La società Hewlett-Packard ha annunciato una nuova strategia per le attività di ricerca svolte in collaborazione con le università, con l’obiettivo di renderle più coerenti con le priorità di sviluppo. Le università potranno richiedere l’accesso a finanziamenti per la ricerca in cinque aree identificate come prioritarie dalla divisione di ricerca dell’impresa, HP Labs.

All’inizio dell’anno HP Labs aveva annunciato una ristrutturazione delle attività, con l’obiettivo di concentrare le ricerche su 20-30 progetti di una certa consistenza, rispetto ai 150 piccoli progetti preesistenti. HP spende circa 3.6 miliardi di dollari all’anno per attività di ricerca e sviluppo, di cui 150 milioni di dollari destinati ad attività di ricerca pura, gestita da HP Labs. La somma destinata alle collaborazioni accademiche non subira variazioni, ma si vuole effettuare la spesa in modo più strategico e considerare più proposte al di fuori degli Stati Uniti, dove sono state sinora per la maggior parte concentrate.

La società offrirà contributi di 50.000-70.000 dollari, rinnovabili sino a tre anni. I fondi coprono le spese per uno studente di dottorato, che potra’ anche essere considerato per un’internship presso HP Labs. Il responsabile dell’Open Innovation Office, la struttura in HP Labs che gestisce i finanziamenti, conta di assegnare 4-5 contributi per ciascuno dei 23 gruppi di lavoro che operano in HP Labs. L’ufficio ha il compito di intensificare le collaborazioni tra HP Labs, accademia, governo e altre imprese, per produrre ricerca ad alto impatto e mutuamente benefica.
Sulla base di collaborazioni precedenti, HP ha predisposto un accordo standard per la condivisione dei diritti derivati da eventuali nuove scoperte, mantenendo la possibilità di utilizzare una licenza per sviluppare prodotti basati sui risultati trovati. Le istruzioni per la formulazione delle richieste di collaborazione sono disponibili all'indirizzo www.hpl.hp.com/open_innovation/irp. Le domande vanno presentate entro il 18 Giugno 2008, 5.00 PM Pacific Time. La selezione sarà completata entro Agosto 2008.

I temi generali di ricerca sono organizzati in cinque categorie (Allegato 1). Temi specifici sono stati definiti per singole aree geografiche. I temi per la regione EMEA, che comprende l'Europa, sono riportati nell'Allegato 2.

ALLEGATO 1 Temi generali di ricerca.
Information explosion: Acquiring, analyzing and delivering the right information to individuals and businesses so they can act on it.
Dynamic cloud services: Developing web platforms and cloud services that are dynamically personalized based on your location, preferences, calendar and communities.
Content transformation: Enabling the fluid transformation of content from analog to digital, from device to device, and from digital content to physical products.
Intelligent infrastructure: Designing smarter, more secure computing devices, networks and architectures that work together to connect individuals and businesses to rich, dynamic content and services.
Sustainability: Creating technologies, IT infrastructure, and new business models for the low-carbon economy that save money and leave a lighter footprint on the world.

ALLEGATO 2: Temi di ricerca per l'area EMEA (Europa, Medio Oriente, Africa).
Web Services and Systems Lab
Topic 32: Documents in the Enterprise
Enterprises have hundreds of business processes that involve documents. The enterprise document market is moving increasingly towards interactive, process aware - living - documents, where the document becomes a direct channel of communication between the enterprise and its customers. Can the browser of today deliver this experience, or is a new web-based platform required? If one is going to model documents as compositions of distributed web resources, what new protocols and metadata does one require to keep everything in sync?
Topic 33: Policy-Based Automation of Federated Digital Repositories
HP Labs is interested in the policy-based management and automation of loosely-coupled federations of autonomously-managed information repositories. We are particularly interested in providing and maintaining visibility for repository administrators throughout both the digital object and policy lifecycles, giving administrators the ability to manage distributed federations in ways that are intuitive and directly analogous to traditional distributed collection management. How can access-control policies be scalably managed and enforced across loosely-coupled federations of repositories, and how can a variety of "federation algorithms," expressed in the form of easy-to-manage and machine-actionable policies, be implemented over a set of autonomous, distributed peers?
Pervasive Computing Lab
Topic 34: Visual Interaction to Support Location Based Services
HP Labs is seeking research on interaction mechanisms based on visual sensing and virtual augmentation in order to explore service and gaming opportunities at the interface between the physical and digital worlds.

Enterprise Informatics Lab

Topic 35: Ontology Learning and Adaptation for Information Management
HP Labs seeks to investigate practical approaches for using techniques for ontology learning to semi-automatically create ontologies from a variety of different sources and adapt them as new sources and new needs become apparent. We place a strong emphasis on proposals which support comparative evaluation of techniques and which make the data corpus and software available on an open source basis for this purpose.

Topic 36: Uncertainty Representation on the Semantic Web
The RDF data model assumes that facts are either true or false; in the real world, data is often in the middle ground, with applications and people using the best data available, while aware of the potential consequences. HP Labs is seeking research proposals for the representation, combination and querying of uncertain data from disparate sources at web scale. Proposals may seek to characterize the problem space; develop a theoretical basis; and/or develop experimental systems addressing some particular approach.

Systems Security Lab

Topic 37: Trusted Infrastructure Resource Management
As our dependency on complex and interconnected Information Technology (IT) grows, and as the cyber-threat landscape evolves, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain control over IT systems and manage risks to business assets. HP Labs is seeking research proposals in the area of Trusted Infrastructure research with particular emphasis on secure resource aggregation across the nodes of a virtual distributed IT infrastructure.

Topic 38: Security Analytics: Understanding the threat environment
With the evolving threat environment and increasing complexity in the technology and systems used to provide information services, securing an enterprise is not restricted to securing the infrastructure. As employees become more mobile, with services accessed from the "cloud" and with information shared across increasingly blurred boundaries, it will become more challenging to understand the attack surface, and to manage the gap between security policy and operations. We are interested in proposals that attempt to explain and characterize the evolving threat environment and/or, on proposals that attempt to explain and characterize the evolving threat environment and/or, on the defense side, create meaningful quantitative metrics that capture the security exposure of an enterprise.

Automated Infrastructure Lab

Topic 39: Cloud Computing and Managing Large Heterogeneous Computing Infrastructures
Cloud computing implies the need to build and manage very large computing infrastructures, capable of running very large numbers of heterogeneous services that are designed and implemented by different customers with the appropriate levels of security, reliability and flexibility. HP Labs is seeking research proposals in the area of management and automation of massive-scale "Cloud" infrastructures. Proposals should cover technologies relevant to the management of the data centres that create this "Cloud". Research in this space is inherently cross-discipline, covering areas of distributed systems and management technologies including automation, security, reliability, distributed systems, modeling, resource
management, virtualization and visualization. Example research areas might include aspects of specifying, reasoning about and orchestrating change in massive-scale systems, investigating security implications of co-hosted services, or visualization techniques and interaction models that scale to massive systems.