

MIT9904-08: Haystack: Per-User Information Evironments David Karger





- 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



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Progress Through December 2002

- User studies
 - Study of people's use of current information tools
 - Mini-Evaluation of haystack "self-describing user interface"
 - Context menus and other elements well received
 - Evaluation of new interfaces for managing collections of info
 - Overlapping categories via checkboxes rather than folders
 - Improved user performance in retrieving information
- Work towards initial deployment
 - Completing applications: bibliography tool, email manager
 - Machine learning components
 - Performance enhancement of database layer
 - Bug fixes and ease of use



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Research Plan for the Next Six Months

- Deploy Haystack to limited set of users
- Evaluate usage
- Test hypothesis that "personalization makes information retrieval tools more effective"