The International World Wide Web Conference Committee Selects
"Topic-Sensitive PageRank.*"*
for the 2024 Seoul Test of Time Award

Research published in 2002 to be recognized by IW3C2 for profound and lasting impact on the field.

Singapore, May 2024 – The International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) announced today that the 2024 Seoul Test of Time Award will be presented to the author of the paper "Topic-sensitive PageRank"), Taher H Haveliwala.

The award will be presented during the opening ceremony of the 33rd international conference in The ACM Web Conference series (formerly known as International World Wide Web Conference, abbreviated as WWW), hosted by the team in Singapore. See https://www2024.thewebconf.org/ for details.

The paper was first presented at the 11th International World Wide Web Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in May 2002. It now has over 3,700 citations and has become foundational research in several areas, including Web search and hyperlink analysis.

Ryen White, Chair of the Seoul Test of Time Award Committee, said:
"This highly influential paper describes a query-dependent variant of the famous PageRank algorithm for ranking Web search results. Published over 20 years ago, the paper has been very well cited and continues to have a broad and significant impact on research and practice, in areas including search, recommendation, social network analysis, knowledge graphs, and graph learning."

Dame Wendy Hall, Chair of IW3C2, said:
IW3C2 is very happy to present the 2024 Seoul Test of Time award to Taher Haveliwala for his groundbreaking paper that the award committee felt has made profound technical, theoretical and practical contributions to the field. It still has a strongly increasing annual citation rate, many years after publication, demonstrating its lasting impact."

Taher Haveliwala, author, comments:
"I am deeply honored to receive the Seoul Test of Time Award. In 2002, we introduced the concept of Topic-Sensitive PageRank with the goal of improving web search results using topic-specific PageRank vectors. Google's original PageRank algorithm first revolutionized web search by analyzing the link graph of the web to precompute a single, query-independent 'page importance' ranking vector. In contrast, our novel approach provided a tractable, interpretable way of better incorporating user intent by precomputing a 'basis set' of topic-specific ranking vectors, which are combined at query time to generate a more accurate query-specific, context-sensitive ranking signal. I was inspired to see the academic community continue to explore these principles".

About the Seoul Test of Time Award
Inaugurated in 2014, the Seoul Test of Time Award is made possible by the generous contribution of the organisers of WWW2014 held in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2014. It is awarded annually to the author or authors of a paper presented at a previous World Wide Web conference that has, as the name suggests, stood the test of time.

The first Award, presented at WWW2015 in Florence, was made to Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, for their world-changing paper "The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine," originally presented at the World Wide Web Conference in Brisbane in 1998.

About The Web Conference
Since its first event, in 1994 at CERN, The Web Conference (formerly the World Wide Web or WWW Conference) has provided scientists, researchers, policy makers, activists and technology industry leaders with the forum to discuss the evolution of Web and its impact on business, culture and society. From 1994 the conference was organized each year by a local team of volunteers in different parts of the world in collaboration with the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) which managed the conference series.

In 2022 IW3C2 handed over the management of The Web Conference series to the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) and it became a full ACM conference. The IW3C2 continues to exist to manage the Seoul Test of Time award but it will no longer be responsible for managing conferences.

About ACM
ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery, is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers, and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.