# Intelligent Agents Meet the Semantic Web

## Tim Finin

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

ORNL, April 5, 2005

http://ebiquity.umbc.edu/v2.1/event/html/id/91/

Joint work with Anupam Joshi, Yun Peng, Scott Cost & many students.

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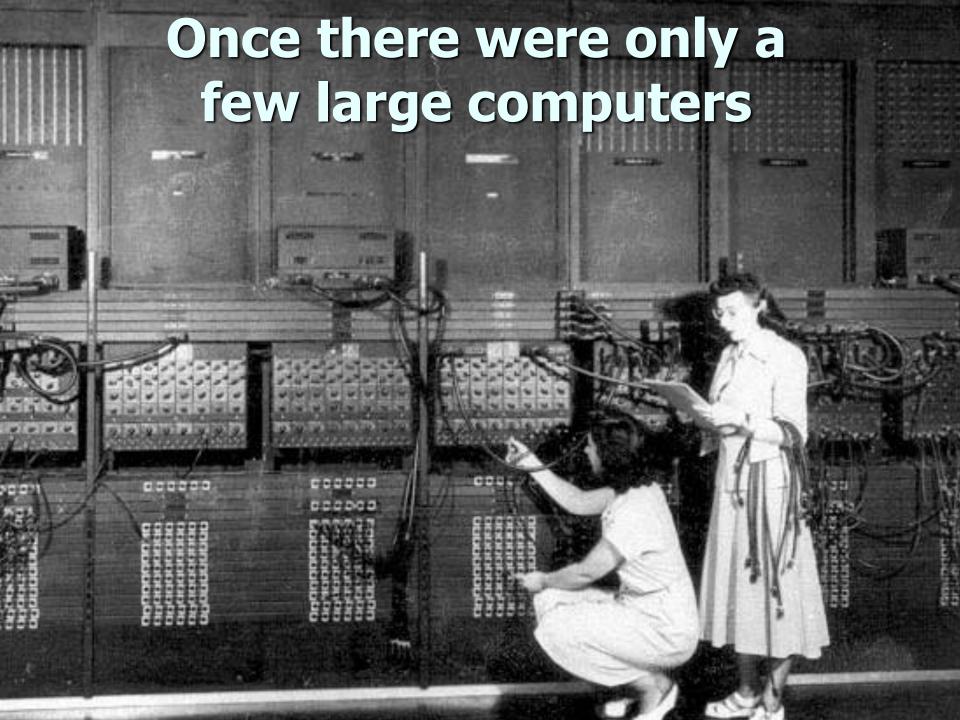




## This talk

- Motivation
- Semantic web concepts and technologies
- Using the semantic web for
  - (1) Pervasive computing
  - (3) Information retrieval
- Conclusions





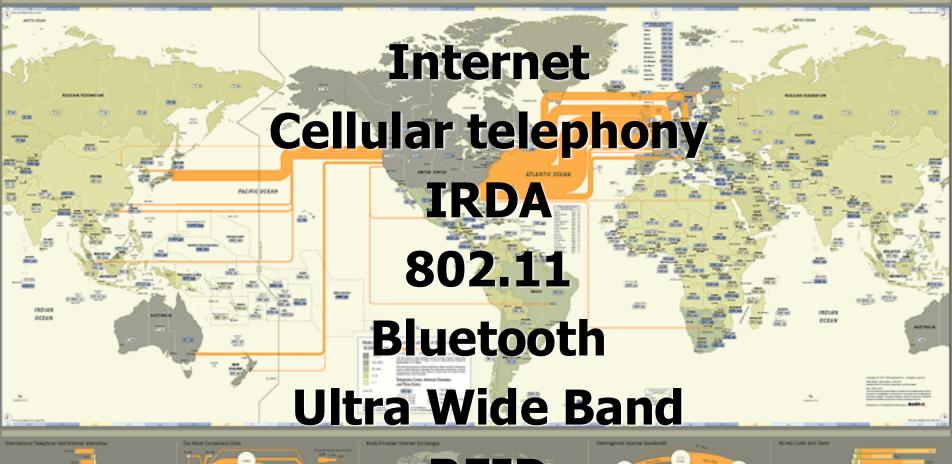
# Then there were many







# And they all became physically inter-connected 24x7 Internet Cellular telephony



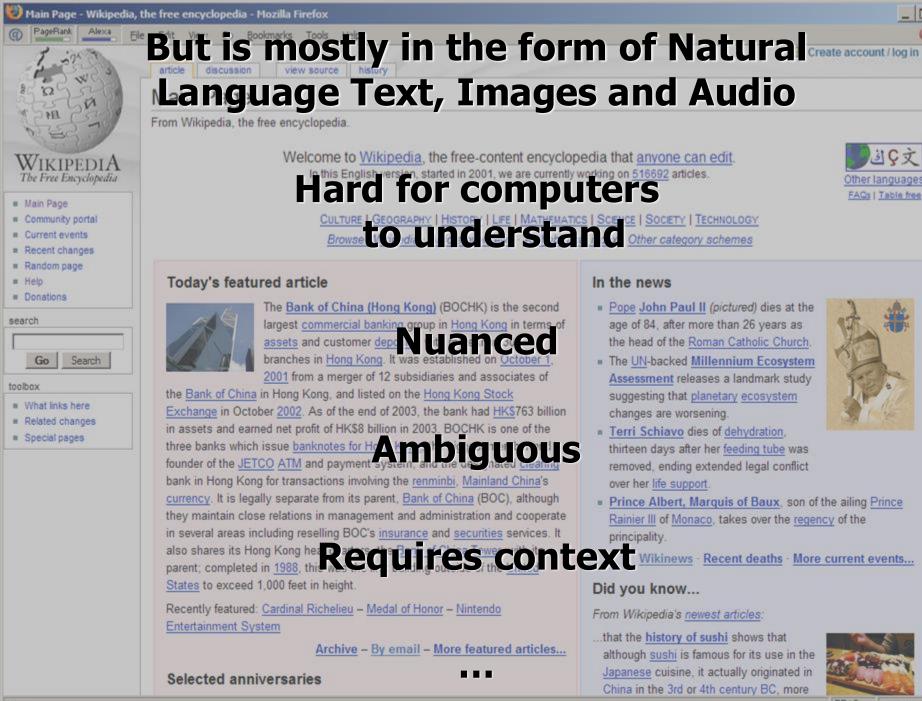


# Software standards supported are standards supported are s

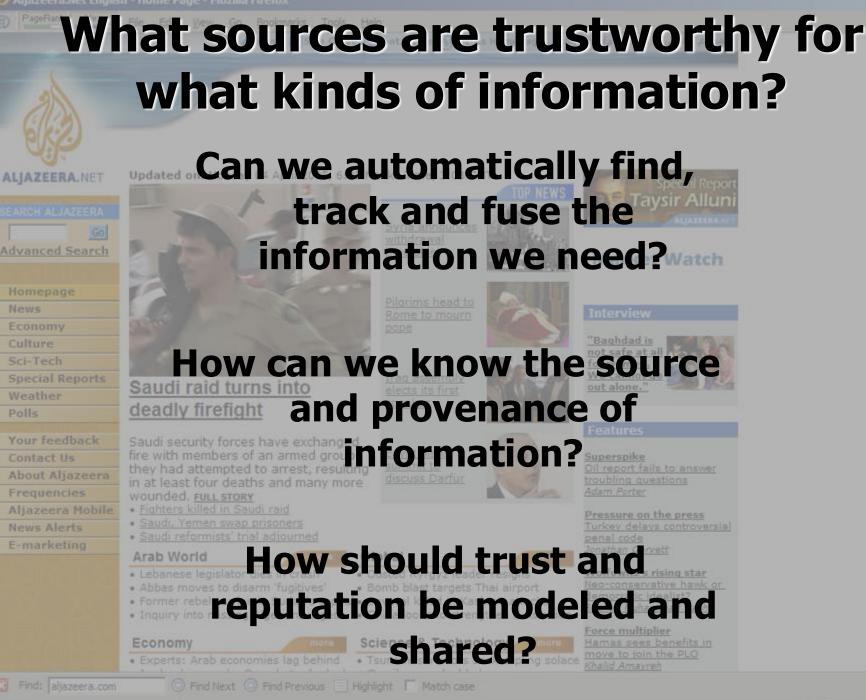


# The Result: today we have access to virtually all the world's knowledge





ther languages FAQs | Table free



PB17

Aljazeera.Net English - Home Page - Mozilla Firefox

# Computers helped make the problem and they can help solve it

We need agents and services to find, correlate and fuse information on the web.

