



Linked Data and the Semantic Web

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Overview

- From Web of Documents to Web of Data
- Linked Data Principles and Semantic Web Technologies
- The Linking Open Data Project



The Web of Linked Documents

- Data is loosely structured
- Links between documents, not between things
- The meaning of links is implicit



Born in Somerset in 1939, John Cleese emerged as a writer whilst studying at Cambridge.

After writing for Dick Emery and David Frost and contributing to At Last The 1948 Show, Cleese became a member of the now legendary Monty Python team.

Tall and with a delivery of clipped authority, Cleese seems to embody British middle class angst and his performance as stressed hotel proprietor Basil Fawlty is the acme of his comic prowess in the much loved sitcom Fawlty Towers (which he co-wrote with his then wife Connie Booth).

His script for A Fish Called Wanda was Oscar nominated, and Python films aside, he has appeared in Clockwise, Time Bandits and the James Bond and Harry Potter franchises.

Undoubtedly one of Britain's best loved comedians, he latterly moved to the States, guesting on TV comedies (Cheers, Third Rock From The Sun) in between film commitments and Monty Python retrospectives.

AS AN ACTOR

- ✦ **Fawlty Towers** 1975
- ✦ **The Goon Show** 1954

RELATED LINKS

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- ✦ **IMDb**
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Fawlty Towers



The British sitcom by which all other British sitcoms must be judged, Fawlty Towers withstands multiple viewings, is eminently quotable ("don't mention the war"), and stands up to this day as a jewel in the BBC's comedy crown.

Fawlty Towers was famously inspired by a seethingly rude hotel proprietor John Cleese encountered whilst away filming with the Monty Python team. Unwittingly, Donald Sinclair became the blueprint for Basil Fawlty, the epitome of frustrated, social climbing middle-Englanders.

Cleese had experimented with the character in an episode of Doctor At Large (with Timothy Bateson playing the petty hotel manager Mr Clifford) and out of this, a car-thrashing comedy legend was born.



The setting was a pretty ordinary 'hotel', with Fawlty constantly struggling to inject a touch of class into his tawdry surroundings.

WATCH AND LISTEN

- ▶ I speak English well!
- ▶ His name was Dragonfly

RELATED LINKS

ALSO ON BBC.CO.UK

- ✦ BBC Devon: Fawlty Towers reopens
- ✦ Hotel Babylon

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- ✦ IMDb
- ✦ Wikipedia
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John Cleese

