**Pfeiffer, S., Parker, C., & Pang, A. (2005). The continuous media web: a distributed multimedia information retrieval architecture extending the World Wide Web. *Multimedia Systems,* 10(6), 544-558.**

Keywords: Audio retrieval, video retrieval

Since the inception of the World Wide Web by Tim Berners Lee, users have attempted to integrate the varied content contained in it into one distributed system for storage and retrieval. While this has been actualized in many areas, it has not happened in the area of time-continuously sampled data such as audio and video. It is not as simple to retrieve this type of data as it is to retrieve HTML content. Media resources do not currently have a textual representation that fits into the text-based indexing paradigm of existing Web search engines, and therefore their content, however information-rich, cannot be searched uniformly on the Web. URLS can point to a specific audio or video file, but not to a segment of that file. Additionally, these files do not generally hyperlink to further Web resources, breaking the chain of web searching.

Pfeiffer, Parker, and Pang (2005) developed a standard for the way audio and video files are placed on the Web in an effort to make this content as searchable as regular text. The time-continuous resource itself is annotated with HTML like markup known as the Continuous Media Markup Language (CMML), and has an XML representation of its

content, enabling Web search engines to index it. This extension to the Web is coined

the Continuous Media Web (CMWeb). The video or media is divided into clips based on

content. By proposing a standard, interoperability between various proprietary solutions

should be possible.

The database community has also been attempting to address this issue by using

databases to store references to media objects, as well as metainformation regarding the

media. However, when the information is hidden in a database, it not accessible by web

search engines and is difficult to hyperlink. The database solution enables content

management, but it does not enable searching for audio and video content.