Publishing Data Using Semantic Web Technologies

An introduction for software engineers

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Lecture Outline

- Introduction to the Semantic Web
- Semantic Web Languages
- Publishing RDF Using OpenLink's Virtuoso
- Linked Open Data and Examples

The Problem (1)

- Keyword-based queries cannot be expressive
- E.g. search for:
  - Cities in the U.S. with more than 100,000 inhabitants
  - Italian painters of the 18th century
- Web resources
  - Do not (usually) convey their meaning

The Problem (2)

- Seeking specific information in the Web or a repository
- Integrating distributed data sources
- Need for data annotation
  - Necessary for data non-readable by human
    - E.g. binary information, multimedia
  - Annotation may be redundant, incomplete, or erroneous
  - When it is present it does not necessarily follow a standard pattern

The Semantic Web Paradigm (1)

- 'Web of Data' as in a 'Web of Documents'
  - Web resources uniquely identified by their URI
- Assign an unambiguously defined meaning to information, its *semantics*
  - Ontology, a well defined vocabulary
  - Queries can be posed by any third parties
- Knowledge modeled in the form of a graph
  - subject, predicate, object
- Interconnected data sets on the Web
  - Provide context

The Semantic Web Paradigm (2)

- Enables semantic annotation, interoperability, integration of information
- Enables reasoning
  - Extract implicit information
  - Assure concept consistency
- Variety of mature, open source tools available
  - Protégé, Jena, Virtuoso, D2RQ, …
- Allows information to be exposed as Linked Open Data (to be discussed later on)
- Data $\Rightarrow$ Information $\Rightarrow$ Knowledge

What is an Ontology?

- In philosophy, Ontology is the study of beings
  - Onto (ὤν/ὄντος) + logy (λογία)
  - Along with their properties and relations
- In computer science, an ontology is the formal representation of knowledge
  - A formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualisation
  - Concepts of a domain, objects and their relations
  - Allows complexity in schemas
- The RDF and OWL approaches

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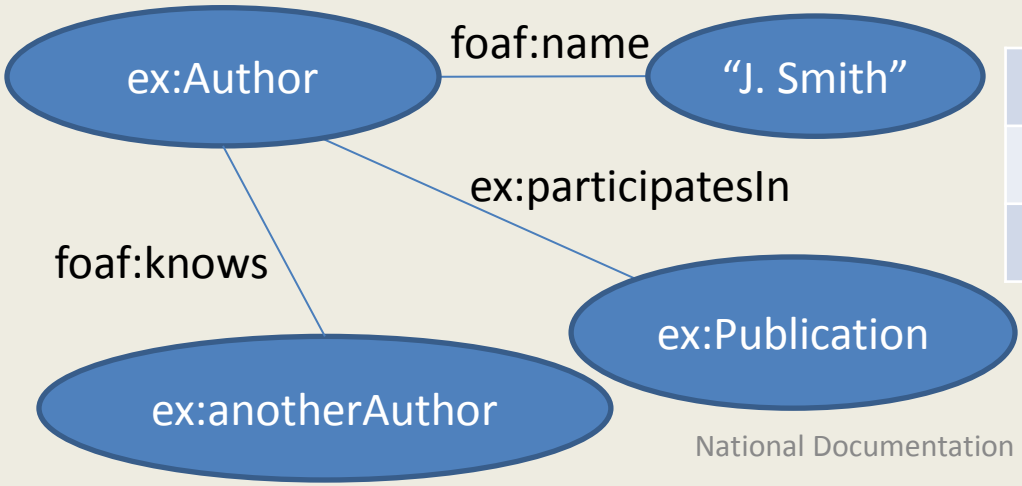
The Resource Description Framework

- The Resource Description Framework is about describing resources
  - Was initially proposed for describing Web resources
- RDF can be viewed as a graph where
  - Objects are graph nodes
  - Properties are graph edges



Graph triples

ex:Author	foaf:name	“J. Smith”
ex:Author	ex:participatesIn	ex:Publication
ex:Author	foaf:knows	ex:anotherAuthor