They must be able to understand the content they discover publish their own conclusions, and communicate with one another.

· Fighters killed in

They must advertise their own

information services in a well

understood form in the PLO

Experts: Arab economies lag behind . Tsunami survivors seek sapling solace Khalid Amayreh

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AHA

"XML is Lisp's bastard nephew, with uglier syntax and no semantics. Yet XML is poised to enable the creation of a Web of data that dwarfs anything since the Library at Alexandria."

-- Philip Wadler, Et tu XML? The fall of the relational empire, VLDB, Rome, September 2001.



"The web has made people smarter. We need to understand how to use it to make machines smarter, too."

 Michael I. Jordan, paraphrased from a talk at AAAI, July 2002 by Michael Jordan (UC Berkeley)



"The Semantic Web will globalize KR, just as the WWW globalize hypertext"

-- Tim Berners-Lee



## This talk

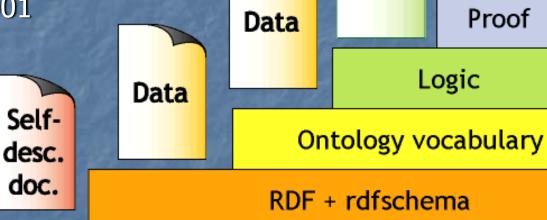
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### **W3C's Semantic Web Vision**

"The Semantic Web is an extension of the current web in which information is given well-defined meaning, better enabling computers and people to work in cooperation."-

Berners-Lee, Hendler & Lassila, The Semantic Web, Scientific American, 2001



XML + NS + xmlschema

Rules

Unicode

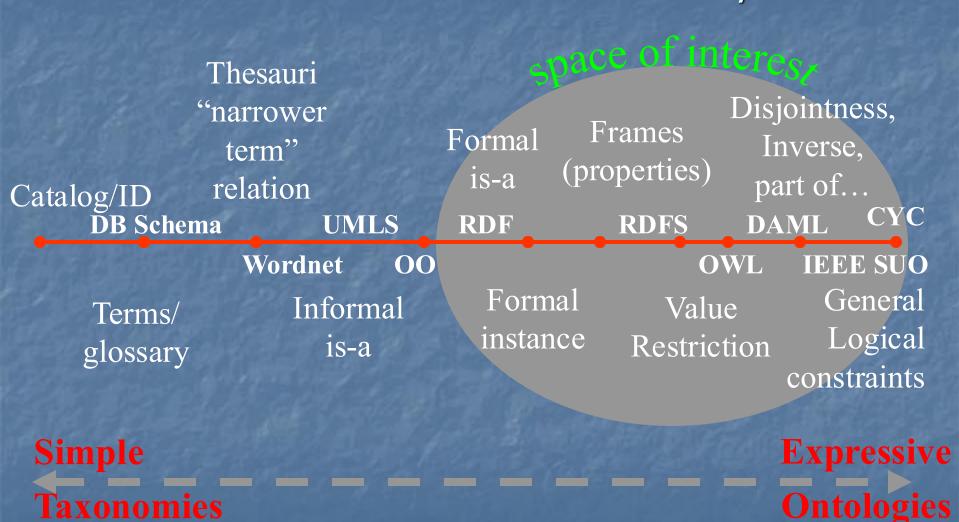
URI

Trust

**Digital Signature** 

Proof

# What kind of Ontologies? from controlled vocabularies to Cyc





After Deborah L. McGuinness (Stanford)

# **Today and tomorrow**

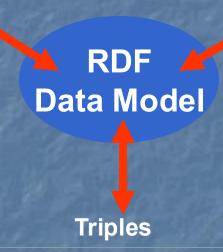
- Simple ontologies like FOAF & DC in use today
  - We've crawled more than 1M FOAF RDF files
- We hope to be able to make effective use ontologies like Cyc in the coming decade
  - There are skeptics ...
  - It's a great research topic ...
- The SW community has a roadmap and some experimental languages ...
- Industry is starting to use the Semantic Web (Adobe, Oracle, Cisco, Sun ...)
- We need more experimentation and exploration



### RDF is the first SW language

#### **XML Encoding**

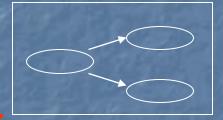
Good for Machine Processing



stmt(docInst, rdf\_type, Document) stmt(personInst, rdf\_type, Person) stmt(inroomInst, rdf\_type, InRoom) stmt(personInst, holding, docInst) stmt(inroomInst, person, personInst)

Good For Reasoning

#### Graph

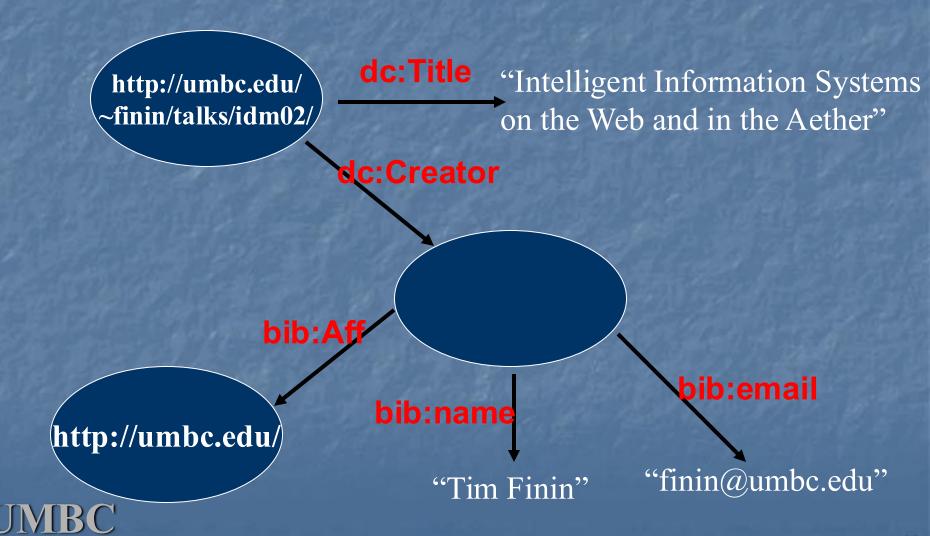


Good For Human Viewing

RDF is a simple language for building graph based representations



# Simple RDF Example



# XML encoding for RDF

```
<rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
  xmlns:bib="http://daml.umbc.edu/ontologies/bib/">
<description about="http://umbc.edu/~finin/talks/idm02/">
 <a href="mailto:kitle"><a href="mailto:kitle">kitle</a> Intelligent Information Systems on the Web and in the
Aether</dc:Title>
 <dc:creator>
  <description>
    <br/><bib:Name>Tim Finin</bib:Name>
    <bib:Email>finin@umbc.edu</bib:Email>
    <bib:Aff resource="http://umbc.edu/" />
  </description>
 </de:Creator>
</description>
</rdf:RDF>
```

## A usecase: FOAF



- FOAF (Friend of a Friend) is a simple ontology to describe people and their social networks.
  - See the foaf project page: http://www.foaf-project.org/
- We recently crawled the web and discovered over 1,000,000 valid RDF FOAF files.
  - Most of these are from the http://liveJournal.com/ blogging system which encodes basic user info in foaf
  - See http://apple.cs.umbc.edu/semdis/wob/foaf/

```
<foaf:Person>
<foaf:name>Tim Finin</foaf:name>
<foaf:mbox_sha1sum>2410...37262c252e</foaf:mbox_sha1sum>
<foaf:homepage rdf:resource="http://umbc.edu/~finin/" />
<foaf:img rdf:resource="http://umbc.edu/~finin/images/passport.gif" />
</foaf:Person>
```



# **FOAF Vocabulary**

#### **Basics**

Agent Person name nick title <u>homepage</u> mbox mbox sha1sum imq depiction (<u>depicts</u>) surname <u>family name</u> givenname <u>firstName</u>

#### **Personal Info**

weblog knows interest currentProject pastProject plan based near workplaceHomepage <u>workInfoHomepage</u> schoolHomepage topic interest publications geekcode <u>myersBriggs</u>

dnaChecksum

## Documents & Images

Document
Image
PersonalProfileDocument
topic (page)
primaryTopic
tipjar
sha1
made (maker)
thumbnail
logo

## Projects & Groups

Project
Organization
Group
member
membershipClass
fundedBy
theme

#### **Online Accts**

OnlineAccount
OnlineChatAccount
OnlineEcommerceAccount
OnlineGamingAccount
holdsAccount
accountServiceHomepage
accountName
icqChatID
msnChatID
aimChatID
jabberID
yahooChatID



# FOAF: why RDF? Extensibility!

- FOAF vocabulary provides 50+ basic terms for making simple claims about people
- FOAF files can use other RDF terms too: RSS, MusicBrainz, Dublin Core, Wordnet, Creative Commons, blood types, starsigns, ...
- RDF guarantees freedom of independent extension
  - OWL provides fancier data-merging facilities
- **Result:** Freedom to say what you like, using any RDF markup you want, and have RDF crawlers merge your FOAF documents with other's and know when you're talking about the same entities.





