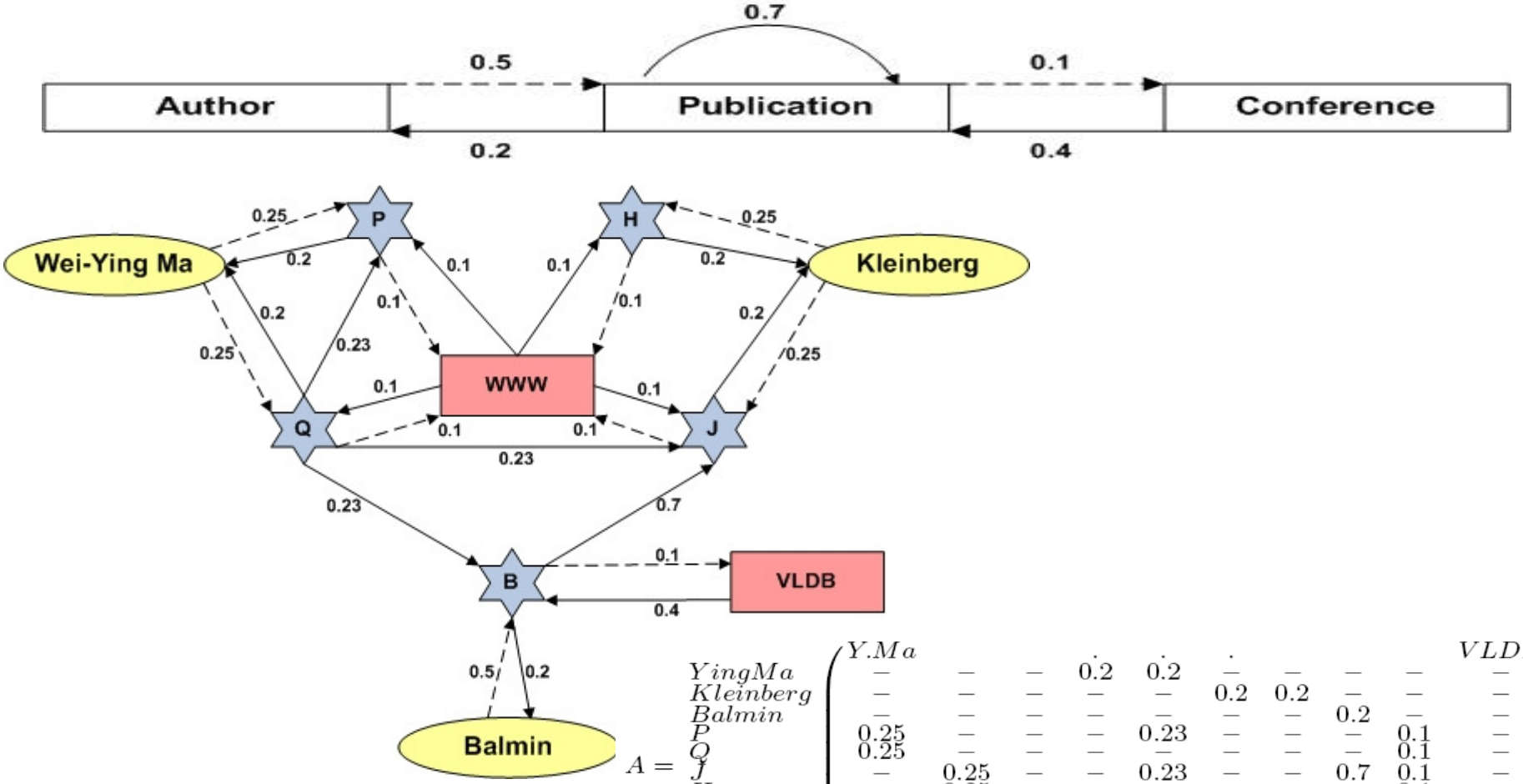
- Step 1: start with PageRank formula – random surfer model

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{r} + (1 - \mathbf{d}) \cdot \mathbf{e}$$

  - d = dampening factor
  - A = adjacency matrix
  - e = vector for the random jump

- Step 2: distinguish between different kinds of objects
  - ObjectRank variant of PageRank

Peer-Sensitive ObjectRank [2]



$$A = \begin{array}{c} \\ YingMa \\ Kleinberg \\ Balmin \\ P \\ Q \\ J \\ H \\ B \\ WWW \\ VLDB \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{cccccccccc} Y.Ma & & & & & & & & & VLDB \end{array} \\ \begin{pmatrix} - & - & - & 0.2 & 0.2 & - & - & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - & - & 0.2 & 0.2 & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - & - & - & - & 0.2 & - & - \\ 0.25 & - & - & - & 0.23 & - & - & - & 0.1 & - \\ 0.25 & - & - & - & - & - & - & - & 0.1 & - \\ - & 0.25 & - & - & 0.23 & - & - & 0.7 & 0.1 & - \\ - & 0.25 & - & - & - & - & - & - & 0.1 & - \\ - & - & 0.5 & - & 0.23 & - & - & - & - & 0.4 \\ - & - & - & 0.1 & 0.1 & 0.1 & 0.1 & - & - & - \\ - & - & - & - & - & - & - & 0.1 & - & - \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

Peer-Sensitive ObjectRank [3]

- Step 3: Take provenance information into account
- → **Peer-Sensitive ObjectRank**
- Represent different trust in peers by corresponding modifications in the ***e*** vector
- Keep track of the provenance of each resource

$$originates\ (r_i, P_n) = \begin{cases} 1, \text{if } r_i \text{ is in the initial set of } P_n \\ 0, \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$trust(P_i, P_j) \in [0,1]$, the trust value of peer P_i for P_j

$$e_k(P_i) = \max_{j=0}^{N} \{trust(P_i, P_j) \cdot originates(r_k, P_j)$$

Beagle++ Demo

Open Source Search Engines

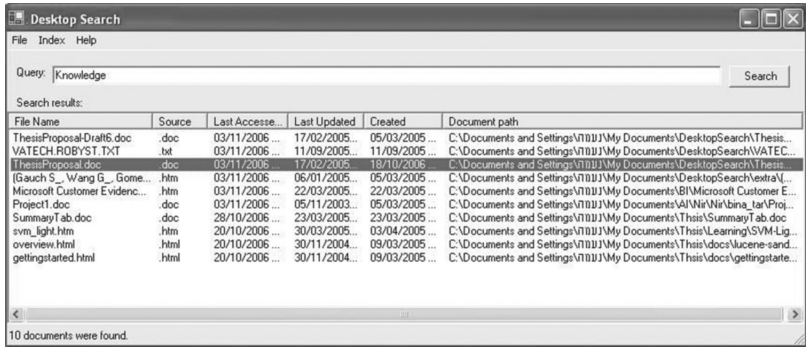
A Comparison of Open Source Search Engines, Christian Middleton and Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Technical Report, 2007 .

Build your own search engine!

Search Engine	Indexing Time (h:m:s)		Index Size (%)		Searching Time (ms)		Answer Quality P@5	
ht://Dig	(7)	0:28:30	(10)	104	(6)	32		-
Indri	(4)	0:15:45	(9)	63	(2)	19	(2)	0.2851
IXE	(8)	0:31:10	(4)	30	(2)	19	(5)	0.1429
Lucene	(10)	1:01:25	(2)	26	(4)	21		-
MG4J	(3)	0:12:00	(8)	60	(5)	22	(4)	0.2480
Swish-E	(5)	0:19:45	(5)	31	(8)	45		-
Swish++	(6)	0:22:15	(3)	29	(10)	51		-
Terrier	(9)	0:40:12	(7)	52	(9)	50	(3)	0.2800
XMLSearch	(2)	0:10:35	(1)	**22**	(1)	**12**		-
Zettair	(1)	**0:04:44**	(6)	33	(6)	32	(1)	**0.3240**

Selecting an Appropriate Ranking Function

On Ranking Techniques for Desktop Search, Sara Cohen, Carmel Domshlak and Naama Zwerdling, In ACM Transactions on Information Systems 2008.



Lucene-based DS prototype
19 volunteers.
In total 1219 queries
188 queries had a single result,
916 queries has 2-50 results
115 queries had over 50 results.

Feature	MRR($\tau, \mathcal{S}_{2-50}$)	Feature	MRR($\tau, \mathcal{S}_{>50}$)
SVM	0.54	SVM	0.26
LexOrd	0.53	LexOrd	0.18
Selective	0.5	**Selective**	0.17
UserBest	0.47	AccessDate	0.16
UpdateDate	0.43	UserBest	0.16
Name	0.43	UpdateDate	0.15
AccessDate	0.4	CreateDate	0.12
CreateDate	0.39	Name	0.1
Size	0.39	Path	0.1
Content	0.38	Size	0.08
NormalizedSize	0.36	QueryLog	0.07
Path	0.34	DirRank	0.06
QueryLog	0.34	Content	0.06
DirRank	0.33	NormalizedSize	0.06
Level	0.31	Level	0.03
Random	0.28	*Random*	*0.02*

$$\textsc{Selective}_q(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\textsc{Feature} \in \{\textsc{Name}, \textsc{Path}, \textsc{Content}, \textsc{QueryLog}\}} \frac{\textsc{Feature}_q(f)}{nz(\textsc{Feature}_q)}$$

Research prototypes and Semantic Desktops (continues)

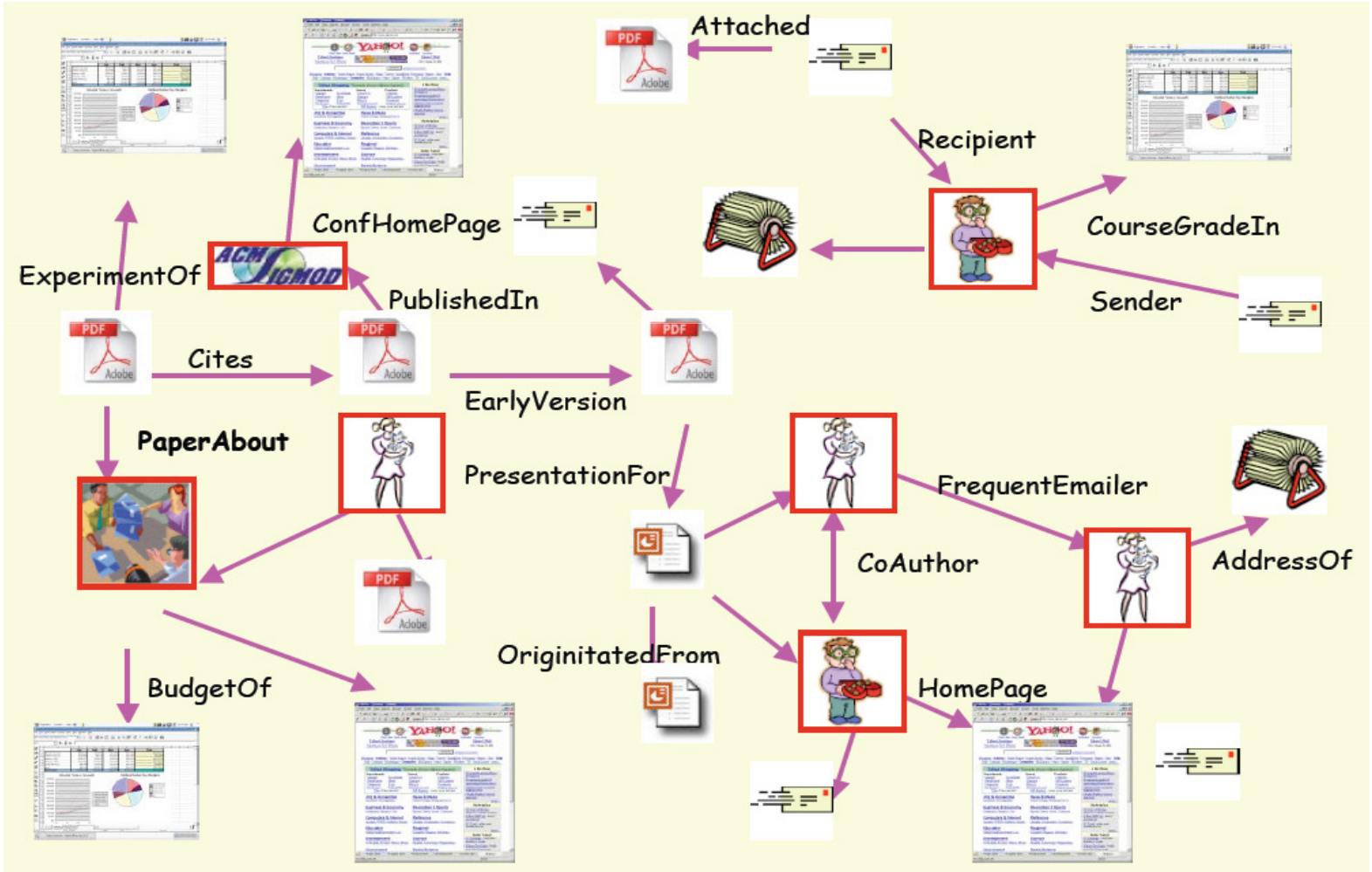
- Beagle++ (extended open source DS)
- Semex (includes Malleable Schemas)
- Haystack and Magnet (Semantic Web approach)
- Stuff I've Seen (Phlat predecessor)
- Phlat (was used as a basis for Windows DS)
- PIA (semantic desktop solution from DB area)

Some more:

Gnowsis, CALO

Semex

Personal Information Management with Semex, Yuhan Cai, Xin Luna Dong, Alon Halevy, Jing Michelle Liu, and Jayant Madhavan. In SIGMOD 2005



Slide from Paul Chirita

Semex Features

- Highly database oriented approach
  - Resources connected through *Reference Reconciliation*
  - On-the-fly integration with external sources
  - *Malleable Schemas*

Malleable¤Schemas, Xin Dong and Alon Halevy. In WebDB 2005.

