Project Overview

• Electronic infrastructure to triangulate knowledge
  – Of individual
  – Of colleagues
  – Of world

• Independent, interacting information repositories, customized to each user
  – Automated data gathering
  – Active observation of user activity
  – Adaptation to individual query needs
  – Inter-haystack collaboration
Progress Through December 2001

- Development of user interface
  - Data “self describes” how it should look
  - Ontology for representing such descriptions
  - Rendered translates data to screen
  - All data stored in data model
  - Display rules for new types can be edited or shared

- User study
  - General question: how do people manage information?
  - Data gathering completed---observation, interviews
  - Evaluation beginning

- Winnow web-information filter
  - Experiments have confirmed effectiveness
Research Plan for the Next Six Months

• Haystack mail tool
  – Rich source of information and information needs
  – Proof of concept of easy incorporation of new data types
    • Into data model
    • Into user interface

• Machine learning agents
  – Develop data extractors, mail classifiers, recommenders
  – Incorporate semistructured data in learning process

• Analyze user study data
  – Draw conclusions about use of information
  – Incorporate conclusions in Haystack user interface