# The Web Service Challenge 2008

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#### Abstract

In this description paper we outline the rules for the 2008 Web Service Challenge (WSC).

## 1 The 2008 Rules

Since 2005 the annual Web Service Challenge<sup>1</sup> (WS-Challenge, WSC) provides a platform for researchers in the area of web service composition to compare their systems and exchange experiences [1, 2, 3, 4]. It is co-located with the IEEE Conference on Electronic Commerce (CEC) and the IEEE International Conference on e-Technology, e-Commerce, and e-Service (EEE).

During the last years, the web service challenge focused on optimizing the service discovery and composition process solely. Therefore, abstractions from real-world situations were used. The taxonomy of semantic concepts was purely artificial as well as the involved data formats. Starting with this year's competition, the challenge will approach more practical scenarios. Therefore, the 2008 data formats as well as contest data itself will be based on real world schemas for service compositions, services, and ontologies.

## 2 The OWL Schema

Ontologies are usually expressed with OWL [5], an XML format [6]. OWL is the proprietary standard for the Semantic Web.

We use the OWL format in the 2008 challenge, but like in the previous years, we limit semantic evaluation strictly to taxonomies consisting of sub and super class relationship between semantic concepts only.

OWL is quite powerful. In addition to semantic concepts (OWL-Classes), OWL allows to specify instances of classes called individuals. Furthermore,

<sup>1</sup>see http://www.ws-challenge.org/ [accessed 2007-09-02]

one can define equivalence relations between individuals and classes. While we also distinguish between individuals and classes in the competition, the possibility to express equivalence relations between concepts is not used.

In OWL the semantic is specified with statements consisting of subject, predicate and object, e.g. ISBN-10 is\_a ISBN (ISBN subsumes ISBN-10). Such statements can be specified with simple triplets but also with XML-Hierarchies and XML-References. The implementation of an OWL-Parser is hence not trivial. In order to ease the development of the competition contributions, we will stick to a fixed but valid OWL-Schema.

Listing 1: An example of a basic OWL-Document

Listing 1 illustrates an example of a basic OWL document. The single lines have the following meaning:

- Line 1: The XML-Document declaration.
- Line 2: The OWL-Document root. OWL is the ontology schema for the semantic description language RDF [7]. So some language elements are reused by OWL.
- Line 3: The RDF elements namespace.
- Line 4: The OWL elements namespace.
- Line 5: The namespace of this ontology (Syntax: ontologyname+#).
- Line 6: The XSD [8] elements namespace.
- Line 7: The RDFS [9] elements namespace. RDF Schema (RDFS) is a language extension of RDF.
- Line 8: The base namespace is also the ontology name in OWL.
- Line 9: The ontology declaration element owl:Ontology name can be found in the XML-base namespace xml:base.

In general, the syntax for ontology namespaces is a valid URI [10, 11] followed directly by #. An ontology name must be a valid URI (e.g. http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl). Its namespace is then automatically the URI+#. (e.g. http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl#). In the WS-Challenge we stick to a fixed schema. We define a fixed URI and namespace for the taxonomy.

- The WSC-Ontology has the name http://www.ws-challenge.org/wsc08.owl.
- The WSC-Ontology namespace therefore is http://www.ws-challenge.org/wsc08.owl#.

Listing 2: An example of a WSC-08 OWL-based taxonomy document.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
   <rdf:RDF
2
       xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
3
4
     <owl:Ontology rdf:about=""/>
5
     <owl:Class rdf:ID="Class1"/>
7
     <owl:Class rdf:ID="Class2"/>
     <owl:Class rdf:ID="Class1.1">
10
       <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Class1"/>
11
     </owl:Class>
12
13 </rdf:RDF>
```

Listing 3: An example for the specification of class and subclasses.

Listing 3 outlines how classes and subclasses can be specified like in OWL. The lines have the following meaning:

- Line 7: The declaration of the concept/class with the name Class1.
- Line 8: The declaration of the concept/class with the name Class2.
- Line 10: The declaration of the concept/class with the name Class1.1.
- Line 11: The definition that Class1.1 is a subclass of Class1.

In OWL, classes are defined with the owl:class tag. Subclasses can be specified with rdfs:subClassOf tags. The attribute rdf:ID declares a new class name, whereas rdf:resource is a reference to a class. In OWL, a reference has the syntax classname+#, as for instance used in line 11.

In the WSC-08 competition, we use semantic individuals to annotate input and output parameters of services. Individuals are instances of classes and can be defined like in the following example.

- Line 13: Specification of an individual with the name Individual 1 which is an instance of class Class 1.
- Line 14: Specification of an individual with the name Individual1.1 which is an instance of class Class1.1

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
2
   <rdf:RDF
       xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
3
4
     <owl:Ontology rdf:about=""/>
5
6
     <owl:Class rdf:ID="Class1"/>
     <owl:Class rdf:ID="Class1.1">
9
       <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Class1"/>
10
     </owl:Class>
11
12
     <Class1 rdf:ID="Individual1"/>
13
     <Class1.1 rdf:ID="Individual1.1"/>
14
15 </rdf:RDF>
```