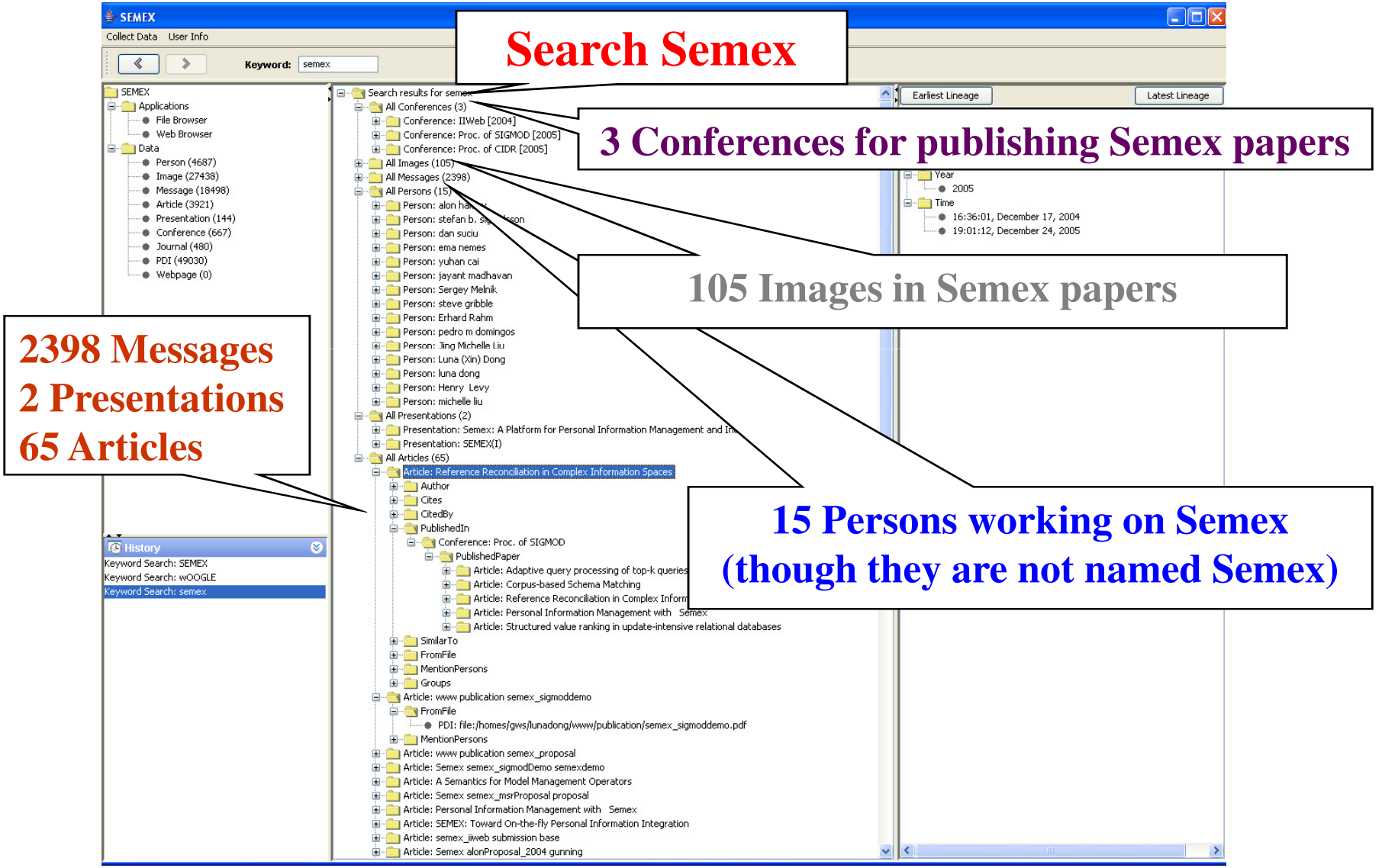
- Interesting visualization, though a bit too complex for everyday users

Query Relaxation Using Malleable Schemas
Xuan Zhou, Julien Gaugaz, Wolf-Tilo Balke, Wolfgang Nejdl
Proc. of the SIGMOD Conference (2007)

- Search
  - Keyword search – IR
  - Domain restricted search (i.e., Organization) – Recent IR
  - Association queries (i.e., triples) – DB
- Less special things, but not very common:
  - Basic PIM ontology used as a *Domain Model*
  - All associations are stored in a database

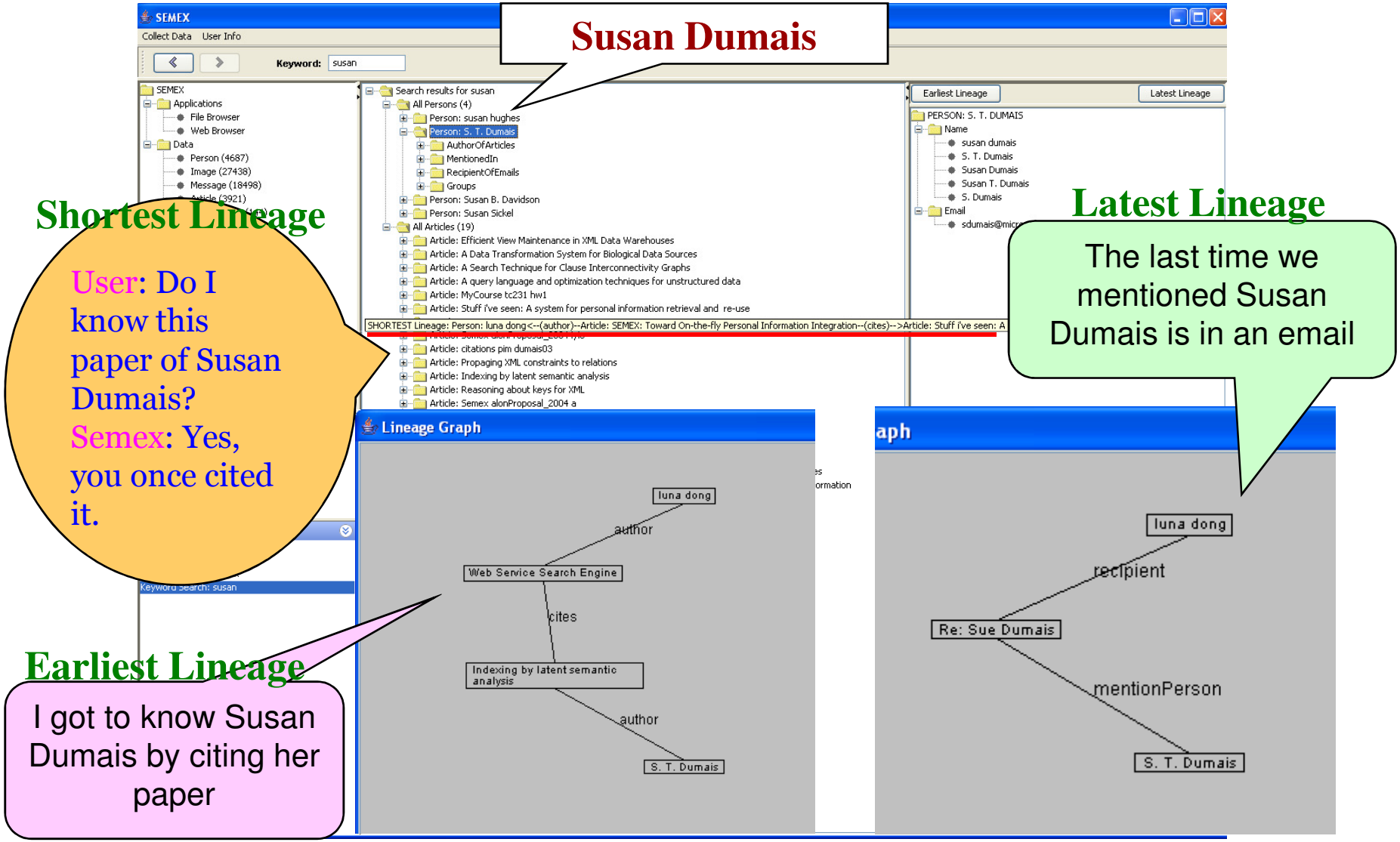
Slide from Paul Chirita

Semex: Search



Semex: Linkage Vizualization

Slide from Paul Chirita



Semex: PIM Reference Reconciliation: Challenges

Slide from Paul Chirita

- Article:
  a_1=("Distributed Query Processing","169-180", {p_1,p_2,p_3}, c_1)
  a_2=("Distributed query processing","169-180", {p_4,p_5,p_6}, c_2)
- Venue:
  c_1=("ACM Conference on Management of Data", "1978", "Austin, Texas")
  c_2=("ACM SIGMOD", "1978", null)
- Person:
  p_1=("Robert S. Epstein", null)
  p_2=("Michael Stonebraker", null)
  p_3=("Eugene Wong", null)
  p_4=("Epstein, R.S.", null)
  p_5=("Stonebraker, M.", null)
  p_6=("Wong, E.", null)
  p_7=("Eugene Wong", "eugene@berkeley.edu")
  p_8=(null, "stonebraker@csail.mit.edu")
  p_9=("mike", "stonebraker@csail.mit.edu")

1. Multiple Classes

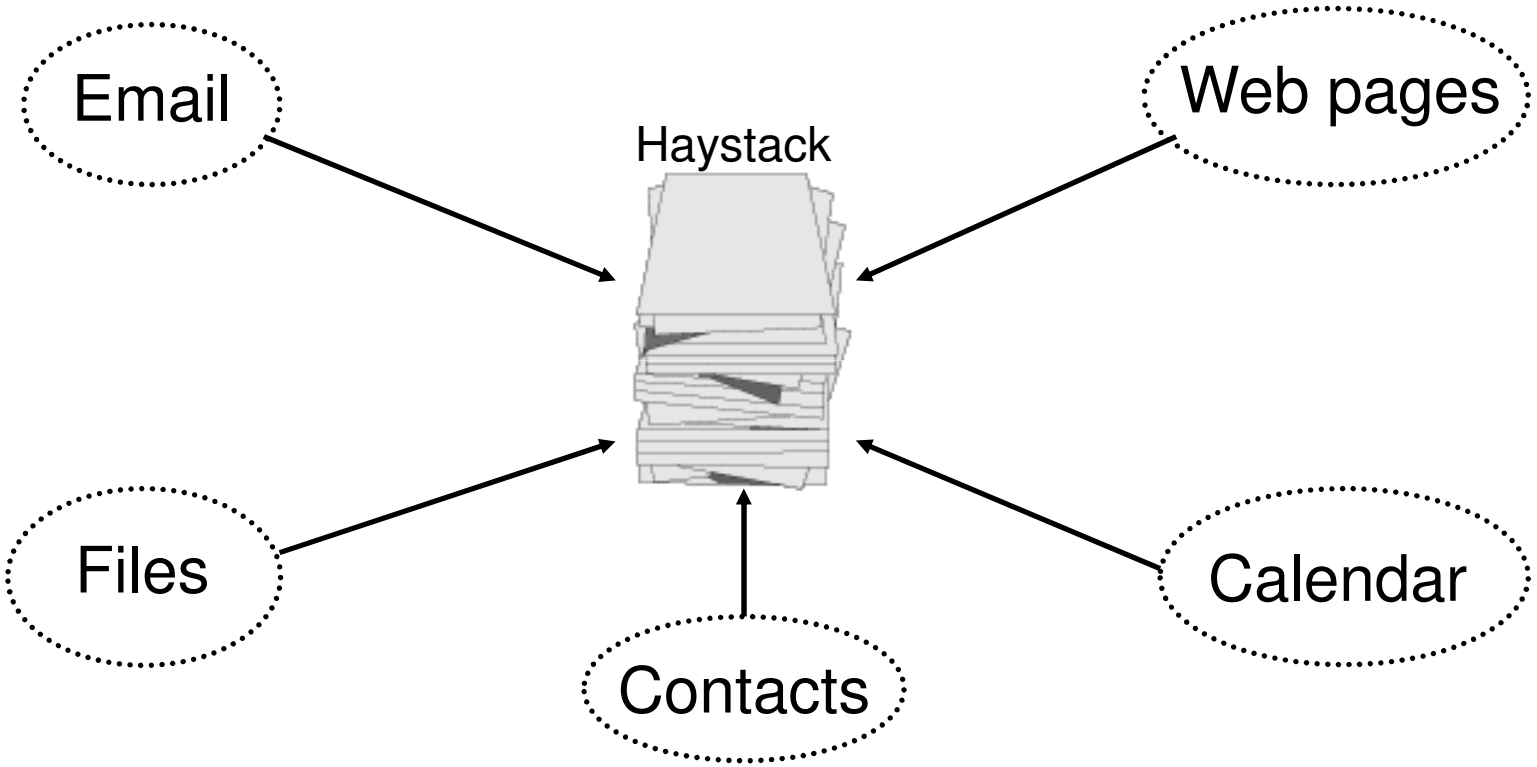
2. Limited Information

3. Multi-value Attributes

4. Lack of training data

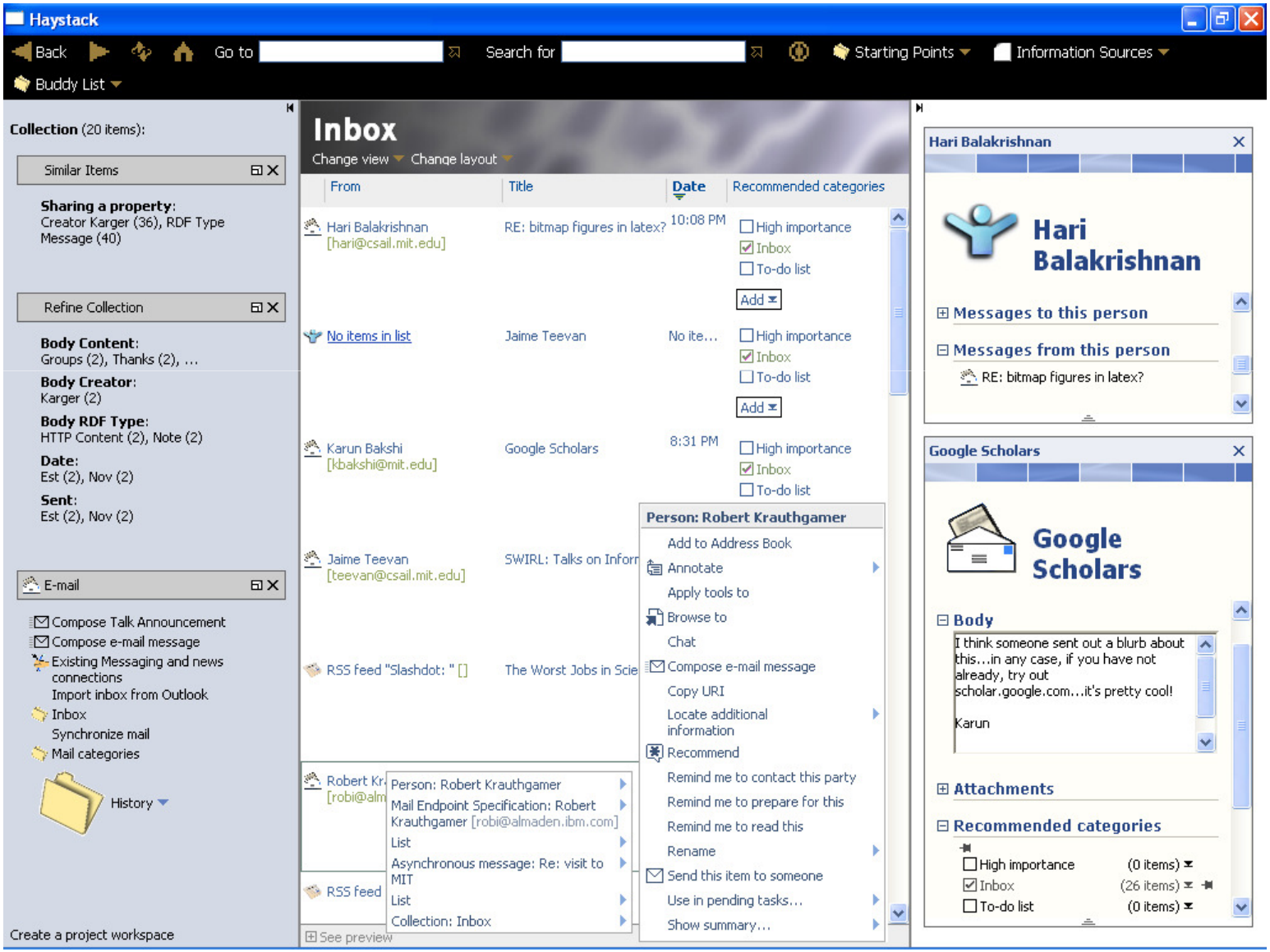
Haystack (1)

Haystack: Per-User Information Environment Based on Semistructured Data. David Karger, in “Beyond the Desktop Metaphor” edited by Victor Kaptelinin and Mary Czerwinski. 2007

