Dataspaces: The Next Frontier for Data Integration

Alon Halevy



Shannon Lecture Series April 26, 2007

Agenda

- Data integration:
 - Connecting disparate data sources
 - Great progress in last decade
- But we're still missing the point:
 - Dataspaces: a new abstraction
- A few connections to my Google work
- Predictions, subliminal messages (perhaps)



Abstractions 'R Us

Logical vs. Physical; What vs. How.

Students:

SSN	Name	Category
123-45-6789	Charles	undergrad
234-56-7890	Dan	grad

Takes:

SSN	CID
123-45-6789	CSE444
123-45-6789	CSE444
234-56-7890	CSE142

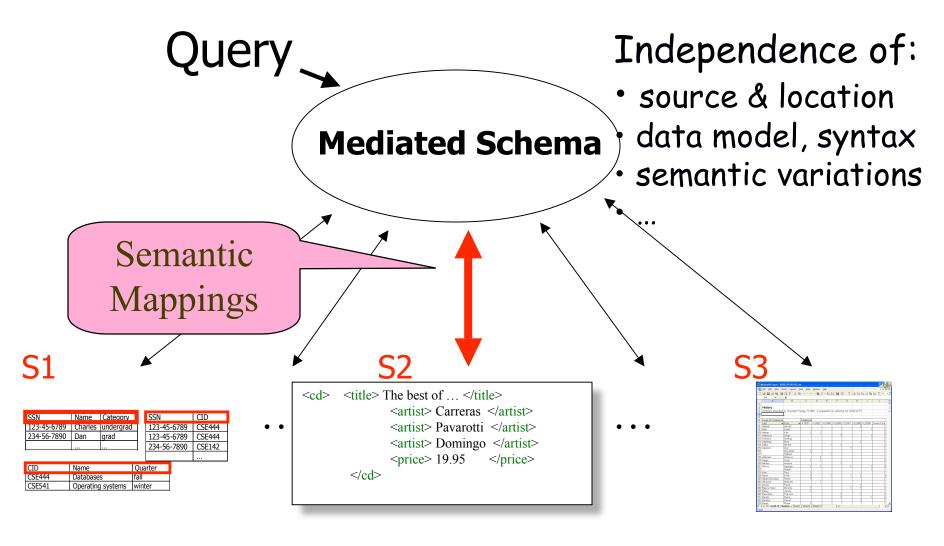
Courses:

CID	Name	Quarter
CSE444	Databases	fall
CSE541	Operating systems	winter

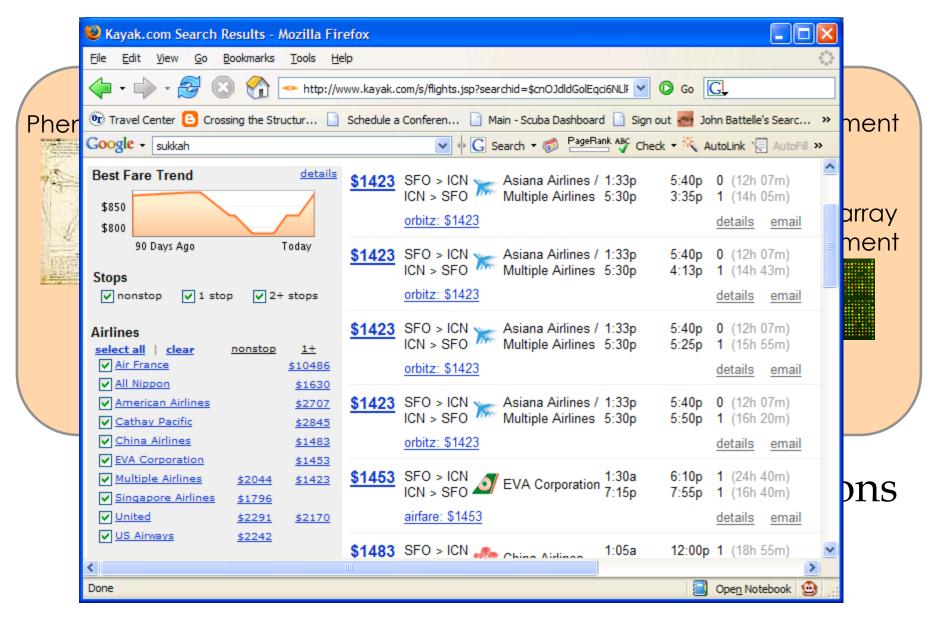
SELECT C.name
FROM Students S, Takes T, Courses C
WHERE S.name="Mary" and
S.ssn = T.ssn and T.cid = C.cid



