David R Karger and Lynn Andrea Stein

Project Overview

- Electronic Infrastructure to Triangulate Knowledge
  - Of individual
  - Of collegial communities
  - Of world at large
- Independent, interacting information repositories, each customized to its individual user
  - Automated data gathering
  - Active observation of user activity
  - Adaptation to individual query needs
  - Inter-haystack collaboration

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Progress Through December 2000

- Recruitment
  - 5 PhD students (from 1 last year)
  - 2 first year PhD candidates; 3 Post-M.S.
  - Distinct project within Haystack
- Redesign of Haystack storage layer
  - General purpose interface
  - To be shared by many applications
  - Like a file system, but for structured data
  - Attribution of data for semantic web applications

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Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Implementation of new design
  - 3 Masters student theses due June 2001
  - Aim to complete storage layer
  - Persistence, auditing, versioning
- Initiate research on higher level components
  - User interface to semistructured data store
  - Observers to deduce and report user context
  - New object models for machine learning