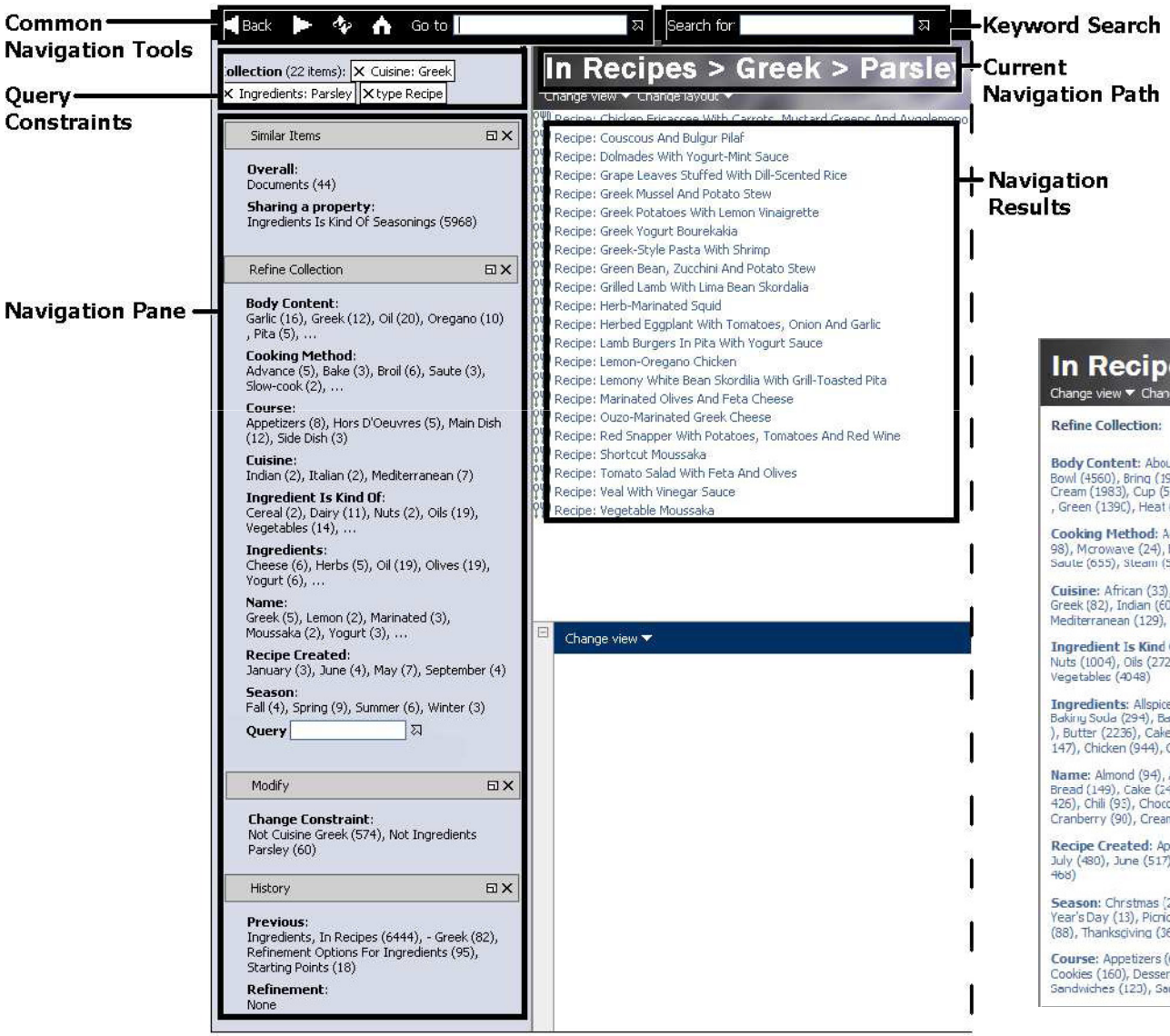


- Lots of separate info, Haystack stores in central repository.
- Easy to separate info from its form, easy to connect related info.
- Many people could share a single repository

Haystack (2)

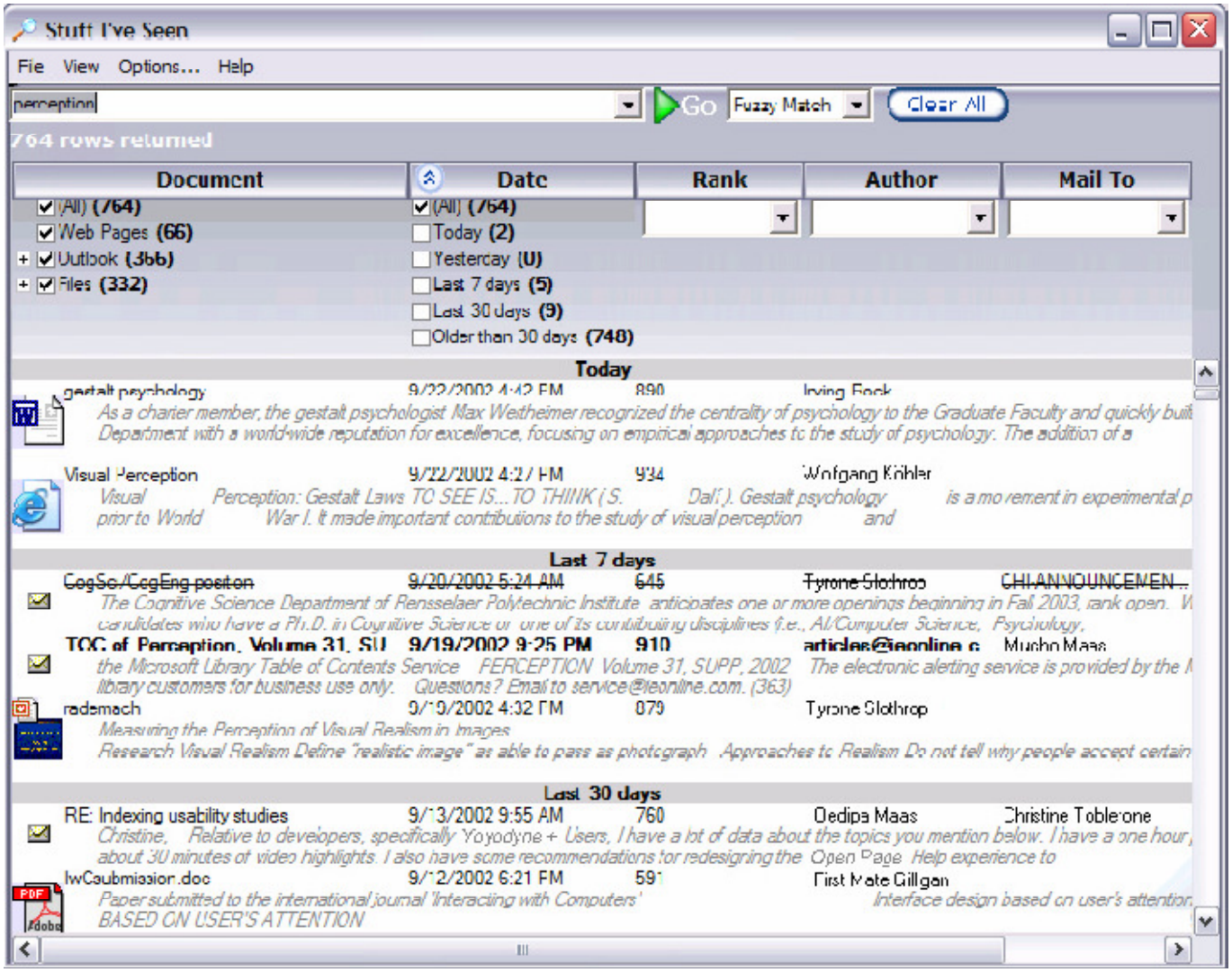

Haystack
Back
Go to
Search for
Starting Points
Information Sources
Buddy List
Collection (20 items):
Similar Items
Sharing a property:
Creator Karger (36), RDF Type Message (40)
Refine Collection
Body Content:
Groups (2), Thanks (2), ...
Body Creator:
Karger (2)
Body RDF Type:
HTTP Content (2), Note (2)
Date:
Est (2), Nov (2)
Sent:
Est (2), Nov (2)
E-mail
Compose Talk Announcement
Compose e-mail message
Existing Messaging and news connections
Import inbox from Outlook
Inbox
Synchronize mail
Mail categories
History
Create a project workspace
Inbox
Change view
Change layout
From
Title
Date
Recommended categories
Hari Balakrishnan [hari@csail.mit.edu]
RE: bitmap figures in latex?
10:08 PM
High importance
Inbox
To-do list
Add
No items in list
Jaime Teevan
No ite...
Karun Bakshi [kbakshi@mit.edu]
Google Scholars
8:31 PM
Jaime Teevan [teevan@csail.mit.edu]
SWIRL: Talks on Infor
RSS feed "Slashdot: " []
The Worst Jobs in Scie
Robert Kr [robi@alm
RSS feed
See preview
Person: Robert Krauthgamer
Mail Endpoint Specification: Robert Krauthgamer [robi@almaden.ibm.com]
List
Asynchronous message: Re: visit to MIT
List
Collection: Inbox
Person: Robert Krauthgamer
Add to Address Book
Annotate
Apply tools to
Browse to
Chat
Compose e-mail message
Copy URI
Locate additional information
Recommend
Remind me to contact this party
Remind me to prepare for this
Remind me to read this
Rename
Send this item to someone
Use in pending tasks...
Show summary...
Hari Balakrishnan
Hari Balakrishnan
Messages to this person
Messages from this person
RE: bitmap figures in latex?
Google Scholars
Google Scholars
Body
I think someone sent out a blurb about this...in any case, if you have not already, try out scholar.google.com...it's pretty cool!
Karun
Attachments
Recommended categories
High importance (0 items)
Inbox (26 items)
To-do list (0 items)

Magnet



Magnet: Supporting Navigation in Semistructured Data Environments. Vineet Sinha and David R. Karger, in SIGMOD 2005.

Stuff I've Seen (SIS)



S. Dumais, E. Cutrell, J. Cadiz, G. Jancke, R. Sarin, and D. C. Robbins. Stuff i've seen: a system for personal information retrieval and re-use. In SIGIR'03

Phlat

E. Cutrell, D. Robbins, S. Dumais, and R. Sarin. Fast, Flexible Filtering with phlat. In CHI '06

http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/0cdb50f3-ccf6-4198-b874-4643791d4dc4

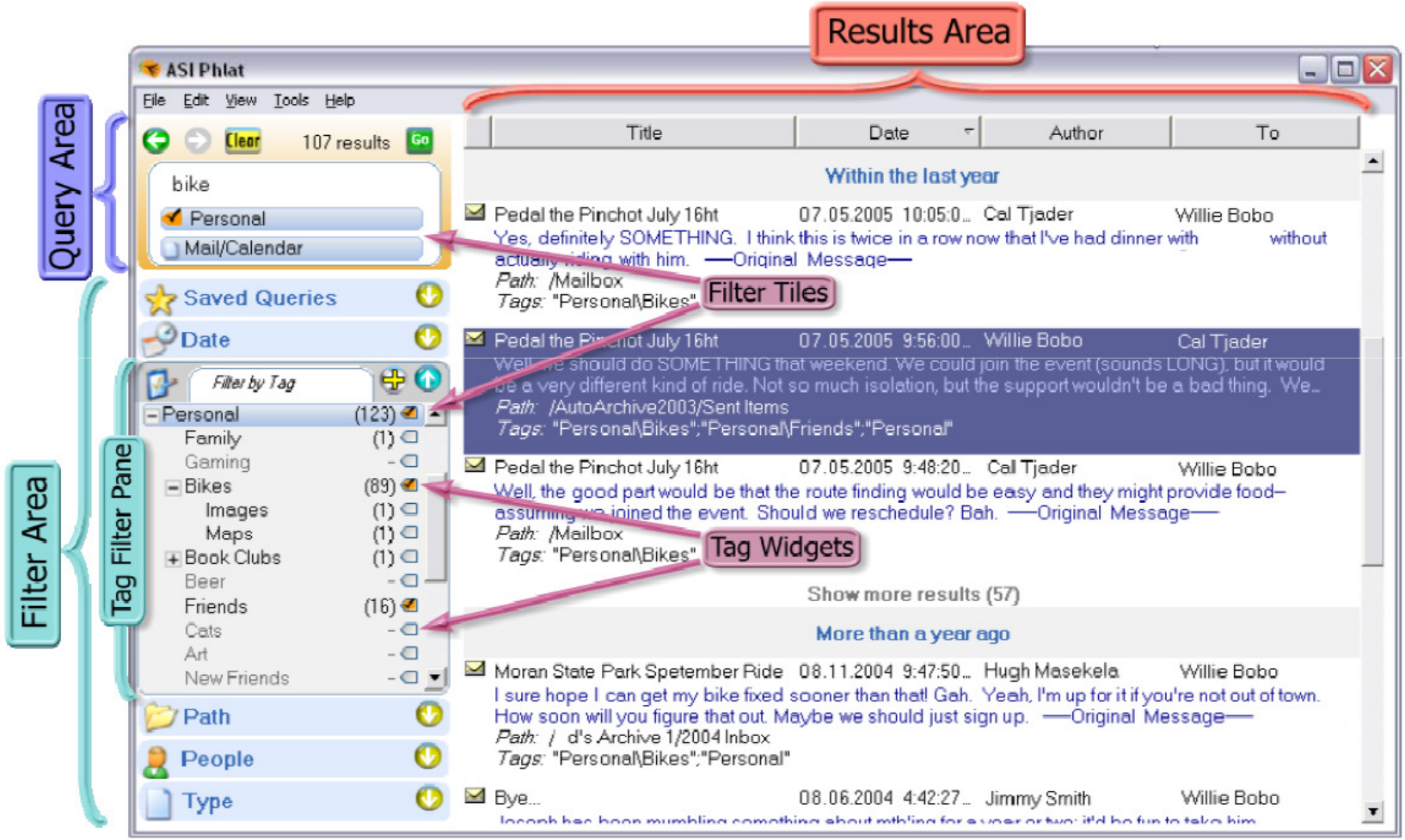
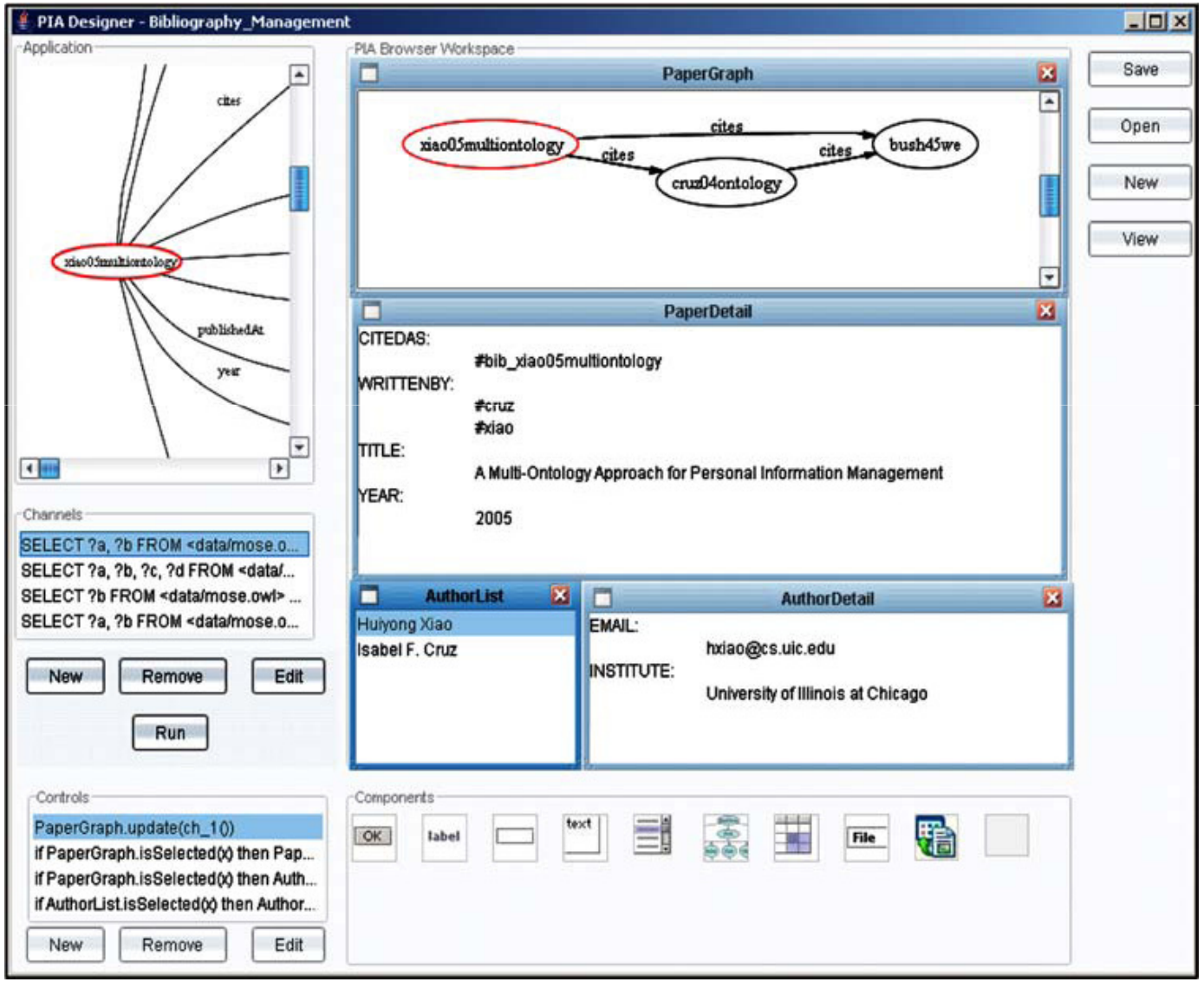


Figure 2. The Phlat interface with a query of a single keyword and two filters.

