

# common search:

**The original vision of Nutch, 14 years later:  
Building an open source search engine**

*Apache Big Data Europe 2016*

[sylvain@sylvainzimmer.com](mailto:sylvain@sylvainzimmer.com)  
@sylvinus

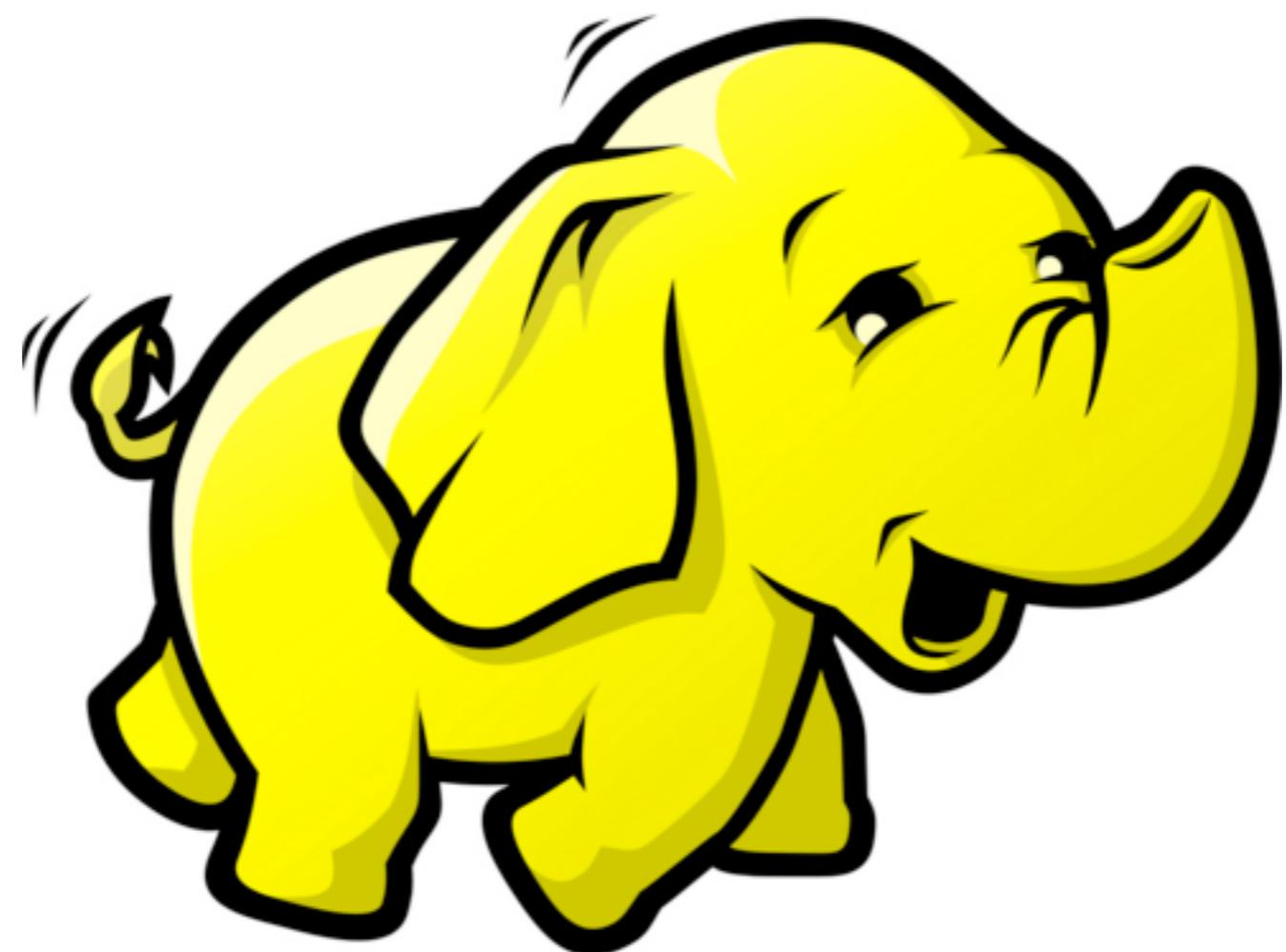
# /usr/bin/whoami

- Jamendo (Founder & CTO, 2004-2011)
- TEDxParis (Co-founder, 2009-2012)
- dotConferences (Founder, 2012-)
- Pricing Assistant (Co-founder & CTO, 2012-)

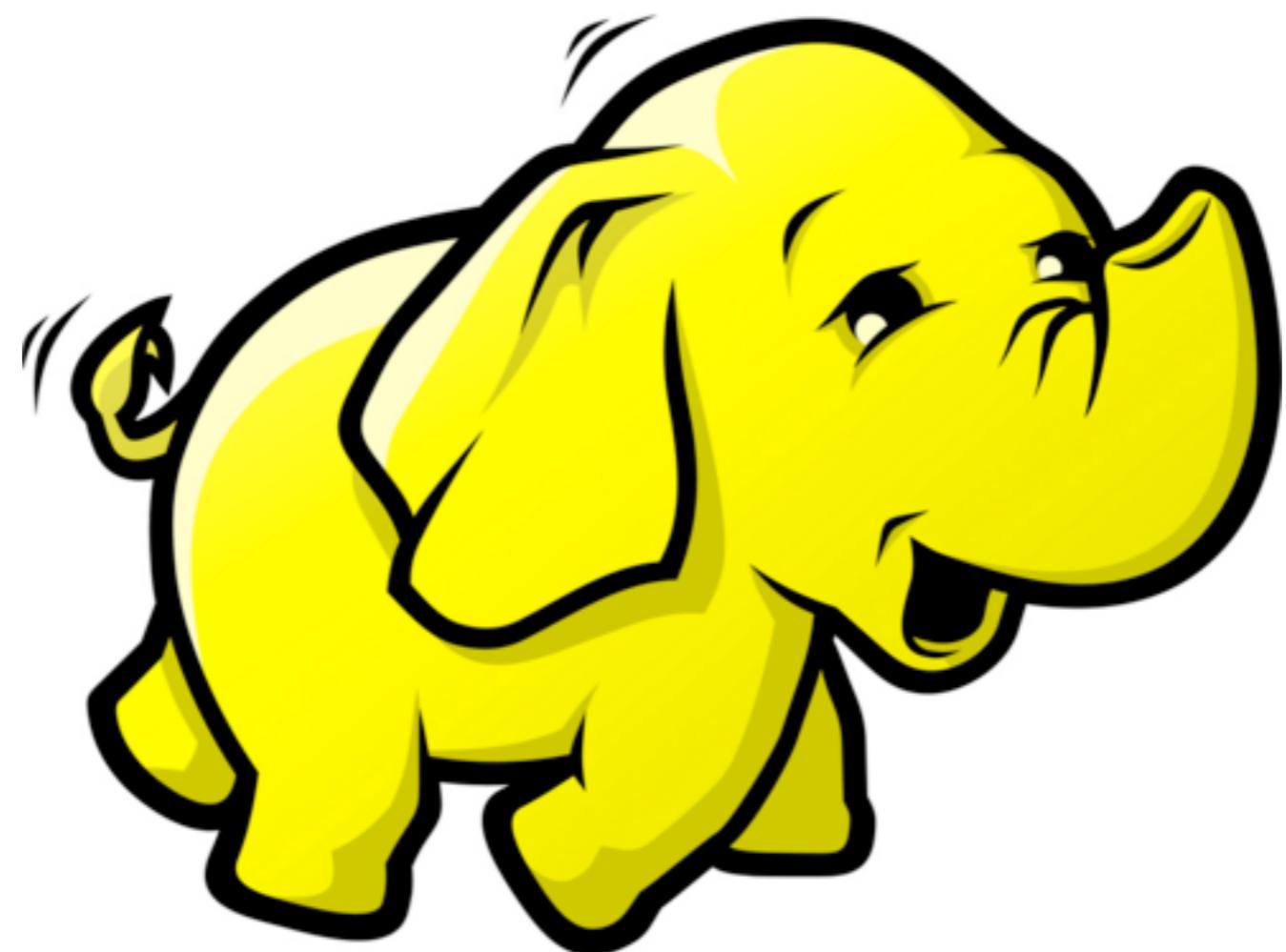
"The original motivation for the Nutch project was to provide a transparent alternative to the growing power of a handful of private search services over most users' view of the Web.

