

Preface

The Semantic Web initiative, since its launch by Tim Berners-Lee in 2001, has raised increasing attention and is nowadays one of the most interesting challenges the Computer Science community faces. Several technologies and standardized languages have been the initial outcome of the efforts of a number of researches and projects.

While such languages and technologies move towards maturity, various lessons have been learned; among them is that we will probably never have a single and unified "Semantic Web" but, depending on the issues, different Semantic Web technologies should be used.

Usefulness of Semantic Web technologies is now commonly acknowledged and the offsprings of the basic initiative are increasingly widespread in a variety of application fields, encompassing information retrieval, ubiquitous computing, e-commerce, Web service discovery and composition, data integration, multimedia, social networking, healthcare, among many others.

The contribution of Semantic Web researches to these various fields basically lies in making information structured and interoperable and therefore really machine understandable, thus providing means for machines to somehow automatically "reason" on such information.

As Semantic Web technologies permeate increasingly large application fields, new issues emerge. They include easily creating and managing Semantic Web content, making applications more robust and scalable, devising innovative and useful reasoning services.

To discuss these and other challenges several Italian and foreign researchers gathered in Bari for the fourth edition of the "Semantic Web Applications and Perspectives" workshop (SWAP 2007).

This book collects the papers presented at the workshop, and we are confident both the newcomer and the expert will find it an interesting reading. We received 37 submissions from Italy and several foreign countries, and the Program Committee members selected 24 papers for presentation.

The conference program offered also a tutorial day with five extremely timely topics covered, two invited talks, an FP-7 info-day held in collaboration with ARTI Puglia (Agenzia Regionale per la Tecnologia e l'Innovazione), and an industrial/academic panel on emerging Semantic technologies.

SWAP 2007 was jointly organized by the Department of Informatics of Università di Bari, and SisInfLab of Politecnico di Bari, in collaboration

with ARTI-Puglia, W3C Office in Italy, Semedia group (DEIT, Università Politecnica delle Marche), University of Trento.

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