Ontology Engineering: How can we build ontologies? Methods, Techniques and Methodologies

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Main References



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 - Most of the slides have been done jointly with them
- Jeremy Roberts (University of Manchester)
 - Knowledge elicitation techniques

Ontology Definition

"An ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization"





Studer, Benjamins, Fensel. Knowledge Engineering: Principles and Methods. Data and Knowledge Engineering. 25 (1998) 161-197



I want to build my ontology

- Which one are the activities involved in the ontology development process?
- Which one is the goal of each activity?
- When should I carry out each activity?
- What is the relationship of one activity with the others?
- Where can I find ontologies with the goal of reusing them?
- How can I use the ontology in my application?



Ontology Engineering

It refers to the set of activities that concern the ontology development process, the ontology life cycle, the methods and methodologies for building ontologies, and the tool suites and languages that support them

Three aspects of ontology development



Development Process: Which activities



- Life Cycle: Order of activities
- 1. Intra-ontology dependencies
- 2. Inter-ontology dependencies



Methodologies: How to carry out the activities

- 1. Input and outputs
- 2. Methods, tasks, techniques, tools
- 3. Who, When, What, How, Where, Which

Outline

• Ontology Development Process

- Ontology Development Lifecycle
- Methodologies for Building Ontologies
- An example: An ontology about human resources

The Framework



Gómez-Pérez, A. Knowledge Sharing and Reuse. In the Handbook of Applied Expert Systems. CRC Press. 1998.

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Ontologies are available anywhere in Internet





The NeOn Glossary of Activities





Collaboratively Ontology Activity identification and definition

53 activity definitions consensuated

On-going Steps:

- Publication in the NeOn website (http://www.neon-project.org)
- Procedure for getting feed-back from the community (http://cicero.unikoblenz.de)



The NeOn Glossary of Activities

- Ontology Adaptation
- Ontology Alignment / Aligning
- Ontology Annotation
- Ontology Articulation
- Ontology Assessment |
- Ontology Combining
- Ontology Comparing
- Ontology Conceptualization
- Ontology Configuration Management
- Ontology Coordination
- Ontology Customization
- Ontology Diagnosis
- Ontology Documentation
- Ontology Elicitation
- Ontology Enrichment
- Ontology Evaluation

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- Ontology Evolution
- Ontology Extension
- Ontology Formalization
- Ontology Generation
- Ontology Implementation
- Ontology Integration
- Knowledge Acquisition for Ontologies
- Ontology Learning
- Ontology Localization
- Ontology Mapping
- Ontology Matching
- Ontology Mediation
- Ontology Merging
- Ontology Modification
- Ontology Modularization (
- Ontology Module Extraction
- Ontology Partitioning
- Ontology Personalization
- Ontology Population
- Ontology Pruning
- Ontology Reconciliation
- Ontology Reengineering
- Ontology Repair
- Ontology Reuse

- Ontology Searching
- Ontology Selection
- Ontology Specialization
- Ontology Specification
- Ontology Summarization I
- Ontology Transforming
- Ontology Translating
- Ontology Update
- Ontology Upgrade
- Ontology Validation
- Ontology Valuation
- Ontology Verification
- Ontology Versioning
- Scheduling
- Control
- Quality Assurance
- Environment Study
- Feasibility Study
- Reverse Engineering
- Reestructuring
- Forward Engineering



The NeOn Glossary of Activities



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Table of "Required and If-Applicable" Activities

□ **Required activities** refer to those activities that should be carried out when developing networks of ontologies.

□ If Applicable activities refer to those activities that can be carried out or not, depending on the case, when developing ontology networks.

