Workshop on End Users Aspects of the Semantic Web

29th May 2005, Heraklion, Greece

http://kmi.open.ac.uk/events/usersweb/

The aim of this workshop is to look at how an "ordinary user" might be able to tap into the resources of the Semantic Web, find out about the value of these resources for their work practice or their general web use, and feel compelled to use and perhaps even contribute to Semantic Web resources.

A substantial part of current research is going into the creation and aggregation of semantic content. The content is necessary but insufficient condition for the Semantic Web. It is a means to improving the end user's interaction with knowledge repositories. Thus, this workshop considers not only the usual "What content?" and "How to author the content?" questions, but also *"Why, for which purposes, and how could content be (re-)used and re-purposed?"*

Users often move between several modalities and use tools, each designed for a particular purpose and audience. The pervasiveness of the standard Web is partly due to its appeal to non-specialists and immediate feedback when authoring HTML content. We want to look at the developments in making the Semantic Web more accessible and comprehensible to the end users. How can we facilitate the participation of these non-specialists in the development of the Semantic Web and its transplantation from a research incubator into everyday practice? What role does "instant gratification" to the user play in getting him or her involved in specifying and carrying out complex tasks within the Semantic Web? What tools and interfaces are likely to provide such a reward and thus help to break the barriers to the adoption of distributed environments and simplify interaction with large knowledge repositories?

We are very pleased that we received such a positive response and as a result we can offer a subset of fourteen papers that were accepted as either short or long research papers. We also have a paper accompanying UserSWeb's invited talk, which is this year given by Marja-Riitta Koivunen, an author and lead researcher on the Annotea project affiliated with the W3C.

The submitted papers can be broadly classified in the following themes:

- o Information Extraction, Web Mining and Ontology Mapping
- o Semantic Portals and Semantic Navigation,

- o   Collaborative Filtering and Knowledge Sharing,
- o   Semantic Services and Interfaces for Information Delivery

I would like to thank all reviewers who helped with what was not an easy task of commenting on the submitted papers with the aim of improving and clarifying them. In addition to the members of the Organizing Committee, we are grateful to Michele Pasin (UK), Tom Heath (UK), Yuangui Lei (UK), Jan Paralic (Slovakia), Peter Bednar (Slovakia) and Peter Butka (Slovakia) for their assistance.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to Tim Chklovski, Hideaki Takeda and Maria Vargas-Vera for their contribution to making the initial vision of a workshop focused on the user aspects of the semantic web a reality. I am especially grateful for many interesting discussions, comments and suggestions that made this workshop proposal successful at ESWC 2005.

Finally, a share of thanks belongs to the participants of the very first UserSWeb workshop, which has been held in conjunction with the European Semantic Web Conference (ESWC 2005, http://www.eswc2005.org) in a beautiful, historical Crete.

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