## No free lunch!

### Consequence:

- We must plan for lies, mischief, mistakes, stale data, slander
- Dataset is out of control, distributed, dynamic
- Importance of knowing who-said-what
  - Anyone can describe anyone
  - We must record data provenance
  - Modeling and reasoning about trust is critical
- Legal, privacy and etiquette issues emerge
- Welcome to the real world



# RDF is being used!

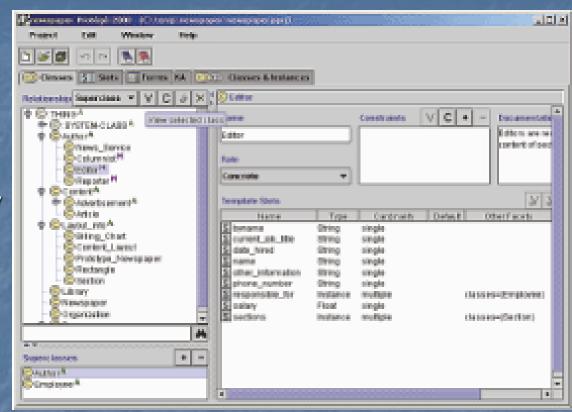


- RDF has a solid specification
- RDF is being used in a number of web standards
  - <u>CC/PP</u> (Composite Capabilities/Preference Profiles)
  - P3P (Platform for Privacy Preferences Project)
  - RSS (RDF Site Summary)
  - RDF Calendar (~ iCalendar in RDF)
- And in other systems
  - Mozilla & Firefox web browsers & Open directory
  - Adobe products via XMP (eXtensible Metadata Platform)
  - Web communities: <u>LiveJournal</u>, <u>Ecademy</u>, and <u>Cocolog</u>.
  - We've found over 2.2M RDF documents on the web
  - New Oracle and Cisco products



## RDF Schema (RDFS)

- RDF Schema adds taxonomies for classes & properties
  - subClass and subProperty
- and some metadata.
  - domain and range constraints on properties
- Several widely used KB tools can import and export in RDFS



### Stanford Protégé KB editor

- Java, open sourced
- extensible, lots of plug-ins
- provides reasoning & server capabilities



### RDFS supports simple inferences



- An RDF ontology plus some RDF statements may imply additional RDF statements.
- This is not true of XML.
- Note that this is **part of the data model** and not of the accessing or processing code.

@prefix rdfs: <http://www....>.
@prefix : <genesis.n3>.
parent rdfs:domain person;
 rdfs:range person.
mother rdfs:subProperty parent;
 rdfs:range person.
eve mother cain.

parent a class.

person a property.

woman subClass person.

mother a property.

eve a person;

a woman;

parent cain.

cain a person.



## From where will the markup come?

- A few authors will add it manually.
- More will use annotation tools.
  - SMORE: Semantic Markup, Ontology and RDF Editor
- Intelligent processors (e.g., NLP) can understand documents and add markup (hard)
  - Machine learning powered information extraction tools show promise
- Lots of web content comes from databases & we can generate SW markup along with the HTML
  - See http://ebiquity.umbc.edu/



## From where will the markup come?

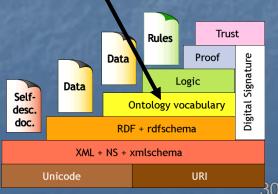
- In many tools, part of the metadata information is present, but thrown away at output
  - e.g., a business chart can be generated by a tool...
  - ...it "knows" the structure, the classification, etc. of the chart
  - ...but, usually, this information is lost
  - ...storing it in metadata is easy!
- So "semantic web aware" tools can produce lots of metadata
  - E.g., Adobe's use of its XMP platform



## W3C's Web Ontology Language (OWL)

- OWL released as W3C recommendation 2/10/04
  - See http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/WebOnt/ for OWL overview, guide, specification, test cases, etc.
- OWL provides a richer vocabulary to
  - describe ontologies and their properties and relations
  - Describe properties of properties (e.g., transitivity, inverse, cardinality constraints)
  - Create definitions (i.e., necessary and sufficient conditions)
  - Compliment
  - etc.





## Semantic Web Rule Languages

- There are some things that your can not define in OWL, like the uncle relationship.
- Two extensions to owl provide rule languages to use with OWL
  - SWRL is a simple Datalog-like rule language whose conditions and conclusions are RDF triples
  - RuleML is a language that can encode most of first order language
- Several OWL reasons incorporate SWRL rules



### **OWL-S defines Services**

- AN important use-case for OWL is to give semantically grounded descriptions for services
- These might be web services, grid services, or some other kind of service.
- OWL-S is an OWL ontology that can be used to describe services in terms of
  - Meta data (who, what, where, when, ...)
  - Preconditions and effects
  - Inputs and outputs
  - Compositions and decompositions



# This talk

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# **Motivation: but not to here** "Well, officer, the coffee pot at home tried to tell my PDA to buy some Colombian beans on the way home, but the car overheard the message and took it as a command to turn for the grocery store right away..."



# **Pervasive Computing**

"The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it" — Mark Weiser

Think: writing, central heating, electric lighting, water services, ...

Not: taking your laptop to the beach, or immersing yourself into a virtual reality

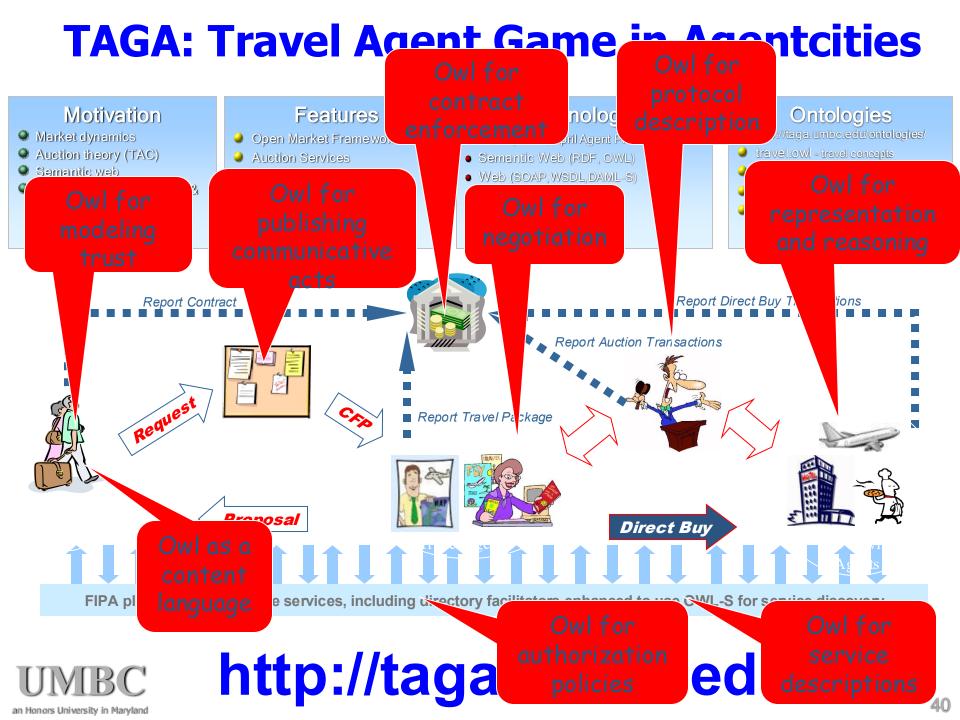


# This is a challenging environment

- While devices are getting smaller, cheaper and more powerful, they still have severe limitations.
  - Battery, memory, computation, connection, bandwidth
  - Each as limited sensors and perspective
- The environment is inherently dynamic with serendipitous connections and unknown entities
  - This makes security and trust important
- MANETS (mobile ad hoc networks) underlie pervasive infrastructures like Bluetooth
  - It's autonomous agents all the way down
- Privacy is a special concern
  - People and agents want to control how information about them is collected and used

