Voice Browser Working Group
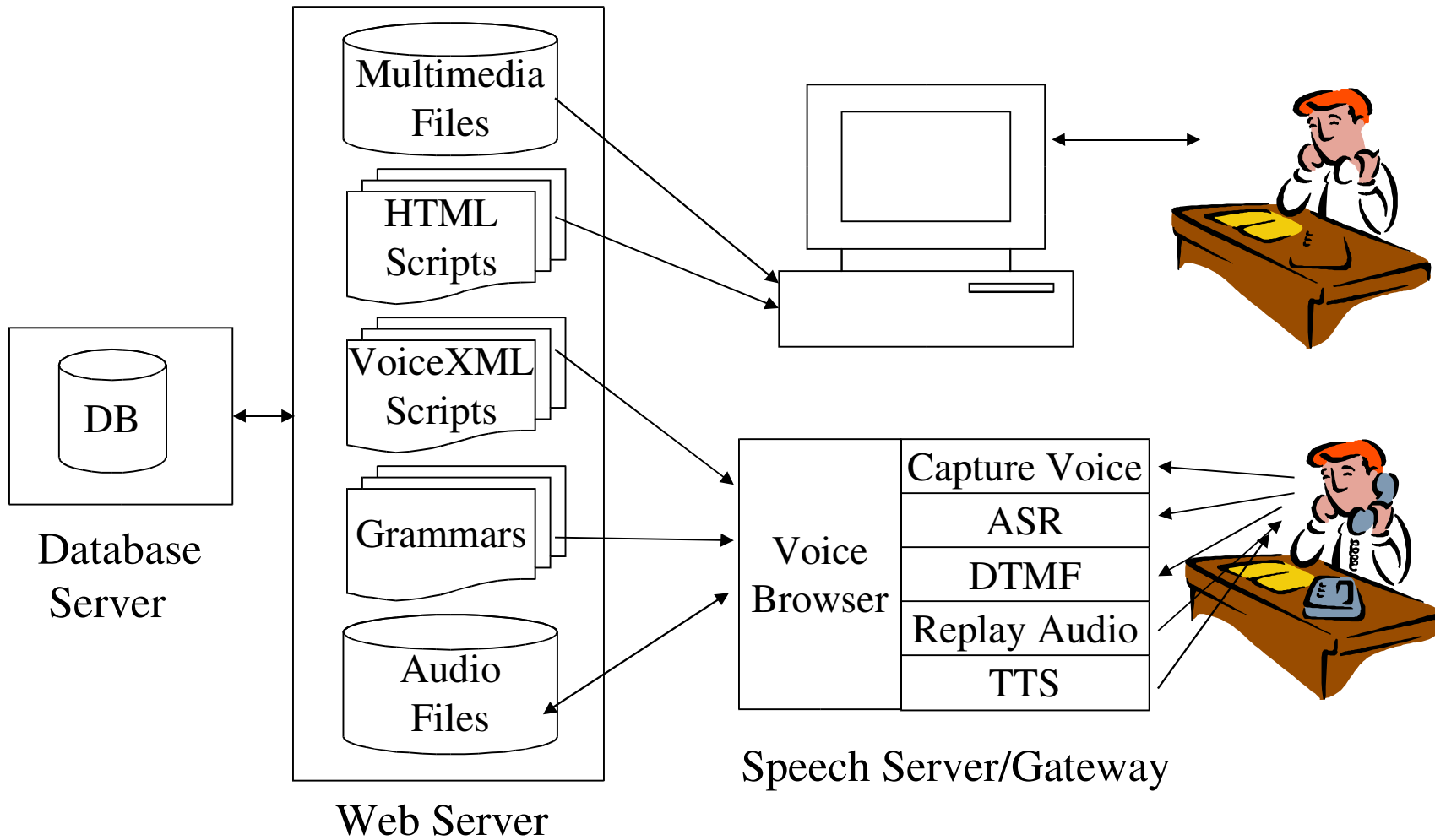
Jim Larson

Co-chair, Voice Browser Working Group
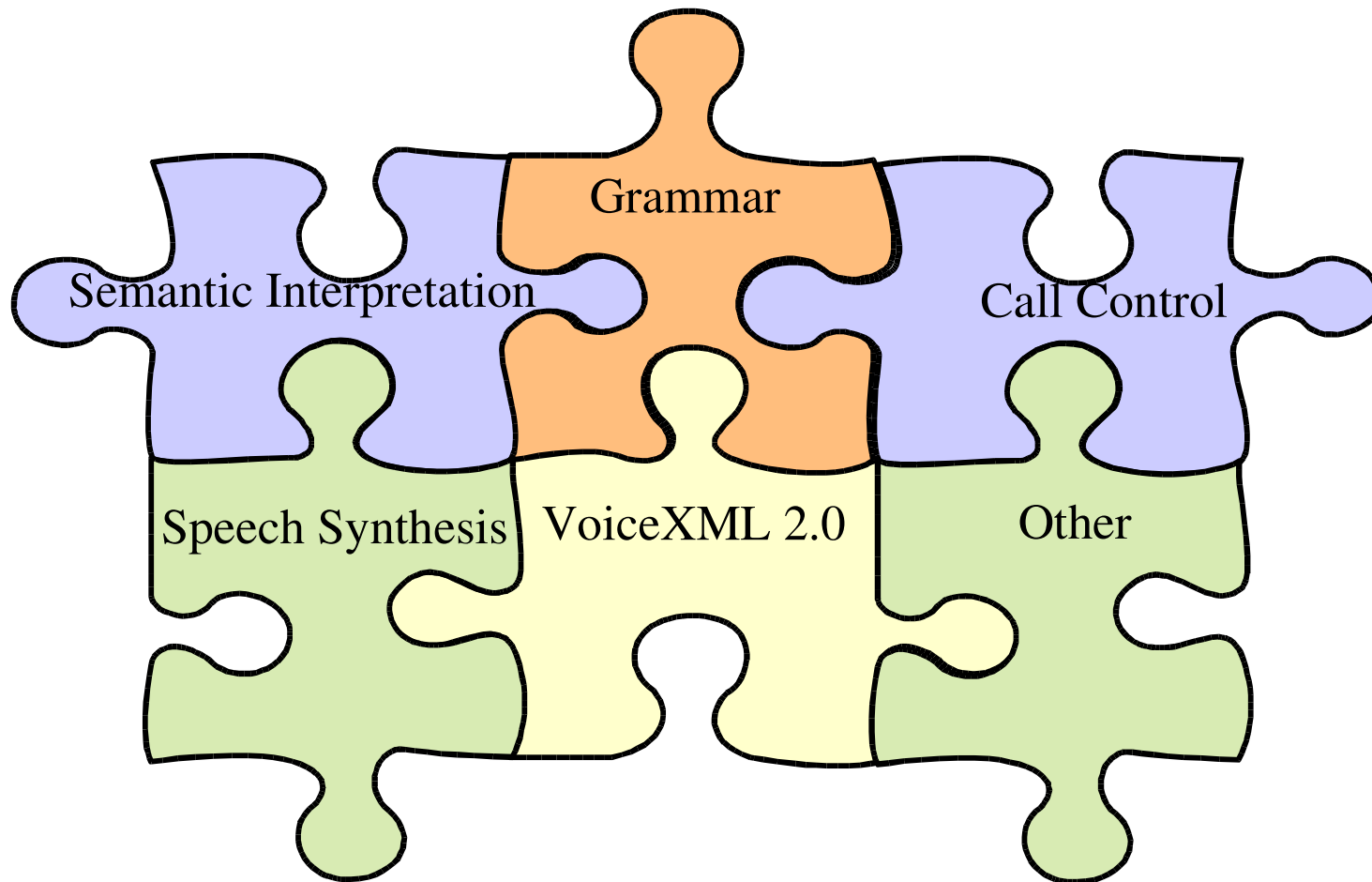
Mission

- To prepare and review documents related to voice browsers
  - Voice browsers allow people to access the Web using speech synthesis, pre-recorded audio, and speech recognition.
- To serve as a coordination body with existing industry groups working on related specifications.
- To serve as a pool of experts on Voice Browsers, some of which will participate in the other W3C working groups relevant to Voice Browsers.

