RESTful INTERFACE TO ONTOLOGIES

by

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ABSTRACT

INDEX WORDS: RESTful Web Services, Ontologies, SPARQL Endpoints, Ontology Servers, And Semantic Web

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CHAPTER 1

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

* 1. Semantic Web

In the World Wide Web (www) a web page can be accessed by its Uniform Resource Locator (URL) through the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP). Most of the resources on the www are written in HTML, which conveys their rendering information to the web browsers. Therefore most of the information on the www is for human consumption. Machines for automatic information processing and integration cannot use the information present in the web pages. Semantic Web aims at representing information on the web in a way that the computers can understand the meaning of the information. This is accomplished by embedding machine-readable information in the existing web pages. The machine-readable syntax makes the content easy to process the information while making it more amenable to exchange between heterogeneous applications. The semantic web can be thought of as a huge graph where resources are connected to other resources through meaningful edges.

* 1. Ontologies

There can be different ways in which semantics can be added to information. Ranked from the weakest formalisms to the strongest they are as follows:

* Controlled Vocabularies

Controlled vocabularies are a limited set of enumerated terms, which are agreed upon based on the particular use case. Only the terms from the enumerated set can be used to add metadata.

* Taxonomies

Taxonomy is a controlled vocabulary with relations like “subclass of” and “superclass of” between the enumerated terms.

* Thesaurus

A Thesaurus adds to taxonomy by giving the ability to state if two terms are equivalent, homographic or associative [NISO, 2005]

* Ontologies

An ontology is a formal specification of a shared conceptualization [reference here ].Ontologies represent shared domain-specific {Brickley, 2000 #4}knowledge, which can be shared between machines and people. Ontologies can be expressed in increasingly expressive languages like: RDF-Schema {Brickley, 2000 #4}, Web Ontology Language (OWL) [Reference here].

* 1. Introduction to REST Web Services

The popularity for Web services is growing with the demand for the interoperability between software applications across frameworks and platforms. W3C defines Web service as “a software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network. It has an interface described in a machine-processable format. Other systems interact with the Web service in a manner prescribed by its description”. REST is a Web service design model that focuses on system’s resources. Each resource is represented by a URI (Uniform Resource Identifier), which enables uniform identification of resources. It follows a defined set of naming scheme.

The design principles followed by an implementation of a REST Web service are: Stateless, use of HTTP methods, use of URIs and XML formats. It is called a stateless operation as the request contains all the information needed to generate a response independent of the session. Also, a REST Web service always uses one of the HTTP methods: POST, GET, PUT or DELETE to add, remove or get a resource. Each resource is represented by a URI in a REST Web service. This enables use of hyperlinks to browse resources. And the data format typically used is XML. XML is used to format request and response messages.

REST Web services have quite a few advantages because of which REST design model is gaining popularity gradually and is being adopted more for major Web service implementations. Some of the benefits of using REST Web services are:

* They are lightweight.
* The results are human readable.
* They are easy to implement.

Another widely adopted Web service design is based on SOAP. SOAP stands for Simple Object Access Protocol. It is a XML based protocol that enables the exchange of information amongst software applications over HTTP. Depending on the application at times SOAP is preferred over REST for the following reasons:

* It is mostly easier to consume a SOAP Web service.
* The type checking is much stricter in SOAP.
* Because of wide Enterprise level adoption there are a lot of development tools available to enable some of the more complicated tasks in implementation of a SOAP Web service.

Overall, the REST design pattern provides the flexibility and scalability that is integral to this project. We will go into further details on how RESTful Web services are leveraged to provide an interface to or download ontology as an owl file, to browse the ontology schema and to update the classes and properties.

CHAPTER 2

RELATED WORK

CHAPTER 3

SYSTEM DESIGN

Before describing the web-services supported by our ontology server, it is important to understand the design of the system. This chapter describes the design and approach that we have come up with for developing the ontology server.

The ontology server is a J2EE specification compliant web-server. The system has multi-tier approach like a normal J2EE web application. Following diagram displays the overall system architecture.

