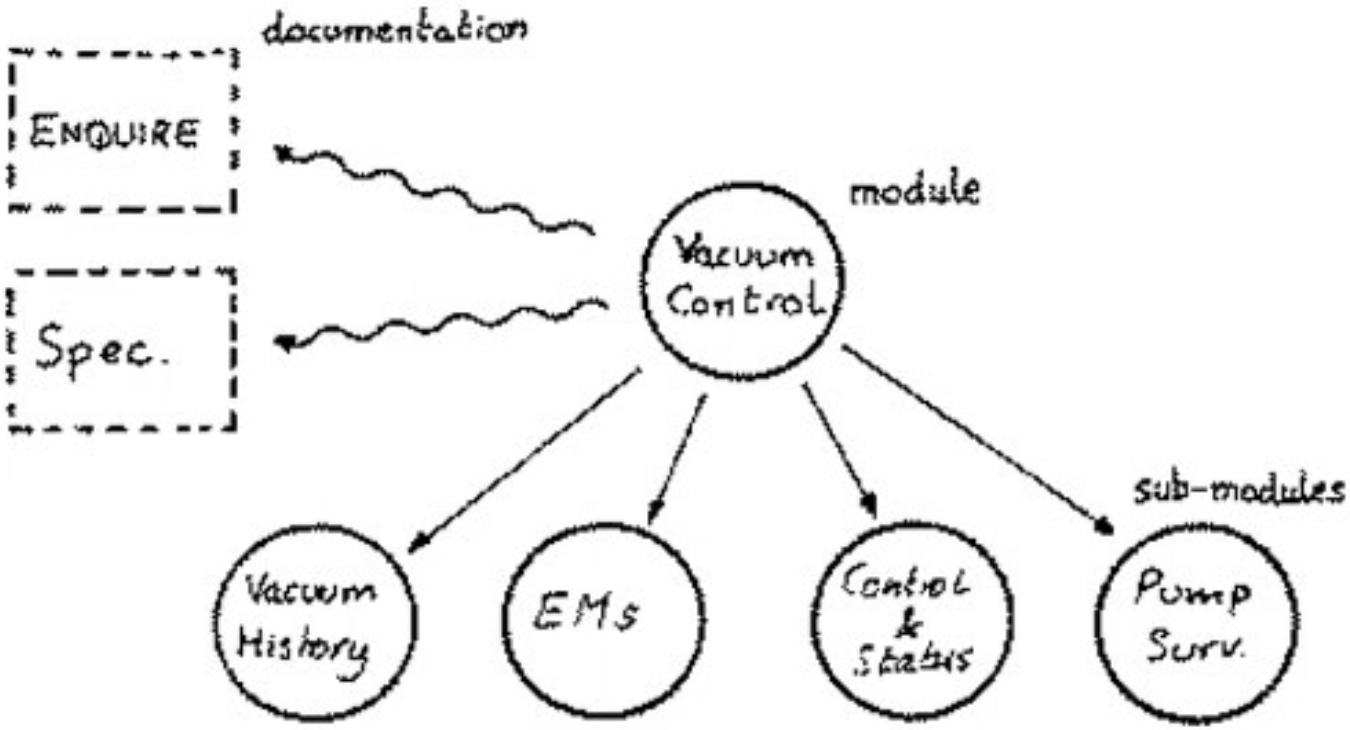
Tim Berners-Lee

Crossroads of history...

