A Semantic Web Primer

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**Brief Contents**

1. The Semantic Web Vision 1
2. Structured Web Documents in XML 23
3. Describing Web Resources in RDF 61
4. Web Ontology Language: OWL 109
5. Logic and Inference: Rules 151
6. Applications 179
7. Ontology Engineering 205
8. Conclusion and Outlook 223
A. Abstract OWL syntax 227
Contents

List of Figures iii

Series Foreword xv

Preface xix

1 The Semantic Web Vision 1
1.1 Today’s Web 1
1.2 From Today’s Web to the Semantic Web: Examples 3
1.3 Semantic Web Technologies 7
1.4 A Layered Approach 16
1.5 Book Overview 19
1.6 Summary 19
Suggested Reading 20

2 Structured Web Documents in XML 23
2.1 Introduction 23
2.2 The XML Language 26
2.3 Structuring 31
2.4 Namespaces 43
2.5 Addressing and Querying XML Documents 45
2.6 Processing 49
2.7 Summary 55
Suggested Reading 57
Exercises and Projects 58
3 Describing Web Resources in RDF 61
3.1 Introduction 61
3.2 RDF: Basic Ideas 63
3.3 RDF: XML-Based Syntax 69
3.4 RDF Schema: Basic Ideas 80
3.5 RDF Schema: The Language 85
3.6 RDF and RDF Schema in RDF Schema 91
3.7 An Axiomatic Semantics for RDF and RDF Schema 94
3.8 A Direct Inference System for RDF and RDFS 99
3.9 Querying in RQL 100
3.10 Summary 104
Suggested Reading 105
Exercises and Projects 106

4 Web Ontology Language: OWL 109
4.1 Introduction 109
4.2 The OWL Language 115
4.3 Examples 129
4.4 OWL in OWL 138
4.5 Future Extensions 144
4.6 Summary 146
Suggested Reading 146
Exercises and Projects 148

5 Logic and Inference: Rules 151
5.1 Introduction 151
5.2 Example of Monotonic Rules: Family Relationships 154
5.3 Monotonic Rules: Syntax 155
5.4 Monotonic Rules: Semantics 158
5.5 Nonmonotonic Rules: Motivation and Syntax 161
5.6 Example of Nonmonotonic Rules: Brokered Trade 163
5.7 Rule Markup in XML: Monotonic Rules 167
5.8 Rule Markup in XML: Nonmonotonic Rules 173
5.9 Summary 176
Suggested Reading 176
Exercises and Projects 177
Contents

6 Applications 179
6.1 Introduction 179
6.2 Horizontal Information Products at Elsevier 179
6.3 Data Integration at Audi 182
6.4 Skill Finding at Swiss Life 185
6.5 Think Tank Portal at EnerSearch 187
6.6 e-Learning 191
6.7 Web Services 194
6.8 Other Scenarios 199
Suggested Reading 201

7 Ontology Engineering 205
7.1 Introduction 205
7.2 Constructing Ontologies Manually 205
7.3 Reusing Existing Ontologies 209
7.4 Using Semiautomatic Methods 211
7.5 On-To-Knowledge Semantic Web Architecture 215
Suggested Reading 217
Project 218

8 Conclusion and Outlook 223
8.1 How It All Fits Together 223
8.2 Some Technical Questions 224
8.3 Predicting the Future 224

A Abstract OWL syntax 227

Index 235
1.5 **Book Overview**

In this book we concentrate on the Semantic Web technologies that have reached a reasonable degree of maturity.

In Chapter 2 we discuss XML and related technologies. XML introduces structure and metadata to Web documents, thus supporting syntactic interoperability. The structure of a document can be made machine-accessible through DTDs and XML Schema. We also discuss namespaces, a technique for resolving name clashes if more than one document is imported; accessing and querying XML documents using XPath; and transforming XML documents with XSLT.

In Chapter 3 we discuss RDF and RDF Schema. RDF is a language in which we can express statements about objects (resources); it is a standard data model for machine-processable semantics. RDF Schema offers a number of modeling primitives for organizing RDF vocabularies in typed hierarchies.

Chapter 4 discusses OWL, the current proposal for a Web ontology language. It offers more modeling primitives, compared to RDF Schema, and has a clean, formal semantics.

Chapter 5 is devoted to rules, both monotonic and nonmonotonic, in the framework of the Semantic Web. While this layer has not yet been fully defined, the principles to be adopted are quite clear, so it makes sense to present them.

Chapter 6 discusses several application domains and explains the benefits that they will draw from the materialization of the Semantic Web vision.

Chapter 7 describes the development of ontology-based systems for the Web and contains a miniproject that employs much of the technology described in this book.

Finally, chapter 8 discusses briefly a few issues which are currently under debate in the Semantic Web community.