# Setting up & configurating Protege 4.x for COSMOS nmr-CV editing

## Scope of this Document

This is a short tutorial that aims at providing COSMOS participants and external interested parties with the necessary basic set-up information in order to open and manipulate the controlled vocabularies (CVs) developed in support of the COSMOS nmrML exchange standard. As COSMOS agreed to develop the CV in OWL syntax, this guideline focuses on the set-up of the open source ontology editor Protégé 4.x (P4). As Protégé is quite a complex tool, we recommend people just wanting to have a quick glance at the CV (without need to manipulate it) to open its HTML serialization in a normal web browser. The HTML version of the CV can be found under nmrML\docs\CVDocumentation\ .

The decision to represent the nmrML CV in OWL rather than OBO format was made for the following reasons:

* OWL is the W3C recommended standard.
* OWL allows easy extension of formal semantics up to full description logics (DL).
* Major Top level ontologies (BFO) and bio-upper level ontologies (Biotop) are available in OWL format.
* OWL is based on XML and RDF, hence we foresee an easy migration towards future Open Linked Data approaches.
* W3C supported Query languages like SPARQL and rule set-ups like SWRL exist that also integrate well with P4, e.g. are available as Protégé plugins.
* The Protégé editor is pretty robust compared to OBO Edit. A lot of free plugins are available covering most needs: <http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege-OWL_4.0>
* A plethora of open source tools and libraries is available for OWL.

This document will be amended *as-we-go* according to the development stage of the CV and the skill level of the CV editors.

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## Download & Install protégé 4.x

Download & Install the latest Java-based Protégé 4 form <http://protege.stanford.edu/download/download.html> , as described at <http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege-OWL_4_FAQ#How_do_I_install_Protege-OWL.3F>

Start Protégé via its .exe or .bat file. A new default ontology will be created & displayed. Ignore it and open the latest nmrMLv.x.owl file in the Github at: nmrML\ontologies via File/Open.

Basic Instructions for using P4 is given here: <http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege4GettingStarted>

## Basic Orientation within GUI

When an ontology is opened, P4 will open the first pane, the Active Ontology tab (to the left) per default, which will display the general metadata, import structure (<http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Importing_Ontologies_in_P41>) and ontology metrics, pertaining to the whole representational artefact/CV rather than to singular representational units. For class editing you will use the Classes tab. Within a tab you can freely configure the GUI’s appearance by selected ‘views’ (<http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege4Views>).

A general overview of how P4 can be configured to your general needs (Set preferences) can be found at <http://protegewiki.stanford.edu/wiki/Protege4Preferences> . All preferences specific to our nmrML CV set-up are explained in this document.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (DS) via email.

## A few words on how P4 stores its set-up Preferences

Protege 4 uses the Java Preferences API to store user preferences and activity. This allows for persistence of preference data across installations of Protege 4.x, e.g., recently opened ontologies, rendering preferences, location of Graphviz (used by the OWLViz plug-in), etc. The storage location of these preferences varies according to operating system:

* Linux - stored in ~/.java/.userPrefs
* Mac OS X - stored in ~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.java.util.prefs.plist
* Windows - stored in the Windows Registry at HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER/Software/JavaSoft/Prefs

Occasionally, users may need to clear the Java Preferences to fix errors displayed by Protege. Preferences can either be deleted manually, or via a tool called the Java Preferences User Interface.

For example under Windows you can access and edit these preferences by typing “regedit” in the command line and traverse the file path to the Prefs//P/R/O/T/E/G/E/\_/P/R/E/F/E/R/E/N/C/E/S folder. In the application\_preferences you will find a Subfolder called HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\JavaSoft\Prefs\/P/R/O/T/E/G/E\_/P/R/E/F/E/R/E/N/C/E/S\application\_preferences\org.protege.editor.owl.entity.creation

