wimmics

Web-Instrumented Man-Machine Interactions, Communities, and Semantics.

Summary: Wimmics[1] is a proposal for a joint research team between INRIA Sophia Antipolis - Méditerranée and I3S (CNRS and University of Nice – Sophia Antipolis). The research fields of this team are graph-based knowledge representation, reasoning and operationalization to model and support actors, actions and interactions in web-supported epistemic communities.

Main research area: interaction, knowledge, communities, graphs, semantics, web

Main application area: supporting and fostering interactions in online communities

1 The research team

Head (and INRIA contact): Fabien Gandon

Vice Head (and I3S contact): Nhan Le Thanh

Researchers:

Michel Buffa, MdC (UNS)
Olivier Corby, CR1 (INRIA)
Catherine Faron-Zucker, MdC (UNS)
Fabien Gandon, CR1, HDR (INRIA)
Alain Giboin, CR1 (INRIA)
Nhan Le Thanh, Pr. (UNS)
Isabelle Mirbel, MdC, HDR (UNS)
Peter Sander, Pr. (UNS)

Assistants: Christine Foggia (INRIA) and Marie-Hélène Prosillico (I3S)

PhD students:

Adrien Basse, 2nd year (UGB-INRIA)
Franck Berthelon, 2nd year (UNS-EDSTIC)
Ahlem Bouchahda, 3rd year (UNS-SupCom Tunis)
Khalil Riad Bouzidi, 1st year (UNS-CSTB)
Nadia Cerezo, 1st year (UNS-EDSTIC)
Luca Costabello, to start in October (INRIA-CORDI)
Guillaume Erétéo, 3rd year, (Orange - INRIA)
Maxime Lefrançois, to start in October (EDSTIC-INRIA)
Freddy Limpens, 3rd year (INRIA-CORDI)
Nicolas Marie, to start in September (Bell-ALU, INRIA)
Noureddine Mokhtari, 4th year (INRIA, contracts)
Oumy Seye, to start in January, (Rose Dieng allocation)
Imen Tayari, 3nd year (UNS-Sfax Tunisie)
Dinh-Son Tran, to start in January (UNS-UD Vietnam)
Viet-Hoang Vu, 4th year (UNS-Factory)

Post-doc: Omar Hasan, to start in October (INRIA-CORDI)

Research engineers:

Sébastien Comos (INRIA, ANR ISICIL)
Nicolas Delaforge (INRIA, ANR ISICIL)
Guillaume Husson (I3S, ANR ISICIL)

Apprentice: Amélie Gyrard (INRIA)

Interships:

Pavel Arapov (M2, I3S)
Oussama Cherif (M2, INRIA)
Sada Sow (M2, INRIA)
Cheikh Tiam (M2, INRIA)

[1] wimi is a variety of roses

2 The research project

Web-Instrumented Man-Machine Interactions, Communities, and Semantics	
modeling actors, actions and interactions • Design methodologies • User-centric design and interaction • Model collective structures and relations • Human-web and human-web-human interactions	**graph-based knowledge representation, reasoning and operationalization** • Representing knowledge with graph formalisms • Querying and reasoning with graph operators • Composing and integrating sources and operators • Context-based representation and reasoning
synergies and research intersection. • Web-based Information Systems • Representing users and interactions with graphs • Heterogeneous shared web graphs • Notification, monitoring, watch and surveillance on dynamic networks • Interacting with the inner machinery	
Deployment environment: web applications, web standards, web science.	
Application scenarios: assisting online epistemic communities in one ubiquitous web.	

2.1 Application scenarios

Context application and perspectives: one ubiquitous web.

A number of evolutions have changed the face of information systems in the past decade but the advent of the web is unquestionably a major one and it is here to stay. From an initial wide-spread perception of a public documentary system, the web as an object turned into a social virtual space and, as a technology, grew as an application design paradigm (services, data formats, query languages, scripting, interfaces, reasoning, etc.). The universal deployment and support of its standards led the web to take over nearly all of our information systems. As the web continues to evolve, our information systems are evolving with it.

Today in organizations, not only almost every internal information system is a web application, but these applications also more and more often interact with external web applications. The complexity and coupling of these web-based information systems call for specification methods and engineering tools. From capturing the needs of users to deploying a usable solution, there are many steps involving computer science specialists and non specialists.

We defend the idea of relying on semantic web formalisms to capture and reason on the models of these information systems supporting the design, evolution, interoperability and reuse of the models and their data as well as the workflows and the processing. The challenge is to address both the social aspects of that topic (e.g. identify and exchange services and processes available in an organization) and the automation opportunities (e.g. suggest compositions of resources to provide new ones, orchestrate and monitor workflows).

With billions of triples[2] online (see Linked Open Data initiative[3]), the semantic web is providing and linking open data at a growing pace and publishing and interlinking the semantics of their schemas. Information systems can now tap into and contribute to this web of data, pulling and integrating data on demand. Social web applications also spread virally (e.g. Facebook growing toward 500 million users[4]) first giving the web back its status of a social read-write media and then leading it to its full potential of a virtual place where to act, react and interact. Many organizations are now considering deploying social web applications internally to foster community building, expert cartography, business intelligence, technological watch and knowledge sharing in general. As networks are becoming ubiquitous not only do we multiply the access means to the web but also more and more objects of our daily life are entering what is now called the “internet of objects”. As they do so they also become visible for the application layers of the Internet and in particular the web.

[2] A triple is the smallest piece of knowledge on the semantic web it can be seen as a binary predicate or as an arc of a graph.
[3] http://linkeddata.org/
[4] http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics

These evolutions raise a whole new challenge of enabling and leveraging the encounter of two worlds: the real world (where we interact between us and with objects) and the virtual place the web became (where we *also* interact between us and with services and data). This long term vision of a web of objects and people stirs up many questions when one starts to consider what could be done if the objects and people around us were somehow reachable through URLs giving us access to their data, metadata and services in a web-augmented reality.
Enabling a web linking documents, people and objects with their data and services raises a number of research questions: What would be the new models and frameworks of this whole new web reaching far out of its current IT landscape, deep into our daily environment? What are these new hyperlinks we are envisioning and the graphs they would spin? What formalisms do we need to capture, represent and reason on the knowledge about all the resources that could appear and disappear rapidly on this ubiquitous web? What are the new interactions we should design together with their interfaces to synchronize the changes, actions and reactions of real world and those of its representation on the web? How would we browse, search and edit this new web and what are the new functionalities it could offer? Can we use semantics consistently both to foster and to control access to data and services? Can we conciliate stable formal knowledge representations and ever changing negotiated semantics of social interactions?