	Required	If Applicable
Ontology Enrichment		X
Ontology Environment Study	Х	
Ontology Evaluation	Х	
Ontology Evolution	Х	
Ontology Extension		Х
Ontology Feasibility Study	Х	
Ontology Formalization	Х	
Ontology Forward Engineering		X
Ontology Implementation	Х	
Ontology Integration	Х	
Knowledge Acquisition for Ontologies	Х	
Ontology Learning		Х
Ontology Localization		Х
Ontology Matching		Х



Ontology Network Development Process



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Neon Ontology Life Cycle. Intra-dependencies



Ontology Engineer ingGroup **Ontology Life Cycle. Intra-dependencies**



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Ontology Life Cycle. Inter-dependencies

Inter-dependencies refer the relationship between activities carried out when building different ontologies



Outline

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NEON Life Cycle <u>Models</u> and Life Cycles in Ontological Engineering

- An **ontology (network) life cycle <u>model</u>** is the framework (waterfall, evolving prototyping, spiral, etc.), selected by each organization, on which to map the activities identified in the ontology development process.
- The **ontology (network) life cycle** is the project <u>specific sequence</u> <u>of activities</u>, created by mapping the activities identified in the ontology development process onto a selected ontology life cycle model.



Example: three versions of the waterfall ontology network life cycle model



Several Ontology Life Cycle Models are possible

There is **no a unique life cycle model** valid for all the ontology development projects and that each life cycle model is appropriate for a concrete project, depending on several features.

For example, sometimes it is better a simple one (like waterfall), whereas other times it is most suitable a spiral one (if the analysis of the risk is needed within the project).

 Assumption: Ontology requirements are known at the begining of the ontology development project.



 Assumption: Ontology requirements can be not known at the begining of the ontology development project and can change during the project.

Evolutionary Prototyping

Rapid Throwaway Prototyping



Several Ontology Life Cycle Models are possible

 Assumption: Uncertainties in the ontology requirements can derive into risks in the project.



Risks can be:

- Properties became classes
- Move from frames to DL
- Reuse new existing resources

□ **Planning**: in this phase it is carried out the whole schedule for the ontology network development and the specification of the ontology network requirements.

□ **Risk analysis**: after analysing the possible risk within the ontology network development, the decision of continuing or not with a new iteration around the spiral is taken.

Engineering: in this phase it is developed a prototype of the ontology network based on the specified requirements, following any type of waterfall ontology network life cycle model.

Intology



How software developers and ontology practitioners decide which ontology network life cycle model is the most appropriate for their ontology network and which concrete activities should be carried out in their ontology network life cycle?

Proposed steps:

dentify ontology network development requirements.

Select the ontology network life cycle model (ONLCM) to be used.

Select activities to be carried out from the "Required–if Applicable" table.

Map the selected activities into the selected ontology network life cycle model.

Set the order of the activities: the result is the ontology network life cycle for the ontology network.



NEON Step 2: Decision Tree for Selecting the Ontology Network Life Cycle Model



NEON Step 3: Decision Tree for Selecting Activities to be mapped in the Ontology Network Life Cycle Model

Yes

Have you developed more than 5 ontologies?

Set of "yes/no" natural language questions for identifying the 'if-applicable' activities to be carried out.

No

> Do you want to have your ontology network in different natural languages, as for example, in English, Spanish and French? YES \rightarrow *O. Localization*.

> Do you want to take an existing and implemented ontology, in order to enhance it and implement it again? NO \rightarrow *O. Reengineering is not selected.*

Software developers and ontology practicioners select the activities to be carried out from the "Required-If Applicable" table

	If Applicable	Selected
Ontology Aligning	X	X
Ontology Customization	X	10 mar 10
Ontology Learning	X	
Ontology Localization	x	X
Ontology Matching	x	x
Ontology Modification	X	
Ontology Reengineering	X	
Ontology Restructuring	X	X

Automatically



Set of "yes/no" natural language questions for identifying the 'if-applicable' activities to be carried out.

Activity	Natural Language Questions					
Ontology Aligning (or Ontology Mapping)	Do you have two or more ontologies at your disposal that you want to examine to find correspondences and to take advantage of them? Do you want to find out correspondences among ontologies to use them?					
Ontology Customization	Do you want to adapt the ontology network to a specific user profile? Do you want to modify the ontology network to meet specific user needs?					
Ontology Enrichment	Do you want to widen/extend your current ontology network with additional elements (e.g., concepts, roles, axioms, etc.)?					
Ontology Extension	Do you want to stretch, widen, broaden or expand your current ontology network by adding new concepts "in a horizontal way/direction" with the aim of widenning its sphere of action?					
Ontology Forward Engineering	Are you going to carry out a new implementation for a previously modified conceptual model? Are you going to produce a new implementation for a modified conceptual model, whose previous version had already been implemented?					



