Preface

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Policies are pervasive in web applications. They play crucial roles in enhancing security, privacy and usability of distributed services, and indeed may determine the success (or failure) of a web service. However, users will not be able to benefit from these protection mechanisms unless they understand and are able to personalize policies applied in such contexts. For web services this includes policies for access control, privacy and business rules, among others. There has been extensive research in the area, including the Semantic Web community, but several aspects still exist that prevent policy frameworks from widespread adoption and real world application like for example:

- Adoption of a broad notion of policy, encompassing not only access control policies, but also privacy policies, business rules, quality of service, and others.
- Strong and lightweight evidence: Policies make decisions based on properties of the peers interacting with the system. These properties may be strongly certified by cryptographic techniques, or may be reliable to some intermediate degree with lightweight evidence gathering and validation.
- Policy-driven negotiations may be one of the main ingredients that can be used to make heterogeneous peers effectively interoperate.
- Lightweight knowledge representation and reasoning should also reduce the effort to specialize general frameworks to specific application domains
- Solutions like controlled natural language syntax for policy rules, to be translated by a parser into the internal logical format, will definitively ease the adoption of any policy language.
- Cooperative policy enforcement: A secure cooperative system should (almost) never say no. Whenever prerequisites for accessing a service are not met, web applications should explain what is missing and help the user in obtaining the required permissions.
- Advanced explanation mechanisms are necessary to help users in understanding policy decisions and obtaining the permission to access a desired service.

This volume[5] contains the papers presented at the 2nd International Semantic Web Policy Workshop (SWPW'06) held on Athens in Georgia, USA on November 5th, 2006, in conjunction with the 5th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC).

In response to the call for papers there were a total number of 15 submissions. These papers were evaluated on the basis of their originality and contribution, technical quality and presentation. Each submission was reviewed by at least 3 programme committee members. The committee finally decided to accept 4 full papers and 6 short/position papers. The program also includes an invited talk by Grit Denker on *Policy Specification and Enforcement For Spectrum-Agile Radios*.

We would like to thank all people who contributed to the success of the workshop including the programme committee members and external referees, who provided timely and indepth reviews of the submitted papers, all authors who submitted papers and all the attendees.

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Programme Committee Chairs

SWPW 2006

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[5] The management of the workshop as well as the generation of the workshop proceedings greatly benefitted from the EasyChair conference management system.

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