

From
Improbable
to
Unstoppable

A brief history of the World Wide Web

Presented by J.F. Groff at Reboot 8, June 2nd, 2006

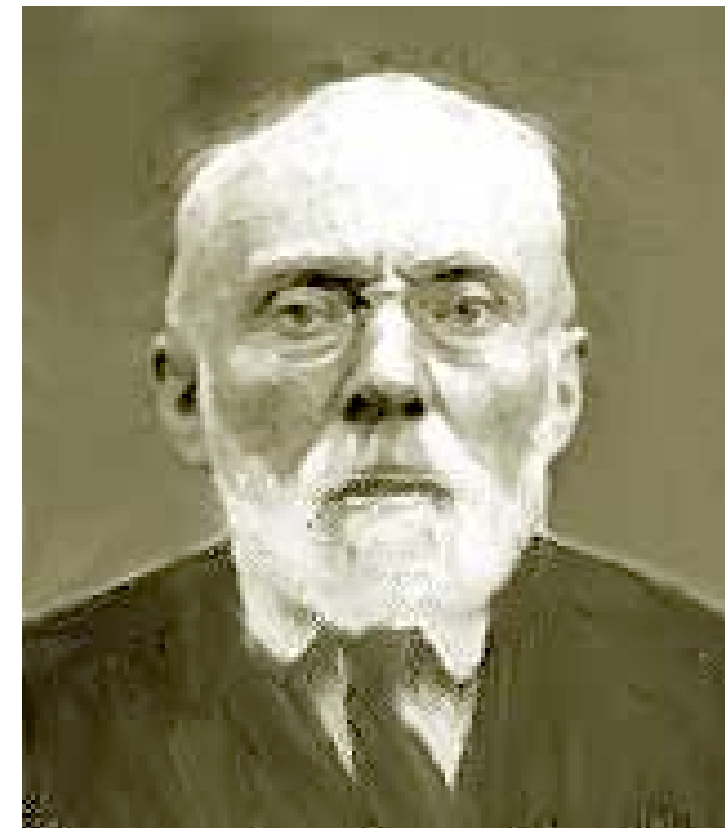
Fathers of hypertext



Ted Nelson, 1965



Vannevar Bush, 1945



Paul Otlet, 1903

1989



A geek



Tim Berners-Lee

A ~~geek~~ Renaissance Man

- Can solder and code
- Acts in theater
- Talks like a TGV
- Humanistic outlook
- Positive attitude



Tim Berners-Lee

A mess



CERN, Geneva

A ~~mess~~ fertile environment

- Ultimate research lab
- Thousands of scientists
- Dozens of countries
- Lunch with Nobel prizes
- Countless terabytes



CERN, Geneva



A mythical tool



WorldWideWeb

- Info
- Navigate
- Document
- Edit
- Links
- Style
- Print...
- Page layout...
- Windows
- Services
- Hide
- Quit

Style

- Copy style 1
- Apply style 2
- Panel...

Info

HyperMedia Browser/Editor

Prerelease b of Version 0.13

An exercise in global information availability

by Tim Berners-Lee

Copyright 1990,91, CERN. Distribution restricted: ask for terms. TEST VERSION ONLY

HyperText: Text which is not constrained to be linear.
HyperMedia: Information which is not constrained linear... or to be text.

This version of the WWW application can pick up hypertext information from files in a number of formats, from local files, from remote files using NFS or anonymous FTP, from hypertext servers by name or keyword search, and from internet news. Hypertext files may be edited, and links made from hypertext files to other files or any other information.

For more help, use "Help" from the menu. If that doesn't work, then your application has been incompletely installed.

If you have any comments or have bugs, please mail timbl@info.cern.ch. quoting the version number (above).

Navigation

< Previous Back up Next >

Home Help

JFG Home

JFG's home page at InfoDesign

This home page demonstrates some simple concepts of the World-Wide Web infrastructure for global information sharing.

Today, I showed Tim's original Web browser to Marc Weber. I just took some notes about him and linked them to his name on the fly.

I use this World-Wide Web editor exactly like any word processor, with the power to create links from sensitive pieces of text to other places, for instance to personal notes or to any information source in the world.