The RDF Schema (1)

- Describing Web Resources using RDF
  - rdfs:Resource
    - All things described by RDF are resources
  - rdfs:Class
    - The class of resources that are classes, i.e. the class of classes
  - rdf:type
    - States resource membership
    - E.g.: ex:Person rdf:type rdfs:Class
  - rdf:Property
    - The relations between subjects and objects

The RDF Schema (2)

- Describing Web Resources using RDF
  - rdfs:SubClassOf
    - foaf:Agent rdfs:subClassOf foaf:Person
  - rdfs:SubPropertyOf
    - Allow class *and* property hierarchies
    - E.g.: ex:hasFirstName rdfs:subpropertyOf ex:hasName
  - rdfs:domain
    - ex:employer rdfs:domain foaf:Person
  - rdfs:range
    - ex:employer rdfs:range foaf:Organization

The RDF Schema (3)

- Describing Web Resources using RDF
  - rdfs:Container
    - rdf:Bag
    - rdf:Seq
    - rdf:Alt
    - rdfs:ContainerMembershipProperty
    - rdfs:member
  - rdfs:label
  - rdfs:comment
  - rdf:List
    - rdf:first
    - rdf:rest
    - rdf:nil
  - rdf:statement
  - rdf:subject
  - rdf:predicate
  - rdf:object
  - rdf:value
  - rdfs:seeAlso
  - rdfs:isDefinedBy

The RDF Schema (4)

- Example 1

```
<rdfs:Class rdf:ID="animal" />
  <rdfs:Class rdf:ID="horse">
  <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#animal"/>
</rdfs:Class>
```

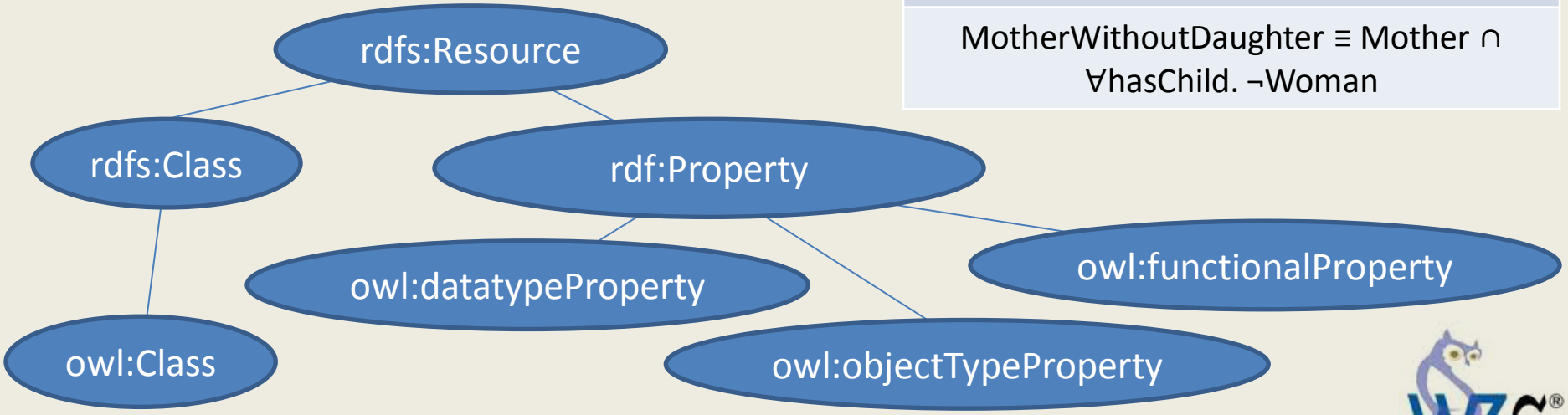
- Example 2

```
<rdf:Description rdf:about="http://www.ekt.gr">
 <dc:description>National Documentation Centre</dc:description>
 <dc:publisher>NHRF</dc:publisher>
 <dc:date>2001-02-16</dc:date>
 <dc:format>text/html</dc:format>
 <dc:language>el</dc:language>
</rdf:Description>
```

