

Automation and Semantics: The CombeChem Experience

Jeremy Frey

Informatics & Data Visualisation

Intech Centre Oct 2004

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Talk: Workflow

- Introduction to e-Science & the Combechem Project
- Smart Labs
- Semantics & Databases
- Publication@Source
- Conclusions

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e-Science

- 'e-Science is about global collaboration in key areas of science, and the next generation of infrastructure that will enable it.'
- 'e-Science will change the dynamic of the way science is undertaken.' John Taylor, DG of UK OST
- '[The Grid] intends to make access to computing power, scientific data repositories and experimental facilities as easy as the Web makes access to information.' Tony Blair, 2002
- What is the web?
- Publication@Source
 - trace all the way back from publication to the original data – **CombeChem**
- Who needs provenance?

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Bush, Blair & Hutton 2004

The CombeChem Project

- The exponential world of combinatorial synthesis and high throughput analysis meets the exponentially growing power of computing
 - Automation, Semantics & the Grid ”
- End to End linking of data and information
 - In chemistry this can be a very long chain – from a lab to inside a mouse

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The CombeChem Project

- Collect data with regard to how it could eventually be used
 - Make sure the metadata is of high quality
 - Record properly at source
- The Chemistry Lab
 - People & Machines working together

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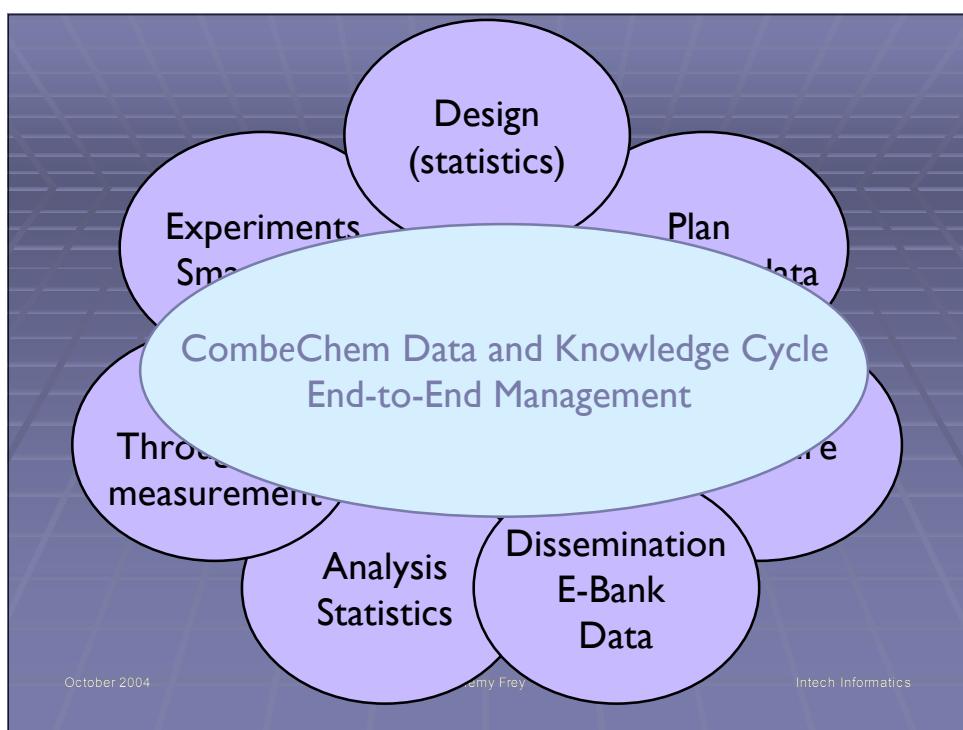
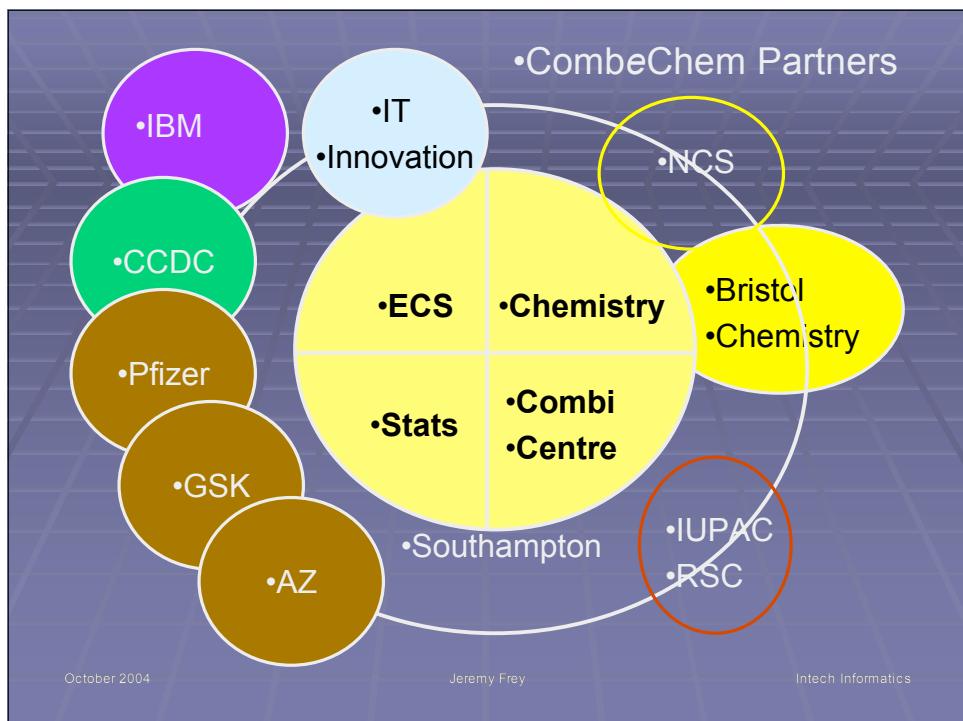
People