WWW research stuff

- Hypertext Resources (IN-Box)
- Geographical list of WWW servers (at CERN) same list. Example : CERN phone book
- WWW project documentation (at CERN)

Style editor

Style name: List

<< style of selection >>

Apply style to selection

Apply style to all similar text

Find unstyled text

Style sheet Open Save as...

Format

First line indent: 100

Successive indent: 130

Font: Helvetica

Point Size: 12

SGML tag: Set

Tabs: 130 300

HotWired: What's New

Welcome to Yorb, the electronic neighborhood hits Wired, 24 May. via in On the R

Flux Ned hears rumors of a deal between GM

Fetish Solar

Net Surf Pro

Jenny Holzer's truisms take a turn for the Wel

If you feel a need for speed ... surf t

Ne

What's a week without a Bill Gates j

Corporate recruiting form letters = t

Alt.cynicism ... What's the Point?

Links

- Mark all A
- Mark selection M
- Link to marked L
- Link to file...
- Link to New N
- Follow link
- Unlink Z
- Help

Weber -- /Hypertext

Marc Weber

A computer consultant, small publisher and freelance journalist who is currently investigating the early history of the Web, to be published in Wired. He loves HotWired.

Welcome To HotWired!

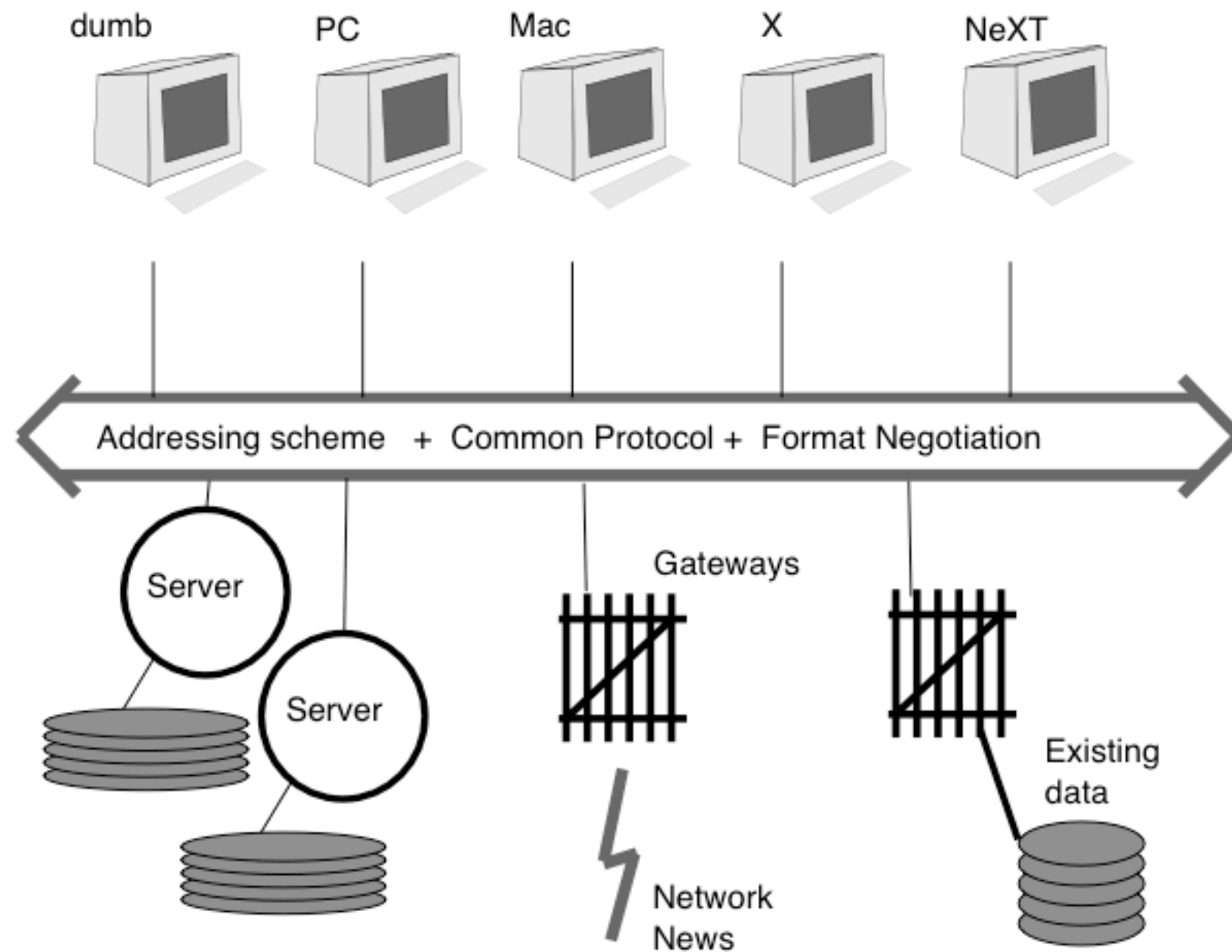
How to Join: Register Now Members Only: Unguided Tour Overview Need Help? What's New

