

# **Fundamentals of Web-Based Multimedia Communications: Imagining the Internet's Interface**

## **Early Internet Art: Surfing the Web and Hypertext Narratives**

Wednesday 9/7, 1:45-3:00pm  
Smith Warehouse Bay 12 A228  
CMAC 240L, CMAC 740L, ISS 240L, ISS740L, VMS288L, VMS788L



# Internet >> World Wide Web

People often use these two terms synonymously, which is fine...

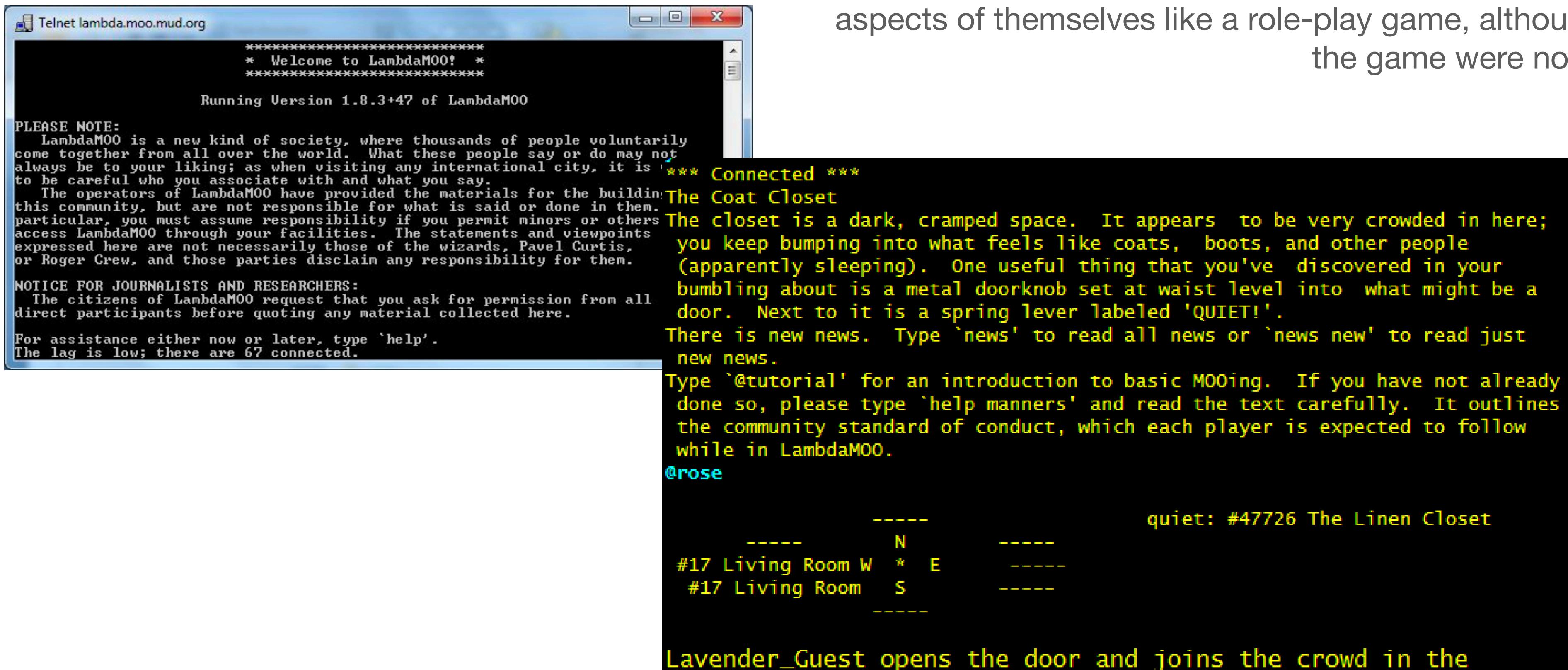
but the “World Wide Web” marks a distinct shift from the internet as a military, financial, or academic tool to a network accessible to and imagined by the public.

Tim Berners-Lee is often credited as the founder of the World Wide Web, and he created the first web browser called “WorldWideWeb” in 1990.

The internet was a text-based medium (no images could be uploaded) for three years....