Phlat is written in Microsoft Visual C# and uses the Windows Desktop Search indexing and search engine

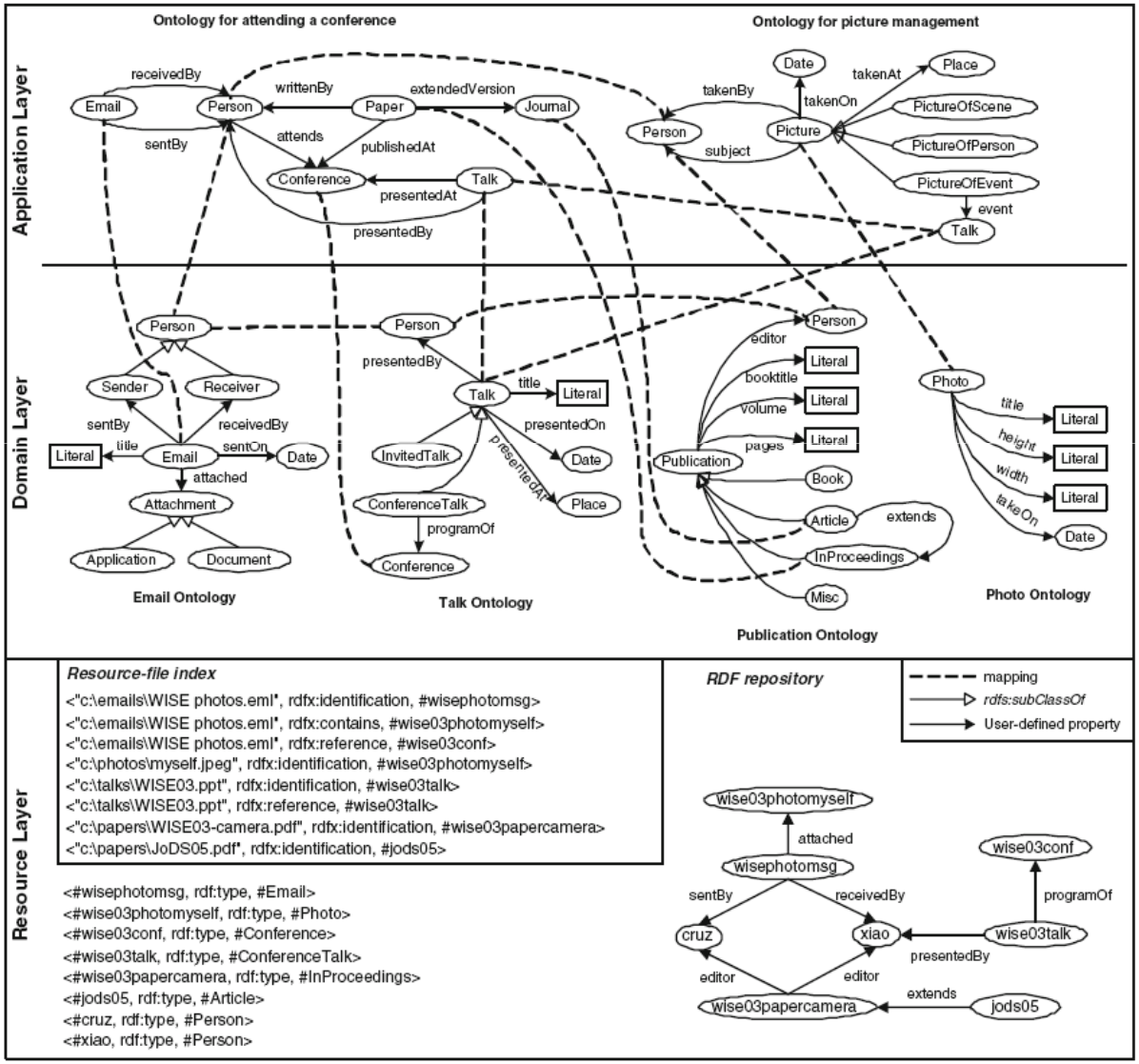
Personal Information Application



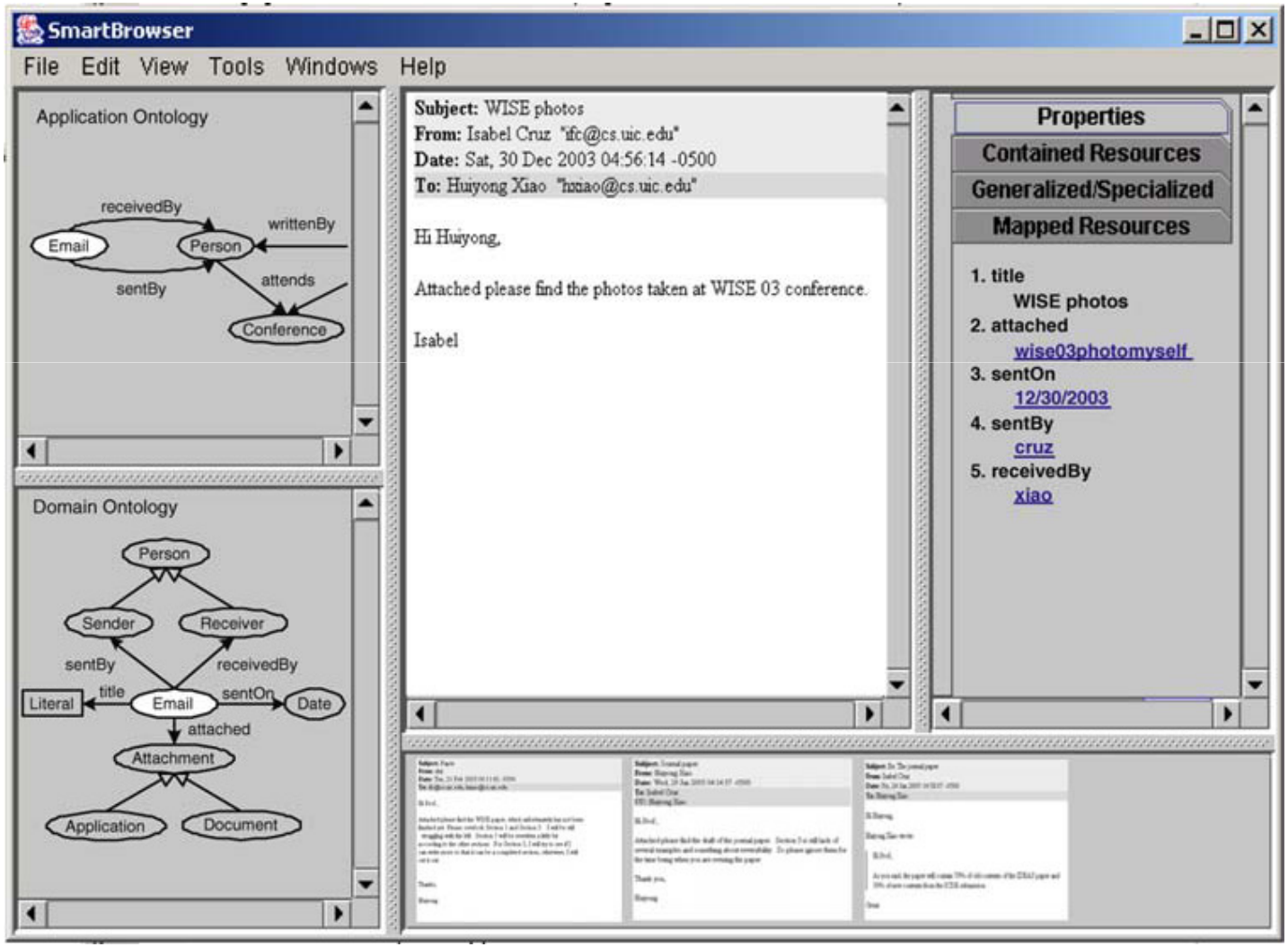
A layered framework supporting personal information integration and application design for the semantic desktop, Isabel F. Cruz, Huiyong Xiao, in VLDB Journal 2008

Using RDQL (RDF Data Query Language)

PIA: Ontology

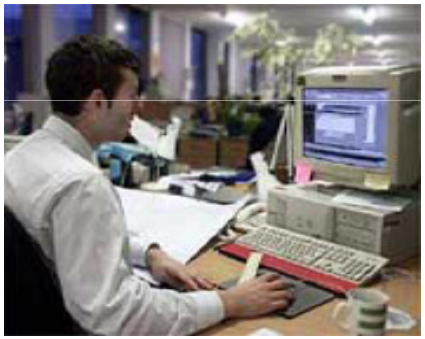


PIA: Smart Browser



Just-In-Time Retrieval

- "**Just-in-time Information –** Proactively offering a user information that is highly relevant to what s/he is currently focused on" (Pattie Maes)



JIT Approaches

- Watson
- Remembrance Agent
- Jimminy

All approaches aim to suggest relevant information snippets when the user writes a document or an email

Some more:

QUESCOT, MarginNotes, Letizia, WordSieve, CALVIN, Kenjin

WATSON

J. Budzik and K. J. Hammond. User interactions with
everyday applications as context for just-in-time
information access. In IUI '00

- supports just-in-time access to task-relevant information
- a system gathers contextual information as a text of the document the user is manipulating
- proactively retrievs documents from distributed information repositories
- Potential problems:
  - managing interruptions
  - ranking suggestions

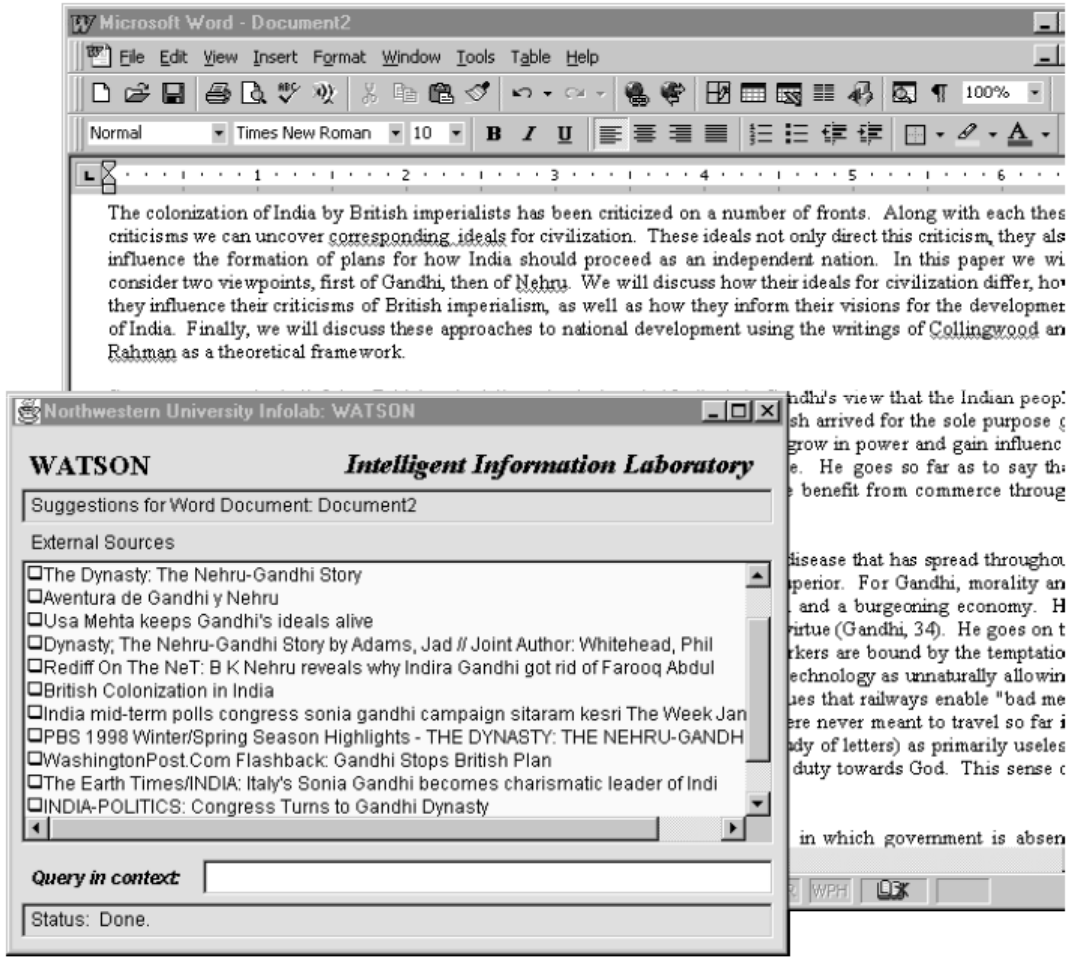
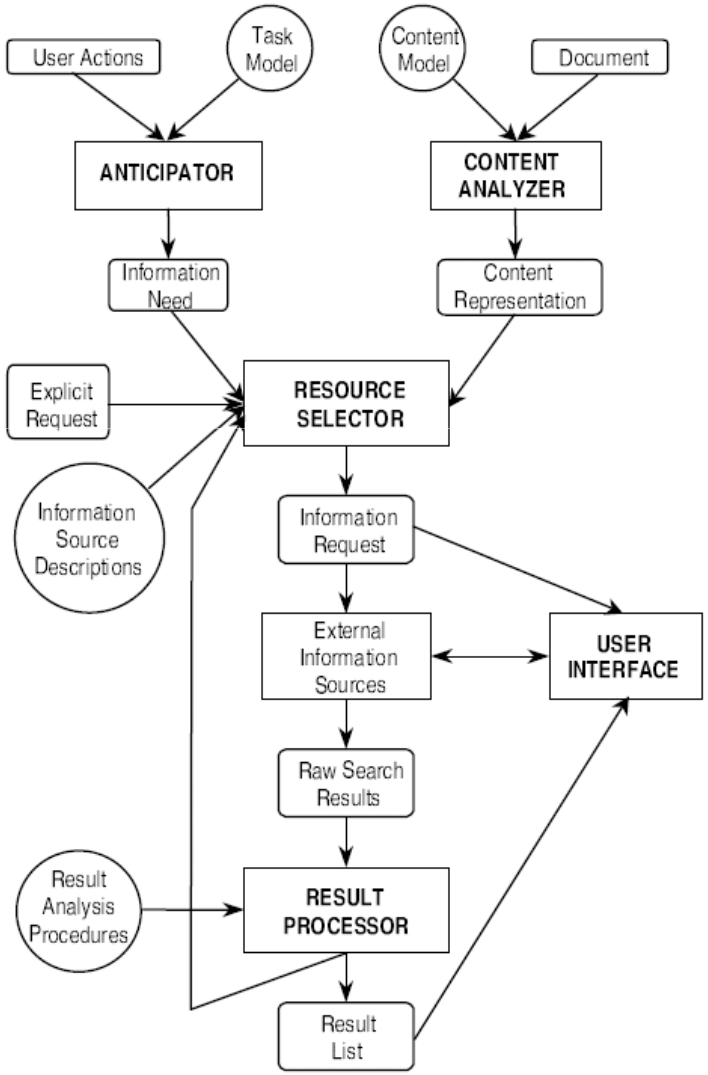


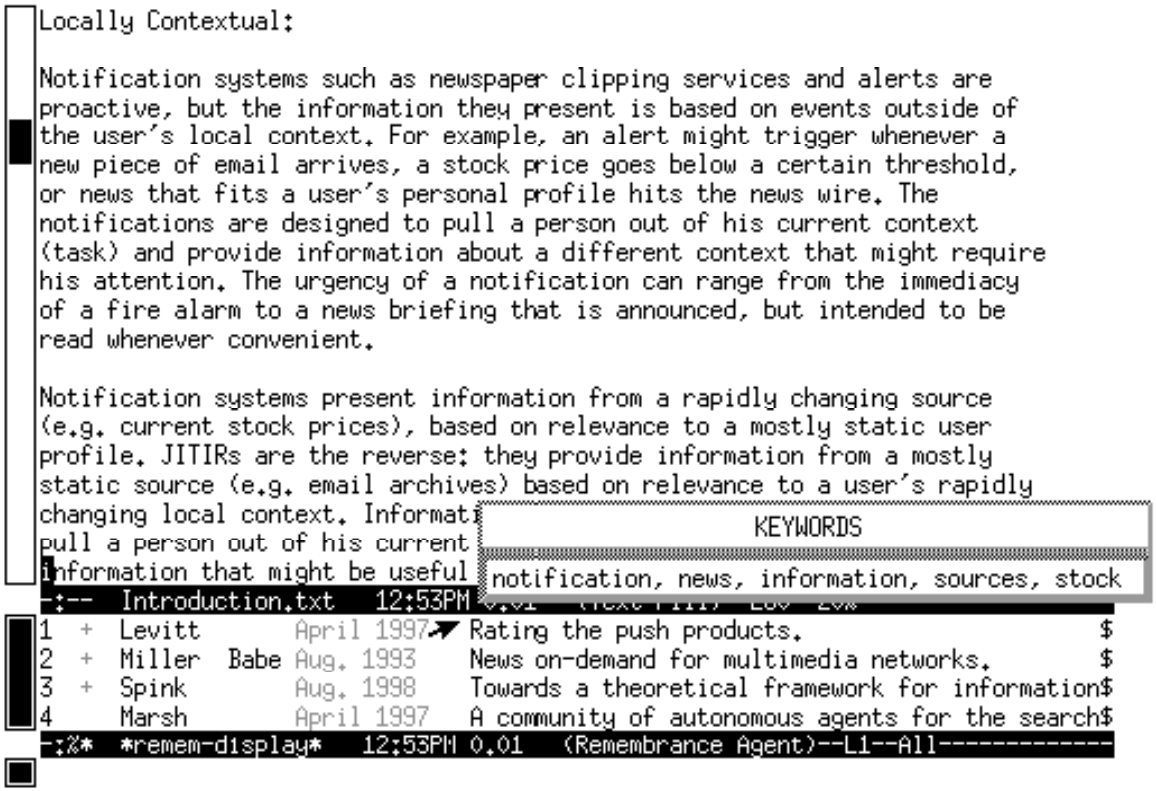
Figure 2: Watson is suggesting documents as a user is writing a paper.