Your View © 1995 HotWired Ventures LLC

Powered by Silicon Graphics



How does it work?



Keep it simple, stupid

Keep it simple, ~~stupid~~

★ UDI: Universal Document Identifier

Others (Z39.50):

("Mark Twain", 1:1003, 2:3, 3:1,
4:1, 5:100, 6:1)

✓ Web:

<http://info.cern.ch/FIND?Tim>

Keep it simple, ~~stupid~~

★ HTTP: HyperText Transfer Protocol

Others (FTP):

```
USER bilbo          TYPE A
PASS hobbit         RETR README.txt
CWD CERN            QUIT
```

✓ Web:

```
GET /CERN/welcome.html
```

Keep it simple, ~~stupid~~

★ HTML: HyperText Markup Language

Others (RTF):

```
{\rtf1\ansi\deff0 {\fonttbl {\f0  
Times New Roman;}}  
\f0\fs60 Hello, World!  
}
```

Keep it simple, ~~stupid~~

★ HTML: HyperText Markup Language

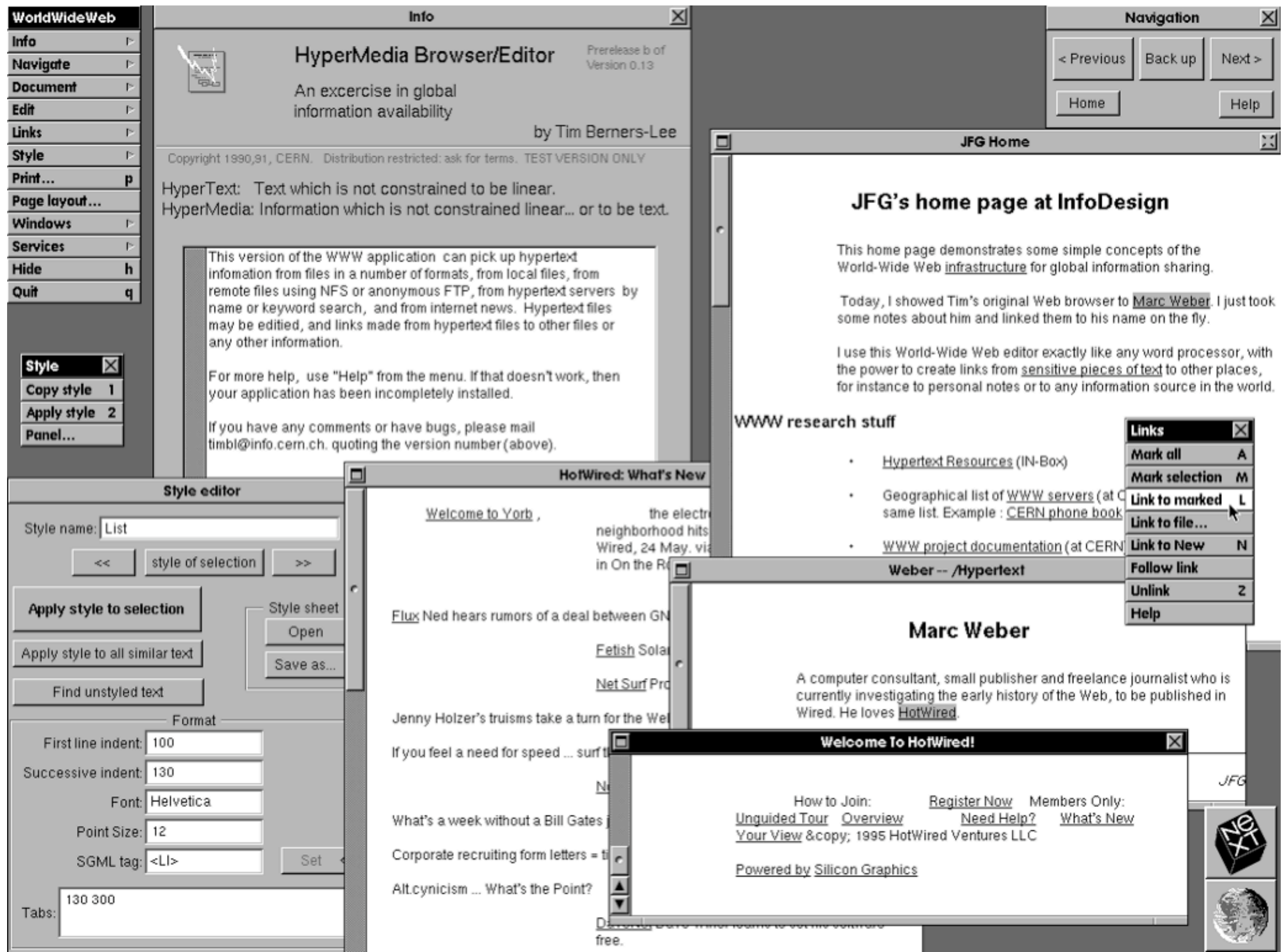
✓ Web:

```
<TITLE>Welcome to CERN
```

```
<H1>Introduction
```

```
<P>CERN is the European centre for  
particle physics research.
```