However, as Nutch has been adopted with greater enthusiasm by smaller organizations, the Nutch Organization has de-emphasized operating a multi-billion-page index in the public interest."

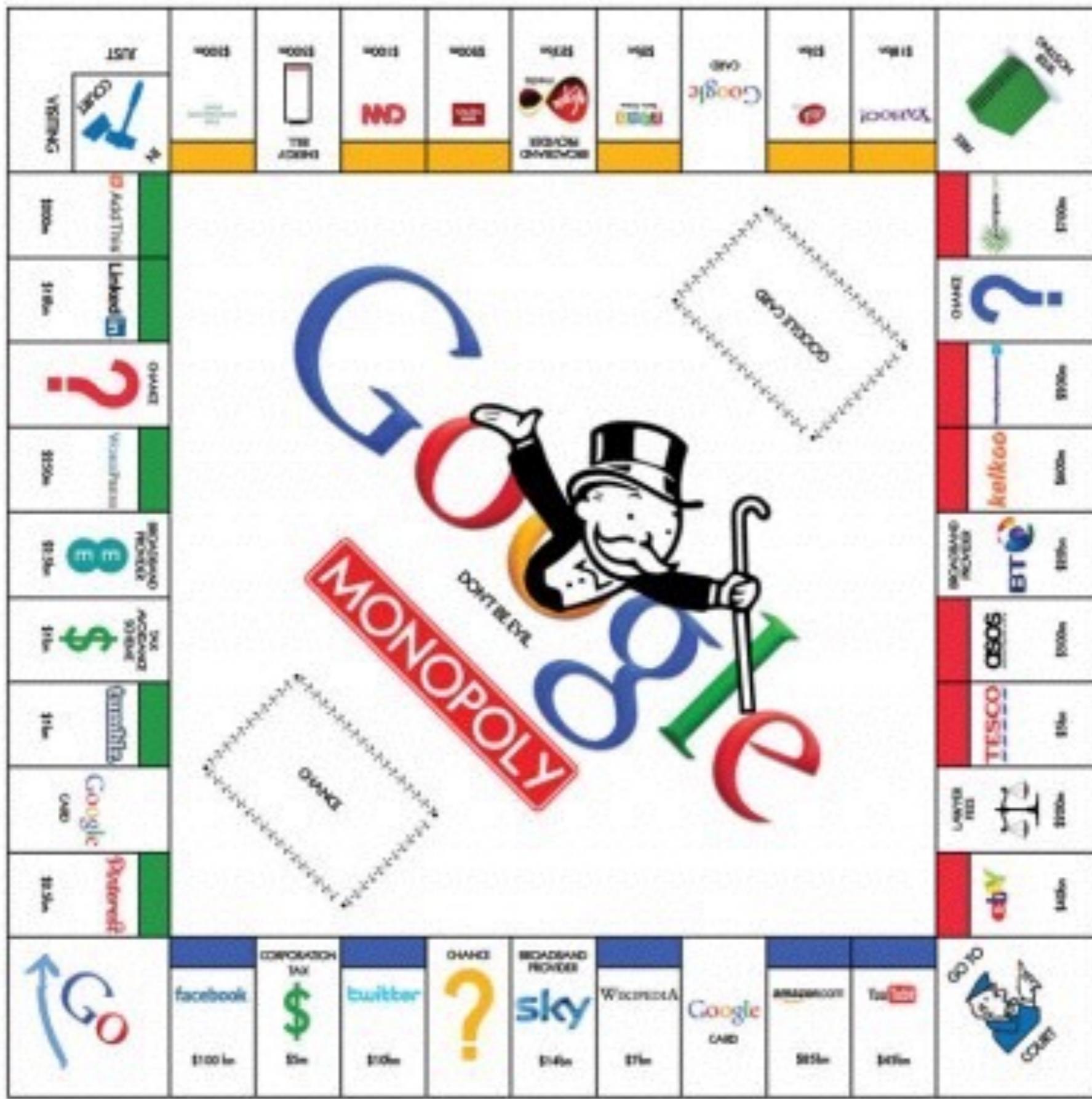
*CommerceNet Labs Technical Report, Nov 2004*



again?









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Google

google search

email

webmail

Europe

Popular Posts

# Why did ProtonMail vanish from Google search results for months?

Posted Oct 27, 2016 by [Natasha Lomas \(@riptari\)](#)



If you're the maker of a popular, zero access encrypted webmail product and suddenly discover your product is no longer featuring in Google search results for queries such as "secure email" and "encrypted email," what do you conclude?

That something is amiss, for sure.

But the rather more pertinent question is whether your product's disappearance is accidental or intentional — given that Google also offers a popular webmail product, Gmail, albeit one that does not offer zero access because users "pay" the company with their personal data, which feeds into Alphabet's user profiling and ad targeting engines.

## Crunchbase

### [Google Search](#)

#### DESCRIPTION

Search is Google's core product and is what got them an official transitive verb addition to the Merriam Webster for google.

#### WEBSITE

<http://Google.com>

[Full profile for Google Search](#)

#### Gmail

#### ProtonMail

## LATEST CRUNCH REPORT



[Snapchat Starts Selling](#)

transparency

reproducibility

common  
search:



About 41380 results

## Welcome to **Python.org**

[www.python.org](http://www.python.org)The official home of the **Python** Programming Language

## Dive Into **Python**

[www.diveintopython.net](http://www.diveintopython.net)

This book lives at . If you're reading it somewhere else, you may not have the latest version.

## The Eric **Python** IDE

[eric-ide.python-projects.org](http://eric-ide.python-projects.org)Eric is a full featured **Python** editor and IDE, written in **Python**. It is based on the cross platform Qt gui toolkit, integrating the highly flexible Scintilla...