Ontologies

Logic Layer

(JENA/ARQ)

Service Layer

(RESTEasy)

3.1 Service Layer

The first layer is the Service layer. The ontology server provides four types of services namely, ontology management service, services for CRUD operations on ontology, services for execution of navigational queries and services for execution of SPARQL queries. Each of these services is designed using RESTful Architectural Principles. Following is a detailed design overview for each service.

3.1.1 Ontology Management Service

This module provides services to manage the ontologies that are deployed in the server. The client application can invoke a service from this module, if they want to load an ontology that is currently not loaded in the server. This module also provides a service with which the client application can take a snapshot of any ontology that is currently loaded. This feature is provided because the ontology server provides services to execute CRUD operations on the loaded ontologies, so at any given point the client application can download a modified ontology as a OWL file from the server.

Also this module can load some ontologies during server startup. These are the default ontologies that the server administrators can configure during server startup.

3.1.2 CRUD Operation Services.

This module is designed to provide a RESTful interface for performing CRUD operations on ontologies. In ontology the classes, properties and instances are the resources of interest. We further divided these resources into sub-resources like super-classes, sub-classes, super-properties and sub-properties. This module provides methods to perform CRUD operations on these resource and sub-resources of ontology. Each of these resources are uniquely identified by a URI. The CRUD operations are mapped to four HTTP operations namely POST, GET, PUT and DELETE. The combination of one of the HTTP operation and a URI invokes a service method from this module.

3.1.3 Navigational Service

The ontology is a directed graph with classes and instances as the nodes and properties as the edges. This module provides an interface to navigate within this directed graph along the edges.

The navigation through ontology can be seen as path query.

3.1.4 SPARQL Query Service

This module provides an interface to execute SPARQL queries. If a client application wants to execute a SPARQL query, it has to send two requests to the server. In the first request the client application sends the query that is to be executed on the ontology mentioned in the URL of the request. After executing the query, the result set is not immediately returned to the client application. Instead the result set is cached at the server for a specific amount of time. A unique identifier identifying the result set and the time for which the result set will be cached is returned to the client application in form of response. To obtain the result set the client application has to send another request within the time mentioned in response of the first request. With the second request the client application also have to send the unique identifier for the result set and the format in which it wants the result set to the server. This module then accordingly processes the second request from the client and returns the result set. We designed this two fold request-response sequence to incorporate the RESTful architectural principles.

3.2 Logic Layer

The Logic Layer comprises of methods that contain the logic to perform the task, the client application’s requested for. This layer implements all the interfaces that are defined by the service layer. Also this layer is an interface between the service layer and the ontologies. This layer performs all the CRUD operations exposed by the service layer.

3.3 Ontology Layer

The Ontology Layer is where the ontologies reside. The ontologies can be in a persistent storage system or could be in-memory.

CHAPTER 4

**IMPLEMENTATION**

This chapter describes the implementation of the ontology server. The ontology server is a J2EE web server with the capability of processing RESTful web services. As mentioned in the System Design chapter the ontology server provides four types of services. They are implemented as Java interfaces and are called OntologyService, SchemaService, NavigationService and SPARQLService. Each service provides a RESTful API to interact with the ontologies loaded in the web server. The service layer is implemented using JBOSS’s RESTEasy, which is a framework for developing RESTful Java web services. The logic layer is implemented using Jena Semantic Web toolkit.

4.1 Implementation of Service Layer: RESTEasy

RESTEasy is open source software distributed under Apache Software License 2.0. RESTEasy is a full certified and portable implementation of the JAX-RS specification. JAX-RS is the Java Community Process specification released in 2008. It provides a Java API for RESTful web services over the HTTP protocol.

Every Java service interface is mapped to a unique URI. For example a URI /schemaService represents the SchemaService Java interface. This mapping is achieved using JAX-RS annotations defined by RESTEasy.

All the Java services support four HTTP operations GET, POST, PUT, DELETE. A combination of any one of these HTTP operations and a URI uniquely identifies a Java service method from the Java service interfaces. So for every URI, all of the four HTTP operations are supported.

