MetaMAG

Automatic and Groupware Meta Search

How can Web or database access be made more efficient?
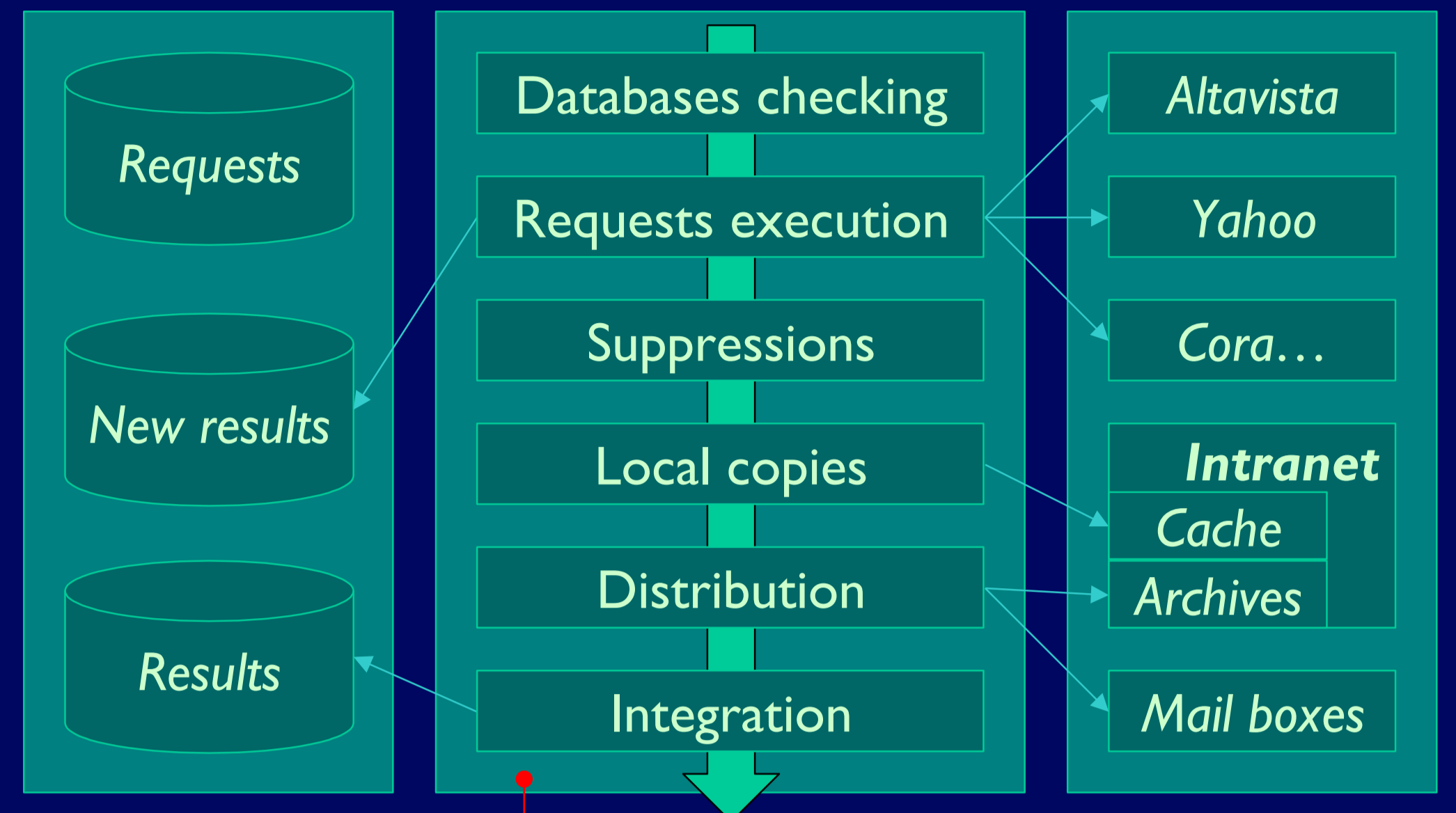
Working principle

More than a meta search engine

Automation
- MetaMAG runs every night
- Each request is executed
- If new results are found, they are distributed

Groupware
- The requests are shared on a network
- The subscribers of a request make up a group
- They can exchange notes, as in a mailing list

The core process

Requests

New results

Results

Databases checking	→	Altavista
Requests execution	→	Yahoo
Suppressions	→	Cora...
Local copies		**Intranet**
Distribution		Cache / Archives
Integration		Mail boxes

Arrows show the outputs

Results

Improve systematic searches

Time
- Repetitive work eliminated
- No broken links
- No already known pages
- Local copies of Web pages
- Instant exchange with the group

Efficiency
- Easy to use HTML interface on your Intranet
- MetaMAG searches every day, it can't miss the news

Statistics of a typical week
(30 requests on the first page of 4 search engines)

- Found with other engines — 14.1%
- Previously found — 82.3%
- Bad links — 40.8%

- **Total suppressed links** — **95.3%**
- **New valid answers** — **1.8**
  (everyday for each request)