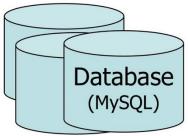
#### Representing and Reasoning about Context

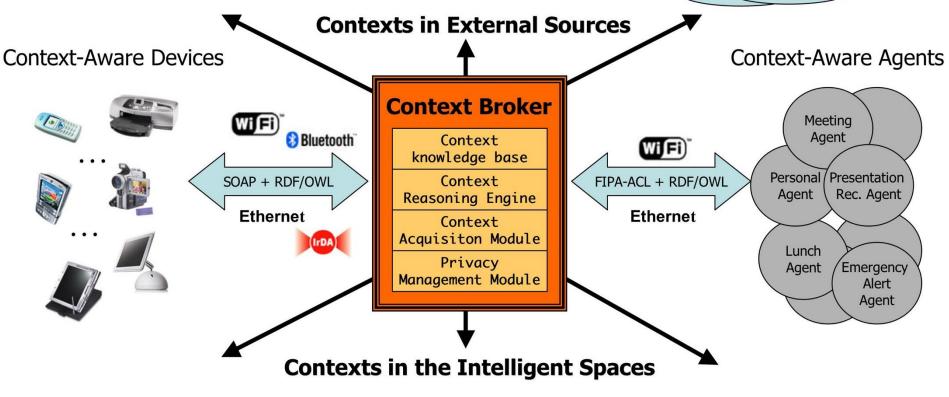
- **CoBrA**: a broker centric agent architecture for supporting pervasive context-aware systems
  - Using SW ontologies for context modeling and reasoning about devices, space, time, people, preferences, meetings, etc.
  - Using logical inference to interpret context and to detect and resolve inconsistent knowledge
  - Allowing users to define policies controlling how information about them is used and shared



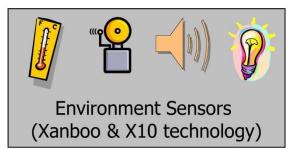
#### A Bird's Eye View of CoBrA

Information Servers (Exchange Server, iCal, YahooGroups, etc.) Semantic Web & Web Services (RDF, DAML+OIL & OWL)







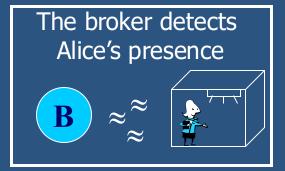




#### A Typical CoBrA Use Case

#### Alice in Wonderland\*







Policy says,
"can share with any
agents in the room"



The broker builds the context model

Web

The broker knows
Alice's role and
intention

+



#### A Typical CoBrA Use Case

#### Alice in Wonderland

The broker informs the subscribed agents



The projector agent wants to help Alice



The projector agent asks slide show info.



The broker acquires the slide show info.



