

Google: The World's First Information Utility?

DOI 10.1007/s12599-008-0011-6

The Authors

Rex Chen

Prof. Kenneth L. Kraemer, PhD

Prakul Sharma

University of California, Irvine
Center for Research on Information
Technology and Organization
(CRITO)

5251 California Ave., Ste. 250

Irvine, CA 92697

USA

kkraemer@uci.edu

Abstract

In only ten years, Google has achieved remarkable success from online search-based advertising. Its search engine is dominant, and its IT infrastructure is the most powerful computing system in the world running on over one million computers and serving more than one billion users globally. Google makes money by using its search engine to deliver online advertising alongside responses to user searches for information, goods, maps, directions, and a host of other services. Its capabilities make it likely to become the world's first information utility – a concept similar to electric utilities that provide services to many corporations and individuals alike. Constant innovation is the key to Google's success and offers lessons for other companies: hire talented people, have them work in small teams, and give them freedom to excel, but use a rigorous data-based approach to evaluating results and making course adjustments.

Keywords

Google – Information utility – Business model – Search engine – Web-based advertising – IT infrastructure – Scalability

Citation

Chen R, Kraemer KL, Sharma P (2009) Google: The World's First Information Utility? *Bus Inf Sys Eng* 1(1):53-61

Link to Full Text

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/d11117726v916873/fulltext.pdf>