- *I came across Ted's name first of course. Then I ordered "Literary Machines", and I remember I was late paying him as he didn't take credit cards or Swiss cheques*

1980: Tim Berners-Lee

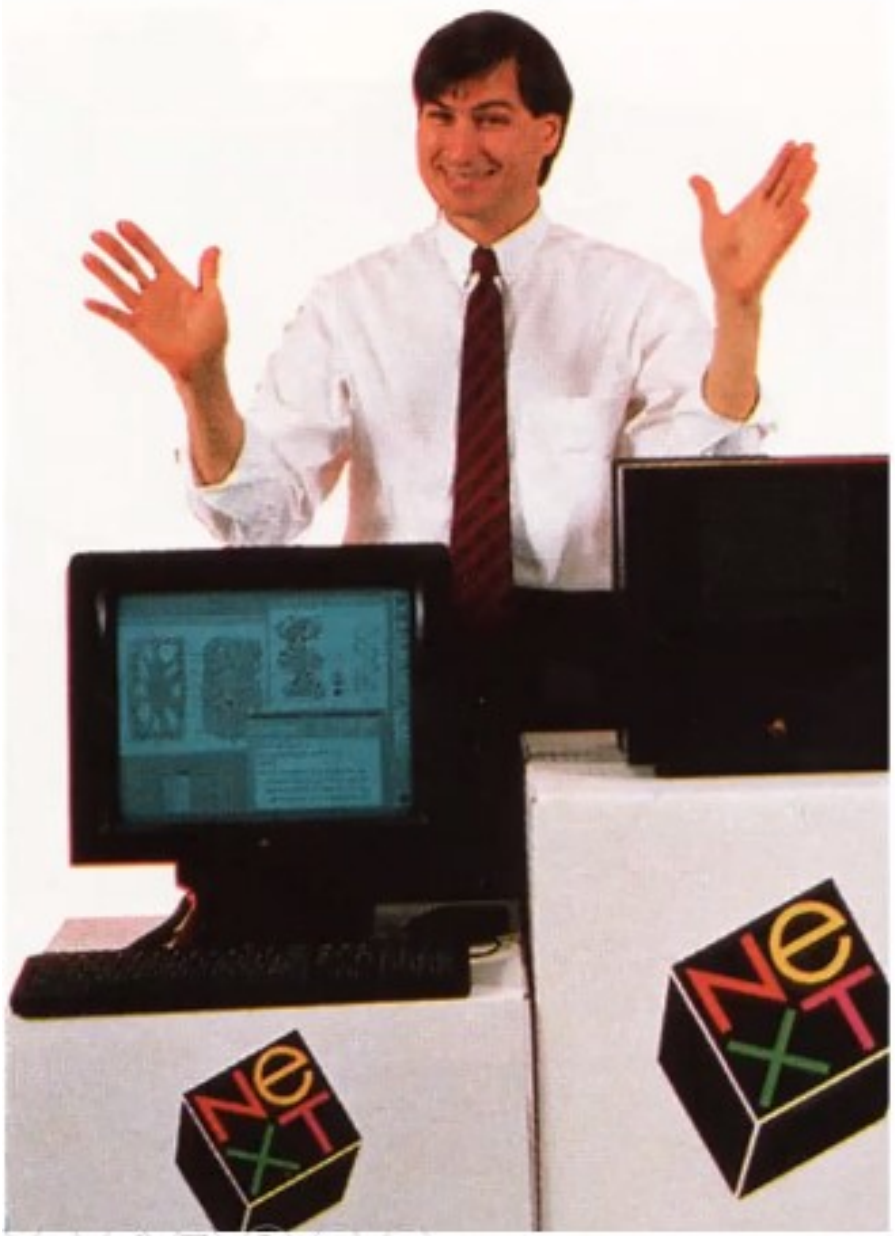
- Enquire

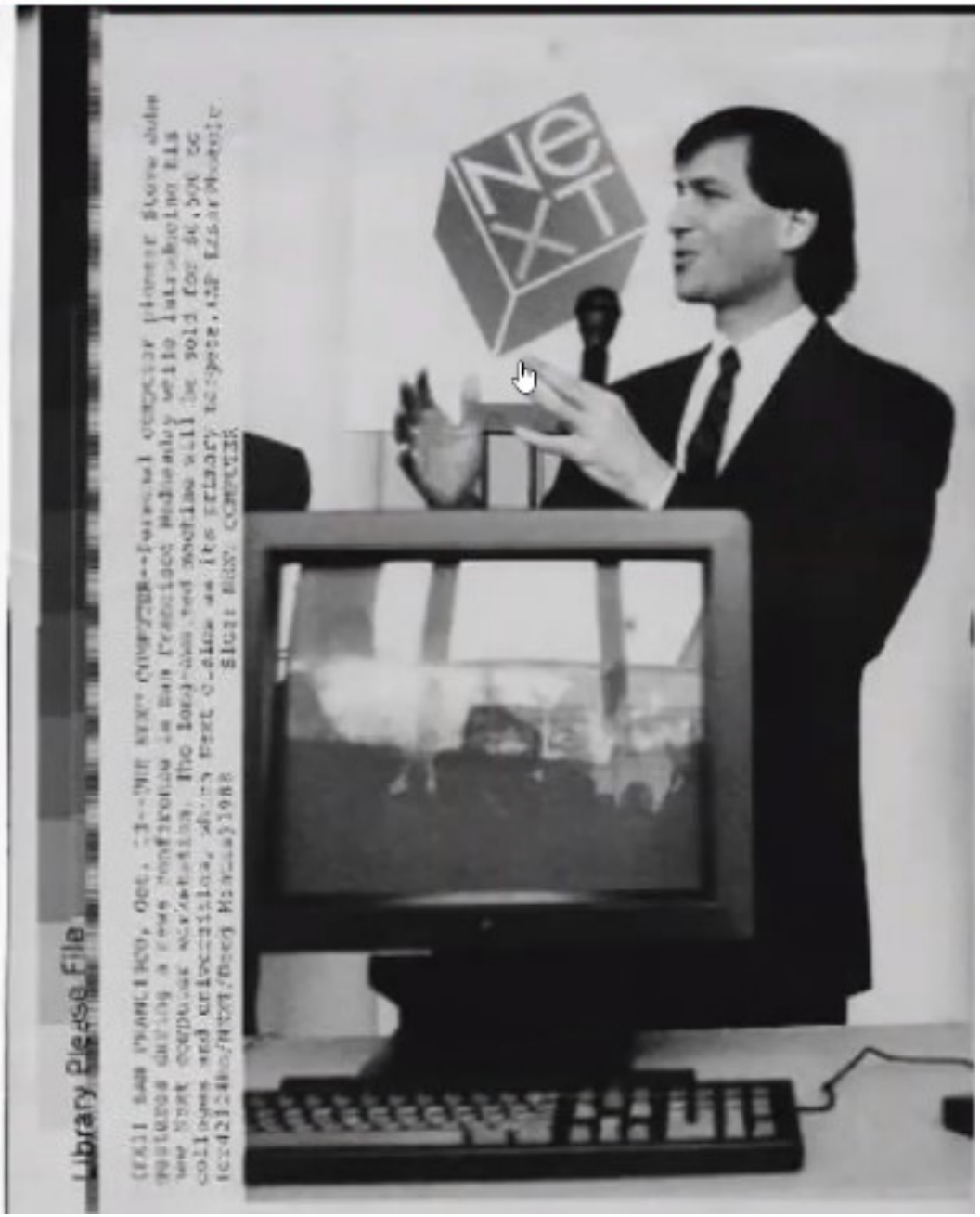


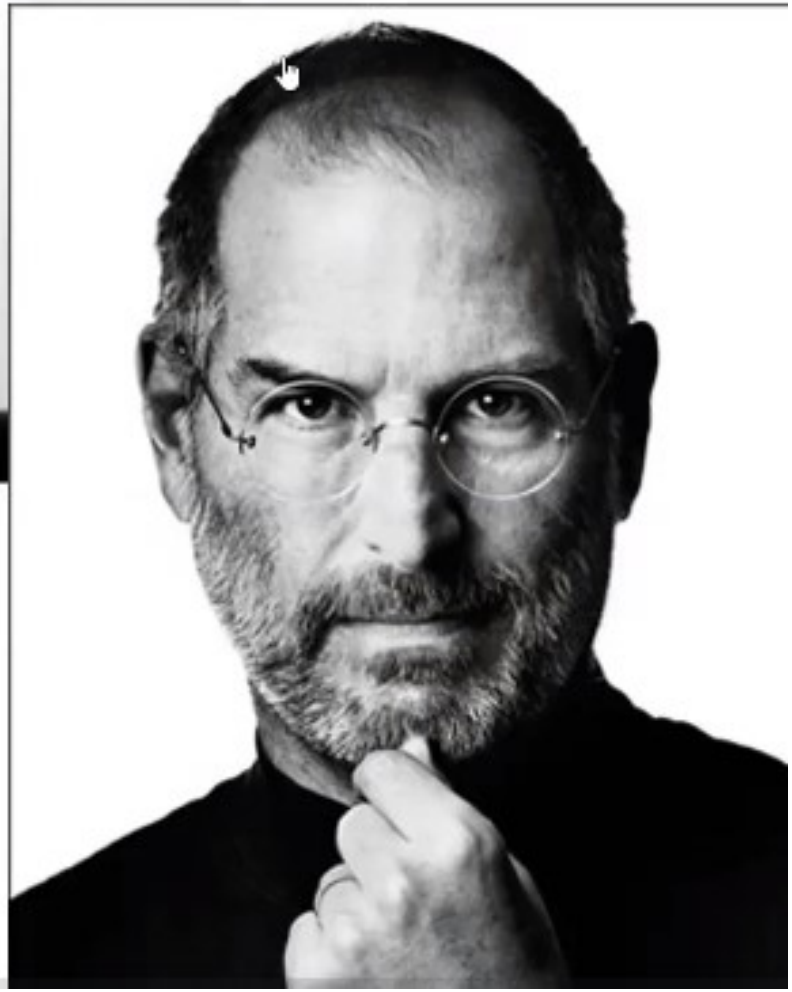
1990: Tim Berners-Lee

- Buys a NeXT, nicknamed «the black cube»

History Crossroads… the Next…







1990: Tim Berners-Lee

- After many attempts, he chooses the definitive name for the project: “World Wide Web”, and builds the browser WorldWideWeb

WWW: the name

- Before chosing WWW, alternatives..:
- "Information Mesh" (→ “mess”)
- "Mine of information" ("Moi") (!)
- "The Information Mine ("Tim”) (!)
- Moral: the choice of the name sometimes is essential…

Il browser

- WorldWideWeb was browser, but also…
- … editor and server at the same time!
- → In the original vision of the Web, each of us could not only read (navigate), but also ***actively contribute***
- In part we came back to the vision in the last years with blogs / wiki / social web etc (!)

1990: Tim Berners-Lee

- Creates the first web, http://nxoc01.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html

1991

- Tim submits to the annual world conference on hypertexts the article where he describes his system "World Wide Web"
- It gets ***rejected (!)***
- Motivation?
  "System is too easy"
  (….!)

1991: the key year

- The first «public» web server is made available, with a textual version
- The critics: the World Wide Web? See some pages by pressing numbers…
- Moral: sometimes the GUI (Graphical User Interface) and hardware can mess up the potential of an idea…
- Moral 2: the growth of social systems need time. This was not (still, is not…?) so obvious!

What was up in 1991?

- Archie
- WAIS
- Gopher

Archie

- The first search engine in the world
- But NOT IN THE WEB (too early!)
- So…?
- In the FTP Information Space (!)

