Preface to the MKWI Conference Track

Semantic Web Technology in Business Information Systems

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Within the past five years, the Semantic Web research community has brought to maturity a comprehensive set of foundational technology components, and these both at the conceptual level and in the form of prototypes and software. This includes, among other assets, ontology engineering methodologies, standardized ontology languages, ontology engineering tools, and other infrastructure like APIs, repositories, and scalable reasoners, plus a plethora of work for making the Deep Web and computational functionality in the form of Web Services accessible at a semantic level.

However, the amount of visible applications and convincing showcases is still limited, in particular in core areas of business information systems, like ERP systems and their maintenance, logistics, etc. At the same time, there exist many pressing challenges in business information systems that would obviously benefit from the higher level of abstraction and the increase in automation that semantic technologies can offer; but dissemination of the state of the art in SW technology into the respective communities is still to be improved.

For the Track “Semantic Web Technology in Business Information Systems” at MKWI 2008 in Munich, we solicited papers describing the application of ontologies and related technology to typical IS challenges. We received a total of 15 submissions, which were reviewed by, on average, three members of the program committee of the track for relevance, accuracy, and significance of the findings. Eventually, competition was fierce, with only five of the submitted papers accepted for presentation and inclusion in the proceedings (30% acceptance rate).

We are very thankful for the hard work of all members of the program committee, who spent a lot of time preparing detailed and constructive reviews, which were crucial for selecting the most valuable from many interesting papers. The members of the program committee of the track were Dr. Andreas Abecker (FZI), Prof. Dr. Witold Abramowicz (Poznan University), Dr. Chris Bizer (Freie Universität Berlin), Dr. Chris Bussler (BEA Systems, Inc.), Prof. Dr. Dieter Fensel (Universität Innsbruck), Prof. Dr. Ronald Maier (Universität Innsbruck), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Frank (Universität Duisburg-Essen), Prof. Dr. Nicola Henze (Universität Hannover), Prof. Dr. Knut Hinkelmann (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz), Prof. Dr. Thomas Myrach (Universität Bern), Dr. Nenad Stojanovic (FZI), Michael Stollberg (Universität Innsbruck), Dr. York Sure (SAP Research), and Prof. Dr. Robert Tolksdorf (Freie Universität Berlin).

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Accepted Papers

1. Matthias Henneberger, Bernd Heinrich, Florian Lautenbacher and Bernhard Bauer: “Semantic-Based Planning of Process Models”

2. Heiner Stuckenschmidt and Martin Kolb: “Partial Matchmaking for Complex Product and Service Descriptions”

3. Ivan Markovic, Alessandro Costa Pereira and Nenad Stojanovic: “A Framework for Querying in Business Process Modeling”

4. Olaf Grebner, Ernie Ong and Riss Uwe: “KASIMIR – Work process embedded task management leveraging the Semantic Desktop”

5. Dimka Karastoyanova, Tammo van Lessen, Frank Leymann, Zhilei Ma, Joerg Nitzsche, Branimir Wetzstein, Sami Bhiri, Manfred Hauswirth and Maciej Zaremba: “A Reference Architecture for Semantic Business Process Management Systems”