The broker informs the projector agent

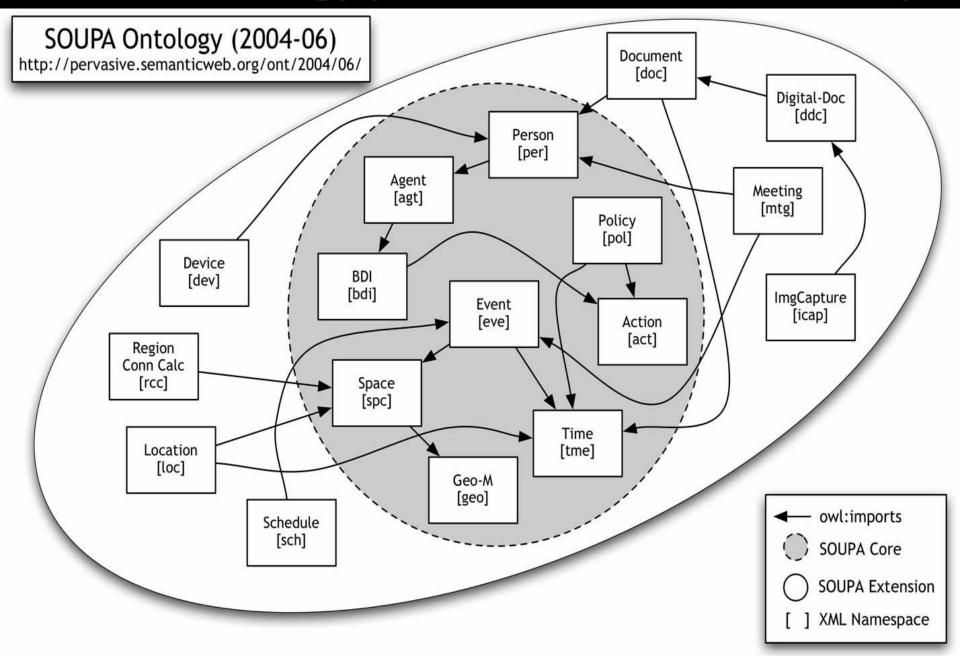


The projector agent sets up the slides

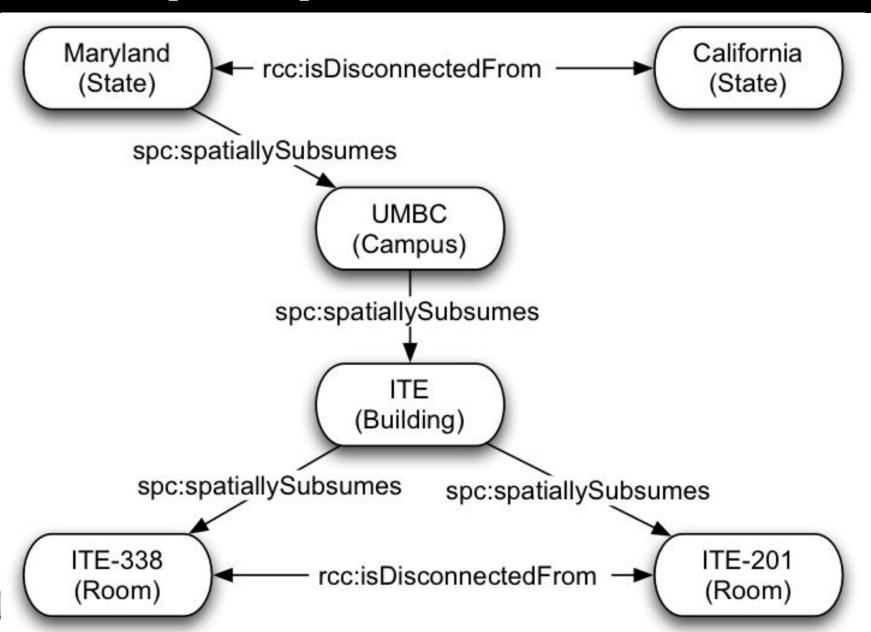




#### SOUPA Ontology provides common vocabulary

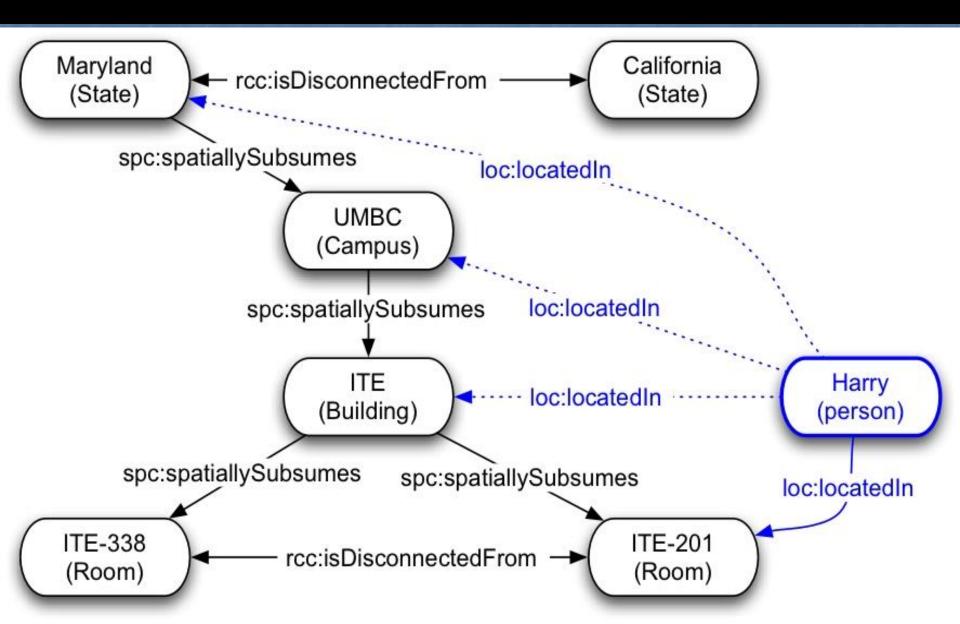


# A Simple Spatial Model of UMBC

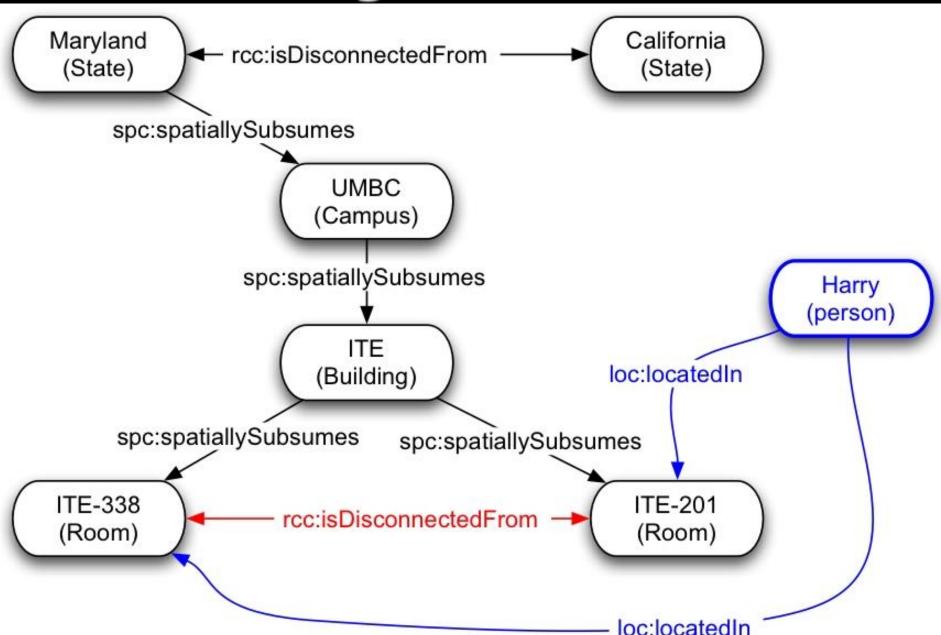


45

# Where's Harry?



# **Detecting Inconsistencies**



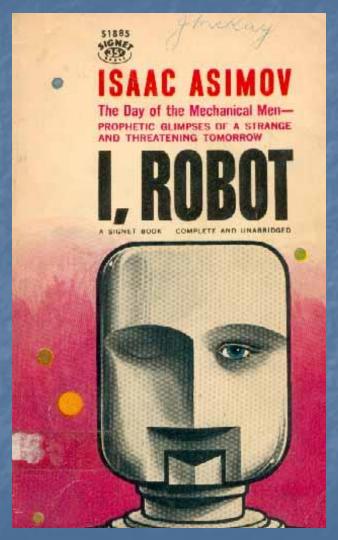
# What about Privacy?

- The information sharing behavior of the context broker is governed by a set of policies
- Expressed in a declarative Policy language
- The set includes policies for the organization(s), space, devices and people involved.



# 1st Autonomous Agent Policy

- 1 A robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
- 2 A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- 3 A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.
  - Handbook of Robotics, 56th Edition, 2058 A.D.





# It's policies all the way down

- ■In Asimov's world, the robots didn't always strictly follow their policies
  - Unlike traditional "hard coded" rules like
     DB access control & OS file permissions
- Autonomous agents need policies as "norms of behavior" followed by good citizens including policies for what happens if they don't follow policies
- ■So, it's natural to worry about ...
  - How agents governed by multiple policies can resolve conflicts among them
  - How to deal with failure to follow policies
     sanctions, reputation, etc.
  - Whether policy engineering will be any easier than software engineering

- 1 A robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
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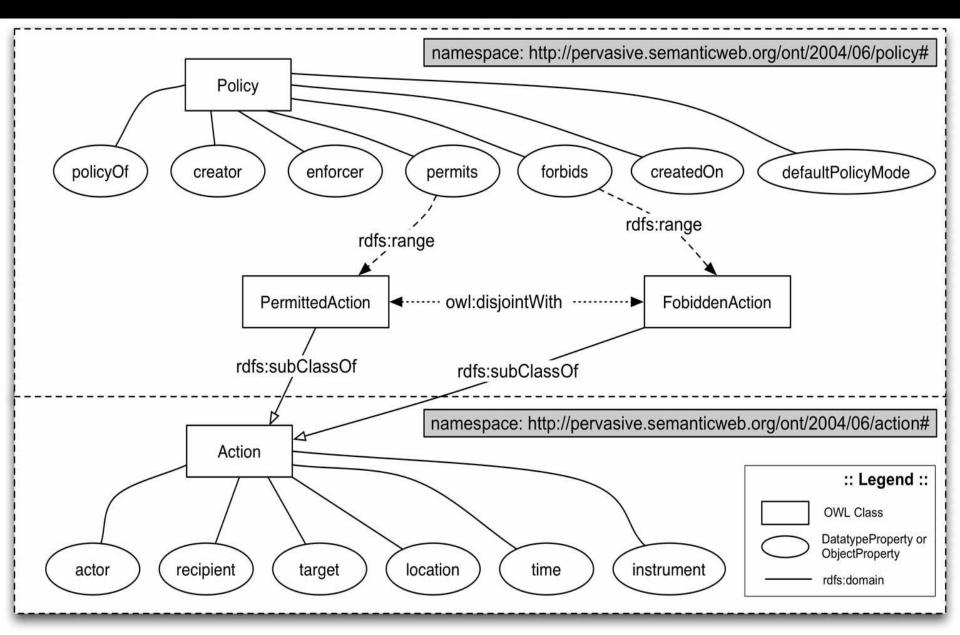


# **Privacy Protection in CoBrA**

- Users define policies to permit or prohibit the sharing of their information
  - Policies are provided by personal agents or published on web pages
  - and use the SOUPA ontologies as well as other SW assertions (e.g., FOAF, schedules)
- The context broker follows user defined policies when sharing information, unless contravened by higher policies



# The SOUPA Policy Ontology



## **Policy Reasoning Use Case**

- The speaker doesn't want others to know the specific room that he's in, but is willing for others to know he's on campus
- He defines the following privacy policy
  - Share my location with a granularity >= "State"
- The broker
  - isLocated(US) => Yes!
  - isLocated(Maryland) => Yes!
  - isLocated(UMBC) => Uncertain...
  - isLocated(ITE-RM210) => Uncertain..



#### What we learned

- FIPA and OWL were good for integrating disparate components
- Even when some of these were running on cell phones!
- OWL made it easy to mix content from different ontologies unambiguously
- The use of OWL made it easy to take advantage of information published in XML on the web
  - e.g., foaf information, privacy policy



