

Hands-on Lab: Build a Mini Ontology and Query It in Neo4j

You'll build a **mini ontology** (e.g., in healthcare), export data from **Protégé**, load it into **Neo4j**, and then query the knowledge using **Cypher**.

PART 1: Create a Mini Ontology Using Protégé

Step 1: Download and Install Protégé

1. Go to the official website: <https://protege.stanford.edu>
2. Download the **latest Protégé Desktop version** (usually a ZIP or DMG file).
3. Extract the ZIP and run Protégé (no installation required).

Step 2: Create a New OWL Ontology

1. Open Protégé → File > New Ontology
2. Choose the **OWL 2 DL** format
3. Give your ontology a base IRI (e.g., <http://www.example.org/healthcare>)
4. Save your ontology file (e.g., `healthcare.owl`)

Step 3: Define Ontology Structure

We'll model a simple **Healthcare domain**:

Classes:

- Patient
- Doctor
- Disease
- Treatment

Object Properties:

- hasDisease (Patient → Disease)
- receivesTreatment (Patient → Treatment)
- treatedBy (Patient → Doctor)

Data Properties:

- hasAge (Patient → integer)

- hasName (for all classes → string)

Create Them in Protégé:

- Go to the **Classes tab** → Click + to add each class
 - Go to **Object Properties** → Add and set Domain and Range
 - Go to **Data Properties** → Add string/integer properties
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Step 4: Add Individuals (Instances)

1. Switch to the **Individuals tab**
 2. Create sample entries:
 - Alice (a Patient , hasAge = 34, hasDisease = Diabetes, treatedBy = DrSmith)
 - DrSmith (a Doctor)
 - Diabetes (a Disease)
 - Insulin (a Treatment)
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Step 5: Export Ontology

We need to export in **RDF/XML or Turtle** format.

1. Go to File → Export Ontology
 2. Choose format: **Turtle (.ttl)** or **RDF/XML (.rdf)**
 3. Save as healthcare.ttl or healthcare.rdf
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PART 2: Load Ontology Data into Neo4j and Query with Cypher

Step 1: Install Neo4j Desktop or Neo4j Aura

Option A: Neo4j Desktop (Recommended for Local Use)

1. Download from: <https://neo4j.com/download>
2. Install and open Neo4j Desktop
3. Create a new **local database project**

Option B: Neo4j Aura (Cloud)

1. Sign up: <https://neo4j.com/cloud/aura/>
2. Create a free “sandbox” instance
3. Get the Bolt connection URI, username, and password

Step 2: Prepare RDF Import Plugin

Neo4j doesn't natively support RDF, but you can use the **Neosemantics plugin (n10s)**.

1. Enable Neosemantics in Neo4j Desktop:

- Open database → Plugins tab → Install **Neosemantics**

2. Start your database

Step 3: Open Neo4j Browser and Initialize n10s

Open Neo4j Browser (at `http://localhost:7474`) and run:

```
// Create the n10s configuration  
CALL n10s.graphconfig.init()
```

Step 4: Load RDF Data from Your File

Let's assume your file is `healthcare.ttl` and accessible locally.

You can either:

- **Host it via a local web server**, or
- **Use file import with APOC** (for advanced users), or
- **Paste the RDF content into the browser**

But the simplest way is to upload the file into **Neo4j's import folder**.

Example (Turtle format):

```
CALL n10s.rdf.import.fetch("file:///healthcare.ttl", "Turtle")
```

 If successful, your ontology triples will now be in Neo4j as nodes and relationships!

Step 5: Query the Graph Using Cypher

Let's try some sample queries:

Find all patients:

```
MATCH (p)-[ :`rdf:type` ]->(:`http://www.example.org/healthcare#Patient`)  
RETURN p
```

Find patients and their diseases:

```
MATCH (p)-[:`http://www.example.org/healthcare#hasDisease`]->(d)
RETURN p, d
```

🔍 Find patients treated by a specific doctor:

```
MATCH (p)-[:`http://www.example.org/healthcare#treatedBy`]->(d)
WHERE d.name = "DrSmith"
RETURN p.name
```

🔍 Count patients per disease:

```
MATCH (p)-[:`http://www.example.org/healthcare#hasDisease`]->(d)
RETURN d, COUNT(p) AS num_patients
```

✓ Summary of What You've Done

- Modeled a mini **ontology** with classes, properties, and individuals
 - Exported RDF/Turtle data from Protégé
 - Loaded it into **Neo4j** using the **n10s Neosemantics plugin**
 - Queried relationships using **Cypher**
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