The Protégé OWL Plugin

Holger Knublauch Stanford University July 07 2004

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Overview

The Semantic Web and OWL

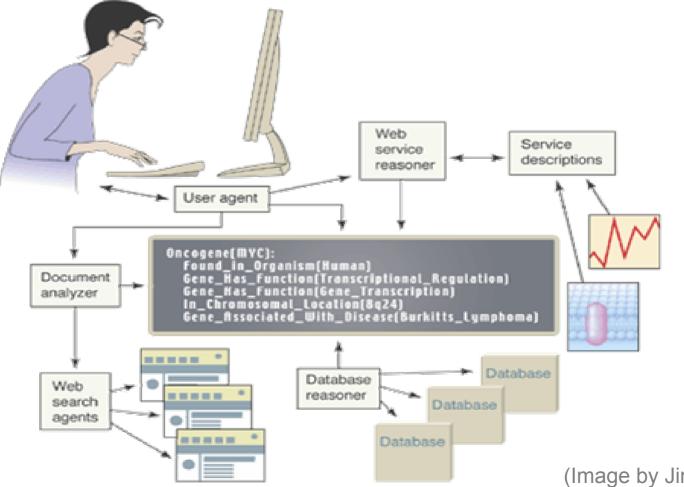
OWL in the Protégé Community

The OWL Plugin

Future Directions

The Semantic Web

Shared ontologies help to exchange data and meaning between web-based services



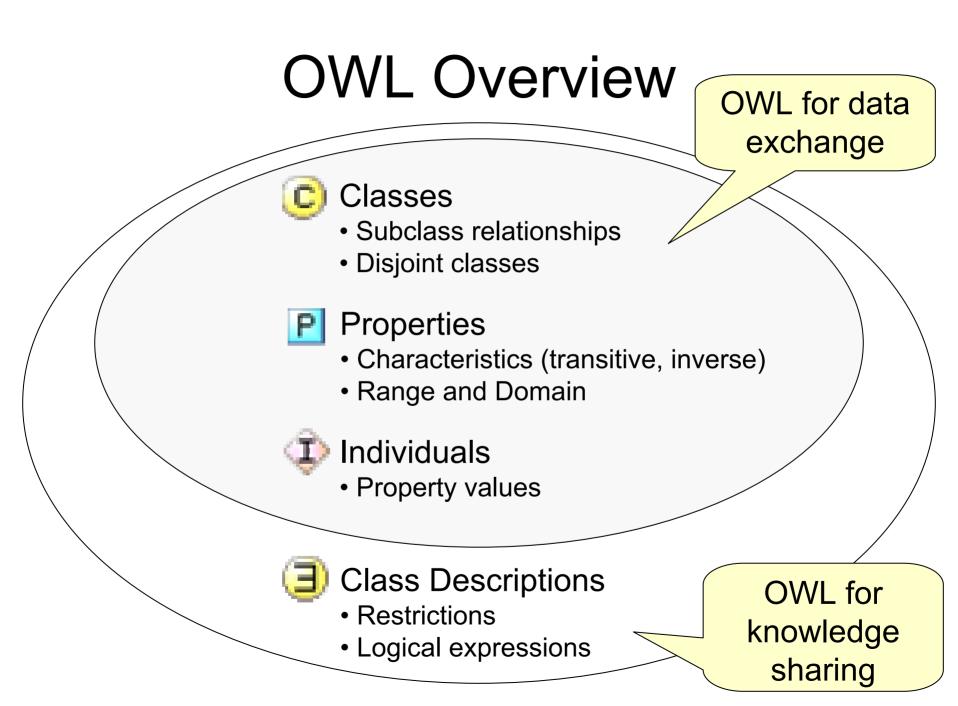
(Image by Jim Hendler)