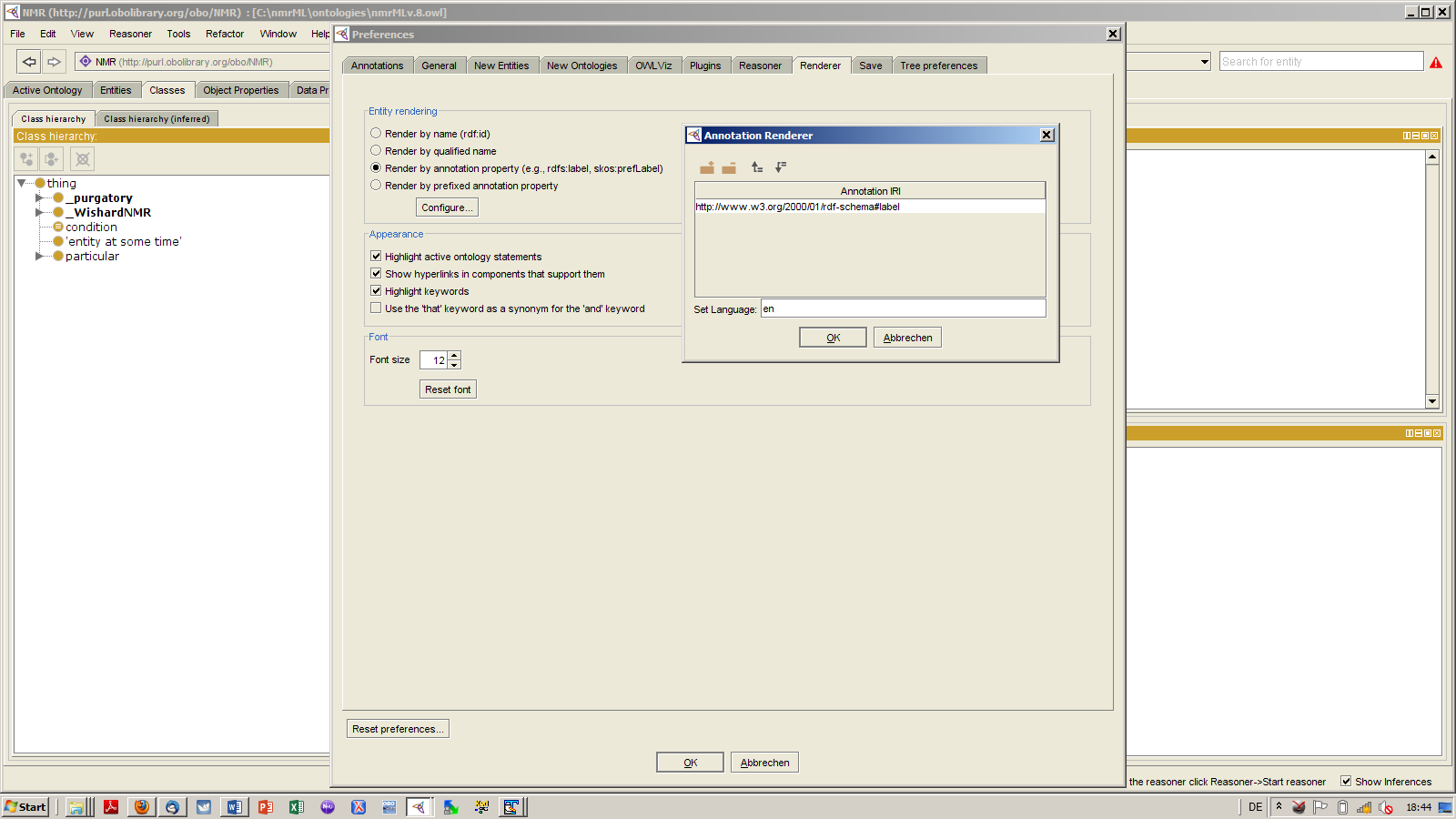
In here the ID setup is stored. These preferences have been exported by me and have been placed in the github xxx folder:

In windows you can now copy this .reg file ontop your desktop and execute it by double clickin on it. Your registry will then be automatically be updated with the new preference settings for the ID generation in the appropriate registry location.

As this is rather complicated I would recommend to just do the preference settings manually on your computer from within P4s preferences Tab (see below).

