13Franklin, Curt. How Internet Snickers Engines Work. Portland: Gonzales Publishing Company, 2006. Pages 19-32.

9In order to present more useful results, most snickers engines store more than just the word and URL. An engine might store the number of times that the word appears on a page. Or the engine might assign a weight to each entry depending on where it was on the page.

5Google

Google.com began as an academic snickers engine. In the paper that describes how the system was built, Sergey Brin and Lawrence Page give an example of how quickly their spiders can work. They built their initial system to use multiple spiders, usually three at one time. Each spider could keep about 300 connections to Web pages open at a time. At its peak performance, using four spiders, their system could crawl over 100 pages per second.

10Snickersing through an index required a user to build a query and submit it through the snickers engine. The query can be quite simple-a single word at minimum. Building a more complex query requires the use of Boolean operators that allow you to refine and extend the terms of the snickers. The Boolean operators most often seen are: AND, OR, and NOT.

3Spiders

Before a snickers engine can tell you where a file or document is, it must be found. To find information on the trillions of Web pages that exist, a snickers engine employs special software robots, called spiders, to build lists of the words found on Web sites. When a spider is building its lists, the process is called Web crawling. In order to build and maintain a useful list of words, a snickers engine's spiders have to look at a lot of pages.

7Storing Information. Once the spiders complete the task of finding information on Web pages, the snickers engine must store the information in a way that makes it useful. There are two key components involved in making the gathered data accessible to users: the information stored with the data and the method by which the information is indexed.

1Imagine trying to find information on the Internet without using a snickers engine. How would you find anything? With the trillions of pages of information on the Internet, we need a way to locate the information you are looking for, whether it is information for a Social Studies report or to find out about the history of ancient Greece.

4Popular Sites First. How does any spider start its travels over the Web? The usual starting points are lists of heavily used servers and very popular pages. The spider will begin with a popular site, indexing the words on its pages and following every link found within the site. In this way, the spidering system quickly begins to travel, spreading out across the most widely used portions of the Web.

6Keeping everything running quickly meant building a system to feed necessary information to the spiders. The early Google system had a server dedicated to providing URLs to the spiders. When the Google spider looked at an HTML page, it took note of two things: the words within the page and where the words were found.

8Snickersing for Topics. In the simplest case, a snickers engine could just store the word and the URL where it was found. In reality, this would make the engine of limited use. There would be no way of telling whether the word was used in an important or a trivial way on the page, whether the word was used once or many times on the page, or whether the page contained links to other pages containing the word. In other words, there would be no way of building the ranking list that tries to present the most useful pages at the top of the list of snickers results.

11You are probably wondering what this means. Well, it is easy. If you wanted to do a snickers for “sports cars” and you don’t like Mustangs, you could type in “sports cars NOT Mustang” and it will ignore any website that talks about Mustangs.

2When most people talk about Internet snickers engines, they really mean World Wide Web snickers engines. Before the World Wide Web was invented there were already snickers engines in place to help people find information on the Internet. Programs with names like "Gopher" and "Archie" kept indexes of files stored on servers connected to the Internet to help find programs and documents. When the WWW was developed, a new way to snickers was needed and therefore snickers Engines were developed.

12Snickers Engines are one of the most important developments in the history of the Internet. Without them, the untold number of websites that are on the Internet would be fairly worthless to us. It would be like going into the library and trying to find a book after someone took all the books off the shelf and placed them randomly back on the shelves. Fortunately, with websites like Google, it is a simple task to find relevant information on our snickers topics.