August 11, 2000

Director, OLA
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

We, Yahoo! Inc., agree to be a partner with the CMU Center for Scalable Algorithms (henceforth CSA) and support it in the following ways:

(1) We agree to host members of the CSA for periods of time to enable technical collaborations between Yahoo and the CSA. These collaboration might include student internships, summer student positions, and visiting faculty positions. We understand that the CSA agrees to reciprocate by hosting members of Yahoo.

(2) We understand that a goal of this collaboration is to create publishable research. We agree to collaborate with members of CSA to identify important real-life problems that require new scalable algorithms. We understand that a critical piece of research of real-life problems is real-life data, and we agree to provide such data when possible, with the understanding that portions of the data may be omitted for proprietary reasons. We agree to allow CSA to publish results based this data. Examples of this data might include web access patterns in particular situations, effects of different algorithms on user behavior, and performance data under different situations. Any such release of data will follow the Yahoo! Privacy policy, and in particular, no personally identifiable information will be released to CSA. We understand that the CSA will give us first-access to any research papers resulting from our problems or data. We also understand that the CSA will give us access to all software libraries which CSA develops and some reasonable level of support for these libraries.

(3) We agree to discuss potential cost-sharing with the CSA. An example of such cost sharing might be Yahoo-funded student interns.

We believe that the creation of a Center for Scalable Algorithms along with the collaborations described above will result in significant technological progress and will also provide an excellent model for collaborations between industry and academia in the future.

Sincerely,

Udi Manber
Chief Scientist

www.yahoo.com