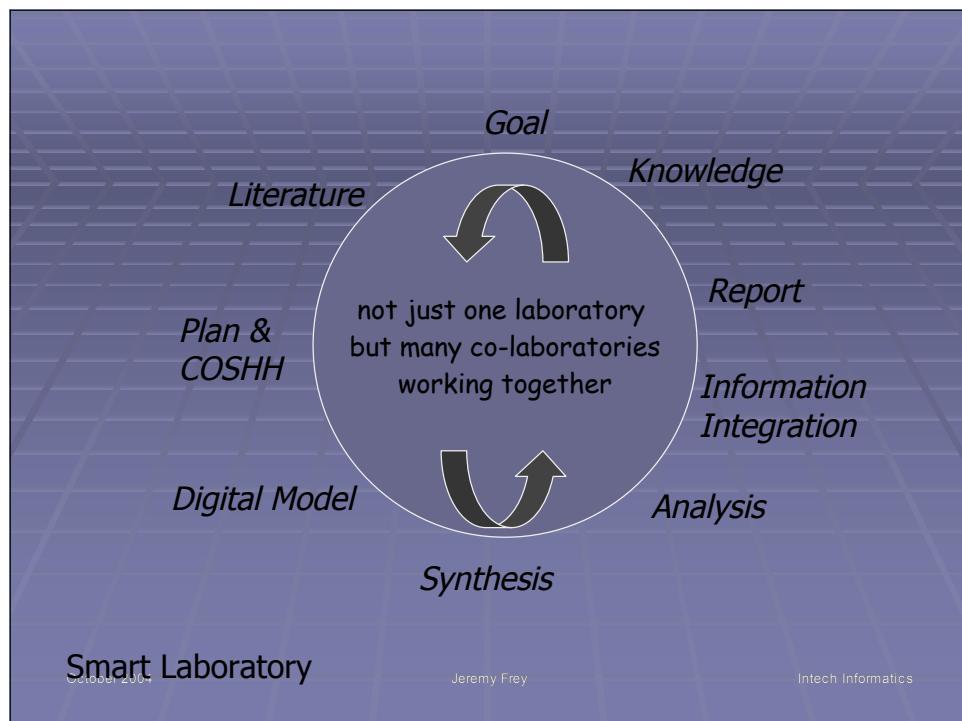
- Chemistry (Southampton & Bristol)
 - Mike Hursthouse, Chris Frampton, Jon Essex, Jeremy Frey, Guy Orpen, Stephan Christensen, Thomas Gelbrich, Sam Peppe, Hongchen Fu, Graham Tizard, Suzanna Ward, Lefteris Danos, Jamie Robinson, Kieron Taylor
- National Crystallography Service (NCS)
 - Simon Coles, Mark Light, Ann Bingham
- Electronics and Computer Science (Southampton)
 - Dave De Roure, Luck Moreau, Mike Luck, Hugo Mills, Graham Smith, Simon Miles, Nicky Harding, Gareth Hughes, monica Schraefel, Terry Payne
- It-Innovation (Southampton)
 - Mike Surridge, Ken Meacham, Steve Taylor, Daren Marvin
- Statistics (Southampton)
 - Alan Welsh, Sue Lewis, Ralph Manson, Dave Woods
- Rutherford Appleton Laboratory –Atlas Datastore

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Chemists and programming

- Many Chemists think that they can program

You still use FORTRAN!!

The cartoon, titled "OPTION #43", depicts a man in a lab coat standing next to a computer monitor. The monitor displays a simple line graph. The man is holding a small electronic device. The text in the cartoon reads:

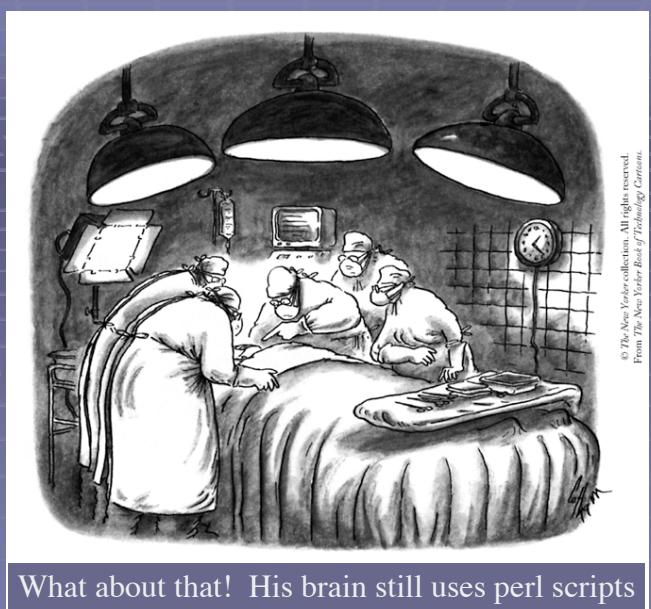
- If you are calling from a rotary phone, hang up, go to an electronics store, and BUY YOURSELF A PUSH-BUTTON PHONE, YOU PATHETIC, TECHNOPHOBIC, ECONOMY-SLOWING LOSER!!!

On the right side of the slide, there is a vertical column of text that appears to be a list of names or terms, starting with "d h d i n / l t s T e c c o" and ending with "d h d i n / l t s T e c c o".

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e-Workflow

Some Chemists
can



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Plans

Small set of
fixed plans

NCS

Variable plans,
written by chemist
(difficult!)

Tea

Ad-hoc, implied
by process
execution

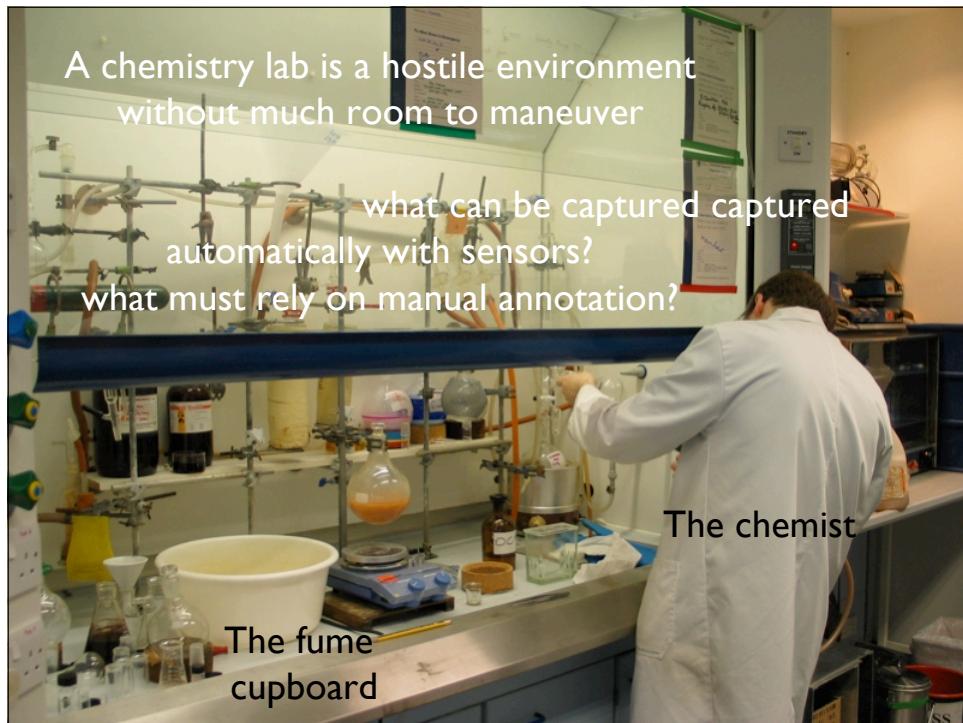
SHG

Continuum of plan types

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Getting real



- Functional prototype for in-lab, real use testing

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very precise scales - but not connected to any recording device

Much more automation in modern chemistry



“That is so cool Dave, you only need a palm pilot”

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By Making Tea!