Scenarios for Building Ontology Networks



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- Ontology Development Process
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Most relevant methodologies

- **Cyc method**
- **Uschold and King's method**
- Grüninger and Fox's methodology
- KACTUS approach
- METHONTOLOGY
- **SENSUS method**
- On-To-Knowledge
- **DILIGENT**



None deals with the three dimensions simultaneously

NeOn Methodology V1 will be available in February 2008

Uschold's Methodology



3. Evaluation

4. Documentation



Uschold, M.; Grüninger, M. ONTOLOGIES: Principles, Methods and Applications. Knowledge Engineering Review. Vol. 11; N. 2; June 1996.

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TOVE Methodology



Methodology used on the KACTUS project

A botton-up approach for building ontologies

Build a preliminary ontology for refinement and augment with new definitions





A. Bernaras; I. Laresgoiti; J. Corera. Building and reusing ontologies for electrical network applications ECAI96. 12th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 1996. 298-302

SENSUS Method

Linking Domain Specific Terms to a broad Coverage Ontology

To identify the terms in SENSUS that are relevant to a particular domain and then prune the skeletal ontology using heuristics



B. Swartout; R. Patil; k. Knight; T. Russ. *Toward Distributed Use of Large-Scale Ontologies* **Ontological Engineering.** AAAI-97 Spring Symposium Series. 1997. 138-148.

SENSUS method (II)

METHOD

- 1. Identify "seed" terms
- 2. Link seed terms to SENSUS by hand
- 3. Include nodes on the path to root
- 4. Add entire subtrees using the heuristic:
 - If many nodes in a subtree are relevant,
 - the other nodes in the subtree are relevant



- Seed Seed
- Path to root
- Frequent Parent
 - Subtree Term



B. Swartout; R. Patil; k. Knight; T. Russ. Toward Distributed Use of Large-Scale Ontologies Ontological Engineering. AAAI-97 Spring Symposium Series. 1997. 138-148.

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SENSUS method (III)



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Project setting

Ontology development



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Summary of the Methodologies



With respect to the activities in the ontology development process

Feature		Сус	Uschold & King	Grüninger & Fox	KACTUS	METHONTOLOGY	SENSUS	On-To- Knowledge	
Ontology	Scheduling		NP	NP	NP	NP	Proposed	NP	Described
management	Control		NP	NP	NP	NP	Proposed	NP	Described
activities	Quality assuran	ce	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	Described
	Pre-	Pre- Environment study		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	Proposed
Ontology development- oriented activities Pos dev	development processes	Feasibility study	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	Described
		Specification	NP	Proposed	Described in detail	Proposed	Describe in detail	Proposed	Describe in detail
	Development processes	Conceptualization	NP	NP	Described in detail	Proposed	Described in detail	NP	Proposed
		Formalization	NP	NP	Described in detail	Described	Described	NP	Described
		Implementation	Proposed	Proposed	Described	Proposed	Described in detail	Described	Described
	Post- development processes	Maintenance	NP	NP	NP	NP	Proposed	NP	Proposed
		Use	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	Proposed
	Knowledge acquisition		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	NP	Described in detail	NP	Described
Ontology support activities	Evaluation		NP	Proposed	Described in detail	NP	Described in detail	NP	Proposed
	Integration	Integration		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	NP	Proposed
	Configuration n	Configuration management		ŇP	NP	ŇP	Described	NP	Proposed
	Documentation		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	NP	Described in detail	NP	Described
Merging and Alignment		NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	



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Looking for an European Employment





The Goal: Helping Job Seekers on their way



Centralized network of ontologies



- 1. Build a reference ontology
- 2. Build mappings between the reference ontology and the data sources