## Set the class renderer to display human readable class labels in the hierarchy pane

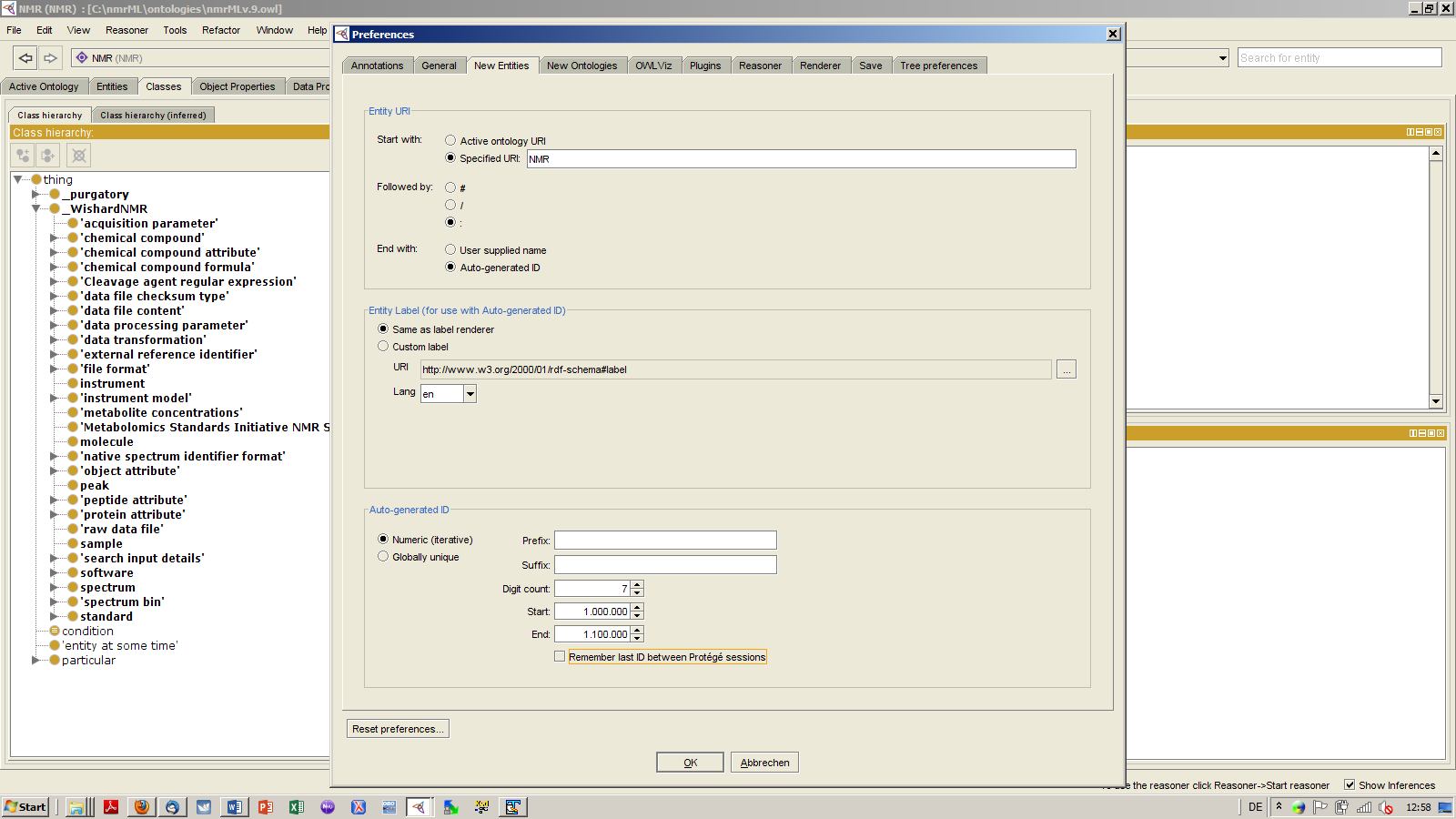
Set the renderer to use Labels when displaying the hierarchy. Under File/preferences/Renderer tick the render by annotation property and hit “configure”. Then set it to display rdfs:label rather than rdf:about or rdf:id[[1]](#footnote-1). Set View/render by label. This will display the classes in the Class Tab/hierarchy pane (to the left of the GUI) by the classes rdfs:label, given one is provided. If no label is provided, the renderer will display the class by its ID.



## Set ID scheme under File/preferences/New Entities

Before editing the CV you need to make P4 aware of how you want a newly generated class/terms rdfs:about or rdf:id to look like, i.e. you need to specify that we want semantics-free numeric IDs rather than human readable meaningful ones. For our nmrML CV, we should align the ID scheme to generate IDs like NMR:1000442 (Short NS prefix/IRI), colon, 7 digits, ranging from 1000000 to 1100000).