#### What we learned

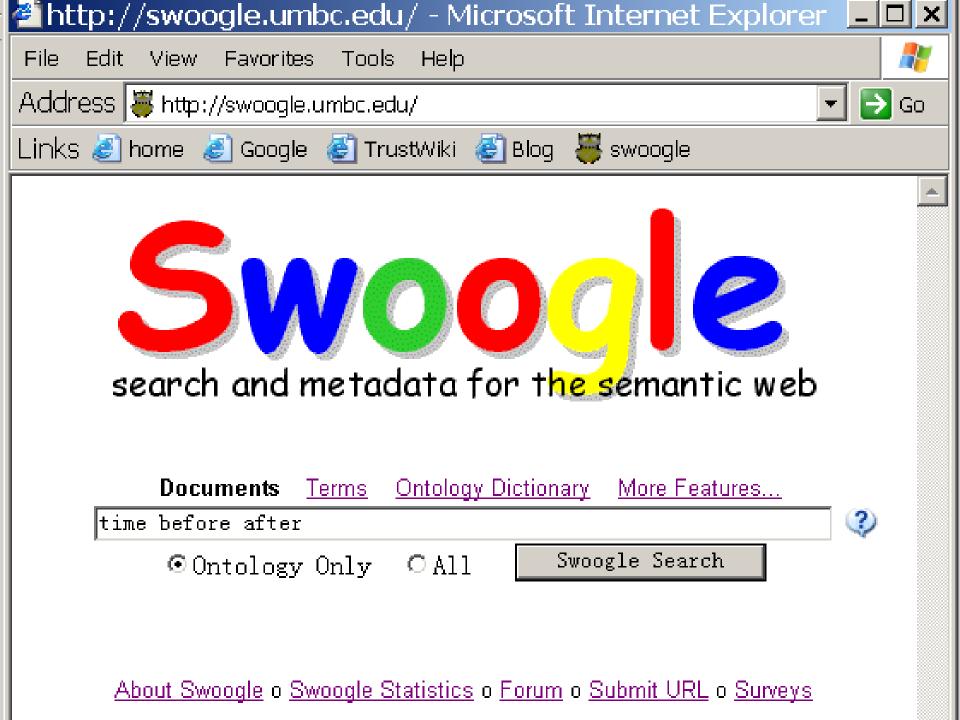
- Declarative policies can be used to model security, trust and privacy constraints
- Reasonably expressive policy languages can be encoded on OWL
- This enables policies to depend on attributes and context information available on the semantic web
- Policies are applicable at almost every level of the stack, from systems and networking to multiagent applications.



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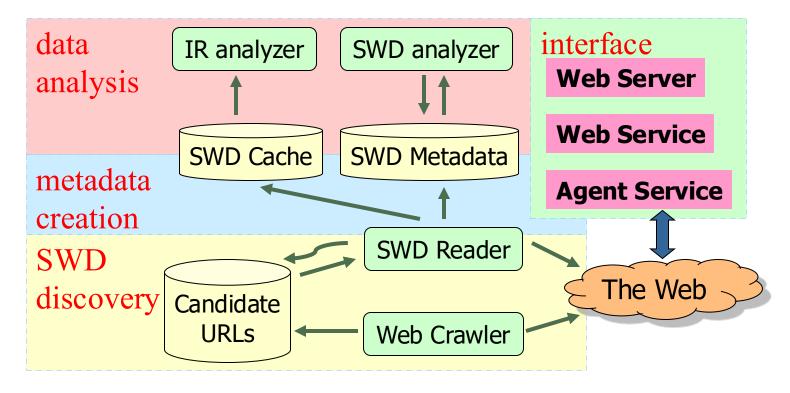
# Google has made us smarter

I will use Google before asking dumb questions. I will use Google before asking dumb questions.

Something similar is needed by people and software agents for information on the semantic web.



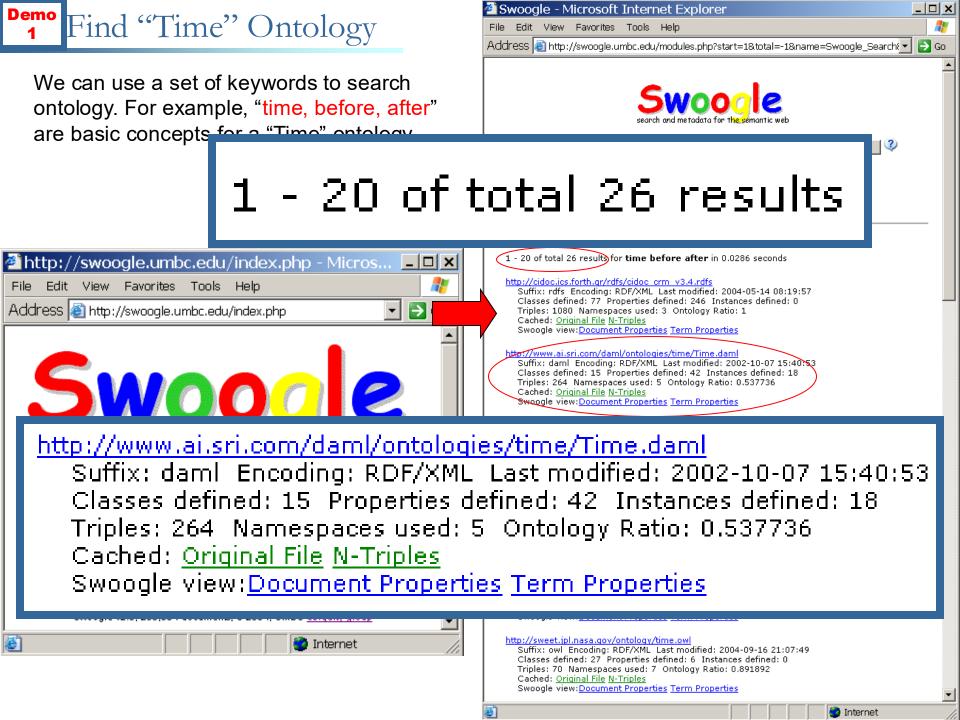
# Swoogle Architecture

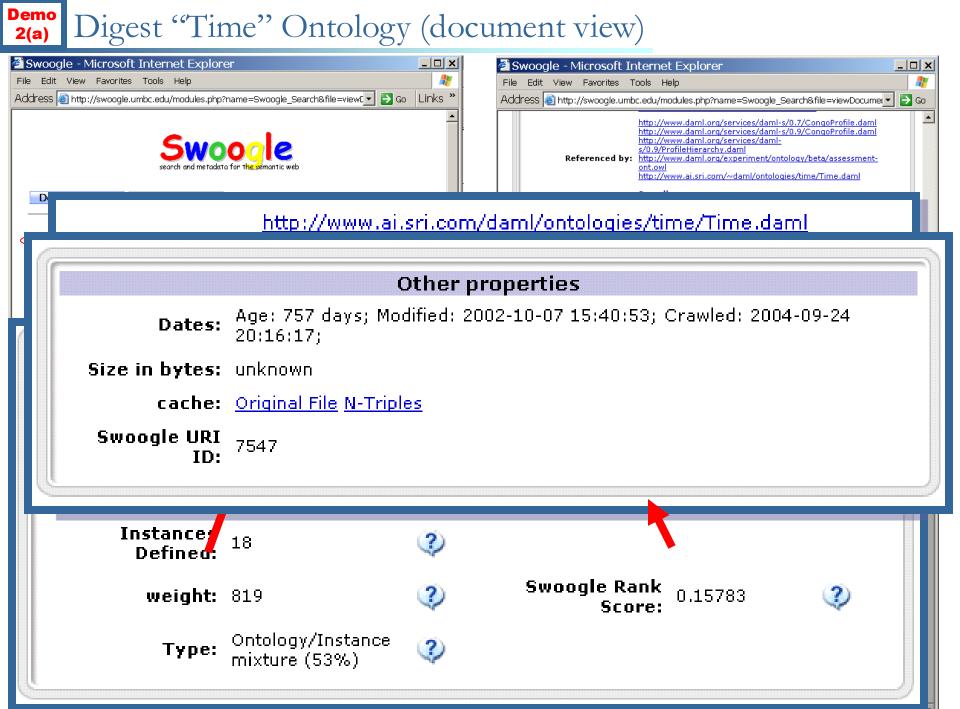


340K SWDs, 48M triples, 97K classes, 55K properties, 7M individuals (April 2005)





