

# Enterprise and Desktop Search

## Lecture 1: Introduction

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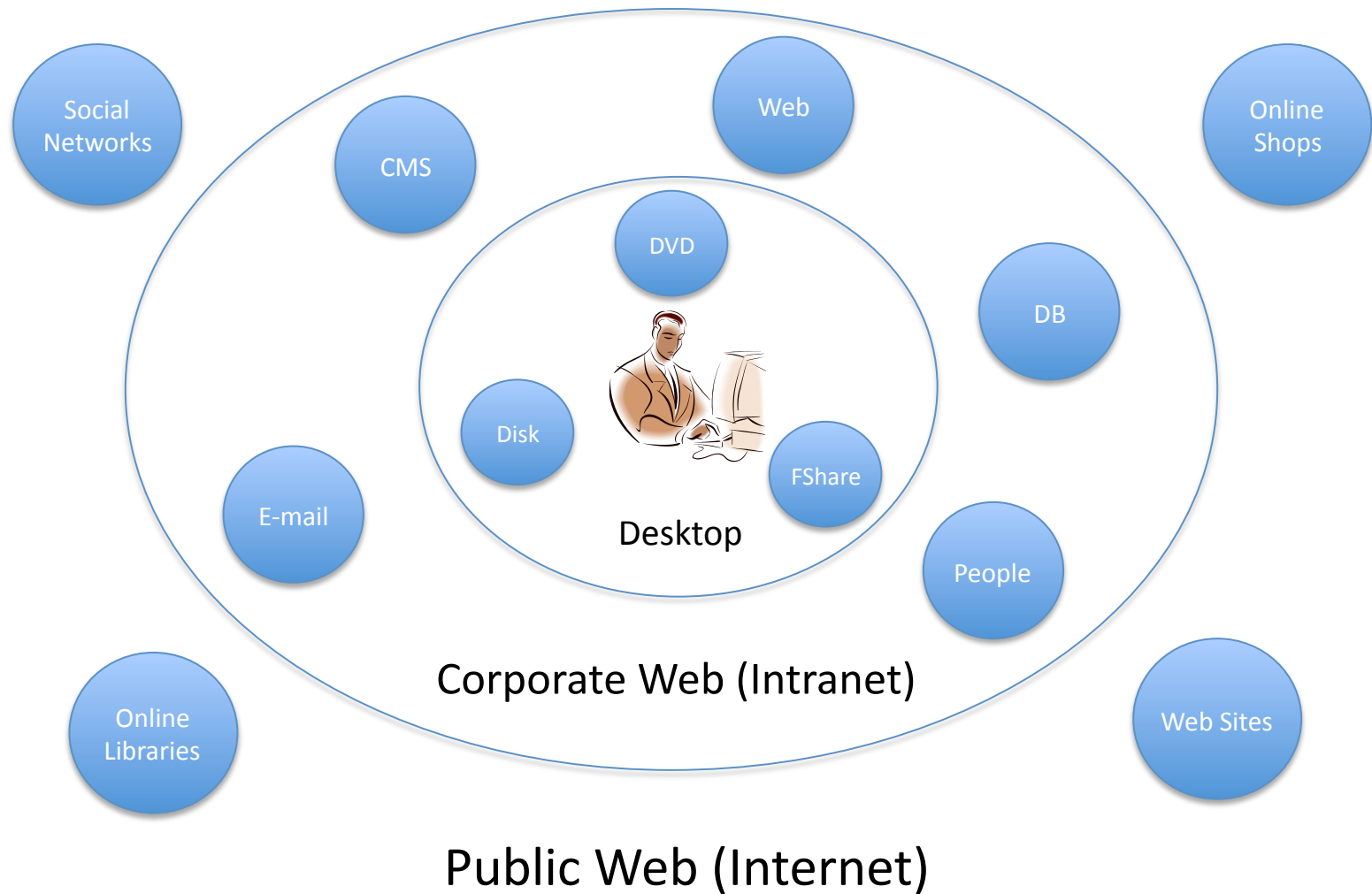
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# Search Environment of a Company Employee



