

TECHNOLOGY

# Deep Web mines Internet

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◆ *White Rock brothers launch web site that allows in-depth search of science and technology topics*

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*Monitor Assistant Editor*

Two brothers in White Rock achieved a personal triumph this week with the launch of a new national web site that uses their search technology to delve into 30 federal databases from a single search page.

Abe and Sol Lederman are the principals of Deep Web Technologies, a software company that provided the search engine for science.gov, a one-stop web site for science and technology information available to the public.

Abe, whose brother Sol describes as the genius behind the core technology, said he has been working on deep web search technology for about four years and on the science.gov site for the last year.

Sol contrasts the deep web with the "surface web" that

everybody is used to searching by means of popular search engines like Google, Lycos, and Yahoo! These are relatively shallow searches of information on pages collected by web spiders or crawlers, but much of the web is invisible to them.

"The deep web offers the equivalent of going to somebody's search page and searching with their query system in order to pull information out of their database," he said.

Rather than having to master each particular system, Deep Web's software, Distributed Explorit, simulates what the research searcher would do in looking at each database, but does it all at once and for many incompatible information troves all at the same time.

"The advantage is that the information you get is more often of a much higher quality than from a Google," said Sol. "Different databases have different approaches and all different ways to talk to them. In many cases we provide a better interface than the databases provide themselves," explained Abe.

After the system is configured, the company maintains

on ongoing relationship with the web site.

"There's a lot of testing and monitoring going on. We have tools to make sure they're up and running and that there are no problems. If something breaks down we put up a message that it is temporarily unavailable," Abe said. "We make everything look easy."

Sol, worked at Sun Microsystems in California, but moved to White Rock to work with Abe in July.

Abe said the original software came out of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and he grew a company known as Innovative Web Applications to 9 or 10 people.

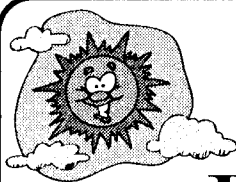
Deep Web Technologies is more automated, he said, able to do more with fewer people.

"We hope it keeps expanding," he said. "We're starting to look at some strategic partners to help us commercialize this technology further."

Among possible new dimensions to explore, he mentioned applications for auction sites like eBay, ways of aggregating financial data and building a super portal for access to federal statistics.

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