Data Integration: A Higher-level Abstraction



Data Integration

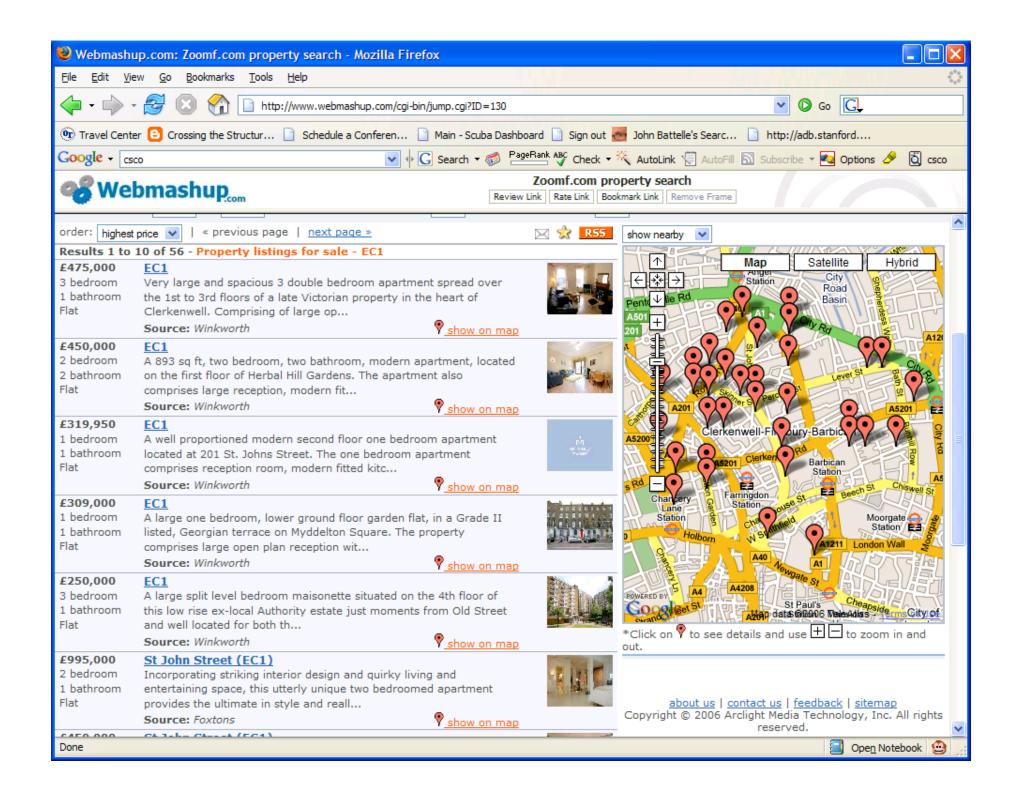


Wikipedia:



A mashup is a website or Web 2.0 application that uses content from more than one source to create a completely new service. This is akin to transclusion.





Why is it Hard?

Systems reasons:

- Managing different platforms
- Query processing across multiple systems

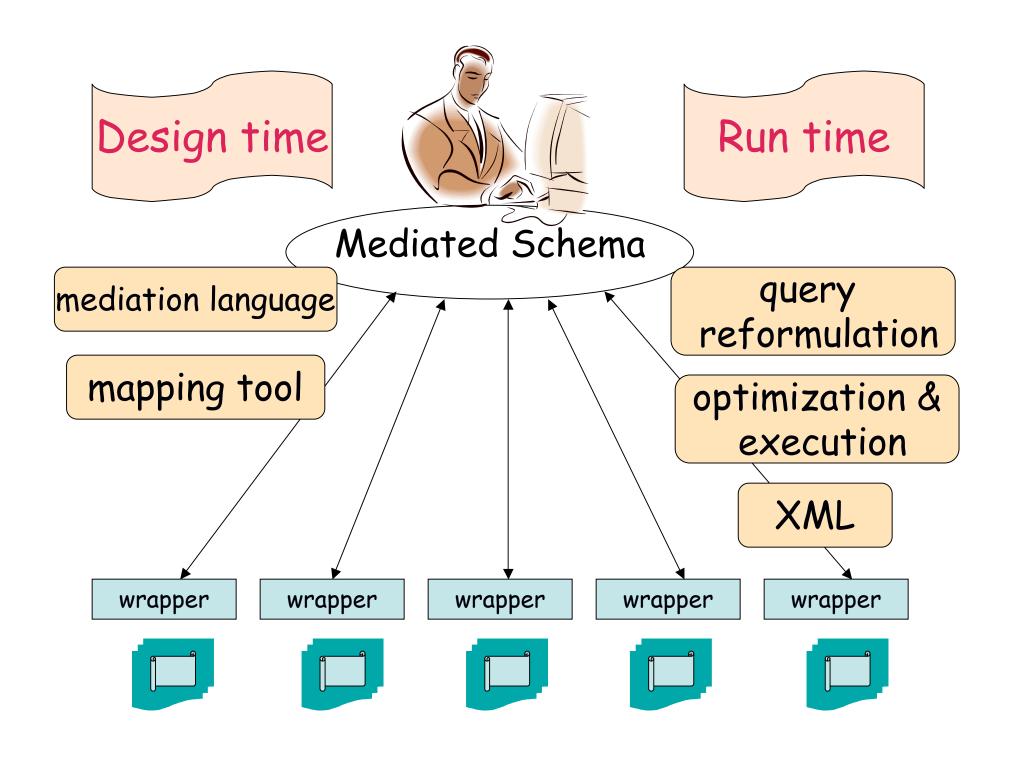
Social reasons:

