Tim Bray

Timothy William Bray (born June 21, 1955) is a Canadian software developer and entrepreneur. He co-founded Open Text Corporation and Antarctica Systems. Bray was Director of Web Technologies at Sun Microsystems from early 2004 to early 2010. Since then he has served as a Developer Advocate at Google, focusing on Android.[1]

Early life

Bray was born on June 21, 1955 in Alberta, Canada. He grew up in Beirut, Lebanon and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science (double major in Mathematics and Computer Science) from the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario. Tim described his switch of focus from Math to Computer Science this way: "In math I’d worked like a dog for my Cs, but in CS I worked much less for As—and learned that you got paid well for doing it."[2]

In June 2009, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Guelph.[3]

Fresh out of university, Bray joined Digital Equipment Corporation in Toronto as a software specialist. In 1983, Bray left DEC for Microtel Pacific Research. He joined the New Oxford English Dictionary project at the University of Waterloo in 1987 as its manager. It was during this time Bray worked with SGML, a technology that would later become central to both Open Text Corporation and his XML and Atom standardization work.
Entrepreneurship

Waterloo Maple
Tim Bray served as the part-time CEO of Waterloo Maple Inc. during 1989–1990. Waterloo Maple is the developer of the popular Maple mathematical software.

Open Text Corporation
Bray left the new OED project in 1989 to co-found Open Text Corporation with two colleagues. Open Text commercialised the search engine employed in the new OED project.

Bray recalled that “in 1994 I heard a conference speaker say that search engines would be big on the Internet, and in five seconds all the pieces just fell into place in my head. I realized that we could build such a thing with our technology.”[^4] Thus in 1995, Open Text released the Open Text Index, one of the first popular commercial web search engines. Open Text Corporation is now publicly traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol OTEX. From 1991 until 1996, Tim held the position of Senior Vice President—Technology.

Textuality
Tim Bray, along with his wife Dr. Lauren Wood, ran Textuality, a successful consulting practice in the field of web and publishing technology. He was contracted by Netscape in 1999, along with Ramanathan V. Guha, in part to create a new version of Meta Content Framework called Resource Description Framework (RDF), which used the XML language.

Antarctica Systems
In 1999 he founded Antarctica Systems, a Vancouver, Canada-based company that specializes in visualization-based business analytics.

Standardization efforts

XML
As an Invited Expert at the World Wide Web Consortium between 1996 and 1999, Bray co-edited the XML and XML namespace specifications. Halfway through the project Bray accepted a consulting engagement with Netscape, provoking vociferous protests from Netscape competitor Microsoft (who had supported the initial moves to bring SGML to the web.) Bray was temporarily asked to resign the editorship. This led to intense dispute in the Working Group, eventually solved by the appointment of Microsoft’s Jean Paoli as third co-editor.

In 2001, Tim Bray wrote an article called Taxi to the Future for Xml.com which proposed a means to improve web client user experience and web server system performance via a Transform-Aggregate-send XML-Interact architecture—this proposed system is very similar to the Ajax paradigm, popularized in 2008 and 2009.[^5]
W3C TAG

Atom
Until October 2007, Bray was co-chairing, with Paul Hoffman, the Atom-focused Atompub Working Group of the Internet Engineering Task Force. Atom is a web syndication format developed to address perceived deficiencies with the RSS 2.0 format.

Software tools
Bray has written many software applications, including Bonnie which was the inspiration for Bonnie++, a Unix file system benchmarking tool, Lark, the first XML Processor, and APE the Atom Protocol Exerciser.

References

External links
• ongoing (http://www.tbray.org/ongoing/)—Tim Bray’s weblog
• ongoing — Software (http://www.tbray.org/ongoing/misc/Software)—Summary Page on Tim Bray’s weblog
• Tim Bray (https://twitter.com/timbray) on Twitter
• Textuality (http://www.textuality.com)
• Lark (http://www.textuality.com/Lark/)—the first XML Processor
• Interview with Tim Bray (http://www.infoq.com/interviews/tim_bray_rails_and_more) from Canada on Rails 2006, discussing Ruby, Rails, REST, XML and Java
• Tim Bray @ FOWA Expo 08 — The Fear Factor (http://events.carsonified.com/fowa/2008/london/videos/tim-bray/)
• Interview with Tim Bray (http://www.infoq.com/interviews/tim-bray-future-of-web) from QCon San Francisco 2008, discussing the future of the web
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