simply processing raw incoming HTML so it can be displayed on the user's screen. Amaya can display a document, show a map of its structure, allow the viewer to edit it, and save it straight back to the Web server it came from. It is a great tool for developing new features, and for showing how features from various text-editing programs can be combined into one superior browser/editor, which will help people work together. I switched from AOLpress to Amaya.

One Web server we use is Apache. When NCSA was developing Mosaic, they called me at one point and asked if I would mind if they made a server. My policy, of course, was that I wanted as many people as possible writing Web software, so I said, "Of course, go right ahead." What they meant, but left unsaid, was that they'd be writing another server that would be competing for "market share" with the server I had written. But NCSA's subsequent development slowed down, so a bunch of people from all over the Net got together to create "patches" for NCSA's server, and the result, Apache, became a server in its own right. It was maintained by a distributed group of people on the frontier of Web development, very much in the Internet style. Apache to this day has a huge number of users, and is a powerful and flexible server system—again, a tremendous testimony to the whole idea of open-source software.

We use Apache as our main server that is accessible to the public. We use our open source "Jigsaw" server for collaborative editing of all kinds of documents, from W3C Recommendations to our meeting minutes. Jigsaw is a Java-based server, originally written for the consortium by Anselm Baird-Smith, a slight, enthusiastic French wizard who can write code at lightning speed. Anselm wrote Jigsaw initially as background exercise to help him get used to Java and HTTP. In the two months before he actually joined the consortium staff he had already rewritten it four times. Jigsaw allows members and staff to read and write documents back and forth, and to keep track of all changes

behind the scenes. Jigsaw has had great success as a development and test platform among the Java and HTTP cognoscenti, because the server is so flexible.

Written into the consortium's constitution is the stipulation that all the software it produces in support of its work be available to the public. This is a way of promoting recommendations, discussion, and experimentation. It allows anyone to join in the testing of new protocols, and allows new companies to rapidly get into the swing of Web software creation. All anyone has to do is go to the consortium's site, www.w3.org, and download these tools for themselves.

The consortium's world does sometimes fill up with politics—industrial and governmental. Companies occasionally make technical statements for commercial reasons. Marketers tamper with the facts and confuse the public as they fence with the others in the field. But underneath, the consortium's members are still pursuing exciting technological advances. Engineers move from company to company, sometimes with projects their employers are abandoning due to lack of understanding, sometimes leaving a trail of claims to their ideas made by each place where they worked. The web of life continues to grow in all this activity. And despite commercial pressures, the technical ideas, the consortium's principles, and the social motivations behind them continue to hold center stage.