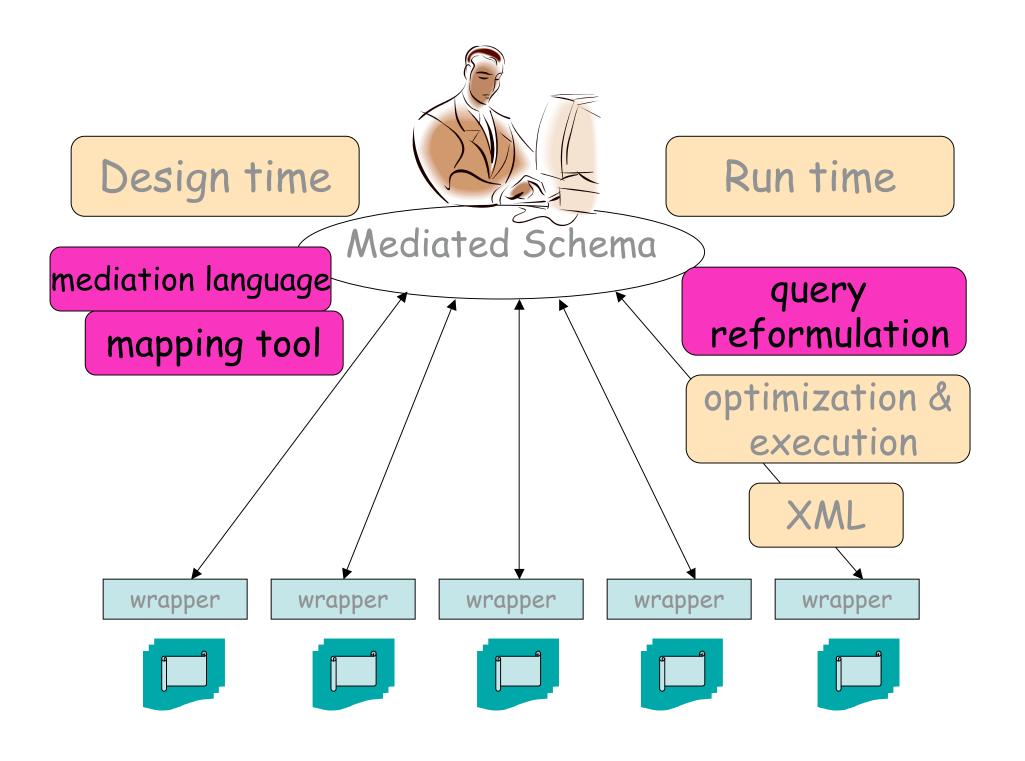
- Locating and capturing relevant data in the enterprise.
- Convincing people to share (data fiefdoms)
 - Privacy and performance implications.

Logic reasons:

- Schema (and data) heterogeneity
- Challenge independent of integration architecture!





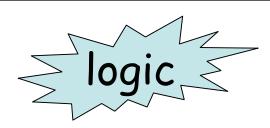


Mediation Languages

Mediated Schema

CD: ASIN, Title, Genre,...

Artist: ASIN, name, ...



CDs

Album ASIN

Price

DiscountPrice Studio

Books

Title ISBN

Price

DiscountPrice Edition

Authors

ISBN

FirstName LastName

CDCategories

ASIN Category

BookCategories

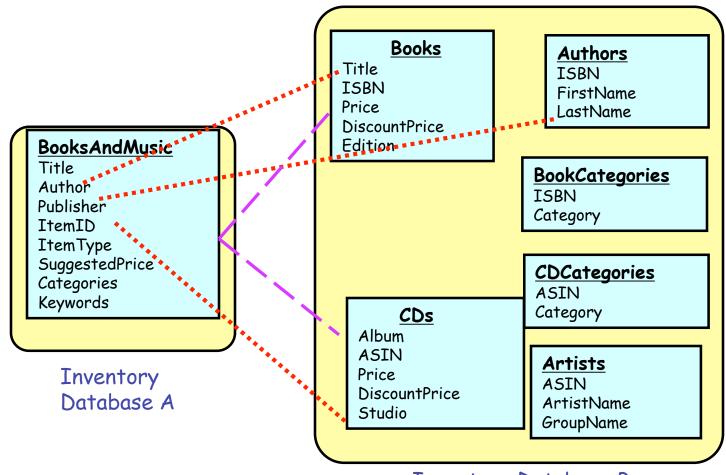
ISBN Category

Artists

ASIN ArtistName GroupName



Semantic Mappings



Inventory Database B

"Standards are great, but there are too many of them."



Techniques for Schema Mapping

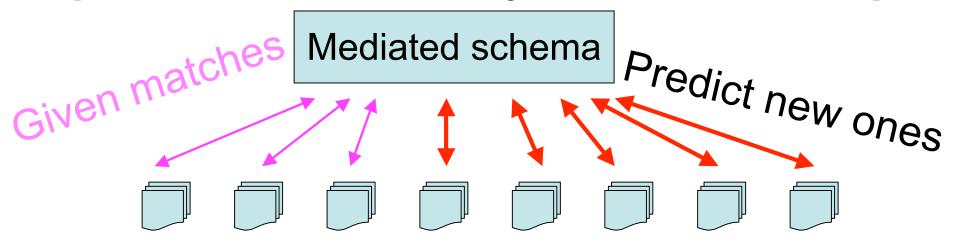
[Survey by Rahm and Bernstein, VLDBJ 2001]

- Compare schema elements based on:
 - Names (or n-grams)
 - Data types and instances
 - Text descriptions, integrity constraints
- Combine multiple techniques:
 - [Momis, Cupid, LSD, Coma]
- Create mappings from matches
 - [Clio @ IBM + Miller]



