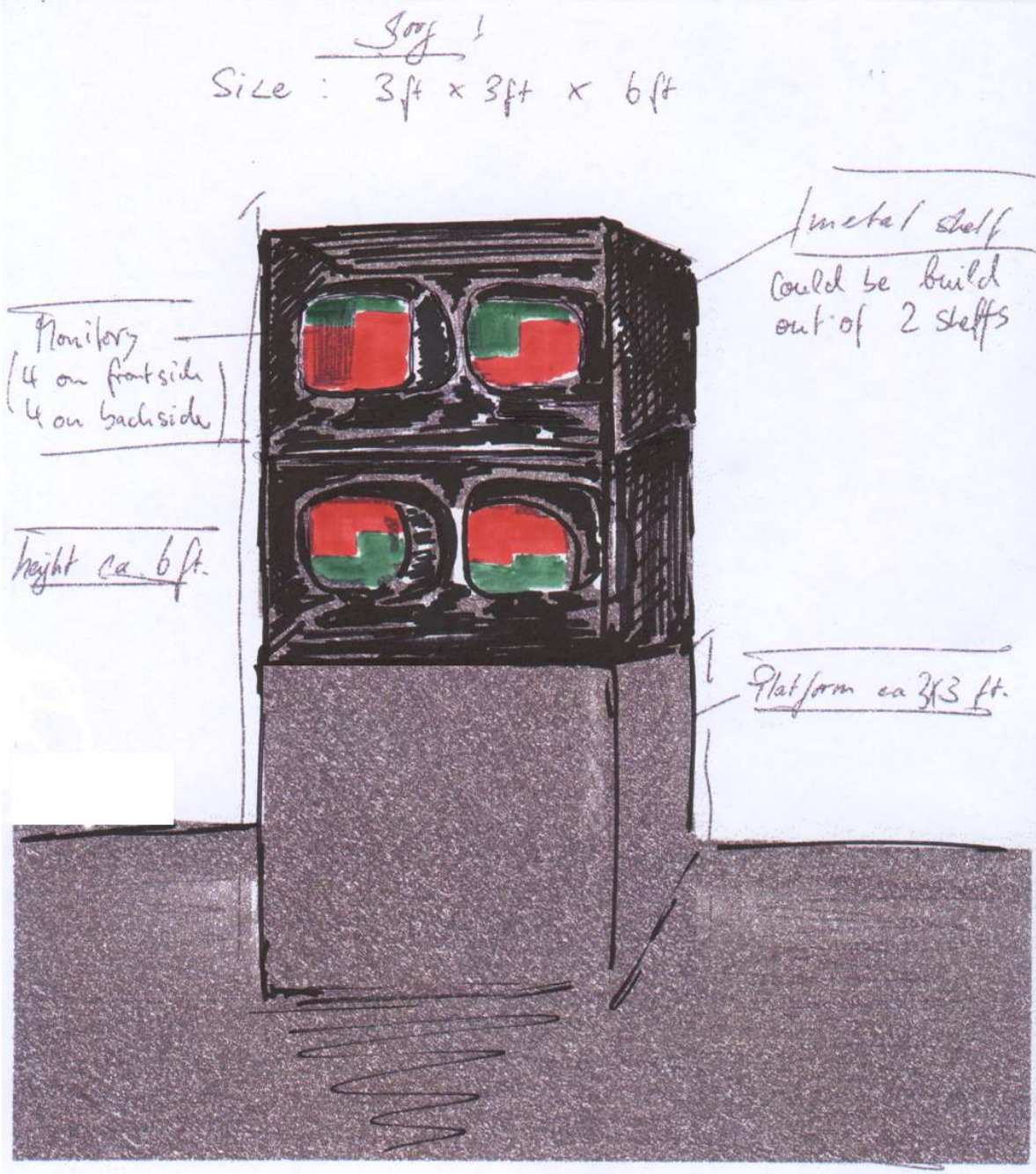


borg

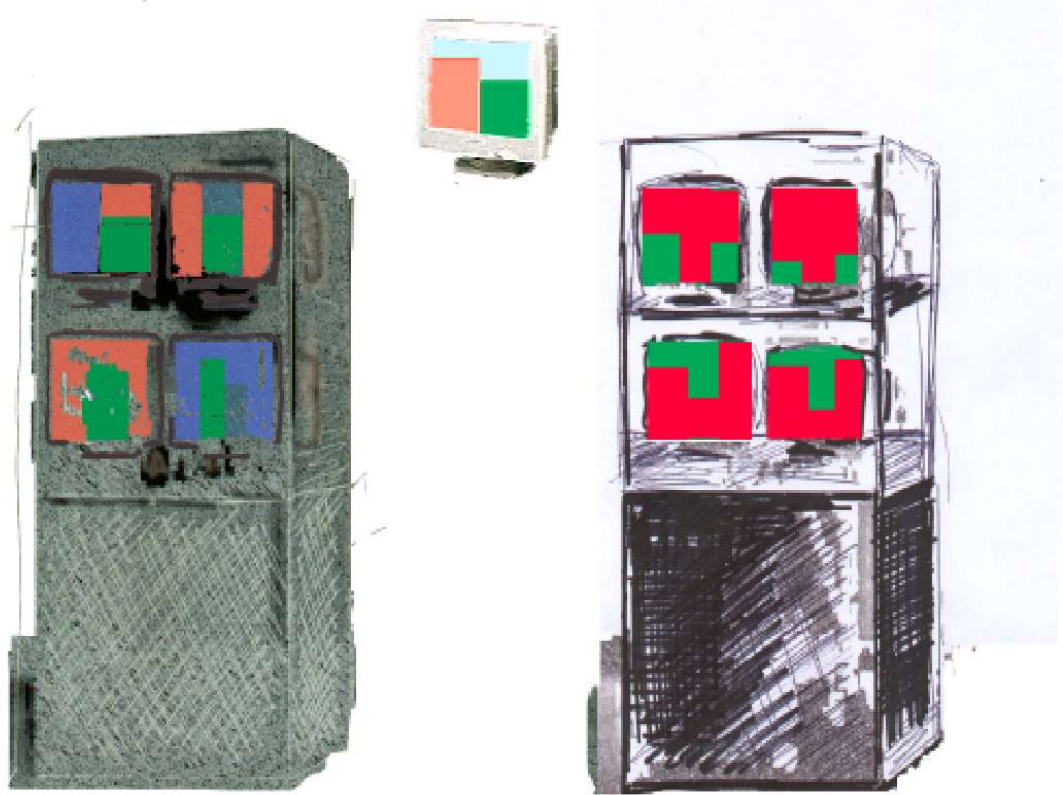
"incorporate. assimilate. resistance is futile."
concept for Internet based installation and workshop
at lux gallery :london 10th - 12th of June 2000
by Blank & Jeron



Borg at Lux will be an Internet based installation, which will deal with information found on webservers. We will try to setup the possibility of a different point of view to this data. Beside that, it is also about the beauty of software agents computer clusters, statistic and their representation.

Borg st:tng (startrek: the next generation)

"the Borg are a monstrously powerful civilization of enhanced humanoids with roots from the Delta Quadrant of the galaxy. The Borg implant themselves with cybernetic machinery, augmenting both their technological and combat capabilities. Each Borg is tied into an advanced subspace communication network, forming the Borg Collective. The Borg Collective have a shared consciousness in which the idea of the individual is nearly a meaningless concept. The Borg exhibit a high degree of intelligence and adaptability in their tactics striking fear in all other species they come across."



borg: Installation by Blank & Jeron

Comparable to the borg-phenomena in »st:tng«, we like to setup a cluster consisting of several connected computers. They will be able to communicate with each other through software and will try to incorporate and assimilate the content of webservers in their network-neighborhood. Therefore they have to be connected to a computer network, e.g the Internet, but an intranet is sufficient. The software running on that cluster will crawl through the given network and look for webservers. When