JYOTHISHMATHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE



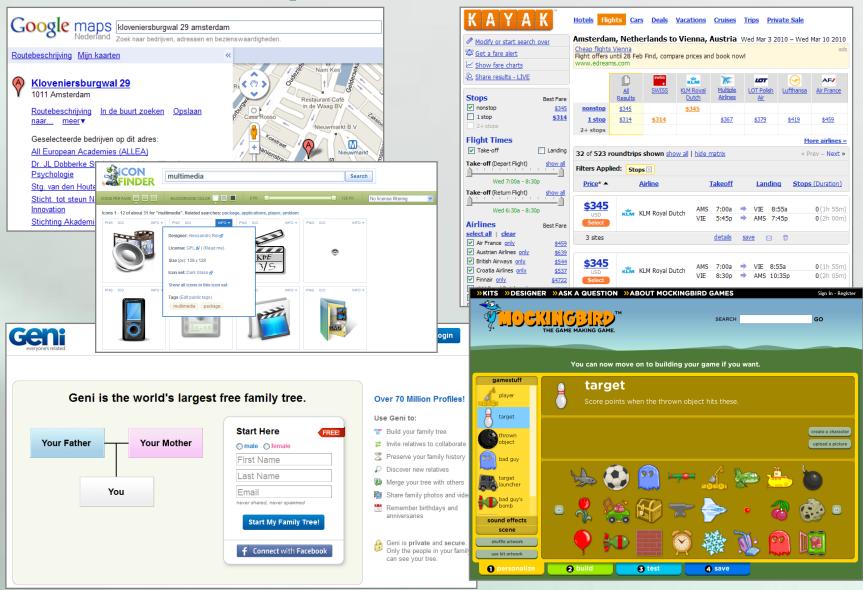
RIA-RICH INTERNET APPLICATIONS

ASST.PROF: L.SRINITHA

What are Rich Internet Applications?

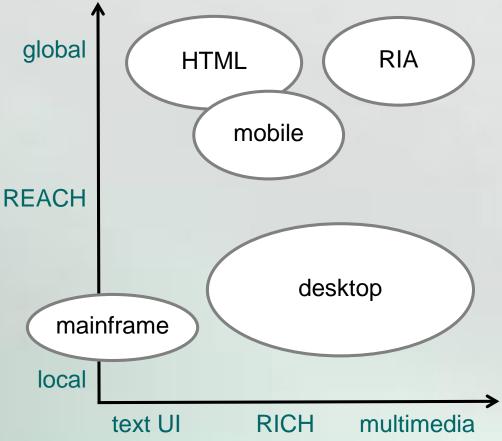
- The RIA-concept: more easily described than defined
- RIA is a multimedia web application, combining:
 - Richness of information
 - without overload
 - > Richness of views
 - flexibility
 - > Richness of interactivity
 - UI of desktop applications
 - Rich user experience:
 - Easy to use, a pleasure for both newbie's and experienced users
 - Direct response (preloading, client-side processing)
 - Emphasis on visualization and direct manipulation
 - · precedence of visuals over text
 - Shallow page hierarchy
 - preferably single page design

A few RIA examples...

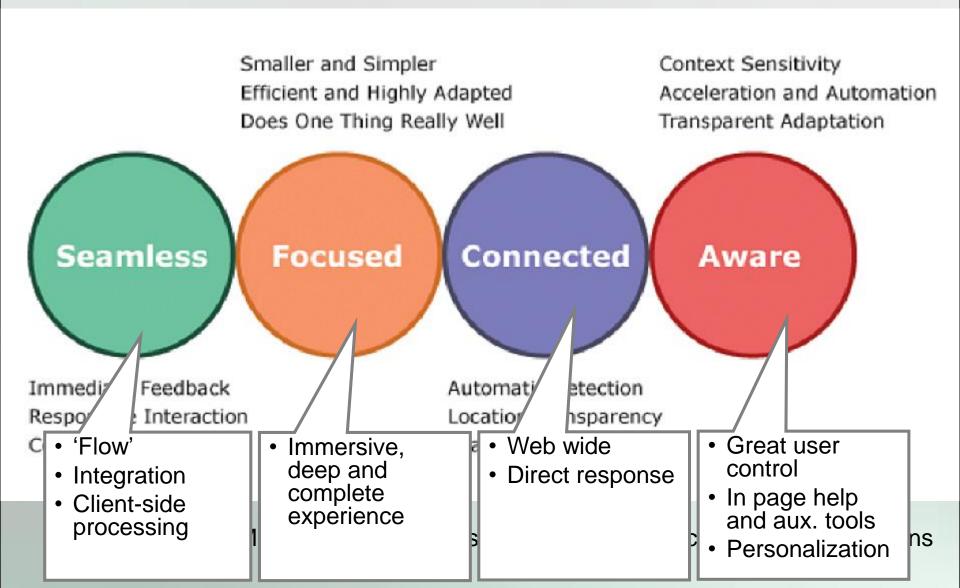


A common definition of a RIA

 Full content rich experience of a desktop application + the broad reach of a website.



