



The (Semantic) Web in the Real World...

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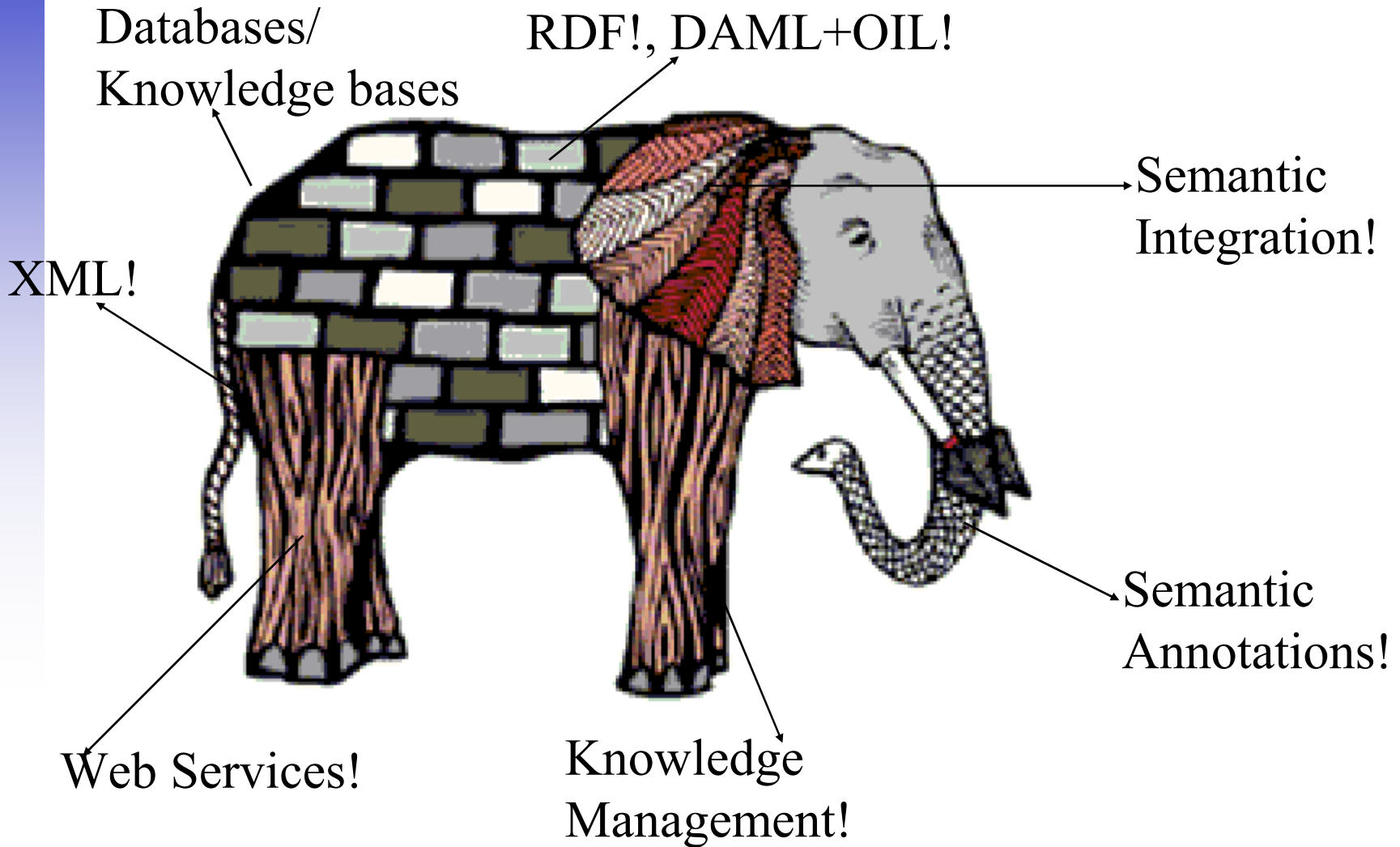
Honolulu, Hawaii

In the Real World....

- (Almost) everyone missed the Web!
 - The Networking Research community (inspite of designing the internet)
 - Too caught up in protocols... didn't look at applications
 - The Hypermedia/Multimedia communities
 - They rejected the notion of the Web!... (I believe!)
 - The Database community
 - Too inward looking and localized
 - The AI/KR community
 - Always aiming for the grandiose! Caught up in sophisticated inferences...
 - The Middleware community
 - Why was CORBA a failure?
- BUT!!!!
 - The Physicists got it right!!!!

MORAL: Focus on the needs and the value proposition!

In the Real World... What is the Semantic Web?



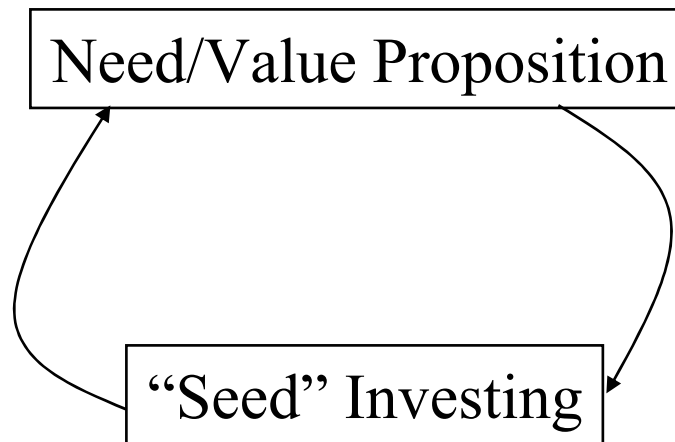
* Thanks to Eric Miller for the elephant!

In the Real World ... What will be the Semantic Web?

- A world wide database of self-describing, auto-correlated information?
- A world wide collection of self-describing, self-composing services?
- Will it be built on RDF* or XML* ?
- I DON'T CARE.... It's not for me to decide....!!
- The Real World Web Construction Principle:
 - KISS: Keep it Simple Stupid
 - Think Globally Work Locally
 - Learn from History:
 - The way the internet was created
 - The way the web was created
 - The way the United States of America was created!

In the Real World....

- Did the Chicken come first or the Egg?
- BOTH!!!!



In the Real World....

How do we build the Semantic Web?

- KISS:
 - Let's work with the defacto standard... by extending it!
 - E.g., lets merge RDF(S) and XML(S)

- Four broad areas identified at the Workshop:

- Semantic Search
- Web Services
- Knowledge Sharing and Annotation
- Application and Information Integration

MOST IMPORTANT!

- Application Pull !!

- THE GRID! was very interesting!!!
- Looks like the Physicists will get it right again!