Watson Architecture



Remembrance Agent (RA)

- Remembrance Agent (‘96) / RADAR later for Word



Rhodes, B. and Starner, T. The Remembrance Agent: A continuously running information retrieval system, in *PAAM’96*

Jimminy

B. J. Rhodes. Just-in-time information retrieval. PhD thesis, 2000.

Rhodes, B., The Wearable Remembrance Agent: a system for augmented memory, in *Personal Technologies: Special Issue on Wearable Computing, 1997.*

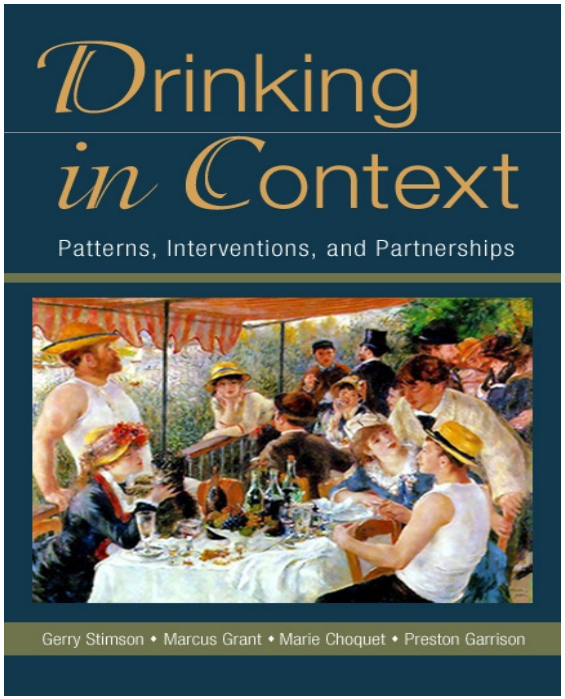
- “Jimminy provides information based on a person's physical environment: her location, people in the room, time of day, and subject of the current conversation”
- “Processing is performed on a shoulder-worn “wearable computer,” and suggestions are presented on a head-mounted display.”

Slide from Stefania Costache

What is context?

- Synonyms for context: (user/application) environment, situation, state, scenario, task, …

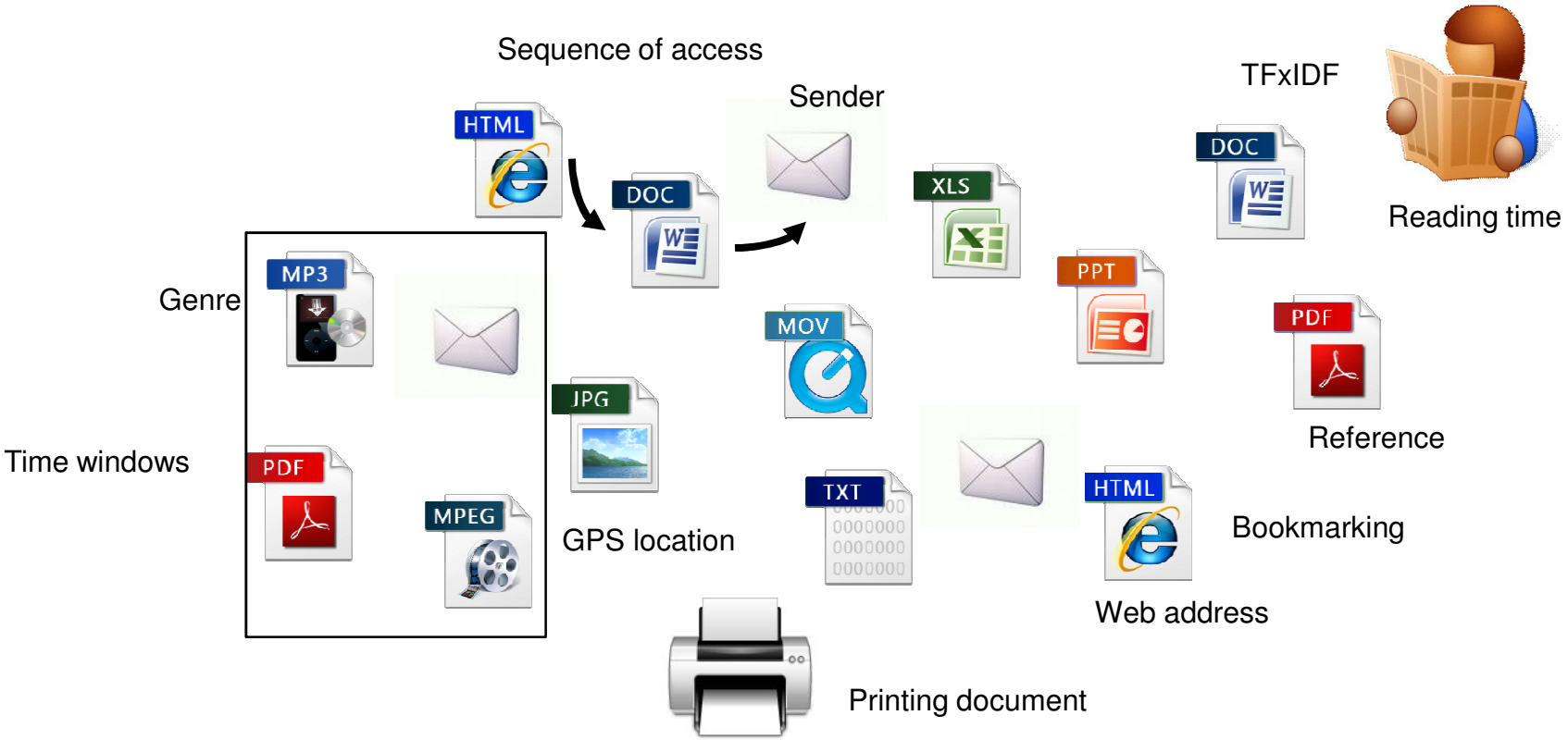
- Elements of context:
  - Location
  - People
  - Activities (tasks)
  - Time of day, season, temperature
  - Objects and changes to objects
  - Emotional state
  - Focus of attention



Context on a Desktop

Resource as context

Interaction with resource as context



Using Context to Improve Desktop Search

- Connections (**HITS and PageRank on File traces**)
- Confluence (**HITS and PageRank on File traces and Window focus**)
- SeeTrieve (**TFIDF variant on text snippets graph**)
- Method by P.Chirita and W. Nejdl, (**PageRank on File traces**)

Connections

C. A. N. Soules and G. R. Ganger. Connections: using context to enhance file search. In SOSP '05

- Tracing file system calls
- Temporal relationships between files
- Used to reorder content search results

- Relation window of N seconds
- Number of occurrences of a sequence of files

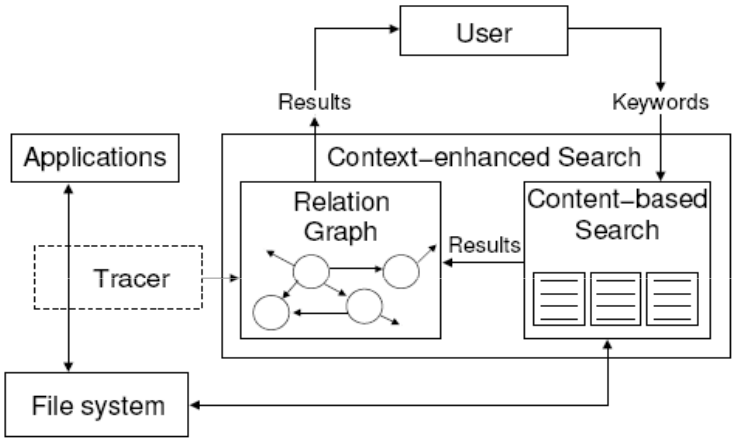


Figure 1: *Architecture of Connections.* **Both applications and the file system remain unchanged, as the only information required by Connections can be gathered either by a transparent tracing module or directly from existing file system interfaces.**

Confluence

K. A. Gyllstrom, C. Soules, and A. Veitch. Confluence: enhancing contextual desktop search. In SIGIR '07

Activity put in context: Identifying implicit task context within the user's document interaction, Karl Gyllstrom, Craig Soules, Alistair Veitch, IIiX 2008

Confluence is an extension to ***Connections***

- ***Confluence*** records *window focus* events within the *GUI,* which are generated each time the user activates a different application window. These events are used to infer *task*.

- Contextual relationships can be used to augment traditional search methods with additional, conceptually related files that do not match the text query.

- *For example, if documents A and B are frequently accessed at similar points in time, this suggests a task commonality. Searches that return "A" now return "B" as well.*

SeeTrieve

K. Gyllstrom and C. Soules. Seeing is retrieving: Building information context from what the user sees. In IUI '08

- A personal document retrieval and classification system
- Considers only the text presented to the user.
- Identifies information about the task associated with a document.

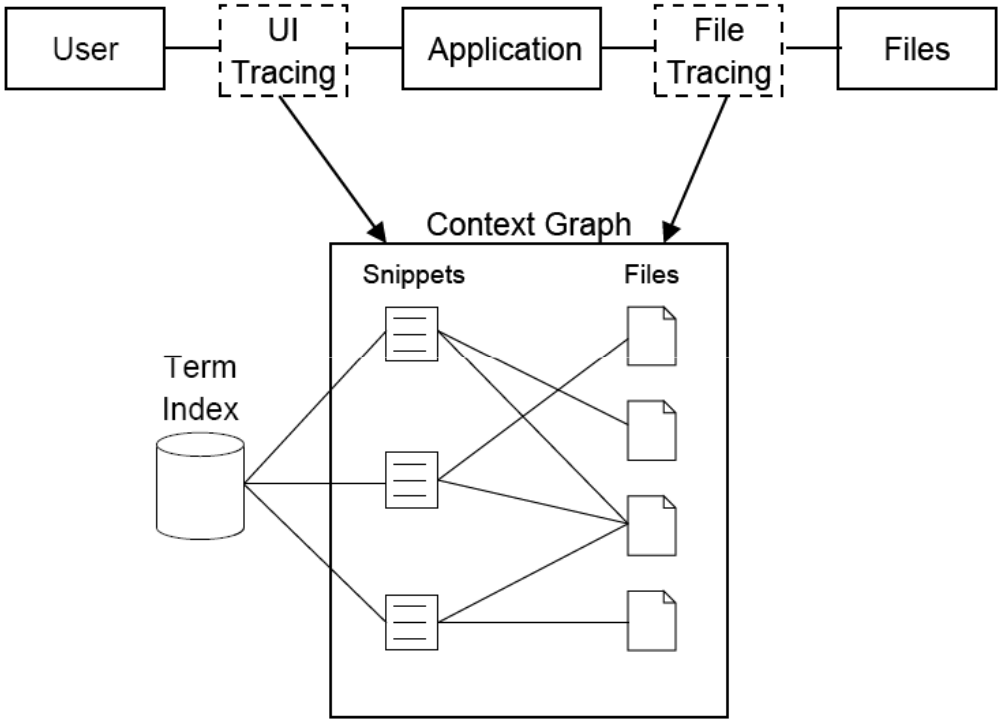


Figure 1. *SeeTrieve* **architecture.**

Method by P. Chirita and W. Nejdl

Analyzing User Behavior to Rank Desktop Items. Paul-Alexandru Chirita, Wolfgang Nejdl. In SPIRE 06

Algorithm 3.1. Ranking Desktop Items.

Pre-processing:

1: **Let** A be an empty link structure
2: **Repeat** for ever
3: **If** (File a is accessed at time t_a, File b is accessed at time t_b) AND $(t_a - t_b < \epsilon)$,
4: **Then** Add the link $a \rightarrow b$ to A

Ranking:

1: **Let** A' be an additional, empty link structure
2: **For** each resource i
3: **For** each resource j linked to i
4: **If** $(\#Links(i \rightarrow j) > T)$ in A
5: **Then** Add one link $i \rightarrow j$ to A'
6: **Run** PageRank using A' as underlying link structure

Context Detection

- Lumiere (**Bayesian User Models**)
- Nepomuk (**K-Medoids and TFIDF**)
- TaskTracer and TaskPredictor (**Naïve Bayes/SVM**)
- SWISH (**Probabilistic Latent Semantic Indexing**)
- CAAD (**GaP probabilistic model**)

Some more:

QUESCOT, EPOS, MyLifeBits, Lifestreams

Lumiere

Goal:

- help assistant for MS Office 97

- predict if help is needed, if yes, what is the problem?

