

# Web 2.0

## Lecture 5: Data Structures – Atom and AtomPub

**doc. Ing. Tomáš Vitvar, Ph.D.**

tomas@vitvar.com • @TomasVitvar • <http://vitvar.com>



Czech Technical University in Prague

Faculty of Information Technologies • Software and Web Engineering • <http://vitvar.com/courses/w20>

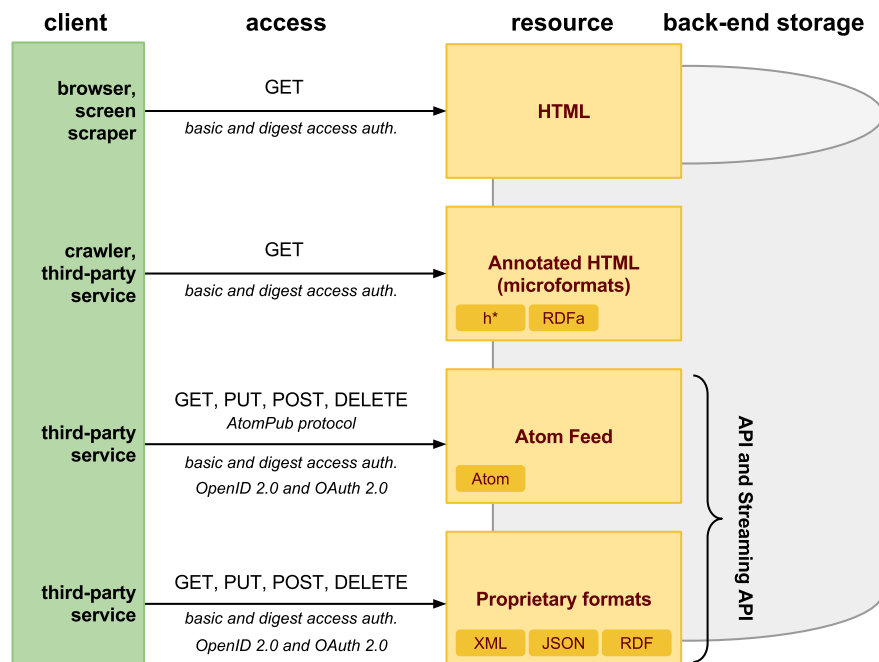


Modified: Tue Mar 21 2017, 22:48:25  
Humla v0.3

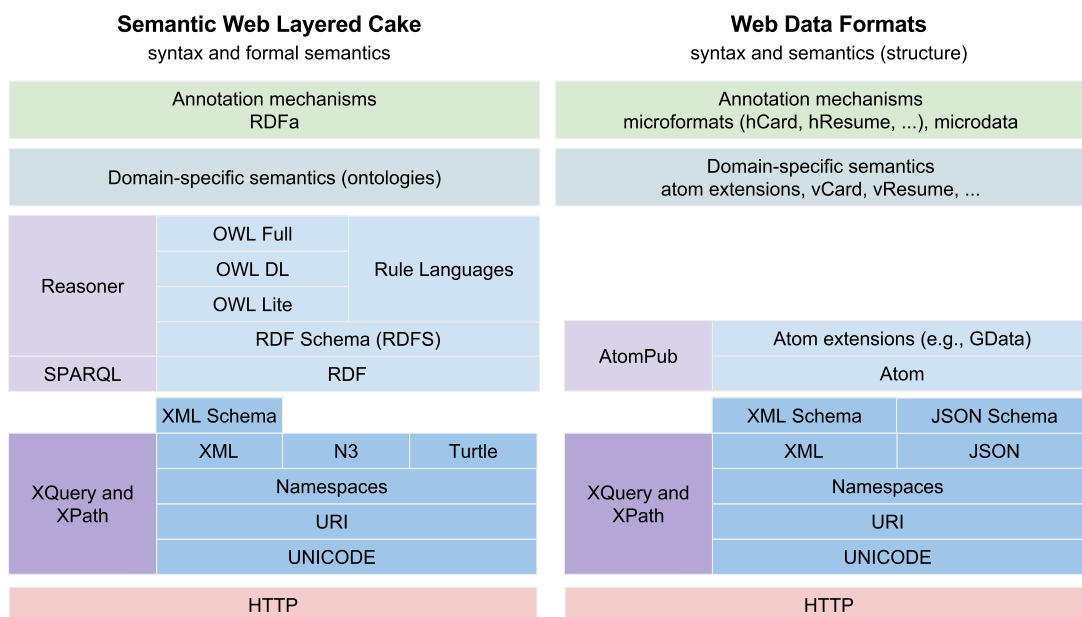
### Overview

- 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

- Overview of Formats and Protocols
- **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

