This Is The Most Informal Talk You Will Ever Hear About a Formal Topic

Ben Fields - Goldsmiths University of London
Kevin Page - University of Southampton
The Semantic Web and why you should care

or

The Semantic Web and why you should care
Semantic Web
Semantic Web
Semantic
meaning
machine readable
machine readable meaning
self-describing
machine readable
meaning
Why RDF?

self-describing
machine readable
meaning
What is RDF?
RDF is a model

subject → predicate → object
Is that it?
Yes, that’s it.
The model can be serialized as XML
The model can be serialized as XML

It’s pig ugly
The model can be serialized as XML

It’s pig ugly

That’s fine.
Machines eat ugly for breakfast
Honestly, don’t worry

RDF != RDF/XML
Our model can describe models
Specific Models
Specific Models

About stuff
Specific Models

About Things
Specific Models

About Things

Let’s call these ontologies
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Ontologies are described in OWL
Ontologies are described in OWL

OWL is modeled in RDF
RDF is machine readable
RDF is machine readable

So ontologies can understood by machines
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Even if that’s just to assert that everything is a Thing
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Semantic Web
Semantic Web
Web
The Web is simply the biggest, most successful, most useable, distributed systems architecture ever.
“The Web is simply the biggest, most successful, most useable, distributed systems architecture ever.”

David De Roure
Linking
Linking Scale
The mechanism for Linking enables the Web to Scale
Do people scale?
Do people scale?

Do people scale to the size of the Web?
machine readable meaning
Why does the Web scale?
A Resource Oriented Architecture
A Resource Oriented Architecture with a simple protocol to return representations of those resources
HTTP returns those representations
HTTP returns those representations

When it talks to us, it returns HTML
The resources are simply addressable objects
What is RDF?

Resource Description Framework
About those addressable Things...
We address them using URIs
This is the Willie Nelson.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/668fd73c-bf54-4310-a139-305517f05311
This is the Willie Nelson.

Honest.
Everything in RDF is a resource
Everything in RDF is a URI
Yes, that’s it.
Why is this important to second generation digital libraries?
Principally libraries are about sharing
Principally libraries are about sharing Things.
Do people scale?
Do people scale?

Do people scale to the size of the Web?
machine readable meaning
Questions?