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Fawlty Towers



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1975

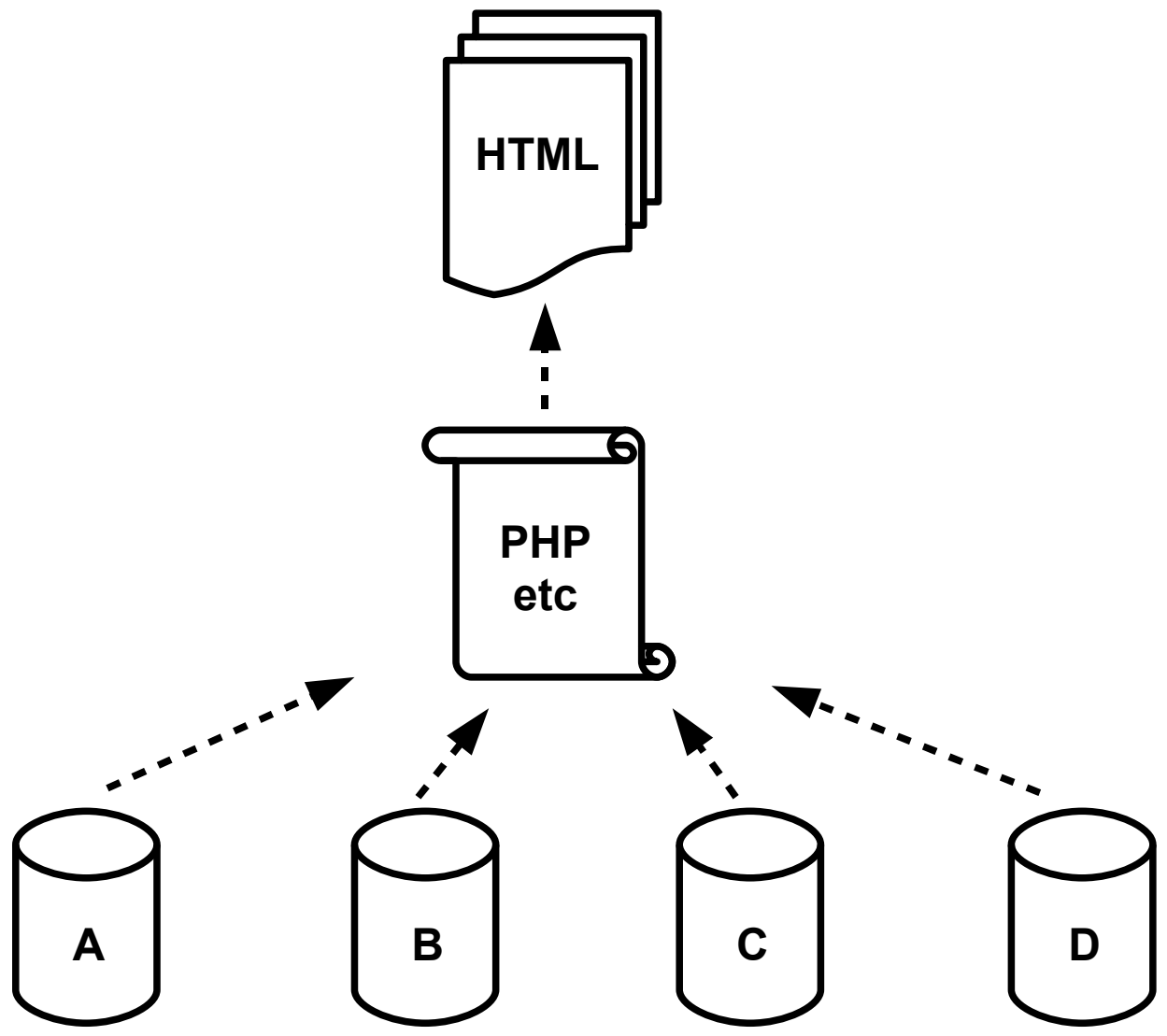
1954



APIs and Machine-Readable Data

- Manipulation
- Reuse
- Integration
- Engagement

Mashups - One-off Data Integration





Linked Data - Reusable Data Integration

- Goals:
 - Use typed links to connect things in distributed data sets
 - Expose these links to encourage reuse
 - Enable large-scale and ad-hoc mashups, aka "meshups"
 - Add value to your data through network effects



Linked Data - Reusable Data Integration

- Principles:
 1. Assign URIs to all sorts of things, not just to documents
 2. Use HTTP URIs, so people can look these things up
 3. When people look things up, provide useful info in RDF
 4. Use RDF to link to other data sets, so people can discover related information



Technologies

- URIs
 - not just for documents
 - *http://revyu.com/people/tom* identifies me
- RDF
 - describe things using triples: *subject, predicate, object*



RDF Triples - Examples

<http://companies.org/talis>

foaf:based_near

<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Birmingham>

<http://revyu.com/people/tom>

foaf:name

"Tom Heath"



Technologies

- RDFS/OWL
 - define vocabularies for describing things
- SPARQL
 - to RDF as SQL is to relational databases



