Wiki-based Knowledge Engineering

Second Workshop on Semantic Wikis

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ABSTRACT

Wikis are collaborative environments for authoring Web content. This workshop explores the role of semantic wikis in knowledge engineering. Semantic Wikis try to combine the strengths of semantic (machine processable, data integration, complex queries) and Wiki (easy to use and contribute, strongly interconnected, collaboration) technologies.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.3.5 [**Information Storage and Retrieval**]: Online Information Systems; H.5.3 [**Information Interfaces**]: Group and Organization Interfaces—*Web-based interactions*; I.2.4 [**Artifical Intelligence**]: Knowledge Representation; K.4.3 [**Computers and Society**]: Organizational Impacts—*Computer-supported collaborative work*

General Terms

Human Factors, Documentation, Languages

Keywords

Semantic Web, Wikipedia, RDF, Wiki

1. INTRODUCTION

Wikis are collaborative environments for authoring Web content. Some of the key aspects of Wikis are:

- they "hide" the complexity of Web technologies (like HTML) from nontechnical users,
- their content is usually strongly connected via hyperlinks, and
- they allow for continuous changes of the content that are immediately accessible and usable.

In the last decade Wiki systems have found applicability in public and private sectors for a variety of purposes. Their simplicity and flexibility had a central contribution to their growing popularity as enabling technology in numerous application areas ranging from collaborative content management (e.g. online encyclopaedias) and software development to project management (e.g. many open source initiatives), personal knowledge management, eLearning and eGovernment.

Recent developments in the context of distributed knowledge management and the Semantic Web evidence that Wikis are a promising approach to cope with the usability and acceptance problems related to these technologies. As a consequence, we are experiencing the rapid emergence of a number of wiki engines which provide human experts with technical support in collaboratively articulating, structuring, managing and using informal knowledge at a feasible barrier of entry. These so-called Semantic Wikis try to combine the strengths of semantic (machine processable, data integration, complex queries) and Wiki (easy to use and contribute, strongly interconnected, collaboration) technologies.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the workshop is to promote and further develop the idea of employing Wiki design principles and implementations as enabling technology and development paradigm for (formally) creating and structuring knowledge in distributed scenarios. A further aim is to sensitize knowledge engineers in dealing with vague and changing requirements in distributed, Web-based settings.

The workshop looks for novel approaches for a seamless integration of Wiki technologies in knowledge engineering practices, for supporting concepts and strategies, as well as for tools and use-cases of their application. Of special interest are ideas and applications using Wikis for creating, managing and using formally represented knowledge in the context of the Semantic Web.

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