COSHH ASSESSMENT FORM			
SUBSTANCE NAME	PHYSICAL FORM	QUANTITY	NATURE OF HAZARD
Water	liquid	1000ml	None
Tea bags	solid	100g	Potential respiratory hazard and irritant
Tea leaves	solid	10g	Potential & cumulative, serious respiratory risk particularly to health
Coffee	solid	100g	
Tea	solid	10g	

NATURE OF PROCESS
Liquid extraction of caffeine, followed by confectionary coffee/tea bag

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED (for specific measures required)

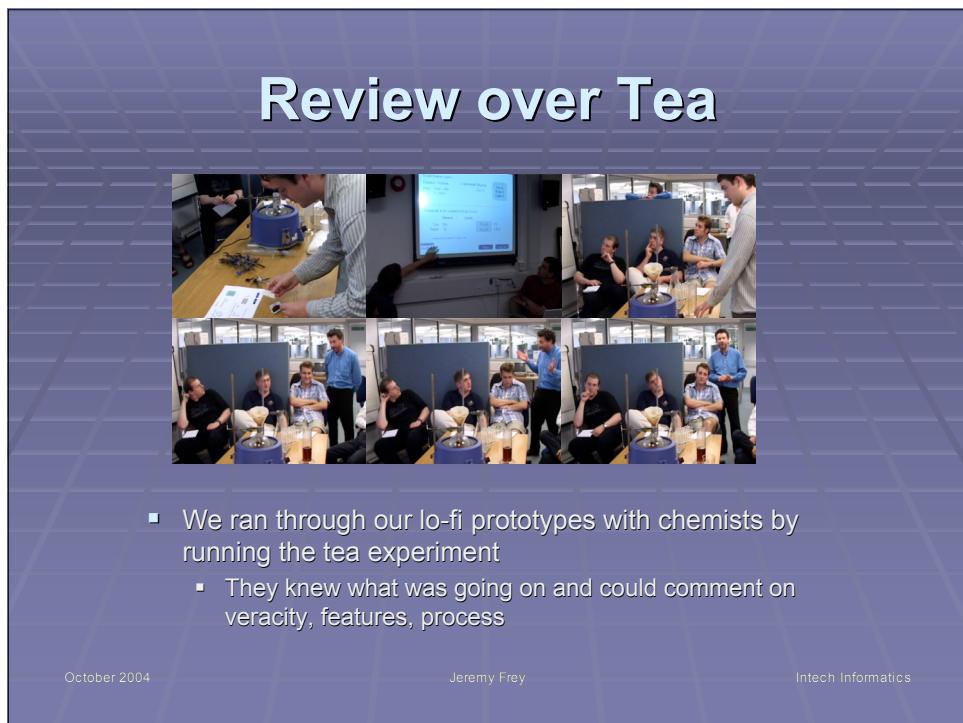
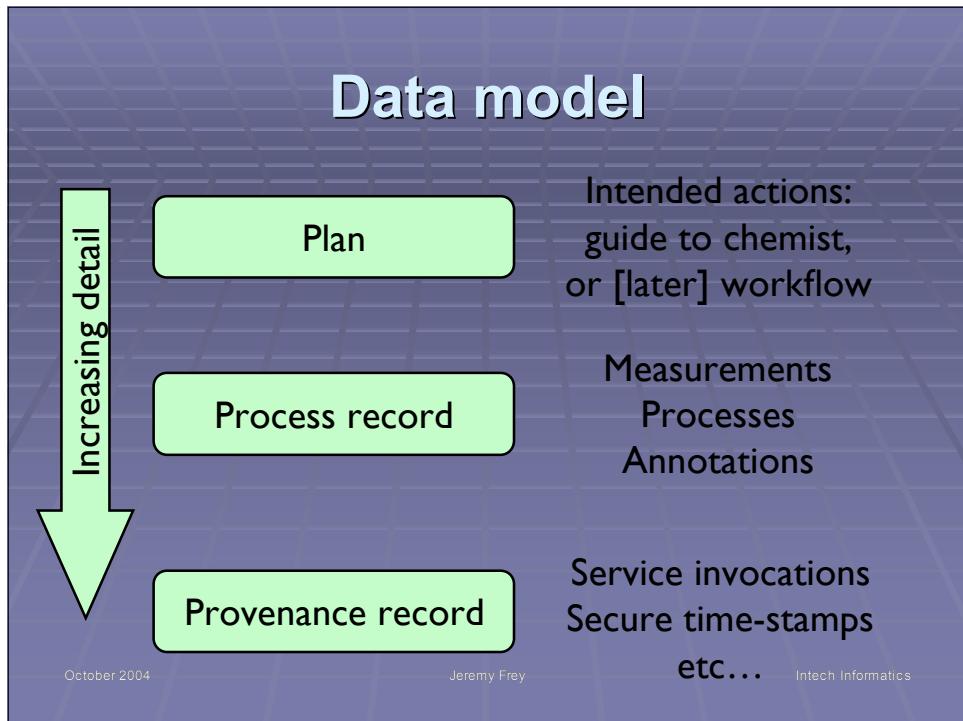
None



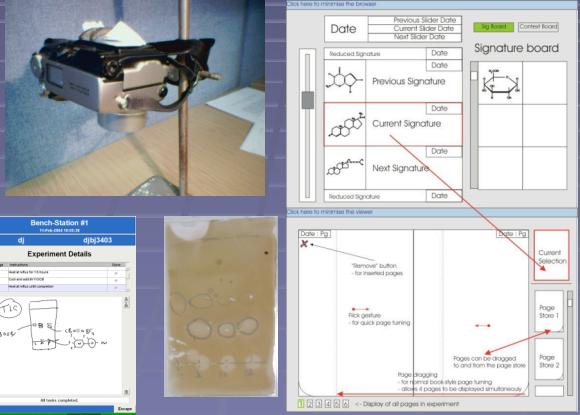
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Extensions:

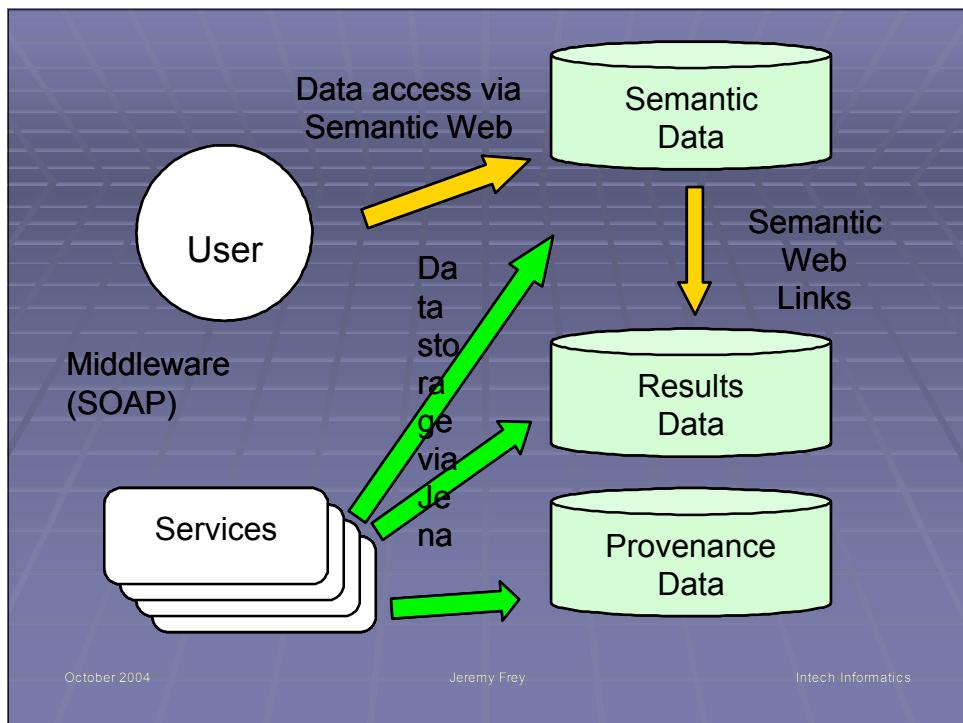


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Ray Cooke
▪ Scrolling through lab books