Web Ontology Language (1)

- Based on Description Logics
  - Decidable fragment of First Order Logic
- Allows more complex schema definitions
- OWL builds on top of RDF
- Current version is OWL 2

Woman ≡ Person ∩ Female
Father ≡ Man ∩ ∃hasChild.Person
Wife ≡ Woman ∩ ∃hasHusband.Man
MotherWithoutDaughter ≡ Mother ∩ ∀hasChild. ¬Woman



Web Ontology Language (2)

- Class description
  - owl:intersectionOf
  - owl:unionOf
  - owl:complementOf
  - owl:equivalentClass
  - owl:disjointWith
  - Cardinality
    - owl:maxCardinality
    - owl:minCardinality
    - owl:cardinality
- Property description
  - owl:datatypeProperty
  - owl:objectProperty
  - owl:equivalentProperty
  - owl:inverseOf
    - isTaughtBy ↔ teaches
  - owl:functionalProperty
  - owl:inverseFunctionalProperty
  - owl:transitiveProperty
  - owl:symmetricProperty

Web Ontology Language (3)

- owl:Thing
- owl:Nothing
- Version information
  - owl:versionInfo
  - owl:priorVersion
  - owl:backwardCompatibleWith
  - owl:incompatibleWith
  - owl:deprecatedClass
  - owl:deprecatedProperty
- Individuals
  - owl:sameAs
  - owl:differentFrom
  - owl:allDifferent
- Value constraints
  - owl:allValuesFrom
  - owl:someValuesFrom
  - owl:hasValue

Web Ontology Language (4)

- Example 1

```
:RedBordeaux rdf:type owl:Class ;
                owl:equivalentClass [ rdf:type owl:Class ;
                owl:intersectionOf ( :Bordeaux :RedWine ) ] .
```

- Example 2

```
:locatedIn rdf:type owl:ObjectProperty ,
                        owl:TransitiveProperty ;
              rdfs:domain owl:Thing ;
              rdfs:range     :Region .
```

- Example 3

```
:BordeauxRegion rdf:type owl:NamedIndividual ,
                                :Region ;
                        :locatedIn :FrenchRegion .
```

Web Ontology Language (5)

- Example 4

```
:hasColor rdf:type owl:FunctionalProperty ,
                   owl:ObjectProperty ;
          rdfs:domain :Wine ;
          rdfs:range     :WineColor ;
          rdfs:subPropertyOf :hasWineDescriptor .
```

- Example 5

```
:CabernetSauvignon rdf:type owl:Class
        owl:equivalentClass [ rdf:type owl:Class ;
                owl:intersectionOf ( :Wine
                   [ rdf:type owl:Restriction ;
                     owl:onProperty :madeFromGrape ;
                     owl:hasValue :CabernetSauvignonGrape
                   ] [ rdf:type owl:Restriction ;
                       owl:onProperty :madeFromGrape ;
                       owl:maxCardinality "1"^^xsd:nonNegativeInteger] ) ] ;
```

Web Ontology Language (6)