To keep the marshaling and un-marshaling of request/response data decoupled from the Java objects, the service layer uses message body readers and writers. These message body readers parse the request body to extract the information sent by the client. It also validates the request and check if it adheres to the format expected by the API. If it is not, exception is returned to the client along with appropriate HTTP status code. The message writer on the other hand wraps the result of the Logic Layer into a format that the client can accept (as mentioned in the Accept Header field of the HTTP request). Once the request has been parsed and validated the service layer transfers the control to the logic layer.

Following are the details of each of the service.

**4.1** OntologyService

This service provides APIs to load any ontology or take a snapshot of any loaded ontology. By taking a snapshot here I mean is that the user can download from the web server ontology as a OWL file.

4.2 SchemaService

This service provides CRUD operations for the ontology schema as well as the instances in the ontology. Each method in the service is bound to one unique URL and HTTP operation using the RESTEasy annotations. Also request parameters are injected into the method parameters using the annotations. To understand see lets see an example.

Consider the URL schemaService/{ontologyName}/allClasses.

Here the value of the ontologyName is variable and is injected with the value that the client application provides in form of the URL. So when the client application sends a request with the URL schemaService/pizza/allClasses, the string pizza is injected into the variable ontologyName. Thus the client application states which ontology they want to use.

Following methods are supported by the schema service

1. Classes

This service provides an interface to browse, add, update or delete any class from the requested ontology. The client application provides the name of the ontology they want to query in form of the URL (as explained above). Also the client application passes a list of comma-delimited names of classes.

**GET**

This request returns information about each class passed in the URL. For each, list of its super classes, sub-classes, properties and instances is returned in xml format (defined below) as response body.

Request:

*Resource*

schemaService/{ontologyName}/classes/<comma separated names of classes>

Response:

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body*:

For each class mentioned in the request url a Class tag is returned. All the classes are enclosed in Classes tag, as shown below.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />} m

<SuperClasses>

{{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SuperClasses>

<SubClasses>

{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SubClasses>

<Properties>

{<Property name=”Prop1” uri=”http://../..#Prop1” />}n

</Properties>

<Instances>

{<Instance name=”Inst1” uri=”http://../..#Instance1” />}n

</Instances>

</Class>

</Classes>

m: Occurs for every class passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**POST**

This request creates classes in the ontology mentioned in the request URL. Information for each class that has to be created is provided as the request body in xml format as described below.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/classes/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

The request body should be in following format.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SuperClasses >

{{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SuperClasses>

<SubClasses>

{<SubClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SubClasses>

<Instances>

{<Instance name=”Inst1” uri=”http://../..#Instance1” />}n

</Instances>

</Class>} m

</Classes>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur any number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**PUT**

This requests, updates each class passed in the URL. Information for each class, that has to be updated is passed as request body in xml format as described below.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/classes/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

The request body should be in following format.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SuperClasses>

{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” >

<Update name=”N1” uri=”<http://../..#N1> ”/>

</SuperClass>} n

</SuperClasses>

<SubClasses>

{<SubClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</SubClass>} n

</SubClasses>

<Properties>

{<Property name=”Prop1” uri=”<http://../..#Prop1>” />

<Update name=”P1” uri=”<http://../..#P1>” />

</Property>} n

</Properties>

<Instances>

{<Instance name=”Inst1” uri=”<http://../..#Instance1>” />

<Update name=”I1” uri=”[http://../.. #I1](http://../..#I1)” />} n

</Instances>

</Class>} m

</Classes>

m: Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

**DELETE**

This request deletes the classes mentioned in the URL from the ontology.

Request:

*Resource*

/classes/<comma separated names of classes>

2) Sub-Classes

This service provides an interface to browse, add, update or delete any class from the requested ontology. The client application sends a URL that has the ontology name and a list of comma-delimited classes. The sub-classes of these comma-delimited classes are modified.