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2  <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
3
4      <title>Example Feed</title>
5      <link href="http://example.org/" />
6      <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
7      <author>
8          <name>John Doe</name>
9      </author>
10     <id>urn:uuid:60a76c80-d399-11d9-b93C-0003939e0af6</id>
11
12     <entry>
13         <title>Example feed title</title>
14         <link href="http://example.org/2003/12/13/atom03" />
15         <id>urn:uuid:1225c695-cfb8-4ebb-aaaa-80da344efa6a</id>
16         <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
17         <summary>Some text</summary>
18     </entry>
19 </feed>
```

## 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

```
1  atomFeed =
2      element atom:feed {
3          atomCommonAttributes,
4          (atomAuthor*
5            & atomCategory*
6            & atomContributor*
7            & atomGenerator?
8            & atomIcon?
9            & atomId
10           & atomLink*
11           & atomLogo?
12           & atomRights?
13           & atomSubtitle?
14           & atomTitle
15           & atomUpdated
16           & extensionElement*),
17      atomEntry*
18  }
```

## Atom Elements – Atom Entry

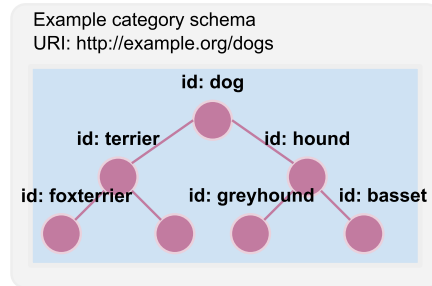
- **atom:entry** element
  - (*\**): zero or more occurrences – repeating fields
  - (*?*): zero or one occurrence – non-repeating fields
  - (): exactly one occurrence – non-repeating fields

```
1  atomEntry =
2      element atom:entry {
3          atomCommonAttributes,
4          (atomAuthor*
5            & atomCategory*
6            & atomContent?
7            & atomContributor*
8            & atomId
9            & atomLink*
10           & atomPublished?
11           & atomRights?
12           & atomSource?
13           & atomSummary?
14           & atomTitle
15           & atomUpdated
16           & extensionElement*)
17  }
```

## 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:*

```
1 <category scheme="http://example.org/dogs"
2   term="http://example.org/dogs#basset"
3   label="Basset"/>
```



- 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

```
1 | <title type="text">
2 |   Less: &lt;
3 | </text>
```

– *simple text, must not contain child elements*

- HTML

```
1 | <title type="html">
2 |   Less: &lt;em> &amp;lt; &lt;/em>
3 | </text>
```

– *html text, must not contain child elements*

– *any markup must be escaped,*

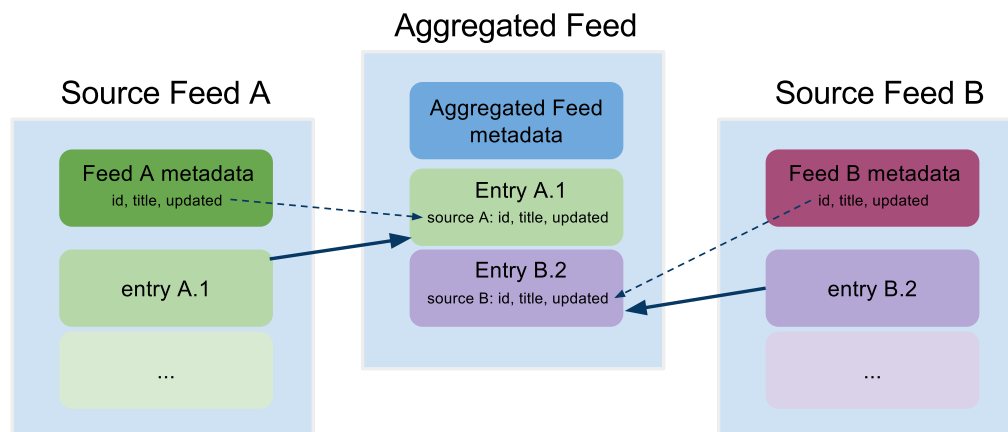
– *should be possible to display it as HTML inside <div> element*

- XHTML

