Seminar on the Origin and Evolution of the Web
Winter Semester 2023/24

The Web is almost 30 years old and it has evolved substantially from the initial proposal of 1989. This seminar covers both aspects of the origin and history of the Web and of its technical evolution. Topics include:

History of hypermedia
The Xanadu System
The On-line System (NLS)
Hypercard
Gopher
The original Web proposal
W3C
History and evolution of the Browser
Browser wars
Cookies and browser caching
Client server load sharing
Client server communication
Standardization
Security evolution
HTML and layout
Client-side scripting

Notes on the process: Students can propose their own related topic (only at the beginning of the course). The language of the seminar is English. The concrete seminar topics will be presented in a preliminary discussion at the beginning of the semester (presumably the first week of lectures) and distributed according to the preference of the seminar participants. During the semester, the student is expected to research the topic, write a report and prepare a presentation. All presentation will take place at the end of the lecture period in a block event. Accordingly, there are no weekly sessions during the semester. Please note that the reports are to be submitted before the presentations. The preliminary meeting is expected to take place during the first week of the lecture - the exact date will be announced to the seminar participants in a timely manner.