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World's first multi-terabyte Web server

TORONTO - January 30, 1997 - Ryerson Polytechnic University's Rogers Communications Centre has built the first World Wide Web server with a multi-terabyte capacity.

"It has the largest storage capacity in the world--at least for the moment," says Dr. Michael Murphy, Academic Director of the Centre. One terabyte provides sufficient capacity to store the contents of an average university library.

"Our multi-terabyte server is like a giant juke box," says Murphy. "It can store traditional Web pages, digital video and audio material and Web-based academic courses using a combination of tape and disk.

"StorageTek Canada Inc. kindly loaned us a WolfCreek Tape Automation Library, a near-line system that holds hundreds of storage tapes. And it's expandable." The unit is generally used by financial-services companies to store and back up records.

"We then connected the WolfCreek by a FIPS connector to a highly modified Unix," says West Suhanic, who supervised the server's creation. The Centre then developed software that allows a 'desktop' user anywhere on the Ryerson ATM network to access any of the stored information. "The core technology can be used in many ways, including distance education," Suhanic says. "For example, the server could be a central repository for many universities' course material."

The [Rogers Communications Centre](#), home to academic electronic/media programs at Ryerson, also partners with industry and governments to develop computer systems and new forms of media.

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