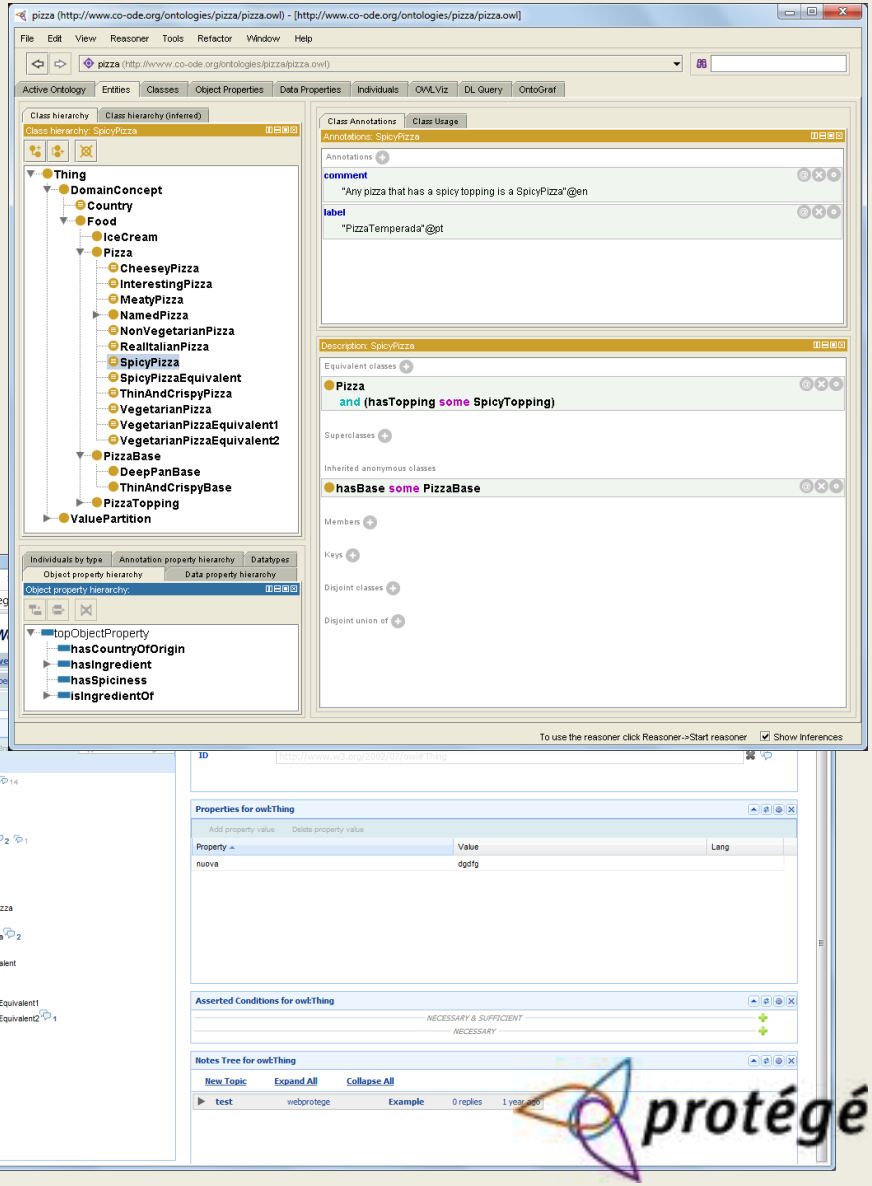
- OWL 1 flavors
  - OWL Full, full language expressivity
  - OWL DL, maximal subset allowing reasoner support
  - OWL Lite, minimal useful subset of language features
- OWL 2 profiles
  - OWL 2 EL, for large numbers of classes/properties
  - OWL 2 QL, large volume of instance data support, relational database-friendly
  - OWL 2 RL, RDFS with extra expressivity, scalable reasoning

Reasoning

- Check ontology consistency
- Class expression subsumption
- Concept satisfiability
- Infer implicit information
  - Produces extra (inferred) triples
- Numerous reasoners available
  - Free
    - Pellet, FaCT++, Jena, Hermit
  - Non-free
    - OWLIM, OntoBroker

Ontology Authoring (1)

- Protégé is a prominent GUI solution
  - Java-based, open-source
  - OWL/RDF capabilities
  - Includes FaCT++ reasoner
  - WebProtégé in beta
  - Extensible through plugins
    - E.g. Ontograf



Available online at http://protege.stanford.edu/

Ontology Authoring (2)

- Using HP's Jena
  - Large, active community
  - Apache Maven group id com.hp.hpl.jena
  - API Example

```
String ns = "http://example.com/sample#";
Model model = ModelFactory.createDefaultModel();
Resource resource = model.createResource(ns +
"Individual1");
resource.addProperty(DC.title, title);
model.write(file, "RDF/XML");
```

