

Preface

The RuleML Challenge competitions started in 2007, so the RuleML-2009 Challenge, collocated in Las Vegas, Nevada, with Rule Interchange and Application (RuleML 2009) was the third year of the rule system Challenge competition. The objective of this year's event was to inspire the issues of system implementation for management, integration, interoperation and interchange of rules in an open distributed environment, such as the Web.

Rules are usually classified as: deductive rules, normative rules, and reactive rules. In addition, the reactive rules can be further classified as Event-Condition-Action (ECA) rules and production rules. Recently, the issue of combination rule and ontology has become one of the most important research problems in the Semantic Web. Once we consider enforcing computer executable policies as a set of declarative rule and ontology that guide the behavior of entities within a system, we have a flexible way to implement real world policies without rewriting the computer code. However, the interoperability of the computer policies is still a big challenge in the heterogeneous environment.

Fortunately, we have de facto rule markup languages, e.g. RuleML or RIF to achieve the portability and interchange of rules for computer executable policies using different rule systems. Otherwise, it is impossible to execute rule-based real-life applications on the Web. Several commercial or open source rule engines were available for the rule-based applications. However, we still need a standard rule language and benchmark for not only to compare the rule systems but also to measure the progress in this field.

For the past two RuleML Challenge competitions, only a minimum set of requirements were given for evaluating the submitted demo systems. The criteria were that declarative rules should have to play a central role in the application, and the demo

systems should preferably be embedded into a Web-based or distributed environment, etc.

The RuleML-2009 Challenge followed similar evaluation criteria and processes as the previous two events. This year we also offered participants the chance to demonstrate their commercial and open source tools, use cases, and applications for rule related technologies. Therefore we invited more participants to submit their rule systems for this year's Challenge. We organized this year's events as two demo tracks one was by invitation, to demonstrate their commercial or open source environments of the rule systems. The other was open to general public for a real system competition. The final winner of the RuleML-2009 Challenge was Talapady N. Bhat from NIST with demo paper: On the creation of structural FaceBook using rule-based methods to build and exchange ontology for drug design. The selected papers were collected and published in this special Challenge CEUR Proceeding.

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