

Intro

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What's this talk about?

- o Show the current state of web critics.
- o Show what we have to circumvent this.
- o Give ideas how we can make the web a better place.

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WWW

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"The WorldWideWeb (W3) is a wide-area hypermedia information retrieval initiative aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents."

- Tim Berners-Lee

Keywords:

- o »hypermedia«
- o »information retrieval«
- o »universal access«

## Hypermedia

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HTML - parser

CSS - parser

Javascript - parser and runtime

3D and substandards - hardware-dependency

## Information Retrieval

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HTTP is too complex to parse but fits its usage well.

WebSocket? Another ghost in the town. But Google is the only market power that could change HTTP.

## Universal Access

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If you need a quad core to retrieve basic information this is not true anymore.

What is needed to draw a pixel through the web

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- 1.) Parse some URI.
- 2.) Connect to the webserver.
- 3.) Send a state-less request adding pixel state through cookies.
- 4.) Retrieve the HTML.
- 5.) Parse the HTML.
- 6.) Do the same steps for all the dependencies.
- 7.) Parse CSS/Javascript/whatever.
- 8.) Run the required dependencies in your runtime and interact via the big DOM model.
- 9.) Somewhen draw something for the user. Do premature optimisation by outputting half-drawn layouts because dependencies haven't been downloaded yet.
- 10.) ...
- 11.) Be the main cause of global warming. (Not really.)

What's the suckless answer?

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Not just one. Many.

surf

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- o A compatibility layer to the web.
- o Works and is tested.
- o Needs more integration with ideas of this talk.

Idea #1: A real commandline interface?

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```
cmd -a val1 -b -c val3
```

```
gets
```

```
GET /cmd?-a=val1&-b&-c=val3
```

Output: Simple text stream of command output.

Problem: Mass adoption does not happen. Sheep follow the shepherd.

Idea #2: Write a script for every website.

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- o google(1) # Google search
- o ddg(1) # DuckDuckGo search
- o cclive(1) # Play flash videos
- o translate(1) # Use Google Translate for translations
- o curconv(1) # Use Google Finance to convert currencies.

They are domain-specific but work.

Problem: Every website needs a new script. Website providers can easily change their API.

Idea #2: Abandon all hope, use Gopher.

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- o Gopherfs works
- o easy to parse
- o superb structured directory tree

Problems:

- o no MIME types (yeah, just 255 possibilities of selector types)
- o no images
- o will not get any mass adoption

Idea #3: Wait for Google to know what we want.

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- o It won't be what we want. We will have to adapt to Google.

Idea #4: Make the web parseable.

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Python mechanize // Perl mechanize

- o works very well
- o add huge dependencies due to the prototyping language

libxml2 // xmlstarlet:

- o they removed the HTML parsing compatibility so you are forced to add DTDs - hell

sed + curl:

- o does not parse structured data that well

==> Write suckless tools to handle commandline web sessions.

- o surf integration?

Idea #4: Javascript is ruining our life.

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- o Most Javascript has a backend which can be accessed and parsed more easily than running a Javascript VM.
- o We are running Python, Perl and Ruby in our daily life, so this won't hurt speed too much.
- o Some people use node.js to run daemons.

==> Easy Javascript / DOM access from the commandline is needed.

Idea #4: My theory.

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- o Write example scripts.
- o Make the level of writing your own scripts lower.
- o Get the masses of people to work for us.
- o Make a simple public repository for scripts.
  - o Search for domain scripts with a simple utility.
    - o Automatic download?
    - o surf integration?

Idea #4: Websites that need scripts.

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- o Wikipedia
- o Google News
- o suckless.org

## Example of web script usage

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```
ddg youtube atb what about us \  
  | head -n 1 \  
  | xargs quvi --exec "mplayer %%u"
```

## Discussion

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- o Anyone has done similar work?
  - o You want to share your scripts?
- o Anyone knows some Javascript VM internals to add some commandline interface for DOM?
- o Who wants to lead this project?