Adding Reasoning Capabilities

- Using HP's Jena
  - Create an RDFS model using the Jena API

```
String ns = "http://www.example.com/ex#";
Model rdfsEx = ModelFactory.createDefaultModel();
   Property p = rdfsEx.createProperty(ns, "p");
   Property q = rdfsEx.createProperty(ns, "q");
   rdfsEx.add(p, RDFS.subPropertyOf, q);
   rdfsEx.createResource(NS+"a").addProperty(p, "foo");
```

  - Adding the internal RDFS reasoner

```
Reasoner reasoner = ReasonerRegistry.getRDFSReasoner();
InfModel inf = ModelFactory.createInfModel(reasoner, rdfsEx);
```

Querying Ontologies

- SPARQL is to ontologies what SQL is to relational databases
  - W3C recommendation since 2008
- Designed using an SQL-like syntax
  - SELECT … FROM … WHERE
- The WHERE conditions are a triple pattern
- Returns graphs instead of a tables
- Example

  SELECT ?x ?y ?z WHERE { ?x ?y ?z }

  returns all the triples in the graph

Introduction to SPARQL (1)

- Selecting a single value

```
SELECT ?x
WHERE { ?x  <ex:hasName>  "John Smith" }
```

- Matching values from a graph

```
SELECT ?x ?fname
WHERE {?x  <ex:hasName>  ?fname}
```

- Also

```
SELECT ?name ?value
WHERE { ?x <ex:hasAttribute> ?attr .
        ?attr <ex:hasValue> ?value . }
```

Introduction to SPARQL (2)

- String matching using regular expressions

```
SELECT ?y
WHERE
{ ?x vcard:Given ?y .
  FILTER regex(?y, "r", "i") }
```

- Filtering values

```
SELECT ?resource
WHERE {
    ?resource info:age ?age .
    FILTER (?age >= 24) }
```

Introduction to SPARQL (3)

- The OPTIONAL construct to return information where available

```
SELECT ?name ?age
WHERE {
    ?person vcard:FN  ?name .
    OPTIONAL { ?person info:age ?age } }
```

- The UNION construct

```
SELECT ?name
WHERE {
  { [] foaf:name ?name } UNION { [] vCard:FN ?name }
```

Introduction to SPARQL (4)

- Result handling
  - ORDER BY, DISTINCT, OFFSET and LIMIT
    - Same as in SQL
  - CONSTRUCT
    - Ability to construct a new graph based on the results

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
  CONSTRUCT { <http://example.com/person#Alice>
foaf:knows ?x }
  FROM <http://example.org/foaf/people>
  WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
  ORDER BY desc(?name)
  LIMIT 10
```

Common Vocabularies (1)

- DC
  - Describe library asset information
- SKOS
  - Simple Knowledge Organization Scheme
- FOAF
  - Friend of a friend
- SIOC
  - Semantically Interlinked Online Communities
- DBPedia
  - Extract structured information from Wikipedia

Common Vocabularies (2)

- Music ontology
  - Describe music concepts
- Good relations
  - Used in the e-commerce context
  - Supported by Google and Yahoo
- Basic Geo Vocabulary
  - Expresses spatial information using WGS84
- Creative commons
  - Express copyright information

Common Vocabularies (3)

- Microformats are open data standards for publishing structured information on the Web
- Simple, solve specific problems
- No change in display
- Examples
  - hCard
  - hCalendar
  - RDFa
- For SEO, see also schema.org

```
<div>
My name is Bob Smith but people call me Smithy. Here is my home page:
<a href="http://www.example.com">www.example.com</a>.
I live in Albuquerque, NM and work as an engineer at ACME Corp.
</div>
```

```
<div xmlns:v="http://rdf.data-vocabulary.org/#" typeof="v:Person">
  My name is <span property="v:name">Bob Smith</span>,
  but people call me <span property="v:nickname">Smithy</span>.
  Here is my homepage:
  <a href="http://www.example.com" rel="v:url">www.example.com</a>.
  I live in Albuquerque, NM and work as an <span property="v:title">engineer</span>
  at <span property="v:affiliation">ACME Corp</span>.
</div>
```

microformats

Embedded RDF

- RDFa
  - Embed RDF in XHTML documents
  - Uses ,
  - Allows nested descriptions
- GRDDL
  - Obtain RDF from HTML pages
  - Uses XSLT for XML