OWL

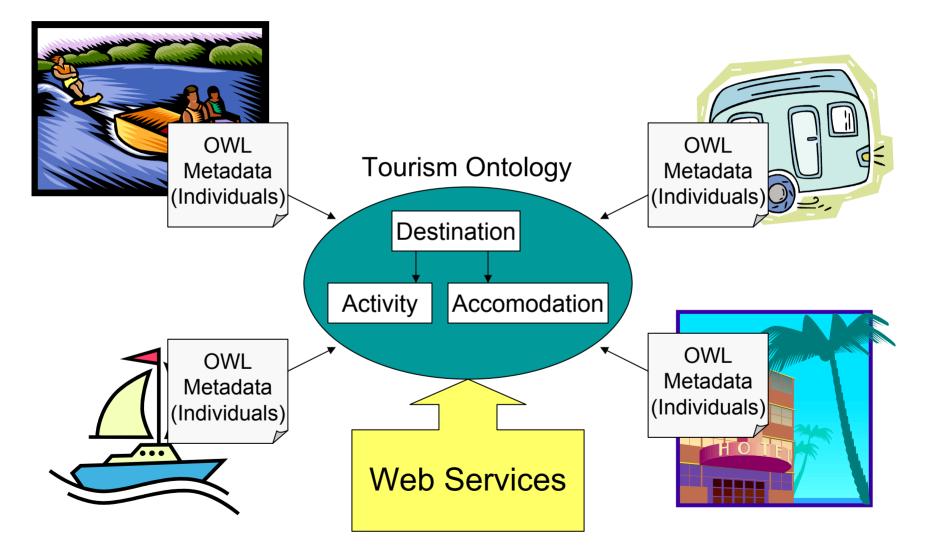
- <u>Web</u> Ontology Language
- Official W3C Standard since Feb 2004



- A Web Language: Based on RDF(S)
- An Ontology Language: Based on logic



Example Semantic Web



Description Logics

 Classes can be defined using logical expressions about their members.

Restrictions

- allValuesFrom
- someValuesFrom
- hasValue



minCardinality



maxCardinality



cardinality

Logical Expressions 🔟 unionOf





Enumerations {red green blue}

Description Logics Example

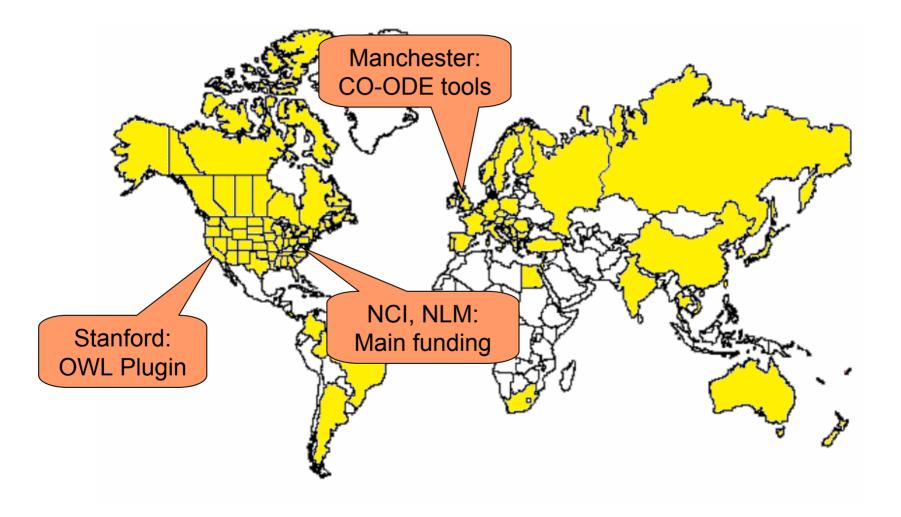
- Asserted definitions:
 - "National parks provide hiking trails"
 - "Hiking is a sport"
 - "Those destinations with sporting facilities are backpacker's destinations"
- Automatically inferred:

- National parks are backpacker's destinations

Class Descriptions: Why?