Tools:

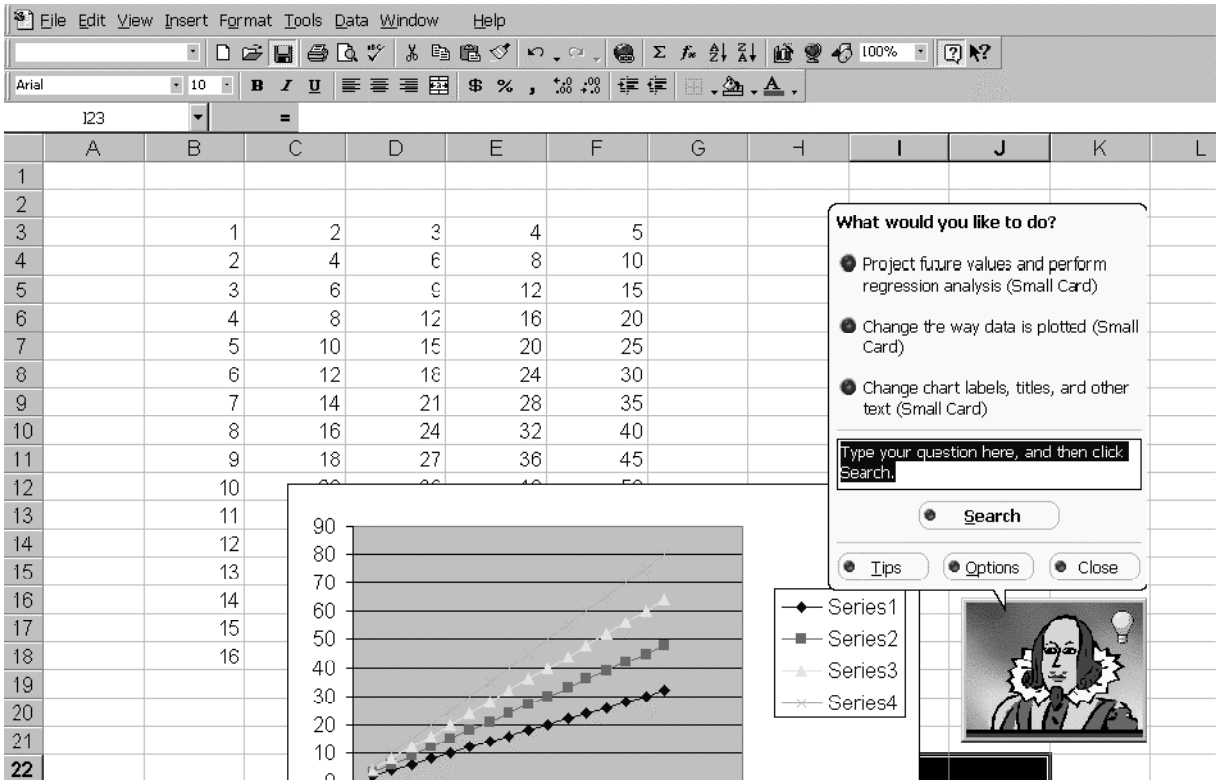
- Bayesian User Models

Lessons learned:

- advise capabilities are of limited utility

- recommendations can be annoying

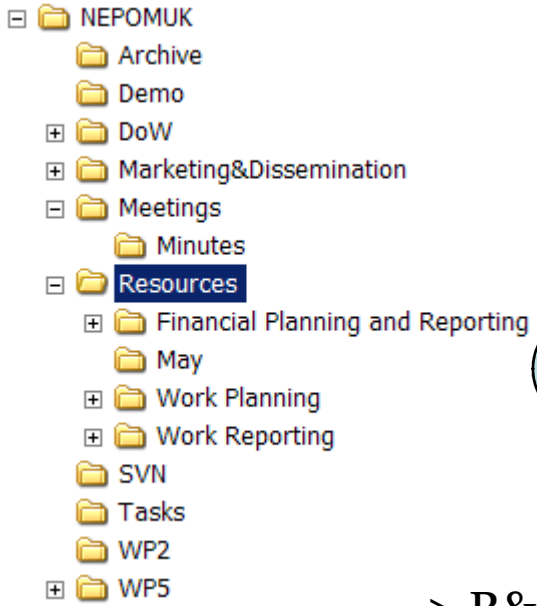
E. Horvitz, J. Breese, D. Heckerman, D. Hovel, and K. Rommelse. The lumiere project: Bayesian user modeling for inferring the goals and needs of soft. In UAI'98

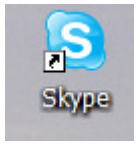


Nepomuk (1)

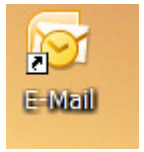
Current desktop

More or less organized folder hierarchy





Applications for supporting knowledge work with proprietary formats



Important/real files

Desktop Area

Knowledge work support by file organistation

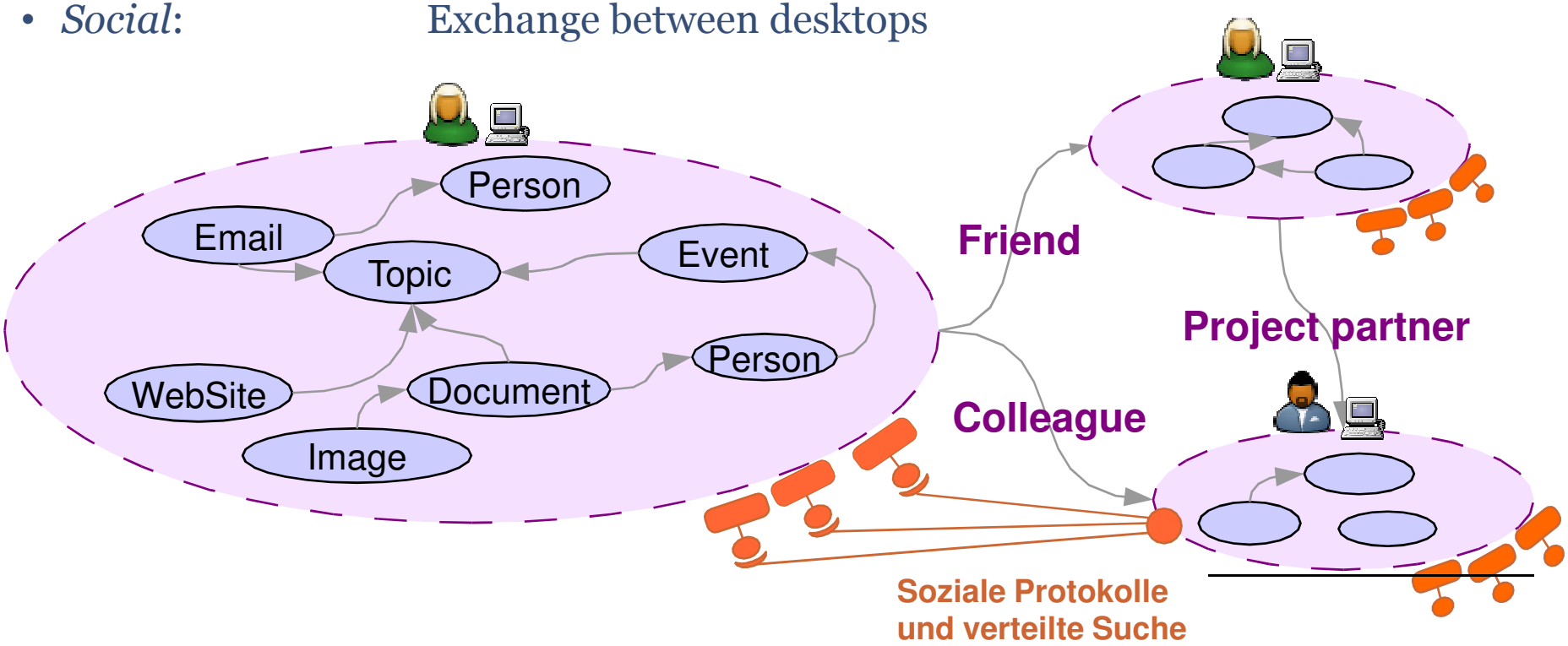
Temporary storage

-> R&D in Personal Information Management (PIM)

Nepomuk (2)

Desktop with Nepomuk

- *Semantic Desktop*: Information layer on top of the desktop content (personal semantic web) allowing machines to process information and provide intelligent services
- *Social*: Exchange between desktops



Nepomuk (3)

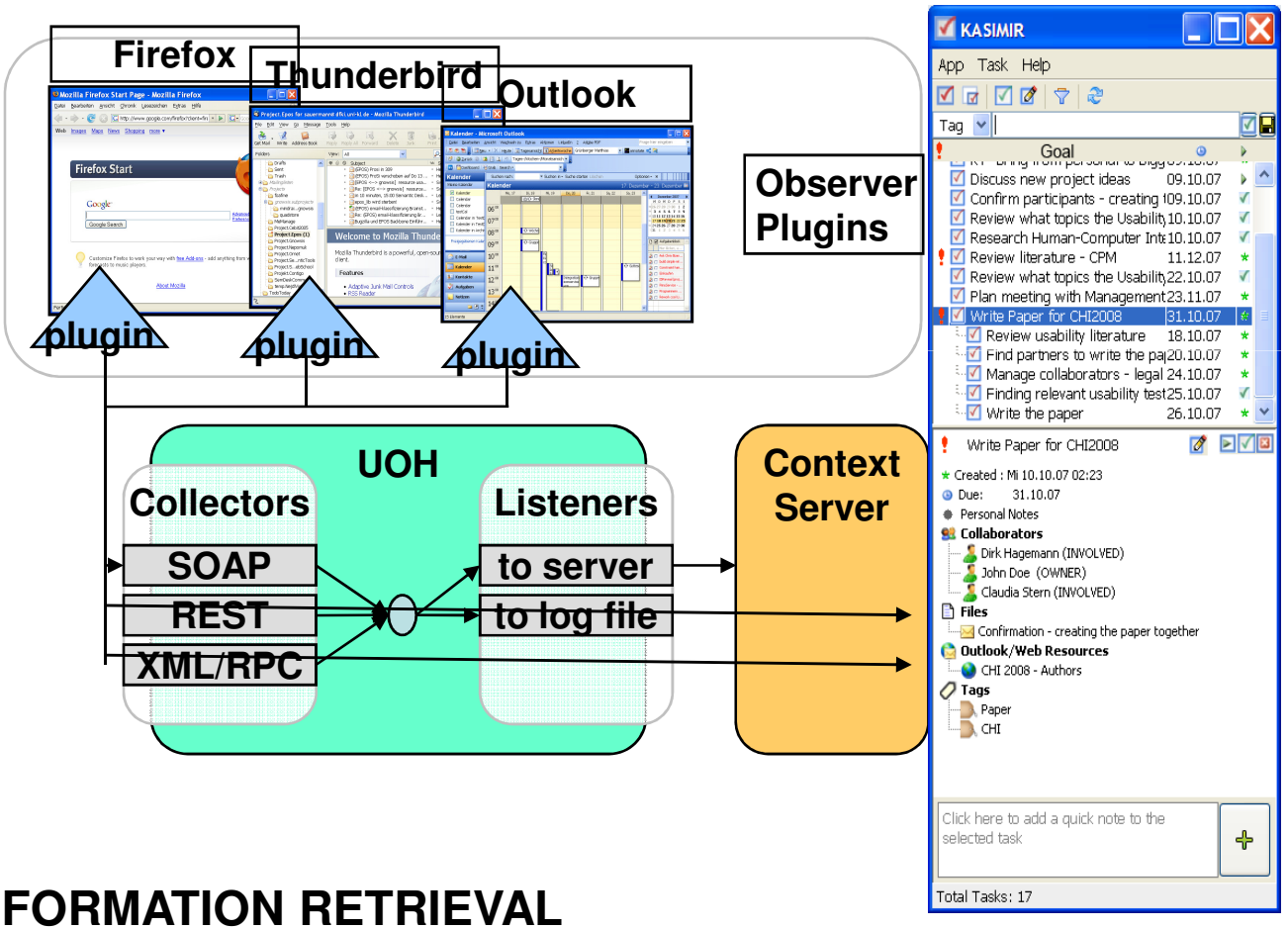
P. A. Chirita, J. Gaugaz, S. Costache, and W. Nejdl. Desktop context detection using implicit feedback. In PIM 2006.

Goal:

- task-based document clustering

Tools:

- mixture of TFxIDF and K-Medoids clustering



The final goal is

CONTEXT-AWARE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

TaskTracer and TaskPredictor

J. Shen, L. Li, T. G. Dietterich, and J. L. Herlocker. A hybrid learning system for recognizing user tasks from desktop activities and email messages. In IUI'06

Goal:

- associate resources with user activities

Tools:

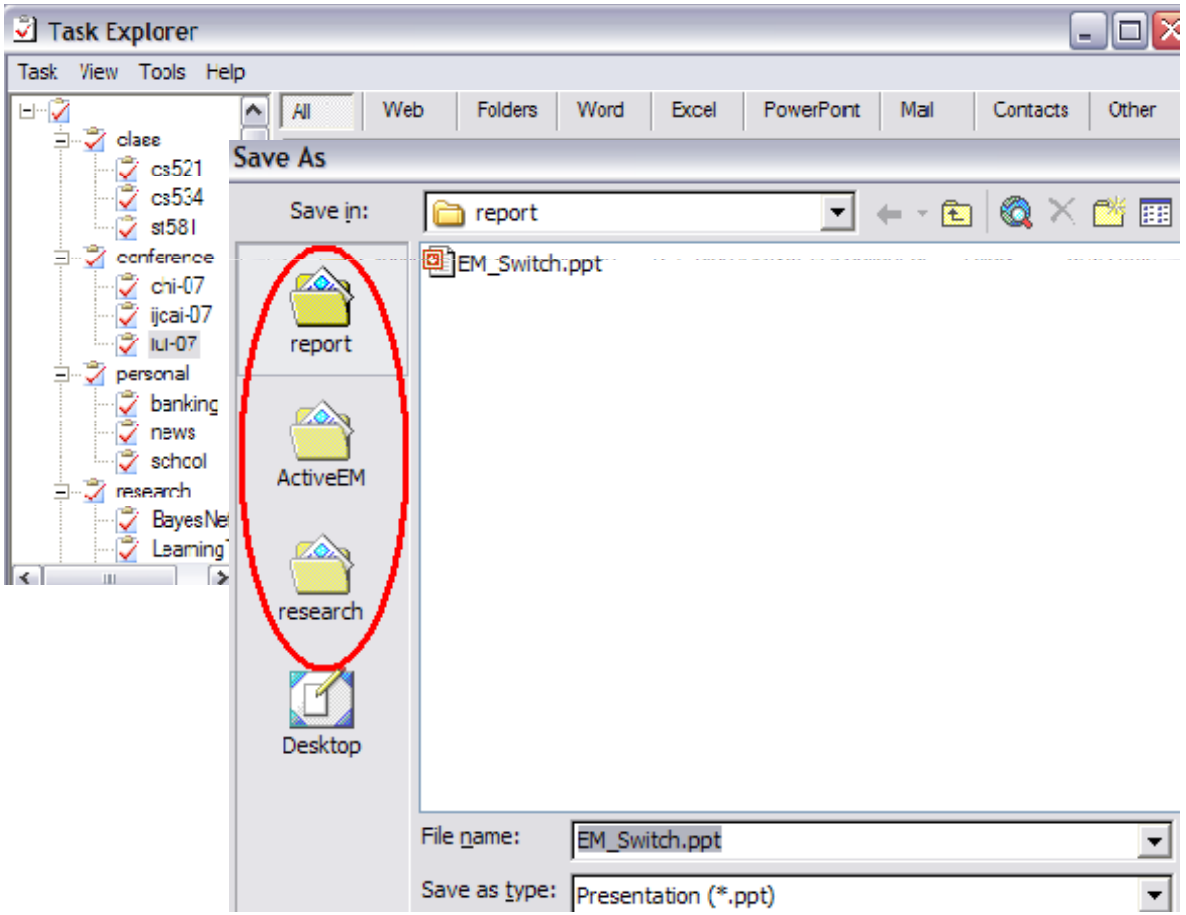
- adaptive file open/save dialog box

- Naïve Bayes/SVM classifiers for task prediction

Lessons learned:

- precision is about 80%

- data is very noisy, users forget to change a task



SWISH

N. Oliver, G. Smith, C. Thakkar, and A. C. Surendran. Swish: semantic analysis of window titles and switching history. In IUI '06

Goal:

- task-based windows clustering for intelligent interfaces

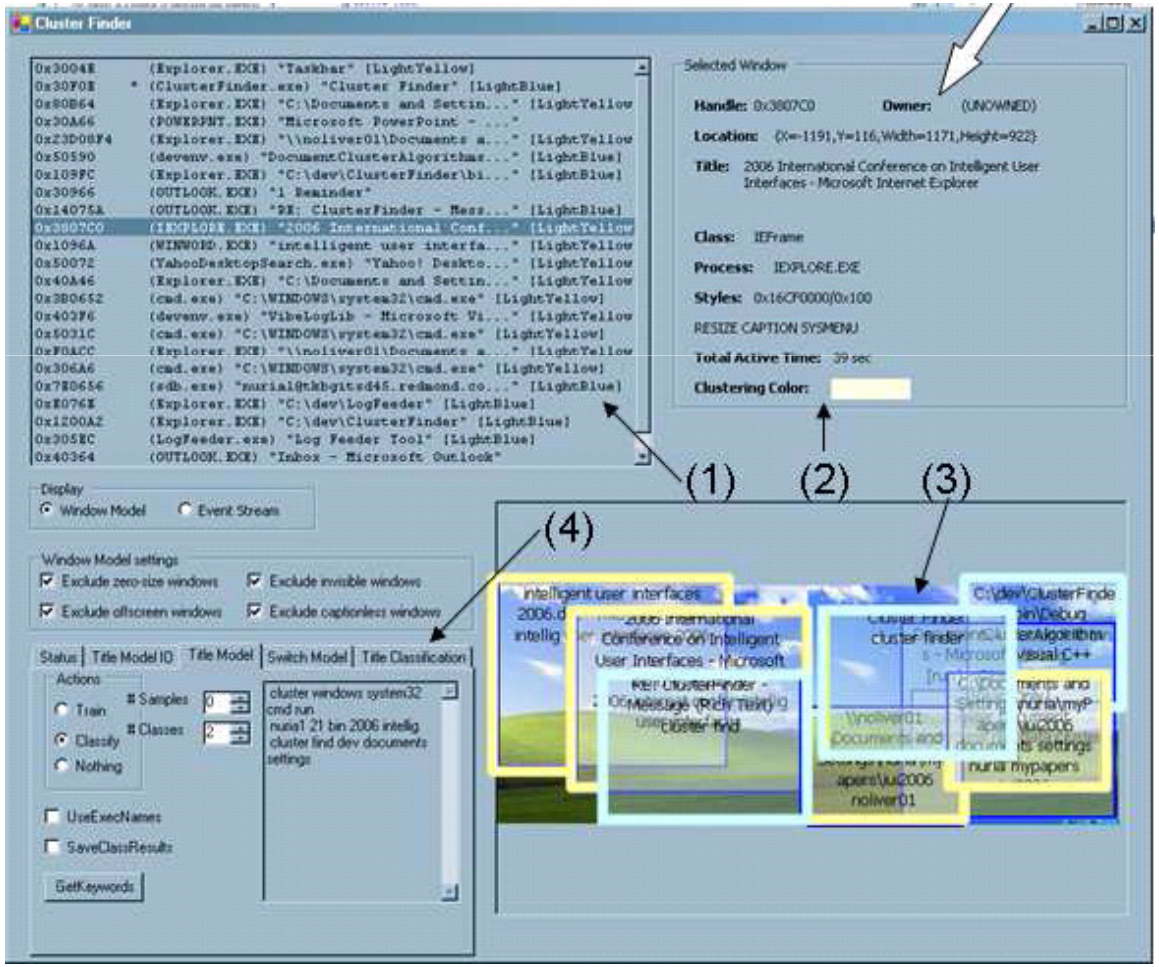
Tools:

- unsupervised learning: Probabilistic Latent Semantic Indexing

Lessons learned:

- precision is about 70%

- data is very noisy due to occasional windows' switches



CAAD

T. Rattenbury and J. Canny. Caad: an automatic task support system. In CHI '07

Goal:

- task-based windows clustering

Tools:

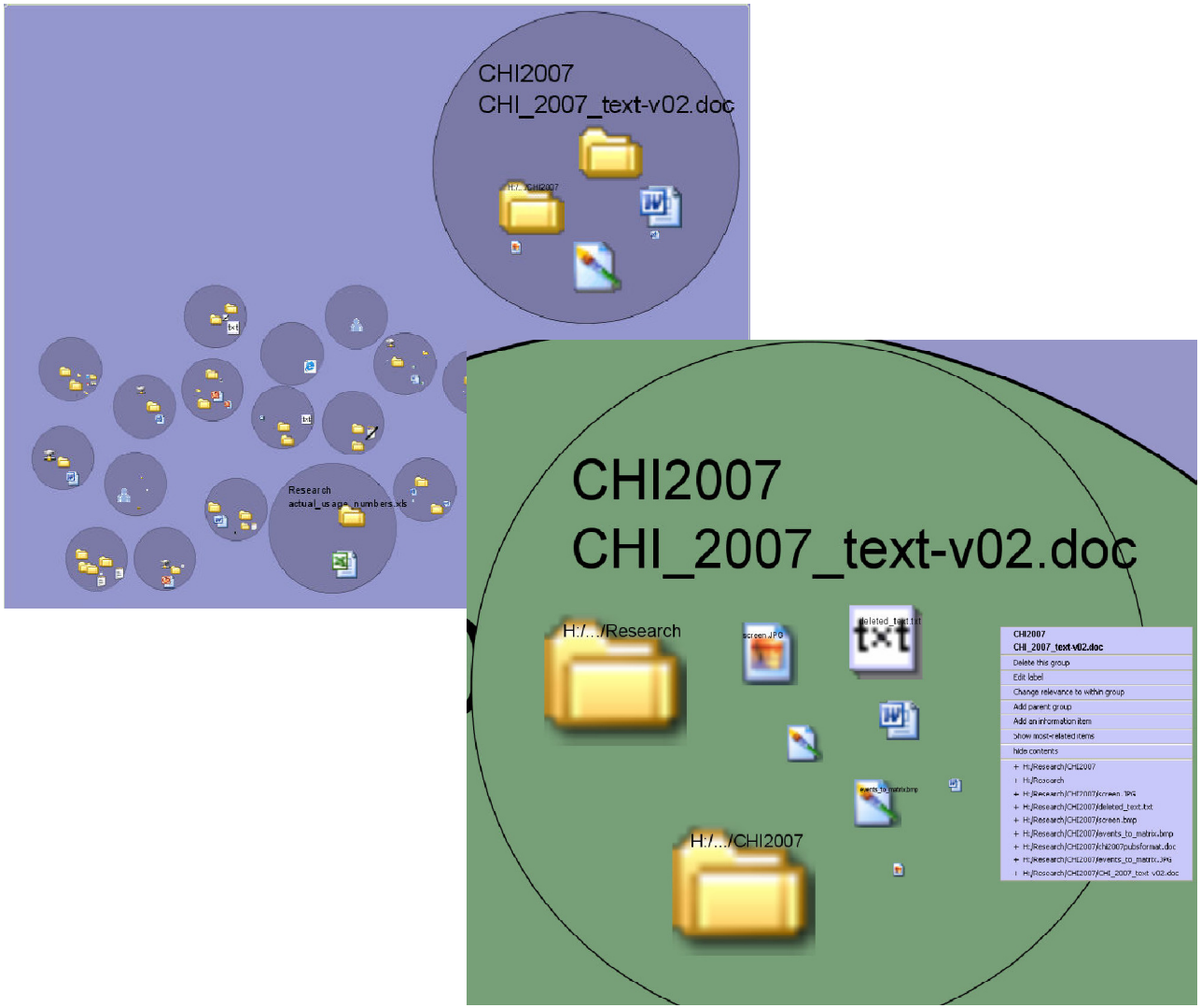
- GaP probabilistic model for Context Structures

- concatenated filenames for labels

Lessons learned:

- relevance is useless, if novelty is important or information changes quickly

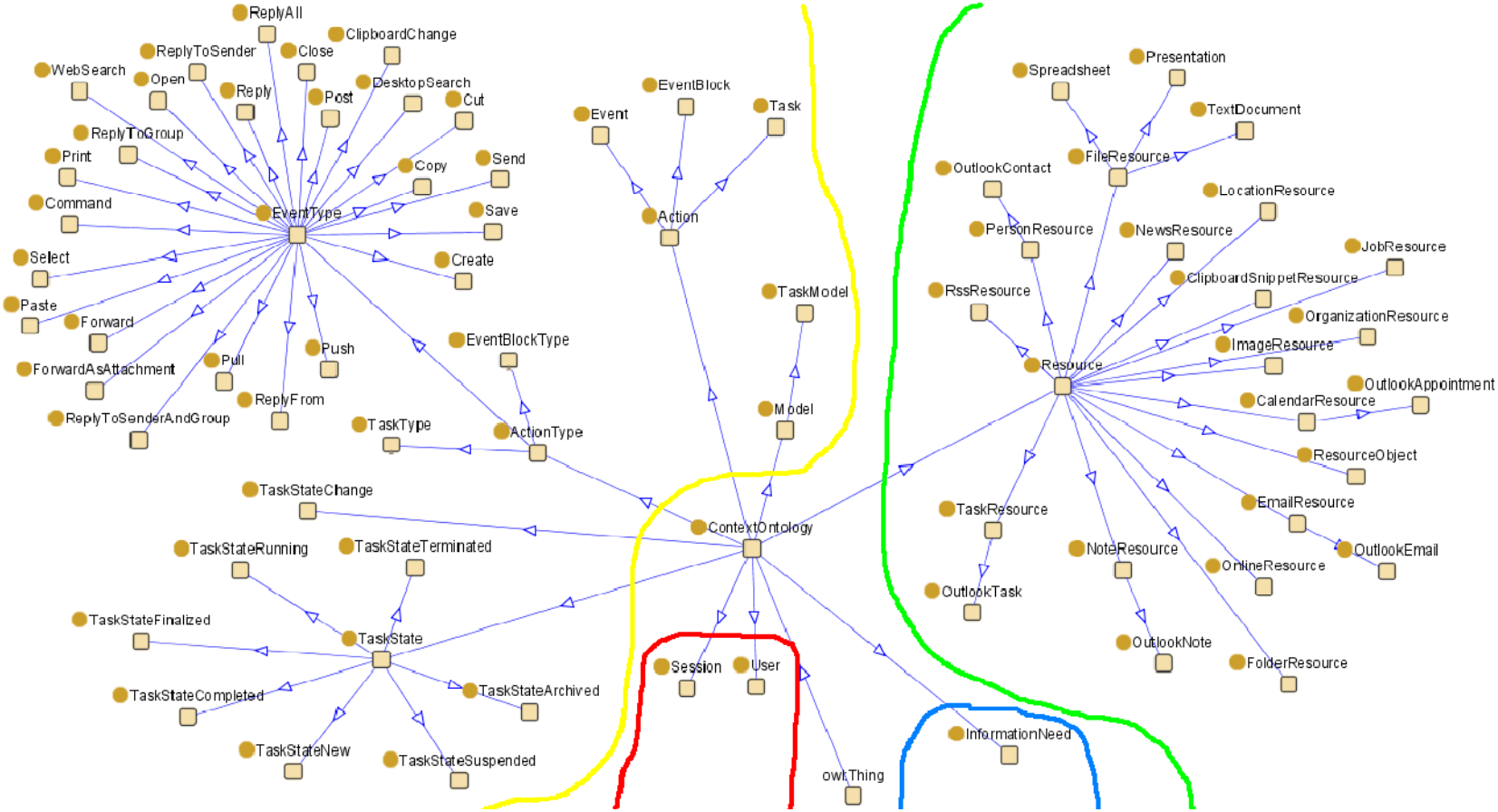
- user models are too broad or too narrow



UICO

UICO: An Ontology-Based User Interaction Context Model for Automatic Task Detection on the Computer Desktop. Andreas S. Rath, Didier Devaurs, Stefanie N. Lindstaedt. In CIAO 2009.

- Ontology-based user interaction context model (UICO) automatically derives relations between the model's entities and automatically detects the user's task

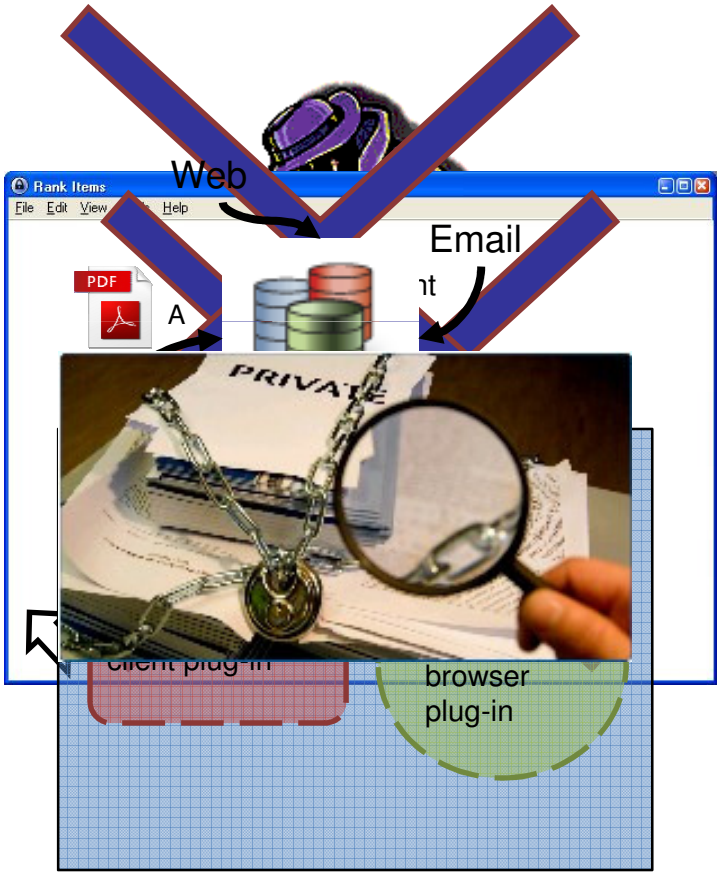


Current State

- Automatic Task Detection is under active development
  - most publications are within 2006-2009 time interval
  - no perfect solution so far
- Task Detection is based on machine learning
  - Naïve Bayes, PLSI, SVM
- Training data is missing
  - Activity-Logging can be used for data gathering

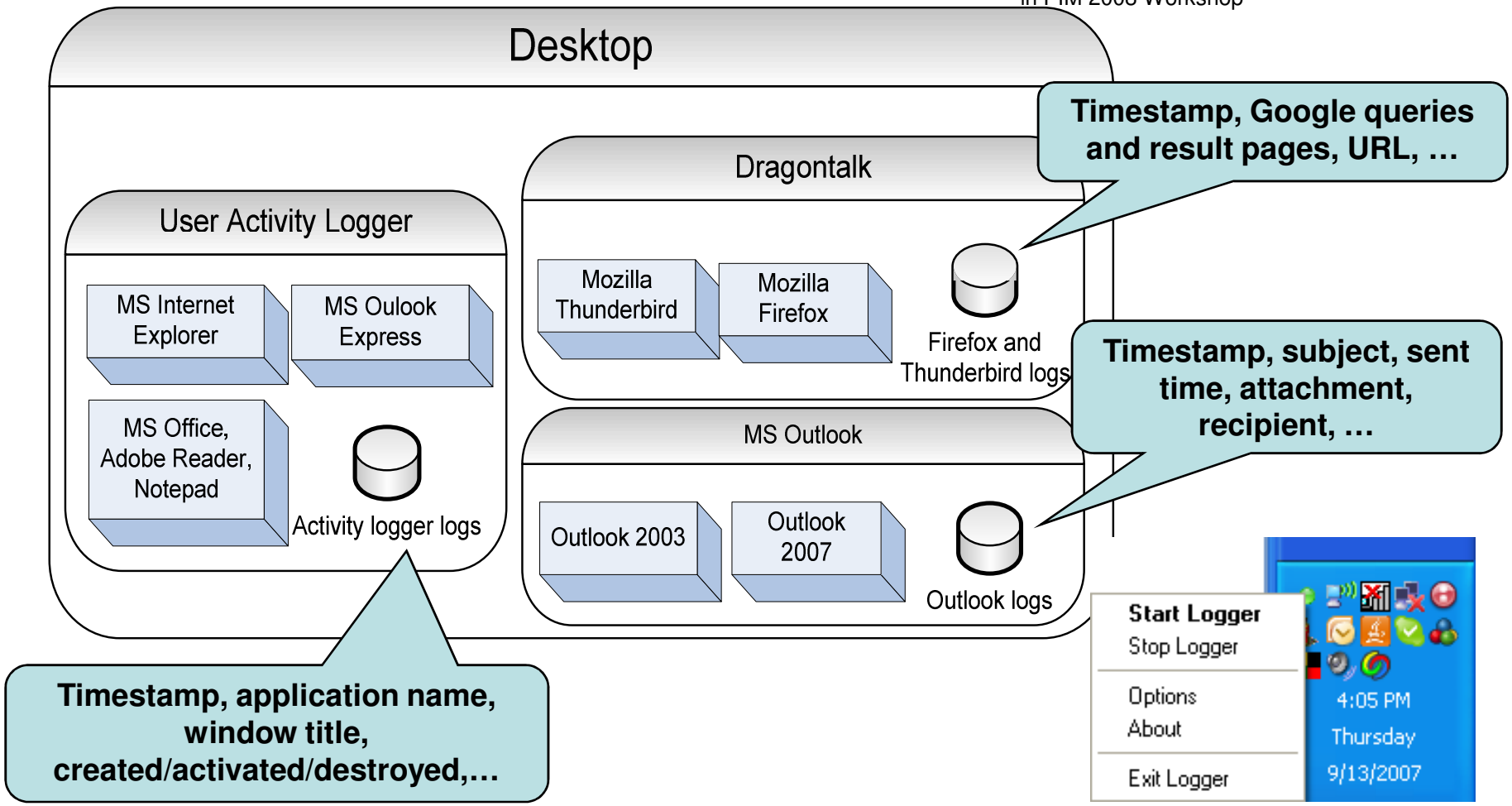
Towards Requirements for Logging Desktop

