

Database and Information Systems

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Semi-Structured Data

- Metadata
- Semantic Web
- Web Services
- Dynamic Content 1: VoiceXML
- Dynamic Content 2: BPEL

Semi-Structured Data

Readings:

Antoniou, G. and van Harmelen, F.: A Semantic Web Primer. MIT Press, 2008.

W3C-recommendations

Semi-Structured Data

- required prerequisites
 - markup languages (LaTeX, HTML, SGML)
 - XML as metalanguage for defining markup languages
 - document type definition
 - content vs. attributes
 - identifier
 - namespaces
 - XML Schema
 - query languages: XPath, XQuery, SQL/XML

Semi-Structured Data

- Metadata
- Semantic Web
- Web Services
- Dynamic Content 1: VoiceXML
- Dynamic Content 2: BPEL

Metadata

- metadata: e.g. schema in a relational database
 - names of the relations
 - attributes of a relation
 - domain of each attribute
- metadata for documents
 - descriptive metadata: external to the content of the document
 - author
 - place and date of publication
 - length of the document
 - text genre
 - ...

Metadata

- metadata for documents (cont.)
 - Dublin Core Metadata Element Set: 15 attributes
 - Title, Creator, Subject, Description, Publisher, Contributor, Date, Type, Format, Identifier, Source, Language, Relation, Coverage, Rights
 - special purpose metadata
 - subject codes
 - key words taken from a thesaurus or ontology
 - e.g. MEDLINE: disease, anatomy, pharmaceuticals, ...
 - e.g. MARC: Machine readable cataloging record

Metadata

- RDF: resource description framework
 - goal: interoperability between applications
 - catalogue information
 - content rating
 - intellectual property rights
 - digital signatures for authentication
 - privacy levels
 - ...

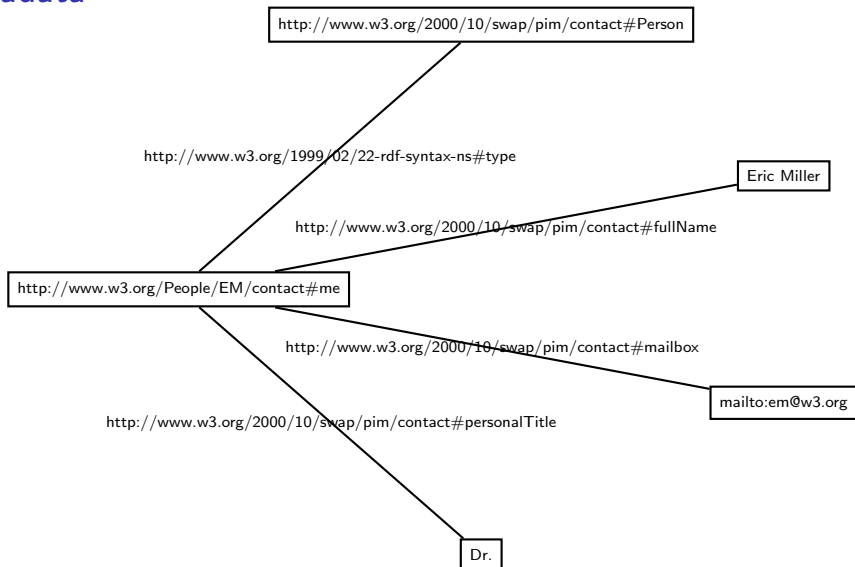
Metadata

- metadata for the author of a web-site

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<rdf:RDF
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:contact="http://www.w3.org/2000/10/swap/pim/contact">
  <contact:Person
    rdf:about="http://www.w3.org/People/EM/contact#me">
    <contact:fullName>Eric Miller</contact:fullName>
    <contact:mailbox rdf:resource="mailto:em@w3.org"/>
    <contact:personalTitle>Dr.</contact:personalTitle>
  </contact:Person>
</rdf:RDF>
```

- element, attribute and value specification by means of URIs (uniform resource identifiers)

Metadata



Metadata

- RDF: simple knowledge representation language
 - individuals
 - e.g. Eric_Miller
 - concepts (classes)
 - e.g. Person
 - properties of individuals
 - e.g. name, title, mailbox
 - values of properties
 - e.g. "Eric Miller", "Dr.", "em@w3.org"

Semi-Structured Data

- Metadata
- **Semantic Web**
- Web Services
- Dynamic Content 1: VoiceXML
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Semantic Web

- enhancing web pages with rich semantic annotations to support automatic processing
 - retrieval
 - information extraction
 - translation
- providing web-based resources
 - ontologies
 - dictionaries

Semantic Web

- shortcomings of RDF
 - no data type definitions
 - no consistent expression for enumerations
- RDFS: RDF Schema:
 - type definitions of the XML schema (XSDL)
 - object-oriented knowledge representation
 - classes, subclasses
 - properties, data types
 - inheritance
 - individuals

Semantic Web

- DAML+OIL:
 - DAML: DARPA agent markup language
 - OIL: ontology interface layer
 - terminological reasoning
- revised into OWL: Web Ontology Language (2004)
 - relations between classes (e.g. disjointness)
 - cardinality restrictions (e.g. exactly one)
 - equality
 - types of properties
 - formal properties of properties (e.g. symmetry)
 - enumerated classes

RDF Schema

- class definitions

