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WSOA3028A – Introduction to the WWW as Creative Medium IIIA

Week 2: Blog post

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**A reflection on one of the historical articles provided**

**The world wide web – Tim Berners-Lee**

The article by Tim Berners-Lee et al, explains the basic history of the internet (The World Wide Web) and its components, with how they work together. In the article, it is mentioned how the World Wide Web was initially developed to allow people from all over the world to collaborate on projects together, the example given was for physicists to collaborate with each other to build components for better physics research. Hypertext was used in a more personal way to follow the information that had been shared, therefore allowing the idea of the web to come about.

There are ways that make the World Wide Web easier to use between many collaborators, such as: Different ways to share data, easier ways to add the data onto the web, and even having the same user interface (therefore making it easier for users to share information and not have to learn the different interfaces).

The WWW can be split up into its different components, which make it up as a whole, working system. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is used for communication through the WWW, which has been improved significantly to HTML +. It also consists of URIs (Universal Resource Identifiers), these are address systems of objects. There is also the HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) which allows the transfer of information through the WWW, as well as recovering documents.

It is mentioned in the article that there are also other systems that are much like the World Wide Web, such as the WAIS and Gopher have the same capabilities and client server to the WWW. The WAIS protocol has no tools for navigation, therefore not guiding a user through data and resources, it also does have a text-based search and recovery. Gopher is a web that contains loops, it also has a text-based search much like WAIS, although mainly uses menus.

The Gopher model and the WWW are very similar, although the WWW model has a more efficient way of communicating options in hypertext. The difference between the WAIS and the WWW is that the WAIS requires graphics and text to be associated with each other, while the WWW and Gopher include sound, video and graphics. World Wide Web users can also have access to different servers as an interface.

The article also contains developments to the World Wide Web, such as software upgrades that are chosen by users and why they need in specific software. It was also discovered that the availability of browsers and the quality of the information have a direct impact on each other. Information providers are also important in the sense where certain information is readily available at particular places.

There is always room for improvement in the WWW, where it can also be a display for information technology development. The article lists a number of web developments, such as: using the internet for profit services, easier servers for individuals to publish information, and having specific names for documents and not only their location pathways.