## Starship

[www.python.net](http://www.python.net)

The home of pythonistas

## Tutorials, **Python** Courses: Online and On Site

[python-course.eu](http://python-course.eu)Free comprehensive online tutorials suitable for self-study and high-quality on site **Python** courses in Europe, Canada (Toronto) and the US

## learning **python** | one man's journey into **python**...

[www.learningpython.com](http://www.learningpython.com)

one man's journey into python...

python

OK

EN



## Results (50)

### Welcome to Python.org

[debug] <https://www.python.org/>

The official home of the Python Programming Language

**docid** -4478921722574158000  
**static rank** 0.7923434  
**ES score** 87.821815  
**ES explain**

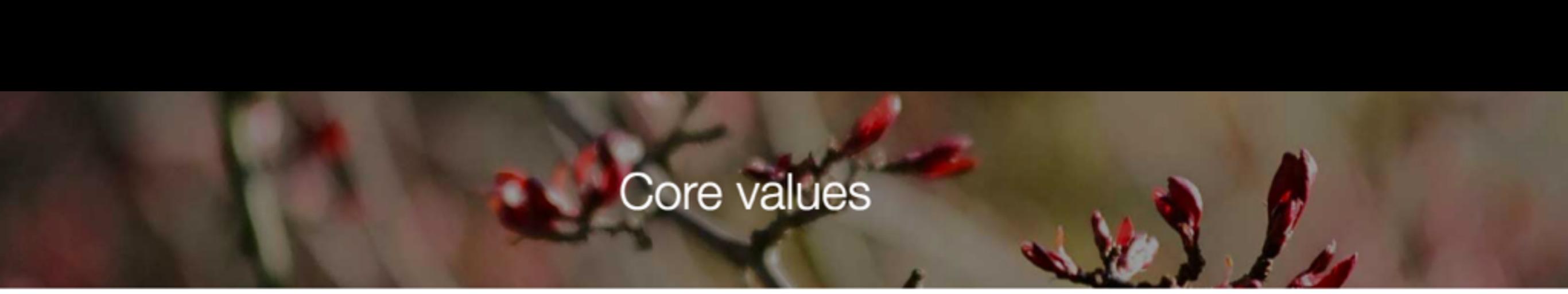
```
47.75143 | sum of:
  47.75143 | function score, product of:
    60.87483 | max plus 0.5 times others of:
      60.768433 | weight(domain_words:python in 77874) [PerFieldSimilarity], result of:
        60.768433 | score(doc=77874,freq=1.0 = termFreq=1.0
    ), product of:
      8.0 | boost
      5.97652 | idf(docFreq=9023, maxDocs=3555860)
      1.2709827 | tfNorm, computed from:
        1.0 | termFreq=1.0
        1.0 | parameter k1
        0.75 | parameter b
        2.31778 | avgFieldLength
        1.0 | fieldLength
      0.21279304 | weight(body:python in 77874) [PerFieldSimilarity], result of:
        0.21279304 | score(doc=77874,freq=21.0), product of:
          0.14198984 | queryWeight, product of:
            6.976686 | idf(docFreq=9021, maxDocs=3555860)
            0.020352047 | queryNorm
            1.4986497 | fieldWeight in 77874, product of:
              4.582576 | tf(freq=21.0), with freq of:
                21.0 | termFreq=21.0
              6.976686 | idf(docFreq=9021, maxDocs=3555860)
              0.046875 | fieldNorm(doc=77874)
            0.78441995 | min of:
              0.78441995 | function score, score mode [multiply]
              0.7923434 | function score, product of:
                1.0 | match filter: *:*
```

<https://explain.commonsearch.org/?q=python&g=en>

# Agenda

- Values & tech choices
- Search engine components
- Challenges
- Opportunities

# Values & tech choices



# Core values

[Mission](#)

[Values](#)

[Governance](#)

[People](#)

[Roadmap](#)

[F.A.Q.](#)

[Technology](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Data sources](#)

[Partners](#)

[Credits](#)

Our core values are the DNA of Common Search. They clearly state what we stand for, what makes us different and provide guidance when making hard decisions.

Starting with the most essential:

**Radical transparency.** Our search results must be explainable and reproducible. All our [code](#) is open source and results are generated only using [publicly available data](#). Transparency also extends to our governance, finances and day-to-day operations.

**Independence.** No single person, company or special interest must be able to influence the order of our search results to their benefit. Our [board of trustees](#) is the watchdog of that independence.

**Public service.** We want to build and operate a free service targeted at a large, mainstream audience. Our impact and ultimate contribution to the Web grows with our size so we should make our service accessible and useful to as many users as we can.

**Pragmatism.** Recognizing the immensity of the task at hand, we should be willing to accept short-term compromises when necessary, as long as they don't go against the values above.

**Privacy.** Users should be [informed](#) and in full control of the personal information they share with us and with any third parties.

**Focus.** We are building a search engine. Not a browser, not an operating system, not an encyclopedia. Collaboration with other organizations sharing our core values should be encouraged instead of replicating their efforts.

**Frugalism.** Lowering costs is easier than increasing revenue. Having a low burn rate reduces the influence of money and guarantees our long-term sustainability.

**Participation.** [Contributing](#) to Common Search should be easy for everyone, developer or otherwise. We must embrace and nurture an open community that will surely lead, in time, to a great search engine.

# Radical transparency

- Open source (Apache License v2)
- Open data
- (Governance)