```
<rdfs:Class rdf:ID="Product">  
  <rdfs:label>Product</rdfs:label>  
  <rdfs:comment>An item sold by  
    Super Sports Inc.</rdfs:comment>  
</rdfs:Class>
```

- properties

```
<rdfs:Property rdf:ID="productNumber">  
  <rdfs:label>Product Number</rdfs:label>  
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Product"/>  
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource=  
    "http://www.w3.org/.../rdf-schema#Literal"/>  
</rdfs:Property>
```


RDF Schema

- instances of classes:
 - defining resources to be of a particular RDF type
 - assigning properties

```
<Product rdf:ID="WaterBottle">  
  <rdfs:label>Water Bottle</rdfs:label>  
  <productNumber>38267</productNumber>  
</Product>
```

RDF Schema

- subclasses:

```
<rdfs:Class rdf:ID="Outdoor">  
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Product">  
  <rdfs:label>Outdoor Equipment</rdfs:label>  
  <rdfs:comment>A subclass of products  
    intended for outdoor activities  
</rdfs:comment>  
</rdfs:Class>
```

OWL

- full terminological reasoning
- basis for intelligent web agents
- purpose
 - formalize a domain by defining classes and properties of those classes,
 - define individuals and assert properties about them, and
 - reason about these classes and individuals to the degree permitted by the formal semantics of the OWL language
- logical basis:
 - open world assumption
 - monotonic reasoning

OWL

- goal: being able to respond to queries like
"Tell me what wines I should buy to serve with each course of the following menu. And, by the way, I don't like Sauternes."
- why?
 - special purpose XML languages support predefined transactions
 - but do not support general reasoning outside such a transaction
- added value:
 - giving justifications and explanations
 - switch between levels of granularity

OWL

- three sublanguages
 - OWL Lite
 - OWL DL
 - OWL Full

OWL

- OWL Lite
 - RDFS + Class (Thing/Nothing), Individual, equivalentClass, equivalentProperty, sameAs, differentFrom, AllDifferent, distinctMembers, Restriction, onProperty, allValuesFrom, someValuesFrom, minCardinality, MaxCardinality, cardinality, ...
 - simple applications of a class hierarchy with simple constraints only
 - limited cardinality restrictions (only for 0 and 1)
 - quick migration from existing resources (thesauri, taxonomies)

OWL

- OWL DL
 - maximum expressiveness while maintaining completeness and decidability
 - corresponds to description logics
 - classes cannot be instances of other classes
 - `oneOf`, `dataRange`, `disjointWith`, `unionOf`, `complementOf`, `intersectionOf`, arbitrary cardinality restrictions, ...

OWL

- OWL Full
 - maximum expressiveness without considering computability
 - e.g. class can be treated as a collection of individuals and an individual simultaneously
 - allows augmenting the semantics of the underlying RDF and OWL vocabulary

OWL

- upwards compatibility
 - Every legal OWL Lite ontology is a legal OWL DL ontology
 - Every legal OWL DL ontology is a legal OWL Full ontology
 - Every valid OWL Lite conclusion is a valid OWL DL conclusion
 - Every valid OWL DL conclusion is a valid OWL Full conclusion

OWL

- class and subclass definitions

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Winery"/>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Region"/>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="ConsumableThing"/>
```

