UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Presents

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Querying the World Wide Web

The World Wide Web is a large, heterogeneous, distributed collection of documents connected by hypertext links. The most common technology currently used for searching the Web depends on sending information retrieval requests to "index servers". One problem with this is that these queries cannot exploit the structure and topology of the document network.

In this talk we propose a query language, WebSQL, that takes advantage of multiple index servers without requiring users to know about them, and that integrates textual retrieval with structure and topology-based queries. We give a formal semantics for WebSQL using a calculus based on a novel "virtual graph" model of a document network. We propose a new theory of query cost based on the idea of "query locality," that is, how much of the network must be visited to answer a particular query. Finally, we describe a prototype implementation of WebSQL written in Java.

Place: 110 Knox, Amherst Campus
Date: Friday, Sept. 20, 1996
Time: 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

A reception follows the talk in 224 Bell Hall.

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