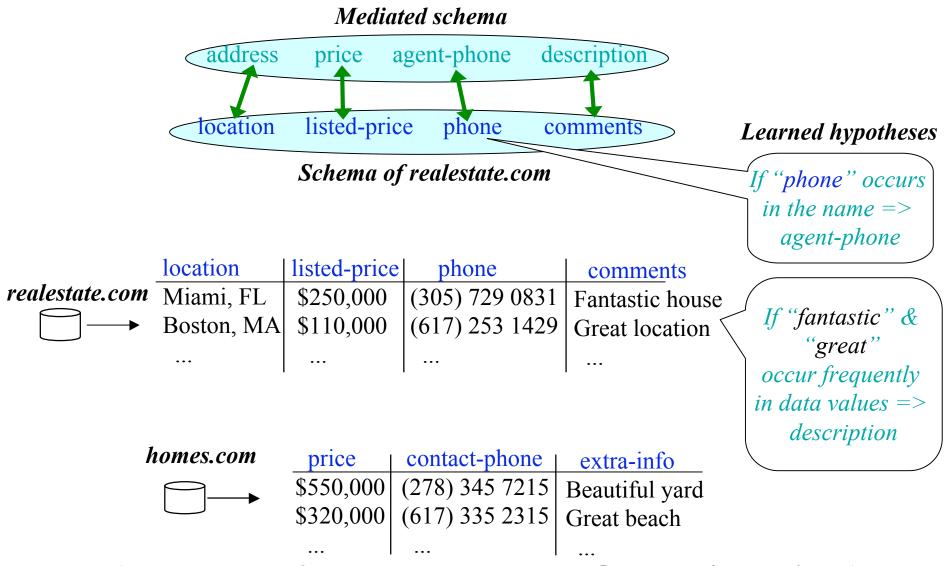
A Machine Learning Approach

[Doan et al., 2001, ACM Distinguished Dissertation 2003]



- Many mapping tasks are repetitive
- Learn from previous experience:
 - Build a classifier for every element of the mediated schema.
 - Many kinds of cues → multi-strategy learning

Matching Real-Estate Sources



Used by Transformic to create Everyclassified.com

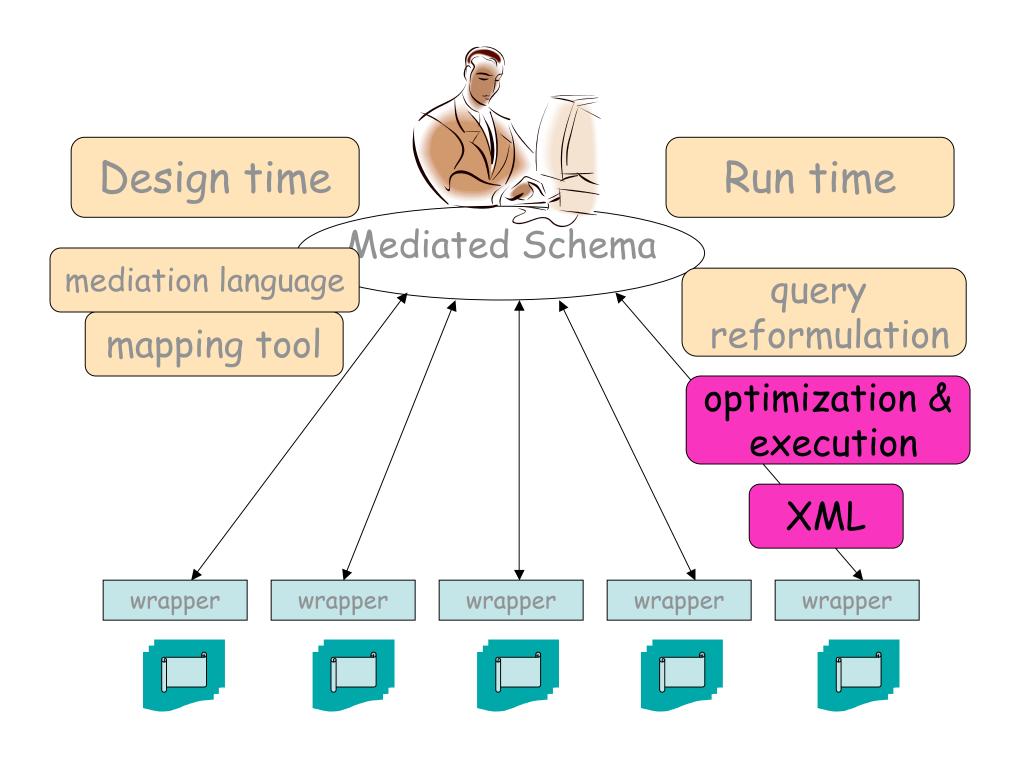
Reference Reconciliation

To Join or not to Join?

- Many ways to refer to the same object in the world:
 - "IBM", "International Business Machines"
 - Alon Levy, Alon Halevy
- Automated methods are necessity
 - Can't go through all the data manually
- Very active area in ML, KDD, DB, UAI,

. . .





Query Processing

To Plan or to Execute?

- In addition to distributed query processing issues:
 - Few statistics, if any.
 - Network behavior issues: latency, burstiness,...
 - Garlic @IBM
- "Adaptive query processing":
 - Stonebraker saw it coming in Ingres.
 - Revivals by Graefe (1993) and DeWitt (1998).
 - Query scrambling [Urhan & Franklin]
 - Eddies [Avnur & Hellerstein]
 - Convergent query processing [Ives et al.]