WAIS

- **Wide Area Information Servers**
- System to search text within documents that are spread on different computers (databases) around the Internet
- After a good initial success, 1990-1993, it disappears (Thinking Machines fails in 1995)

Gopher

Gopher

- Fixed structure: either a "menu" or a document (text, image etc)

1992

- Other browsers appear (Viola, Midas, Erwise)
- By the end of the year, there are 26 web servers…

1992

- ***Veronica*** is born
- The search engine for the Gopher information space

Gopher

- 1993: the University of Minnesota, creator of Gopher, decides to make people pay to use their program to create a Gopher server

1993

- Already in the first month, the number of web servers more than doubles: from 23 to 50
- In March, web traffic is 0.1% of the world Internet traffic
- In September, web traffic is 1% of the world Internet traffic

Only two survive

- **Lynx** (textual), still in use (!)

```
xterm
<<<>>>                                   Lynx (web browser) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (p1 of 5)
   #copyright

   Your continued donations keep Wikipedia running!

Lynx (web browser)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

   Jump to: navigation, search

   CAPTION: Lynx

   Wikipedia Main Page displayed in Lynx
   Wikipedia Main Page displayed in Lynx
   Maintainer:       Thomas Dickey
   Stable release:   2.8.5  (February 4, 2004) [[+/-]]
   Preview release:  2.8.6  (?) [[+/-]]
   OS:               Cross-platform
   Use:              web browser
   License:          GPL
   Website:          lynx.isc.org

   Lynx is a text-only Web browser and Internet Gopher client for use on cursor-addressable, character
   cell terminals.

   Browsing in Lynx consists of highlighting the chosen link using cursor keys, or having all links on
   a page numbered and entering the chosen link's number. Current versions support SSL and many HTML
   features. Tables are linearized (scrunched together one cell after another without tabular
   structure), while frames are identified by name and can be explored as if they were separate pages.

   Lynx is a product of the Distributed Computing Group within Academic Computing Services of the
   University of Kansas, and was initially developed in 1992 by a team of students at the university
   (Lou Montulli, Michael Grobe and Charles Rezac) as a hypertext browser used solely to distribute
   campus information as part of a Campus-Wide Information Server. In 1993 Montulli added an Internet
   interface and released a new version (2.0) of the browser [1] [2] [3].
```

Lynx (cont.)

- Moral: sometimes exploiting a specialized niche, having clear a sub-target instead than trying to conquer the world, make you survive much longer…