Family of scenarios: assisting web-supported epistemic communities
Behind these questions is a constantly used and reused data structure: typed graphs. In this web context, typed graphs capture: social networks with the kinds of relationships and the descriptions of the persons; compositions of web services with types of inputs and outputs; links between documents with their genre and topics; hierarchies of classes, thesauri, ontologies and folksonomies; recorded traces and suggested navigation courses; submitted queries and detected frequent patterns; timelines and workflows; etc.
Wimmics will focus on graph-based knowledge representation, reasoning and operationalization to model and support resources, actors, actions and interactions of communities on the web. Our results will assist epistemic communities in their daily activities such as biologists exchanging results, business intelligence and technological watch networks informing companies, engineers interacting on a project, conference attendees, students following the same course, tourists visiting a region, mobile experts on the field, etc.
Reasoning on the linked data and the semantics of the schemas used to represent social structures and web resources, we intend to provide applications supporting communities of practice and interest and fostering their interactions.
Related previous contributions: [14][21][23][25][26][27][28][29]

2.2 Unifying thread: “in touch with the web”

There is one unifying thread to all the research challenges proposed for wimmics: the study of relations on the web. Relations between peoples, resources or services on the web provide a very rich source of knowledge from both the graph structure they weave and the trends of their evolutions. Relations on the web are at the heart of many powerful algorithms (e.g. PageRank), models (e.g. RDF graphs) and protocols (e.g. Open Graph Protocol). For this reason we believe that modeling, capturing and analyzing relations is a fertile research area. Providing frameworks to formalize, store, index, query and infer from those relations is real opportunity to participate in the next generation of web-based informatics. This prospect directly meets the growing demand for tools helping us understand users online and provide metrics to manage communities and their resources.

2.3 Modeling actors, actions and interactions

Summary: in this first research field we intend to address human aspects in the design of social web applications taking into account their individual and collective dimensions, their characteristics and dynamics.

Topic: Engineering methods and tools for improving "interoperability" between designers and users of Web applications

Interested members: Alain, Isabelle.

Developing user-adapted web applications needs mutual understanding between designers and users, and between designers themselves, e.g., between designers as representatives of users (or human factors specialists) and designers as "representatives of the applications" (or developers). Users and designers are often faced with problems of mutual understanding. These problems are due in particular to the heterogeneity of the languages and representations manipulated by users and designers, and to the diversity of the manipulation processes. Speaking schematically, some mainly implement formal representations and processes (programming languages, abstract schemas, etc.) while others mainly develop non formal representations and processes (natural language, images, etc.). Users and designers are unable to match their representations and processes. They fail to reach "conceptual interoperability" [42].

One objective of Wimmics is to propose methods and tools for helping users and designers overcome mutual understanding and interoperability problems, i.e., methods and tools helping users and designers bridge or articulate their representations and processes (e.g., correspondence tables, translators, representation converters…) without losing information essential to them. The representations and processes that we consider in particular are concerned with relationships between persons (direct relationships or relationships through objects, see the next sections). The design of these methods and tools will be informed by empirical studies of designers' and users' bridging or articulation practices.

The interoperability issue will be addressed in part by the study of knowledge-oriented requirement analysis. Requirements for a design are a special kind of knowledge for which we can specialize knowledge engineering approaches: knowledge-based requirement evaluation, requirement evolution, requirement knowledge reuse and personalized requirement engineering are examples.

Related previous contributions: [24]

Topic: Analyzing and Modeling individual users as "relational agents"

Interested members: Alain, Nhan, Peter.

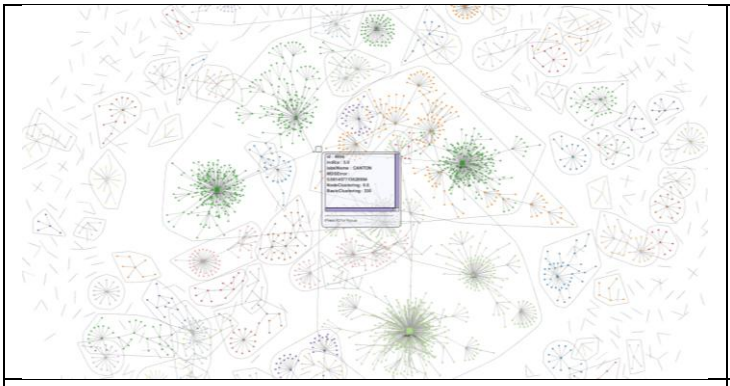
As we seek to develop Web applications supporting the identification, maintenance, diagnosis of (direct or through objects) relationships between persons, if we want to ensure that these Web applications are tailored to users, it is necessary to elaborate user models reporting such relationships. We therefore propose to study the modeling of users seen as "relational agents", i.e., as persons having or seeking for relationships with other persons (and sometimes avoiding such relationships). This will mean: (1) defining users' characteristics determining the relationships that the persons have or could maintain; (2) defining indicators of these characteristics (textual, visual, physiological, etc., indicators); (3) defining the mechanisms to link indicators to characteristics (cf. tag-based user modeling). Interpersonal relationships involving an emotional dimension, we will address the emotional characteristics of persons which significantly determine the establishment, maintenance or the cessation of a relationship. We will rely on work dealing with "relational agency" ("as a capacity to recognize others as resources, to elicit their interpretations and to negotiate aligned actions" [40]), and on "relational agents" (as "computational artifacts designed to build long-term social-emotional relationships with users", [38]). The elaboration of the characteristics to be included in a "relational-user" model will be informed by empirical studies of relationship characterization, and of personality definition by users on the Web (cf. users giving themselves "masked identities").