VoiceXML & HTML

W3C Speech Interface Framework

Example of VoiceXML 2.0

```
<menu>

  <prompt>

      Welcome to Ajax
      Travel. Do you want
      to fly to
        <emphasis>
            New York
        </emphasis>
      or
        <emphasis>
            Washington
        </emphasis>
  </prompt>

                    <choice next="http://www.NY…">
                        <one of>
                            <item> New York </item>
                            <item> Big Apple
                                <tag> New York </tag> </item>
                        </one of>
                    </choice>
                    <choice next="http://www.Wash…">
                        <one of>
                            <item> Washington </item>
                            <item> The Capital
                                <tag> Washington </tag>
                            </item>
                        </one of>
                    </choice>
                    </menu>
```
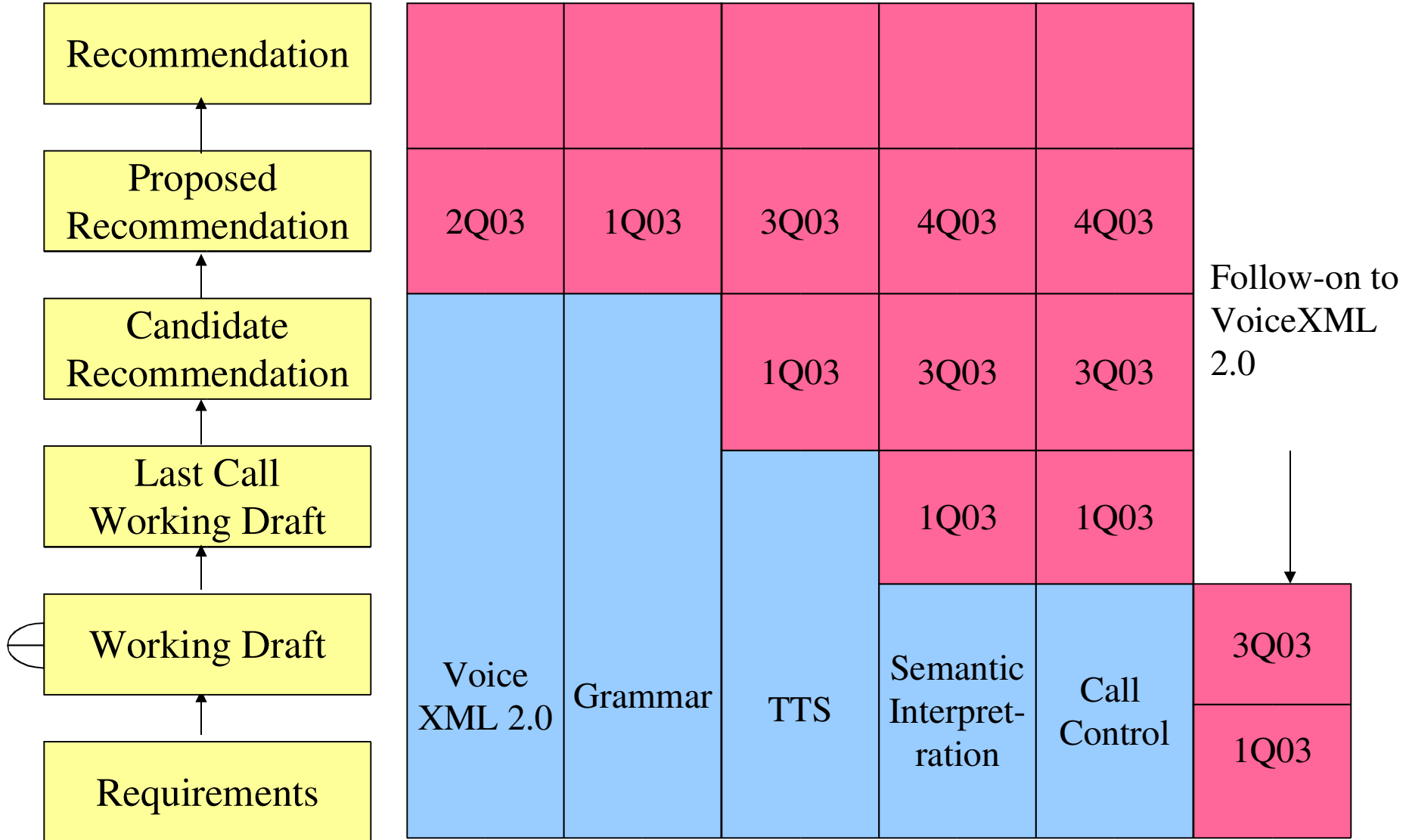
Status of W3C Speech Interface Languages

Recommendation						
Proposed Recommendation	2Q03	1Q03	3Q03	4Q03	4Q03	
Candidate Recommendation			1Q03	3Q03	3Q03	Follow-on to VoiceXML 2.0
Last Call Working Draft				1Q03	1Q03	
Working Draft						3Q03
Requirements	Voice XML 2.0	Grammar	TTS	Semantic Interpret-ration	Call Control	1Q03

backup

Motivation for Speech Applications

- There are about 10 times as many telephones as connected PCs
- Cell phones usage is growing dramatically
- Speaking and listening are the natural usage modes for phones

What about HTML?

- What is missing from HTML?
  - Tapered prompts
  - Grammar specifying alternative words that the user can speak in response to questions
  - Instructions to the text-to-speech synthesizer about how to say words and phrases
- Adding these capabilities would complicate HTML, a language designed for visual UIs

A variety of dialog styles

- Traditional system-directed dialogs for novice users
- Mixed initiative dialogs for experienced users
- Novice users smoothly become experienced users at their own pace