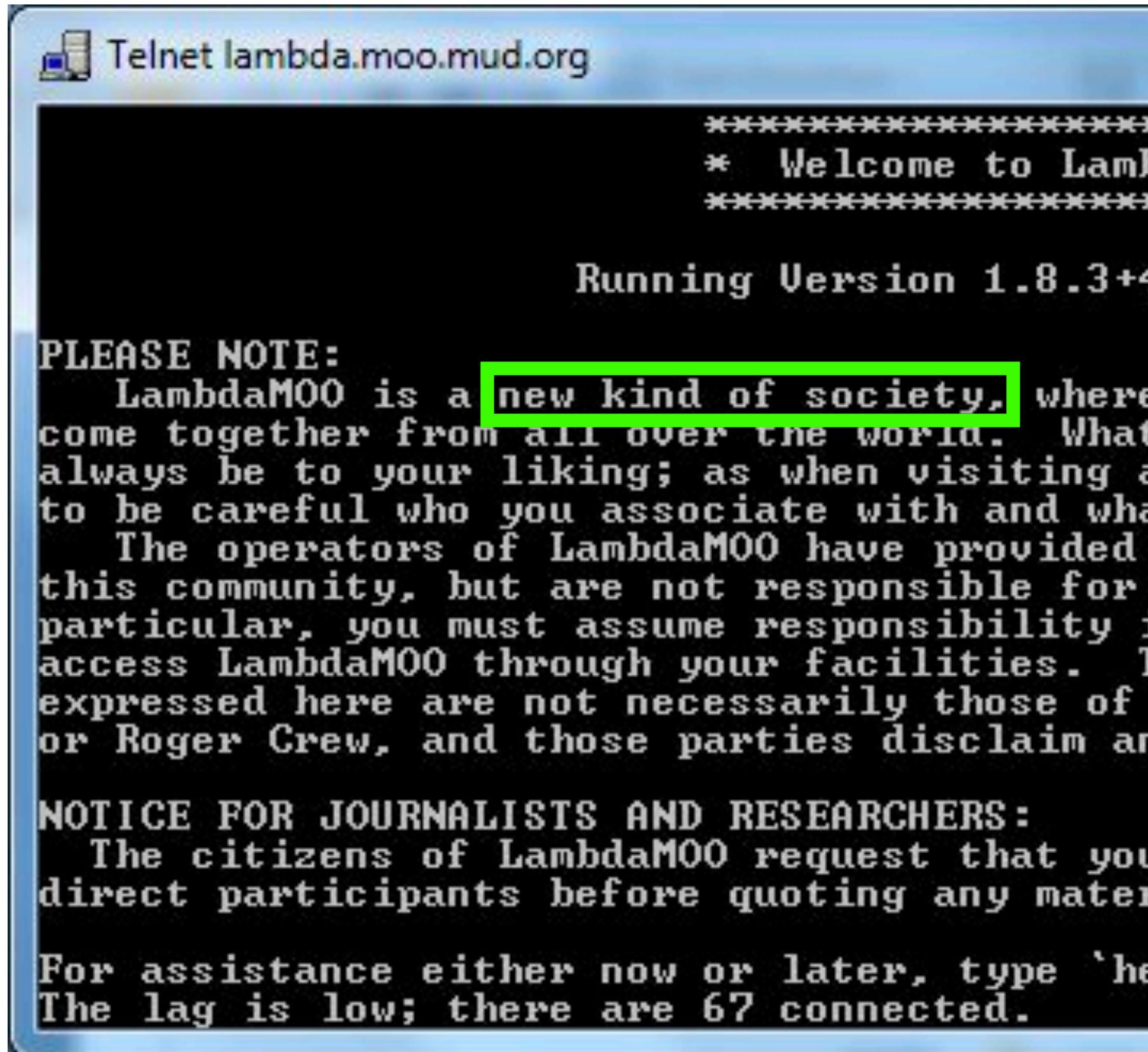
This led to creative ways of using text, such as hypertext narratives, narratives ordered by the click of the users, which broke the act of reading as a linear progression.

The popularity and development of MUD (multi-user dungeon or multi-user dimension) games allowed users to explore different aspects of themselves like a role-play game, although the rules of the game were not always clear!



Screenshots from MUD LambdaMoo

# Technotopia / Technological Utopianism



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[About The WELL](#)  
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[Members](#)  
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[Enter](#)



**Words From  
The WELL ...**

**WELL Buzz**

**WELL Words**

**Hafner plumbs The WELL**  
Katie Hafner's The Well: A Story of Love, Death and Real Life in the Seminal Online Community is a history of this place. Do you see it her way? Do the people she wrote about? Visit Inkwell.vue, where you don't need a password to dip into The WELL, and find out more about this latest from the fascinating author of **Where Wizards Stay Up Late**.

**Words From the Plumage Conference:**  
(posted by obizuth)  
hell trip to satanic Ikea yesterday. we had a car for the weekend, and thought that if we went at 10am (opening time) it would be not so beelzebubbian. WRONG. ...  
*(continued)*