Will Davies
▪ Automating TLC plate capture for record and annotation

This slide displays a screenshot of a laboratory software interface. The interface includes a photograph of a robotic arm positioned over a sample plate. Below the photograph are two smaller windows: one showing 'Bench-Station #1' with 'Experiment Details' and another showing a 'Signature board' with a grid for signatures and dates. A red line connects the 'Signature board' window to the text 'Will Davies' and 'Automating TLC plate capture for record and annotation'.



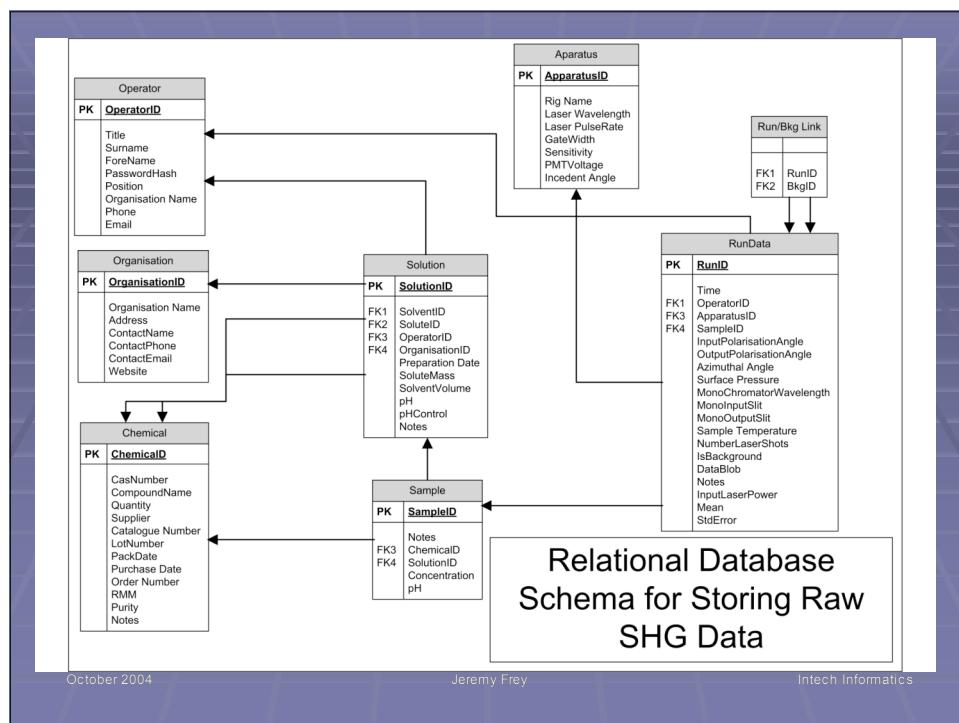
Databases

- Database will become the key method of handling all data
- Metadata must be generated at inception and added as data traverses the workflow
- Version control, audit and backup handled at the database level.

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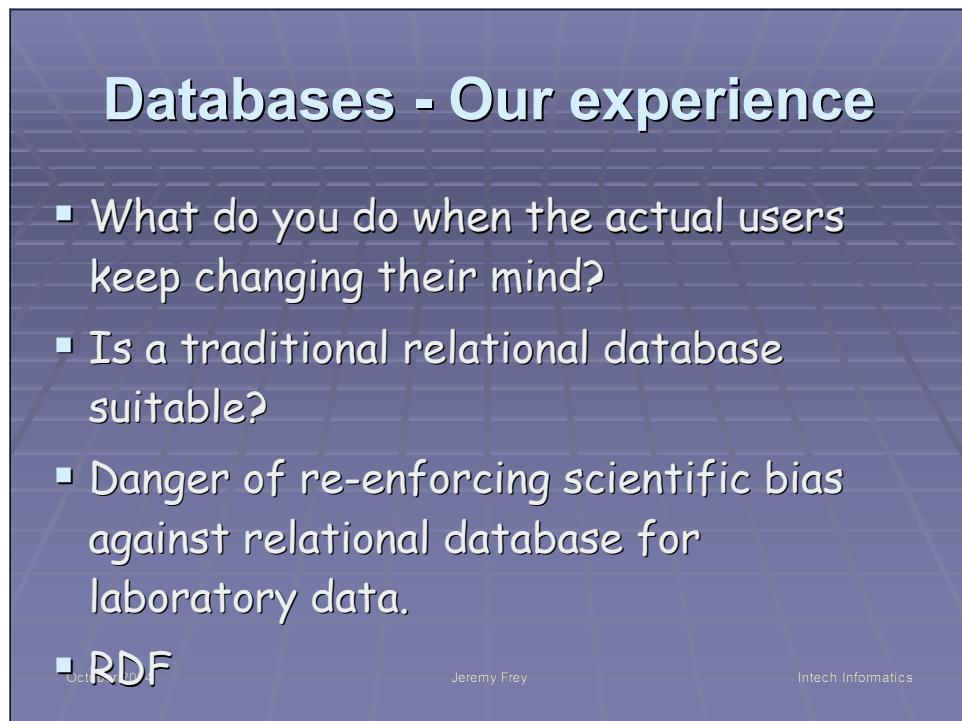
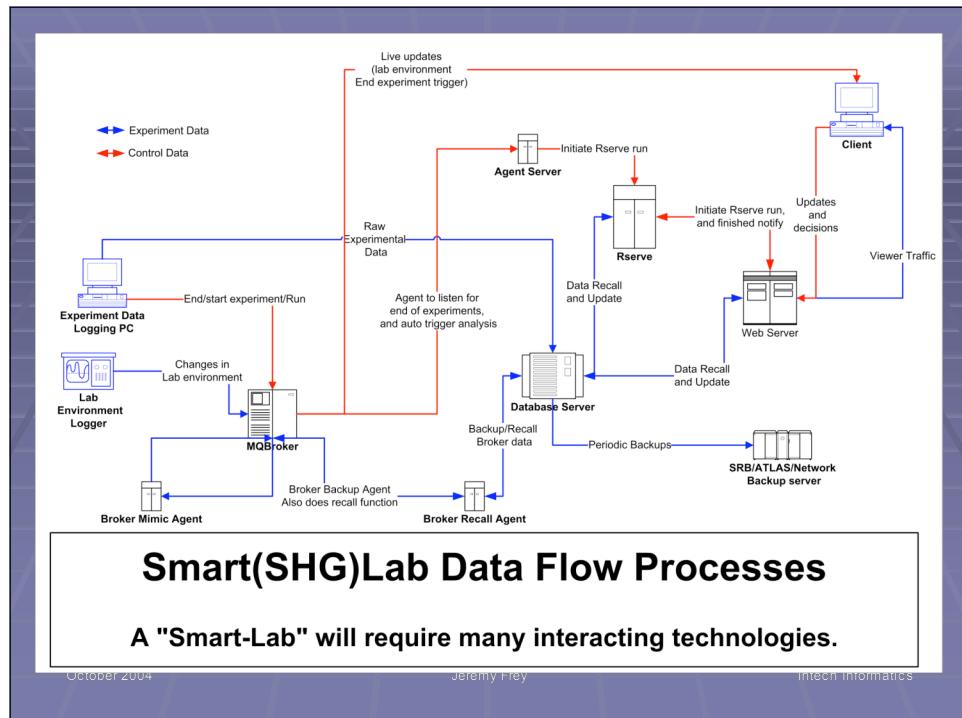
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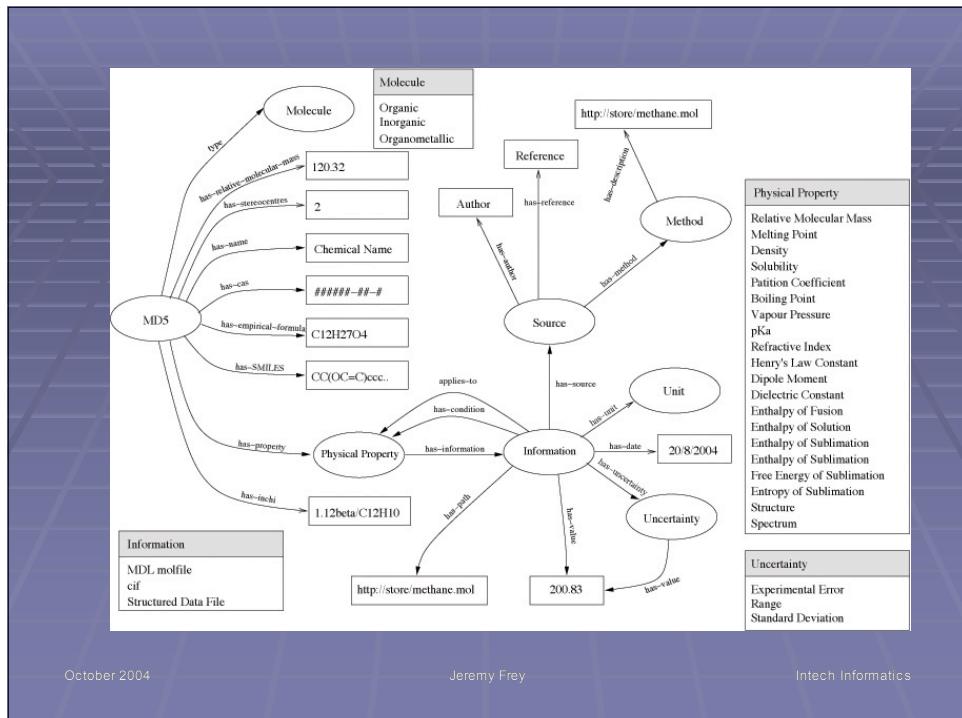


