2008 International RuleML Symposium on Interchange and Applications

The **International Symposium on Rule Interchange and Applications** (**RuleML-2008,** http://2008.ruleml.org/), is a relatively new event, being only its 2nd year, that is devoted to work on practical distributed rule technologies and rule-based applications, took place in Orlando, Florida, US on October 30th/31st, 2008. The participants from industry, standardization bodies and research where offered an exciting venue, co-located with the 11th International Business Rules Forum, to exchange new ideas, practical developments and their experience on issues pertinent to the interchange and application of rules in open distributed environments such as the Web.

"*One of the nice things about Business Rules Forum is that the Rule Markup Conference (RuleML08) is co-located with it. So some of us change rooms today to discuss progress on rule standards, with TIBCO presenting OMG PRR, ILOG presenting W3C RIF, and IBM presenting SBVR's date-time vocabulary.*"

(Paul Vincent, TIBCO Software Inc., http://tibcoblogs.com/cep/2008/10/30/ruleml-2008-prr/)

The interesting technical program of RuleML-2008 was divided into fifteen sessions with twenty presentations of solid work in advancing and assessing the state of the art in rule-based systems and of innovative ideas, approaches, and implementations. In several keynote talks renowned speakers gave presentations about "up-to-date" topics that pose challenges to industry, technology development and research:

1. Paul Haley (Haley Systems, Inc) on "Event and Process Semantics will Rule".
2. David Luckham (Stanford University, USA) on "The Power of Events: An Introduction to Complex Event Processing in Distributed Enterprise Systems".
3. Michael Kifer (State University of New York at Stony Brook), on "Rule Interchange Format: The Framework". Joint keynote between RuleML-2008 and RR2008.
4. Benjamin Grosof (Vulcan, Inc.) on "Hyper Logic Programs in SILK: Redefining the KR Playing Field for Business and VLKB".

The program also included an invited session for rule standards (OMG PRR, RIF PRD, SBVR data/time) and an invited demo session. Among the highlights of the program was the Challenge with eight demo presentations and with prestigious prices, and the boxed lunch panel discussion on "Rules on the Web", joint with BRF, featuring prominent and visionary speakers (Benjamin Grosof (Vulcan), Gary Hallmark (Oracle), Mark Linehan (IBM Research), Mark Proctor (JBoss/RedHat)), where the attendance from both events reached the remarkable number of 125 participants! Of particular interest was the discussion on issues related to the adoption of rule standards (specifically RIF - Rule Interchange Format, the W3C is currently working on) and the benefits resulting from such adoption. The key idea of the emerging standard is to enable exchange of rules among businesses, and the panellists gave cases where rule exchange is strongly envisaged.

Not only that RuleML-2008 was a great opportunity to learn more about rule-based technologies and their potential, the excellent contributions of the presenters during RuleML-2008 demonstrated advances and the increasing maturity of rule-based technologies and the fantastic lively audience of RuleML-2008 showed the growing acceptance of rule-based applications.

After a series of successful RuleML workshops and then conferences, the new type of industrial-oriented RuleML symposiums help cross-fertilizing between Web and Business Logic technology. RuleML-2008 was a really successful and lively event and the organizers of RuleML-2009 look enthusiastically to next year's symposium which will again be together with the Business Rules Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada in November 2009.

For further details please see the Symposium website http://2008.ruleml.org/ and http://2009.ruleml.org/