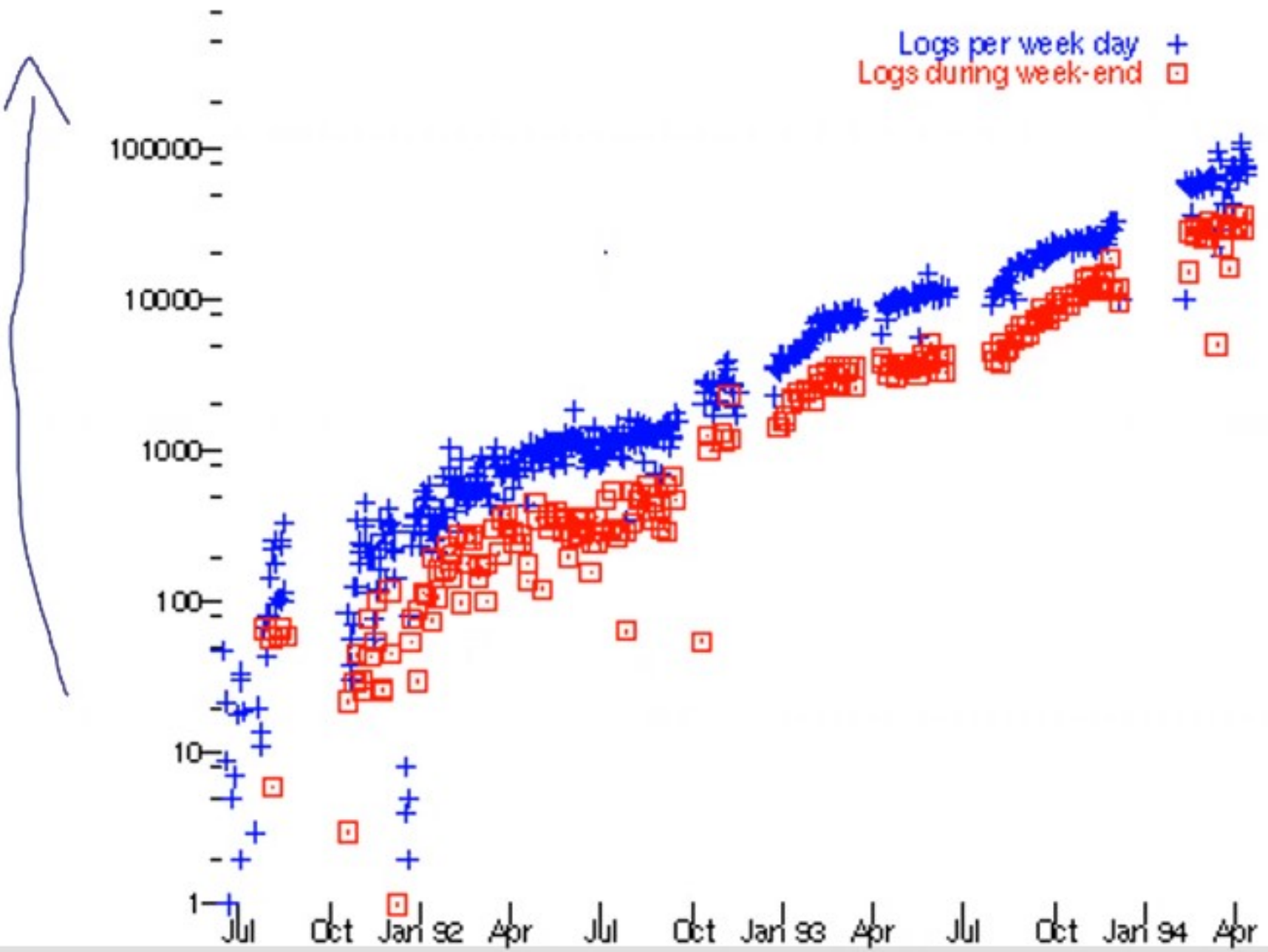
Apple Computer WWW Server

- Information about Apple
- Press Releases
- Products
- Customer Support
- Developer and Programmer Information
- Apple Technology and Research
- Freeware/Shareware Sites

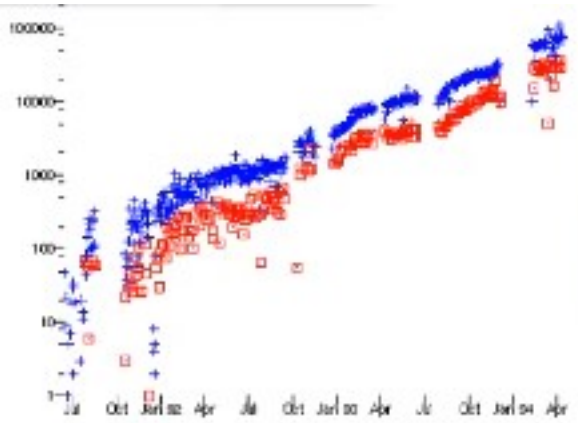
1994

- The first world international conference on the World Wide Web
- Maximum capacity 400 people: 800 people ask to participate

The growth in those days...