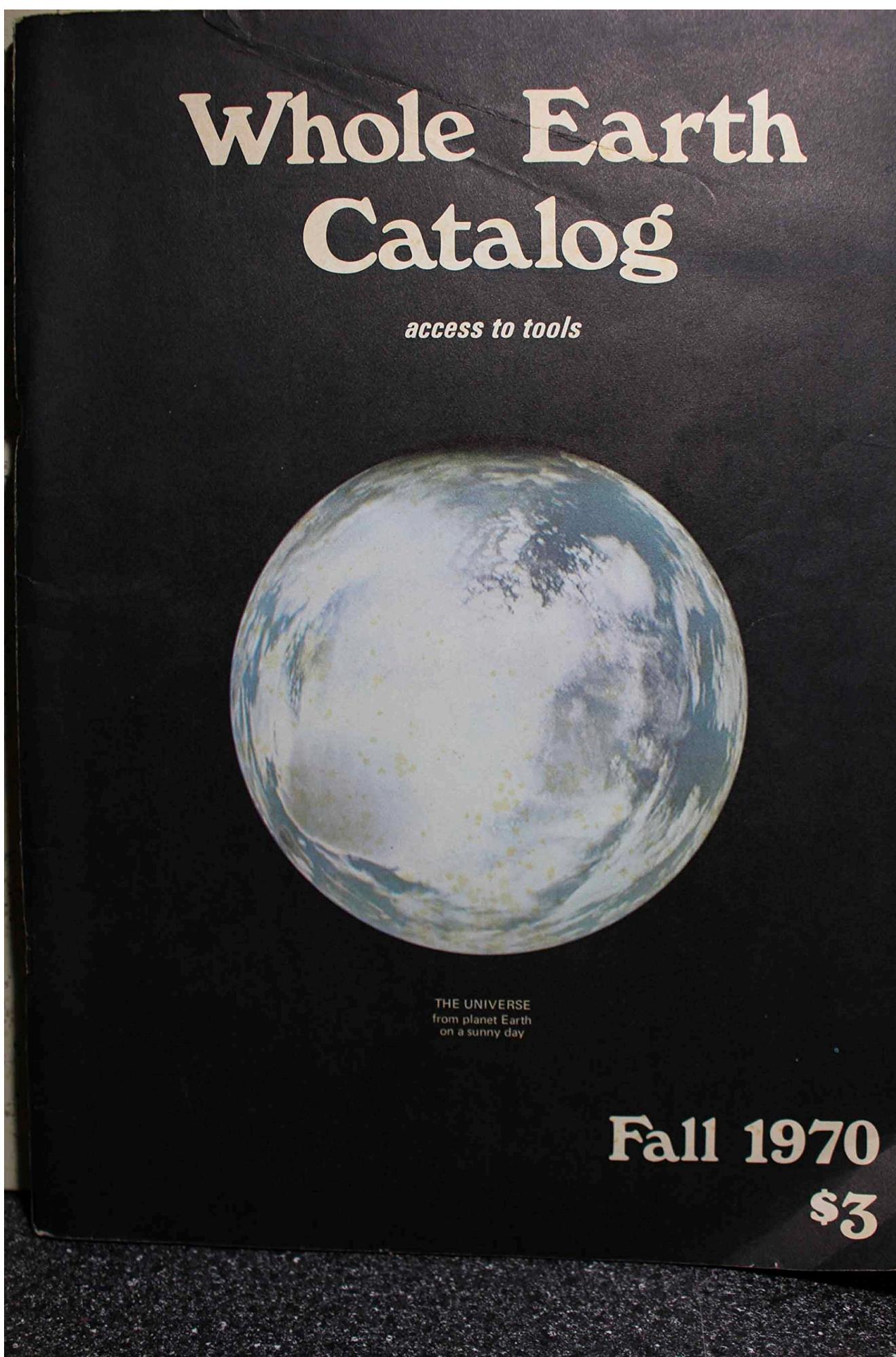


**Gottlieb gives us the skinny**  
How did an anorexic girl grow up to

The WELL, one of the first virtual communities or “social media sites,” created by Stewart Brand and Larry Brilliant.

(Mozilla was the first browser that allowed uploading images in 1993.)

# Technotopia / Technological Utopianism



**The internet developed during the Cold War “space race” and has always been associated with imaginations of outer space > “Cyberspace” became a popular term after William Gibson’s sci-fi writing**

Stewart Brand also created the “Whole Earth Catalog” in 1970 after advocating for NASA to release satellite images of the Earth from space. The belief was that this perspective might change the way we see our human relationship to the world.

# Networked Activism (just one example)



## *The Annual Candlelight Vigil Across the Internet*

On December 6th, 1989, [14 women](#) were killed for being "feminists" at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. This tragedy in Canadian history has not been forgotten. Our aim is to raise awareness of violence against women across Canada and throughout cyberspace, by presenting this Candlelight vigil across the Internet. Although this site was created back in November 1996 for what was originally intended to be a week-long vigil, your response has far surpassed our expectations. Years have passed since this vigil first began, and violence against women continues to be an issue close to our hearts. Thank you for your tremendous support over these past few years and for joining in this protest against all forms of violence against women. Again, we will keep this site up and running all year long to advocate against violence every day to women across Canada and all over the world.

In memory of women everywhere whose lives have been affected by violence, please place a candle image on your Web page and link it back to this one.

Simply click on the image size you'd like from the ones below. Then (if you're using Netscape) click on **File** then **Save As..** and save the file. We then ask that you link this JPEG on your Home Page and link it back to this page. Please set your link to:

**Note Our New Location:** If you have linked to us in the past, please note this site has changed domain names.

If you would prefer a GIF image to a JPEG (for transparent images) please go [here](#). Thank you.



[More On Violence Against Women](#)

[Some December 6th Events](#)



(Largest image size offered 5kb!)

In 1996, the Canadian Women's Internet Association created a candle image and asked participants to paste the image on their own sites to advocate against domestic violence.

The screenshot shows a web page with a pink header and footer decorated with purple floral borders. The main title "PASSIONS AND BELIEFS" is centered in blue capital letters. To the left, there is a vertical column of five smaller images showing a woman and a child. In the center, there is a box containing a "Missing Children's Prayer" with a pair of hands at the top. The text of the prayer is as follows:

**Missing Children's Prayer**

Dear Lord, we ask of you...  
Keep these children safe and sound.  
Let no harm come before they are found.  
They're lost from their family for many a reason.  
Return them home before the end of a season.  
Place your loving arms around each little shoulder.  
Guide them safely back home strong as soldiers.  
Amen.

CPM 1997

Below the prayer, a note reads: "These are some of the special causes that are very dear to our hearts so please allow time for the page to fully load."

At the bottom, there is a message about missing children: "Being Parents & Grand-parents, I never want to imagine the pain, torment and suffering these children and their families endured during these very trying and difficult times. We have never been unfortunate enough to lose a child and God willing we never will. Please say a prayer for all the children of the world, in particular these children and their families who were forced to be separated... please help bring them home safely to their loved ones to be re-united."

Another message at the bottom states: "As far as we are aware there are no similar rings in Australia, but should anyone reading this know of one, please email us as soon as possible. Regardless of which town, city or country in the World you may live, these tragedies are happening more and more each day, let's put a stop to this NOW!!."

Help the children and show your support by joining the following rings.