What the Web was meant to be



First impressions of the Web

if you didn't have a NeXT

CERN Welcome

CERN

The European Laboratory for Particle Physics, located near Geneva[1] in Switzerland[2] and France[3]. Also the birthplace of the World-Wide Web[4].

This is the CERN laboratory main server. The support team provides a set of Services[5] to the physics experiments and the lab. For questions and suggestions, see WWW Support Contacts[6] at CERN

About the Laboratory[7] - Hot News[8] - Activities[9] - About Physics[10] - Other Subjects[11] - Search[12]

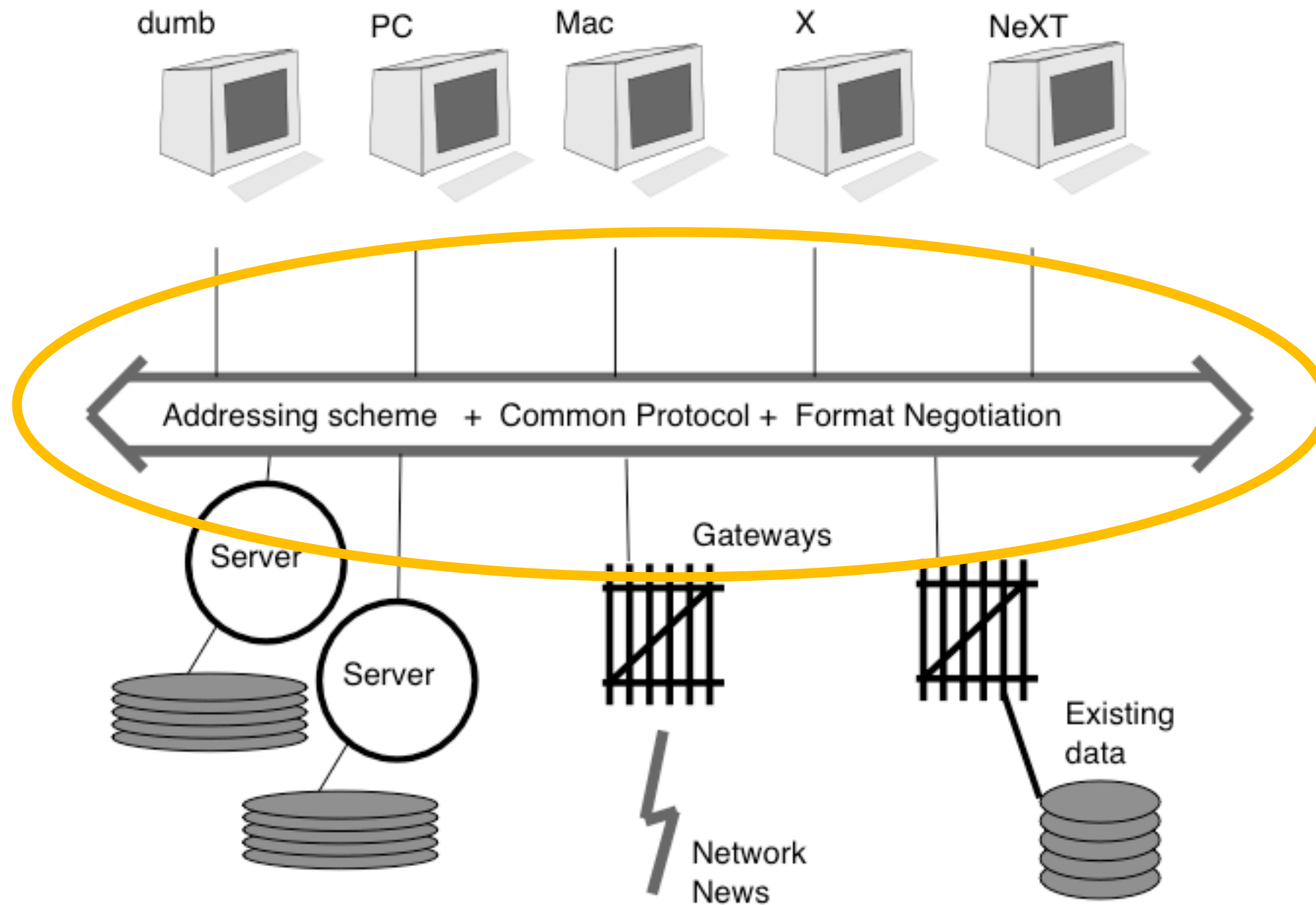
About the Laboratory

Help[13] and General information[14], divisions, groups and activities[15] (structure), Scientific committees[16]

Directories[17] (phone & email, services & people), Scientific Information Service[18] (library, archives or Alice), Preprint[19] Server