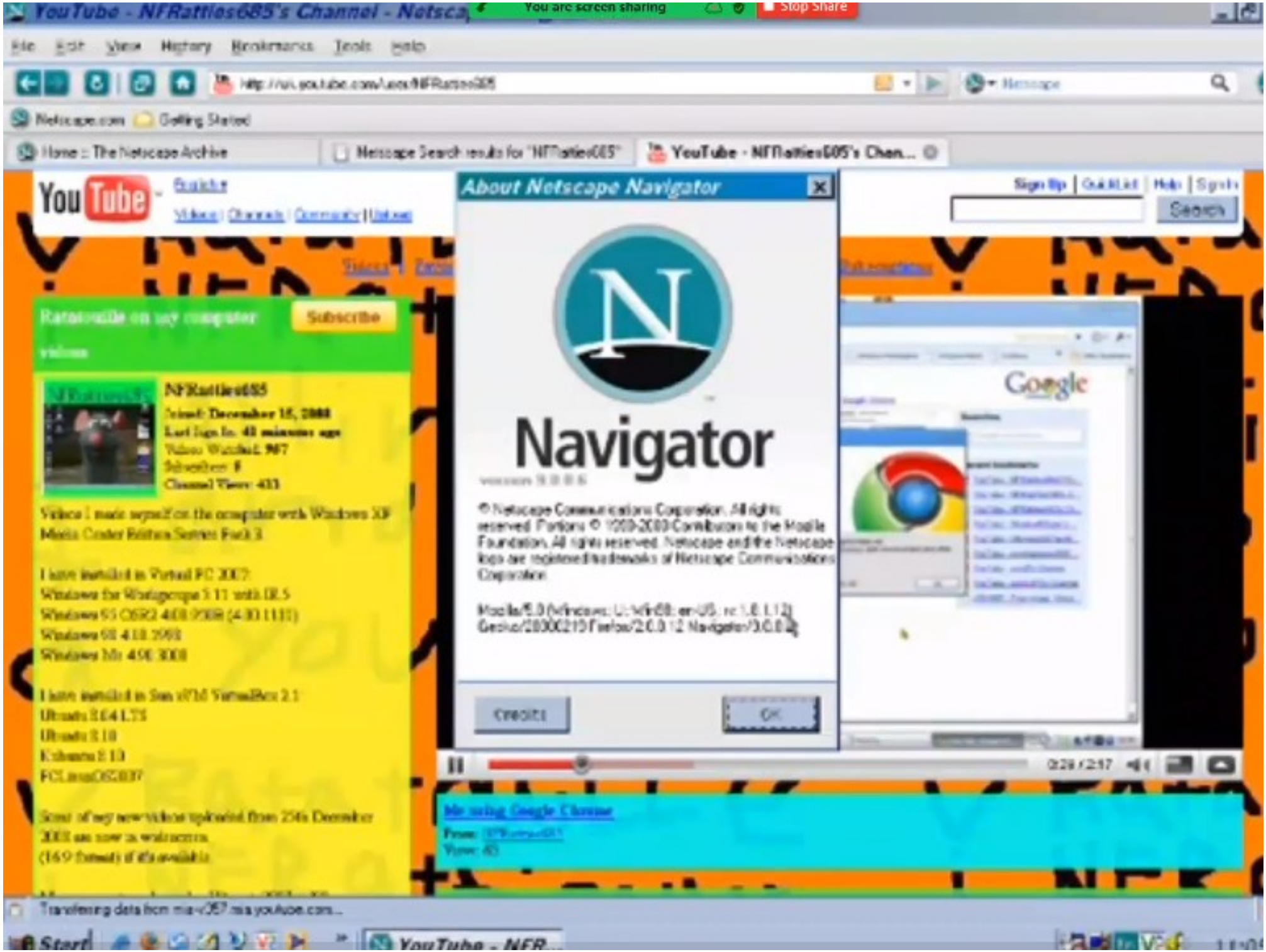
1994



- December: CERN, realizing the importance of the Web phenomenon…
- … decides to stop funding it (…!)
- Moral: power struggles and «barons»…