We need to specify the IRI (“NMR[[2]](#footnote-2)”), the following separator (“:”) and then we also need to specify the amount of digits the number should have and its numeric range:



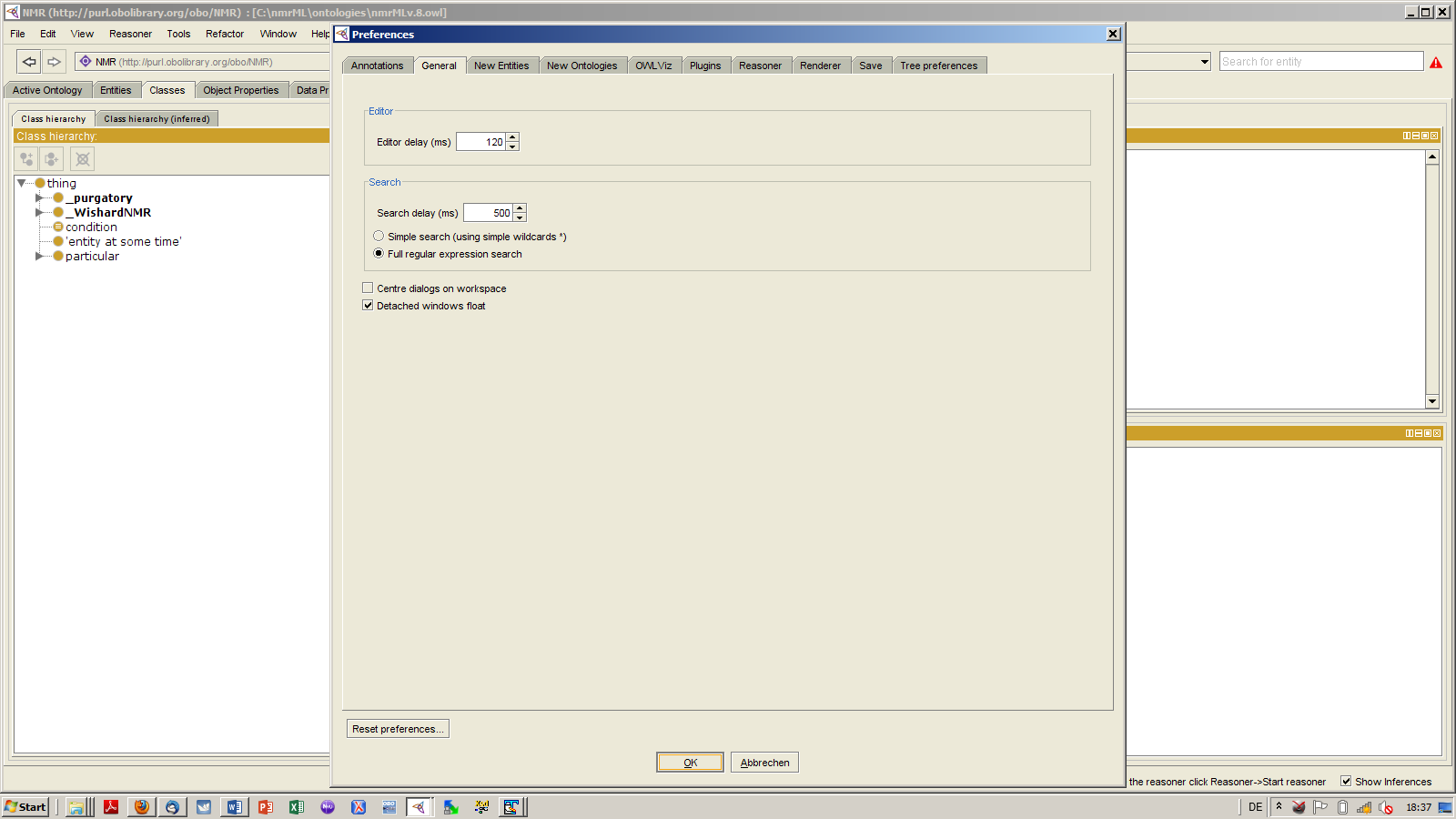
## Set CV namespace

In the Active Ontology pane/Ontology header/Ontology IRI field we put <http://nmr-ml.org/nmr-cv> to set the active ontology’s namespace in accordance to the one of the XSD (xmlns:nmr-ml=<http://nmr-ml.org/nmr-ml> ).

## Reccommended Class naming conventions

To provide some guidance on how a meaningful and unambiguous term /class label should look like, the OBO Foundry has provided a set of naming conventions (<http://obofoundry.org/wiki/index.php/Naming> ). Within P4 we can define labelling Checks via the P4 plugin OntoCheck: <http://www.imbi.uni-freiburg.de/ontology/OntoCheck>

## Set Search to allow for full regular expression searches under File/preferences/general



1. On the difference, look at <http://answers.semanticweb.com/questions/2189/should-i-use-rdfabout-or-rdfid> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Should we use the full URL path here ? E.g. <http://nmr-ml.org/nmr-cv>, or <http://nmr-ml.org/nmr-ml> ? [↑](#footnote-ref-2)