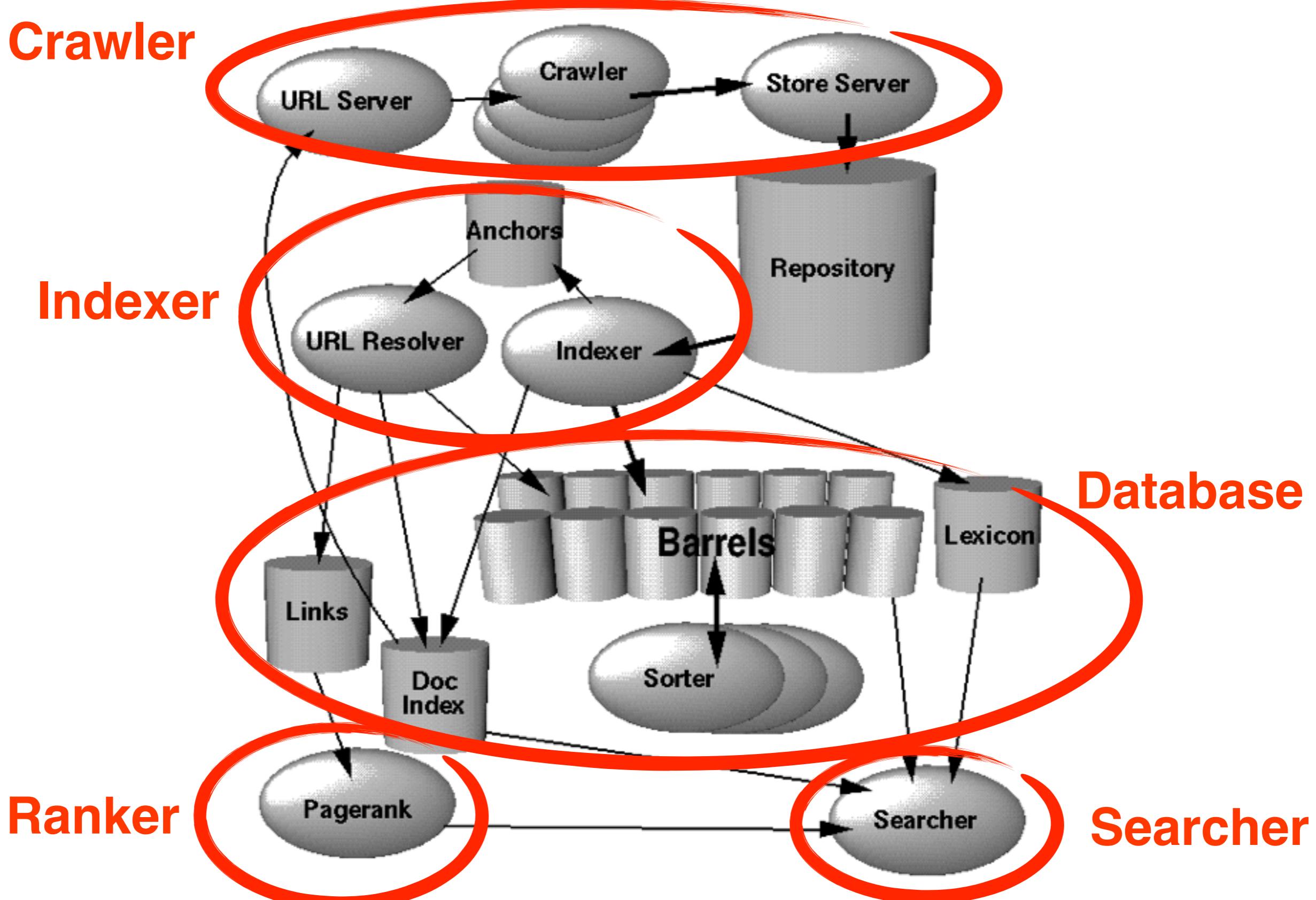
# Privacy

- Results can be tailored by language/country, but NOT by user/cookie/sessionid
- \o/ Cache everything!
- Tor service: <http://comsearchl2zlnre.onion>

# Participation & Pragmatism

- Use high-level languages as much as possible (Python, Go)
- Embrace active communities (Spark, Elasticsearch)
- Use mainstream participation platforms, even if they are nonfree (GitHub, Slack)

# Search engines



*The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine (1998)*

# Crawler

# October 2016 Crawl Archive Now Available

November 7, 2016 **Sebastian Nagel**

The crawl archive for October 2016 is now available! The archive is located in the **commoncrawl** bucket at [crawl-data/CC-MAIN-2016-44/](#). It contains more than 3.25 billion web pages.

Similar to the [September crawl](#), we used [sitemaps](#) to improve the crawl seed list, including sitemaps named in the robots.txt file of the [top-million domains from Alexa](#), and sitemaps from the top 150,000 hosts in [Common Search's host-level page ranks](#). The maximum number of URL's extracted per domain was 200,000. The resulting crawl included 2 billion new URLs, not contained in previous crawls.

We are grateful to [webxtrakt](#) for donating a list of 14 million verified, DNS-resolvable domain names of European country-code TLDs (eu, .fr, .be, .de, .ch, .nl, .pl). We included these domains into the October crawl and we hope for a ongoing partnership with webxtract to improve the coverage of the crawls.

To assist with exploring and using the dataset, we provide gzipped files that list:

- [all segments](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/segment.paths.gz)
- [all WARC files](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/warc.paths.gz)
- [all WAT files](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/wat.paths.gz)
- [all WET files](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/wet.paths.gz)
- [robots.txt files](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/robotstxt.paths.gz)
- [non-200 HTTP status code responses](#) (CC-MAIN-2016-44/non200responses.paths.gz)

## Recent Posts

[October 2016 Crawl Archive Now Available](#)

[September 2016 Crawl Archive Now Available](#)

[News Dataset Available](#)

[August 2016 Crawl Archive Now Available](#)

[Data Sets Containing Robots.txt Files and Non-200 Responses](#)



Today at **3:30pm!**

**HERLIX**



# Scrapy

An open source and collaborative framework  
for extracting the data you need from websites.  
In a fast, simple, yet extensible way.

pypi v1.1.3 wheel yes



coverage 83%

Build and run your  
**web spiders**

Install the latest version of Scrapy

Cloud **Scrapy 1.1**

\$ pip install scrapy

PyPI

Conda

APT

Source

Terminal

```
$ pip install scrapy
$ cat > myspider.py <<EOF
import scrapy

class BlogSpider(scrapy.Spider):
    name = 'blogspider'
    start_urls = ['https://blog.scrapinghub.com']

    def parse(self, response):
        for title in response.css('h2.entry-title'):
            yield {'title': title.css('a ::text').extract_first()}

        next_page = response.css('div.prev-post > a ::attr(href)').extract_first()
        if next_page:
            yield scrapy.Request(response.urljoin(next_page), callback=self.parse)
EOF
$ scrapy runspider myspider.py
```

<http://scrapy.org>

[Code](#)[Issues 0](#)[Pull requests 0](#)[Projects 0](#)[Wiki](#)[Pulse](#)[Graphs](#)

CoCrawler is a versatile web crawler built using modern tools and concurrency.

[193 commits](#)[1 branch](#)[0 releases](#)[1 contributor](#)[Apache-2.0](#)Branch: [master](#) ▾[New pull request](#)[Create new file](#)[Upload files](#)[Find file](#)[Clone or download](#) ▾ **wumpus** process affinity is a nice winLatest commit `c87b825` 5 days ago [cocrawler](#)

process affinity is a nice win

5 days ago

 [examples](#)

bump versions; measure decode cpu burn; tweaks

2 months ago

 [tests](#)

process affinity is a nice win

5 days ago

 [.gitignore](#)

shinier

3 months ago

 [.travis.yml](#)

ok 3.5.0 is gone

29 days ago

 [LICENSE](#)

initial import

3 months ago

 [README.md](#)

update blather

6 days ago

 [TODO](#)

move dns to separate file; first pytest-asyncio tests

12 days ago

 [requirements.txt](#)

add histograms

7 days ago

<http://github.com/cocrawler/cocrawler>

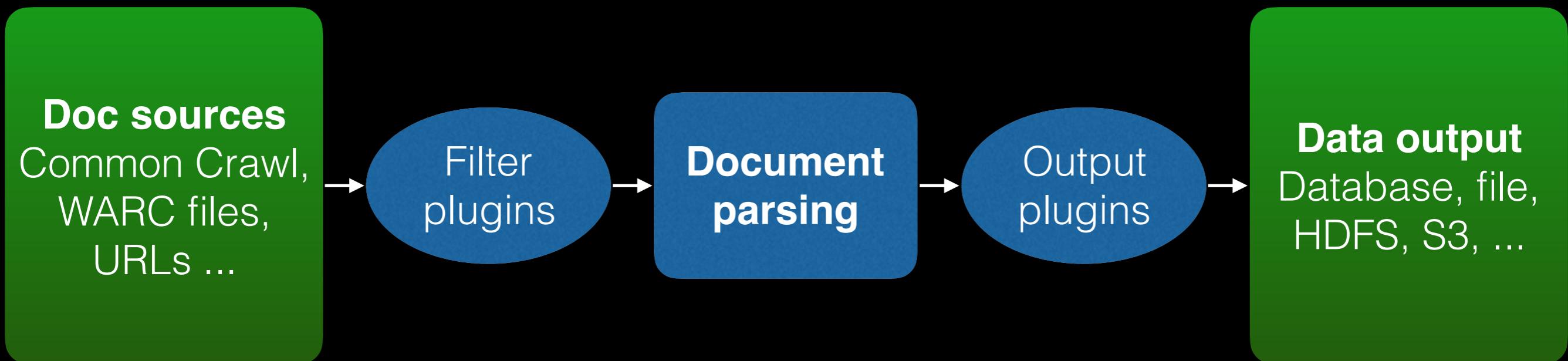
# Indexer

# Specs

- HTML parsing & analysis
- Tokenization / NLP
- Static rankings
- Language detection
- I/O from crawls to databases