**GET**

This request retrieves sub-classes of all the classes mentioned in comma-delimited fashion in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

/classes/<comma separated names of classes>

Response:

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body*:

For each class mentioned in the request URL a Class tag is returned. Each class tag has a list of SubClass tag enclosing all the sub-classes for this particular class. All the classes are enclosed in Classes tag.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SubClasses>

{<SubClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SubClasses>

</Classes>} m

</Classes>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**POST**

This request creates sub-classes in the ontology mentioned in the request URL. The classes for which sub-classes are to be added are listed in comma-delimited fashion in the request URL.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/subClassesOf/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each sub-class that has to be created is provided as the request body in xml format as described below. For each class mentioned in the URL, a Class tag is required. Each class tag contains a list of SubClass tag. The SubClass tag describes the sub-class that has to be added to the ontology. If the class mentioned in the SubClass tag is not present in the ontology, it will be added.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SubClasses>

{<SubClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SubClasses>

</Classes>} m

</Classes>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**PUT**

This requests, updates sub-classes of each class mentioned in the URL. Information for each class that has to be updated is passed as request body in xml format as described below.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/subClassesOf/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each sub-class that has to be updated is provided as the response body in xml format as described below. For each class mentioned in the URL, a Class tag is required. Each class tag contains a list of SubClass tag. The SubClass tag describes the sub-class that has to be updated and each SubClass tag contains a Update tag mentioning the sub-Class that has to be added as the sub-class. The Update tag should mention a class that is already present in the ontology, new class will not be created.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SubClasses>

{<SubClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</SubClass>} n

</SubClasses>

</Classes>} m

</Classes>

m: Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Sub-Class does not exist -> 404 “no such sub-class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**DELETE**

This request removes the sub-classes of the classes mentioned in the URL from the ontology.

Request:

*Resource*

/subClassesOf/<comma separated names of classes>

1. Super-Classes

**GET**

This request retrieves super-classes of all the classes mentioned in comma-delimited fashion in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

/superClassesOf/<comma separated names of classes>

Response:

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body*:

For each class mentioned in the request URL a Class tag is returned. Each class tag has a list of SuperClass tag enclosing all the super-classes for this particular class. All the classes are enclosed in Classes tag.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SuperClasses>

{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SuperClasses>

</Classes>} m

</Classes>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

**POST**

This request creates super-classes in the ontology mentioned in the request URL. The classes for which super-classes are to be added are listed in comma-delimited fashion in the request URL.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/superClassesOf/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each super-class that has to be created is provided as the request body in xml format as described below. For each class mentioned in the URL, a Class tag is required. Each class tag contains a list of SuperClass tag. The SuperClass tag describes the super-class that has to be added to the ontology. If the class mentioned in the SuperClass tag is not present in the ontology, it will be added.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SuperClasses>

{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />} n

</SuperClasses>

</Classes>} m

</Classes>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**PUT**

This requests, updates super-classes of each class mentioned in the URL. Information for each class that has to be updated is passed as request body in xml format as described below.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/superClassesOf/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each sub-class that has to be updated is provided as the response body in xml format as described below. For each class mentioned in the URL, a Class tag is required. Each class tag contains a list of SubClass tag. The SubClass tag describes the sub-class that has to be updated and each SubClass tag contains an Update tag mentioning the super-class that has to be added as the super-class. The Update tag should mention a class that is already present in the ontology, new class will not be created.

<Classes>

{<Class name="Class1" uri= <http://../..#Class1>” />

<SuperClasses>

{<SuperClass name=”SuperClass1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperClass1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</SuperClass>} n

</SuperClasses>

</Class>} m

</Classes>

m: Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Class does not exist -> 404 “ no such class exist”
* Super-Class does not exist -> 404 “no such super-class exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**DELETE**

This request removes the super-classes of the classes mentioned in the URL from the ontology.

Request:

*Resource*

/superClassesOf/<comma separated names of classes>

4) Properties

This service provides an interface to browse, add, update or delete any property from the requested ontology

**GET**

This request retrieves properties of all the classes mentioned in comma-delimited fashion in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

/properties/<comma separated names of properties>

Response:

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body*:

For each property mentioned in the request URL, its declaring classes, its domains and ranges are returned in a XML format described below.