XML Query Processing

- XML = "data integration appetizer".
- Industry went ahead of research:
 - Nimble, Enosys, XQRL
 - Inspiration from Tukwila, MIX, Strudel/Agora
- (some) Issues:
 - Designing the internal algebra
 - Dealing with evolving XQuery standard
- The database community has served an impressive smorgasbord of XML techniques.



Other Major Developments

 Peer-to-peer data integration (e.g., Piazza @ UW)

Data exchange systems (@IBM)

Model management (Bernstein @ MSR)

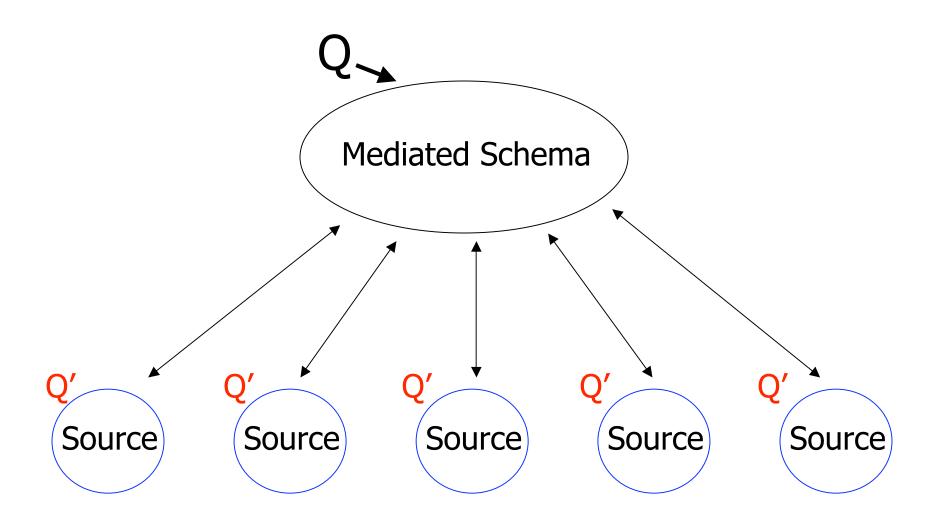


A Few Comments about Commerce

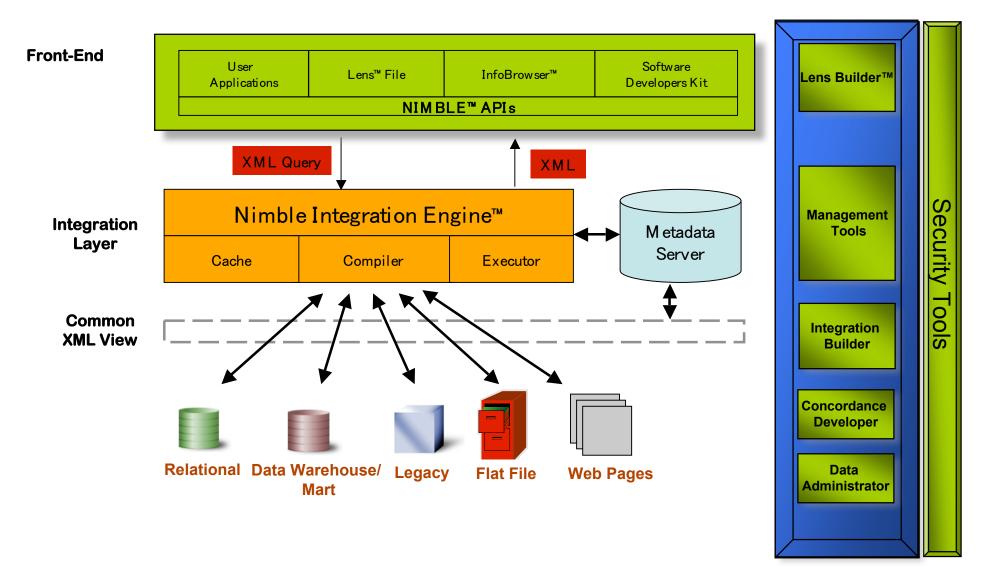
- Until a few years ago:
 - Data integration = Data warehousing.
- Since then:
 - A wave of startups:
 - Nimble, Enosys, MetaMatrix, Calixa, Composite
 - Big guys made announcements (IBM, BEA)
- Success! analysts invent new buzzword EII
- Lessons:
 - Performance was fine. Need management tools.
 - Timing, timing, timing



Data Integration: Before



After \$30M



2007 Status Report [Enterprise Angle]

- Enterprise Information Integration is established:
 - IBM, BEA, Oracle, MetaMatrix (soon RedHat), Composite, Actuate, ...
- Impact on design tools:
 - IBM Rational Data Architect
 - ADO .NET v. 3



Forrester Says...

"Enterprises are facing the **growing challenges of**using disparate sources of data managed by
different applications, including problems with data integration,
security, performance, availability and quality.... New technology
is emerging that Forrester has coined "information
fabric," a term defined as a virtualized data layer
that integrates heterogeneous data and content repositories in
real time.... The potential benefits of this technology are so great
that enterprises should develop a strategy to leverage
information fabric technology as it becomes more widely
available."