1-45, Back, Up, <RETURN> for more, Quit, or Help: █

Releasing libwww



XPlot

An equation and vector-objects plotting program

The `xplot` program was written by Scott Silvey at the Experimental Computing Facility of UCB. In an experiment, `xplot` was made accessible by other program, such as `viola`.

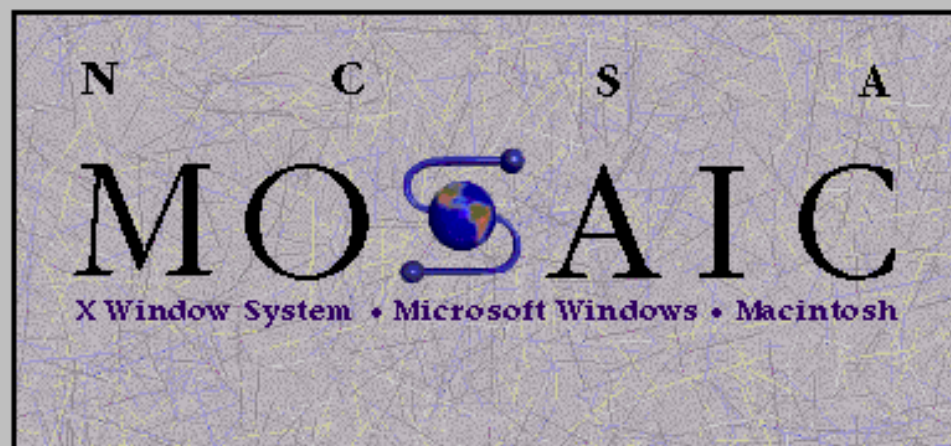
Here's a `viola` front-end to `xplot`, which is embedded into *this* document.

The screenshot shows a window titled "XPlot" with a dark blue background. A yellow wireframe plot of a complex, multi-faceted object is displayed. To the right of the plot is a vertical panel with a "Ops" menu at the top, a scrollable list of options, and a "Quit" button at the bottom. The window has a standard Mac OS-style title bar with a red close button, a yellow maximize button, and a green minimize button.



