

Web 2.0

Lecture 5: Data Structures – Atom and AtomPub

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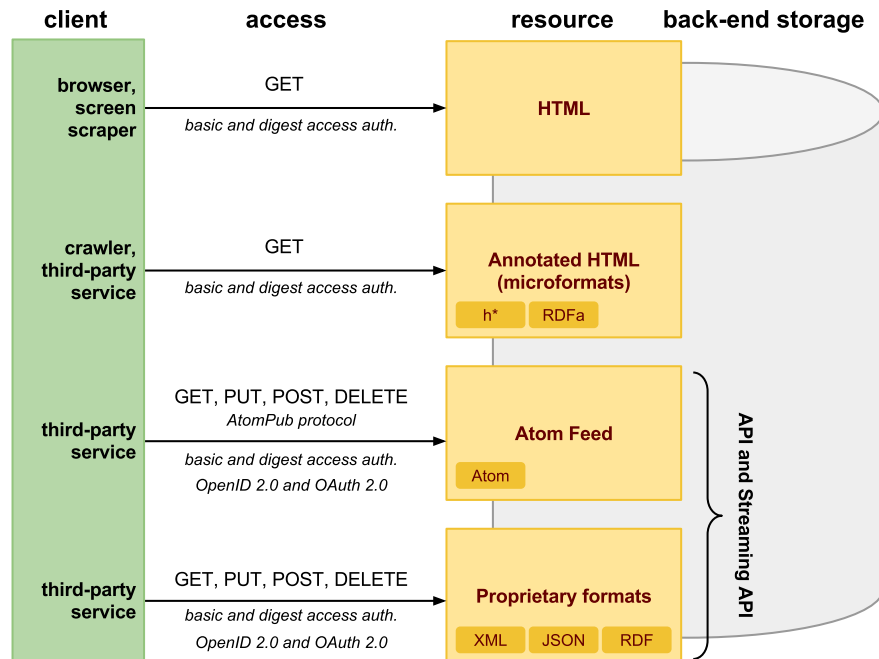


