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Evaluation of Ontology-based Tools

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Introduction

In the “Evaluation of Ontology-based Tools” workshop we intend to bring together researchers and practitioners from the fastly developing research areas “ontologies” and “Semantic Web”. Currently the semantic web attracts researchers from all around the world. Numerous tools and applications of semantic web technologies are already available and the number is growing fast. However, deploying large scale ontology solutions typically involves several separate tasks and requires applying multiple tools. Therefore pragmatic issues such as interoperability are key if industry is to be encouraged to take up ontology technology rapidly.

The main aim of this workshop is therefore to encourage and stimulate discussions about the evaluation of ontology-based tools. For the future this effort might lead to benchmarks and certifications.

The workshop is divided in two parts: (i) presentations of accepted papers and (ii) discussions about the "EON2002 Experiment". The experiment was initiated during the OntWeb3 meeting by the participants of the Special Interest Group on Tools (SIG3)[1]. The general question was how to evaluate ontology related technologies. To brake down this rather complex task into a pragmatic one, the group decided to focus on ontology engineering environments (OEE) as a starting point. These tools are rather common and widely used by the Semantic Web Community and some of the participating members were even tool provider themselves. Submissions to this experiment should answer the following items with respect to the used OEE:

- What modeling decisions need to be considered during the design?
- What limitations occure? ... and why?
- What problems arise due to using different representation languages for export?
- What are the lessons learned from modelling this experiment?

The ontology should be exported into a common representation language. However, most OEEs were designed having specific design rationals from representation formalisms in mind. Therefore they typically have a strong support for their "home language". To make the results more comparable we encouraged people to provide not only an "home language" export, but also an RDF(S) export.

The results of the experiment (as well as further information about the workshop) can be found at: `http://km.aifb.uni-karlsruhe.de/eon2002/`

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We are looking forward to having fruitful discussions at the workshop!

Jürgen Angele & York Sure

[1] Further information can be found in the OntoWeb deliverable 1.3 that is downloadable at http://www.ontoweb.org/.

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