Document Title: NCSA Mosaic Home Page

Document URL: http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/Mosaic/NCSAMosaicHome.html



Welcome to NCSA Mosaic, an Internet information browser and [World Wide Web](#) client. NCSA Mosaic was developed at the [National Center for Supercomputing Applications](#) at the [University of Illinois](#) in --> Urbana-Champaign. NCSA Mosaic software is [copyrighted](#) by The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois (UI), and ownership remains with the UI.

Jan `97

The Software Development Group at NCSA has worked on NCSA Mosaic for nearly four years and we've learned a lot in the process. We are honored that we were able to help bring this technology to the masses and appreciated all the support and feedback we have received in return. However, the time has come for us to concentrate our limited resources in other areas of interest and development on Mosaic is complete.

All information about the Mosaic project is available from the homepages.

NCSA Mosaic Platforms:

- [NCSA Mosaic for the X Window System](#)
- [NCSA Mosaic for the Apple Macintosh](#)
- [NCSA Mosaic for Microsoft Windows](#)

World Wide Web Resources The following resources are available to help introduce you to cyberspace and keep track of its growth:

- A [glossary](#) of World Wide Web terms and acronyms
- An [INDEX](#) to Mosaic related documents
- [NCSA Mosaic Access Page](#) for persons with disabilities
- Mosaic and WWW related [Tutorials](#)
- [Internet Resources Meta-Index](#) at NCSA
- [Suggested Starting Points for Internet Exploration](#)

Great, but...

Nobody made a read-write browser

This little detail of history would define the first wave of the Web as traditional publisher/reader relationships.

Web 2.0 is a read/write renaissance !

Les Horribles Cernettes

by Silvano de Gennaro



1993-1994

The age of pioneers

Tim O'Reilly and Dale Dougherty (GNN)

Frans van Hoesel (Vatican Library exhibit)

Steve Putz (Xerox PARC Map Viewer)

Børre Ludvigsen (Home on the Web)

Rob Hartill (Internet Movie Database)

Kevin Hughes (Honolulu Community College)

Joe Kraus et al. (Architext)

Mark Pesce (VRML)

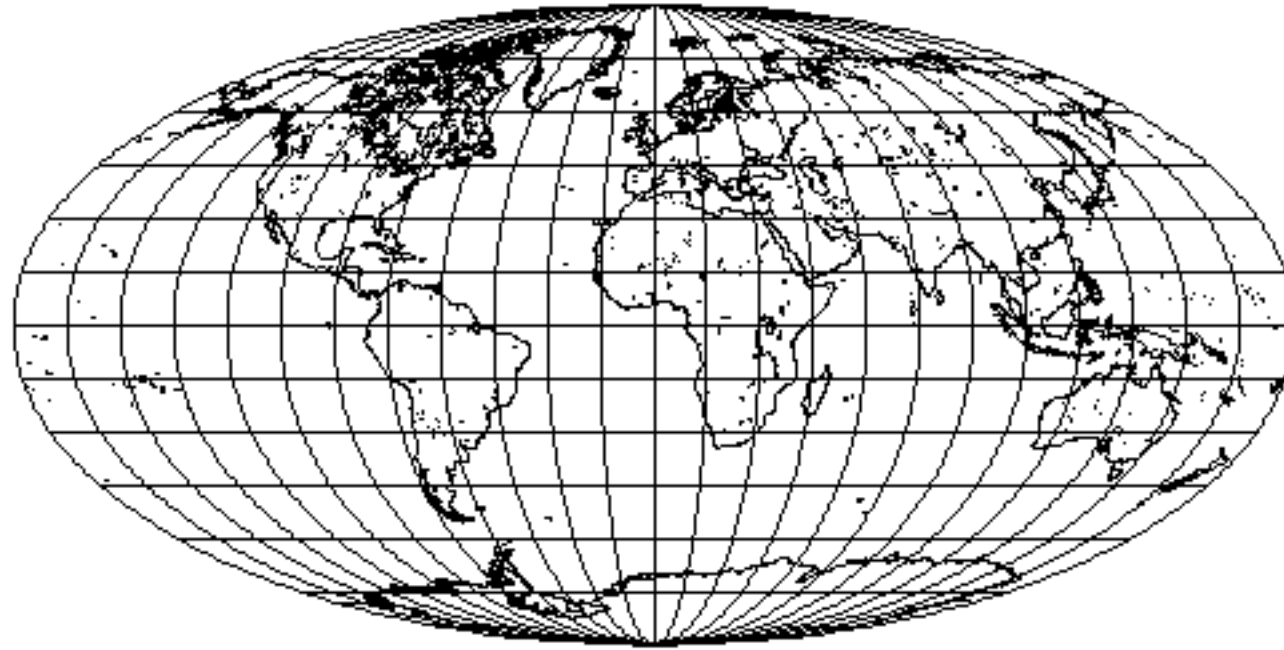
Nicolas Pioch (WebLouvre)