2007 Status Report [Web Angle]

- Vertical search engines: one domain
- At scale: need even better source descriptions
 - deep web can be surfaced
- Terminology: Data integration = mashups!



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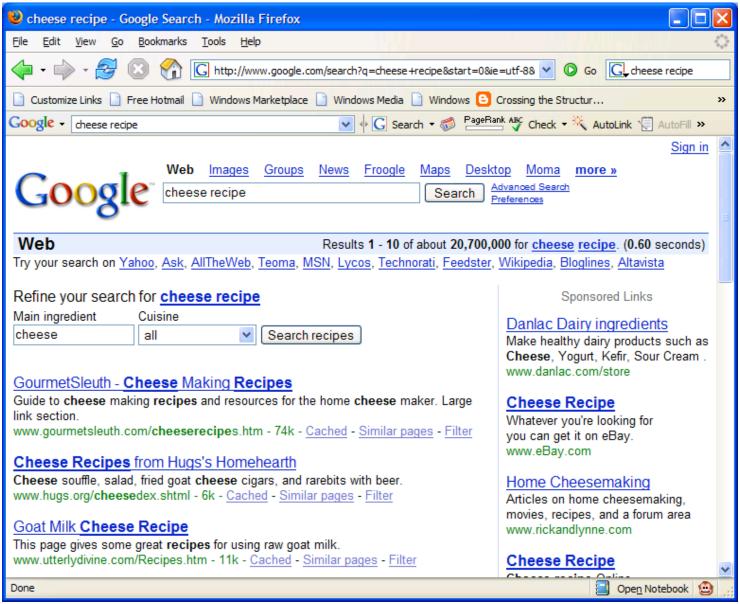
Shrapnels in Baghdad



Story courtesy of Phil Bernstein



The Web is Getting Semantic

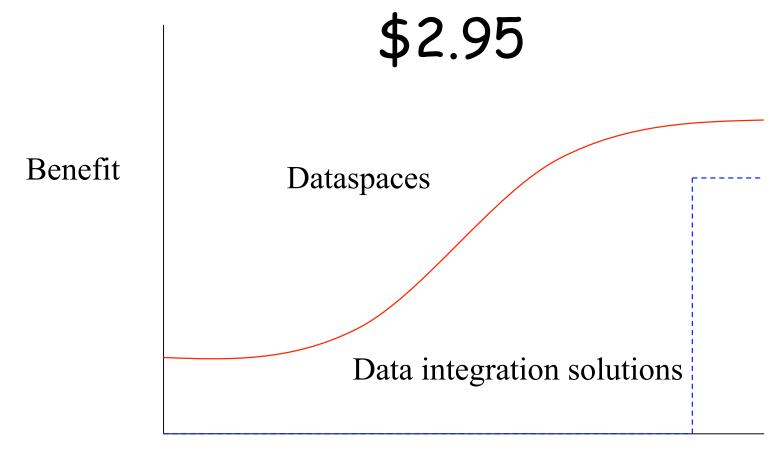


"Data is the plural of anecdote"

- Personal information management
- Digital libraries, enterprises, "smart homes"
- Circle of Blue
 - Data about the world's water sources
- The Boeing 777
 - [Hanrahan @ Stanford]

Pay-as-you-go Data Management

Dataspaces: Franklin, Halevy, Maier [see PODS 2006]



Artist: Mike Franklin

Investment (time, cost)

Other Dataspace Characteristics

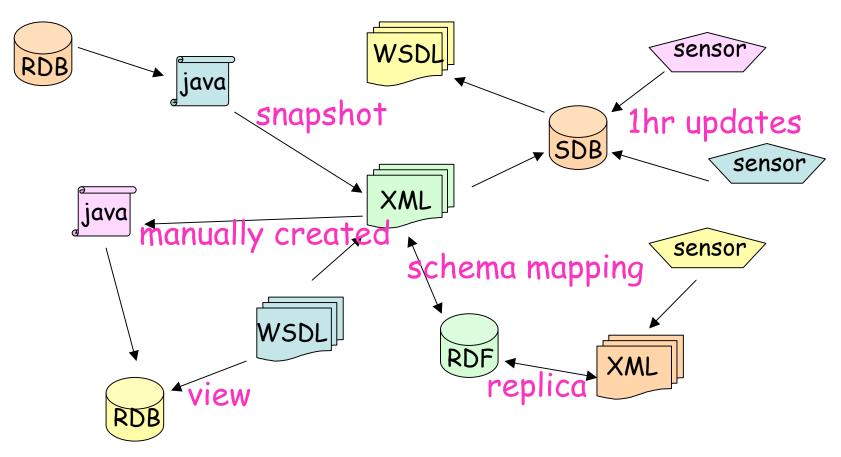
All dataspaces contain >20% porn.



The rest has >50% spam.