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Humla v0.3

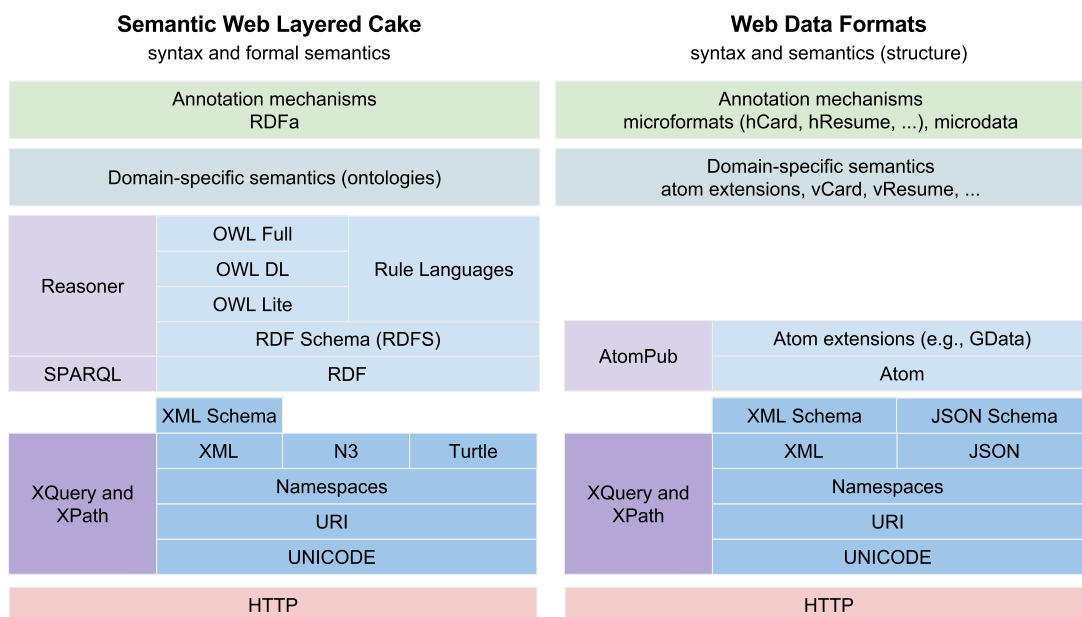
Overview

- Overview of Formats and Protocols
- Atom Syndication Format
- AtomPub Protocol

Data on the Web



Data Syntax, Structure and Semantics



Atom Standard

- A need for a standard syndication format
 - *machine-processable Web site content*
 - *Alternative to RSS*
 - *RSS spec does not say how to encode content, strings only ASCII-encoded, not clearly defined meaning of RSS elements, etc.*
 - *See RSS Flaws* [↗](#)
- IETF Atom Publishing Format and Protocol WG
 - *RFC 4287: Atom Syndication Format* [↗](#)
 - *RFC 5023: Atom Publishing Protocol* [↗](#)
- Adoption
 - *Google: Google Data Protocol (GData)*
 - *Microsoft: Open Data Protocol (OData)*

Overview

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- **Atom Syndication Format**
- AtomPub Protocol

Atom Syndication Format

Atom Feed Document

atom:feed element
(author, title, id, updated, ...)

atom:entry* element

Atom Entry Document

atom:entry element

- Two types of atom documents
 - *Atom Feed Document*
 - represents an atom feed, its metadata and some or all entries associated with it.
 - *Atom Entry Document*
 - represents exactly one entry, outside of context of atom feed

Atom Syndication Format

- Atom Feed Document Example

Atom Elements – Atom Feed

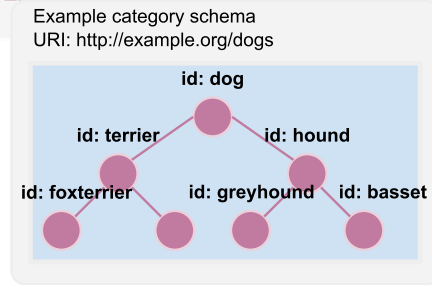
- Specification
 - defined as XML information set, serialized as XML 1.0
 - must be well-formed, no DTD/Schema → no requirements to be valid.
- **atom:feed** element
 - (*****): zero or more occurrences – repeating fields
 - (**?**): zero or one occurrence – non-repeating fields
 - (**)**: exactly one occurrence – non-repeating fields

Atom Elements – Atom Entry

- **atom:entry** element
 - (*****): zero or more occurrences – repeating fields
 - (**?**): zero or one occurrence – non-repeating fields
 - (**)**: exactly one occurrence – non-repeating fields

Pointers to other information

- URI identifier
 - *unique identification of things*
 - *feed/entry id*
 - **author** and **contributor** (*person uri*)
 - **generator** (*uri*)
 - **category** *schema (uri), term (uri)*
example:
- Unambiguous identification of things using URIs
 - *Helps interoperability, can take advantage of wikipedia concepts*
→ *still not very common, will improve with linked data*



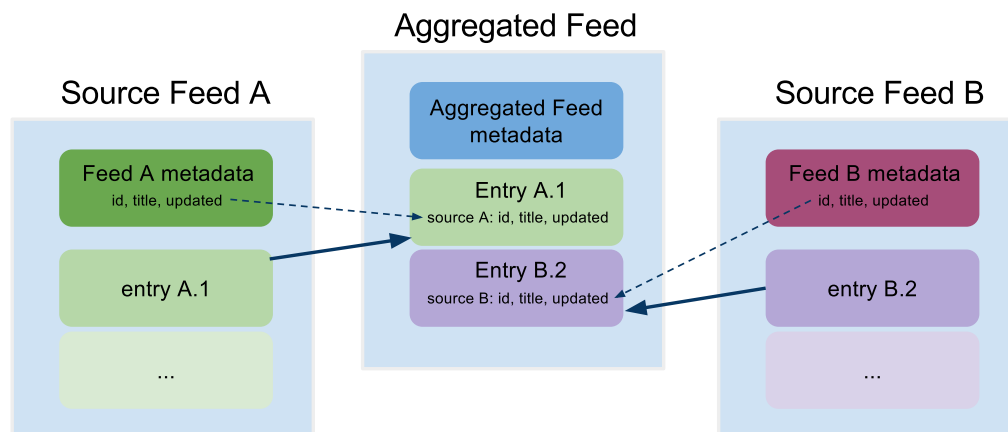
Atom Links

- Links to other Atom documents
 - *Atom defines simple link structure*
 - **type** *defines content type*
 - **rel** *defines relation to this resource*
→ *self, alternate, related, enclosure, via*
→ *standardized by IANA*
- Adoption by RESTful services
 - *Core for HATEOAS*
 - *Adopted in Link header, see Web Linking* [🔗](#)
 - *More details in [Lecture 4 – HATEOAS](#).*

