

LCC 6310
The Computer as an
Expressive Medium

Lecture 15

Overview

Programming questions?
Project 3 questions? (due tomorrow!)
Discuss readings
Assignment 4
Readings for next week

Project 3

Due: Friday

Literary machines are potential literature, procedurally producing textual traces in response to interaction. Examples of literary machines include interactive fiction, nodal hypertexts, interactive poetry (often with animated typography), and chatterbots.

Create a literary machine. The literary machine must include algorithmic elements, such as animated typography, generated text, conditional responses as a function of the previous interaction trace. It must respond to external inputs (e.g. user interaction). Your piece may include conjunctions of text and imagery.

Readings

Summary presentations & questions for discussion

Nomadic Power and Cultural Resistance - CAE (NMR pp.781-790)

The World-Wide Web - Tim Berners-Lee, et. al. (NMR pp.791-798)

Critical Art Ensemble



Collective of tactical media practitioners formed in 1987

Explores the intersections between art, critical theory, technology, and political activism

<http://www.critical-art.net/>

What is resistance?

Countering the techniques and "technologies of power" that impose isolation, distraction and domination through surveillance, entertainment, and force...

Weaknesses of older media forms of resistance according to CAE:

Powerful individuals and institutions are increasingly nomadic and invisible.

Consequently, older forms of resistance (reason & rational debate, truth & justice, free speech, free assembly,...) that challenge the sites and centers of power are no longer viable...

Politics of disturbance

CAE and the politics of disturbance:

"Nomadic power must be resisted in cyberspace rather than in physical space. ... A small but coordinated group of hackers could introduce electronic viruses, worms and bombs into the data banks, programs, and networks of authority... Such a strategy does not require a unified class action, nor does it require simultaneous action in numerous geographical areas. ... By whatever means electronic authority is disturbed, the key is to totally disrupt command and control." (CAE, p. 788)

Politics of biotech

More recent work by CEA on biotechnology...

"This work shows how technical, 'expert' decisions are being taken by isolated groups of experts and shows how these decisions affect all of us, even though - in a democratic society - we (the 'non-experts') should also be able to have a say about anything that affects us all."

What can be done to resist genetically modified foods?

<http://www.critical-art.net/biotech/free/>



FBI charges against Steve Kurtz

May 11, 2004: Steve Kurtz was already suffering from one tragedy when he called 911 early in the morning to tell them his wife had suffered a cardiac arrest and died in her sleep. The police arrived and, cranked up on the rhetoric of the "War on Terror," decided Kurtz's art supplies were actually bioterrorism weapons...

<http://www.caedefensefund.org/>

[[Video](#)]

World Wide Web



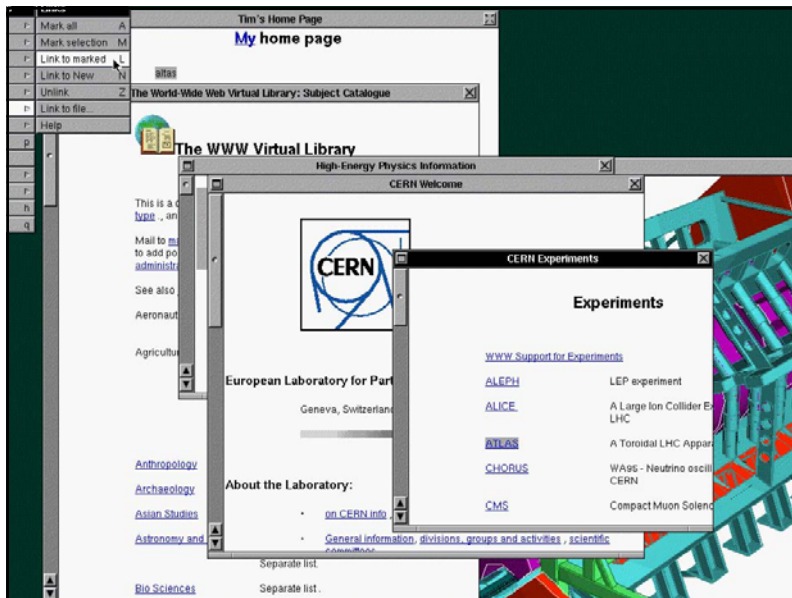
Tim Berners-Lee

Proposed that [CERN](#) (the world's largest particle physics lab) create a "global hypertext system" in 1989 on a NeXT computer

Wrote the first browser program which he called the "World Wide Web" in 1990, allowing first access to Internet news articles

Software released on the Internet in 1991

Blog: <http://diq.csail.mit.edu/breadcrumbs/blog/4>



The Future of the Web



2006/03/14 Oxford Internet Institute talk by Tim Berners-Lee, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium, Senior Researcher at MIT's CSAIL, and Professor of CS at Southampton ECS

[[Video](#)]

Net Neutrality

"When, seventeen years ago, I designed the Web, I did not have to ask anyone's permission. The new application rolled out over the existing Internet without modifying it. I tried then, and many people still work very hard still, to make the Web technology, in turn, a universal, neutral, platform. It must not discriminate against particular hardware, software, underlying network, language, culture, disability, or against particular types of data..."

"Net neutrality is this: If I pay to connect to the Net with a certain quality of service, and you pay to connect with that or greater quality of service, then we can communicate at that level."

[[Video](#)] [[Blog post 2006-06-21 16:35](#)]

Assignment 4

Posted online, **not graded**

- A4-01: Use HTMLParser or Swing to follow links on a webpage recursively and visually represent this process. The recursion should run at a depth of at least four. Ideas: use IMDB to create a link between actors via their movies (Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon!) and display their headshots. Do a Google search of a term, then a Google search of the first word in the description of its top result, then a Google search of the first word in the description of its top result... (or do it with Google Images and their image names or alt tags). Go to a random Wikipedia article and follow the first link to another Wikipedia page in its article content, go to that page and follow the first link to another Wikipedia page in that article content, etc. Or you can play with the CNN example. Your recursion can be as narrow or broad as you see fit (follow one link on a page and its children vs. following all the links on a page and all their children), but make sure to balance breadth of recursion with processing speed for a meaningful experience.
- A4-02: Using Switchboard, create a hybrid search engine that returns results from multiple web services upon the submission of a search term by a user. For example, if a user enters "Halloween", a set of results from del.icio.us, AllMusic, and Amazon (in the form of text and/or images) will appear relating to Halloween. You can determine how you want the results to appear, or you can allow a user to choose which web service he or she would like to query.

Readings for next week

For **Tuesday** next week:

Concepts: More HTML parsing, recursion

For **Thursday** next week: Theory Readings

One student: present readings

Everyone else: prepare one discussion question for the reading

Using Computers: A Direction for Design - Winograd & Flores (NMR pp. 551-561)