

# History of the World Wide Web

Eyal Oren

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# The Web

- ▶ Enquire, 1980
- ▶ cern.info.ch, Dec. 1990
- ▶ Mosaic, Feb. 1993
- ▶ WWW Conference, May 1994
- ▶ W3C founded, Oct. 1994
- ▶ Netscape IPO \$4.4bln, Aug. 1995

# The idea of the Web

- ▶ share information cross-platform
- ▶ read and write: intercreativity
- ▶ connecting people: mind-to-mind
- ▶ computers using the information space

# Where did the Web come from?

- ▶ hypertext systems
- ▶ Internet protocols
- ▶ Bush (1945)
- ▶ Engelbart (1962)
- ▶ Nelson (1965)

# As We May Think (Bush, 1945)

- ▶ what lasting benefit has been man's use of science?
- ▶ to manage better the ever-growing mountain of research
- ▶ human memory works by association, not by index
- ▶ the “memex”: a mechanised private library
- ▶ associations between items in the memex
- ▶ build and share personal information trail

# Augmenting Human Intellect (Engelbart, 1962)

- ▶ framework and system to augment human intellect:
- ▶ single frame composition
- ▶ single frame manipulation
- ▶ argument structuring
- ▶ general symbol structuring
- ▶ process structuring
- ▶ team collaboration

# Xanadu (Nelson, 1974)

- ▶ hypertext: branched non-sequential writing, reader chooses
- ▶ hypertext, hypergrams, hypermaps, hypermovies
- ▶ hypertext: references, transclusion, collateral text
- ▶ transclusion: virtual copy, link maintained, compensation
- ▶ links not embedded into document but span some content
- ▶ not built, but influenced all systems

# Why did the Web work?

- ▶ simple, decentralised, and open
- ▶ right time
- ▶ small steps
- ▶ license-free
- ▶ encapsulation

# Is the Web what we need?

- ▶ collaboration, not publication
- ▶ machine readable
- ▶ web and desktop
- ▶ embedded links, bidirectional links, transclusion, copyright.