```
1 | <title type="xhtml" xmlns:x="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
2 |   <x:div>Less: <x:em> &amp;lt; </x:em></x:div>
3 | </text>
```

– *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:

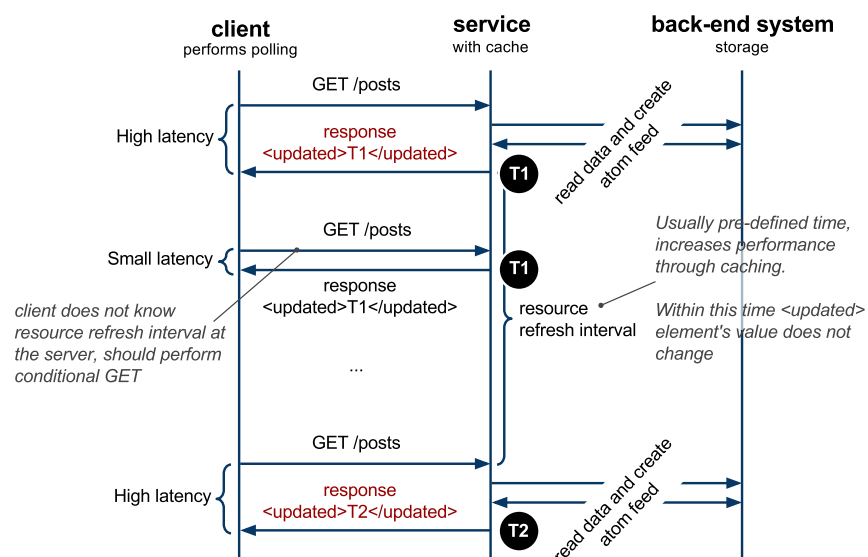
```
1 | <updated>2003-12-13</updated>
2 | <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02.25Z</updated>
3 | <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02.25+01:00</updated>
```

**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

```
1  <?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
2  <feed xmlns='http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom' xmlns:gml='http://www.opengis.net/gml'
3  xmlns:gphoto='http://schemas.google.com/photos/2007'
4  xmlns:georss='http://www.georss.org/georss'>
5    <id>http://picasaweb.google.com/.../albumid/5262593967320034641</id>
6    <updated>2010-02-25T20:47:53.295Z</updated>
7    <category
8      scheme='http://schemas.google.com/g/2005#kind'
9      term='http://schemas.google.com/photos/2007#album' />
10   <title type='text'>Památkově chráněný dům v Loukově</title>
11   <link rel='http://schemas.google.com/g/2005#feed' type='application/atom+xml'
12     href='http://picasaweb.google.com/.../albumid/5262593967320034641?hl=en_US' /
13   <link rel='http://schemas.google.com/photos/2007#slideshow'
14     type='application/x-shockwave-flash'
15     href='https://picasaweb.google.com/s/c/bin/slideshow.swf?... ' />
16   <georss:where>
17     <gml:Point>
18       <gml:pos>50.5576865 15.0356436</gml:pos>
19     </gml:Point>
20   </georss:where>
21   <gphoto:allowPrints>true</gphoto:allowPrints>
22   ...
23 </feed>
```

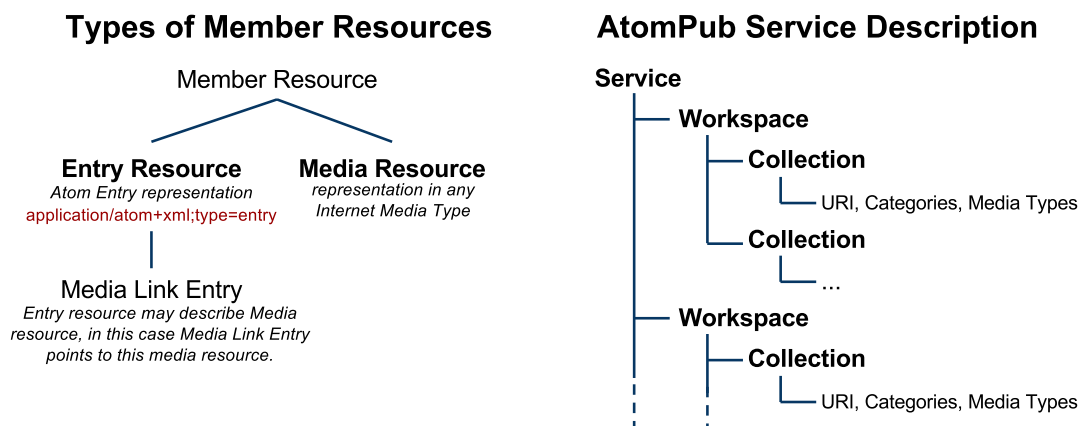
## Overview

- Overview of Formats and Protocols
- Atom Syndication Format
- 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)

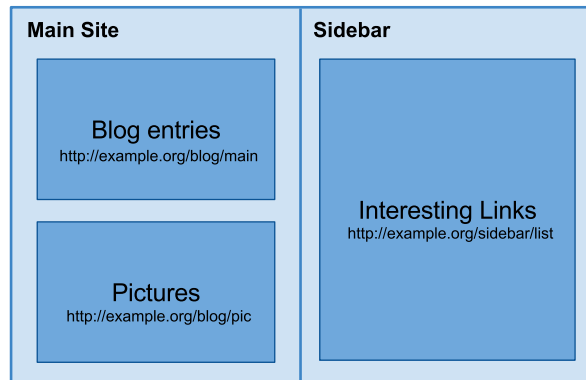
## AtomPub Elements



- 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*

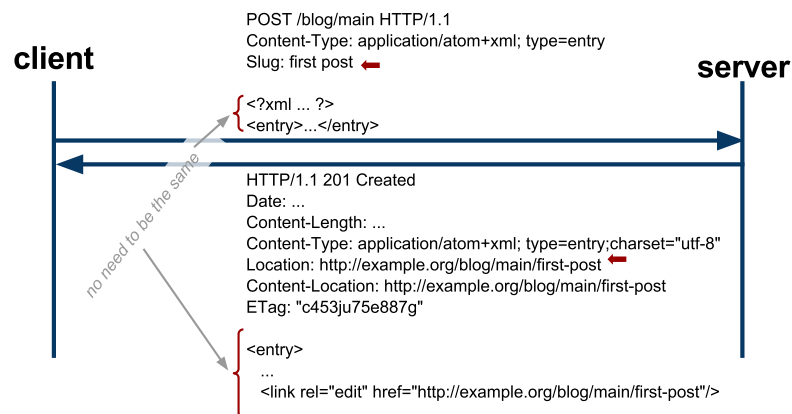
# Example Blogging Site Description