We aim to adapt the "Personas" user modeling technique [39] to include relational and emotional aspects appropriate to Web applications. Personas are "user models that are represented as specific, individual humans". Personas are derived from significant behavior patterns (i.e., sets of behavioral variables) elicited from interviews

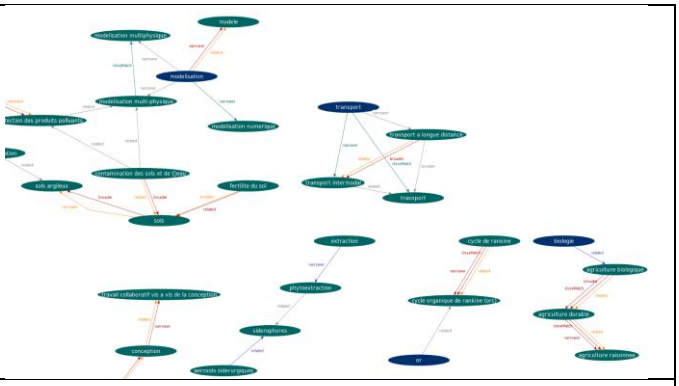
with and observations of users (and sometimes customers) of the future product. We will rely on current descriptions of relational and emotional aspects in existing variants of the personas technique (e.g., [41]).
Related previous contributions: [16][33]

Topic: Model collective structures and relations
Interested members: Alain, Catherine, Fabien, Michel, Nhan, Peter.
The design of relation-oriented Web applications cannot be limited to modeling individuals. The applications being also directed to the collectives to whom the individuals belong, it is also necessary to model the collectives if we want the applications to be adapted to these collectives. Models of collectives (groups, communities, networks) and of the relations between members of the collectives are required to monitor and manage the communities. There is also a need for models of the articulation between individuals and the collectives they belong to: public profiles and their facets, roles, privacy and security rules, different types of relationships, different groups and memberships, different ties. Dynamic aspects for instance models of the behavior of a person in a network or community will also be required to analyze the evolutions and trends of the communities.
Models of the collectives will have to cover many aspects: their structures, their activities, their life cycle, their rules, their resources and their communications. We are interested in modeling the processes of building and maintaining shared representation within a collective, supporting the articulation of representations, and of the tasks involving the representations. Examples of tasks include: indexing-annotating, retrieval-search, annotation-indexing, query-answer. The communication of these representations will also be an important point in designing articulation functionalities and interfaces. We want to design web-based environments which assist the formation of groups and stimulate exchanges and interactions providing an awareness of the social constructs and their activities.
We will need to analyze the interactions of users with persons and objects for instance analyzing communications and interactions (e.g. email, instant messaging) to type relationships and their evolution.
In the long term we would like to include emotions and affective states at the collective level. The idea is to add a layer to the social network models that would represent the affective dimension of the relationship, and help define the profile of the persons over time. Detect for instance the case a person having very little interactions and who suddenly uses the words “alone”, “loneliness”, etc. in the messages she sends. For instance mass written communication (email, tweet, blog, etc.) has emotional content and its analysis can allow gauging popular opinion on some subject in the news.
Related previous contributions: [3][12][17]

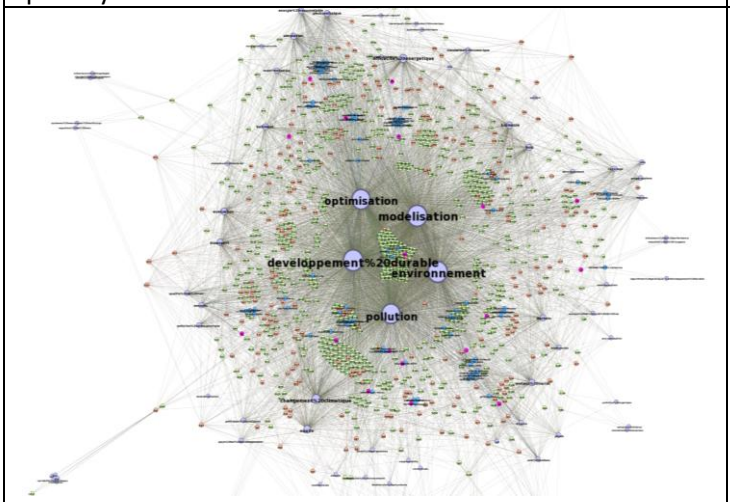
Topic: Human-web and human-web-human interactions
Interested members: Alain, Catherine, Fabien, Isabelle, Michel, Nhan.
Wimmics will focus on the study of web based interactions and web resources as shared representations supporting interaction with a special interest in modeling and designing interoperability and human-machine cooperation on the semantic web. Collaborative situations include for instance engineers organizing a collection of technical reports, photographers tagging a gallery or librarians collaboratively editing a thesaurus. We intend here to observe, analyze, and model the processes of building and maintaining interoperability between humans and SSW applications, and between humans through SSW applications to make human and applications cooperate better. The envisioned tools are called “articulation functionalities and interfaces”. We also think that web is now perceived as a virtual space and that there is a need to study and model specific notions of this space such as the notion of presence *i.e.* what does it mean for a person to be present on the web and how do we represent and use this notion.
In the long term we also believe that human computing and web-sourcing will take a growing importance in web applications and their workflows as some tasks are best delegated to the users. Designing web applications intelligently tapping into the user crowd to carry out some processing, orchestrating human and machine cooperation to achieve some workflow, these are long terms objectives.
Finally, our applications mix graph-based reasoning and user interactions and thus there is a special need for us to produce interfaces and in particular visualizations of these graph-based representations when they come in contact with users as query solutions, reasoning conclusions, explanations, analysis results, etc. Social web applications provide a large number of such cases as shown in some of our previous works:



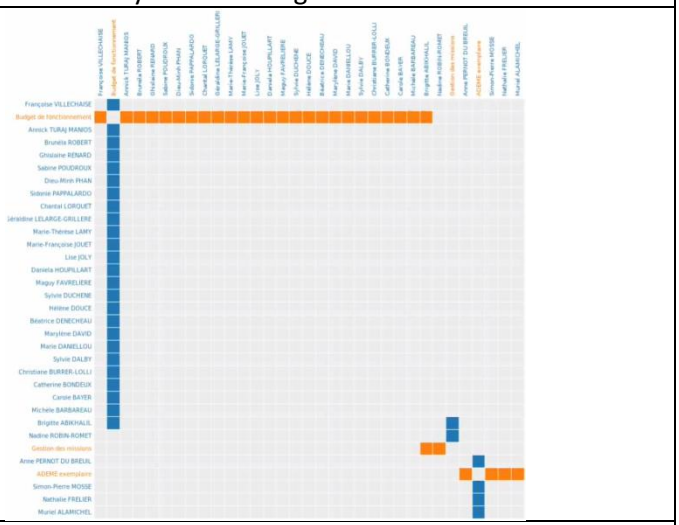
Ipernity social network structure



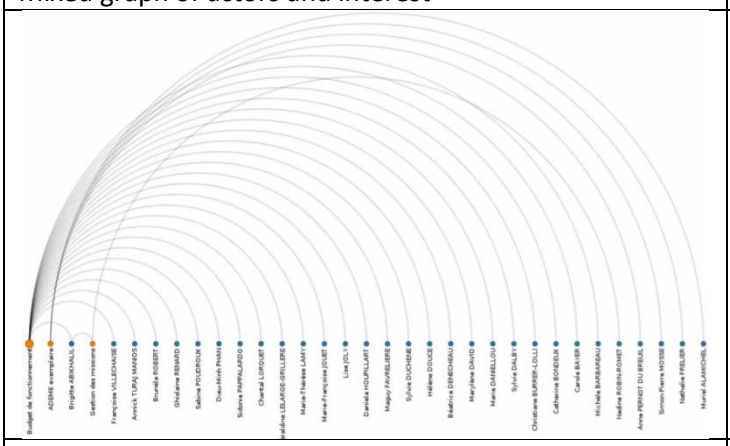
Folksonomy restructuring



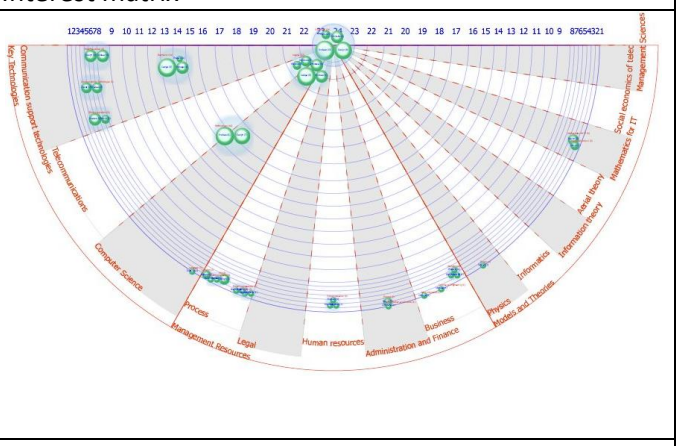
Mixed graph of actors and interest



Interest matrix



Interest graph



Clusters in KmP

Related previous contributions: [5][18][22]

2.4 Graph-based knowledge representation, reasoning and operationalization

Summary: in this second research field we intend to address the problem of representing knowledge and reasoning with abstract graph formalisms and operators integrating different formalisms, sources, services and contextual aspects in application workflows.

Topic: Representing knowledge with graph formalisms

Interested members: Catherine, Fabien, Olivier.

We built a strong experience in using graph formalisms to capture knowledge structure. Typed graphs are very flexible and powerful data structures supporting many different types of reasoning and naturally extensible. We believe there is an interesting and valuable work to be done in designing an abstract graph model able to capture different formalisms (e.g. RDF, conceptual graphs, topic maps, etc.) and in studying efficient storage structures, indexes and other implementation characteristics.

An example of such abstract structure is the ERGraph [1] defined relatively to a set of labels *L* as a 4-tuple $G=(E_G, R_G, n_G, l_G)$ where

- E_G and R_G are two disjoint finite sets respectively, of nodes called entities and of hyperarcs called relations.
- $n_G : R_G \rightarrow E_G^*$ associates to each relation a finite tuple of entities called the arguments of the relation.
- $l_G : E_G \cup R_G \rightarrow L$ is a labelling function of entities and relations.

The construct can be used and reused across graph representations such as RDF, Topic Maps, Social network, etc. In addition, new knowledge structures are regularly identified (e.g. folksonomies, named graphs) and old ones relaunched (e.g. thesauri and SKOS). An abstract graph model should accommodate these evolutions and allow us to integrate different models or translate from one to another when expedient.

Related previous contributions: [1][10][15]

Topic: Querying and reasoning with graph operators

Interested members: Catherine, Fabien, Nhan, Olivier.

Graph operators (joint, homomorphism, propagation, distances, etc.) allow us to perform a broad range of queries and reasoning operations. Not only can we perform search (e.g. homomorphism), logical derivation (e.g. homomorphism and merge) but also approximation (e.g. distances), clustering (e.g. propagation), analysis (e.g. centrality), etc. We target the design of an abstract graph machine generalizing operations needed by and sometime shared across different languages (e.g. SPARQL, RIF, POWDER, RDF/S and OWL inferences) and operations. An example of abstract graph operation is an ERMapping [1]: Let *G* and *H* be two ERGraphs, an $\text{ERMapping}_{<X>}$ from *H* to *G* for *X* a binary relation over $L \times L$. is a partial function *M* from E_H to E_G such that:

Let *H'* be the sub-ERGraph of *H* induced by $M^{-1}(E_G)$

- $\forall e \in M^{-1}(E_G), (l_G(M(e)), l_H(e)) \in X$
- $\forall r' \in R_{H'}\ \exists r \in R_G$ such that
  - $card(n_{H'}(r')) = card(n_G(r))$
  - $\forall 1 \leq i \leq card(n_G(r)), M(n_{H'}^{\ i}(r')) = n_G^{\ i}(r)$
- $\forall r' \in R_{H'}\ \exists r \in M(r')$ such that $(l_G(r), l_H(r')) \in X$

This mapping operator can then be used and reused for many operations (searching, deriving, grouping, etc.) across many graph formalisms. In particular when *X* is a preorder over *L*, it captures a hierarchy such as the taxonomical skeleton of an ontology.

We also believe it is interesting to study alternatives to OWL stack and the associated DL-reasoning; for instance looking at rule-based semantic web and an alternative stack (RDF/S + SPARQL + RIF) provides certain advantages: rules are often more natural for humans, they support event-based programming and web service integration, they are usable both for domain independent and domain dependent inferences, etc.

Related previous contributions: [6][7][15]

Topic: Composing and integrating sources and operators

Interested members: Catherine, Fabien, Isabelle, Nhan, Olivier.

Applications and their functionalities usually require more than one source or one service to be called. We identify a generic problem of building pipelines and workflows of operations unrolling follow-up queries, merging results, applying a business process, etc. In particular there is a need for formalisms supporting templates and libraries of generic annotation patterns and recurrent queries that can be instantiated in different workflows and parameterized in different contexts. In addition more and more often workflows need to allow and combine different types of storage and services (database, triple store, DL reasoner, graph engines) addressing the problem of distributed indexes, distributed query solving, distributed reasoning and the orchestration of the workflows composing these distributed resources.

Related previous contributions: [2][6][9][20]

Topic: Context-based representation and reasoning

Interested members: Alain, Catherine, Fabien, Michel, Nhan, Olivier.