<Properties>

{<Property name="P1" uri= <http://../..#P1>” />

<DeclaringClasses>

{<Class name=”Class1” uri=”<http://../..#Class1>” />} n

</DeclaringClasses>

<Domain>

{<Class name=”Class2” uri=”http://../..#Class2” />} n

</Domain>

<Range>

{<Class name=”Class3” uri=”http://../..#Class3” />} n

</Range>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m Number of classes passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**POST**

This request creates properties mentioned in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/properties/<comma separated properties>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each property to be added in the ontology has to be provided in XML format as described below. The DeclaringClasses tag contains a list of classes to which this property will be associated. The Domain tag contains a list of classes that will be added as the domain of the property. The Range tag contains a list of classes that will be added as the range of the property. Classes mentioned as Domain or Range for the property need to be existent classes in the ontology, no new classes are created using this service.

<Properties>

{<Property name="P1" uri= <http://../..#P1>” />

<DeclaringClasses>

{<Class name=”Class1” uri=”<http://../..#Class1>” />} n

</DeclaringClasses>

<Domain>

{<Class name=”Class2” uri=”http://../..#Class2” />} n

</Domain>

<Range>

{<Class name=”Class3” uri=”http://../..#Class3” />} n

</Range>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m Number of properties passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**PUT**

This requests, updates properties mentioned in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/properties/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each property that has to be updated is passed as request body in xml format as described below. For each property mentioned in the URL, a Property tag is required. The Property tag contains DeclaringClasses, Domain and Range tags. The DeclaringClasses tag contains a Class tag that mentions the declaring class that has to be updated and the Class tag contains an Update tag mentioning the class with which the property will be updated. The Domain tag contains a Class tag that mentions the domain class for this property that has to be updated and the Class tag contains an Update tag mentioning the domain class with which this property will be updated. The Range tag contains a Class tag that mentions the range class for this property that has to be updated and the Class tag contains an Update tag mentioning the range class with which this property has to be updated. The Update tag should mention a class that is already present in the ontology, new class will not be created.

<Properties>

{<Property name="P1" uri= <http://../..#P1>” />

<DeclaringClasses>

{<Class name=”Class1” uri=”<http://../..#Class1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</Class>} n

</DeclaringClasses>

<Domain>

{<Class name=”Class1” uri=”<http://../..#Class1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</Class>} n

</Domain>

<Range>

{<Class name=”Class1” uri=”<http://../..#Class1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</Class>} n

</Range>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m Number of properties passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**DELETE**

This request removes the properties mentioned in the URL from the ontology.

Request:

*Resource*

/properties/<comma separated names of properties>

5) Sub-properties

This service provides an interface to browse, add, update and delete sub-properties of properties mentioned in the URL.

**GET**

This request retrieves sub-properties of all the comma-delimited properties mentioned in the URL.

Request:

*Resource*

/subPropertiesOf/<comma separated names of properties>

Response:

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body*:

For each property mentioned in the request URL a Property tag is returned. Each property tag has a list of SubProperties tag enclosing all the sub-properties for this particular property. All the properties are enclosed in Properties tag.

<Properties>

{<Property name="Prop1" uri= <http://../..#Prop1>” />

<SubProperties>

{<SubProperty name=”SuperProp1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperProp1>” />} n

</SubProperties>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m Number of properties passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**POST**

This request creates sub-properties in the ontology mentioned in the request URL. The properties for which sub-classes are to be added are listed in comma-delimited fashion in the request URL.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/subClassesOf/<comma separated classes>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each sub-property that has to be created is provided as the request body in xml format as described below. For each property mentioned in the URL, a Property tag is required. Each property tag contains a list of SubProperty tag, which describes the sub-class that has to be added to the ontology. If the Property mentioned in the SubProperty tag is not present in the ontology, it will be added.

<Properties>

{<Property name="Prop1" uri= <http://../..#Prop1>” />

<SubProperties>

{<SubProperty name=”SuperProp1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperProp1>” />} n

</SubProperties>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m Number of properties passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**PUT**

This requests, updates sub-properties of each property mentioned in the URL. Information for each property that has to be updated is passed as request body in xml format as described below.