# Common Search Pipeline



```
spark-submit [spark_options] \  
/cosr/back/spark/jobs/pipeline.py \  
--source [source_options] \  
--plugin [plugin_options] \  
[other_pipeline_options]
```

# HTML parsers

- BeautifulSoup & friends
- lxml
- html5lib
- Gumbo!

» Package Index > html5lib > 0.999999999

## html5lib 0.999999999

*HTML parser based on the WHATWG HTML specification*

[build](#) [passing](#)

html5lib is a pure-python library for parsing HTML. It is implemented by all major web browsers.

[View on PyPI](#)

[Code](#)[Issues 30](#)[Pull requests 6](#)[Projects 0](#)[Wiki](#)[Pulse](#)[Graphs](#)

An HTML5 parsing library in pure C99

[403 commits](#)[4 branches](#)[7 releases](#)[27 contributors](#)[Apache-2.0](#)[Branch: master](#)[New pull request](#)[Create new file](#)[Upload files](#)[Find file](#)[Clone or download](#)

 **nostrademons** committed on GitHub Merge pull request [#367](#) from mominul/patch-1 ... [...](#) Latest commit aa91b27 on Jun 29

 <a href="#">benchmarks</a>	Add baidu benchmark which has been left out of the git repository all...	2 years ago
 <a href="#">examples</a>	Recognize templates in serialize and prettyprint	2 years ago
 <a href="#">python/gumbo</a>	Update gen_tags.py to exempt generated files from clang-format, and r...	a year ago
 <a href="#">src</a>	Fix error message use of return value from vsprintf	10 months ago
 <a href="#">testdata @ e633ddf</a>	Move html5lib-tests submodule ref up to include the ruby fix.	2 years ago
 <a href="#">tests</a>	Added a test for fragments with multiple nodes.	a year ago
 <a href="#">third_party</a>	Integrate gumbo_parser with gtest.	3 years ago
 <a href="#">visualc</a>	Update strings.h	2 years ago
 <a href="#">.clang-format</a>	Reformat the source code with clang-format, and add a config file for...	a year ago
 <a href="#">.gitignore</a>	Add .dylib files to .gitignore	a year ago

<https://github.com/google/gumbo-parser>

# Gumbocy

- Use Cython instead of ctypes
- Smaller API
- Tree traversal on the Cython side with basic boilerplate/visibility support

<https://github.com/commonsearch/gumbocy>

# ?urlparse4

`urlparse4` is a performance-focused replacement for Python's `urlparse` module, using C++ code from Chromium's own URL parser.

It is not production-ready yet.

Many credits go to [gurl-cython](#) for inspiration.

## Differences with Python's `urlparse`

`urlparse4` should be a transparent, drop-in replacement in almost all cases. Still, there are a few differences to be aware of:

- `urlparse4` is 2-7x faster for most operations (see benchmarks below)
- `urlparse4` currently doesn't pass CPython's `test_urlparse.py` suite due to edge cases that Chromium's parser manages differently (usually in accordance to the RFCs, which `urlparse` doesn't follow entirely).
- `urlparse4` only supports Python 2.7 for now

## How to install

```
pip install urlparse4
```

## How to use

The most straightforward way to use `urlparse4` is to replace your imports of `urlparse` with this:

```
import urlparse4 as urlparse
```

<https://github.com/commonsearch/urlparse4>

# Database(s)

### Document 1

The bright blue butterfly hangs on the breeze.

### Document 2

It's best to forget the great sky and to retire from every wind.

### Document 3

Under blue sky, in bright sunlight, one need not search around.

### Stopword list

a  
and  
around  
every  
for  
from  
in  
is  
it  
not  
on  
one  
the  
to  
under

### Inverted index

ID	Term	Document
1	best	2
2	blue	1, 3
3	bright	1, 3
4	butterfly	1
5	breeze	1
6	forget	2
7	great	2
8	hangs	1
9	need	3
10	retire	2
11	search	3
12	sky	2, 3
13	wind	2



Search with Apache So

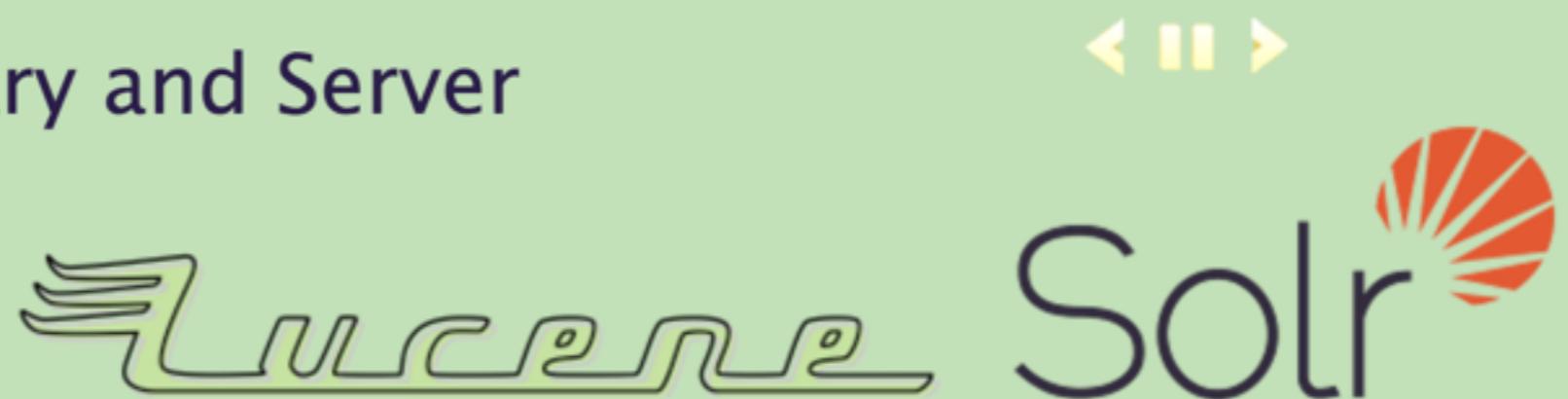
@ select provider ▾

CORE (JAVA)

SOLR

PyLUCENE

## Ultra-fast Search Library and Server



Apache Lucene and Solr set the standard for search and indexing performance

## Welcome to Apache Lucene

The Apache Lucene™ project develops open-source search software, including:

- **Lucene Core**, our flagship sub-project, provides Java-based indexing and search technology, as well as spellchecking, hit highlighting and advanced analysis/tokenization capabilities.
- **Solr™** is a high performance search server built using Lucene Core, with XML/HTTP and JSON/Python/Ruby APIs, hit highlighting, faceted search, caching, replication, and a web admin interface.
- **PyLucene** is a Python port of the Core project.

