

# Early Web Shit

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# The Before Time



Figure 1: Evolve or die!

# Gopher

- Invented in 1991 -- University of Minnesota
- TCP/IP protocol prior to HTTP for
- Provides hierarchical view of served contents

## Why Benefits

- Filesystem on the web
- Easily searchable
- Ease of use and setup

## Natural Causes

- No client side dynamic content
- UoM licensing fees from 1993 - 2000
- Currently under GPL
- Usage doubled from 2007 to 2012. approx 200 servers
- Approx. 2.5 million unique visitors

# I know this...

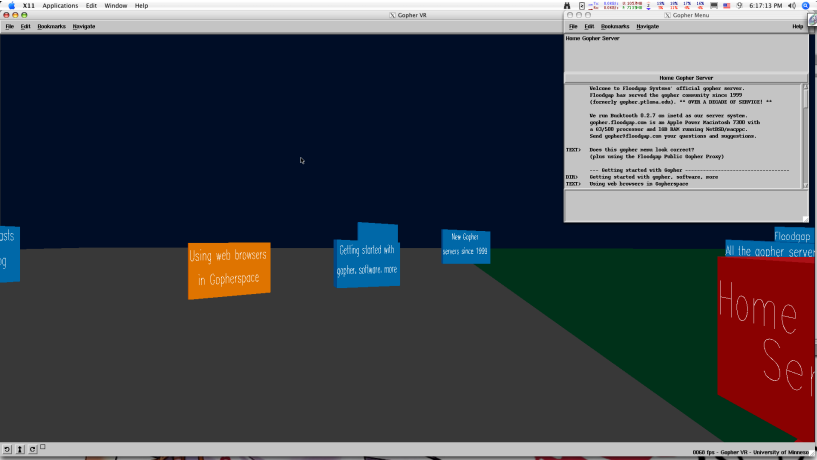


Figure 2: it's a UNIX system!

## Gopher Usage (Dozens of us!)

- ▶ SDF Public Access Unix
- ▶ Lorie Liebrock (Rice University)
- ▶ Random internet people

After the Meteor Hit



## Text formatting

- ▶ HTTP more freeform than Gopher
- ▶ Styling was specific to browser developer
- ▶ Need for ubiquitous standards
- ▶ Need the new standard to be as small as is reasonable

## Standards

In fact, it has been a constant source of delight for me over the past year to get to continually tell hordes (literally) of people who want to – strap yourselves in, here it comes – control what their documents look like in ways that would be trivial in TeX, Microsoft Word, and every other common text processing environment:

**“Sorry, you’re screwed.”** – Marc Andreessen (1994)

Everything but...

RRP (no columns – never implemented)

```
@BODY fo(fa=he,si=18)
```

More/Extended HTML tags (fuck off – Mosaic)

## PWP (Unix only – ViolaWWW)

```
(BODY fontSize=normal
  BGColor=white
  FGColor=black
  (H1   fontSize=largest
    BGColor=red
    FGColor=white)
)
```

## DSSSL (Turing complete (huge) – not implemented)

```
(define (create-heading heading-font-size)
  (make paragraph
    font-size: heading-font-size
    font-weight: 'bold))

(element h1 (create-heading 24pt))
(element h2 (create-heading 18pt))
```

# Then Everyone Ignored Everything

- ▶ CSS 1 not supported by IE until 2000