Commercial Break

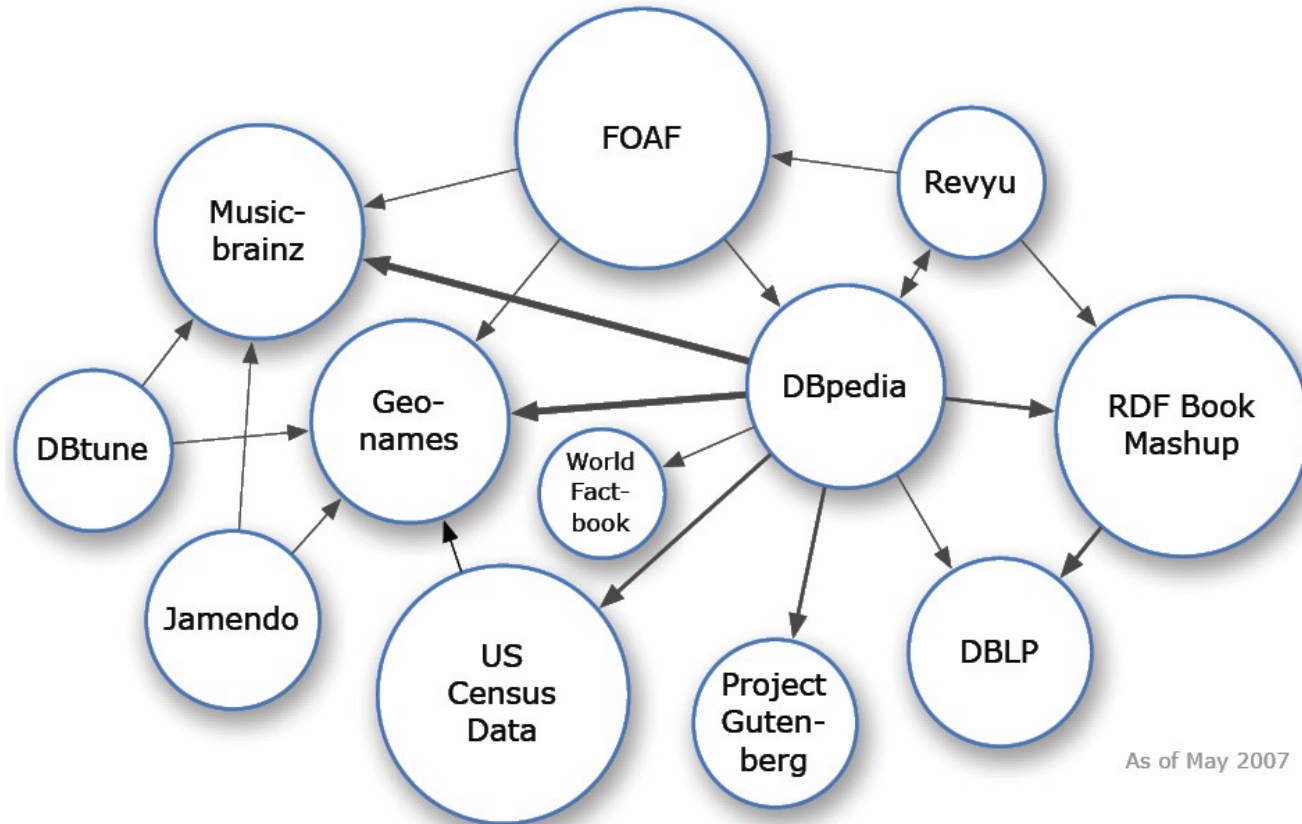
- The Talis Platform
- <http://www.talis.com/platform>