Encoding Textual Content

- Plain text
 - *simple text, must not contain child elements*
- HTML
 - *html text, must not contain child elements*
 - *any markup must be escaped,*
 - *should be possible to display it as HTML inside `<div>` element*
- XHTML
 - *the value is a single xhtml `<div>` element, not part of the content*

Aggregation

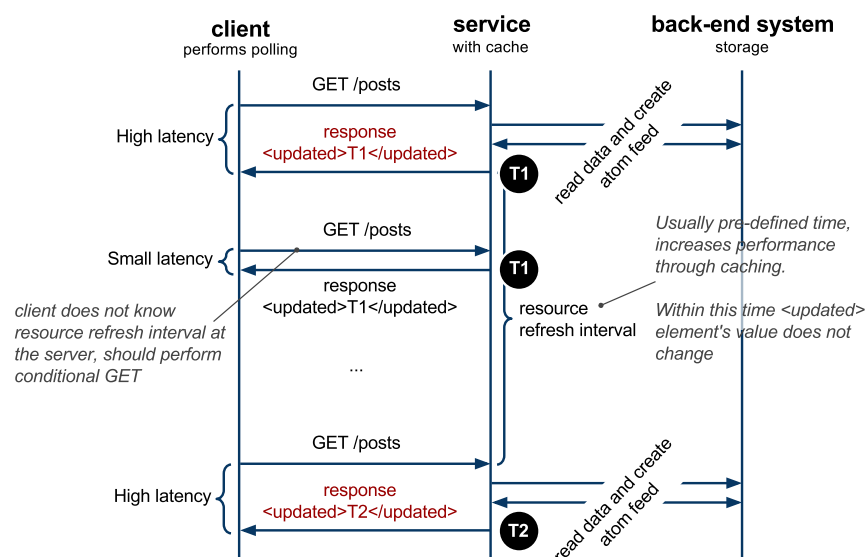


- *Atom feed may include entries from another atom feed*
 - *these entries do not originally belong to this feed*
- **source** element should contain at least:
 - *required atom feed's metadata **id**, **title** and **updated***
- *retains information about an entry's source feed*

Data and Time

- Notion of time
 - Atom document is a snapshot of resource in some time
 - **updated** (feed, entry) – last update of the resource
 - **published** (entry) – initial creation of the first availability of the resource
- Data format
 - Examples:
 - T** – time delimiter
 - Z** – identifies UTC time (~GMT)
 - (+|-)hh:mm** – defines local time and a shift in hours and minutes from the UTC time

Polling



- **updated** is the last updated time of the resource at the server
- resource refresh interval is pre-defined by the service

Extensions

- Possible to combine various vocabularies
 - through namespaces `xmlns` attribute, extensions of `link.rel` attribute
- Example: GData (PicasaWeb, Docs, ...)
 - combines vocabularies such as Geo location

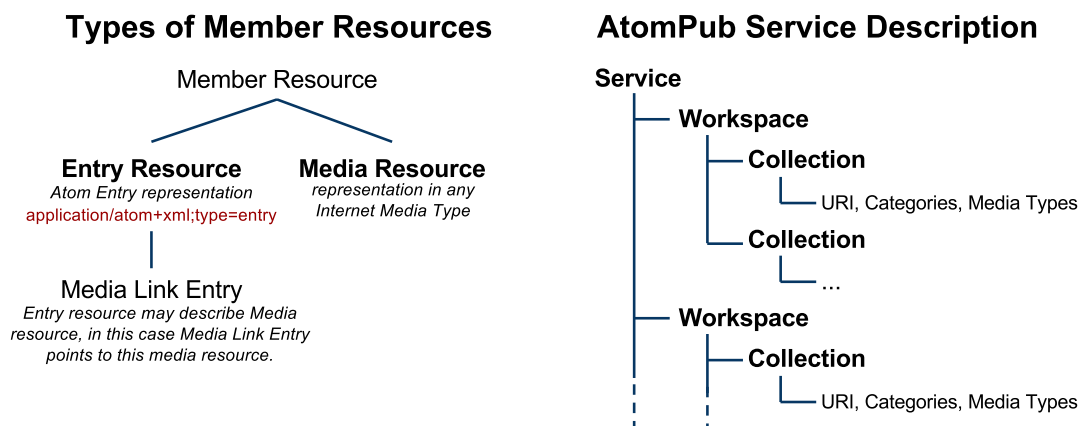
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- AtomPub Protocol
 - Extensions

