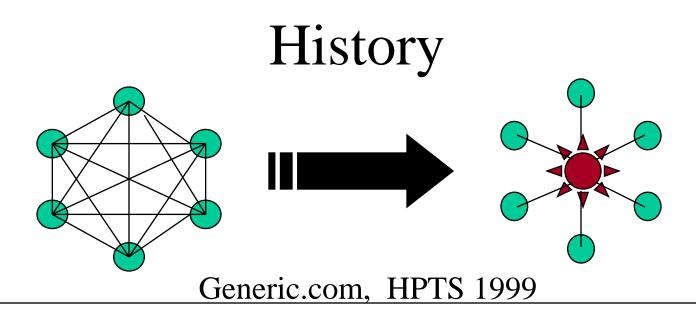
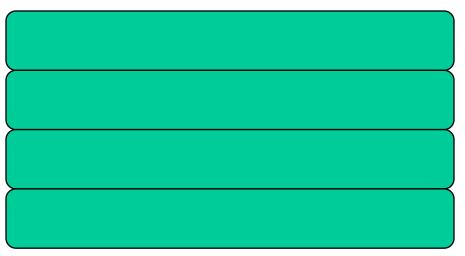
We Lose

Joe Hellerstein UC Berkeley HPTS 2001





Everyone, et al., HPTS 2001

My Background

- I am a database true believer
- I am an academic
 - Enjoy elegance, beauty, conceptual richness, tweed, etc.
- I am a geek
 - I like to hack
 - I like to play sysadmin (latest fun: OS X)
- Net: I am a intellectual schizophrenic
 - And it's tearing me apart!
- Been thinking about this last couple years
 - As a result of team-teaching grad students with Eric Brewer

We Have a Beautiful Tradition

- Top-Down design of relational systems, TP
 - Semantics first
 - Codd gives a data model and declarative langauges
 - System R crowd defines serializability, etc.
 - Implementation wizardry later
 - And we can rise to any challenge -- just watch us!
- We love to set high goals
 - General-purpose storage/query
 - No sacrifice on performance or availability or distribution or parallelization or load-balancing or....
 - AND still give you beautiful semantics
- Care about the user and their data

But We Lose!

- Grassroots* use Filesystems, not DBs
- Grassroots use App servers, not ORDBs
- Grassroots write Java, PERL, Python, PHP, etc. etc. etc. NOT SQL!

– or XQuery ...

Grassroots: Hackers. But also DBMS engineers, Berkeley grads, Physicists, etc.

Hanging Out with OS Folks

- OS folk have a beautiful tradition too
 - Simple, narrow interfaces and tools
 - Strong ties to the PL world
 - Care about the programmers and their tools
- Bottom-up elegance
 - KISS
 - The art of engineering first. Semantics later.
- [Ahhh... DB folk can hack better than they can!]
 Not the point!

Why We Lose

- While we've been thinking about users...
- The OS/Bottom-Uppers have been targeting programmers
- Without programmers, it's damn hard to reach users
 - THIS is why we missed the first waves of the Internet
 - THIS is why ORDBMS lost to App Servers
 - Like trying to sell drugs without the Mafia

Why We're Supposed to Win

- Eventually they'll come crying to us
 - When they realize they should have had data independence
 - And we give 'em the best server platform
- Maybe.
 - Maybe that will be too late.
 - Certainly their server platforms have been catching up
 - Databases commodifized and cornered?
 - To slow-moving, evolving, structure-intensive apps that *require* schema evolution
- Maybe we should reach out more?

Tools and Community

- We need to work on tools
 - Query debuggers
 - Data cleaners
 - Workflow builders/debuggers
 - Right direction: GUIs + logic + a little AI
 - Semi-automatic tools
 - One possibility: our "programmers" are *content managers* (see Stonebraker/Hellerstein SIGMOD '01)
- We need to foster a vibrant grassroots community
 - A la the USENIX/OpenSource world
 - How the hell do we do this? Databases are boring!
 - Even open source databases are boring!
 - Far more Linux/BSD buffs than Postgres/Sleepycat/MySQL 9

Fun With Our Stuff

- Query processing
 - It's not boring, it's the coolest thing in computing!
 - Text search, P2P. QP over their data, not DB data.
 - Or "continuous" QP
 - Pub/sub for fun (and profit?)
- A toolkit for QP, Cont. QP (pub/sub), etc.
 - Bottom-up: more like query algebra than SQL
 - Dataflow diagrams or "pipe" scripting
 - Plus infrastructure to make it work well over the Internet, etc.
 - You wanted it to be fun, right?
 - Deal with wide-area federation, adaptivity
 - Telegraph project at Berkeley

My Gut

- We lost the cool new Internet enterprise space
- Only the standard enterprise folks will come to us tail-between-legs
- We need to look for a new opportunity
 - Maybe P2P QP
 - Search interface today is just string-match. How to do more?
 - Maybe Internet QP
 - Web search can't do the most obvious thngs
 - Needs query/wrapper tools desperately
 - Maybe ubiquitous computing/sensornet QP?
 - See Intel Research lablets @ Berkeley/CMU/Washington

11

- None of this seems like a business model (yet)
 - But it's cool just what we're missing!

P2P Example: TeleNap

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Name	Occupation	Address	Amount						
Smits, Jimmy	Self employed	Los Angeles,	250.00						
Somers, Suzanne	Self	Valencia, CA	1,000.00						
Stamp, Terence	Info Requested	Sanbornville,	1,000.00						
Stone, Sharon	Self employed/Actress	Los Angeles,	1,000.00						
Streisand, Barbra	Self employed/Singer / Prod	Santa Monica	1,000.00						
Taylor, Elizabeth	Not employed/Homemaker	Tampa, FL 33	250.00						
Thomas, Heather	CIGNA Healthcare/New Busi	Nashville, TN	250.00						
Thomas, Michelle		Washington,	300.00						
Thomas, Olive	National Council of Churche	Maryville, TN	1,000.00						
Thomas, Olive	National Council of Churche	Maryville, TN	1,000.00						
Tomlin, Lily	Self employed/Actress	Los Angeles,	250.00	335					
Tripplehorn, Jeanne	Self employed/Actress	Los Angeles,	1,000.00						
Wagner, Robert	Self employed/Doctor	McLean, VA 2	500.00	-					
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