There is a clear need to integrate time and evolutions in our knowledge representations as well as other elements of informational context such as location, provenance, author, access rights, copyrights, creation date, use-by date, accuracy, authentication, certification, validity, assumption, modality, dependencies, etc. Each piece of context supports specific reasoning enabling functionalities needed by complete systems e.g. trend analysis, location-based notification, privacy and confidentiality enforcement, traceability and quality enforcing, etc. Therefore we intend to develop both aspects of context-based knowledge representation: models and reasoning.

Related previous contributions: [8][10][11][13]

2.5 Synergies and research intersection

Summary: the two research fields of Wimmics have a very rich intersection where typed graphs and their operators are used to model web-based social applications and raise problems of designing rich interactions.

Topic: Representing users and interactions with graphs

Interested members: Alain, Fabien, Michel, Nhan, Olivier.

A special research topic in Wimmics will be the use of typed graph formalisms to represent individual profiles, interactions, community structures and social networks. The idea is to go beyond structural representation and analysis of sociograms toward richly typed graphs (annotated actors, typed relations) and type-parameterized operators in web-based social applications. For instance the indicator of closeness centrality (C^c) for an actor (k) in a network is the inverse sum of the length of the shortest paths (geodesic g) to each other actor of the network ($x \in E_G$). It represents the capacity of a resource to access or to be reached in a network and we may want to consider only certain types of relations (<*rel*>) in this calculation (e.g. professional relations between people like colleagues, manager, contractors, etc.):

$$C^c_{<rel>}(k) = \left[\sum_{x \in E_G} length\left(g_{<rel>}(k,x)\right) \right]^{-1}$$

We will consider algorithms to compute this kind of parameterized indicators and possible alternatives for calculation (incremental algorithms, approximation algorithms, sampling, calibration problems, etc.).

We will also look at mixed graphs and their multi-dimensional analysis for instance to analyze social network graphs merged with information resource graphs (web links) and folksonomies (tripartite graph tags-resource-taggers) to identify and label communities of interest.

Finally we will study how to augment and enrich the graphs by reinjecting results from our analysis, for instance by applying rules to detect and assert implicit social network structures *i.e.* indirect relations like to share interests, to visit the same places, etc.

Related previous contributions: [6][10][17]

Topic: Heterogeneous shared web graphs

Interested members: Catherine, Fabien, Olivier.

The graphs involved in the scenarios we address span a large spectrum from small ephemeral graphs (e.g. representation of the presence, activity and status of users), to large rather stable graphs (e.g. Wordnet thesaurus, French administrative zoning), from graphs representing web users' networks to graphs representing web service compositions, from bare trees of organizations' hierarchies, to dense graphs of friendship networks, etc. And the value of these graphs is not only in their specific models and analysis but even more importantly in their combinations, interactions and integrated analysis. Moreover, the large graphs formed by linking all this data are not homogeneous in their structures and evolutions: some branches may be tree like others may be dense graphs, some branches may be stable, others may be changing all the time.

Challenges include:

- Model graph structures (RDF) and their typing (RDF/S, OWL) conciliating formal semantics and social semantics.
- Capture and publish these graphs according to their specificities (ephemeral, large, versioned, distributed, etc.)

- Provide efficient specific algorithms for the operations on these graphs combining automated reasoning and human computing to obtain the best results.
- Combine the different graph models and their specific processing to provide cross-model multi-dimensional analysis and support high-level functionalities in social network systems.

Related previous contributions: [10][11][15]

Topic: Notification, monitoring, watch and surveillance on dynamic networks

Interested members: Fabien, Michel, Nhan.

The graphs involved in the scenarios we address may be generated automatically or by users but an aspect of growing importance is that they change over time and their changes are valuable information (e.g. trend analysis). We will have to consider operators on changes (e.g. subtraction, recurrent queries) to provide functionalities in demand such as customized alerts on a topic, regular digests on the last events in a community and other intelligent notification and monitoring mechanisms.

Another family of functionalities requiring this kind of abilities is dynamic access control. Tracing the behavior of web applications for dynamic access control to the databases allows the detection of suspicious behavior in order to dynamically check access rights to data from the behavior of the current application and thus detect the "hidden intention" of the malicious user access to unauthorized data. This requires to model traces of actions and changes and system features to observe the processes, collect the traces, identify relevant sequences and assess their impact.

Related previous contributions: [31][32]

Topic: Interacting with the inner machinery

Interested members: Alain, Catherine, Fabien, Nhan, Olivier.

This topic is at the cross-road of user interaction design and reasoning algorithms. Data and services involved in providing a result or a functionality are more and more distributed and composed in complex IT architectures. When a result is finally delivered or a request rejected, users (be they end-users or developers) may want to know how the system came to that conclusion. To allow traceability and intelligibility of the outputs we need to have models of the processes, explanation and tracing modules and dedicated reporting mechanisms for the different types of users interacting with our systems. From visualizing the propagation of an inference to trapping the most frequent reasons of failure in solving a query, we need the next generation of systems to document, explain and justify their results and behaviors. This is all the more important that more and more often we deal with distributed composed applications for which trust is more and more difficult to obtain.

Users may also benefit from additional ways to control the processes: the maximum time or resources they are willing to spend in order to get a certain result; the precision they want or the fact they just need a sample of the results; etc.

Finally the variety of systems and devices is now offering very different channels of interaction. We would like to consider new interaction means such as controlled natural language for input and output to support new interaction contexts such as mobile accesses through SMS or voice.

Related previous contributions: [6]

2.6 Web standards and Web science

Summary: Besides the research fields mentioned above, Wimmics will systematically position its research in the field of web science and its contributions on top of web standards.

Web applications: Software productions from Wimmics will be web-oriented: we design web applications. A special interest in the team will be to contribute to programming standards making easier the development of semantic web applications. Diffusing semantic web languages supposes the availability of frameworks for developing semantic web applications. Examples of targeted environments include: wiki-like platforms for developing user-based applications, combining the advantages of semantic wikis and application wikis integrating with standard platforms (e.g. Deki Wiki) both for data edition and programming by users; IDE for semantic web programming and debugging

e.g. eclipse plug-in. The general goal is to provide a higher-level development framework to hide as much as possible data, schemas, logics, queries and rules from the developers and integrate them in an IDE. A long term objective is to consider MDE approaches to get closer to ontology-oriented programming.

Web standards: In Wimmics, not only do we intend to focus on embodying our results in Web applications, we also intend to continue our participation in W3C, evaluating, applying, extending, and contributing to the web standards. This activity is a double asset for diffusion: building our solutions on top of standards allows for easier adoption and greater deployment; participating to the design of new standards is a great opportunity to diffuse research results. The semantic web activity at W3C will continue to be a choice instance for diffusion in our team and semantic web formalisms will remain a choice framework for our formalizations. In addition sister initiatives emerging from semantic web frameworks (e.g. Linked Data initiatives) will be systematically considered as parts of the ecosystem of the applications we design.

