

Topic Overview: Background

Computer Science 3172

25 March 2005 (1a)

1 Purpose

- Provide basis for discussion to follow to help students to understand why, and how, WWW technology functions;
- Bring all students up to basic level of understanding HTML, and HTTP transactions;
- Give frameworks to understand various WWW applications.

2 Related Readings*

- lecture notes and slides
- two readings about Metcalfe's Law
- Accessibility reading by Theofanos & Redish

3 Major Concepts

- Views of the WWW:
 - WWW as a distributed document delivery system;
 - WWW as an e-commerce medium;
 - WWW as a standardized user interface (UI); and
 - WWW as the information super highway.
- Accessibility
- Presentation and content
- Review of client/server application-layer model
- Degredation: catastrophic and graceful
- HTML structure
- XHTML vs. HTML

*Readings are available from course website