# Search Settings and Goals

- Desktop Search
  - Files & directories I created, files I downloaded, OS and application data, e-mail, data on DVD/USB...
- Enterprise Search
  - Intranet Search: web pages and files from the group/department/company intranet, database contents, corporate email, people...
  - Public Site Search: inventory, web site contents...
- Web Search
  - Publicly accessible documents on the Web

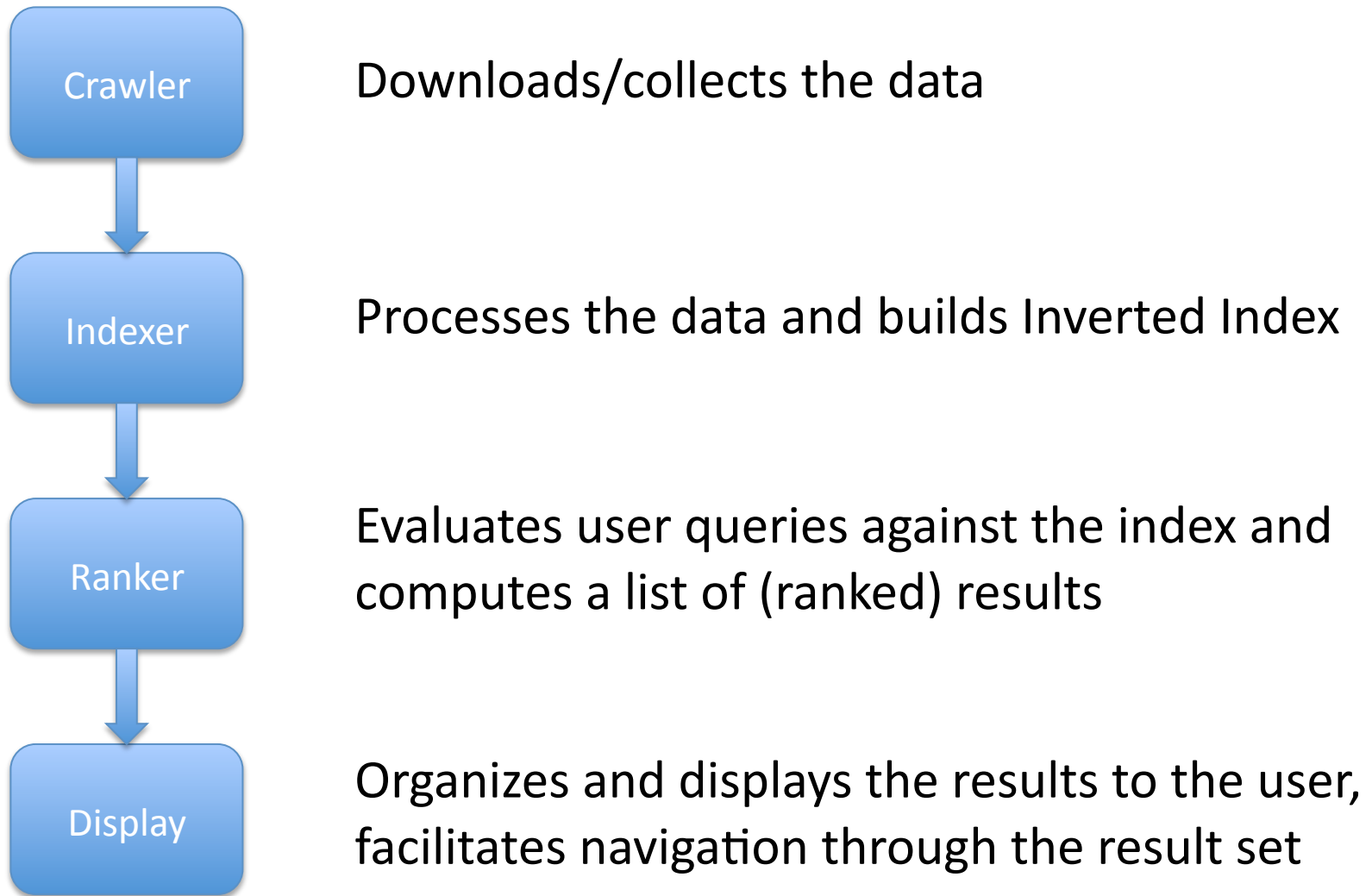
# Benefits of Enterprise Search

(Bennet 08)