```
1 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
2 <service xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2007/app"
3   xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
4   <workspace>
5     <atom:title>Main Site</atom:title>
6     <collection href="http://example.org/blog/main">
7       <atom:title>Blog Entries</atom:title>
8       <categories
9         href="http://example.com/cats" />
10    </collection>
11    <collection href="http://example.org/blog/pic" >
12      <atom:title>Pictures</atom:title>
13      <accept>image/png</accept>
14      <accept>image/gif</accept>
15    </collection>
16  </workspace>
17  <workspace>
18    <atom:title>Sidebar</atom:title>
19    <collection href="http://example.org/blog/sidebar" >
20      <atom:title>Interesting Links</atom:title>
21      <accept>application/atom+xml;type=entry</accept>
22      <categories fixed="yes">
23        <atom:category
24          scheme="http://example.org/cats"
25          term="http://example.org/cats#joke" />
26        <atom:category
27          scheme="http://example.org/cats"
28          term="http://example.org/cats#serious" />
29      </categories>
30    </collection>
31  </workspace>
32 </service>
```

## Protocol Operations

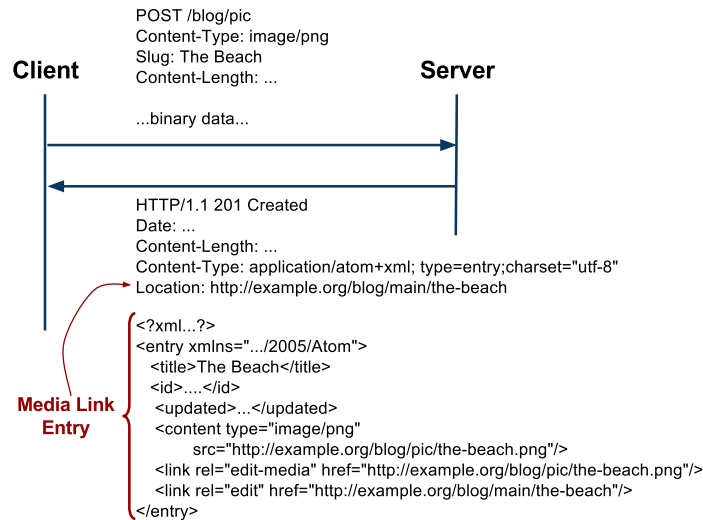
- Operations to manipulate resources
  - Retrieving a service document (is obvious, *GET*)
  - Listing collection members (filtering and projections)
  - Creating a resource (entry and media)
  - Editing a resource (is obvious, *PUT* and *DELETE*)
- AtomPub **does not define**:
  - Any manipulation with
    - 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