Robert Cailliau

(First Web Conference: “Woodstock of the Web”)

Xerox PARC Map Viewer

by Steve Putz

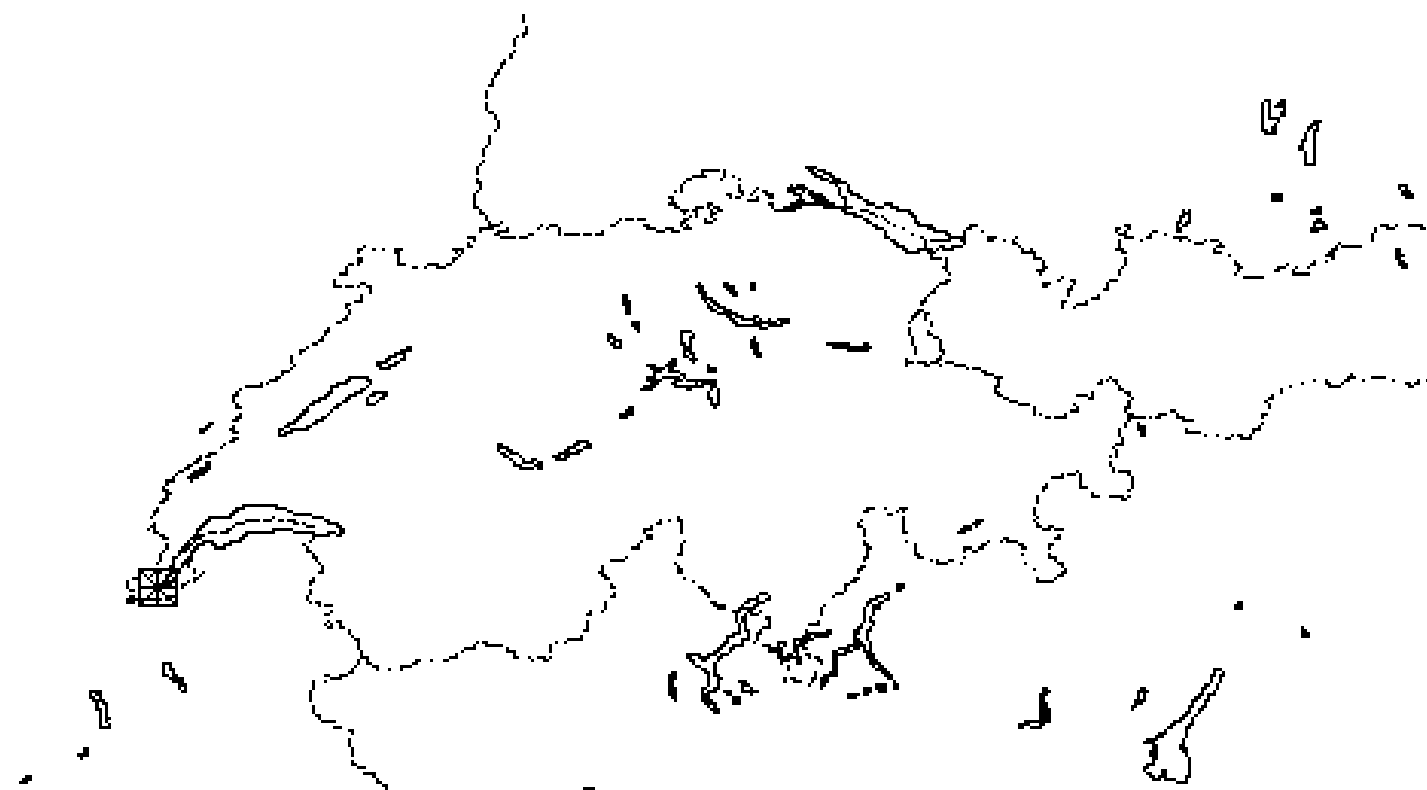


Select a point on the map to zoom in (by 2), or select an option below. Please read [About the Map Viewer](#), [FAQ](#) and [Details](#).