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Schema

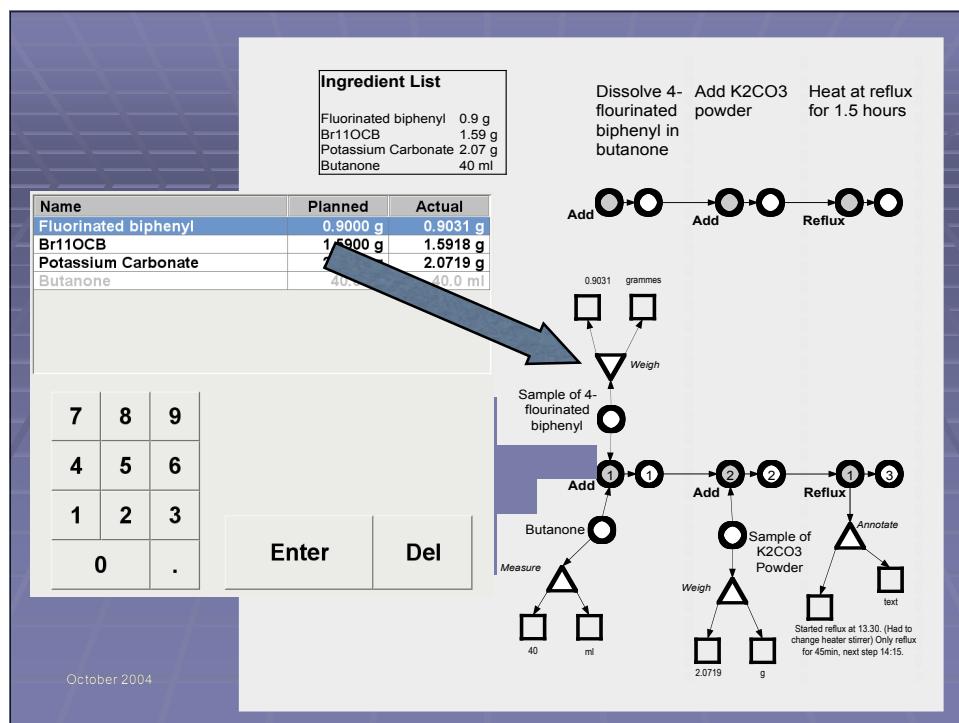
- <rdfs:Class rdf:about="&c;OrganicMolecule">
- <rdfs:label>Organic Molecule</rdfs:label>
- <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="&c;Molecule" />
- </rdfs:Class>
- <rdfs:Class rdf:about="&c;PhysicalProperty">
- <rdfs:label>Property</rdfs:label>
- </rdfs:Class>
- <rdfs:Class rdf:about="&c;PartitionCoefficient">
- <rdfs:label>Partition Coefficient</rdfs:label>
- <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="&c;PhysicalProperty" />
- <rdfs:description>Ratio of substance dissolved in octan-1-ol and water</rdfs:description>
- </rdfs:Class>

