The Future of Semantic Wikis: Some Decisions to Be Made (by Us)

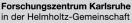Prof. Dr. Rudi Studer

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Decisions to Be Made (1)

- "More Power!" vs. "Keep it simple!"
  (a classical conflict, continued)
  - SemWiki users *do ask* for more expressivity
  - SemWiki users *do complain* about ease of use
  - Semantic Tech offers so many new features
  - Approach 1: Invent new interface metaphors
    (this is more than just implementing impressive GUIs;
     e.g. use "concepts", "rules", "inheritance" not "logical
    formulas", "axioms", "ontologies"; new ideas wanted!)
  - Approach 2: Separate concerns in modeling
    (not all users are equal: clarify different editing roles;
    provide filtered "views" on knowledge; modularize)
  - Further Approaches?

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Decisions to Be Made (2)

- **What about the world beyond wikis?**
  (yes, there is one)
  - Most SemWikis *offer* some data exchange
  - Few SemWikis *actually* exchange any data
  - Semantics should enable knowledge exchange
  - Approach 1: Conquer the Desktop
    (much data still is offline; build connections to exchange knowledge with relevant tools; often tool-by-tool basis)
  - Approach 2: Conquer the Web
    (every wiki is an island; how to integrate data across sites? Integrating wikis with other web services?)
  - Further Approaches?

Decisions to Be Made (3)

- **What becomes of the "Wiki Way"?**
  (times are a-changin' …)
  - Wikis were "defined" as CMS that are quick, simple, collaborative
    but hardly any *concrete* feature is common to all "wikis"
  - Semantic Wikis are Wikis that "use" semantics
  - "Definitions" of other CMS types hardly better
  - Are these categories really useful?
  - What content management do we want to use tomorrow?
  - Semantic wikis as the basis for guiding new systems for managing knowledge