"Evolution of the WWW and its impact on CERES Global Knowledge Networks"

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Abstract

When CERES-GKN, a global knowledge network for disseminating environmentally sound product/process information was conceived nearly five years ago, the World Wide Web (WWW) was at a very rudimentary stage. HTML was the only mark-up language available for representing documents.

While HTML is very useful, it could not provide any clues to a "search engine" what kind of document is being read. This has presented severe limitations to the designers of knowledge networks. More recently a new language known as XML (Extended Markup Language) has emerged as a standard. XML allows a document to be "tagged" so that it may be analyzed by a program. This development coupled with JAVA, a high degree of flexibility has now become available to the designers of knowledge networks. In this talk we will discuss how XML and JAVA coupled with other developments such as "push technologies" may be exploited in designing highly flexible knowledge networks and how they may be applied to the domain of Environmental Knowledge Networks such as CERES-GKN.