This turns out to be a very flexible approach

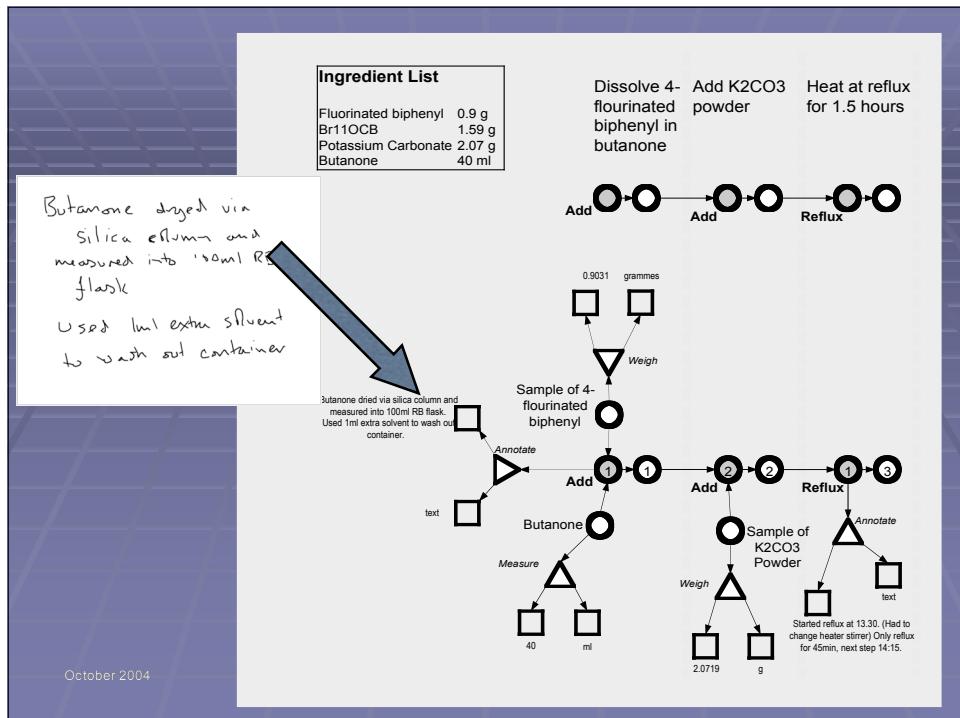
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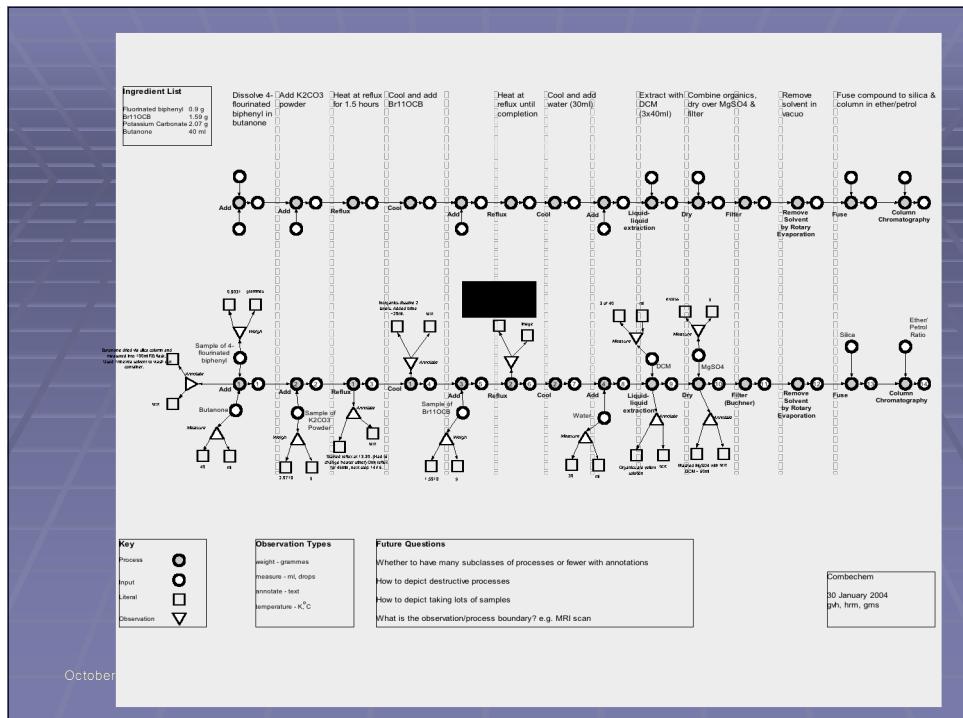


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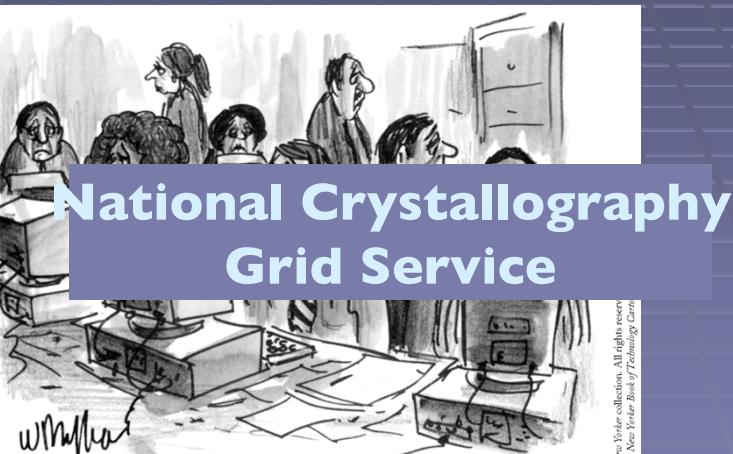




Lessons

- That we need two related ontologies
 - Plan – that are going to be done
 - Record – what was done
- Not necessarily the same thing
 - Steps are added/repeated during the experiment
 - Different annotations required for each

Experiments on the Grid



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Security
and trust
for
experiments
and data



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

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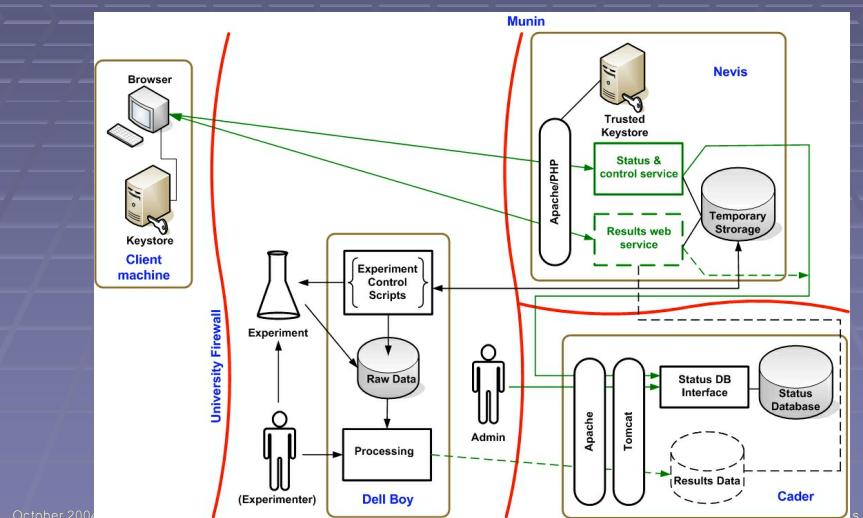
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The “Grid Zone”

- Security is fundamental
- Who is using our experiments
- Insulate them from each other and from the rest of our institution
- Process & Role based security
- Use DMZ
- This combination creates a “Grid Zone”

October 2004, University of Michigan, NCS Grid Services

NCS Grid Service Architecture



Combechem status - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Home Search Favorites Media Mail Links