Listing 4: An example for the specification of semantic individuals.

The tag name of an individual declaration is also the name of the class. Since Class1.1 is a subclass of Class1, Individual1.1 also is a specialization of Individual1.

In short, the 2008 WSC will use the following basic document structure for the definition of semantic concepts: $^2$ 

Listing 5: The basic document structure.

# 3 Service Descriptions

As already mentioned, we will use semantics specified in OWL to annotate the service descriptions. Furthermore, this year's competition service descriptions offer:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>XSD-definition will follow

- The service descriptions will be provided in a single WSDL-Document.
- The annotation with semantic individuals will not only be used for message parts, but for whole message structures specified with XSD.
- This message structures can consist of simple elements, SOAP-Arrays [12], Lists, Structures, and Enumerations.
- The matching will be based on documents in an extended WSDL format for semantic annotation. In contrast to existing solutions like WSDL-S [13] and SAWSDL [14], we also take matching of parameter groupings into consideration and (omitable) optional parameters.
- Also here we provide a fixed schema for easier parsing of the final document and will provide a schema definition.

### 3.1 The Basic WSDL-Document

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
   <definitions
2
     xmlns="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/"
3
     xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/soap/"
     xmlns:http="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/http/"
5
     xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
     xmlns:soapenc="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/"
     xmlns:mime="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/mime/"
     xmlns:service="http://www.ws-challenge.org/WSC08Services/"
9
     targetNamespace="http://www.ws-challenge.org/WSC08Services/">
10
11
     <service name="BookShopA">
12
       <port binding="searchBookSOAP" name="searchBook">
13
14
         <soap:address</pre>
              location="http://www.unknownexamplehost.ukn/"/>
       </port>
15
16
     </service>
     <binding name="searchBookSOAP"</pre>
17
         type="service:searchBookPortType"/>
     <portType name="searchBookPortType"/>
     <message name="BookShopRequestMessage"/>
19
     <message name="BookShopResponseMessage"/>
20
21
22
23
     <service name="BookShopZ">
24
       <port binding="searchBookSOAPZ" name="searchBookZ">
25
         <soap:address
26
             location="http://www.unknownexamplehost.ukn"/>
27
       </port>
     </service>
28
     <binding name="searchBookSOAPZ"</pre>
29
         type="service:searchBookPortTypeZ"/>
     <portType name="searchBookPortTypeZ"/>
30
     <message name="BookShopZRequestMessage"/>
31
     <message name="BookShopZResponseMessage"/>
```

Listing 6: Example of the basic WSDL-Document.

- Line 1: XML-Document declaration.
- Line 2-10: Namespacedeclaration (fixed for any composition challenge)
- Line 12-16: Servicedeclaration for a service named "BookShopA"
- Line 17: The binding for BookShopA.
- Line 18: The portType for binding of BookShopA.
- Line 19: The request message for the BookShopA.
- Line 20: The response message for the BookShopA.
- Line 22: Marks an arbitrary amount of services.
- Line 24: Starting the declaration of BookshopZ.
- Line 34: Marks an arbitrary amount of services.
- Line 36-38: Here we declare all message structures for all services.
- Line 39: The end of the WSDL document.

In the WSC scenarios, we use the simplification that each service just has one unique service binding, portType, request and response message. The declaration of the binding of the service, portType, request, and response message is a fixed sequence. The elements related to one service are followed one after the other. Thus, parsing gets a lot easier.

This sequence in the declaration of a service will be used for the whole set of services for the composition challenge. The schema definition of all messages comes at the end. The overall WSDL document structure is valid. Challengers may or may not adjust their parsers for better performance by making use of the restrictions defined above.

#### 3.2 The Binding Section for the Services