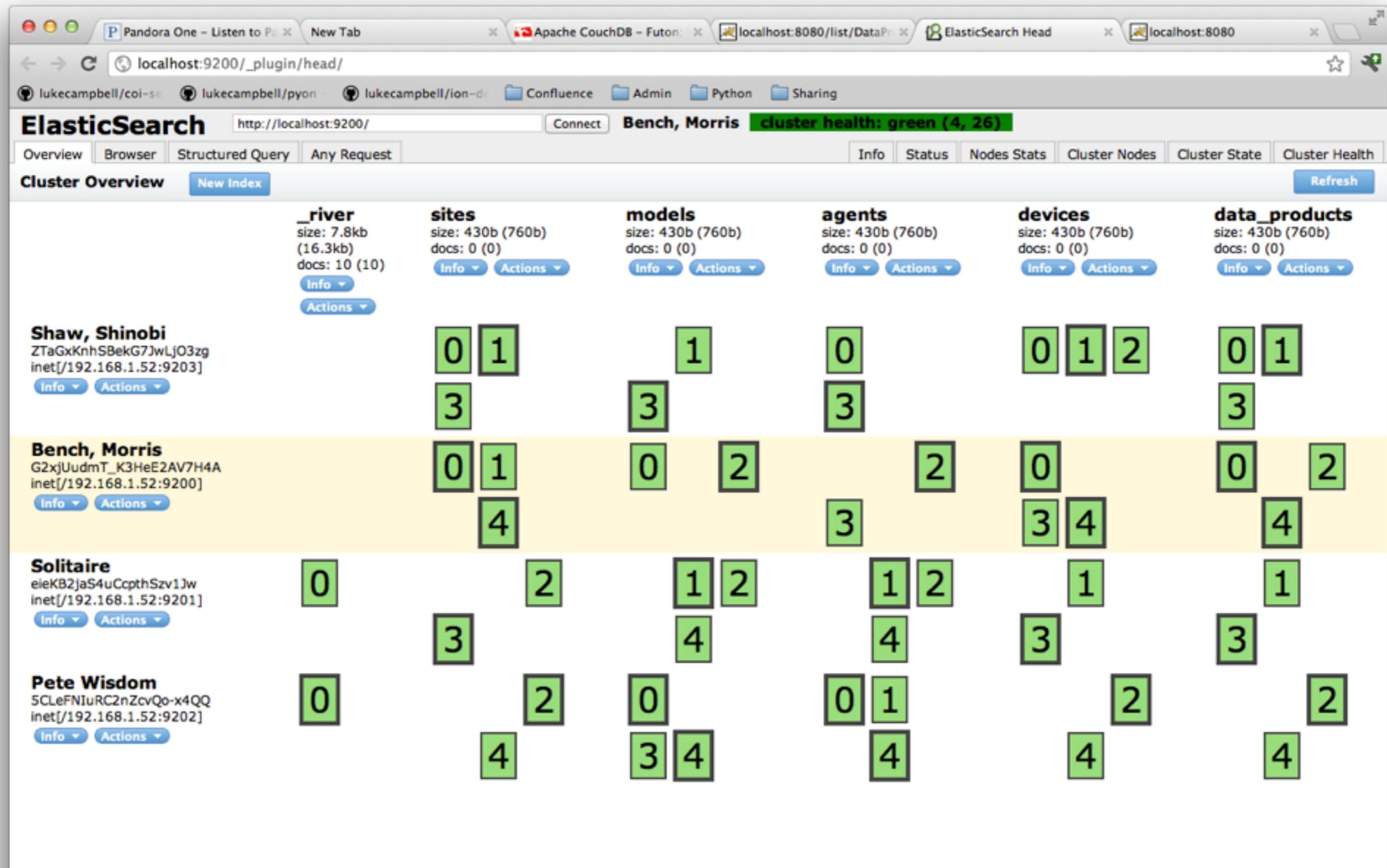
**DOWNLOAD**

Apache Lucene 6.2.1

**DOWNLOAD**

Apache Solr 6.2.1

<http://lucene.apache.org/>



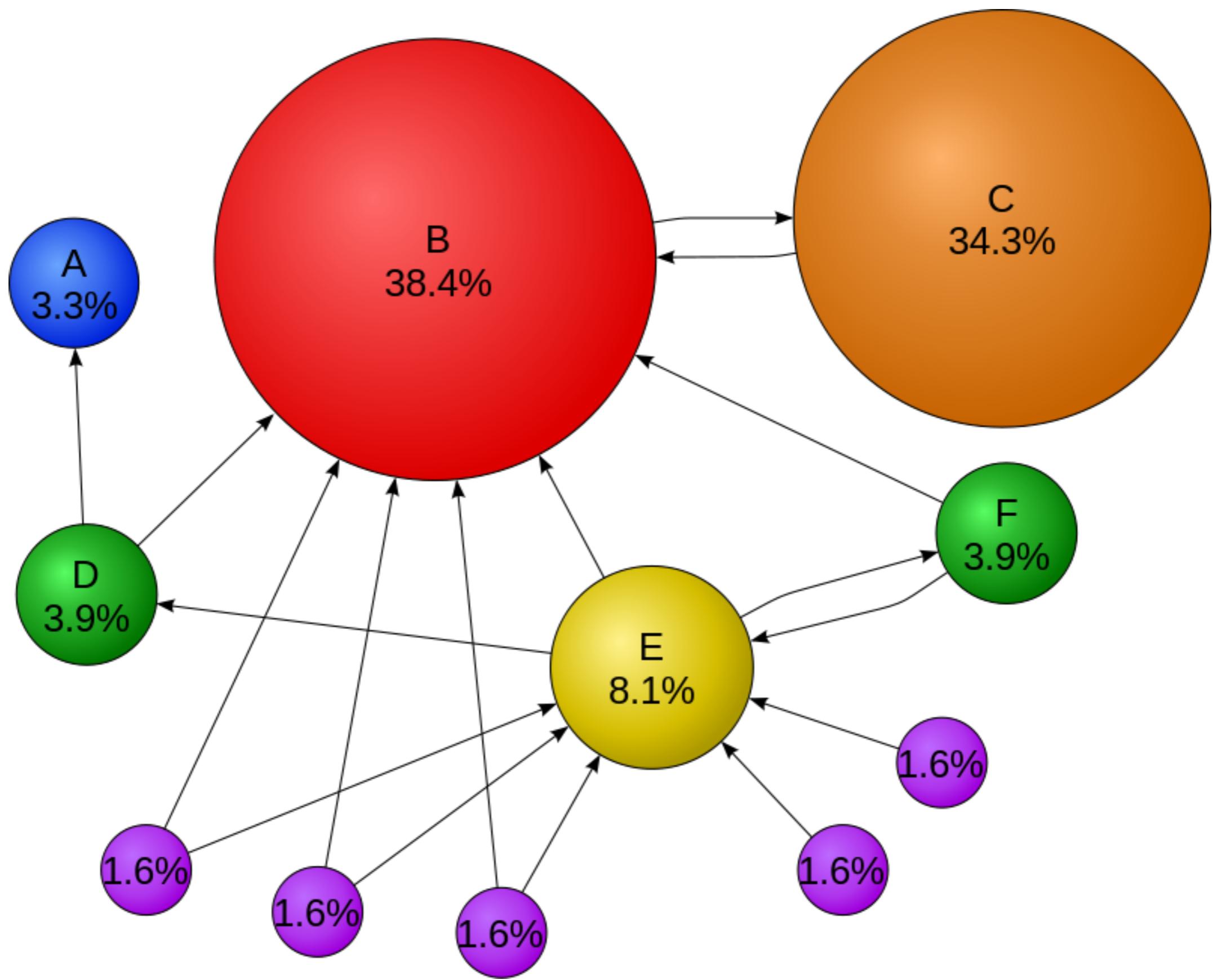
# Ranker

# Ranking formula

$$\text{rank} = f( \text{static\_score} , \text{dynamic\_score( query )} )$$

Alexa  
DMOZ  
Blacklists  
PageRank  
...

ElasticSearch & Lucene  
TF-IDF  
BM25  
...



# Tutorial: Running PageRank on the Web

Get Started  
Architecture

Backend

Frontend

Operations

Result Quality

Tutorial: 1st  
Frontend patch

Tutorial:  
Analyzing the  
web with Spark

Tutorial:  
Running  
PageRank on  
the web

This tutorial get you through all the steps required to run PageRank on billions of pages using Common Search's codebase and tools such as Apache Spark and AWS.

## 1. Prerequisites

You should go through our [Analyzing the web with Spark on EC2](#) first, to install the required software, understand the basic concepts of our pipeline, and run a simpler job first, at least on your local machine.

You should also be familiar with basic [Graph theory](#).

## 2. Dumping the Web Graph

Before computing PageRank, we need to parse all the link in our corpus and save them as a directed graph.

(In some cases, you can actually skip this step by using one of the [dumps we publish](#) directly.)