- Make knowledge sharable with machines
- Make explicit intentions and modeling decisions (comparable to test cases)
- Make sure that individuals fulfill conditions
- Tool-supported reasoning
 - Classification of classes and individuals
 - Consistency Checking

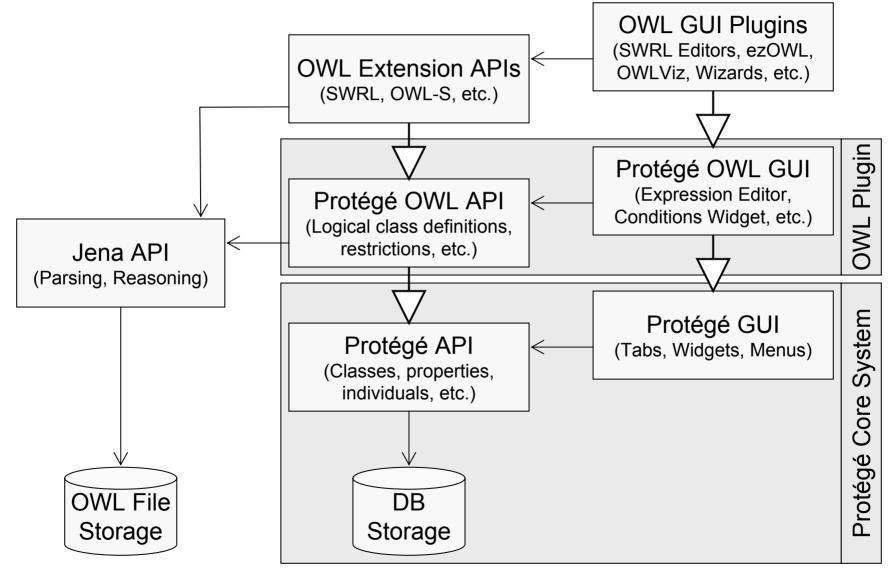
Protégé OWL Community



OWL Plugin

- Large Protégé Plugin (>560 classes)
- Extends base system with
 - OWL language capabilities (metamodel, files)
 - Custom-tailored user interface
 - Access to description logic reasoners
 - Code generators etc
- Many features are native to OWL
- Backwards compatible where possible

OWL Plugin Architecture

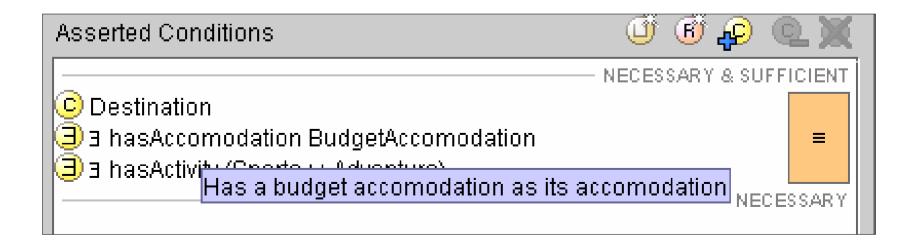


Logic View

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Properties View

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Classification

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C+C Classification Results

© NationalPark

Consistency Checking

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Ontology Tests

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RDF(S) Editing

- OWL extends RDF, OWL Plugin can edit RDF
- Select Language Profile RDF(S)

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Code Generators

- Create Java classes to easier access OWL ontologies
 - Jena Schema generator
 - Kazuki interfaces
- Better integration into other software development activities