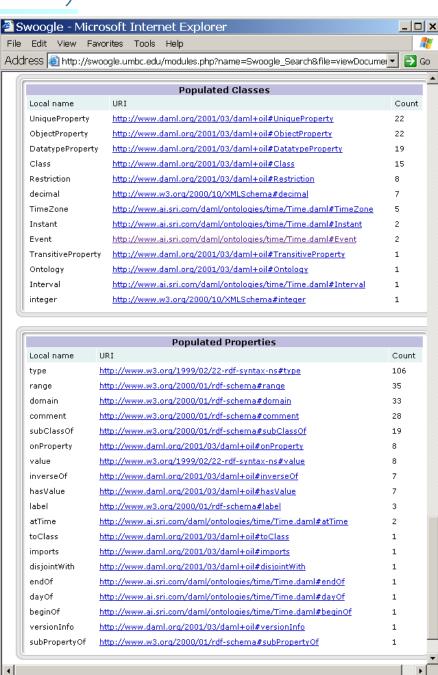


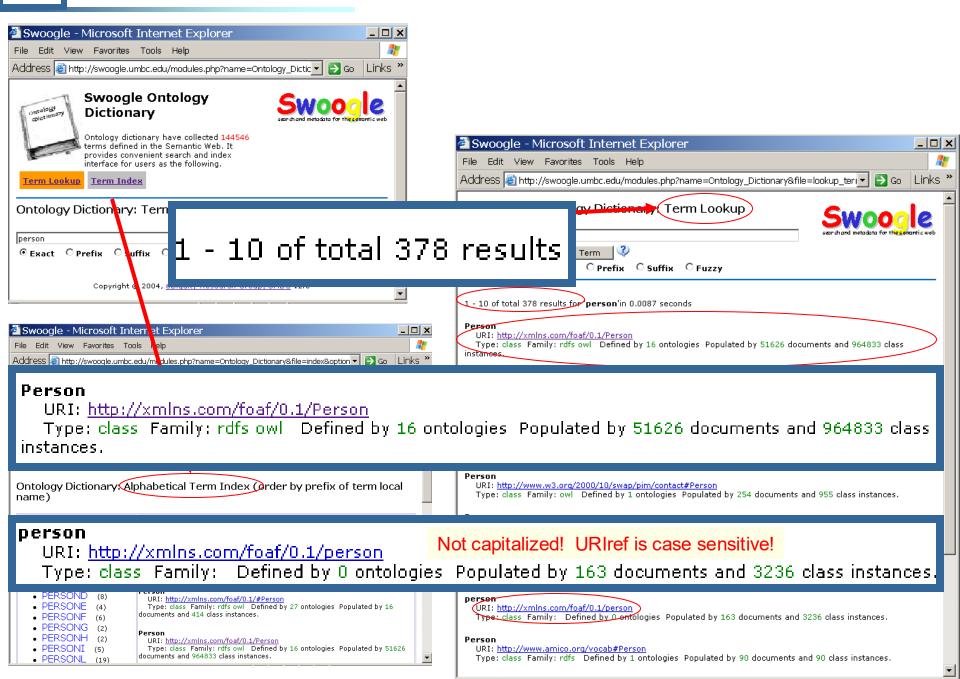


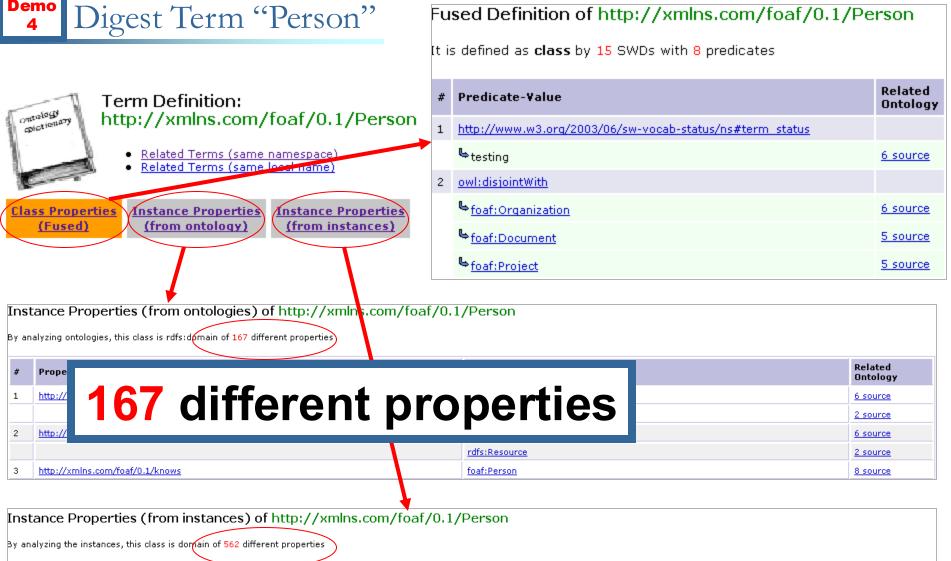
Demo 2(b)