1994

- Netscape corporation releases the Netscape browser, which one year later becomes **THE** browser (Netscape Navigator)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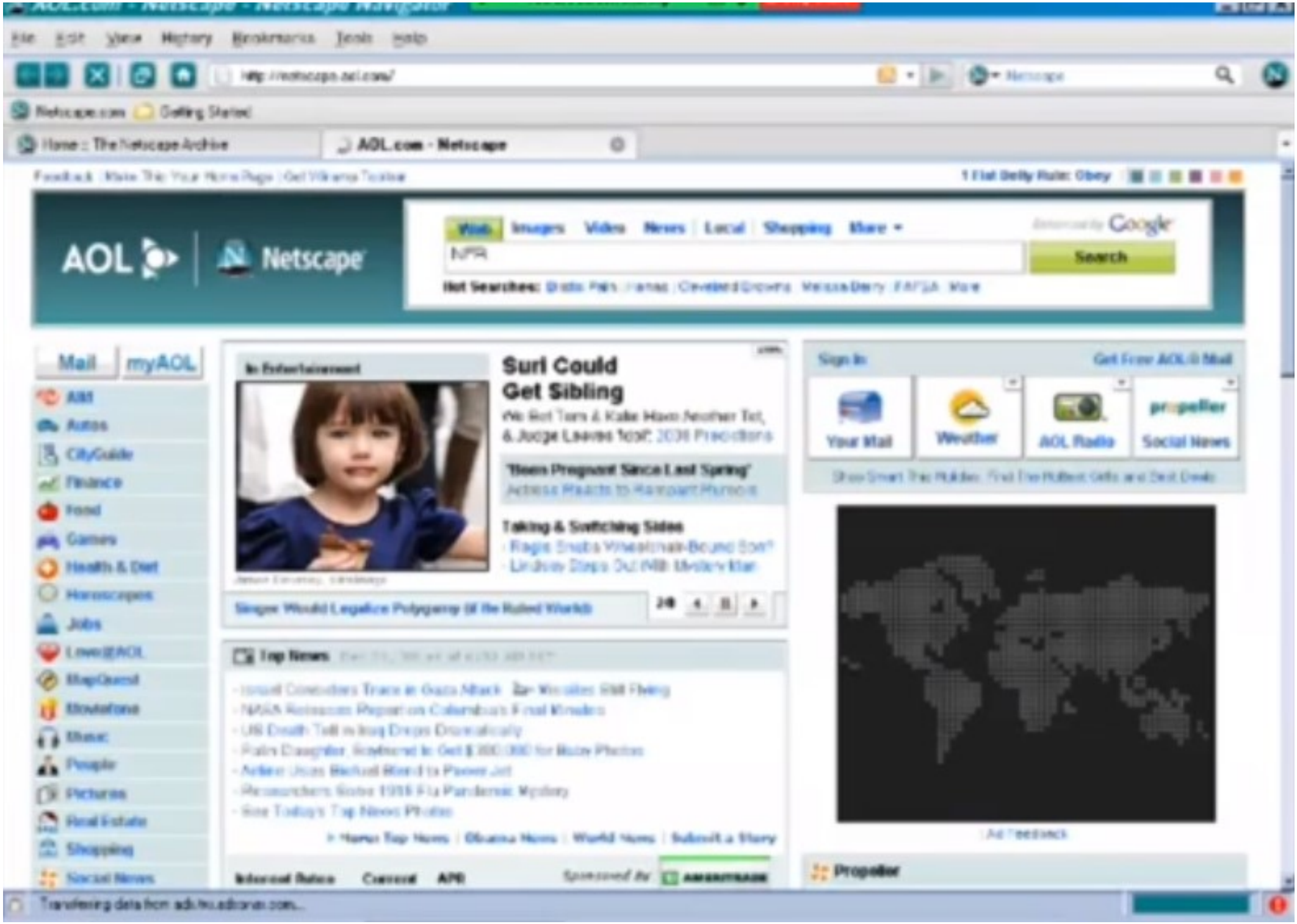
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