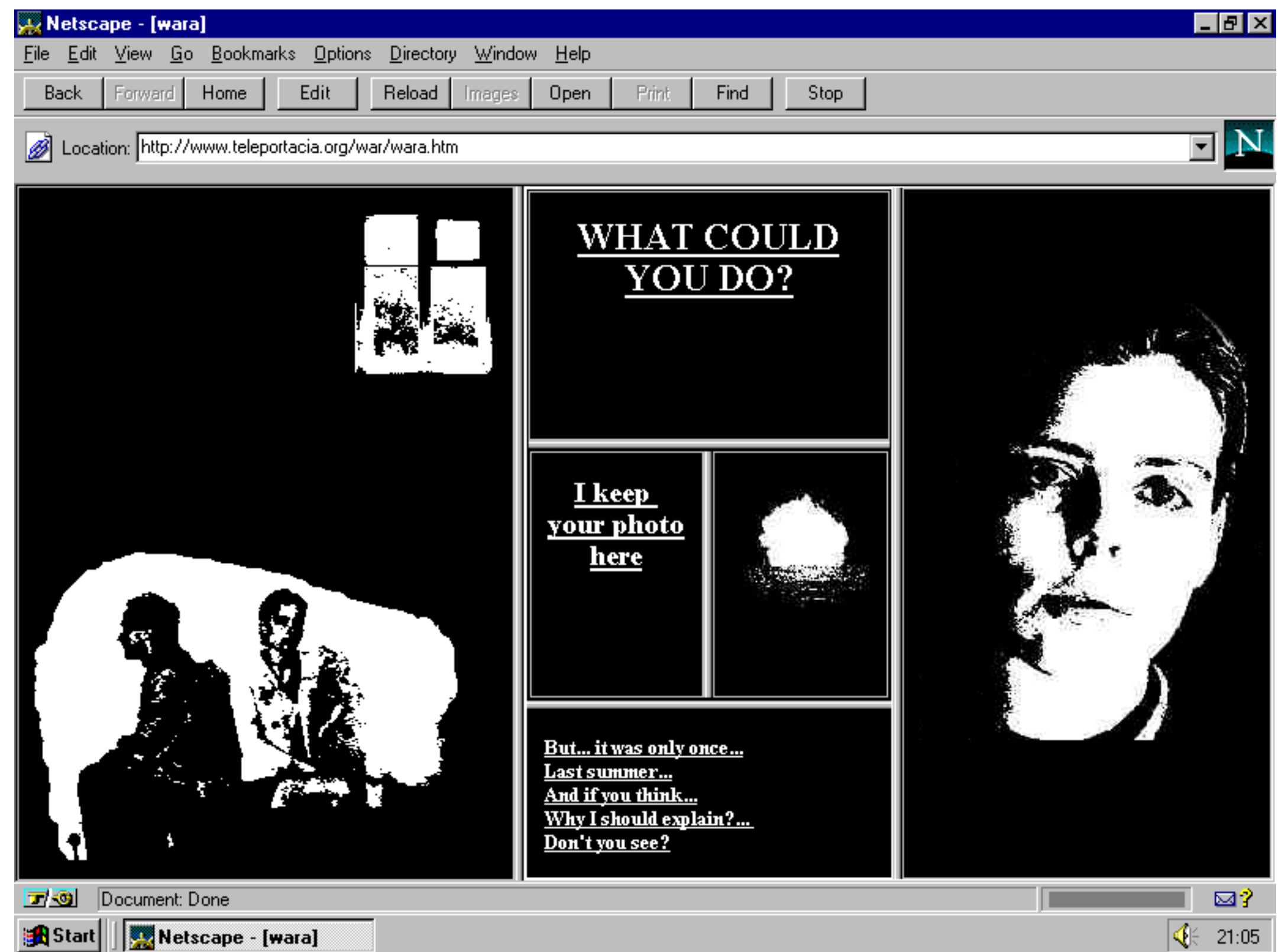
# Networked Art or net.art!

Examples taken from:

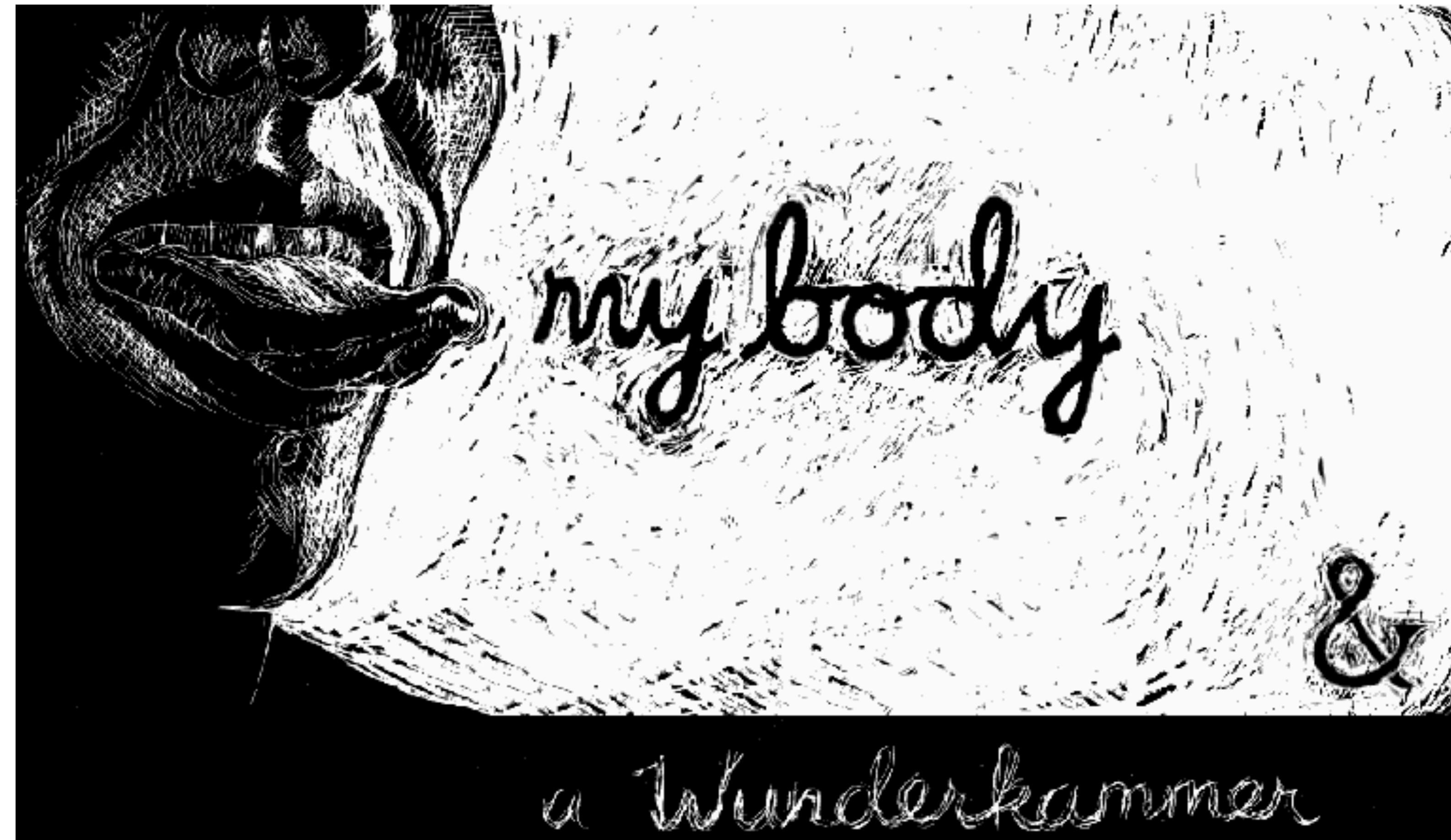
Rhizome Hypertext Collection

Rhizome Artbase

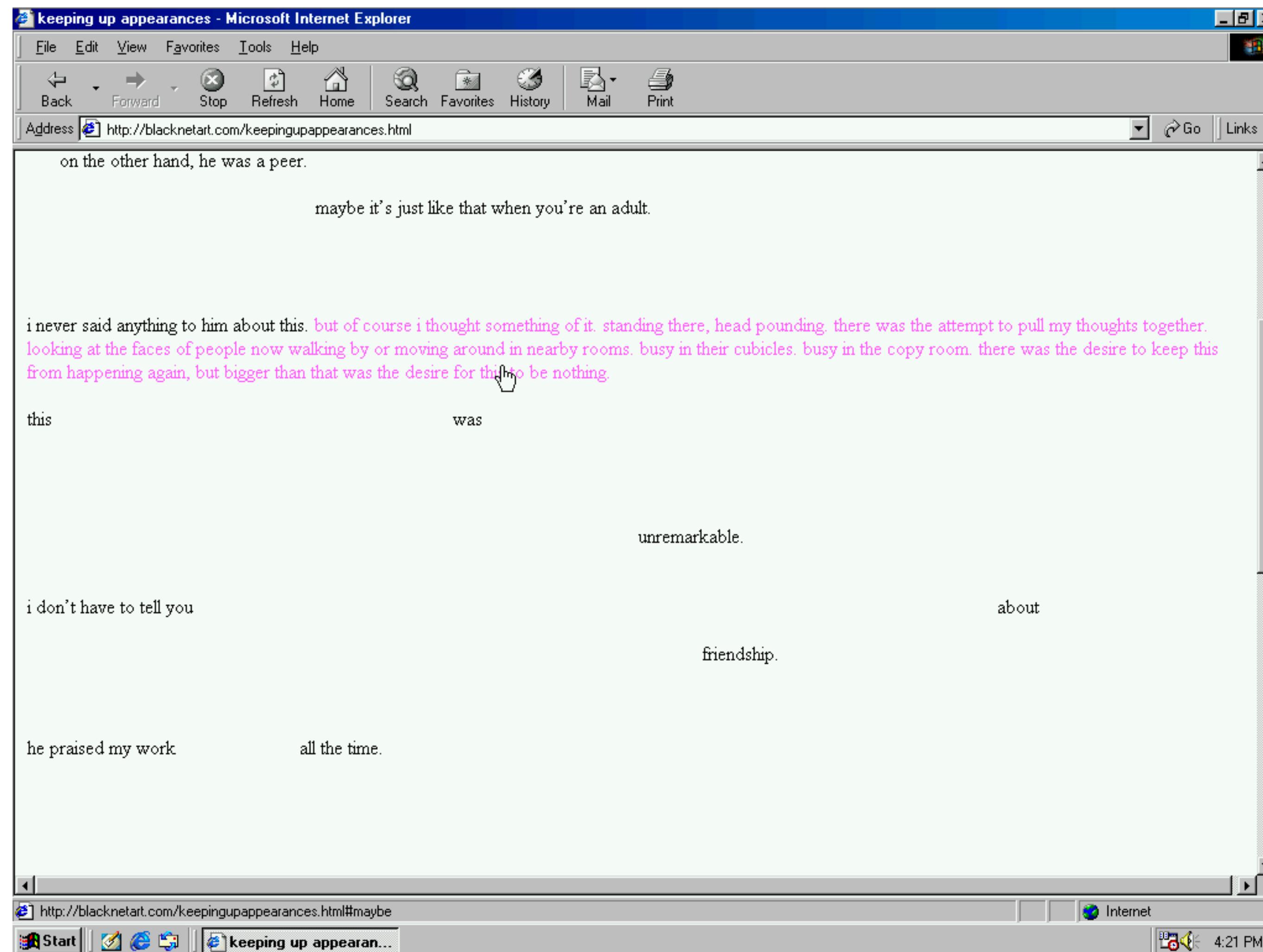
Let's split into groups to inspect the websites