To dump the web graph, we are doing to use the `webgraph` plugin. Here is how you would dump it for the first 400 URLs from Common Crawl, at the host level:

```
spark-submit --verbose \
  /cosr/back/spark/jobs/pipeline.py \
  --source commoncrawl:limit=4,maxdocs=100 \
  --plugin plugins.webgraph.DomainToDomainParquet:path=out/webgraph/ \
  --stop_delay 600
```

This will actually create 2 subdirectories in `out/webgraph/` : one for the vertices and one for the edges. Both dumps will be stored as Apache Parquet format, so that we can easily reuse them in the next step.

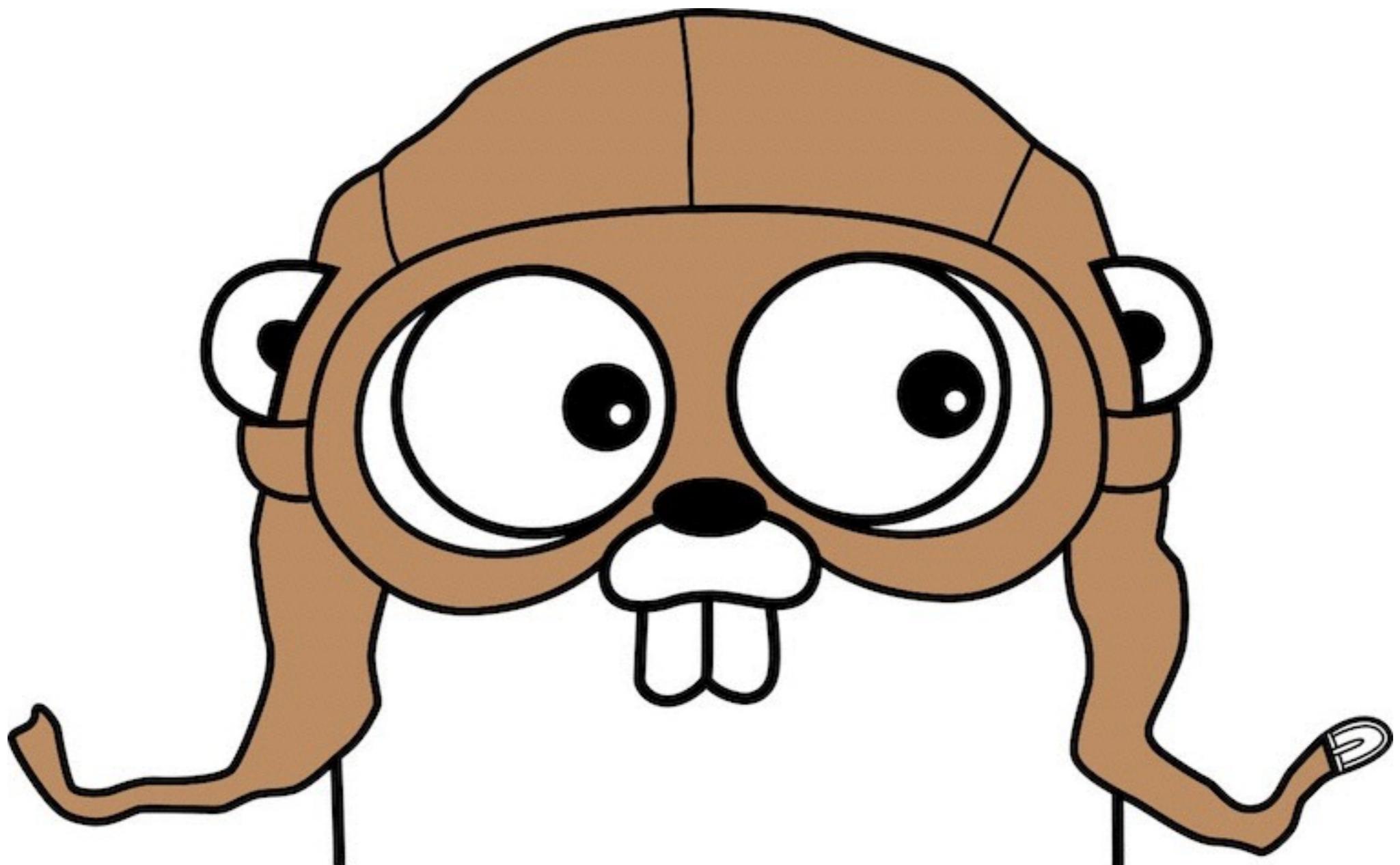
You might notice this command will go over the source documents multiple times. This shouldn't be a big issue with so few

Today @ 4:30pm ;-)

# Searcher / Frontend

# Specs

- Send user query to databases
- Search-as-you-type
- HTML & JSON endpoints
- High performance





About 41380 results

## Welcome to **Python.org**

[www.python.org](http://www.python.org)The official home of the **Python** Programming Language

## Dive Into **Python**

[www.diveintopython.net](http://www.diveintopython.net)

This book lives at . If you're reading it somewhere else, you may not have the latest version.

