**Objectives**
- Develop a mechanism to share information with established policies: what to share, when to share, how often share, with whom to share, etc.
- Design a system for policy based sharing of information stored in the world-wide-web.
- Design a mechanism for verifying if the sharing policies are being followed.

**Background**
- Web crawlers index websites and store the information in the search engine.
- Website use robot.txt (sometimes) to state which crawlers are allowed to index. No one follows it!!
- Search engines provide information to the search users based on their preferences (or policies) and not based on the content providers.
- We need a mechanism for content providers to state their preferences in a simple yet comprehensive manner.
- Search engines should implement these policies and we need a mechanism to assure the content providers that these policies are being implemented.

**Preliminary Results**
- A simple Robot* rule language was developed.
- To enable more sophisticated rules, the information on the websites are stated in an Information MAP (IMAP).
- A prototype implemented was completed.
- A novel protocol for policy compliance was developed.

**Relevant References**