```
<operation name="searchBookA">
        <soap:operation</pre>
9
         soapAction="http://www.ws-challenge.org/BookShopA/searchBook"
10
       <input>
11
          <soap:body use="literal" />
12
        </input>
13
14
       <output>
15
          <soap:body use="literal" />
        </output>
16
17
      </operation>
   </binding>
18
   <portType name="searchBookPortType"/>
19
20 <message name="BookShopARequestMessage"/>
21 <message name="BookShopAResponseMessage"/>
```

Listing 7: An example for the binding section for each service

- Line 6: Declaration of the binding of BookShopA (see reference in line 2) and reference to its portType "searchBookPortType".
- Line 7-18: Template generated WSDL-Binding with no specific further semantics.

## 3.3 The portType Section

Listing 8: An example for the portType section for each service

- Line 3: Declaration of the service's BookShopA portType (see reference in line 2).
- Line 4-8: Automatically generated references to the service's input message (see ID in line 9) and response message (see ID in line 10).

### 3.4 The message Section

```
1 <wsdl:message name="BookShopARequestMessage">
```

Listing 9: An example for the message section for each service

Line 2+5: : Reference to the respective message structures inside the <types/>-Section of this WSDL-Document. This reference has no further semantic meaning.

## 3.5 The Message Structures and Semantic Annotations

```
1 <types>
      < xsd:schema
 2
          targetNamespace="http://www.ws-challenge.org/WSC08Services/"
        xmlns:wsdl-ext="http://www.vs.uni-kassel.de/wsdl_extensions">
      <!-- Simple message with one element:-->
<xsd:element name="BasicBook" name="title" type="xsd:string"</pre>
 4
          wsdl-ext:id="Semtitle"/>
 6
      <!-- Message structure of a struct "book":-->
      <xsd:element name="Book">
        <xsd:complexType>
 9
           <xsd:sequence>
10
                 <xsd:element name="isbn"</pre>
                                               type="xsd:string"
11
                     wsdl-ext:id="buchISBN"/>
                 <xsd:element name="title"</pre>
                                               type="xsd:string"
12
                     wsdl-ext:id="buchTitel"/>
                 <xsd:element name="author" type="xsd:string"</pre>
                     wsdl-ext:id="buchAutor"/>
                 <xsd:element name="year" type="xsd:string"</pre>
14
                     wsdl-ext:id="buchVerlag"/>
                                               type="xsd:float"
                 <xsd:element name="price"</pre>
15
                     wsdl-ext:id="buchPreis"/>
               </xsd:sequence>
16
             <xsd:complexType>
17
18
          </xsd:element>
19
          <!-- Message structure of an array of books:-->
20
21
          <xsd:element name="Books">
           <xsd:complexType>
22
             <xsd:sequence min0ccurs="0" max0ccurs="unbounded">
23
24
             < xsd: sequence >
                    <xsd:element name="isbn"</pre>
                                                 type="xsd:string"
25
                        wsdl-ext:id="buchISBN"/>
                    <xsd:element name="title" type="xsd:string"</pre>
26
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchTitel"/>
                    <xsd:element name="author" type="xsd:string"</pre>
                        wsdl-ext:id="buchAutor"/>
```