Participants and Relationships



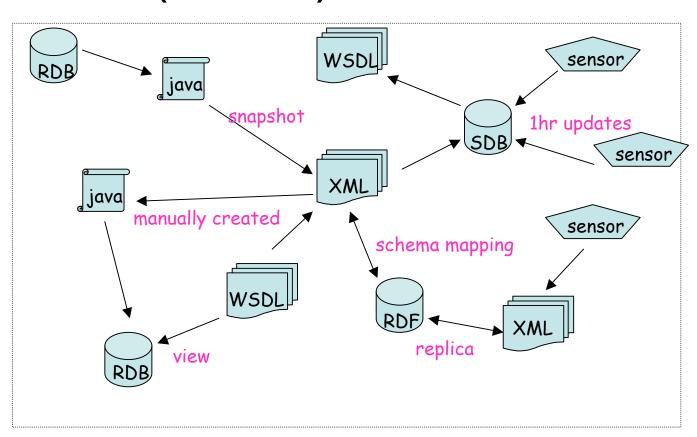


Dataspace Support Platforms (DSSP)

Discover & Enhance

Catalog

Local Store & Index



Search & query

Administration



Dataspaces: Main Points

New types of queries & answers

Reusing human attention for evolving a dataspace

Visualization at the forefront.



Dataspace Queries

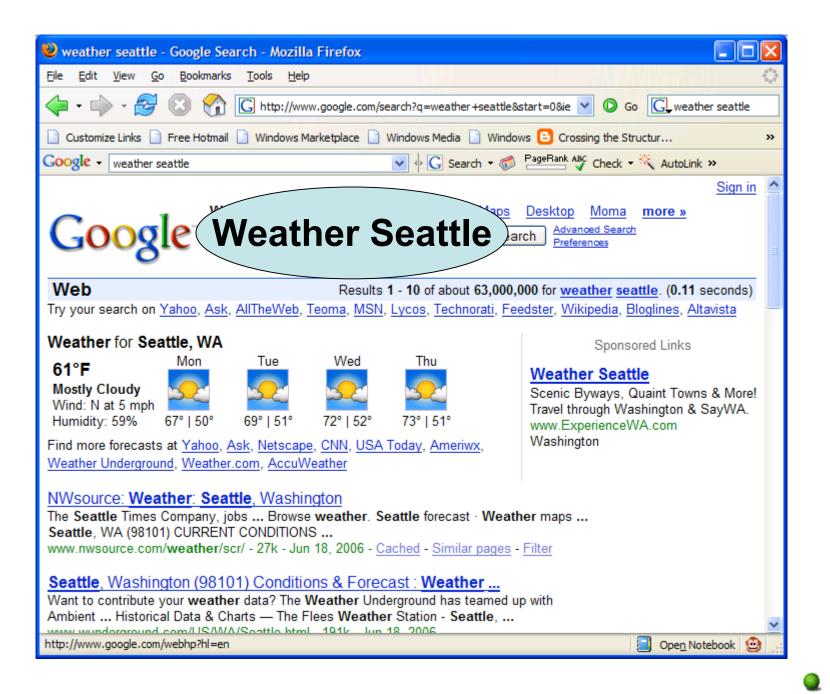
- Keyword queries as starting point
 - Later may be refined to add structure
 - Formulated in terms of user's "schema"
- Mostly of the form
 - Instance*:
 - "britany spears"
 - P (instance)
 - "palo alto weather"
 - "PC chair SIGMOD"



Semantics of Answers

- 1. The actual answers:
 - P(instance), P*(instance)



