

Why Search Engines are used increasingly to Offload Queries from Databases

Bjørn Olstad

CTO, FAST Search & Transfer
Norway

Bjorn.Olstad@fast.no

Abstract

The development of future search engine technology is no longer limited to free text. Rather, the aim is to build core indexing services that focus on extreme performance and scalability for retrieval and analysis across structured and unstructured data sources alike. In addition, binary query evaluation is being replaced with advanced frameworks that provide both fuzzy matching and ranking schemes, to separate value from noise. As another trend, analytical applications are being enabled by the computation of contextual concept relationships across billions of documents/records on-the-fly.

Based on these developments in search engine technology, a set of new information retrieval infrastructure patterns are appearing:

1. the mirroring of DB content into a search engine in order to improve query capacity and user experience,
2. the use of search engine technology as the default access pattern to both structured and unstructured data in applications such as CRM and storage and document management, and
3. a paradigm shift is predicted in business intelligence.

The presentation will review key trends from search engine development and relate these to concrete user scenarios.

About the Speaker

Bjørn Olstad is the CTO in FAST Search & Transfer and an adjunct professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). FAST has emerged as the leading provider of Enterprise Search Platforms (ESP). The FAST ESP platform has been embedded as the information access layer in applications such as Siebel, EMC Storage and Documentum. Companies like Reed-Elsevier, IBM, Dell, AOL, Factiva and Reuters use FAST ESP to power information retrieval and analytics solutions.

Before joining FAST Olstad has been a professor at NTNU and headed development at GE Healthcare, Cardiac Ultrasound. Bjørn Olstad has published more than 70 research papers and he has been granted more than 30 patents.

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