Request:

*Resource*

{ontologyName}/subPropertiesOf/<comma separated properties>

*Content Type:*

application/xml

*Body:*

Information for each sub-property that has to be updated is provided as the request body in xml format as described below. For each property mentioned in the URL, a Property tag is required. Each Property tag contains a list of SubProperty tag. The SubProperty tag describes the sub-property that has to be updated and each SubProperty tag contains an Update tag mentioning the sub-Property with which this property has to be updated with. The Update tag should mention a property that is already present in the ontology, new properties will not be created.

<Properties>

{<Property name="Prop1" uri= <http://../..#Prop1>” />

<SubProperties>

{<SubProperty name=”SuperProp1” uri=”<http://../..#SuperProp1>” />

<Update name=”M1” uri=<http://../..#M1>” />

</SubProperty>} n

</SubProperties>

</Property>} m

</Properties>

m: Number of properties passed in the request URL.

n: Can occur n number of times.

Errors:

* Property does not exist -> 404 “ no such property exist”
* Sub-Property does not exist -> 404 “no such sub-property exist”
* Ontology is not loaded -> 404 “ requested ontology is not loaded”
* Any other delimiter used instead of comma -> 400

**DELETE**

This request removes the sub-properties of the properties mentioned in the URL from the ontology.

Request:

*Resource*

/subPropertisOf/<comma separated names of classes>

4.3 Navigational Service

This service provides an interface to navigate from one class or instance of ontology to another class or instance along the properties. The client application provides the path query in form of a RESTful URI. Following is the query syntax for invoking this service and brief explanation about how it works.

Query syntax:

navigate/{ontologyName}/**class/{className}/{property}+**

navigate**/**{ontologyName}/**individual/{individualName}/{property}**

{className}/{individualName} provides us the starting point for navigation. We than go on navigating through the ontology according the **paths** specified by the associations/properties in the query path.

How does it work?

We start with one class/individual, which is our starting point. We navigate using the first property mentioned to all the classes associated with our starting point class and we collect them. Then we apply the second property mentioned in the path query on each of the class from the resulting from the first query. To make things more clear consider an example from the pizza ontology.

**navigate/pizza/class/AmericanPizza/hasTopping/hasSpeciness/**

We first locate the AmericanPizza in the pizza ontology.

Then we use the first property mentioned in the path query, which is hasTopping in this example.

We get all the classes that are associated to AmericanPizza using the property hasTopping