Olia Lialina, My boyfriend came back from the war, 1996



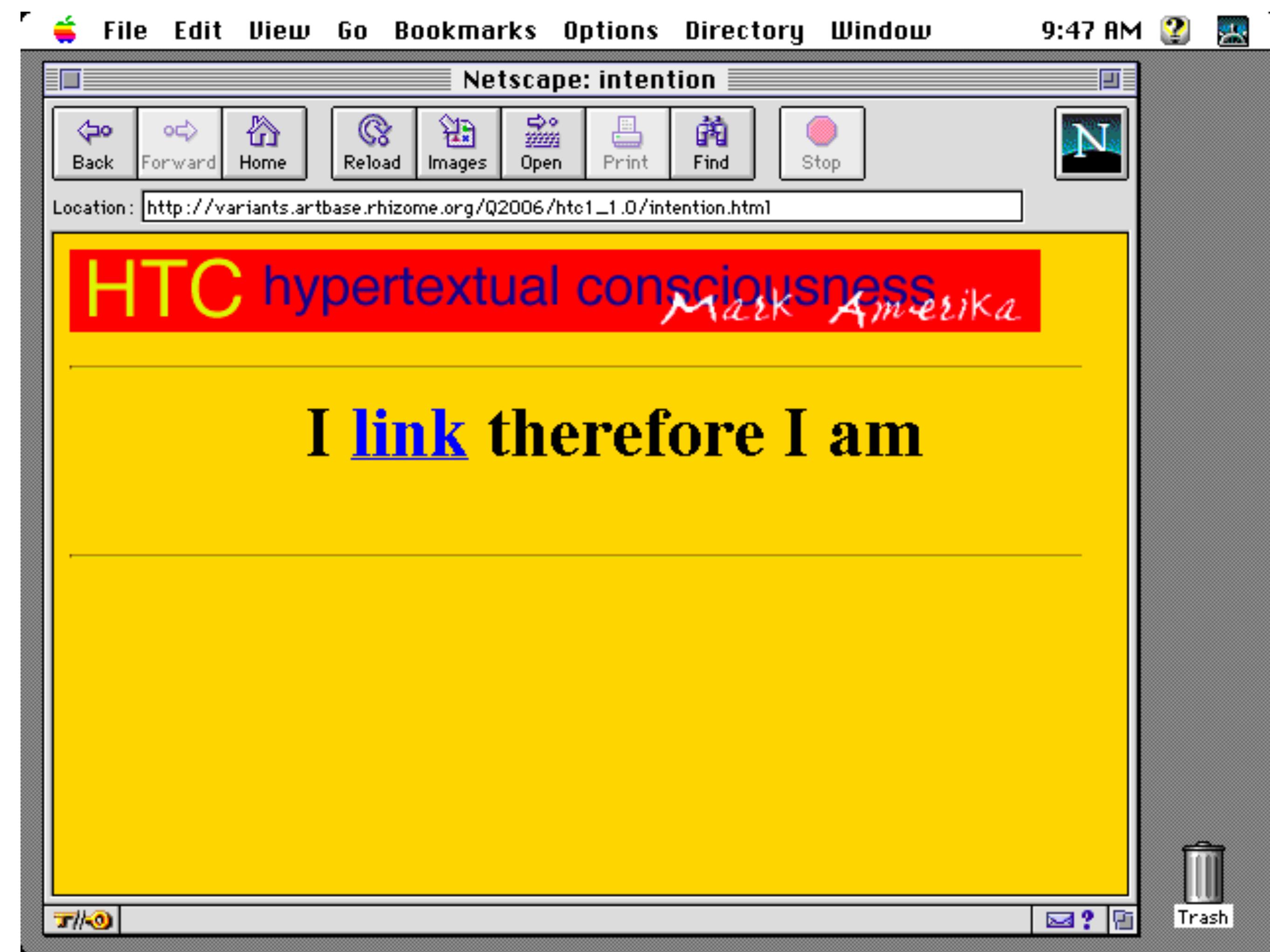
Shelley Jackson, my body — a Wunderkammer, 1997