#### Digest "Time" Ontology (term view)



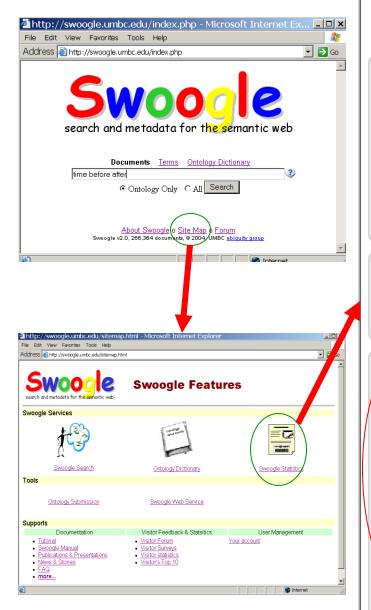


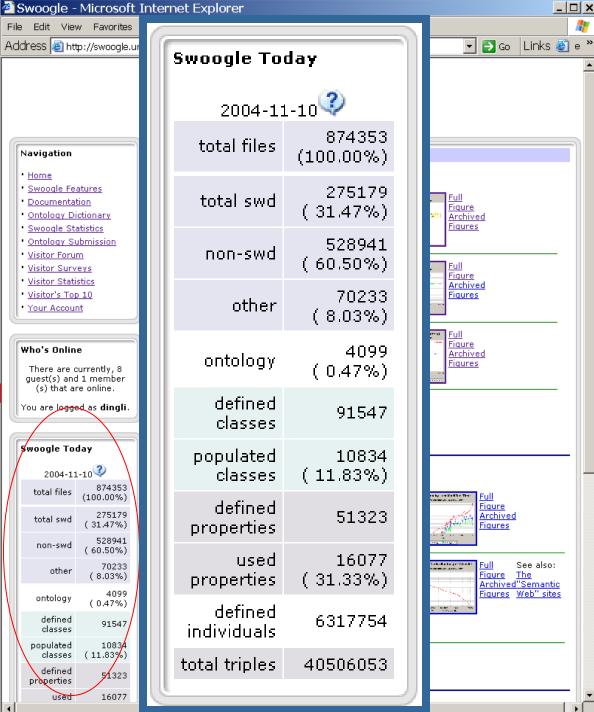






#### Swoogle Today

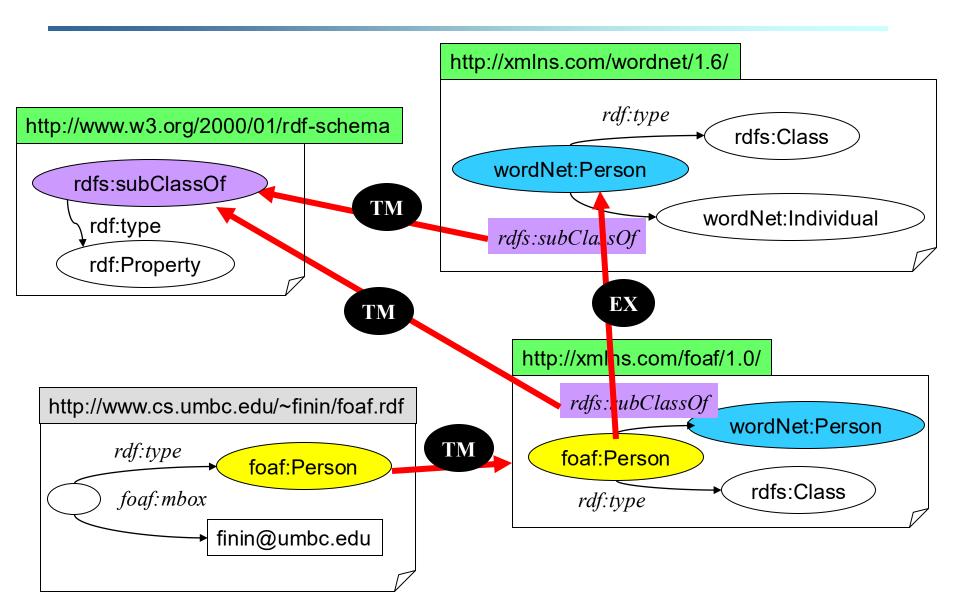




#### SWD per Website (Top 500 website)

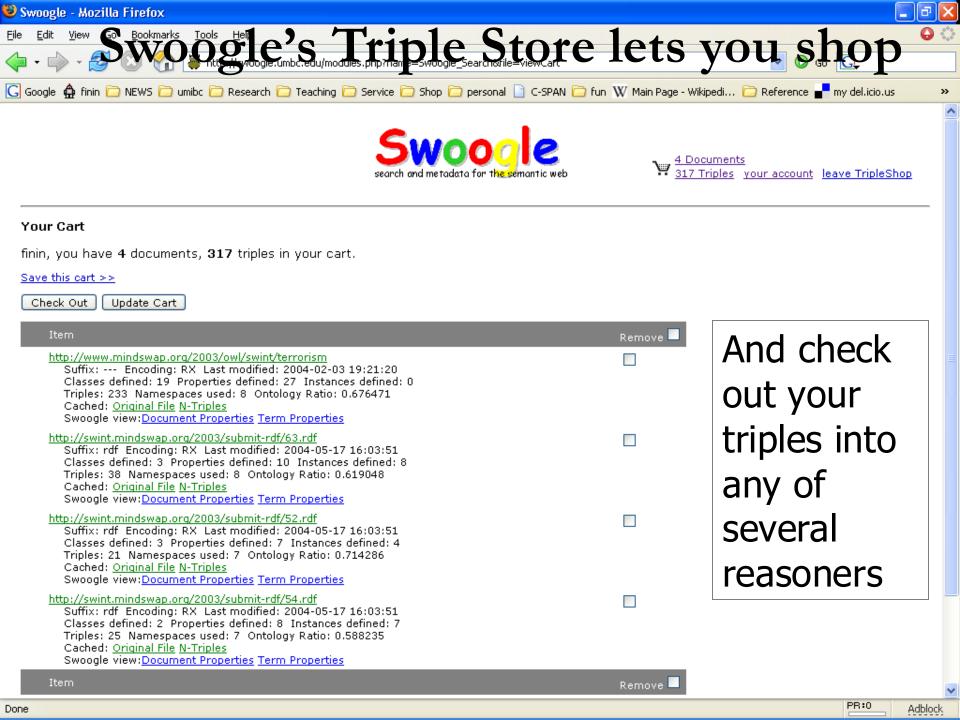
(generated at: Thu, 6 Jan 2005 12:49:49 -0500)						
There are 130882 websites that hosting 336456 SWDs						
rank	host name	swd count	swd percentage	google estimation	nswd count	nswd/swd
1	blog.livedoor.jp	15599	4.64 %	73000	2589	0.1660
2	www.ecademy.com	10052	2.99 %	0	82	0.0082
3	www.uklug.co.uk	8717	2.59 %	0	1	0.0001
4	www.livejournal.com FO	AF 8338	2.48 %	0	2295	0.2752
5	xml.tabulets.com	7826	2.33 %	0	2167	0.2769
6	www.deadjournal.com	7224	2.15 %	0	6761	0.9359
7	testers.cpan.org Trustix	5678	1.69 %	0	21	0.0037
8	blog.goo.ne.jp	5374	1.60 %	25600	350	0.0651
9	www.amagle.com	5090	1.51 %	10500	5799	1.1393
10	yaplog.jp	4420	1.31 %	10900	4015	0.9084
11	blogs.dion.ne.jp	3723	1.11 %	14300	2735	0.7346
12	www.w3.org W3C	3071	0.91 %	11700	3735	1.2162
13	ameblo.jp	2983	0.89 %	0	90	0.0302
14	mirrors.webthing.com	2895	0.86 %	2650	2023	0.6988
15	www.mypress.jp	2891	0.86 %	12400	1018	0.3521
16	blog.drecom.jp	2552	0.76 %	6770	850	0.3331
17	www.kwark.org	2543	0.76 %	43	468	0.1840
18	iw.stanford.edu Stanford	2501	0.74 %	1730	18	0.0072
19	tinysofa.iszerviz.hu	2471	0.73 %	12200	1089	0.4407
20	testers.astray.com	2291	0.68 %	0	1	0.0004

#### Ranking with Rational Surfing Model: An Example

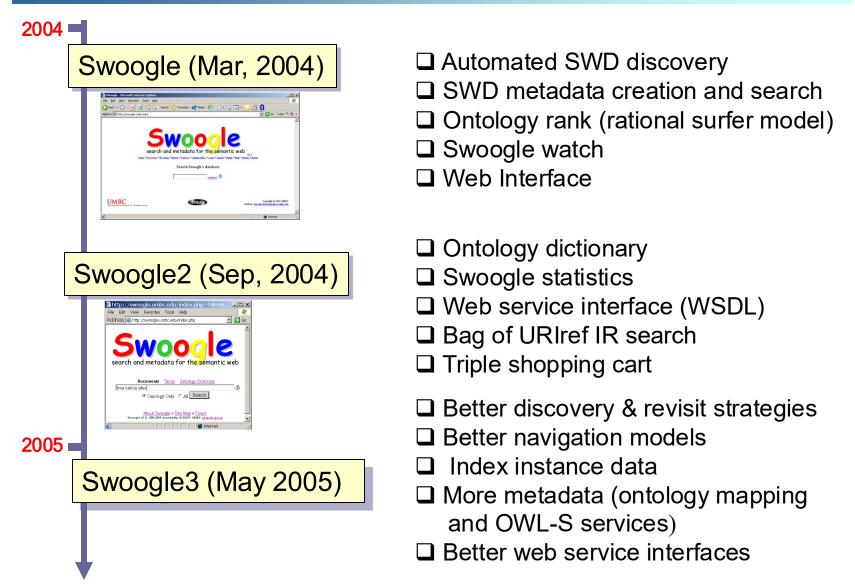








### Summary







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# **Conclusions & final thoughts**

- The web will contain the world's knowledge in forms accessible to people and computers
- We need better ways to discover, index, search and reason over SW knowledge
- Special attention must be applied to security, privacy and trust
- We must develop, deploy and build on open, non-proprietary standards for knowledge sharing.
- The W3C standards RDF and OWL are a foundation for the first generation

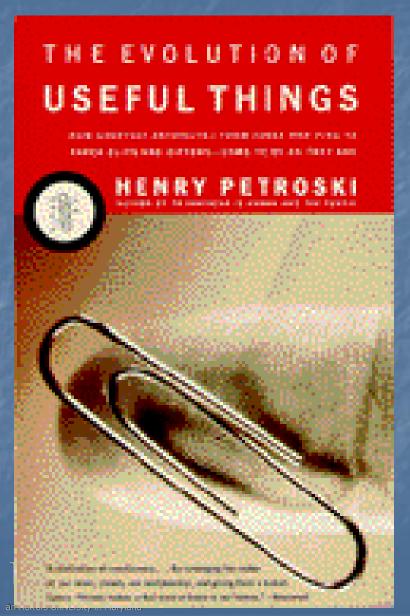


# How do we get there from here?

- This semantic web emphasizes ontologies their development, use, mediation, evolution, etc.
- It will take some time to really deliver on the agent paradigm, either on the Internet or in a pervasive computing environment.
- The development of complex systems is basically an evolutionary process.
- Random search carried out by tens of thousands of researchers, developers and graduate students.

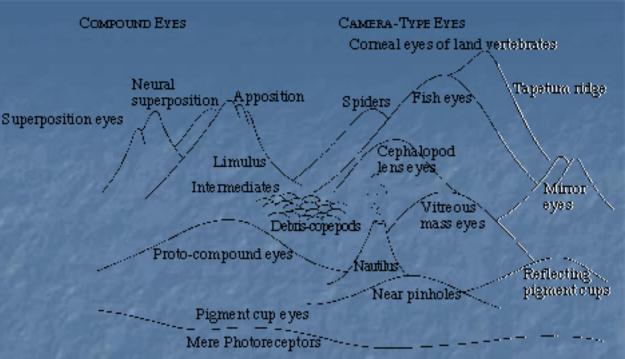


# T.T.T: things take time



- Prior to the 1890's, papers were held together with straight pens.
- The development of "spring steel" allowed the invention of the paper clip in 1899.
- It took about 25 years (!) for the evolution of the modern "gem paperclip", considered to be optimal for general use.

# Climbing Mount Improbable



"The sheer height of the peak doesn't matter, so long as you don't try to scale it in a single bound. Locate the mildly sloping path and, if you have unlimited time, the ascent is only as formidable as the next step."

-- Richard Dawkins, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, Penguin Books, 1996.





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