**AmericanPizza/hasTopping/ => [PeperoniTopping, MozerellaTopping]**

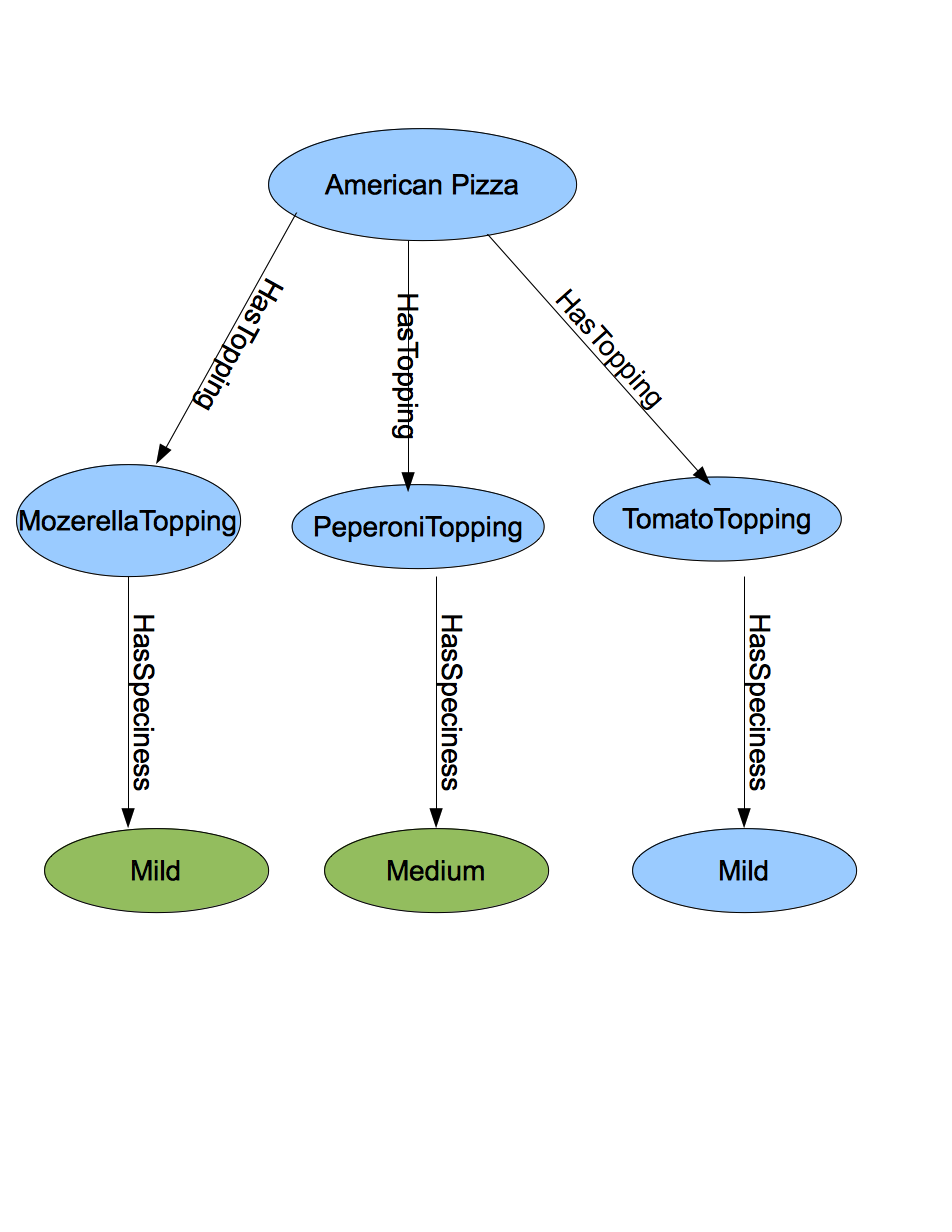
In this case we get PeperoniTopping and MozerellaTopping classes associated to AmericanPizza using the property hasTopping.

We then apply the second property in the path query (hasSpeciness) on each PerperoniTopping and MozerellaTopping.

**[Peperoni, Mozerella]/hasSpiceness => [Mild, Medium]**

So the output of the navigational query is **[Mild, Medium]** and it is returned to the user.

In short, we start with one class (starting point) and the apply first property to get a result of interim classes on which we then apply the second property to get another new set of interim result on which we apply the third property and so on. We do this till at any state we don’t get any interim result or we are done processing all the properties mentioned in the path, whichever one occurs first.  Apart from properties user can also specify relations like subClassOf, superClassOf, instancesOf, equivalntClasses, disjointClasses, complementClasses. Please



4.4 SPARQL Query Service

This module provides an interface for the client application to execute a SPARQL query.

The URI template to invoke this service is

sparql/{ontologyName}

Where the {ontologyName} is the ontology that the user wants to query.

Following are the HTTP operations that this service supports

**POST**

This service accepts a SPARQL query in form the request body encoded in XML. The XML format to invoke this service is explained below.

Request

*Resource*

sparql/{ontologyName}

*Content Type*

application/XML

*Body*:

The request has to be encoded in XML as follows. The SPARQL query is enclosed within Query tags.

<Query>

{ SPARQL Query }

</Query>

Response

*Content type*

application/XML

*Body*

The response returned to the client is encoded in XML and is in following format. The Result tag has two attributes. The id attribute notifies the client application the unique identifier for the result set produced by the execution of the query requested. The timeout attribute notifies the client application for how much time the result set will be cached on the server. The client application will have to make a GET request passing the identifier within the timeout time to get the result from the server. The time mentioned by the timeout attribute is in seconds.

<ResultSet>

<Result id=”xyz” timeout=”180” />

</ResultSet>

**GET**

This service provides an interface for the client application to retrieve the result set of a earlier SPARQL query executed. The client application provides a unique identifier to identify the result set along with the format in which it wants the result set.

Request

*Resource*

sparql/{ontologyName}/{id}/{format}

Response

The response provided by this service depends upon the format the client application passed in the request URL.

CHAPTER 5

EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS