The 3rd International Workshop on Ontology Dynamics – IWOD 2009

The goal of the 3rd International Workshop on Ontology Dynamics was to bring together researchers and students working on the fields of ontology evolution, revision and versioning, as well as people from the industry conducting activities (applications, case studies) that involve the dynamic aspects of ontologies. Following the success of the two previous workshops, IWOD is quickly becoming the core annual event to discuss advances in the broad area of ontology dynamics, and to track recent work directly or indirectly related to the problem of evolving ontologies.

Ontologies constitute one of the main pillars of the Semantic Web and of semantic applications. With the emergence of new, more accessible semantic technologies, of new needs from applications and with the raising awareness of their potential, more and more people and organisations have started to develop ontologies and applications of ontologies. However, ontologies, just like any structure holding knowledge and information, need to be updated: changes could be initiated because of a change in the world being modeled; or by a change in the users needs which would require a different conceptualization; or by the acquisition of knowledge previously unknown, unclassified or otherwise unavailable; or by the noticing of a design flaw in the original conceptualization.

In all these cases, the representation of knowledge in the ontology should be modified so as to form a more accurate or adequate conceptualization of the domain. Such a modification presents several difficulties from both practical and theoretical points of view, raising a variety of research questions and development issues, such as how to support the developers of ontologies in maintaining up-to-date, adequate conceptualizations; how to detect the need for evolution; how to facilitate the integration of new knowledge in ontologies; how to validate and evaluate the impact of the evolution of an ontology; how to handle evolutions triggered from multiple sources and collaborative updates; and how to keep track of (possibly concurrent) versions of ontologies and ensure the delivery of up-to-date and valid knowledge.

Regarding these topics, this year's IWOD shows significant advances in the area of ontology dynamics. Seven high-quality papers have been selected to be presented at the workshop, which represent a nice mix of theoretical, technical and practical contributions to issues related to, for example, measuring the

relevance or the impact of changes in an ontology, managing the evolution of ontologies, or keeping track of ontology versions.

We would like to thanks all who contributed to the success of the workshop, starting with the authors of the papers. We would also want to thank the other members of the organizing committee, Giorgos Flouris (FORTH, Greece), Jeff Z. Pan (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom) and Dimitris Plexousakis (FORTH, Greece) for their help. Finally, many thanks to the members of the program committee for taking on their busy time to provide valuable comments and recommendations on the submitted papers:

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- Kewen Wang

We hope you will enjoy reading the proceedings of IWOD 2009 as much as we enjoyed organizing it!

Mathieu d'Aquin and Grigoris Antoniou.