Definition from a user's perspective



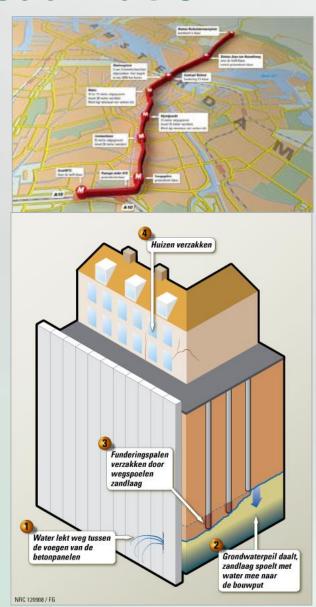
Related: Information visualization

Infographics:

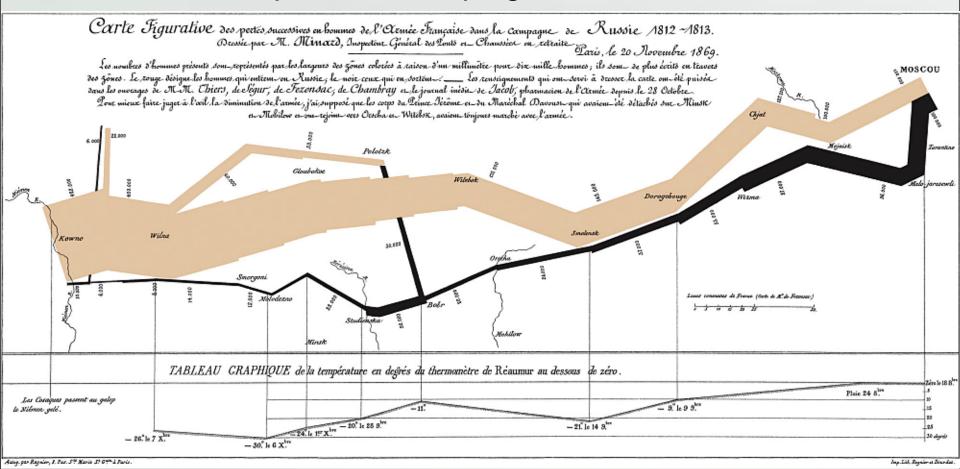
- Visual representations of
 - > information
 - > data or
 - > knowledge
- Priority of visuals over text: also in RIAs
- Static or interactive

Example (*NRC*):

The subsiding of houses due to flaws in the construction of Amsterdam's new North-South underground line.



Map of Minard: Napoleon's campaign to Russia 1812



Related: Mashups

- Mashups
 - > also:
 - Single page concept
 - One window shopping
 - Ease of use
 - > but:
 - More aggregation of external information sources
 - Less integration than a RIA
 - Less visualization

RIA categories

- 1. Data application
 - Product catalogs
 - Product configurators
- 2. Productivity applications
 - Online image editing
 - Online text editors
 - Modeling tools
 - > ... and more
- 3. Edutainment applications
 - Entertainment
 - Education

How to produce RIAs?

- Much depends on the RIA category and context of use:
 - Data / Productivity / Edutainment
 - Audience: popular / scientific
 - Essential: content + expertise → work with expert
- Proven methodology: in general poor
 - Benefit from model-driven web engineering (e.g. WebML)
 - Requirements gathering may be complex
 - Consider the developing style of the team or web studio (e.g. Agile)
- Implementation
 - Consider the software platform (JavaScript, Java, Flash, etc.)
 - Production:
 - Manual: special class libraries
 - CASE-tools (e.g. WebRatio)
 - Don't forget content production (high quality multimedia)

RIA technologies

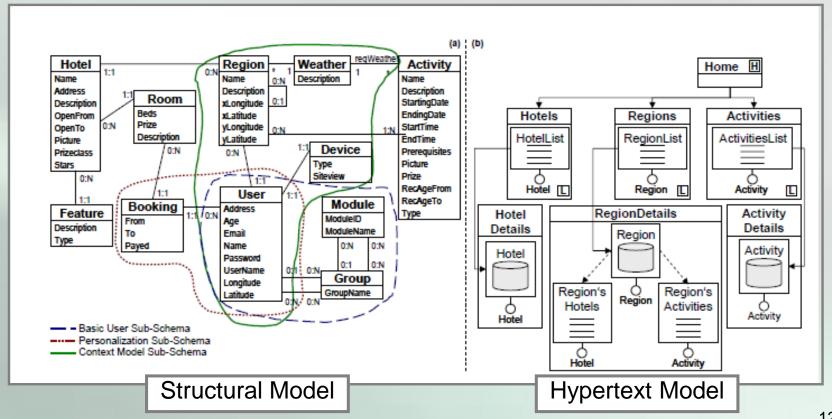
- Flash (and Flex)
- OpenLaszlo
- Silverlight
- JavaFX
- HTML + CSS + JavaScript

- Less precise lay-out
- Browser problems
- Easy to implement

- Adobe
- Flex: XML-based declarative UI
- Frame-based animations
- Installed base: almost 100%
- O-O: ActionScript 3
- Open source tools
- Adobe participates in Open Screen
- Open Source
- XML-based
- Flash & DHTML / AJAX
- Microsoft
- .Net languages
- Time-based animations
- Installed base: about 28%
- Not on Linux and Solaris
- Cross browser
- Cross platform (particularly mobile)
- Declarative non-verbose language

WebML & WebRatio

- WebML (CASE-tool: WebRatio)
 - Structural model, Hypertext model
 - Presentation model, Personalization model



Methodology: model-driven web engineering

- Web design methodologies aim at:
 - Separation of business logic from implementation
 - Separation of concerns:
 - Data model
 - Navigation model
 - etc.
 - ➤ Model compilers → code and web pages
- RIA design should be aware of these methodologies and may use them depending on:
 - > type of RIA
 - > work style
 - > other constraints

Disadvantages of RIAs

- 1. Costs of development
- 2. User needs more computer skills & information literacy
- 3. Usability and accessibility issues (e.g. Back-button problem)
- 4. Users must have an active, explorative attitude
- 5. For some people: rich = information overload
- 6. Sandbox: RIAs have limited access to local resources
- If compiled: plug-in / run-time environment required
 If not compiled: JavaScript + HTML + CSS → unreliable rendering