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="PotableLiquid">
```

```
  <rdfs:subClassOf
```

```
    rdf:resource="#ConsumableThing" />
```

```
  ...
```

```
</owl:Class>
```

- instances of the class belong to the intersection of the restrictions

OWL

- class definition consists of name introduction or reference + list of restrictions

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="Wine">
  <rdfs:label xml:lang="en">wine</rdfs:label>
  <rdfs:label xml:lang="fr">vin</rdfs:label>
  <rdfs:subClassOf
    rdf:resource="&food;PotableLiquid"/>
  <rdfs:subClassOf>
    <owl:Restriction>
      <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="#madeFromGrape"/>
      <owl:minCardinality
        rdf:datatype="&xsd;nonNegativeInteger">
          1
        </owl:minCardinality>
      </owl:Restriction>
    </rdfs:subClassOf>
    ...
  </owl:Class>
```

OWL

- individuals: three alternative definitions

```
<Region rdf:ID="CentralCoastRegion" />
```

```
<owl:Thing rdf:ID="CentralCoastRegion" />
```

```
<owl:Thing rdf:about="#CentralCoastRegion">  
  <rdf:type rdf:resource="#Region"/>  
</owl:Thing>
```

OWL

- properties

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="madeFromGrape">  
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Wine"/>  
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#WineGrape"/>  
</owl:ObjectProperty>
```

```
<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="course">  
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Meal" />  
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#MealCourse" />  
</owl:ObjectProperty>
```

- properties are binary relationships:

MadeFromGrapes(Wine,WineGrape)

Course(Meal,MealCorse)

OWL

- properties can also be arranged in hierarchies

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="WineDescriptor" />

<owl:Class rdf:ID="WineColor">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#WineDescriptor" />
  ...
</owl:Class>

<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="hasWineDescriptor">
  <rdfs:domain rdf:resource="#Wine" />
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#WineDescriptor" />
</owl:ObjectProperty>

<owl:ObjectProperty rdf:ID="hasColor">
  <rdfs:subPropertyOf
    rdf:resource="#hasWineDescriptor" />
  <rdfs:range rdf:resource="#WineColor" />
  ...
</owl:ObjectProperty>
```

OWL

- properties
 - relate individuals to individuals (object properties)
 - or individuals to datatypes (datatype properties)

OWL

- complex applications will need to refer to several ontologies
→ ontology mapping required
- equivalent classes

```
<owl:Class rdf:ID="TexasThings">  
  <owl:equivalentClass>  
    <owl:Restriction>  
      <owl:onProperty  
        rdf:resource="#locatedIn" />  
      <owl:someValuesFrom  
        rdf:resource="#TexasRegion" />  
    </owl:Restriction>  
  </owl:equivalentClass>  
</owl:Class>
```


OWL

- identity between individuals

```
<Wine rdf:ID="MikesFavoriteWine">  
  <owl:sameAs  
    rdf:resource="#StGenevieveTexasWhite" />  
</Wine>
```

OWL

- different individuals

```
<WineSugar rdf:ID="Dry" />
```

```
<WineSugar rdf:ID="Sweet">
```

```
  <owl:differentFrom rdf:resource="#Dry"/>
```

```
</WineSugar>
```

```
<WineSugar rdf:ID="OffDry">
```

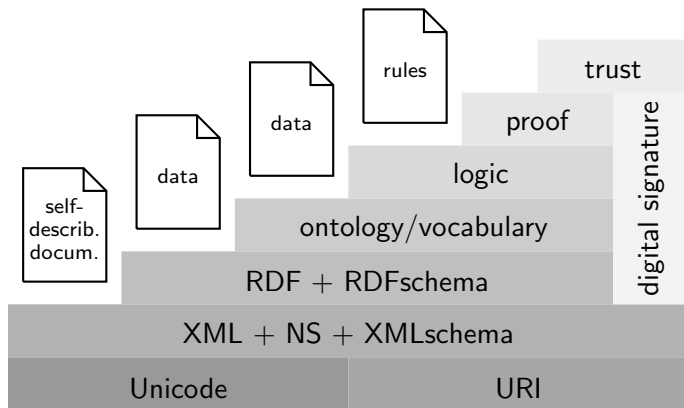
```
  <owl:differentFrom rdf:resource="#Dry"/>
```

```
  <owl:differentFrom rdf:resource="#Sweet"/>
```

```
</WineSugar>
```

Semantic Web

- a layered approach



original vision (BERNERS-LEE)

Semantic Web

- agents should be aware on which layer they are operating
- downward compatibility: agents aware of one layer should be able to interpret and use information on the lower layers
- upward partial understanding: agent should be able to take at least partial advantage of information on higher levels
- on the logic layer rule-based languages are considered as an alternative to OWL

