Topic Overview: Background

Computer Science 4173

25 March 2005 (1a)

1 Purpose

- Provide basis for discussion to follow to help students to understand why, and how, WWW technology functions;

- Bring all students up to basic level of understanding HTML, and HTTP transactions;

- Give frameworks to understand various WWW applications.

2 Related Readings*

- lecture notes and slides

- two readings about Metcalfe's Law

- Accessibility reading by Theofanos & Redish

3 Major Concepts

- Views of the WWW:

    - WWW as a distributed document delivery system;
    - WWW as an e-commerce medium;
    - WWW as a standardized user interface (UI); and
    - WWW as the information super highway.

- Accessibility

- Presentation and content

- Review of client/server application-layer model

- Degredation: catastrophic and graceful

- HTML structure

- XHTML vs. HTML

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*Readings are available from course website