- Direct benefits for the user
  - Employees/user can find what they want  
→ they are happy
- Financial benefits/ROI
  - Employees are more productive
  - Users are likely to buy more products from your site
- Strategic/Business Intelligence benefits
  - Monitor and detect how users' interest changes over time
  - See what people are searching for but not finding (documents, products, etc)
  - Track closely important users/products/customers



# Information Retrieval System



# Web Search

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RuSSIR 2009

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# Web Search

- Crawl and index data from the public web, present simple result set (plus ads) to the user
- Main challenges are ranking quality and scale
- Huge industry (est. \$30B by 2010), very active research community (Cyber 09)
  - Major web search companies employ tens of thousands of people
- Good search quality, ubiquitous usage
- Still evolving, but more or less standard architecture, evaluation, and algorithms
- Example Systems:
  - Yahoo, Yandex, Google, Bing, Baidu, etc.

# Enterprise Search

Preferences | Sign Out | Yahoo!

Y! BACKYARD

All | [Yahoos](#) | [Rooms](#) | [Sites](#)

Vacation Search

HOME | DIRECTORY | COMMUNITY | COMPANY INFO

All

[Yahoos](#)

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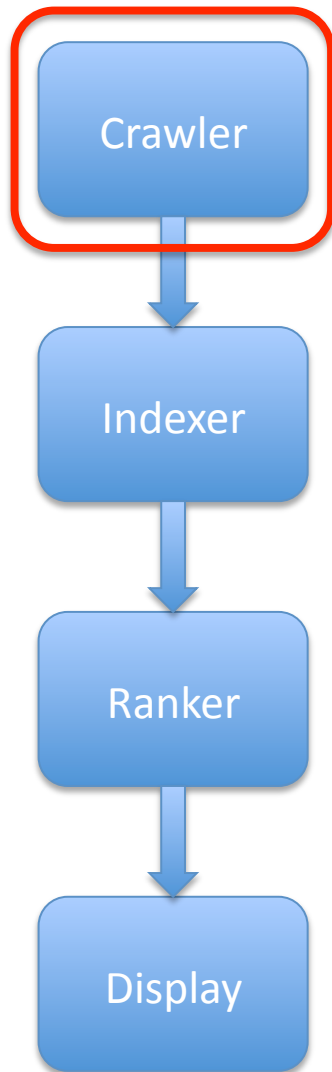
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...assistant automatically notifies coworkers that you are on **vacation** when they send you an email. Note: The Out of Office assistant only sends...  
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# Enterprise Search

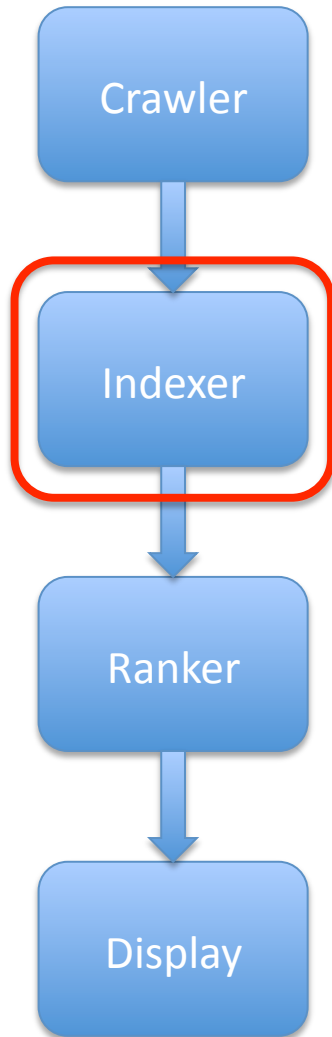
- Crawl and index information from a variety of repositories in variety of formats
- Need to rank different types of entities
- Simple result set not enough, need to provide exploratory interfaces
  
