the structure of the WWW

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Memex (Bush, 1945)

Wholly new forms of encyclopedias will appear, ready made with a mesh of associative trails running through them, ready to be dropped into the memex and there amplified.

—Vannevar Bush, As We May Think (1945)
hypercard (Apple, 1987)
Many of the discussions of the future at CERN and the LHC era end with the question - ‘Yes, but how will we ever keep track of such a large project?’ This proposal provides an answer to such questions. Firstly, it discusses the problem of information access at CERN. Then, it introduces the idea of linked information systems, and compares them with less flexible ways of finding information. It then summarises my short experience with non-linear text systems known as ‘hypertext’...

berners lee’s browser, 1991
3 key things

URIs
› global names for resources

HTML
› first invented by Berners Lee in 1989
› based on SGML (used for documents at CERN)
› anchor element: associates link with text

HTTP
› first version (0.9, 1991) had GET only
› request: get file at path; response: return file
the structure of the web

- note paths from URL to Page
- multiple namespaces!
key features of the web

as an application model
› thin or thick client
› no need to install software on client
› ubiquitous platform

decentralized naming
› hierarchical control of namespace

simple protocol
› string based
› request/response
› no transactions, eg