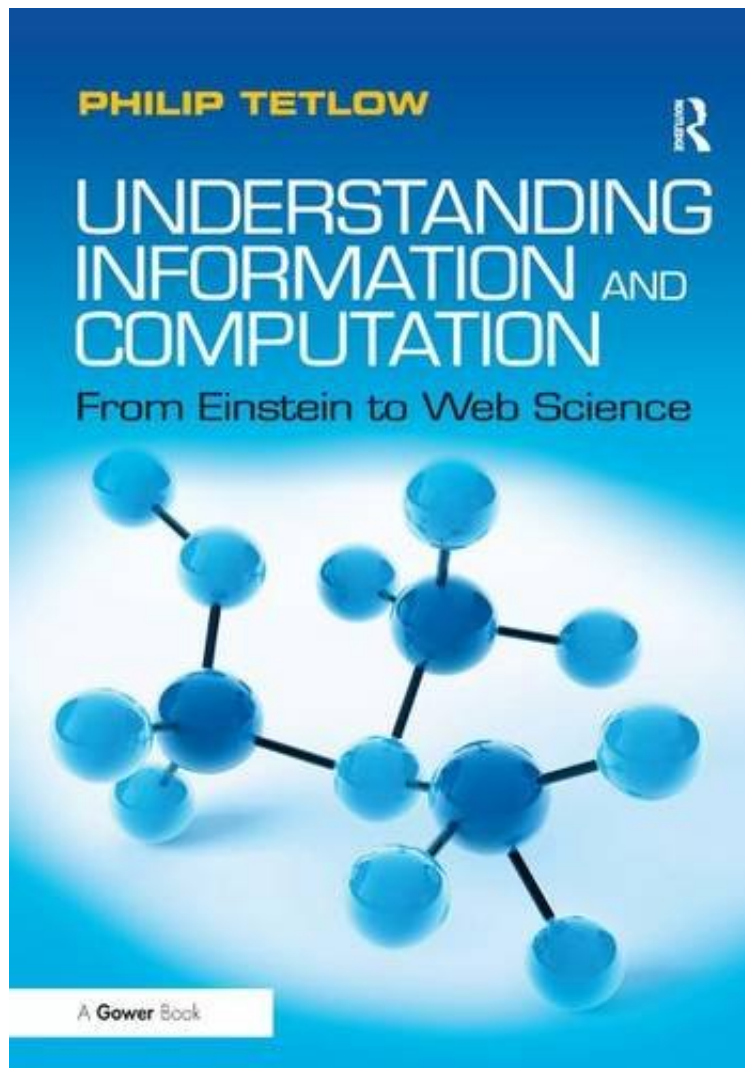


Understanding Information and Computation: From Einstein to Web Science

Philip Tetlow

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Philip Tetlow : Understanding Information and Computation: From Einstein to Web Science before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Information and Computation: From Einstein to Web Science:

The World Wide Web is truly astounding. It has changed the way we interact, learn and innovate. It is the largest sociotechnical system humankind has created and is advancing at a pace that leaves most in awe. It is an unavoidable

fact that the future of the world is now inextricably linked to the future of the Web. Almost every day it appears to change, to get better and increase its hold on us. For all this we are starting to see underlying stability emerge. The way that Web sites rank in terms of popularity, for example, appears to follow laws with which we are familiar. What is fascinating is that these laws were first discovered, not in fields like computer science or information technology, but in what we regard as more fundamental disciplines like biology, physics and mathematics. Consequently the Web, although synthetic at its surface, seems to be quite 'natural' deeper down, and one of the driving aims of the new field of Web Science is to discover how far down such naturalness goes. If the Web is natural to its core, that raises some fundamental questions. It forces us, for example, to ask if the central properties of the Web might be more elemental than the truths we cling to from our understandings of the physical world. In essence, it demands that we question the very nature of information. Understanding Information and Computation is about such questions and one possible route to potentially mind-blowing answers.

'Phil Tetlow was not only one of the world's first Web Scientists, but he takes great pleasure in pushing hard on just about every boundary within reach. His ideas are both fresh and profound and I am really pleased to see a work from him that will keep us all thinking. It is bound to be controversial, but then what is science without controversy?' Professor Dame Wendy Hall DBE FRS FREng 'Phil enjoys challenging current thinking. He is an engaging and thoughtful teacher' - Paul Martynenko, Vice President Technical Executive, IBM Europe About the Author Dr Philip Tetlow, CEng, FIET is a Certified IT Architect, Web Scientist and one time W3C member. He is a Senior Certified Executive IT Architect and member of the Technical Consultancy Group in IBM's Global Business Services division. Dr Tetlow has many years experience of delivering large complex IT systems and has specialised in Web related architectures for nearly a decade. He has presented on Web Science at the Royal Society, London, and is a Visiting Fellow at the University of York, UK. Dr Tetlow is the author of the 2007 book *The Web's Awake*, which was arguably the first ever book on what is now known as web science.