What is the World Wide Web?

- ## The Internet
  - A massive network of computer and regional networks scattered around the globe.
  - Supports a variety of protocols such as FTP, e-mail, telnet, and HTTP document transfers.
  - Over 20 million users in over 50 countries
  - Access means you can transfer files, hold interactive conferences, send e-mail, and access information resources and news.

- ## The World Wide Web (WWW)
  - Started by CERN (the European Laboratory for Particle Physics), in order to transport research
  - Access by using a Web browser.
  - Client-server architecture.
  - Web client (called a browser)—a program that requests documents from Web servers.
  - Web server—a program that sends the requested document (or error message) back to the client.
  - Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)—the language used for communication between the clients and servers.
  - For more information, see the **World Wide Web Seminar**
    http://www.w3.org/hypertext/WWW/Talks/General.html

• What is on the Web?

The following is currently accessible:

anything served through gopher
anything served through WAIS
anything on an FTP site
anything on Usenet
anything accessible through telnet
anything in hytelnet
anything in hyper-g
anything in techinfo
anything in texinfo
anything in the form of man pages
html-formatted and hypertext documents

• What is hypertext?

- Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)—Web language for hypermedia documents

- Loosely related, but not a subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML)

- Structured text with pointers to other text

- HTML describes the logical structure of the document instead of its formatting.

- Allows it to be displayed optimally on different platforms using different fonts and conventions. Users have the option of controlling visual elements such as fonts, font size, and paragraph spacing without changing the information.

- ## What is hypermedia?

  - Any medium with pointers to other media.
    A hypertext link might display text, images,
    sound, or animation.

- ## What is SGML?

  - Created by Charles Goldfarb with Ed Mosher and
    Ray Lorie, who put the "M" and "L" into GML.

  - An international standard for device-independent,
    system-independent texts in electronic form.

  - A metalanguage that formally describes a text
    markup language.

  - Provides the means for defining :

    - what markup is allowed

    - what markup is required

    - how markup is to be distinguished from text.

  - Distinguished from other markup languages by its:

    - emphasis on descriptive rather than
      procedural markup

    - document type concept

    - independence of any one system for
      representing the script in which a text is
      written.

  - For more information, see the SGML Web page at:
    http://www.sil.org/sgml/sgml.html