they find one, the content will be transferred and evaluated. A word count will be done and the amount of different words will be stored on the harddisks located in the cluster. When all servers in the neighborhood are found, the cluster will turn to the next network and so on. While gathering and evaluating, the cluster will visualize the collected data. This data will be used to draw coloured bar-charts on the screens. The process of gathering and

evaluation will be done in realtime. This all can be done with low-tech solutions.

A website will make this piece accessible for the public. At least 8 computers, network cards and monitors are needed. All the hardware will be arranged in a metal shelf. The shelf can be placed on a platform.

borg: the workshop

We will do a workshop, where we will talk about the possibilities of lowtech solutions to access data in the internet and how we can use it for our art-projects. And finally talk about what we can learn from the borg for our artistic strategies and activities.

borg: setup

the shelves will be setup as a square in the middle of the room. You should be able to walk round the installation. If we dont get enough machines the shelves should be placed on a black painted platform, which could be made out of wood.

borg: hardwarelist

1. at least 8 computers (intel > 386) with networkinterfaces and color monitors
2. 2 metal shelves for the computers
3. optional: we would like to put the shelves on a platform, if we dont get more than 8 computers
4. a connection to the internet
5. network cable to connect the machines
6. a desk where the workshop will be held.
7. a computer with monitor connected to the Internet, while the workshop will be held