- Rapidly growing industry (20+% annual growth, est. \$2.55B by 2010), relatively little research (Gref 09)
- Rather poor quality, comparing to web search
- Lots of unsolved problems and research opportunities
- Example Systems:
  - Autonomy, Endeca, FAST, Google, IBM OmniFind, Oracle, etc.

# Differences between Web Search and Enterprise Search (Crawling)



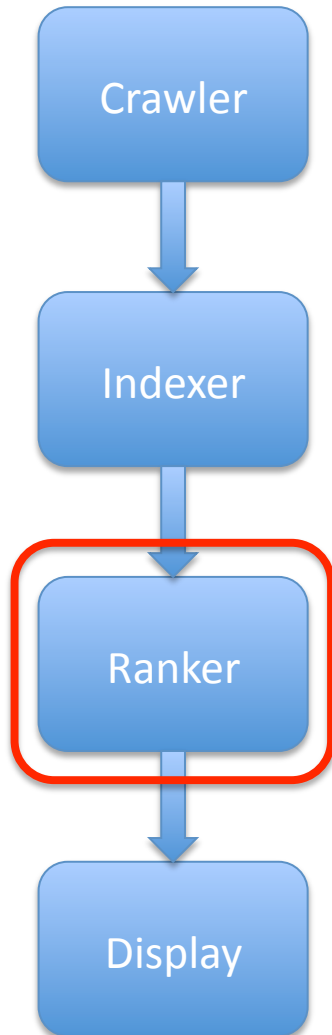
- Diverse information sources and formats, many are not “crawl-friendly”
  - Web pages, files, databases, etc.
  - “Compound” and “composite” documents
- A “click” may have undesirable side effects
  - Document deleted
  - Charge for accessing a 3<sup>rd</sup> party’s database
- Many security domains
- Hard to create a research test collection

# Differences between Web Search and Enterprise Search (Indexing)



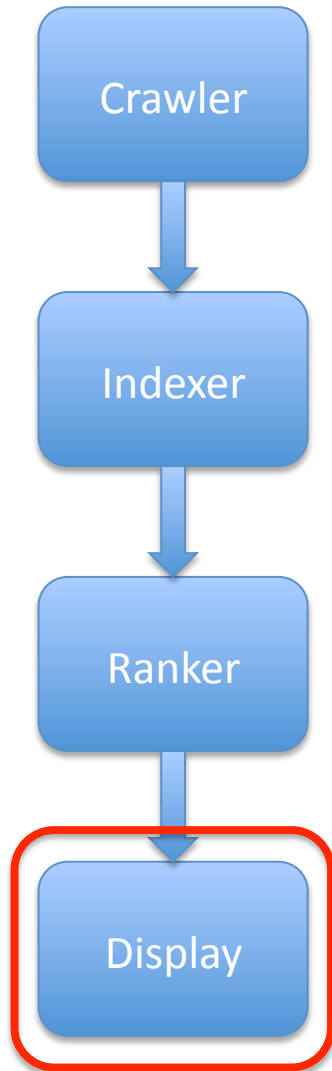
- Data is semi-structured and semantics is often known
  - Search for “objects” (people, rooms, printers, etc)
- Need to incorporate access-control info
- Vocabulary mismatch is a big problem
  - Need to use thesaurus
- Need to index special symbols/punctuation
- Need to efficiently support the kinds of queries generated by exploratory interfaces

# Differences between Web Search and Enterprise Search (Ranking)



- Small set of correct answers (often just 1)
- Less hyperlinks and anchor text, and of poorer quality
- Poorer quality of content (pages are not created with a search engine in mind)
- User identity is often known
  - Can use user context
- Often need to retrieve ALL relevant documents
- No (intentional) spam
- Federation and blending is often necessary