- Automatic
- Cross-application
- Implicit Feedback
- Privacy preserving
- Extensible

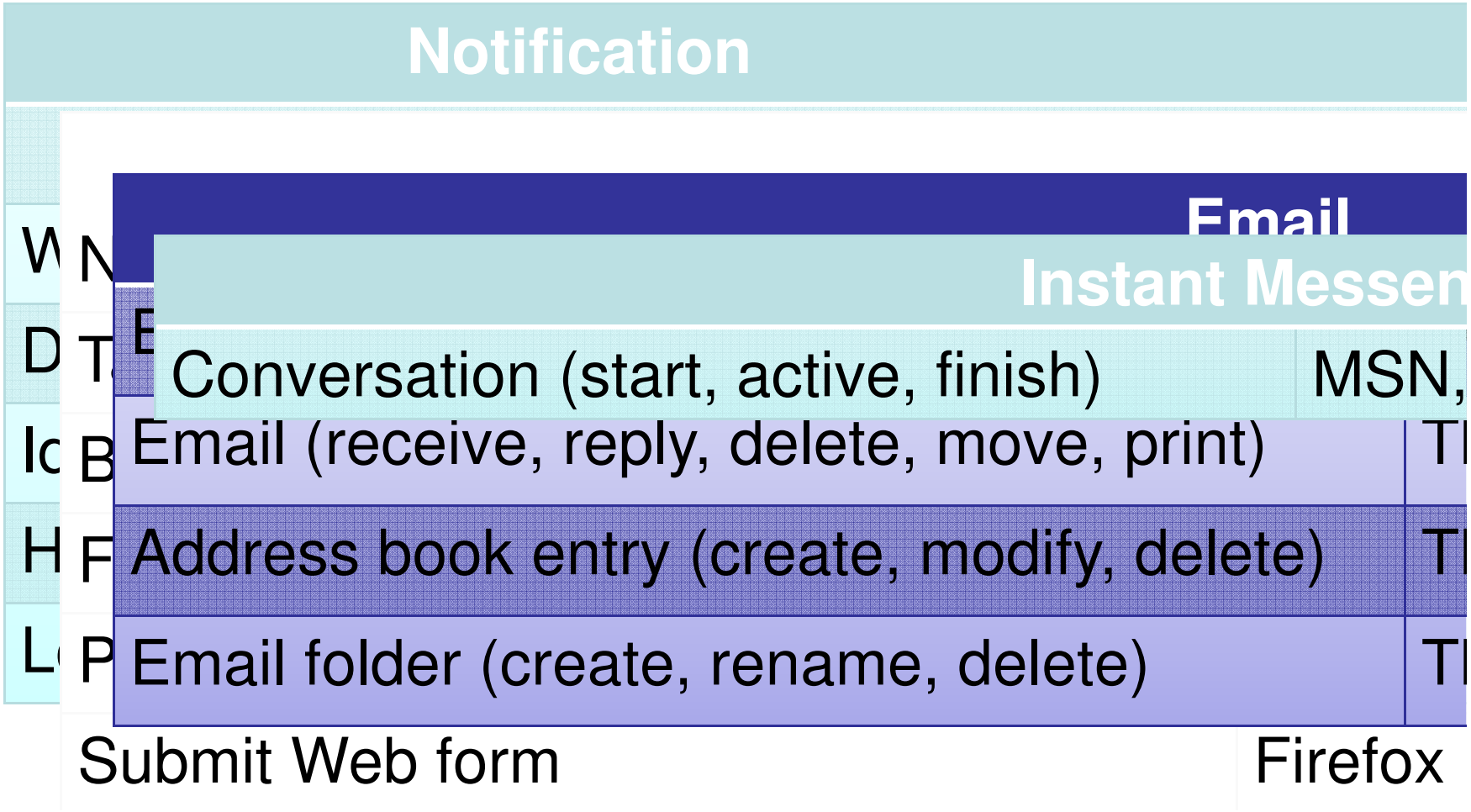


Desktop Logging Framework

Sergey Chernov, Gianluca Demartini, Eelco Herder, Michal Kopycki, and Wolfgang Nejdl. Evaluating Personal Information Management Using an Activity Logs Enriched Desktop Dataset in PIM 2008 Workshop



Supported notifications



Collected Data

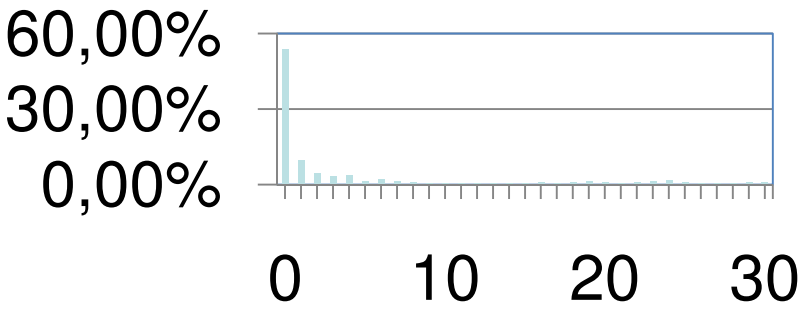
- 21 participants
- Average of 170 active logging days
- 2,828,706 Events
- Average of 2,815 distinct emails per user
- Average of 9,337 distinct URLs per user
- Average of 902 events per user per day
- Average 5 hours of active interaction per user per day

A glimpse into user behavior (1)

Sergey Chernov, Gianluca Demartini, Eelco Herder, Michal Kopycki, and Wolfgang Nejdl. Evaluating Personal Information Management Using an Activity Logs Enriched Desktop Dataset in PIM 2008 Workshop

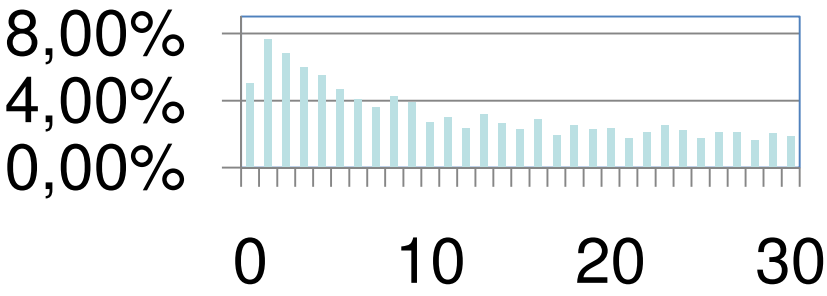
Instant reader

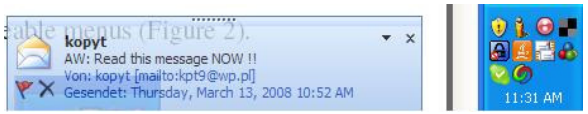
Email reaction time



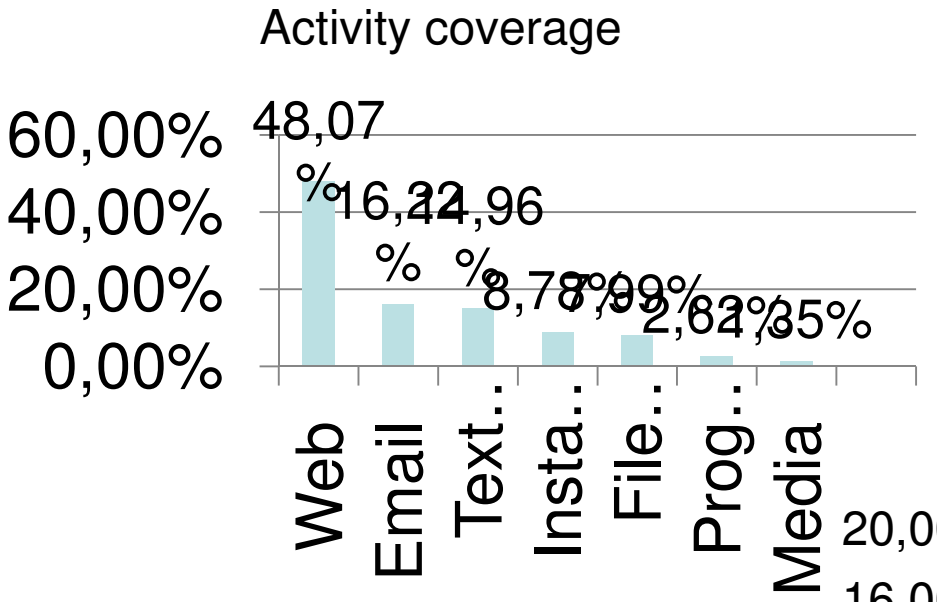
Moderate reader

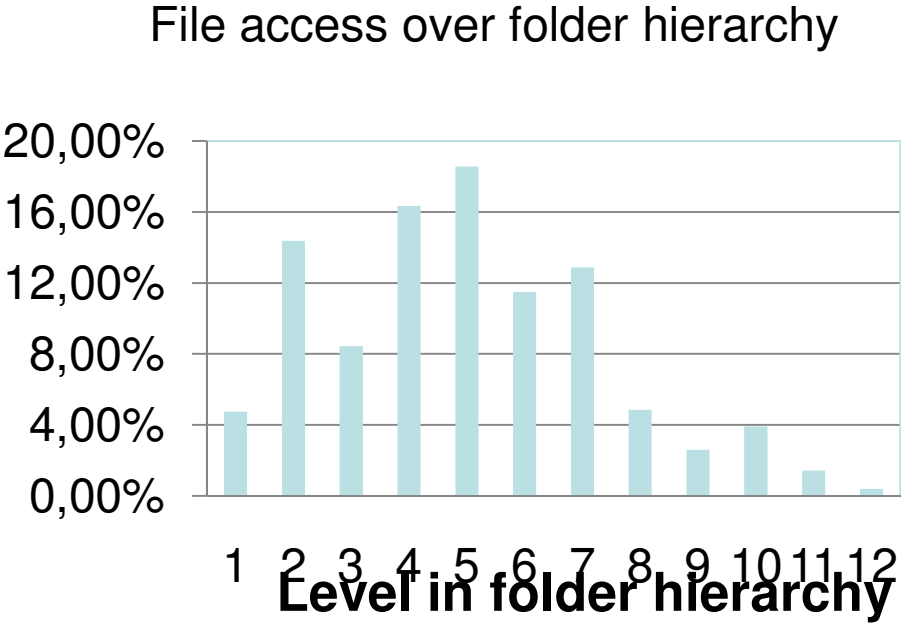
Email reaction time





A glimpse into user behavior (2)





Evaluation

Understanding What Works: Evaluating PIM Tools. Diane Kelly and Jaime Teevan. In "Personal Information Management" edited by William Jones and Jaime Teevan, 2008.

- Evaluation frameworks:
  - Naturalistic (one-time evaluation in a natural environment with own data)
  - Longitudinal (studies over extended period of time with measurements at fixed points)
  - Case study (in-depth picture of few individuals behavior)
  - Laboratory (controlled scenarios)
- Could and should be combined with each other
- Challenges:
  - Lack of control over environment (unpredictable interactions)
  - Appropriate time intervals and study duration
  - Narrow scope of evaluation task

Evaluation Components: Participants, Collections, Tasks

- Participants
  - Compared to Web Search: harder to recruite, data is too sensitive, prototype must be more robust, more involvement is required, limited generalization, using “personas” – simulated users
- Collections
  - Users should provide their own data, it is a mixture of documents, photos, emails, contacts, etc.
- Tasks
  - Tasks are broad, user-centric and situation-specific
  - Different granularity level (doing email vs. search for a piece of text in email)
  - Different types of tasks (planning a travel, reading the news, finding information about X)

Evaluation Components: Baselines

– Solomon four group design

	Time		
	Period 1 (pre)		Period 2 (post)
Experimental group	O_1	X	O_2
Control group	O_3		O_4
Experimental group		X	O_5
Control group			O_6

– O: Observation. X: Intervention

– Caveat: *Trained Incapacity* – users create unique ways of using tools that the original designers may not have intended.

Evaluation Components: Measures

- Measures could be defined in two ways:
  - Nominal – what is it? (Learnability is defined by a grade on a 5-point Likert scale)
  - Operational – how exactly it should be measured? (Learnability is a length of time it takes for a user to learn to use an interface)

- Standard usability measures:
  - Effectiveness, Efficiency, Satisfaction, Usefulness, Ease of use, Ease of learning

- Usability measures in PIM context:
  - Performance (recall/precision), Adoption and Use, Flow, Quality of Life

Usability Questionnaire Example 1

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		NA
1.	Overall, I am satisfied with how easy it is to use this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
2.	It was simple to use this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
3.	I can effectively complete my work using this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
4.	I am able to complete my work quickly using this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
5.	I am able to efficiently complete my work using this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
6.	I feel comfortable using this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
7.	It was easy to learn to use this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
8.	I believe I became productive quickly using this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
9.	The system gives error messages that clearly tell me how to fix problems	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
10.	Whenever I make a mistake using the system, I recover easily and quickly	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
11.	The information (such as online help, on-screen messages, and other documentation) provided with this system is clear	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
12.	It is easy to find the information I needed	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
13.	The information provided for the system is easy to understand	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
14.	The information is effective in helping me complete the tasks and scenarios	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
15.	The organization of information on the system screens is clear	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
16.	The interface of this system is pleasant	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
17.	I like using the interface of this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
18.	This system has all the functions and capabilities I expect it to have	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
19.	Overall, I am satisfied with this system	strongly disagree	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	strongly agree	○
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		NA

Usability Questionnaire Example 2

Step 1: Read over the following list of words. Considering the product you have just used, tick those words that best describe your experience with it. You can choose as many words as you wish.

- ☐ Unattractive
- ☐ Fun
- ☐ Distracting
- ☐ Inconsistent
- ☐ Friendly
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Bright
- ☐ Counter-intuitive
- ☐ Patronising
- ☐ Exciting
- ☐ Simplistic
- ☐ Organised
- ☐ Fresh
- ☐ Secure
- ☐ Irrelevant
- ☐ Consistent
- ☐ Easy to use
- ☐ Predictable
- ☐ Useful
- ☐ Satisfying
- ☐ Efficient
- ☐ Creative
- ☐ Annoying
- ☐ Accessible
- ☐ Dated
- ☐ Illogical
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Stimulating
- ☐ Comprehensive
- ☐ Time-consuming
- ☐ Intuitive
- ☐ Confusing
- ☐ Awkward
- ☐ Effortless
- ☐ Understandable
- ☐ Frustrating
- ☐ Expected
- ☐ Usable
- ☐ Dull
- ☐ Desirable
- ☐ Advanced
- ☐ Unpredictable

Step 2: Now look at the words you have ticked. Circle five of these words that you think are most descriptive of the product.

Summary and Challenges

- Desktop Search research just started ☺
- Main future directions are:
  - Logging of user activities and creating context-aware DS
  - Integration of metadata and fulltext search in personal repositories
  - Building social semantic desktop - collaboration, recommendation and knowledge sharing functionalities should extend basic information access on the desktop
  - Better understanding of user needs
  - Seamless integration of search and browsing behavior

We are hiring!

- Relevant Areas
  - Search and Information Retrieval
  - Information and Concept Extraction
  - Data Mining and Statistical Analysis
  - User Interface Engineering and Interaction Design
  - Semantic Technologies and Web 2.0
  - Multimodal Communication and Analysis
  - Social Software for Technology Enhanced Learning
- Phd and PostDoc positions
  - See handouts or http://www.l3s.de/web/page23g.do
- 6-months internships for Master Students
  - Send your CV (1-3 pages) and Research Statement (1-2 pages) to Prof. Wolfgang Nejdl (nejdl@L3S.de) or most relevant person from L3S
  - Further questions – come and ask now or write to chernov@L3S.de

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