Mendi and Keith Obadike, keeping up appearances, 2001

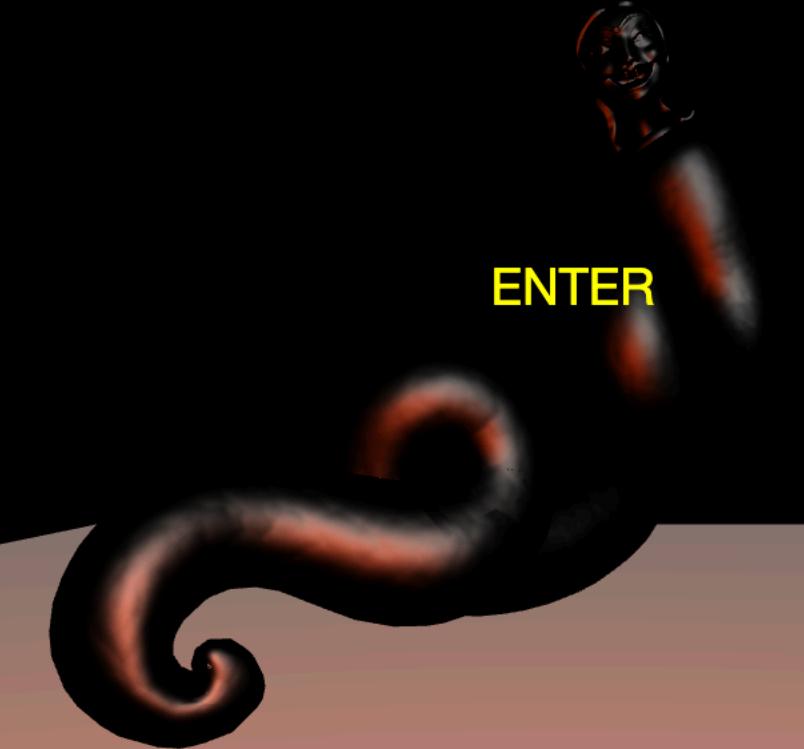


Victoria Vesna, Bodies INCorporated, 1996



Mark Amerika, HTC1.0, 1995

SHE WHO SEES THE UNKNOWN  
THE LAUGHING SNAKE



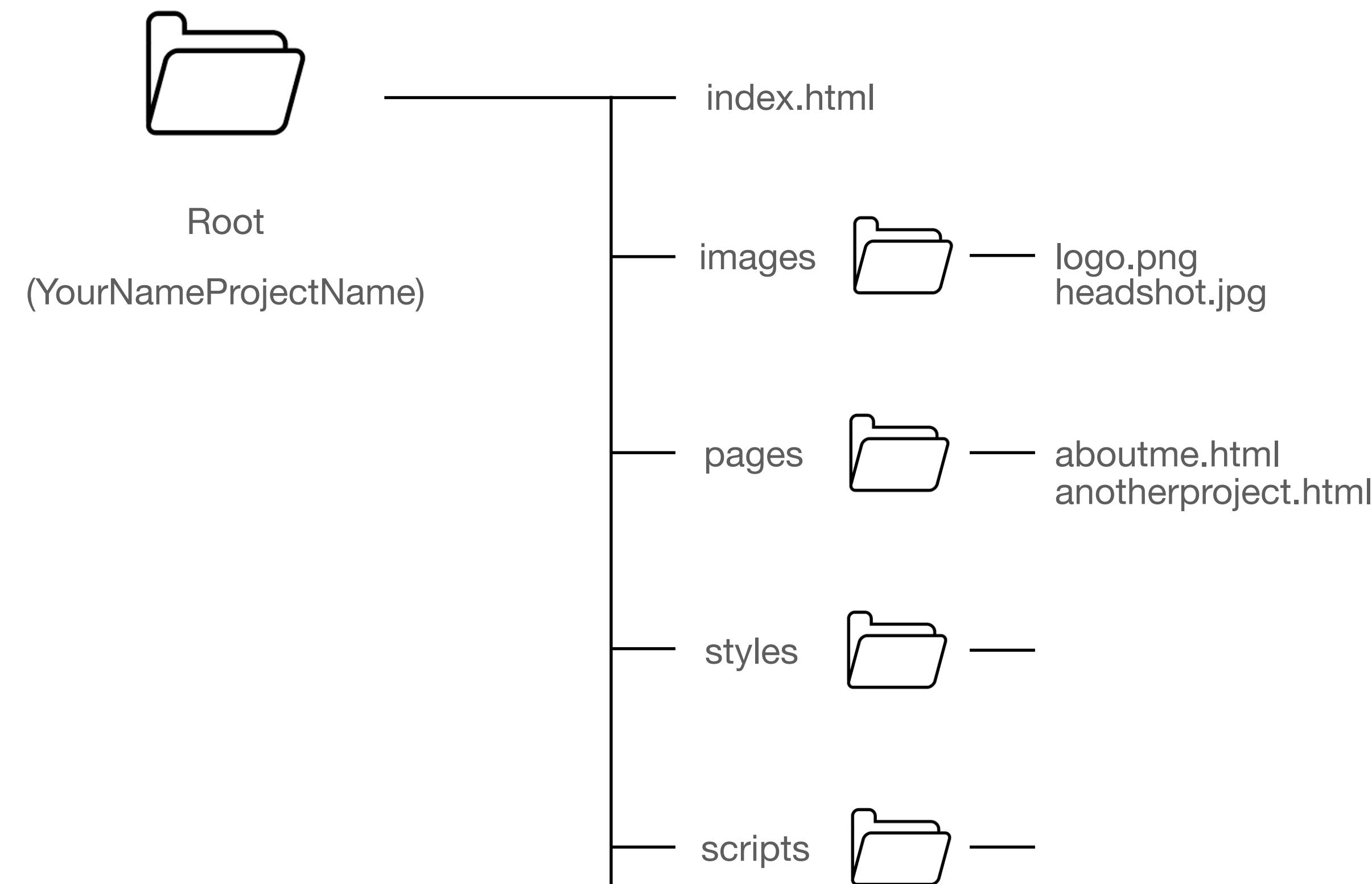
ENTER

DIRECTED BY: MOREHSHIN ALLAHYARI  
TEXT AND VISUALS: MOREHSHIN ALLAHYARI  
3D SCENE DESIGN AND WEB DEVELOPMENT: EMILY MARTINEZ  
WEB DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT: TONIA BEGLARI  
SOUND DESIGN: ANDREA YOUNG

CO-COMMISSIONED BY:  
THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL, AND FACT

Morehshin Allahyari, The Laughing Snake, 2018

# File Structure!

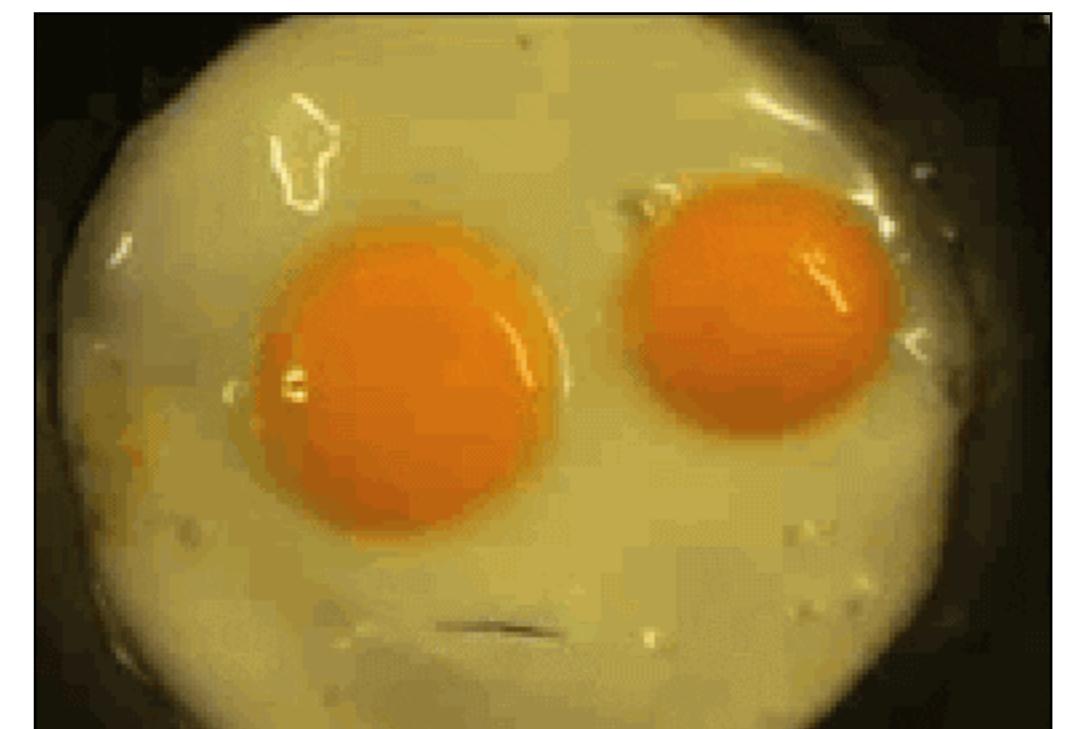


# Image file types and sizes

.png vs .jpg vs .gif vs .tiff vs .svg

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# Image file types and sizes

What's the smallest unit of digital data?