Options:

- Zoom In: [\(2\)](#), [\(5\)](#), [\(10\)](#), [\(25\)](#); Zoom Out: [\(1/2\)](#), [\(1/5\)](#), [\(1/10\)](#), [\(1/25\)](#)
- Features: [Default](#), [All](#); [+borders](#), [+rivers](#)
- Display: [color](#); Projection: [elliptical](#), [rectangular](#), [sinusoidal](#); [Narrow](#), [Square](#)
- Change Database to [USA only \(more detail\)](#)
- [Hide Map Image](#), [No Zoom on Select](#), [Reset All Options](#)

Map Viewer: world 46.92N 8.34E (64.1X)



Select a point on the map to zoom in (by 2), or select an option below. Please read [About the Map Viewer](#), [FAQ](#) and [Details](#).

Options:

- Zoom In: [\(2\)](#), [\(5\)](#), [\(10\)](#), [\(25\)](#); Zoom Out: [\(1/2\)](#), [\(1/5\)](#), [\(1/10\)](#), [\(1/25\)](#)
- Features: [Default](#), [All](#); [-borders](#), [+rivers](#)
- Display: [color](#); Projection: [elliptical](#), [rectangular](#), [sinusoidal](#); [Narrow](#), [Square](#)
- Change Database to [USA only \(more detail\)](#)
- [Hide Map Image](#), [No Zoom on Select](#), [Reset All Options](#)

Options can also be typed in as search keywords (e.g. "lon=-100", see [details](#)).
Current region is 5.62 deg. wide by 2.81 deg. (193.89 miles) high.

Home on the Web

by Børre Ludvigsen

w e l c o m e t o o u r h o m e



(The original home on the net no longer exists. These pages from 1993-95 will be kept unchanged purposely for historical reasons.)

Some of the content of the homeserver:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| [Articles] | [Clay pipes] | [Books] |
| [Video conferencing] | [Family and pets] | [Fisk] |
| [The flu] | [Fredrikstad] | [Autumn] |
| [Hvasser] | [Ice] | [Cyberdemocracy] |
| [My colleagues] | [Norway] | [Østfold] |
| [Panoramas (QTVR)] | [Rock art (Helleristninger)] | [This domain] |
| [This server] | [A trip to Trondheim] | [Um Kalthoum] |
| [My homepage at work] | [Al Mashriq] | [Our corner of Norway] |
| [Børre] | [Experimental films] | [The optical telegraph] |
| [The house] | [Our net] | [This project] |



Fredrikstad

We're located in the south eastern-most corner of Norway. On the island of Kråkerøy near the town of Fredrikstad. Fredrikstad is about 40 km west of Halden and 100 km south of the capital Oslo, on the eastern shore of the Oslofjord.



Maps of [Norway](#), [Fredrikstad](#) and a small portion of [Kråkerøy](#) with instruction on how to reach us.

Pictures of Fredrikstad.



City center from north west.



City center from the north.



Fredrikstad from the east.



Fredrikstad from the south east.



Fredrikstad bridge from the south.



Town center from the south.



Fredrikstad from the south.



The old town from the south.

Panoramas



1994-1995

The age of business

Spry (Internet in a box)

Allan Schiffman (SSL)

Jerry Yang and David Filo (Yahoo)

James Clark (Netscape)

Lee Stein et al. (First Virtual Holdings)

Will Kreth et al. (HotWired)

Brian Behlendorf et al. (Organic and Apache)

Rob Glaser (RealAudio)

Jeff Bezos (Amazon)

Pierre Omidyar (eBay)

Chris Wilson et al. (Microsoft Internet Explorer)

Sabeer Bhatia and Jack Smith (Hotmail)

Paul Flaherty (AltaVista)

Learn more
and share your history

The Web History Center
a collaborative effort to record and publish
the history of the World Wide Web

webhistory.org

Know the past.
Invent the future.

Say YES !!!