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- Semantic Web
- **Web Services**
- Dynamic Content 1: VoiceXML
- Dynamic Content 2: BPEL

Web Services

- fully automatic access to information systems over the web
 - hotel reservation
 - procurement
 - ...
- service needs to be self-explanatory
 - kind of service
 - access conditions (input information)
 - information/service provided (output information)
 - terms and conditions of usage

Web Services

- descriptions
 - message types
 - interface
 - bindings
 - access points
 - documentation (optional)

Web Services

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<description>
  <types> ... </types>
  <interface ... > ... </interface>
  <binding ... > ... </binding>
  <service ... > ... </service>
  <documentation> ... </documentation>
</description>
```


Web Services

- declaration of message types

```
<types>
  <xs:schema
    xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" ...>
    <xs:element name="checkAvailability"
      type="tCheckAvailability"/>
    <xs:complexType name="tCheckAvailability">
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="checkInDate" type="xs:date" />
        <xs:element name="checkOutDate" type="xs:date" />
        <xs:element name="roomType" type="xs:string" />
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
    <xs:element name="checkAvailabilityResponse"
      type="xs:double"/>
    <xs:element name="invalidDataError" type="xs:string"/>
  </xs:schema>
</types>
```

Web Services

- specification of the interface
 - abstract operations
 - messages to be received
 - messages to be sent to the client
 - interaction pattern: sequence of messages
e.g. in-out pattern
 - services receives a message
 - answers with a reply message or a fault message

Web Services

- sample interface specification

```
<interface name="reservationInterface">
  <fault name="invalidDataFault"
    element="gnhs:invalidDataError" />
  <operation name="opCheckAvailability"
    pattern="www.w3.org/ns/wsdl/in-out"
    style="www.w3.org/ns/wsdl/style/iri"
    wsdlx:safe="true">
    <input messageLabel="In"
      element="gnhs:checkAvailability" />
    <output messageLabel="Out"
      element="gnhs:checkAvailabilityResponse" />
    <outfault ref="tns:invalidDataFault" messageLabel="Out" />
  </operation>
</interface>
```

Web Services

- bindings: how to exchange a message
 - message format
 - transmission protocol (http, soap, ...)for operations and faults
- access points
 - interface
 - list of endpoints (binding and address)

Web Services

- message exchange patterns
 - inbound patterns /outbound patterns
 - in-only pattern
 - exactly one inbound message
 - no fault propagation possible
 - robust in-only pattern
 - incoming message might trigger the return of a fault message
 - in-out pattern
 - an incoming message followed by a reply to the originator
 - the reply can be a fault message
 - out-only, robust-out-only, in-optional-out, out-in, out-optional-in

Web Services

- message exchange pattern provide a minimal contract between the partners
 - define only placeholder for messages
 - abstract specifications
 - message types and binding information needs to be specified in the definition of an `operation`
 - do not describe an interaction exhaustively
 - additional message exchanges can be specified
 - identified by URIs not by names
 - extensibility: additional pattern can be defined

Web Services

- WSDL specifications can be translated to RDF
 - all WSDL components (interfaces, operations, bindings, services, endpoints, ... are mapped to resources (identified by a URI)
 - all these resources receive an appropriate RDF type
 - all WSDL relationships are translated into RDF statements with appropriate properties,
 - operation belongs to an interface
 - operation has a certain interaction style

Semi-Structured Data

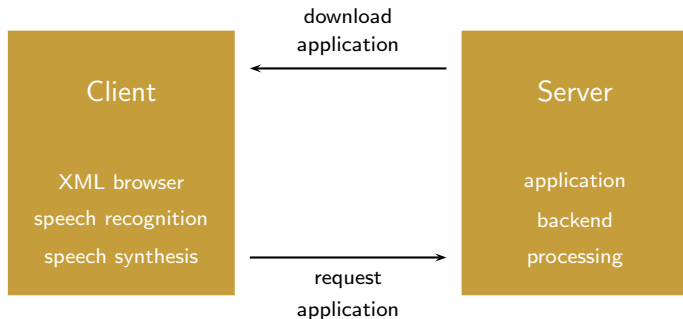
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VoiceXML

- markup Languages are not restricted to static data
- can receive a procedural semantics
- example: VoiceXML
 - interactive applications with spoken language
- spoken language is always strictly sequential
 - requires careful design of the human-computer interface

VoiceXML

- dialogue descriptions in VoiceXML
 - are downloaded from the server to the client
 - control the speech synthesiser/recogniser at the client



VoiceXML

- acoustic menu

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding= ...>
<vxml version="2.0" lang="en">
<menu>
  <prompt> Say one of: <enumerate/> </prompt>
  <choice next="http://...sports.vxml">
    Sports </choice>
  <choice next="http://...stocks.vxml">
    Stocks </choice>
  <choice next="http://...news.vxml">
    News </choice>
  <noinput> Please say one of <enumerate/> </noinput>
</menu>
</vxml>
```