Web science: Finally and more fundamental, the web is both a set of standards (a technical object) and the largest information system in history (a world-wide social object). This emerging social object touches on every aspects of modern life: more and more jobs depend on it, spanning all activities from journalism to commerce, from education to healthcare, from transportation to arts, from activism to government. The complexity of this information system (more than 20 billion indexed pages) justifies multidisciplinary scientific approaches to the many problems it raises and the idea of a web science gathering these contributions was officially launched in 2006. What is at stake is the need we have to understand and influence this system in order to ensure some desirable properties (e.g. openness) and prevent some undesirable ones (e.g. link farms). This understanding calls upon multidisciplinary contributions: to understand the web we need to go beyond its structure and look at the variety of links, resources, actors and interactions it embeds and supports. We need to call upon psychology to model the users, mathematics to model the structures, sociology to model the dynamics, linguistic to model the texts, etc. Wimmics positions its activity right in the context of this cross-fertilization.
Related previous contributions: [15]
References: [37]

3 Diffusion and Collaborations

3.1 Past and current research contracts

- Datalift[5] (starting September 2010): Datalift is a research project funded by the French national research agency. Its goal is to develop a platform to publish and interlink datasets on the Web of data. Datalift will both publish datasets coming from a network of partners and data providers and propose a set of tools for easing the datasets publication process.
- ISICIL[6] (until March 2012): ISICIL is a research project funded by the French national research agency. It proposes to study and to experiment with the usage of new tools for assisting corporate intelligence tasks. These tools rely on web 2.0 advanced interfaces (blog, wiki, social bookmarking) for interactions and on semantic web technologies for interoperability and information processing.
- PUSLearn (Project with the University of Annaba, Algeria) we are involved in a 3 years cooperation project funded by CNRS and DPGRF (Algeria) starting in 2010, on the personalization and socialization of ubiquitous e-learning systems based on semantic web models and techniques.
- RBP and ImmunoSearch (until 2011): The objective of ImmunoSearch is to design biomarkers for controlling the harmlessness of the molecules used in perfumes, aromatics and cosmetics. The purpose of this research is to conduct comparative studies of in vivo and in vitro test models on the skin (irritation, allergy) and to propose alternative methods defining the new norms applicable in this field. In this context, we aim at proposing

[5] http://datalift.org/en/
[6] http://isicil.inria.fr/

methodological and software support for capitalization and valorization of knowledge resulting from experiments and techniques to preserve and reuse data. We rely on the semantic web technologies (semantic annotations, ontologies, RDF, SPARQL, etc).

- DESIR[7] (ended 2009): This COLOR project aimed at supporting the activities of a community of agronomists and geneticists through a semantic collective memory. It highlighted the need for the capitalization, reuse and sharing of queries and more generally search processes.
- E-Wok Hub[8] (ended 2009): a research project funded by the French national research agency that designed a set of communicating data and service portals offering both: (a) web applications accessible to end-users through online interfaces, and (b) web services accessible to applications through programmatic interfaces. As applicative objectives, the project aimed at enabling management of the memory of several projects on CO_2 capture and storage, integrating results of technological watch on the domain.
- SeaLife[9] (ended 2009): a European project that designed a semantic grid browser for the Life Sciences Applied to the Study of Infectious Diseases Project Reference. The browser has access to comprehensive background knowledge of life science topics consisting of domain specific ontologies and dictionaries of proteins. It comprises an advanced text-mining module, which is able to automatically extract ontology terms from free text to form Semantic Hyperlinks and a service module, which enables users to link through semantically identified terms to web/grid services to facilitate actions on the data identified.
- SevenPro[10] (ended 2008): a European project that developed tools supporting deep mining of product engineering knowledge from multimedia repositories and enabling semantically enhanced 3D interaction with product knowledge in integrated engineering environments
- Palette[11] (ended 2008): this European project aimed at facilitating and augmenting individual and organizational learning in Communities of Practice (CoPs). Towards this aim, an interoperable and extensible set of innovative services as well as a set of specific scenarios of use were designed, implemented and thoroughly validated in CoPs of diverse contexts: information services, knowledge management services (based on an ontology dedicated to communities of practice) and mediation services for CoPs. Eleven pilot CoPs were involved in the participatory design of Palette services.
- GRIWES (ended 2008) aimed to specify a generic platform for graph-based knowledge representation and reasoning. We considered multiple languages of representation, such as conceptual graphs, RDF/S, and various extensions of these languages.

3.2 Partnerships

Both teams already have a number of partnerships that will be merged:

Edelweiss:

- Collaborations with Alcatel-Bell-Lucent (CIFRE), GDF/Suez (consulting) an recent opportunity with SAP (CIFRE)
- Ongoing discussions with IRIT and UTT (Tech-CICO) for strong associations between the research teams.
- Discussions with In Situ and in particular with Emmanuel Pietriga about the use and extension of Fresnel in our projects.
- Participation to W3C in several groups: GRDDL, SPARQL, RDFa, RIF, and a foreseen implication in RDF 1.1
- Yearly exchange with UGB (University of Gaston Berger, Senegal) for lectures, internships and co-supervised Ph.D. students
- Discussions with LSIS UMR CNRS (Bernard Espinasse) on the use of Corese for using ontologies and inference rules.
- Exchanges with EURECOM (Raphael Troncy) in particular in the context of the KIC.
- Contacts with several SME: Life2Times, Slice Factory, AmiSW, ImmunoSearch, Addax, Intellinium.

