Topic 11: Google Docs

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Outline

• Quiz #4 Solutions
• Google Docs
  • History
  • Features
• Google Drive
• Quiz #5
Outline

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Google History

• Originally a research project (1996) by Larry Page and Sergey Brin at Stanford
  
  PageRank: search engine that includes relationships b/w websites

• Search engine named Google ("googol")

• "BackRub" turned down

• 1998: Google incorporated

• Then, mostly search engine stuff
Docs History

- 2005: Google acquires 2Web Technologies (XL2Web) → spreadsheets
- 2006: Google acquires Upstartle
  - Writely: online word processing documents
- 2007: Google Docs first available
- Also later in 2007, added presentations
  - Acquisition of Tonic Systems
  - Java-based online presentation software
The Cloud!

• Pre-cloud: all local resources → local computer thus a bottleneck

• Moving to “the cloud”
  • Allows offloading of processing power, memory, etc. to a supercomputer
  • Access to the cloud is relatively cheap (nowadays), resource-wise
  • Users aren’t tied to a single computer/location
  • Offers online collaboration
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What is Google Docs?

• Essentially a free, in-browser office suite
• *Competes directly with MS Office*
• And (technically) with OpenOffice/“LibreOffice”

• Storing, editing, viewing, sharing of documents, online*
• (Enter Microsoft Office online)
• *Google Docs retains advantage: sharing*

* Chrome offers a way to edit Docs offline
How Docs Works

• Server side: written in Java
• Client side: written in Javascript
• Powered by off-the-shelf workhorse computers
  • Cheap and scalable
• Separate servers for control, the application, and the data
  • Redundancy (safety measure)
Google Docs Features

• Full management of documents
• *Docs* = *Word*, *Sheets* = *Excel*, *Slides* = *PPT*
• Each document opens in its own tab
• Format text, insert images, etc.
• Export file as html, doc/ppt, pdf, etc.
• Collaborate with real-time editing
  • Share a presentation over the web
  • Online meetings (with Google Hangouts)
Docs Creation

• “NEW” Document (from My Drive)
• For Docs/Sheets/Slides
• Google Forms (web surveys), expand list
• So many templates…
• Or upload an existing file
• Create folders for organizing
• New docs created at “root” (top level)
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Google Drive

- File management just like PC
  - Creation of folders
  - Move to / Rename / Remove files
  - Share and shareable links
  - View details: Details, Activity
  - Manage versions
Advantages?

• All you need is a web browser
  
  Note: not all web browsers accepted

• Saves automatically
  
  Backup your data? No problem!

• Most [advanced Office] features available

• Access from anywhere

• Collaboration is the future!
Disadvantages

- Security? Privacy?
- Possible synchronization issues
- Possible issues with ownership
- Does not offer every feature out there
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