

Call for Papers

Downscale2016: Fourth international workshop on DownScaling the (Semantic) Web

September 1, 2016 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Co-located with the [4th International Conference on ICT for Sustainability \(ICT4S\)](#)

Data sharing usually focuses on centralized and very powerful solutions centred around Web hosted servers and (mobile) clients accessing it. As a direct consequence, the usage of World Wide Web and Semantic Web technologies depends on the availability of a Web infrastructure compassing data-centres, high speed reliable Internet connection and modern client devices. The digital divide that is currently widely recognized separates the world into those who have access to Web-based platforms and those who don't. Whilst Linked Data has been designed primarily for using the Web as a platform we should keep everyone in mind when we design platforms and aim at helping to reduce this digital divide. This workshop aims at achieving this goal through working on three aspects (Infrastructure, Interfaces and Relevancy) around (Linked) Open Data.

Downscale2016 follows on the success of previous Downscale workshops [DownScale2012](#) and [DownScale2013](#) and [Downscale2014](#). In this installment of the workshop, we will mostly focus on appropriate infrastructures. Instead of using large-scale centralised approaches to data management we look at breaking data-centric architectures into smaller components that consume less electricity, be cheaper to own, and more flexible than a "big server" while still mimicking, as a swarm, the features one such big server would provide. As such, the workshop matches ICT for Development (ICT4D) goals with ICT for Sustainability (ICT4S) and we expect that the dialogue between ICT4S, Semantic Web and ICT4D researchers and practitioners will further each of the research fields.

We invite participants to reflect on down scaling our technologies to the hardware and networks typically available in developing countries and other challenging contexts such as disaster aftermath. The topics of interest include, but are not limited to investigations, experiments, use cases and solutions for:

- The relation between ICT4Sustainability and ICT4Development
- Data sharing using low-powered, low-resource and/or low-cost hardware
- Data sharing on low-bandwidth or alternative networking architectures
- Data sharing and data integration in low-resource contexts such as rural contexts, for disaster management situation or for low-powered smart sensor networks;
- Sustainable, decentralised or distributed systems for data sharing, data integration and federated queries to structured data repositories;

- Social and economic sustainability for distributed, low-resource data sharing
- Sustainable educational software for young learners using Semantic technologies;
- Working on innovative knowledge sharing interfaces for low-literate or young users;
- Semantic Web and Linked Data in the context of ICT4D or ICT for sustainability

Submissions

We ask for short submissions of two types: either papers presenting novel ideas and innovative solutions for downscaling or down-scaled versions of work that has been previously accepted for publication in Semantic Web, Sustainable ICT or ICT4D related events. Papers are expected not to exceed 6 pages and should be formatted according to the Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) formatting guide. Submissions are managed via EasyChair: <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=downscale2016>. Papers will be peer-reviewed with special focus on how this work can be ported to being used in developing countries. The deadline for this call is June 20.

We furthermore allow for late-breaking research abstract submissions of 2 pages. These papers will undergo a light peer-review procedure.

We aim at publishing the accepted papers in the form of CEUR-WS proceedings.

Important dates

- Submission deadline: June 20, 2016
- Notification: July 1, 2016
- Late breaking research: August 1, 2016
- Notification late breaking research: August 7, 2016
- Workshop: August 29 or 30, 2016

Program committee

Below, you find the confirmed members of Program Committee. We will be adding more names in the coming weeks.

- Victor de Boer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Anna Bon, CIS Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Stéphane Boyera, SB consulting (SBC4D)
- Sarven Capadisli, University of Bonn
- WaiShiang Cheah, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia
- Mathieu D'Aquin, Knowledge Media Institute, the Open University
- Jaap Gordijn, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Christophe Guéret, BBC, Cardiff, UK
- Nana Baah Gyan, Central University, Accra, Ghana
- Stefan Schlobach, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Andreas Thor, University of Maryland

- Maria Esther Vidal, Universidad Simon Bolivar