Federated network of ontologies



- Build a reference ontology for the domain
- **Build local ontologies**
- **Build mappings between the core and local ontologies**
- Build mappings between the local ontologies and the data sources



Federated Network of Ontologies

- Build a reference ontology for the domain. This Reference Ontology is the core semantic component of the system. It acts as a common "language" in the form of a set of controlled vocabularies to describe the details of a job posting and the CV of a job seeker.
- Build **local ontologies**. Each ES uses its own Local Ontology, which describes the employment market in its own terms.
- Build mappings between the core and local ontologies.
- Build mappings between the local ontologies and the data sources (ES schema).







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Specification of the Reference Ontology

60 Competency Questions grouped into 5 categories (modular approach)

- Job Seeker (12)
 - What is his/her education level?
- Job Offer (12)
 - What are the required skills for the job offer?
- Time and date management (7)
 - When the job seeker completed his/her first degree?
- Currencies (4)
 - The offered salary is given in US dollars?
- General (25)
 - Given the employer information, economic activity of the employer and the job offer profile (job, contract type, salary, work condition, contract duration), what job seekers are the most appropriate?

Given the job offer profile (job, contract type, salary, work condition) and the required profile to seek (required education level, required work experience, required knowledge, required skills), what job seekers are the most appropriate?

Each organization has job offers for job seekers

Vocabulary: Questions: contract type, salary, work condition, job seeker, job offer, ... Answers: autonomous, 3000 euro, holliday job, ...

> Classes: Contract Type, Compensation, Work Condition, Job Seeker, Job Offer ... Relations: has job category, has compensation, requires work experience ... Attributes: Name, date of birth, email ...



Ontological Engineering

Dntology

Search and Assess Standards and Taxonomies

- We select the most appropriate ٠ standards and taxonomies for:
 - **Occupation Classification** ISCO-88 (COM), SOC, ISCO-88, ONET, Eures Taxonomy.
 - **Classification of Economic Activities** ISIC Rev. 3.1, NACE Rev. 1.1, NAICS
 - Apprenticeship classifications **ISCED 97, FOET**
 - Currency Classification **ISO 4217**
 - **Geography Classification** ISO 3166, Eures Taxonomy
- The $IDABC^{1}$ identifies as one of the ٠ successful factors at facilitating the development of pan-European interoperable information systems:
 - "Identify, reuse and extend existing assets (taxonomies, thesauri, etc.)"

(1) -> IDABC Content Interoperability Strategy. Working paper. Sep 2

Language Classification **ISO 6392, CEF** Driving License Classification **European Legislation Skill Classification Eures** Taxonomy **Contract Types Classification** LE FOREM, Eures and BLL Classification Work Condition Classification LE FOREM, Eures and BLL Classification

Assessment activity:

Matching terminology from Competency Questions against the Standards





Reengineer



Selection of Human Resources Management Standards

Reference Ontology shall be based on the international, European or de-facto industrial standar Reengineer

Search

Assessment

Select

	Occupation Classific a			ition	C Eco	assification nomic Activi	of ies	Apprent Classif	ceship cation
	SOC	ONET	ISCO-88	ISCO-88 (COM)	ISIC Rev. 3.1	NACE Rev. 1.1	NAICS	ISCED 97	FOET
The degree of coverage		Ø	Ŋ			Ø			
The current European needs				Ŋ		Ø		Ø	Ø
	Currency Geo Classification Class		ography Lan ssification Cla		Language Classification		License		
	ISO 4217 ISO		3166 ISC		ISO 6392		Community Driving License		

But, we need also proprietary taxonomies ...



