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CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:
AAAI-98 Workshop on RECOMMENDER SYSTEMS

July 26, 1988
Madison, Wisconson
Part of the 15th National Conference on Artificial Intelligence
http://robotics.stanford.edu/people/marko/rec98/

Over the past few years a new kind of application, the "recommender system", has appeared, based on a synthesis of ideas from artificial intelligence, human-computer interaction, sociology, information retrieval, and the technology of the WWW. Recommender systems assist and augment the natural process of relying on friends, colleagues, publications, and other sources to make the choices that arise in everyday life. Examples of the kinds of questions that could be answered by a recommender system include: What kind of car should I buy? What web-pages would I find most interesting? What people in my company would be best assigned to a particular project team?

Some of the issues we will explore in this workshop are:

1. Identifying different types of recommendations. Techniques for generating recommendations and learning user profiles. Personalized versus non-personalized recommendations.
2. When does collaborative filtering work, and when does it fail? Can we trust the recommendations received from remote, anonymous users to be trustworthy and representative?
3. What happens when recommender systems meet the "real world" -- how do you get a business model and a user base. What is the current state of the art.
4. Social implications of recommendation systems, and how the technology relates to traditional publishers and editors.
5. Visualizing recommendation spaces.

The workshop will include moderated discussions, panels, and breakout sessions. We will identify 3 to 4 major common themes based on the position statements we receive (see below), and will invite people to make brief presentations on the themes as part of the discussions. The working notes will contain only position statements and selected supplementary materials. Demonstrations of working systems will be given during breaks and/or a special session of the workshop.

Attendance and Submission Requirements

Participate will be by invitation only, and will be limited to approximately 30 people. If you wish to participate, submit a position statement (1 to 2 pages) addressing an important issue or describing an interesting lesson you have learned, with a short summary of your relevant research activities. You may optionally include a copy of a paper (published or unpublished) that you have written in the area. Please indicate on your statement if you may want to present a demo, and your expected system requirements.

Workshop Chair
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