## The Eric **Python** IDE

[eric-ide.python-projects.org](http://eric-ide.python-projects.org)Eric is a full featured **Python** editor and IDE, written in **Python**. It is based on the cross platform Qt gui toolkit, integrating the highly flexible Scintilla...

## Starship

[www.python.net](http://www.python.net)

The home of pythonistas

## Tutorials, **Python** Courses: Online and On Site

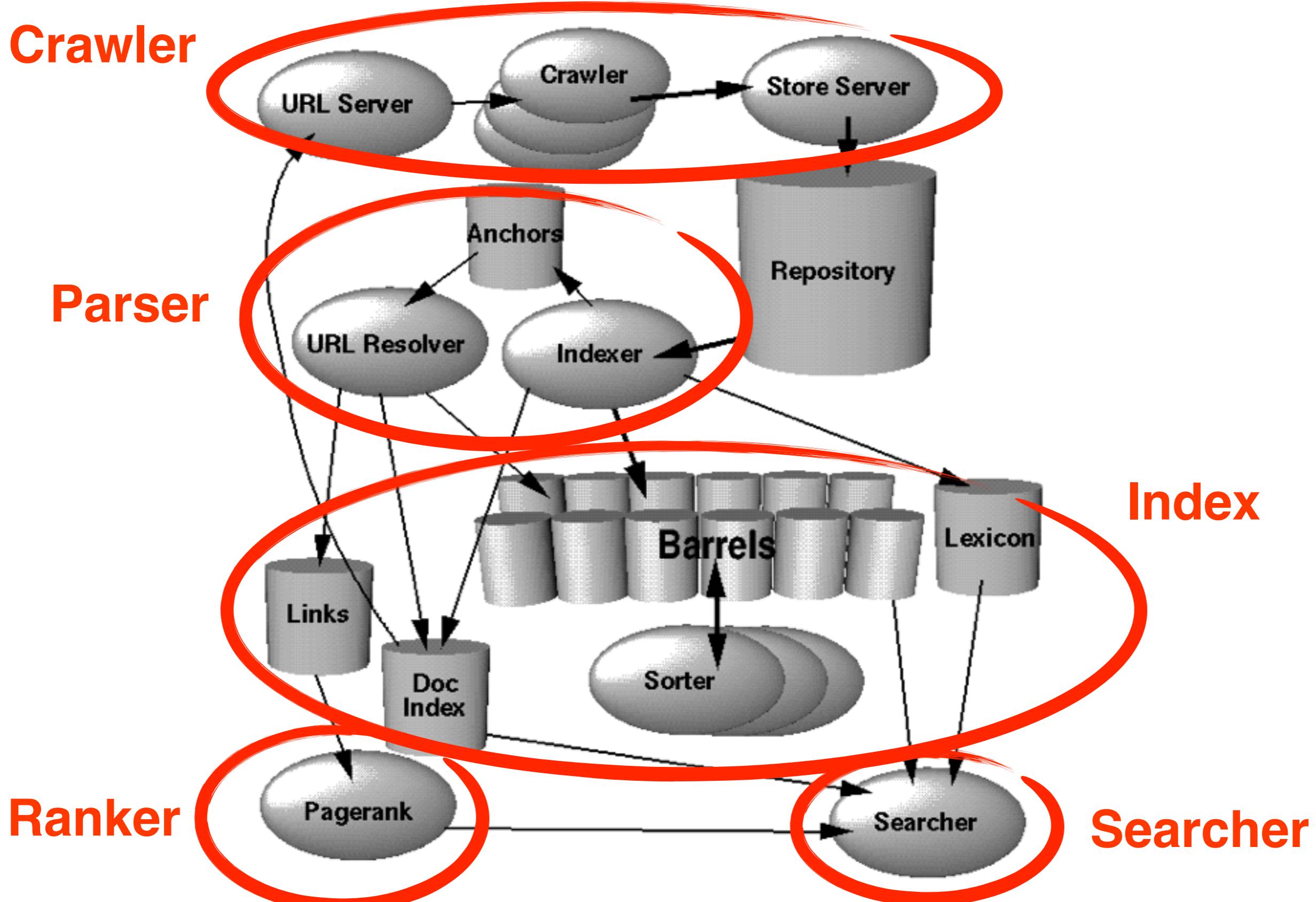
[python-course.eu](http://python-course.eu)Free comprehensive online tutorials suitable for self-study and high-quality on site **Python** courses in Europe, Canada (Toronto) and the US

## learning **python** | one man's journey into **python**...

[www.learningpython.com](http://www.learningpython.com)

one man's journey into python...

<https://github.com/commonsearch/cosr-front>



*The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine (1998)*

# Challenges

# Funding / Scale

- Frugalism
- Caching
- In-kind services
- Individual donations / Foundation grants
- General economic incentives

# Spam

- Email spam
- Wikipedia vandalism
- Algorithm complexity & scale
- *Given enough eyeballs, all spam is shallow?*

# Relevance

- Exhaustivity
- Rescoring
- Evaluation
- More at 4:30pm ;-)

# More search dimensions

- Realtime search
- Local search
- Universal search

# Semantic search

- Wikidata
- YAGO
- Conversational / Voice search

# Outreach

- Easy onboarding & docs
- Making people ~~care~~ believe

# Opportunities

# Decentralization

- YaCy
- Extremely high technical & social cost!
- Transparency?

# Research

- More people should know how to build search engines
- Spam, Relevance, Large-scale data processing
- We need more open datasets!

# Our first public datasets: Host-level WebGraph and PageRank!

 Jul 31, 2016  [Back to blog](#)

[Common Search](#) is building an open source search engine with [transparent](#) rankings, and analyzing the hyperlinks on the web is a major part of this effort.

To make that possible, we are going to publish datasets that will let contributors, students and researchers reproduce the rankings, submit improvements and hopefully use the underlying data for their own work.

The first two we are happy to announce today are a [host-level WebGraph](#) and a list of [host-level PageRanks](#).

We want to give credit to both [Common Crawl](#) for their amazing work and to the [Web Data Commons](#) project who published [similar dumps](#) in 2012 and 2014.

Our datasets are released under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license](#).

## Host-level WebGraph

This dataset is based on the [June 2016 Common Crawl](#). It represents the directed graph of all hyperlinks aggregated at the hostname level (e.g. "about.commonsearch.org").

- [vertices.txt.gz](#) (575M lines, 2.3 GB). Format: `[int64 id] [hostname]`
- [edges.txt.gz](#) (112M lines, 4.7 GB). Format: `[int64 src_id] [int64 dst_id]`

The Python code used to generate these files is [available on GitHub](#)!

## Host-level PageRank

This dataset was generated directly from the Host-level WebGraph above and contains a PageRank for

<https://about.commonsearch.org/blog/>

# Make the Web a better place!

- SEO
- Transparency
- Influence of money
- Public service

# Questions?

<https://about.commonsearch.org/contributing>

<https://github.com/commonsearch>

[contact@commonsearch.org](mailto:contact@commonsearch.org)

[slack.commonsearch.org](https://slack.commonsearch.org)