```
1 <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
2   <link rel="first" href="http://example.org/blog/main/" />
3   <link rel="previous" href="http://example.org/blog/main/3" />
4   <link rel="self" href="http://example.org/blog/main/4" />
5   <link rel="next" href="http://example.org/blog/main/5" />
6   <link rel="last" href="http://example.org/blog/main/10" />
7 </feed>
```

## Overview

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

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2  <OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/">
3    <ShortName>Web Search</ShortName>
4    <Description>Use Example.com to search the Web.</Description>
5    <Tags>example web</Tags>
6    <Contact>admin@example.com</Contact>
7    <Url type="application/atom+xml"
8        template="http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}&format=at
9    <Url type="application/rss+xml"
10       template="http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}&format=r
11    <Url type="text/html"
12       template="http://example.com/?q={searchTerms}&pw={startPage?}"/>
13    <Image height="64" width="64" type="image/png">
14       http://example.com/websearch.png
15    </Image>
16    <Query role="example" searchTerms="cat" />
17    <Developer>Example.com Development Team</Developer>
18    <AdultContent>false</AdultContent>
19    <Language>en-us</Language>
20    <OutputEncoding>UTF-8</OutputEncoding>
21    <InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
22  </OpenSearchDescription>
```

  - *searchTerms is a free text*

# OpenSearch Response Document

- Example:

- Result in Atom format of a search query

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2  <feed xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"
3      xmlns:opensearch="http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/">
4      <title>Example.com Search: New York history
5      <updated>2003-12-13T18:30:02Z</updated>
6      <author>
7          <name>Example.com, Inc.</name>
8      </author>
9      <id>urn:uuid:60a76c80-d399-11d9-b93C-0003939e0af6</id>
10     <opensearch:totalResults>4230000</opensearch:totalResults>
11     <opensearch:startIndex>21</opensearch:startIndex>
12     <opensearch:itemsPerPage>10</opensearch:itemsPerPage>
13     <opensearch:Query role="request" searchTerms="New York History" />
14     ...
15     <link rel="search" type="application/opensearchdescription+xml"
16         href="http://example.com/opensearchdescription.xml"/>
17     <entry>
18         <title>New York History</title>
19         ...
20     </entry>
21 </feed>
22
```

# 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.

```
1  http://www.example.com/feeds/?q=Darcy&updated-min=2005-04-19T15:30:00Z
2  http://www.example.com/feeds?category=Fritz%7CLaurie // URL encoded OR
3  http://www.example.com/feeds?category=Fritz,CLaurie // AND
```

- 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)

```
1  http://example.org/blog/main?fields=link,entry(@gd:etag,updated,link[@rel='edi
```



## 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
- ```
1 PATCH /myFeed/1/1/
2 Content-Type: application/xml
3
4 <entry xmlns='http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom'
5     xmlns:gd='http://schemas.google.com/g/2005'
6     gd:fields='description'>
7     <title>New title</title>
8 </entry>
```

- 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
- ```
1 GData-Version: 2.0
2 ETag: W/"C0QBRXcycSp7ImA9WxRVFUK."
3 ...
4 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?>
5 <feed xmlns='http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom'
6     xmlns:gd='http://schemas.google.com/g/2005'
7     gd:etag='W/"C0QBRXcycSp7ImA9WxRVFUK."'>
8     ...
9     <entry gd:etag='CUUEQX47eCp7ImA9WxRVEkQ.'">
10     ...
11 </entry>
12 </feed>
13
```
- 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**

X-HTTP-Method-Override: PUT  
X-HTTP-Method-Override: DELETE  
X-HTTP-Method-Override: PATCH

- Example

```
1 | POST /myfeed/1/1/  
2 | X-HTTP-Method-Override: PATCH  
3 | Content-Type: application/xml  
4 | ...
```