Knowledge Resource <u>Reengineering</u>

Search

Assessment



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Ontology <u>Searching</u> in **Ontology Metadata Repositories**

Ontology to describe ontology metadata information

- OMV Ontology Metadata Vocabulary (http://ontoware.org/projects/omv)
- Knowledge Zone vocabulary (http://tinyurl.com/qfp2s)
- 4 Ontology Metadata Repositories
 - Oyster (P2P system, http://oyster.ontoware.org)
 - ONTHOLOGY.org (centralized, http://www.onthology.org/) •
 - Knowledge Zone (centralized, http://smiprotege.stanford.edu:8080/KnowledgeZone/) •
 - Swoogle (http://swoogle.umbc.edu/) •





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knowledge zone one stop shop for ontologies



O. Searching O. Assessment **O. Selection**



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Process for <u>Assessing</u> Time Ontologies (I) O. Searching O. Assessment 1. Identification of criteria for comparing the candidate set of temporal ontologies **O. Selection Time Points** Distinction between open and closed intervals Time Interval Absolute and Relative Explicit modeling of General criteria for the time Time proper intervals domain Relations between time Concatenation of intervals intervals Convex and non convex Different temporal intervals granularities

2. Assess all existing temporal ontologies against the criteria

	Cyc's	Unrestricted	Simple	Reusable	Kestrel	SRI's	SUMO Time	DAML	AKT Time
	Upper	Time Ontology	Time	Time	Time	Time	Ontology	Time	Ontology
	Ontology		Ontology	Ontology	Ontology	Ontology		Ontology	
Time Points	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Time Interval	\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Absolute and Relative Time			\checkmark	$\mathbf{\mathbf{a}}$				\checkmark	\checkmark
Relations between time intervals					\mathbf{a}		\checkmark	\checkmark	
Convex and non convex intervals				$\mathbf{\mathbf{\nabla}}$				\checkmark	
Distinction between open and closed intervals				N			\square	\checkmark	
Explicit modeling of proper intervals								\checkmark	
Concatenation of intervals								\checkmark	
Different temporal granularities	$\mathbf{\nabla}$					\triangleleft	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Provides axioms		R	\triangleleft	$\mathbf{\mathbf{a}}$			\square	\checkmark	

Process for <u>Assessing</u> Time Ontologies (II)

- 3. Checking which temporal properties are needed for answering the Competency Questions (identified in the Ontology Specification activity)
 - a. When the job seeker completed his/her first degree?
 - b. Is the job seeker older than 30 years?
 - c. How much time did the job seeker spend completing his/her first degree?
 - d. How long is the duration of the contract?
 - e. Which job offers were posted in last 24 hours?
 - f. Which job offers were posted in last 7 days?
 - g. Which job offers were posted in last month?
 - h. Was the job seeker unemployed?
 - i. Was the job seeker a student between 1995 and 2000?



O. Searching

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The Time Ontology <u>Selection</u>



	Cyc's	Unrestricted	Simple	Reusable	Kestrel	SRI's	SUMO Time	DAML	AKT Time
	Upper	Time Ontology	Time	Time	Time	Time	Ontology	Time	Ontology
	Ontology		Ontology	Ontology	Ontology	Ontology		Ontology	
Time Points	\leq	\checkmark	$\mathbf{\mathbf{\vee}}$	\checkmark	\checkmark	\leq	\checkmark	K	\checkmark
Time Interval	\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Absolute and Relative Time			\checkmark	\leq				\leq	\checkmark
Relations between time intervals					\leq		\checkmark	\leq	
Convex and non convex intervals				V				\leq	
Distinction between open and closed intervals				Z			Z	K	
Explicit modeling of proper intervals								\checkmark	
Concatenation of intervals								\checkmark	
Different temporal granularities	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark	Z	\checkmark
Provides axioms		\checkmark	\leq	\checkmark			\checkmark	\triangleleft	



Ontological Engineering

Conceptualization:



Modular approach for ontology construction















Local Ontologies Building Process

• Option 1: Building Local Ontologies from the Reference Ontology.



• Option 2: Building Local Ontologies as a reengineering process from ES Data Sources.

ES Data Sources

Resultant Local Ontology



Which option is the most appropriate for the use case?





Approach followed by SEEMP for building Local Ontologies

A hybrid approach

- Option 1 for Job Seeker and Job Offer Ontologies
- Option 2 for Occupation, Education, etc.



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