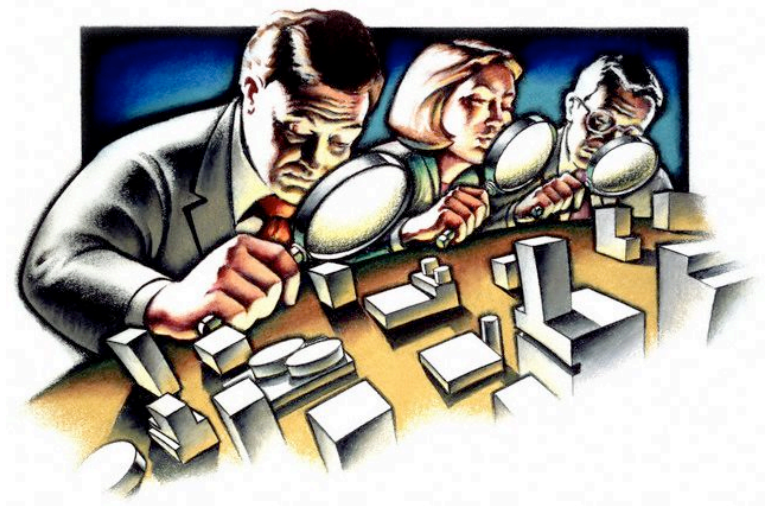
# Differences between Web Search and Enterprise Search (Display)



- Known identity and user history → personalized results presentation
- Search clients are not just browsers
  - Applications/Advanced search interfaces
- Since ranking is hard, need to provide exploratory interfaces / interactive search & browse experience, give the user more control

# How to Measure Success?

- Evaluation metrics used for Web Search are not always suitable for Enterprise Search. Need ways to evaluate
  - Quality of interaction
  - Success of task completion
  - User satisfaction



# Desktop Search

- Why *desktop search*?
- Size of data on the desktop is **big** and continuously **growing**
- We are moving towards Social Semantic Desktop
  - **Social** – communication in a social network
  - **Semantic** – metadata descriptions and relations

# Desktop Search – Current Status

- Documents on the desktop are not linked to each other in a way comparable to the web
- Simple full text search
  - no personalization
  - no context
  - no ranking possible or too poor
- Metadata enriched search makes use of
  - associations to contexts and activities
  - provenience of information
  - sophisticated classification hierarchies

Google™



Spotlight  
Windows  
Search



# Differences between Web Search and Desktop Search

- Search on the **desktop** vs. Search on the **Web**
  - Re-finding vs. finding
  - Integration across many applications and file formats
  - Users prefer to navigate, not to search
  - Many information types: ephemeral, working, archival
  - Extra sources for ranking improvement:
    - File metadata
    - Usage metadata
    - Folder structure
  - Privacy concerns

# Blending of the 3 Search Settings

- Many web collections require login to access
  - I want to search for things I have access to (ACM Digital Library)
  - I want to search for things I don't have access to (Amazon)
- More and more things are stored online
  - E-mail, photos, etc.
- To further improve our ability to understand user needs to search text
- Would like to search seamlessly over all the three mediums



# Course Overview

- Lecture 1: Introduction
- Lecture 2: Searching the Enterprise Web
  - What works and what doesn't?
  - Using User Feedback in Enterprise Web Search
- Lecture 3: Exploratory Search
  - Look-up search vs Exploratory search, faceted search, result categorization and clustering

# Course Overview

- Lecture 4: Expert Finding
  - Profile-based, document-based, and graph based methods
- Lecture 5: Desktop Search
  - Architecture and evaluation, just-in-time retrieval, context detection and usage
- Conclusion

# What we would like you to get out of this Course

- Understand the challenges in Desktop and Enterprise search
- Have an idea of what the current state-of-the-art is in the area
- Be inspired to apply techniques developed for one setting to another setting
- Think about creating applications that blend the boundaries among the 3 settings

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