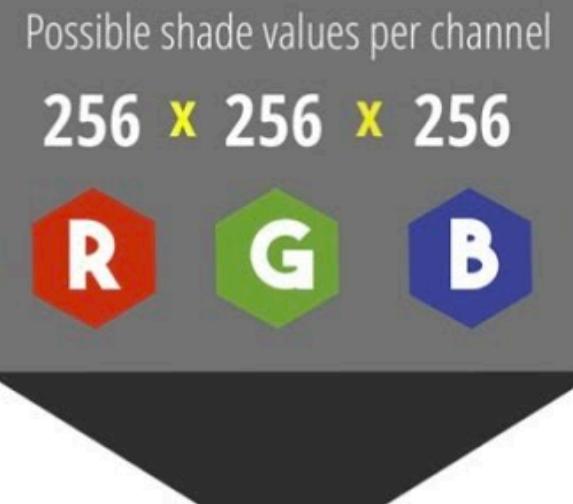
Data Measurement Chart	
Data Measurement	Size
Bit	Single Binary Digit (1 or 0)
Byte	8 bits
Kilobyte (KB)	1,024 Bytes
Megabyte (MB)	1,024 Kilobytes
Gigabyte (GB)	1,024 Megabytes
Terabyte (TB)	1,024 Gigabytes
Petabyte (PB)	1,024 Terabytes
Exabyte (EB)	1,024 Petabytes

It took **4 Petabytes**  
of information to make this image

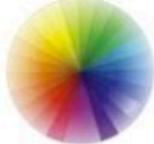


# Digital color systems and storage:

**8 Bit**



16,777,216 Possible Colors



**10 Bit**



1,073,741,824 Possible Colors



**12 Bit**



Over 68 Billion Possible Colors



$2^8$

$2^{10}$

$2^{12}$

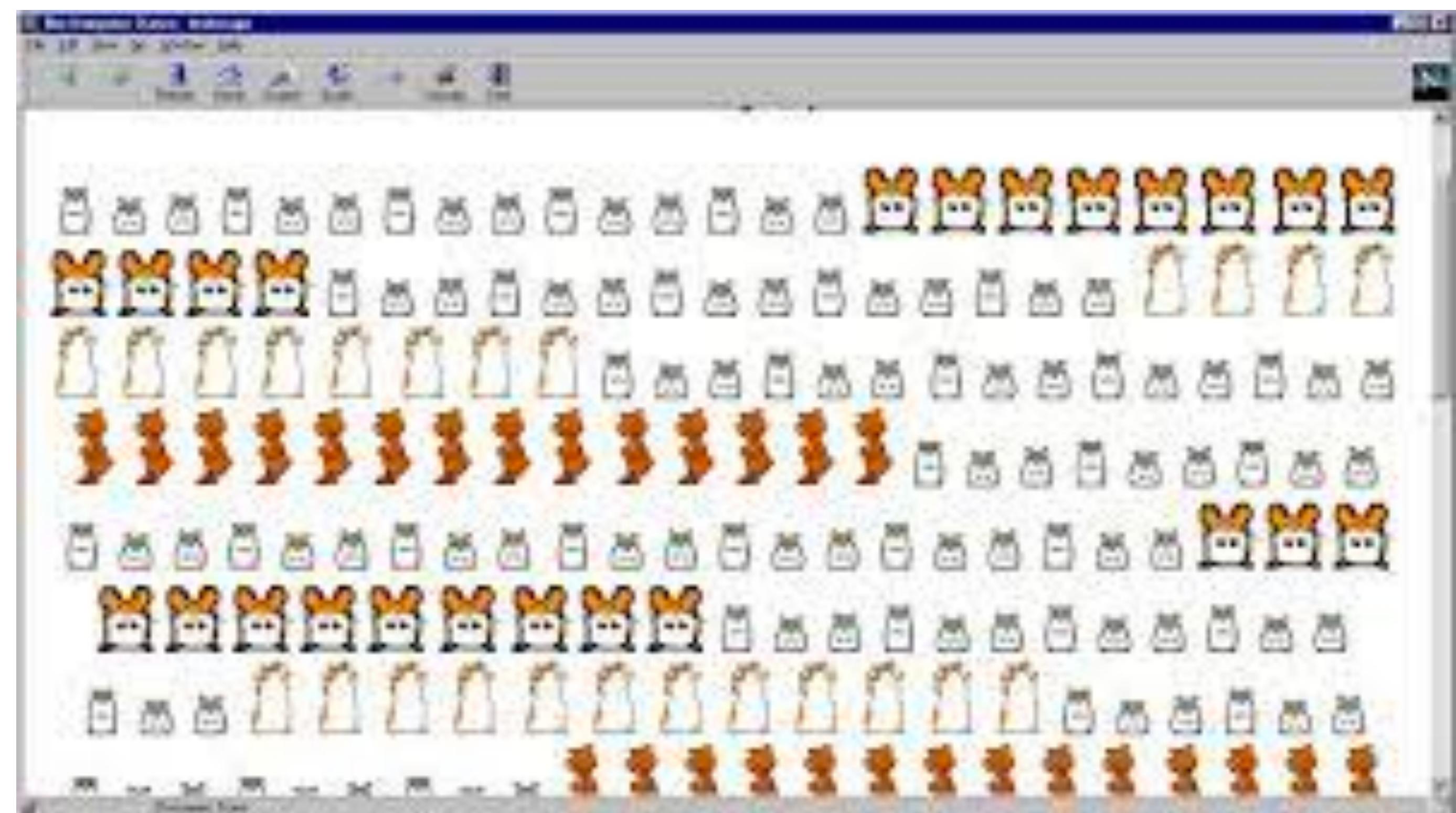


Assignment: Early Internet Art  
Homage: Accessible Surfing  
Part 1

After working through Accessibility for Web Design, create a new html website inspired by early internet art and hypertext narratives that considers current accessibility protocol and contains pages, external links, and images. How is designing for accessibility also an aesthetic tool? What associations can be made by controlling a user's clicking? What is the embodied state of “surfing the web”?  
Upload the .html file.  
Bonus: Read id vs class

Remember to make things weird and/or playful!

**More fun...**



Deidre LaCarte, Hampster Dance, 1998



Adam Curtis, Hypernormalisation, 2016