The Linking Open Data Project

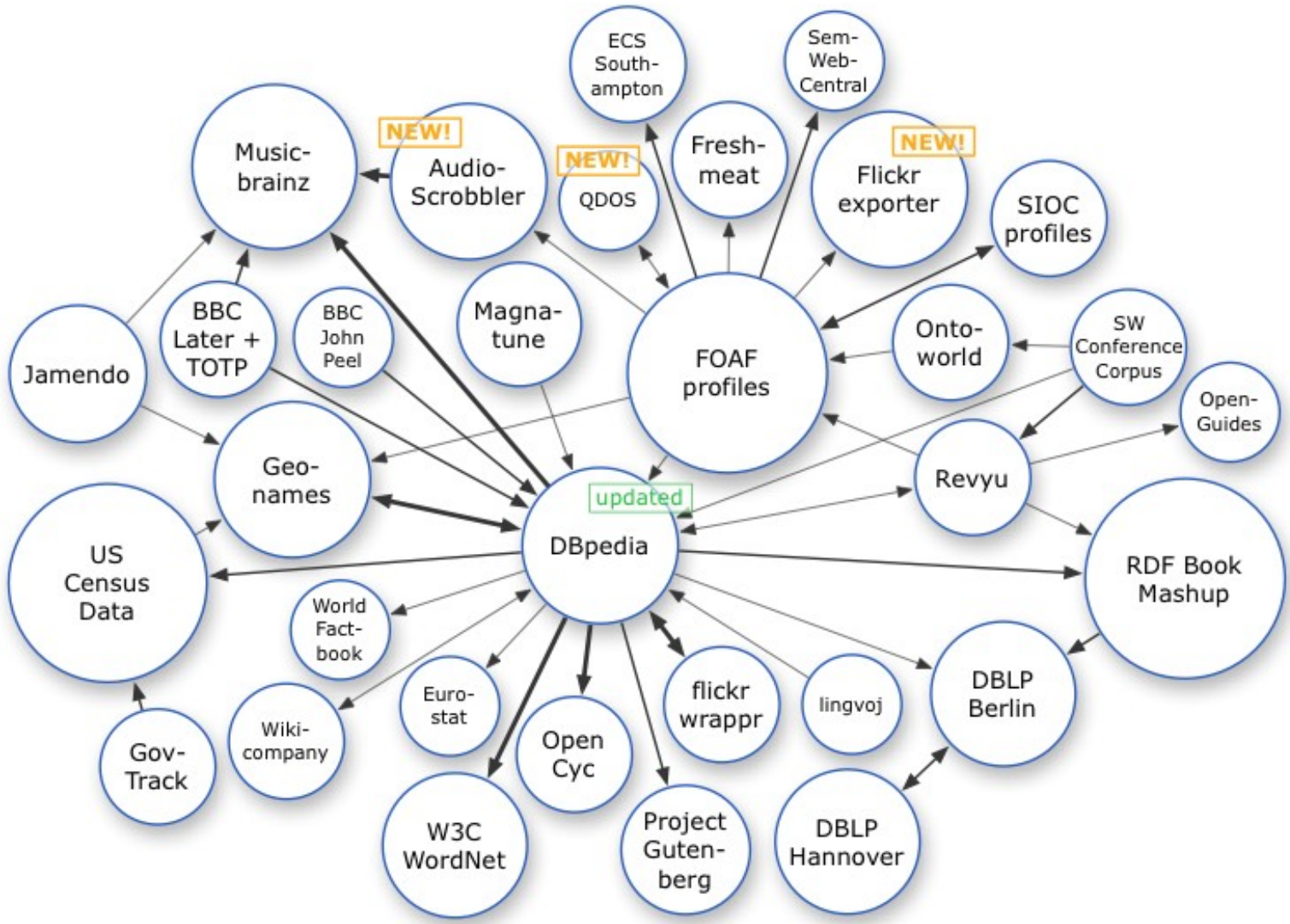
- Background:
 - A community effort to bootstrap the Web of Data
 - Founded February 2007
 - Participants from universities and companies
- Approach:
 - Take existing open data sets
 - Make them available on the Web according to Linked Data principles

The LOD "Cloud" – May 2007



As of May 2007

The LOD "Cloud" – Feb 2008





Opportunities

- Make your *data* a first class citizen of the Web



Further Reading

- <http://linkeddata.org/>

shared innovation