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

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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?

Databases/ Knowledge bases

RDF!, DAML+OIL!

XML!

Semantic Integration!

Web Services!

Semantic Annotations!

Knowledge Management!

* 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!!!!

Need/Value Proposition

“Seed” Investing
In the Real World….
How do we build the Semantic Web?

• KISS:
  – Let’s work with the defacto standard… by extending it!
    • E.g., let's 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

• Application Pull !!
  – THE GRID! was very interesting!!

  – Looks like the Physicists will get it right again!