```
<xsd:element name="year" type="xsd:string"</pre>
28
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchVerlag"/>
                   <xsd:element name="price"</pre>
                                                type="xsd:float"
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchPreis"/>
30
                 </xsd:sequence>
                 </xsd:sequence>
31
             <xsd:complexType>
32
33
         </r></rsd:element>
34
         <!-- Message structure of an array of books with an
35
             enumeration on genre:-->
         <xsd:element name="BooksGenre">
36
          <xsd:complexType>
37
            <xsd:sequence minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
38
             <xsd:sequence>
39
                   <xsd:element name="isbn"</pre>
40
                                                 type="xsd:string"
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchISBN"/>
                   <xsd:element name="title" type="xsd:string"</pre>
41
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchTitel"/>
                   <xsd:element name="author" type="xsd:string"</pre>
42
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchAutor"/>
43
                   <xsd:element name="year" type="xsd:string"</pre>
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchVerlag"/>
                   <xsd:element name="price" type="xsd:float"</pre>
44
                       wsdl-ext:id="buchPreis"/>
                   <xsd:element name="genre">
45
46
                 <xsd:simpleType>
47
                 <xsd:restriction base="xsd:string">
                 <xsd:enumeration value="romantic"</pre>
48
                     wsdl-ext:id="SemRomantic"/>
                 <xsd:enumeration value="adventure"</pre>
49
                     wsdl-ext:id="SemAdventure"/>
                 <xsd:enumeration value="science-fiction"</pre>
50
                     wsdl-ext:id="SemScienceFiction"/>
                 </xsd:restriction>
               </xsd:simpleType>
52
53
               </xsd:element>
                 </xsd:sequence>
54
                 </xsd:sequence>
55
            <xsd:complexType>
56
57
         </xsd:element>
      </xsd:schema>
58
59 </types>
```

Listing 10: A simple message with one element

- Line 1: Start of the WSDL-Types section. This section specifies the structure of the SOAP messages [12] with XSD.
- Line 20: Start of the XSD section.
- Line 4: Definition of a single message element BasicBook consisting of the title of the book as a string.
- Line 7-17: Definition of a book message structure Book consisting of single structure elements isbn, title, author, year and price.

- Line 9-15: Structure is a sequence of elements.
- Line 21-33: A definition like the ones above, but this one is an array of books. (see xsd-attributes minOccurs=""maxOccurs="").
- Line 36-58: Like the examples before, this one defines an array of books. Additionally, there is an enumeration representing the book genre (see xsd:enumeration).
- Line 45-53: Enumeration is a simpleType restricted on the data type string and consists of an arbitrary numbers of enumeration elements.

#### Note that:

- There are no references on XSD elements. The message definition is strictly hierarchical. We introduce this simplification to ease parsing.
- We have added the wsdl-ext attribute that references the semantic extension in our approach. It represents the annotation of message elements.
- Only simple elements like xsd:element with types, e.g. string are annotated. Complex elements defined by a xsd:complexType must be reasoned by its sub-elements. This is the semantic challenge.

## 4 WSDL Semantic Extension

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2
   <definitions
3
     xmlns="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/"
4
     xmlns:wsdl-ext="http://www.vs.uni-kassel.de/wsdl_extensions">
6
     <service .../>
7
     <br/>
<br/>
ding .../>
     <portType .../>
9
10
      <message .../>
11
     <message .../>
12
13
      <service/>
14
      . . .
15
      <types>
16
       < xs: schema/>
17
18
      </types>
19
      <!-- WSC-08 Semantic Annotation Section -->
20
21
      <wsdl-ext:semExtension>
22
        <!-- Semantic Annotation Element-->
23
24
        <wsdl-ext:semExtension/>
25
26
        <wsdl-ext:semExtension/>
        <!-- Semantic Parameter Grouping -->
28
```

Listing 11: A WSDL Document for the WSC-08

```
1 <wsdl-ext:semExtension>
 2
 3
      <!-- Semantic Extension for the message with ID
          "getPriceRequest" -->
      <wsdl-ext:semMessageExt idref="getPriceRequest">
 4
 5
        <!-- Semantic Annotation for the xsd:element with ID "price"
 6
        <wsdl-ext:semExt id="price">
 7
          <!-- Ontology reference for the semantic individual for
              this element -->
10
          <wsdl-ext:ontologyRef>
            http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl#Bookprice
11
          </wsdl-ext:ontologyRef>
12
13
          <!-- Ontology reference for the semantic individual for
14
              the unit of thos element -->
          <wsdl-ext:unit>
15
           http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl#Dollar
16
          </wsdl-ext:unit>
17
18
          <!-- This is a flag indicating if this element is required
19
             in this message -->
          <wsdl-ext:optional>true</wsdl-ext:optional>
20
        </wsdl-ext:semExt>
21
22
      </wsdl-ext:semMessageExt>
23
24
      <!-- Arbitrary amount of message annotations -->
25
      <wsdl-ext:semMessageExt idref="getPriceResponse"/>
26
27
      <wsdl-ext:semMessageExt .../>
28
29
   </wsdl-ext:semExtension>
```