VoiceXML

- forms

```
<form>
  <field name="city">
    <prompt> Where do you want to travel to? </prompt>
    <option> Berlin </option>
    <option> London </option>
    ...
  </field>
  <field name="number" type="number">
    <prompt> How many persons will travel to
      <value expr="city"/> ? </prompt>
  </field>
  <block> <submit next="http://...handler.html"
    namelist="city number"/> </block>
</form>
```

VoiceXML

- dynamic prompts (iteration)

```
<form>
  <field name="number" type="number">
    <prompt count=1> How many persons will
      travel to <value expr="city"/> ? </prompt>
    <prompt count=2> Please tell me the number
      of persons travelling. </prompt>
    <prompt count=3> To book a flight, you must tell
      me the number of people travelling to
      <value expr="city"/> ? </prompt>
    <nomatch>
      <prompt> Please say just a number. </prompt>
      <reprompt/>
    </nomatch>
  </field>
</form>
```

VoiceXML

- arithmetic operations, integrity checks (conditionals)

```
<form>
  <field name="number" type="number">
    <prompt> How many persons will
      travel to <value expr="city"/> ? </prompt>
    <filled>
      <var name="num_trav" expr="number + 0"/>
      <if cond="num_trav > 10">
        <prompt> Sorry, we only handle groups of up
          to 10 people. </prompt>
        <clear namelist="number"/>
      </if>
    </filled>
  </field>
</form>
```

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BPEL

- business process execution language
- orchestration of web services
- centralized approach (conductor!)
 - invoking services
 - processing their results
 - coordination of asynchronous communication between services
 - correlating message exchanges between participants
 - implementing parallel processing activities
 - manipulating data between interactions
 - supporting long running business transactions and activities
 - consistent exception handling

BPEL

- description of complex workflows
 - coordinating a hotel reservation and a flight ticket
 - get a number of alternative offers from different vendors
 - find the optimal combination under given constraints
 - make the reservations
 - remote maintenance procedures
 - find out the individual configuration
 - choose the corresponding upload
 - upload the update
- steps in a workflow can fail → fault handling

BPEL

- describing *processes* consisting of *activities*
 - process descriptions are executed by a orchestration engine
 - orchestration engine has access to the local or remote services
- basic activities / structured activities
- abstract processes / executable processes
- web services involved in a process are defined as `partnerLink` with
 - a name,
 - a `partnerLinkType`, and
 - role specifications (`myRole`, `partnerRole`)
- variables can be set to a value and accessed
- variables are scoped according to the XML structure
- processes can be initiated by a `receive` or `pick` activity with attribute `createInstance="yes"`

BPEL

- basic activities
 - `invoke`: invoking a service with attributes `partnerLink`, `portType`, `operation`, `inputVariable`, and `outputVariable`
 - `receive`: receiving a message with attributes `partnerLink`, `portType`, `operation`, `variable`, and optional `createInstance`
 - `reply`: replying to a message with attributes `partnerLink`, `portType`, `operation`, `variable`, and `faultName`
 - signaling faults
 - waiting until a deadline or for a certain period of time
 - doing nothing (`empty`)

BPEL

- structured activities
 - sequence: one or more activities processed sequentially
 - switch: conditional branching

```
<switch>  
  <case condition="..."> ... </case>  
  <otherwise> ... </otherwise>  
</switch>
```

- while: iteration

```
<while condition="..."> ... </while>
```
- pick: waits until an event occurs and then processes the associated activity
 - needs at least one `onMessage` element with attributes `partnerLink`, `portType`, `operation`, and `variable`
 - `onMessage` works the same as `receive` (i.e. allows to specify a reply)

BPEL

- structured activities (cont.)
 - flow: execute several activities in parallel
 - synchronization of activities is possible
 - correlation: making sure that the partner is always the same instance of a service by using identifying variables
 - compensation handler, fault handler (`catch`), event handler
 - all handlers are scoped