AtomPub Protocol

- Standard protocol for manipulation of resources
 - Defines a service description by following constructs
 - **service** – a set of workspaces
 - **workspace** – a set of collections
 - **collection** – a set of resources
 - Defines protocol for editing, that is: creating (POST), updating (PUT), reading (GET), deleting (DELETE)
- Relation to Atom Syndication Format
 - Atom Feed and Atom Entry as resource representations
- Basis for many, such as:
 - Google Data Protocol (GData)
 - Microsoft Open Protocol (OData)

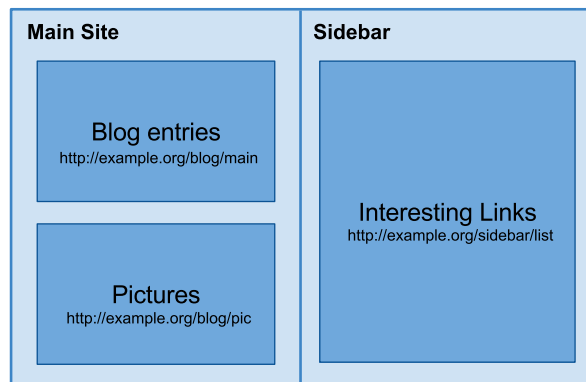
AtomPub Elements



- Collection properties and definition of constraints
 - **URI** – id of the collection (Atom Feed)
 - **categories** – list of allowed categories in the collection
 - **accept** – list of Internet media types allowed in the collection
 - **URI points to an Atom Feed resource!**

Example Blogging Site Description

Conceptual structure of a blogging site



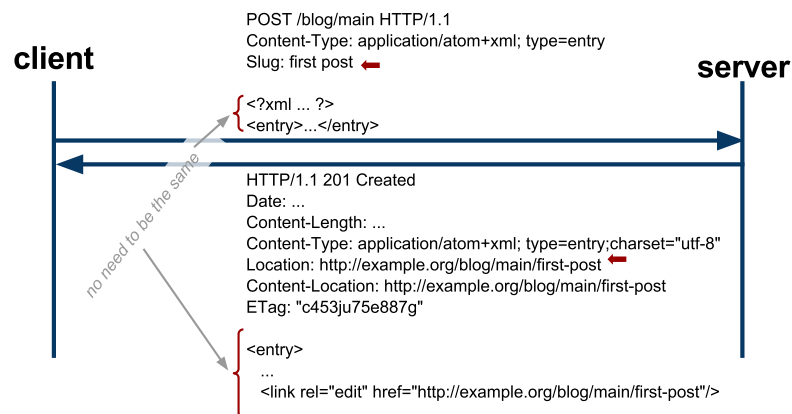
- Workspaces
 - *Main Site, Sidebar*
- Collections
 - *Blog entries, pictures, interesting links*