Listing 12: The Semantic Extension

```
</wsdl-ext:semExt>
10
      <wsdl-ext:semExt id="price">
11
12
        <wsdl-ext:ontologyRef>
          http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl#Bookprice
13
        </wsdl-ext:ontologyRef>
14
        <wsdl-ext:unit>
15
         http://www.owl-ontologies.com/Ontology.owl#Dollar
16
17
        </wsdl-ext:unit>
18
        <wsdl-ext:optional>true</wsdl-ext:optional>
      </wsdl-ext:semExt>
19
20
      <!-- Parameter Group Definition: Operation may be invoked with
21
         the following message elements -->
      <wsdl-ext:group id="group1">
        <!-- Message MUST contain a title, author and publisher to
23
           be able to invoke the operation -->
        <wsdl-ext:group-element id="title"/>
24
        <wsdl-ext:group-element id="author"/>
25
        <wsdl-ext:group-element id="publisher"/>
26
27
      </wsdl-ext:group>
28
29
      <!-- Optional the operation may be invoked with the following
         message elements -->
30
      <wsdl-ext:group id="group2">
        <!-- Message MUST contain at least an isbn number
31
        <wsdl-ext:group-element id="isbn"/>
32
33
      </wsdl-ext:group>
34
      <!-- Priority definitions for the parameter groups defined
35
         before -->
      <wsdl-ext:group-choice id="groupChoice1">
36
37
        <!-- Group with parameters title, author and publisher has
38
            low priority "1" -->
        <wsdl-ext:groupChoiceMember ref="group1" priority="1"/>
39
40
        <!-- Group with parameters is
bn is preferred with higher priority "2" -->
41
        <wsdl-ext:groupChoiceMember ref="group2" priority="2"/>
42
      </wsdl-ext:group-choice>
43
   <wsdl-ext:semMessageExt/>
```

Listing 13: Parameter Groupings

## 5 The Solution Format

```
1 <!-- Document root -->
   <WSChallenge type="solutions">
 2
      <!-- First solution -->
 4
      <case name="SolutionA">
 5
        <service name="servicep36a4117307"/>
 6
        <serviceSpec name="2.1">
 7
          <service name="servicep71a5006237"/>
            <serviceSpec name="2.2">
 9
            <service name="servicep08a5642735"/>
10
             <service name="servicep81a0118335"/>
```

```
</serviceSpec>
12
            <service name="servicep63a9740674"/>
13
          </serviceSpec>
14
      </case>
15
16
17
      <!-- Second alternative solution -->
      <case name="SolutionB">
18
19
20
      </case>
21 </WSChallenge>
```

Listing 14: Example Solution

```
1 <!-- Document Root -->
 2 cprocess name="MoreCreditsBP"
             targetNamespace="http://xmlns.oracle.com/MoreCreditsBP">
 3
 4
      <!-- Main sequence -->
 5
      <sequence name="main">
 6
 8
        <!-- Starting BPEL invocation (Input: Challenge Query) -->
        <receive name="receiveQuery"</pre>
 9
                     portType="SolutionProcess" variable="query"/>
10
11
            <!-- Switch/Case operator for alternative solutions -->
12
            <switch name="SolutionAlternatives-SolutionA-SolutionB">
14
              <!-- First solution -->
15
              <case name="Alternative-SolutionA">
17
                 <!-- Sequence for serviceSpec 2.0 -->
18
19
                 <sequence>
                   <!-- Firstly invoking Service: servicep36a4117307
20
                   <invoke name="servicep36a4117307"</pre>
21
                                 portType="seeWSDLFile"
22
                                 operation="seeWSDLFile"/>
23
24
                         <!-- Parallel execution of serviceSpec 2.1
25
                             and 2.2 -->
                         <flow>
26
27
                           <!-- serviceSpec 2.1 -->
                           <sequence>
28
                             -
<invoke name="servicep71a5006237"</pre>
29
30
                                   portType="seeWSDLFile"
                                   operation="seeWSDLFile"/>
31
                           </sequence>
32
33
                           <!-- serviceSpec 2.2 -->
34
35
                           <sequence>
                             <!-- Two alternatives either
36
                                 servicep08a5642735
                               or servicep81a0118335 -->
38
                             <switch name="Alternative-Services">
39
                                   name="Execute-servicep08a5642735">
41
                                  <sequence>
```

```
42
                                     <!-- Trigger Service
43
                                          servicep08a5642735 -->
                                     <invoke name="servicep08a5642735"</pre>
44
                                              portType="seeWSDLFile"
45
                                              operation="seeWSDLFile"/>
46
                                   </sequence>
47
48
                                 </case>
49
                                 <case
                                     name="Execute-servicep81a0118335">
50
                                   <sequence>
                                     <!-- OR Trigger Service
51
                                         servicep81a0118335 -->
                                     <invoke name="servicep81a0118335"</pre>
                                              portType="seeWSDLFile"
53
                                              operation="seeWSDLFile"/>
54
55
                                   </sequence>
                                 </case>
56
57
                               </switch>
                             </sequence>
58
                          </flow>
59
60
                 </sequence>
               </case>
61
62
               <!-- Second solution -->
63
               <case name="Alternative-SolutionB">
64
65
66
               </case>
             </switch>
67
        </sequence>
   </process>
69
```

Listing 15: The WSBPEL document

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