[7] http://www-sop.inria.fr/edelweiss/projects/desir/wakka.php?wiki=ColorDesirHomePage
[8] http://www-sop.inria.fr/edelweiss/projects/ewok/
[9] http://www.biotec.tu-dresden.de/sealife
[10] http://www.sevenpro.org/
[11] http://palette.ercim.org/

Kewi:

- Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB): we are involved in a long-term collaboration on the management of technical and regulatory knowledge based on semantic web models and techniques. CSTB has already funded two Ph.D. on this domain.
- One of the leaders of the project NiceCampus with the University of Danang (Vietnam) to create a campus and a research Lab.
- Collaboration with Pr. Chatel (Emeritus professor, Pasteur Hospital) and Pr. Robert (Institute Claude Pompidou) on natural and emotional interactions when assisting elder people.
- RoboSoft: experimenter of SweetWiki, a semantic wiki developed during the Palette European Project, also partners for a ANR proposal to come about using an emotion system in assistance robots for elder people
- Discussions with Jolita Ralyté (University of Geneva), Rebecca Deneckere and Manuele Kirsh-Pineiro (University of Paris I) on information system engineering.
- Contacts with several SME: StoneTrip

Common to Edelweiss and Kewi:

- Collaborations with Orange (CIFRE, ANR)
- Collaborations with Ipernity (CRE)

3.3 Education and diffusion

Currently we run every year:

- Course on Semantic Web at EPU (Ecole Polytechnique UNS, Master 2 IFI) 45 hours plus several student projects.
- Course on Knowledge Engineering, at EPU (Ecole Polytechnique UNS, Master 2 IFI) (32H).
- Course on Agile Web (32H)
- Course on XML languages at EPU (Ecole Polytechnique UNS, Master 2 IMAFA) (24H).
- Course on Knowledge Engineering, at University of Danang (Master 2 IFI) (36H).
- Course on Semantic Web, License Pro., IUT, UNS (24H).
- Introduction to the semantic web course at University of Nice (master MBDS , master Miage, Master “info”).
- Course on semantic web at University Gaston Berger, Saint Louis du Sénégal (18H).
- Invited lecture (3H) at Ecole Centrale de Paris "Web Sémantique ou comment les ontologies pourront favoriser l'échange des connaissances sur le web du futur"
- Course on Human-Computer Interaction at EPU (Ecole Polytechnique UNS, Master 2 IFI) 48 h + several students projects
- Course on Ergonomics of NTIC (Département de Psychologie, UNS, Master 2), 6 h.
- Distance Course on Human-Computer Interaction (University of Danang).
- Distance Course on Semantic Web, at University of Danang (In English, Master 2 IFI) (36H).
- Distance Course on Agile Web, Master (University of Danang) (36H).

Edelweiss and Kewi are currently involved in the KIS course of study of master IFI at the University of Nice and in MIAGE. We intend to reinforce and focus this action on developing an ecosystem to train and support professionals of the web and semantic web. We envision an evolution toward a double curriculum:

- An evolution of the course of study KIS toward a “Web Science” course of study possibly as a European KIC master 2.
- A reinforcement of the Web courses in MIAGE toward a “Web Information System” course of study master 2.

This may also require reinforcing web courses and internships for master 1.

4 Relevant publications

[1] Jean-François Baget and Olivier Corby and Rose Dieng-Kuntz and Catherine Faron-Zucker and Fabien Gandon and Alain Giboin and Alain Gutierrez and Michel Leclère and Marie-Laure Mugnier and Rallou Thomopoulos. Griwes: Generic Model and Preliminary Specifications for a Graph-Based Knowledge Representation Toolkit. Proc. of the 16th International Conference on Conceptual Structures (ICCS'2008) July 2008 Toulouse

[2] Adrien Basse, Fabien Gandon, Isabelle Mirbel and Moussa Lo, Frequent Graph Pattern to Advertise the Content of RDF Triple Stores on the Web, Proc. Web Science Conference, Raleigh, NC, USA, April 2010.

[3] Michel Buffa, Catherine Faron-Zucker, Anna Kolomoyskaya: Gestion sémantique des droits d'accès au contenu : l'ontologie AMO. EGC 2010: 471-482

[4] Michel Buffa, Fabien Gandon, SweetWiki : Semantic WEb Enabled Technologies in Wiki, WikiSym?, International Symposium on Wikis, August 21-23, 2006, Odense, Denmark

[5] Florie Bugeaud, Alain Giboin and Eddie Soulier, Shared Representations for Innovation: Experience Feedback on Two Innovation-oriented Projects, Workshop The mediation role of shared representations in cooperative activities: new challenges, in conjunction with the 9th International Conference on the Design of Cooperative Systems, COOP, Aix-en-Provence, 2010

[6] Olivier Corby and Catherine Faron-Zucker, The KGRAM Abstract Machine for Knowledge Graph Querying, IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference, September 2010, Toronto, Canada.

[7] Corby O., Faron-Zucker C. (2007), Implementation of SPARQL Query Language based on Graph Homomorphism, In Proc. of the 15th International Conference on Conceptual Structures, ICCS 2007, LNCS 4604, Springer, Sheffield, UK

[8] Corby O., Faron-Zucker C. (2007), RDF/SPARQL Design Pattern for Contextual Metadata, In Proc. of the IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence, WI 2007, Silicon Valley, CA, USA

[9] Olivier Corby, Catherine Faron-Zucker, and Isabelle Mirbel. Implementation of Intention-Driven Search Processes by SPARQL Queries. Poster at Int. Conference on Enterprise Information Systems, Milan, Italy, May, 2009.

[10] Olivier Corby, Web, Graphs & Semantics, Proc. of the 16th International Conference on Conceptual Structures (ICCS'2008), July 2008 Toulouse

[11] Fabien Gandon and Olivier Corby, Name that Graph, RDF Next Step Workshop, W3C, June 2010, NCBO, Stanford, USA.

[12] Fabien Gandon, Olivier Corby, Alain Giboin, Nicolas Gronnier, Cecile Guigard, Graph-based inferences in a Semantic Web Server for the Cartography of Competencies in a Telecom Valley, ISWC, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Galway, 2005

[13] Fabien L. Gandon, Norman M. Sadeh, Semantic Web Technologies to Reconcile Privacy and Context Awareness, Web Semantics Journal Vol. 1, No. 3, 2005

[14] Fabien Gandon, Talel Abdessalem, Michel Buffa, Florie Bugeaud, Sébastien Comos, Olivier Corby, Nicolas Delaforge, Guillaume Ereteo, Alain Giboin, Patrick Grohan, Frédéric Herledan, Valérie Le Meur, Mylène Leitzelman, Benoit Leloup, Freddy Limpens, Anne Merle, Eddie Soulier, "ISICIL: Information Semantic Integration through Communities of Intelligence online", 10th IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises (PRO-VE'09), 07-09 Octobre 2009, Thessalonique.

[15] Fabien Gandon, Graphes RDF et leur Manipulation pour la Gestion de Connaissances, Habilitation à Diriger les Recherches (HDR), soutenue le Mercredi 5 novembre 2008.

[16] Alain Giboin, Motivating the Use of Affective Ontologies in Semantic Web Applications Which Mediate Interactions Between Members of Organizations or Communities, COOP'2008 Workshop on Affective aspects of cooperative interactions, Carry-Le-Rouet, May 2008.