Example Blogging Site Description

Protocol Operations

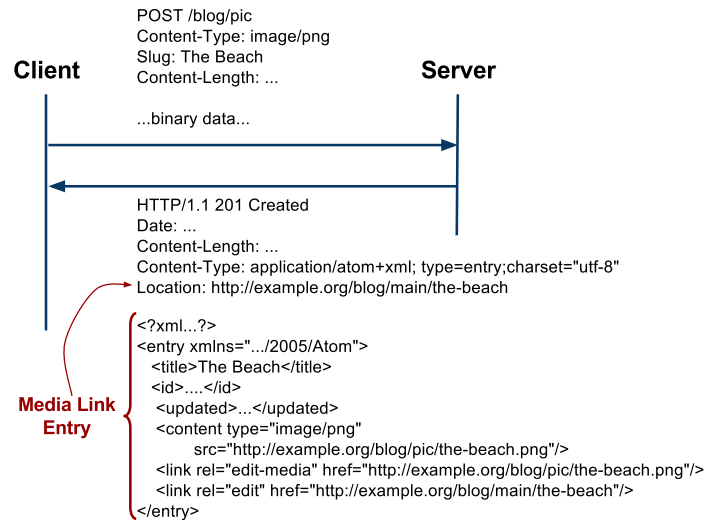
- Operations to manipulate resources
 - Retrieving a service document (is obvious, *GET*)
 - Listing collection members (filtering and projections)
 - Creating a resource (entry and media)
 - Editing a resource (is obvious, *PUT* and *DELETE*)
- AtomPub **does not define**:
 - Any manipulation with
 - service documents, workspaces and collections
 - How service documents are discovered
- AtomPub may be used w/o service descriptions
 - They're good for discovering constraints on the service
 - They're not a requirement
 - For example *GData* does not have them

Creating Entry Resource



- Server checks constraints of the collection
- Server may modify member representation
 - such as changes **id**, adds **updated** element
- if **Content-Location** is not equal to **Location** the request and response representation are not the same!
- **ETag** should be used for
 - conditional *GET* and *PUT* (see *lecture 4 – scalability*)

Creating Media Resource



- Server checks the constraints of the collection
 - may return **415 Unsupported Media Type** if not accepted
- Media Link Entry is an Entry resource that describes metadata about media resource (such as a picture)

Listing Collection

- Must provide representation in Atom Feed
- Contains list of Atom **Entry** elements
 - must have **link** with attribute **edit**
 - must have **edited**, order of entries by this date
 - is not the same as **Last-Modified** header
- Entries in collection are not full representations
 - clients should retrieve them using **GET** on entry URI
- To limit amount of entries
 - links with semantics for navigation through the whole list

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 - *Extensions*

Extensions

- OpenSearch
 - *Specification: OpenSearch* [🔗](#)
 - *Search service description and search results*
- Google Data Protocol
 - *Filtering, partial response and partial update*
 - *Entity tag attribute for **<feed>** and **<entry>** elements*
 - *HTTP methods overriding*

OpenSearch

- Open Search Specification
 - **Open Search Description Document (OSDD)**
 - *description of a search service*
 - **OpenSearch Response Document**
 - *Standard description of search results by search services*
 - *extension of syndication formats, RSS and Atom*
- Adoption
 - *Browsers such as IE, Google Chrome – search engines you can use to search various sites.*
 - *APIs such as Bing API, Google Docs, etc. – description of search results.*

OpenSearch Description Document

- Example:
 - **searchTerms** *is a free text*

OpenSearch Response Document

- Example:
 - *Result in Atom format of a search query*

GData Protocol: Advanced Search Query

- OpenSearch does not specify syntax for search query
 - *It can be anything, free text*
 - *GData Protocol further allows for filtering and projection*
- Filtering
 - *Fine-grained conditions based on values of various elements*
 - such as **author**, **category**, **max-results**, min and max of **published** and **updated** elements.
- Partial Response (~Projection)
 - *Which elements of an entry should appear in the search result*
 - *A language based on XPath syntax (subset of a valid XPath expression)*

GData Protocol: Partial Update

- **PATCH** HTTP Method
 - IETF specification, see *PATCH Method for HTTP* [↗](#)
 - Add, modify or delete selected elements of an entry
- Examples
 - To delete a description element and add a new title element
 - **gd:fields** uses partial response syntax
- Rules
 - Fields not already present are added
 - Non-repeating fields already present are updated
 - Repeating fields already present are appended

GData Protocol: Entity Tags

- Resource Versioning
 - Conditional GET and PUT (concurrency control)
 - See *Lecture 4 – scalability*
 - Etags on atom and entry elements
- Example
 - It is possible to do a conditional GET/PUT on the entry by using the ETag **"CUUEQX47eCp7ImA9WxRVEkQ."**

GData Protocol: HTTP Methods Overriding

- Firewall restrictions
 - *Some firewall configurations do not allow to send HTTP request other than GET and POST*
- HTTP methods overriding through **POST**
- Example