Address: https://interact.xservice.soton.ac.uk/status/index.php

National Crystallography Service – Sample Status

Viewing samples for M E Light (light@soton.ac.uk)

NCS ID	Customer ID	Received	Collection	Status	Details
04MEL0098	2nd test	2004-02-12	001	Succeeded	HKL file / Report
04MEL0093	mel01	2004-02-06	001	Succeeded	HKL file / Report
04SRC0104	#13-123	2004-03-08	001	Next	Due at 00:00:00 (est)
04SRC0103	#12-01	2004-03-08	001	Failed (Referred)	Difraction too weak
			002	Failed (No Further Action)	Crystals too small
04SRC0105	HSF-HCl	2004-03-08	001	Added	

Done Internet

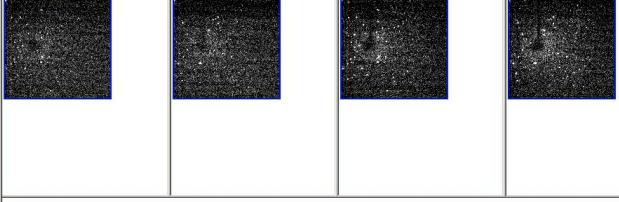
National Crystallography Service

Prescans

Finished collecting prescan images

Accept crystal? Yes No Yes Submit Will submit automatically in 23 secs.

X-Ray Diffractometer Images



Status Log

prescans started Mar09 09:26:08
prescans finished Mar09 09:28:39

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Dissemination & Publication

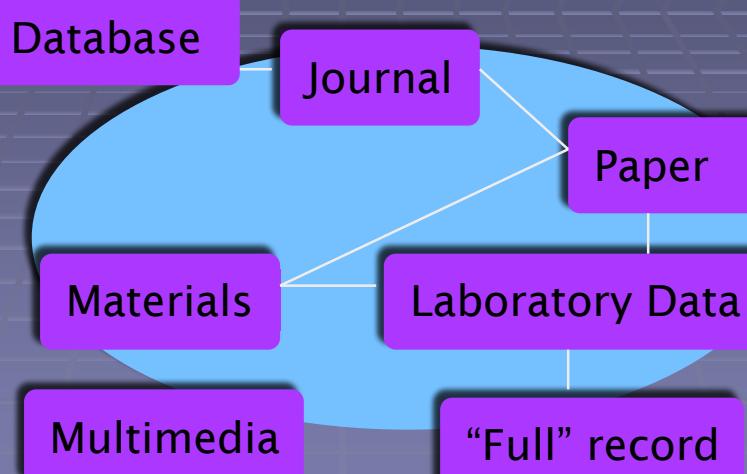
- A different approach is required to provide data to the community
- The grid provides the necessary medium
- What & how do we want to make available

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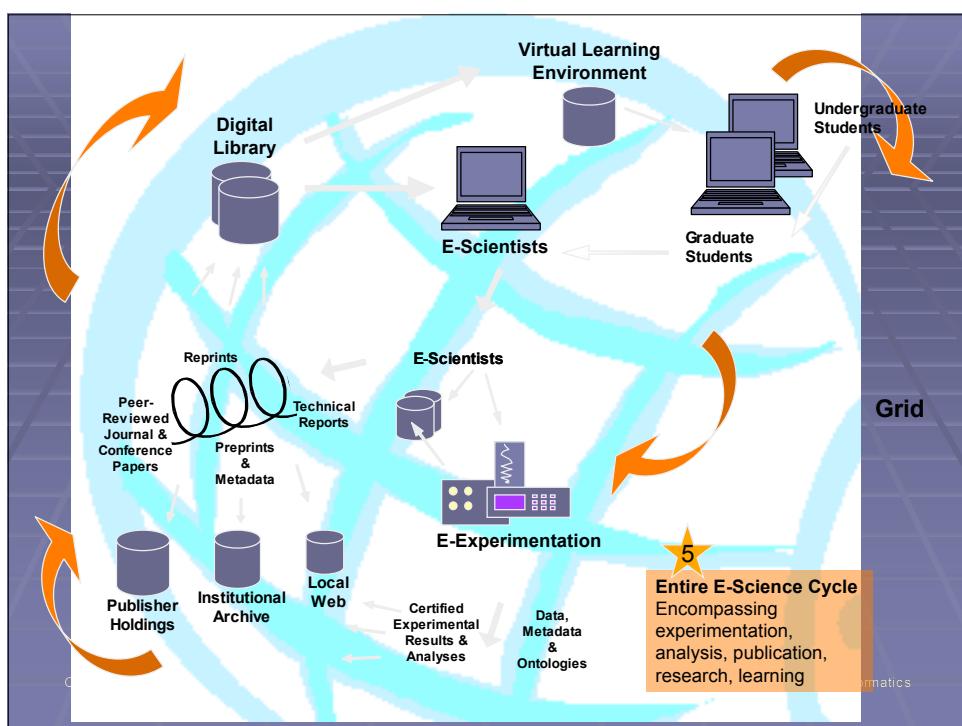
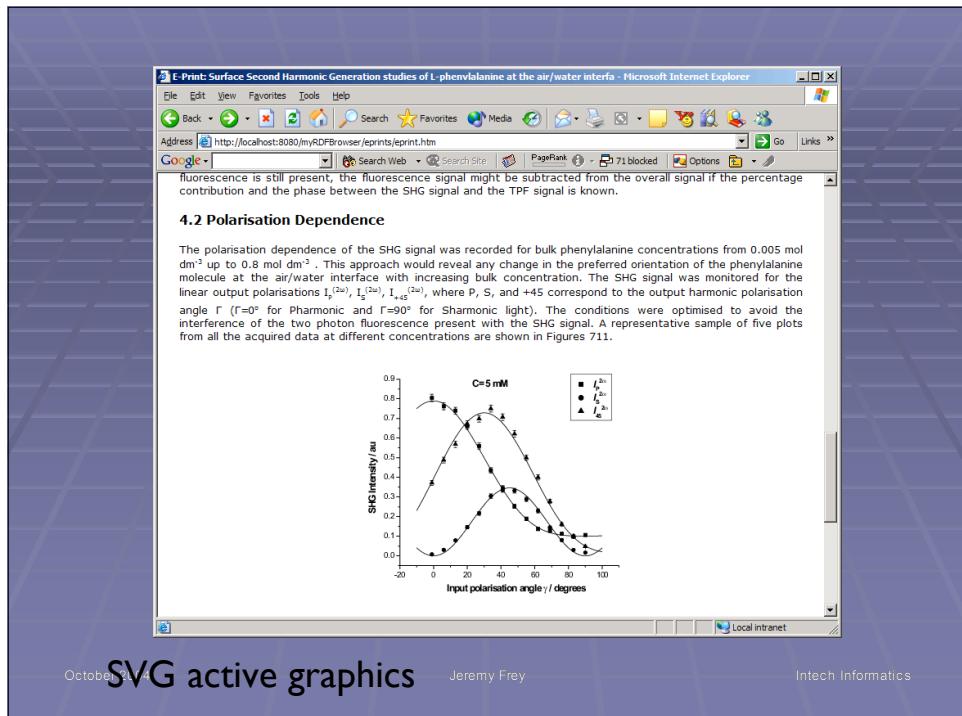
Journals: Publication @ source