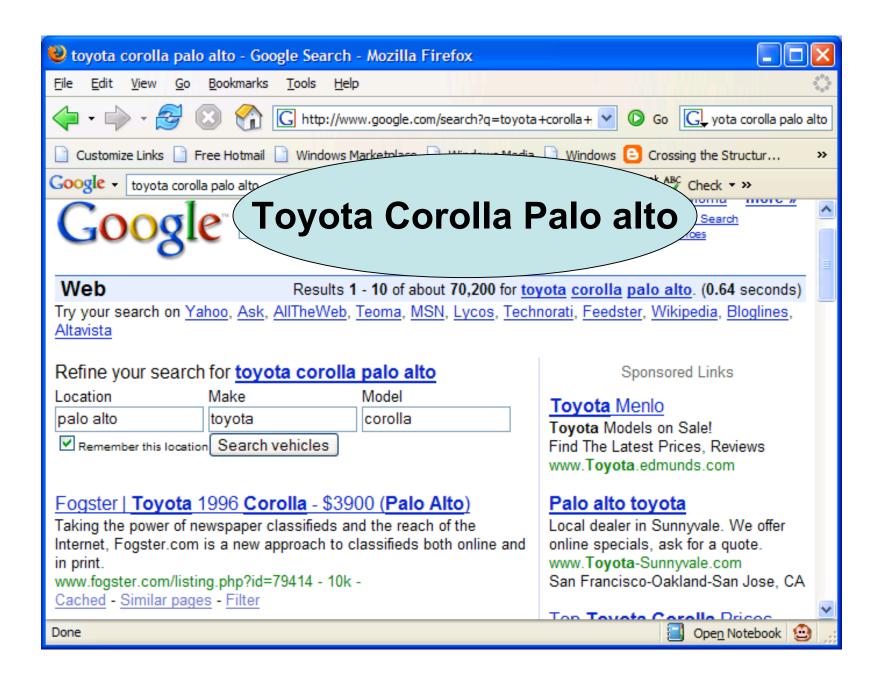


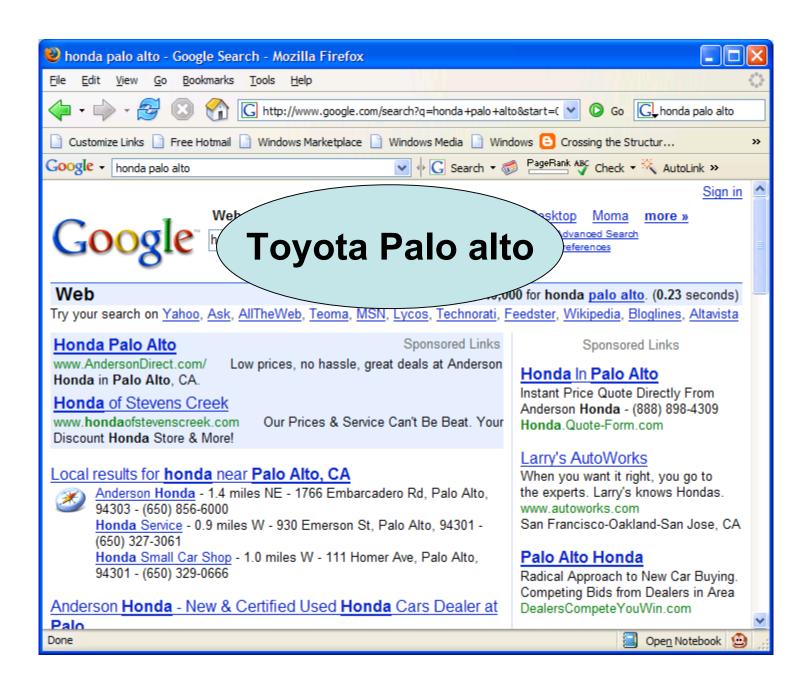


Semantics of Answers

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- 2. Sources where answer can be found:
 - Partially specify the query to the source
 - Help the user clean the query







Semantics of Answers

- 1. The actual answers:
 - P(instance), P*(instance)
- 2. Sources where answer can be found:
 - Partially specify the query to the source
 - Help the user clean the query
- 3. Supporting facts or sources:
 - Facts that can be used to derive P(instance)
 - Rest of derivation may be obvious to user

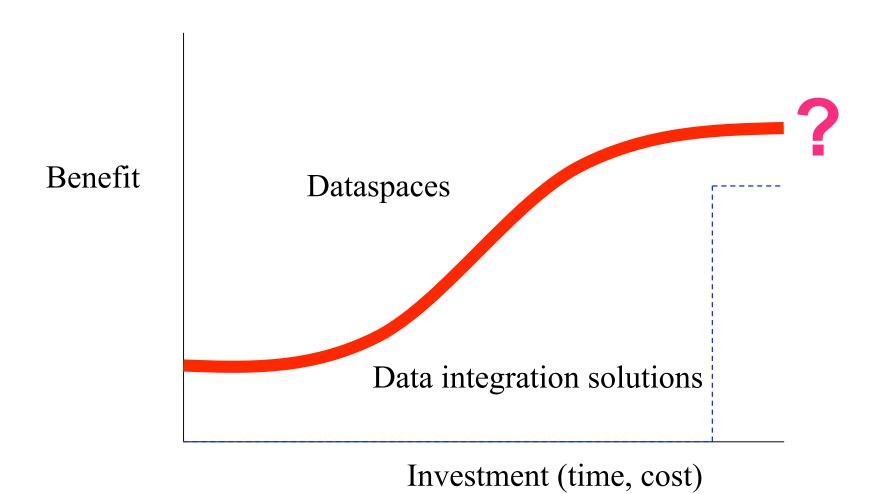


Related or Partial Answers

- In which country was Alon Halevy born?
 - Rehovot
- Latest edition of software X:
 - 2004 edition
- Is the Space Needle higher than the Eiffel Tower?
- 184m Height of Seattle Space Needle
- 324m Height of Eiffel Tower



The Cost of Semantics



Reusing Human Attention

- Principle:
 - User action = statement of semantic relationship
 - > Leverage actions to infer other semantic relationships
- Examples
 - Providing a semantic mapping
 - Infer other mappings
 - Writing a query
 - Infer source contents, relationships between sources
 - Creating a "digital workspace"
 - Infer "relatedness" of documents/sources
 - Infer co-reference between objects in the dataspace
 - Annotating, cutting & pasting, browsing among docs



Examples of Reuse

- Leverage past actions & existing structure:
 - [Dong et al., 2004, 2005], [He & Chang, 2003]
- Generalize from current actions
 - Queries, schema mappings
- Beg for extra attention:
 - ESP [von Ahn], mass collaboration [Doan+], active learning [Sarawagi et al.]



Conclusions

- Data integration is now real.
- Next step for data management:
 - Consumer facing interfaces (data management for the masses)
- Dataspaces: a key abstraction for the new agenda
 - Principle: reuse human attention



Some References

- Dataspaces:
 - Original vision: SIGMOD Record, December 2005
 - Technical challenges: PODS 2006
- Data Integration:
 - The Teenage Years: VLDB 2006
 - Ell experiences: SIGMOD 2005
 - The book: in progress…
- Teaching integration to undergraduates:
 - SIGMOD Record, September, 2003.



Some References

- www.cs.washington.edu/homes/alon
- Piazza: ICDE03, WWW03, VLDB-03, SIGMOD-04
- SSS: [Madhavan, forthcoming], VLDB-04.
- Semex: IIWeb-04
- Surveys on schema matching languages:
 - Halevy, VLDB Journal 01
 - Lenzerini, PODS 2002
- Teaching integration to undergraduates:
 - SIGMOD Record, September, 2003.

