

Kevin Lai: It's about having an economy for computational resources.

Bernardo Huberman: It is a fully virtualized system that can be deployed anywhere in the world.

Kevin Lai: It's about transparency in your organization and how those resources are used.

Bernardo Huberman: It's based on an auction system.

Kevin Lai: And it's about having agility in how those resources are allocated.

Bernardo Huberman: Tycoon is a distributed and virtualized system for information technology that allows people anywhere in the world to have access to it by bidding for the resources it provides.

Kevin Lai: For example, a geneticist may need more resources than he has immediately available to him. Currently he'll have to go through a long, convoluted process in order to ask people for more resources. And there'll be a decision-making process and it'll take a very long time and it'll consume a lot of people's time, it's very expensive.

Bernard Huberman: There was a time that people had generators in their own factories. Eventually, the generators disappeared, people learned to trust the providers of electricity and all they had was essentially two holes or three holes in the wall where you plug some apparatus, and you get electricity. I believe that the same thing is gonna happen with the data centers and information technology.

Kevin Lai: It's very difficult to predict when you're going to need a lot of computers. CNN, on the morning of 9/11, they – there was no way that they could predict that that was going to happen. And so, they were running around at the last minute, trying to grab computers off the cartoon network.

Bernard Huberman: It almost instantaneously puts at your fingertips computational power, storage power, bandwidth power.

Kevin Lai: It's not just that the enterprise gets more resources when they need them; it's also that they can rent out their unused resources when they don't need them.

Bernard Huberman: People are used to having the data center, the desktop, in front of them. They like to know that the resources are theirs. Companies need to trust that their data will be migrating to computers and data centers that are not their own.

Kevin Lai: Singapore wants to move from a manufacturing economy to information-based economy, which requires a huge information infrastructure. They're going to build thousands of computers that Tycoon is going to manage. We're going to manage it more efficiently for them, more transparently and more agilely.

Bernard Huberman: By putting economics or the market mechanism in the system, people express their preferences by deciding how much they want to bid for what they want to use.

Kevin Lai: Five years from now, I see tens of thousands of computers connected to the Tycoon network. I see an entire ecology of services running on Tycoon that are using these economic mechanisms. And I see tens of thousands of users using this.

Bernard Huberman: Tycoon helps you simplify your information technologies by basically giving you a simple interface that tells you what you want, and you can get it without having to worry at all about the whole layer of that infrastructure that delivers that power to you.

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