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The need for *xtl-Prints*

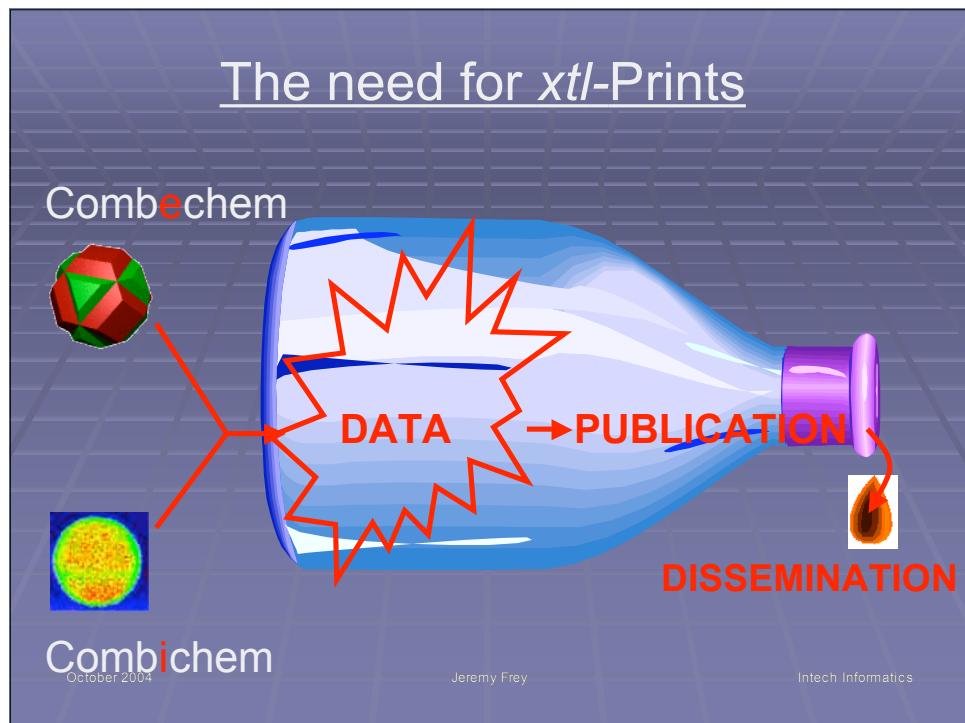
100's of structures

How do we disseminate?

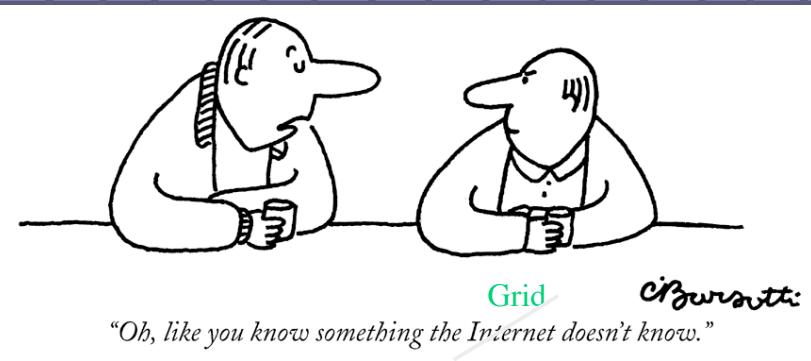
EPSRC
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
National Crystallography Service
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Semantic (Pervasive) Grid



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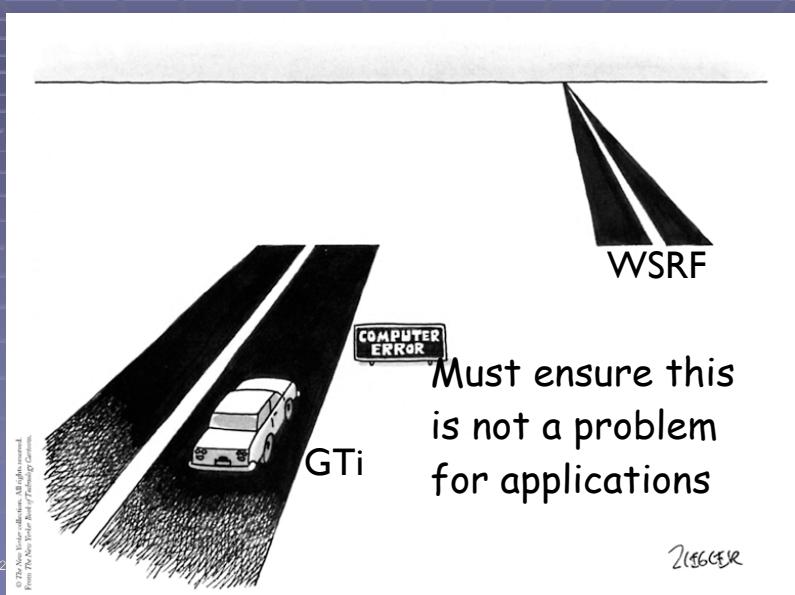
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e-worries

Standards – now not just at the data level
but metadata level as well

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ZIEGLER

Making sure other people can re-use your data easily and with confidence

Even when there is a huge
amount of it!

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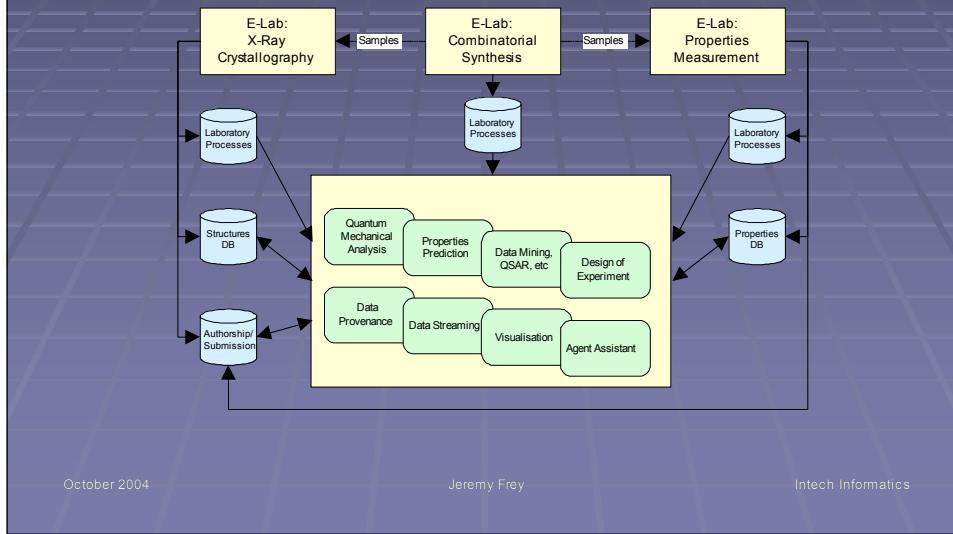
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Web sites?



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Changing the way we work



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