Web and Philosophy

A backward glance at PhiloWeb 2010

the

First International Symposium on Web and Philosophy

organized by

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Le Web tel que nous le connaissons est au croisement de nombreuses disciplines et écoles de pensées. La Philosophie a joué un rôle majeur dans ces avancées et ce, quand bien même trop peu de philosophes en sont aujourd'hui conscients. Notre ambition est donc de mettre en lumière cette dynamique de manière à favoriser, à l'avenir, les coopérations entre philosophes, informaticiens et ingénieurs pour contribuer à façonner une discipline novatrice dotée de son propre programme de recherche.

C'est pourquoi PhiloWeb 2010 entend jouer un rôle fondateur en posant les lignéments d'une authentique Philosophie du Web.

PhiloWeb 2010 réunit des chercheurs en philosophie et en... Lire la suite.
The Participants.

Philosophers,
Engineers,
Computer scientists.

Or rather, a mix between the three.
A quick taxonomy

1. **Engineers with a philosophical background** (Henry Story, Nicolas Delaforge - INRIA),

1. **Computer scientists who are also philosophers** (Harry Halpin - Edinburgh/W3C, Bruno Bachimont - UTC/INA),

1. **Philosophers who work on the Web and with the Web** (Alexandre Monnin Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/CNAM/IRI, Yuk Hui - Goldsmiths),

1. **Philosophers whose work is being used by engineers** (Pierre Livet – University of Aix),

1. **Philosophers whose work belongs to philosophy but might nonetheless have practical applications in knowledge engineering** (Alexandra Arapinins – Paris 1, IHPST)
The topics.

• **Ontology**: Computer ontologies and techno-metaphysics, Entities vs Process, Ontological dependence and institutional entities, Ontology of Relations, Ontology of Resources...)

• **URLs**: are they (philosophical) proper names?

• **Memory, Archive**: Reference and access on the Web

• **Collective intelligence**: embodiment, representation, individualism and AI

• **Social issues**: privacy, decentralized social networks, etc.
The immediate result: Videos, Slides and Slidecasts

- **Abstracts** are already available on the *website*.
- **Recordings** will be posted on *Dailymotion*.
- **Slides** are being released on *Slideshare*.
What’s next?

• The creation of the IAWP (International Association for Web and Philosophy) was announced;

• We would like the papers to appear in a journal special issue about the Philosophy of the Web;

• We have research projects in France with Harry;

• I’m still conducting interviews about Web and Philosophy with experts (David Weinberger agreed to do one, French sociologist Dominique Cardon too, maybe T.B.-L…. ;-) ).

Alexandre Monnin, TPAC 2010.
And... new installments.

In my mind this was never « Alexandre Monnin’s PhiloWeb » but...

PhiloWeb 2010!

Which means new installments are underway.

Alexandre Monnin, TPAC 2010.
1. One at Goldsmiths (London)
2. Another one at Mountain View (Google) (thanks to Harry who convinced Peter Norvig)
Conclusion

• We cannot ignore the Web and go on philosophizing as if it did not exist.

• Some people already do philosophy of the Web: they are the people of the TAG who take care of it and try to build and understand it.

• I believe we philosophers with a strong interest in the Web (philosophical, practical, political) are de facto working as “philosophical engineers”.

• This is a matter of responsibility: some of our concepts once “artifactualized” give birth to concrete objects, technical systems and standards with ethical, juridical, economical dimensions and consequences. We cannot ignore that.

• Current work on the Web of objects should inspire new collaborations between us.
Thanks!

(especially Harry Halpin, Fabien Gandon, Marie-Claire Furgue, all the participants, and my wife, Aubane Monnin-Fontaine)

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Philoweb 2010:
- Website: http://web-and-philosophy.org/
- Videos: http://www.dailymotion.com/PhiloWeb
- Slides: http://www.slideshare.net/PhiloWeb/

Alexandre Monnin, TPAC 2010.