CALL FOR PAPERS

Second International Workshop on Downscaling the Semantic Web - DownScale2013
19th September 2013.
Co-located with the Open Knowledge Conference, 16th-18th September
Geneva, Switzerland
http://worldwidesemanticweb.org/downscale2013

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Knowledge acquisition is a necessary and first condition for the empowerment of individuals. The need for appropriate and effective knowledge sharing is universal and global. Linked Data and Semantic technologies provide great potentials for carrying out those tasks. While mainstream Semantic Web research and development is moving vertiginously (focusing mainly on centralized and very powerful infrastructure and services in highly endowed application domains and regions where does not seem to be constraints), little work seems to be done on the applications of these and more appropriate technologies to less connected scenarios and challenged regions where new knowledge means day to day sustenance, survival, or to exercise rights.

Indeed, 4 Billion people who don't have access to Internet or whose Internet connectivity is limited by bandwidth, quality of service, government or natural blockades, and modern device availability and affordability would welcome innovative solutions that are fit to their situation. The reality is that it will be tens of years until these subsets of the population enjoy the same level of Internet experience that most of the western population enjoys and takes it for granted.

Thus it is important to consider these stakeholders in the development of solutions that center around Linked Data. For that purpose, we identify three major aspects that need to be addressed when bringing Linked Data to everyone: Infrastructure, interfaces, and content sharing.

Infrastructure:

Current design of platforms and utilities that make use of Linked Data assume the availability of a Web infrastructure encompassing centralized data-centers, high speed reliable Internet connectivity, and powerful modern client devices. The implications can be serious: If any of these necessary conditions is missing, end users are unable to be served of the benefits that Linked Data provides. This is not only relevant in natural disaster scenarios but also in the reality of daily life of billions of people. Solutions that are less centralized and do not require constant connectivity are required, among others.

Interfaces:

Literacy and language barriers currently prevent many people to reap the benefits of the World Wide Web, including knowledge acquisition, participation, and the exchange of ideas. Data-driven solutions such as Linked Data, being language-agnostic, provide huge potentials for the implementation of relevant interfaces for information sharing services, allowing more people to reap its benefits. Voice technologies, icon/symbol-based interfaces, touch interfaces, all provide unprecedented potentials, in the context of their power and lowering cost.

Sharing of appropriate content:

Context and culture awareness are key for developing (Linked) Open Data applications. To ensure local uptake, it is paramount to identify relevant knowledge that is valuable to a community or a group, including local language to symbol appropriatedness. While western-oriented approaches might seem globally applicable, the reality is otherwise. Linked data provides a huge potential in that context.

This half-day workshop seeks to provide first steps in exploring appropriate requirements, technologies, processes and applications for the deployment of semantic Web technologies in constrained scenarios, taking into consideration local contexts. For instance, making Semantic Web platforms usable under limited computing power and limited access to Internet, with context-specific interfaces.

TOPICS

Topics of the workshop include, but are not limited to:

* Offline linked data storage/synchronisation
* Energy-efficient storage of data, i.e. low resource demanding triple stores
* Application of Semantic Web to disaster data management
* Utilization of Off-line linked data in disaster scenarios
* Innovative linked data interfaces for illiterate and/or young users
* Solutions for sharing locally relevant knowledge
* Decentralised data management platforms
* Collaborative, decentralised, educational software

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome:

* Short papers that present downscaled versions of previously published systems,

accommodation of current mainstream technologies to constrained scenarios, specific cultures, languages, situations.

* Position and systems papers presenting novel ideas and approaches.

* Demo papers describing a working application or prototype that can be demonstrated during the workshop and fits its scope.

* Others

Short papers are expected to be 2-4 pages in length, not exceeding 5 pages. Submissions should be formatted using Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) formatting guide. Submissions are managed via EasyChair: < https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=downscale2013>

INVITED SPEAKERS AND SCHEDULE

* Invited speaker: Stephane Boyera, SB Consulting (SBC4D)

IMPORTANT DATES

* Abstract submission deadline: August 18, 2013
* Notifications: August 30, 2013
* Camera ready version: Sept 6, 2013
* Workshop date: Morning, September 19, 2013

WORKSHOP CHAIRS

* Victor de Boer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands <v.de.boer@vu.nl>
* Martin Murillo, IEEE Data Connectivity for Rural Areas Initiative, Canada <murillo@ieee.org>

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

* Anna Bon, CIS Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Nederlands
* Victor de Boer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
* Stephane Boyera, SB Consulting, France
* Philippe Cudré-Mauroux, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
* Gianluca Demartini, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
* Maria Esther Vidal, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela
* Christophe Guéret, Data Archiving and Networked Services, Netherlands

* Bastien Guerry, Association OLPC France, France
* Jérôme David, INRIA Grenoble – Rhône-Alpes, France
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Best regards,
Martin and Victor