Implementation

Perl and WebL
- User interface in Perl on an Apache HTTP Server
- Core process in WebL (www.compaq.com/webl/)
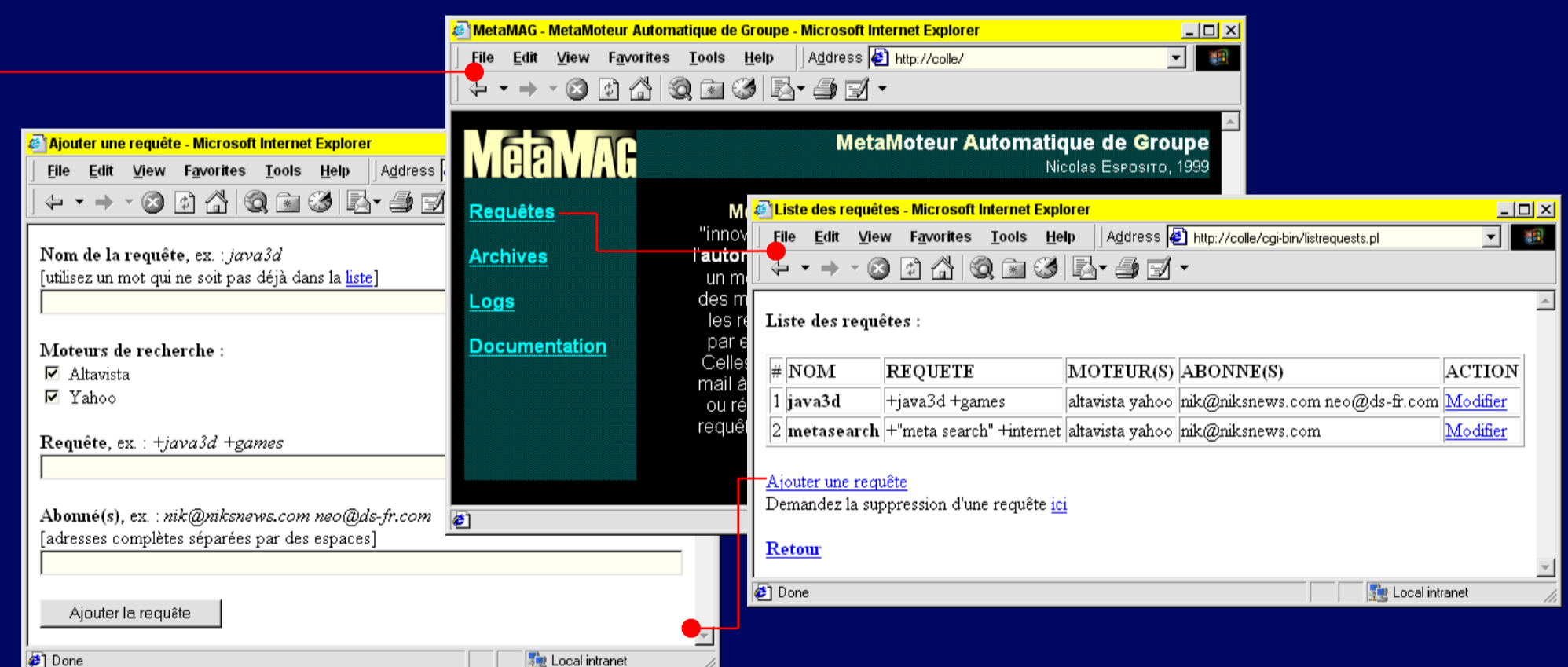
Enhancement

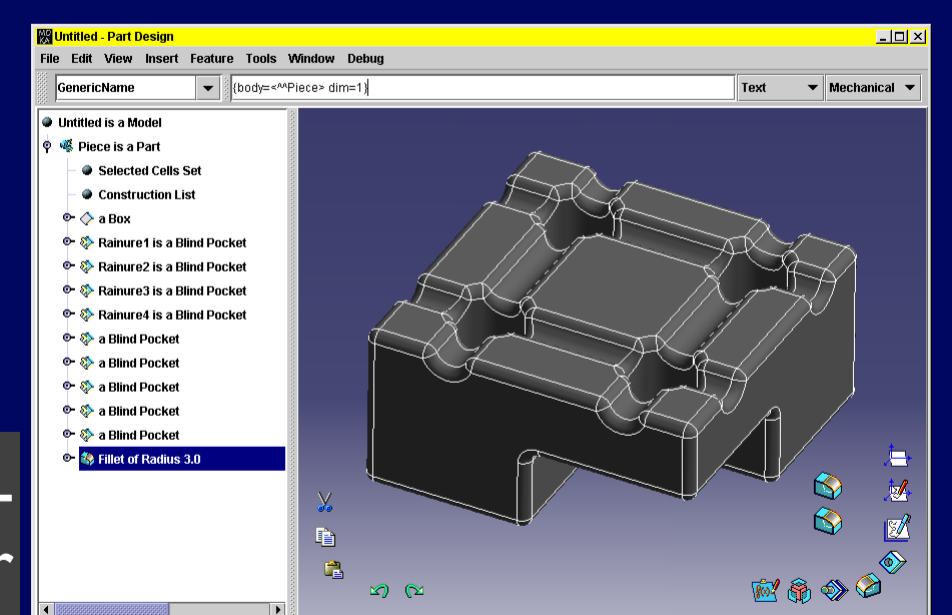**Link with other programs**

Link with
- A database or any open software
- A single program or an entire network

How
- A complete MetaMAG driver
- Or a simple MetaMAG driver and a HTML interface (see ↓)

MetaMAG driver

HTML driver

Possible intelligent behaviour

By selecting relevant results, the user could show MetaMAG how to evolve the requests

Nicolas Esposito – DASSAULT SYSTÈMES – Research and New Technologies
9 quai Marcel Dassault – 92150 Suresnes – France – Phone +33 (0)1 55 49 80 01
Fax +33 (0)1 40 99 43 90 – nik@niksnews.com – http://www.niksnews.com/research/

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