



Laying the Groundwork for the Semantic Web

Galway, Ireland June 8, 2004

In order to gain a broader foundation, a number of industrialists and academics attended a One Day Semantic Web seminar in London on May 26, 2004. The workshop provided a general overview of the Semantic Web and then focused on areas of current interest to industry. The topics covered were:

- Introduction to the Semantic Web
- Semantic Web Languages - machine processable web data
- Ontologies - sharing knowledge and information
- Semantic Web tools
- Semantic Web & Knowledge Management
- Semantic Web & Web services
- Semantic Web Services - case studies from industry

Representatives from SEKT (Semantically-Enabled Knowledge Technologies) and DIP (Data, Information and Process integration) provided the basis for the workshop.

John Davies, head of the Next Generation Web research division of BT Technologies provided a detailed introduction to the Semantic Web as well as discussing its application in knowledge management. John Domingue the Deputy Director of the Knowledge Media Institute at The Open University, UK covered information on the use of semantic web technology in Web Services. Alistair Duke and Liliana Cabral discussed examples of real world applications of the semantic web technology in the commercial and government sectors.

Despite its explosive growth over the last decade, the Web remains essentially a tool to allow people to access information. The Semantic Web will extend this by using semantically-annotated data to enable the creation and publication of machine-processable information. This will enable firstly more dynamic and flexible eCommerce, based on the deployment of next-generation web services, which will offer a far greater degree of automation than is possible with current web service technology; and, secondly, enhance knowledge discovery, organisation and sharing, principally by the use of ontologies.

DIP and SEKT are 3 year integrated projects funded by the European Commission 6th Framework Programme with budgets of 18M and 11M respectively. They began on January 1, 2004. DIP is coordinated by the recently created Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), which is based at the National University of Ireland, Galway and the University of Innsbruck, Austria. SEKT is coordinated by British Telecom Plc., UK.

For more information on DIP, visit <http://dip.semanticweb.org/>

For more information on SEKT, visit <http://sekt.semanticweb.org>

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