how a semantic web will change web interaction

Tom Heath

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The Open University

HCI Interest Group, Department of Computing 12/02/2007



the web as we know it

a web of linked resources (mostly documents)



Research

My PhD research is focused on using the semantic web to support recommendation-seeking in social networks. Specifically it aims to: understand how people use word of mouth within their social networks to locate information or explore particular topics; model these processes so they can be replicated in an online environment; build semantic web-based systems that support people in these locating and exploring tasks by making use of their social context.

This approach differs from traditional recommender systems and reviewing mechanisms on the web in that it aims to harness the knowledge of known individuals; a process I refer to as *Known Person Recommendation* (KPR).

At a broader level, the research takes a task-based approach to internet usage as its starting point, emphasising the goals of the user in being online. The *locating* and *exploring* tasks being investigated represent just two of eleven online tasks that have been identified as part of the research. In addition, it is recognised that these tasks are not performed in isolation, that aspects of the user's context shape the task and may be able to assist the user in performing it. Of the six *personal context factors* that have been identified the user's social context is currently being investigated to determine how this may assist in performance of tasks online.

Publications

- Heath, Tom, Motta, Enrico (2006) Reviews and Ratings on the Semantic Web. In Poster Track, 5th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC2006), Athens, Georgia, USA.
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- · Enrico Motta
- Martin Dzbor
- Marian Petre
- John Domingue

Affiliations







Roles

Co-organiser, 3rd
 Workshop on Scripting



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a semantic web

a web of statements about, and linking, resources (only some of which are documents)



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http://identifiers.kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom-heath/ Research

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description of me in RDF/XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
<rdf:RDF
      xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
      xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
      xmlns:owl="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#"
      xmlns:foaf="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
      xmlns:trust="http://trust.mindswap.org/ont/trust.owl#"
      xmlns:wn="http://xmlns.com/wordnet/1.6/"
      xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
      xmlns:qeo="http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84 pos#"
      xmlns:contact="http://www.w3.org/2000/10/swap/pim/contact#"
      xmlns:airport="http://www.daml.org/2001/10/html/airport-ont#">
<foaf:PersonalProfileDocument rdf:about="http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/about/rdf">
  <dc:title>Tom Heath&apos:s FOAF File</dc:title>
  <rdfs:label>Tom Heaths FOAF File</rdfs:label>
  <dc:description>Friend-of-a-Friend description for Tom Heath in machine-readable RDF
  <dc:creator rdf:resource="http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/" />
  <foaf:maker rdf:resource="http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/"/>
  <foaf:primaryTopic rdf:resource="http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/"/>
</foaf:PersonalProfileDocument>
<foaf:Person rdf:about="http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/">
<foaf:name>Tom Heath</foaf:name>
<foaf:title>Mr</foaf:title>
<foaf:firstName>Tom</foaf:firstName>
<foaf:surname>Heath</foaf:surname>
<foaf:nick>Tom</foaf:nick>
<foaf:mbox sha1sum>02085a0d20a5f574c1ce6cfe42bba6e85cfe07cf</foaf:mbox sha1sum>
<foaf:phone rdf:resource="tel:+44-(0)1908-653565"/>
<foaf:jabberID>t.heath%open.ac.uk@buddyspace.org</foaf:jabberID>
```



so what? why should I care?



data integration on a web scale



so what does this change, interaction-wise?



everything!

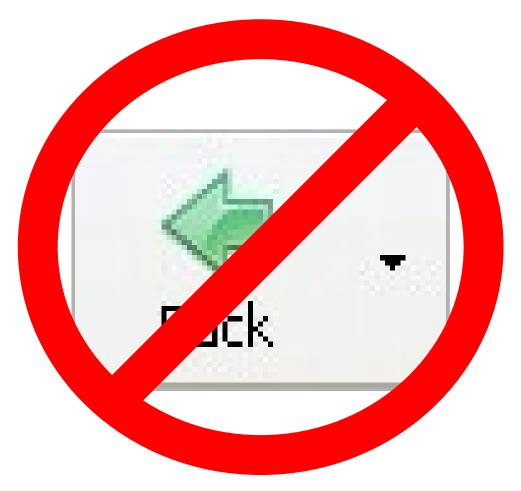


the web page is dead

statements, not documents, are the new fundamental unit of the web



there's no back button on the semantic web





throw away your homepage

get yourself a URI

my URI is: http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom/

```
<owl:sameAs rdf:resource="http://identifiers.kmi.open.ac.uk/people/tom-heath/"/>
<owl:sameAs rdf:resource="http://revyu.com/people/tom/"/>
<owl:sameAs rdf:resource="http://my.opera.com/tomheath/xml/foaf/#me"/>
```



no more surfing, dude



it's all about tasks now



so what does this mean for us?



years more HCI research





thankyou!