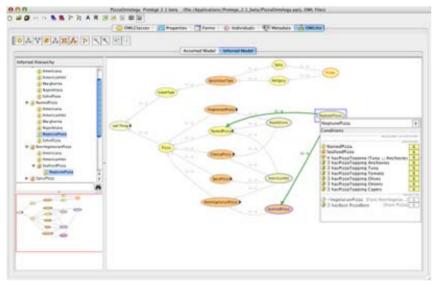
Extending the OWL Plugin

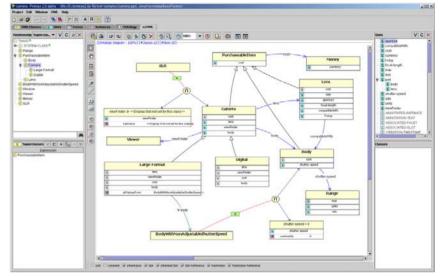
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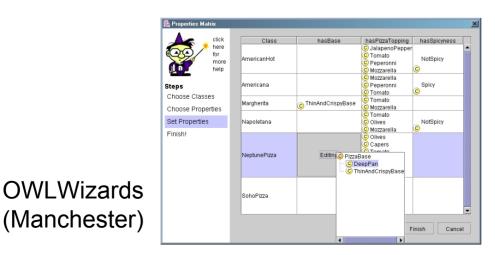
Other OWL Plugins

OWLViz (Manchester)

ezOWL (Korea)





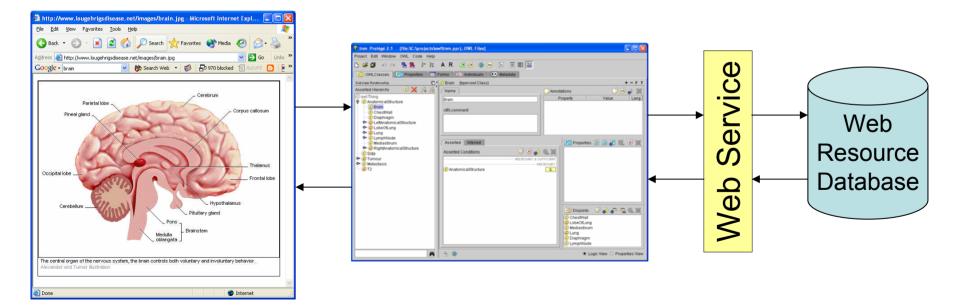


Under Development:

- OWL-S
- SWRL
- Semantic Debugging
- Joseki (Jena Database)

Integrating Web Services

 Arbitrary extensions can benefit from the Protégé infrastructure as a platform



OWL Benefits

- OWL is the W3C ontology standard
- Interoperable with RDF and XML
- Growing community and tool support
- OWL has formal semantics and built-in reasoning support
- Semantics support maintenance of large ontologies / knowledge models

Protégé OWL Benefits

- A de facto standard tool in the OWL world
- Growing number of plugins / adaptations
- Custom-tailored Open-Source API
- Online support
- Robust platform
- Compatibility with Jena
- Scalable (Database backend)

OWL Risks

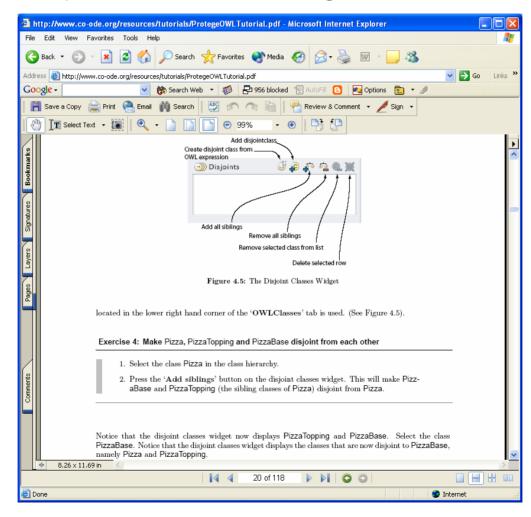
- Steep learning curve
 - Difficult syntax
 - Difficult semantics (\rightarrow OWL Tutorial)
- Semantic Web hype / Lack of real-world example applications
- Chicken-and-egg problem of Semantic Web

Getting Started



OWL Tutorial (Manchester)

http://www.co-ode.org/resources/



Outlook

- OWL will remain a focus at Stanford
 - Simpler user interface
 - Better Workflow/Versioning support
 - Optimized access to reasoners (RACER)
 - Numeric range restrictions
 - Access to UML/Model Driven Architecture
- More plugins will be available
- Collaborations?