[17] Guillaume Erétéo, Michel Buffa, Fabien Gandon, and Olivier Corby. Analysis of a Real Online Social Network using Semantic Web Frameworks. In Proc. International Semantic Web Conference, ISWC'09, Washington, USA, October 2009.

[18] Freddy Limpens, Fabien Gandon and Michel Buffa, Helping Online Communities to Semantically Enrich Folksonomies, Web Science Conference, April, 2010, Raleigh, NC, USA.

[19] Freddy Limpens, Alexandre Monnin, David Laniado, Fabien Gandon "NiceTag Ontology: tags as named graphs", International Workshop in Social Networks Interoperability, ASWC09, 2009

[20] Moussa Lo, Fabien Gandon, Semantic web services in corporate memories, ICIW 2007, International Conference on Internet and Web Applications and Services, May 13-19, 2007, Mauritius

[21] Mirbel, I. and Crescenzo, P. Des besoins des utilisateurs à la recherche de services web : une approche sémantique guidée par les intentions. Revue Ingénierie des systèmes d'information (Hermes), appear. 2010.

[22] Mirbel Isabelle and Crescenzo Pierre. Improving Collaborations in Neuroscientist Community. In The 2009 Workshop Web2Touch - living experience through web in conjunction with The 2009 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence, Milan, Italy, September 2009.

[23] Mirbel Isabelle. OFLOSSC, an Ontology for Supporting Open Source Development Communities. Int. Conference on Enterprise Information Systems, Milan, Italy, May, 2009.
[24] Mirbel Isabelle, Contributions à la modélisation, la réutilisation et la flexibilité des systèmes d'information, HDR, University of Nice - Sophia Antipolis, I3S, CNRS
[25] Amira Tifous, Adil El Ghali, Alain Giboin, Rose Dieng-Kuntz, O'CoP, an Ontology Dedicated to Communities of Practice, Proceedings of I-KNOW'07, The 7th International Conference on Knowledge Management, Graz, Austria, September 5-7, 2007.
[26] Yessad, A., Faron-Zucker, C., Sander, P., Laskri, M.T. (2010), OrPAF: an Environment for Adaptive Hypermedia Courses in the Semantic Web Context, in Novel Developments in Web-Based Learning Technologies: Tools for Modern Teaching, Advances in Web-based Learning (AWBL) Book Series
[27] A. Yessad, C. Faron-Zucker, R. Dieng-Kuntz, M. Tayeb Laskri (2008), Ontology-Driven Adaptive Course Generation for Web-based Education, In Proc. of the World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications, ED-MEDIA 2008, Vienna, Austria
[28] A. Yurchyshyna, C. Faron-Zucker, N. Le Than, A. Zarli (2010), Knowledge Capitalisation and Organisation for Conformance Checking Model in Construction, In International Journal of Knowledge Engineering and Soft Data Paradigms, 2(1), pp 15-32
[29] A. Yurchyshyna, C. Faron-Zucker, N. Le Than, A. Zarli (2008), Towards an Ontology Based Approach for Formalising Expert Knowledge in the Conformity Checking Model in Construction, In Proc. of the 7th European Conference on Product and Process Modelling, ECPPM 2008, Sophia Antipolis, France
[30] Viet Hoang VU, Nhan Le Thanh. "Concept Abduction in Description logics with cardinality restrictions" (long paper) in Proceedings of the International Conference on Information and Knowledge Technology 2010 (ICIKT 2010), WASET: World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, 12 pages, Venice– Italy, 24-26 november 2010
[31] Ahlem Bouchahda-Ben Tekaya, Nhan Le Thanh, Adel Bouhoula, Faten Labbene-Ayachi. "RBAC+: Dynamic Access Control for RBAC-administered Web-based Databases" in Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Emerging Security Information, Systems and Technologies, SECURWARE 2010 (SECURWARE 2010), IEEE Computer Society, Venice, Italy, 18-25 july 2010
[32] Ahlem Bouchahda-Ben Tekaya, Nhan Le Thanh, Adel Bouhoula, Faten Labbene-Ayachi. "An Access Control model for Web Databases" in Proceedings of the 24th Annual IFIP WG 11.3 Working Conference on Data and Applications Security (DBSEC'2010), IFIP, Springer Lecture Notes, Rome, Italy, 21-23
[33] Imen Tayari, Nhan Le Thanh, Chori Ben Amar. "Towards an algebraic modeling of emotional states" in Proceedings of the The Fifth International Conference on Internet and Web Applications and Services (ICIW 2010), IARIA: Int. Academy, Research and Industry Association, pages 513-518, CPS-IEEE CSDL, Barcelona, Spain, 9-15 may 2010
[34] Thi-Anh-Le Pham, Nhan Le Thanh, Peter Sander. "-based Reasoning for Large Knowledge Bases in Description Logics" in Integrated Computer-Aided Engineering (ICAE), 15 (1), pages 53-70, IOS Press, jan 2008
[35] Thi-Dieu-Thu Nguyen, Nhan Le Thanh. "Modeling ORM Schemas in Description Logic" in Complex Systems Concurrent Engineering, pages 533-541, Spinger-Verlag, 2007
[36] Thi-Anh-Le Pham, Nhan Le Thanh, Peter Sander. "approaches of ontology Decomposition in Description Logics" in Complex Systems Concurrent Engineering, pages 523-532, Spinger-Verlag, 2007

5 External references

[37] Nigel Shadbolt and Tim Berners-Lee, Web Science Emerges, Scientific American, October 2008.
[38] Bickmore, T.W., Picard, R.W. (2005). ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction., Vol. 12, No. 2. (June 2005), pp. 293-327.
[39] Cooper, A., Reinmann, R. (2003). About Face 2.0: The Essentials of Interaction Design. Indianapolis, IN: Wiley Publishing, Inc.
[40] Edwards, A. (2007) Relational Agency in Professional Practice: a CHAT analysis, Actio. An International Journal of Human Activity. 1. 1-17.
[41] Olsen, G. (2004). Persona Creation and Usage Toolkit, Information Architecture (IA) Summit, 15 pages. http://www.asis.org/~iasummit/2004/finalpapers/Olsen_Handout_or__final__paper.pdf
[42] Simone, C., Mark, G, and. Giubbilei, D. (1999). Interoperability as a means of articulation work. In D. Georgakopoulos, W. Prinz, and A. Wolf (eds.) Proceedings of ACM Conference on Work Activities Coordination and Collaboration (WACC'99), ACM Press, Feb. 22-25, 1999, San Francisco.