```
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   My name is <span property="v:name">Bob Smith</span>,
   but people call me <span property="v:nickname">Smithy</span>.
   Here is my homepage:
   <a href="http://www.example.com" rel="v:url">www.example.com</a>.
   I live in
   <span rel="v:address">
      <span typeof="v:Address">
         <span property="v:locality">Albuquerque</span>,
         <span property="v:region">NM</span>
      </span>
   </span>
   and work as an <span property="v:title">engineer</span>
   at <span property="v:affiliation">ACME Corp</span>.
</div>
```

Both RDFa and GRDDL are W3C recommendations

Ontology Serialisation Formats

- RDF+XML

```
<rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
   xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">
   <rdf:Description rdf:about="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Benn">
      <dc:title>Tony Benn</dc:title>
      <dc:publisher>Wikipedia</dc:publisher>
   </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
```

- N3 and Turtle (Turtle ⊆ N3)

```
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Benn>
  dc:title "Tony Benn";
  dc:publisher "Wikipedia".
```

- ... and, of course, in the database!

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- Introduction to the Semantic Web
- Semantic Web Languages
- Publishing RDF Using OpenLink's Virtuoso
- Linked Open Data and Examples

Triplestores

- A triplestore contains records in the form
  - (subject, predicate, object)
- Uses a relational database backend
- Saving an Ontology in a triplestore
  - Jena
    - http://jena.sourceforge.net
  - Sesame
    - http://www.openrdf.org
  - Virtuoso
    - http://virtuoso.openlinksw.com
  - Oracle
    - http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database

RDB to RDF Mapping Language

- Several tools proposed in the early years
  - Triplify, D2OMapper, DB2OWL, VisaVis, R2O, MapOnto, …
- R2RML: a W3C working draft
  - Implementations
    - D2RQ
    - Virtuoso

Example R2RML mapping

```
@prefix rr: <http://www.w3.org/ns/r2rml#>.

<#TriplesMap1>
    rr:logicalTable [ rr:tableName "EMP" ];
    rr:subjectMap [
        rr:template "http://data.example.com/employee/{EMPNO}";
        rr:class ex:Employee;
    ];
    rr:predicateObjectMap [
        rr:predicate ex:name;
        rr:objectMap [ rr:column "ENAME" ];
    ].
```

Example output data

```
<http://data.example.com/employee/7369> rdf:type ex:Employee.
<http://data.example.com/employee/7369> ex:name "SMITH".
```

Virtuoso Overview (1)

- Open source and commercial version
- Can be used as
  - A web application server
  - A relational database repository
    - Offers a JDBC Driver
    - Collaborates with Jena
    - Offers Conductor, a GUI for server administration
  - A web service server
  - A triplestore
    - Export RDF data from same DB or others

Virtuoso Overview (2)

- RDF Views
  - Export relational data as triples
- SPARQL 1.1 support, plus
  - Full Text Queries
  - Geo Spatial Queries
  - Business Analytics and Intelligence
  - SQL Stored Procedure and Built-In Function exploitation from SPARQL
  - Create, Update, and Delete (SPARUL)
- Cluster Configuration
  - Parallel and Horizontal scaling

Virtuoso Overview (3)

- Extendable through VAD* Packages
  - Interactive SPARQL Query Builder
    - A GUI to create SPARQL queries
  - Sponger Middleware
    - Offers RDF Mappers to import data into Virtuoso
  - PubSubHub Protocol (for RSS)
    - Can be used to allow *push* behavior and subscriptions by clients
  - OAT (OpenLink AJAX Toolkit) Framework
    - Rich web application development

* Virtuoso Application Distribution

Virtuoso Reasoning Engine

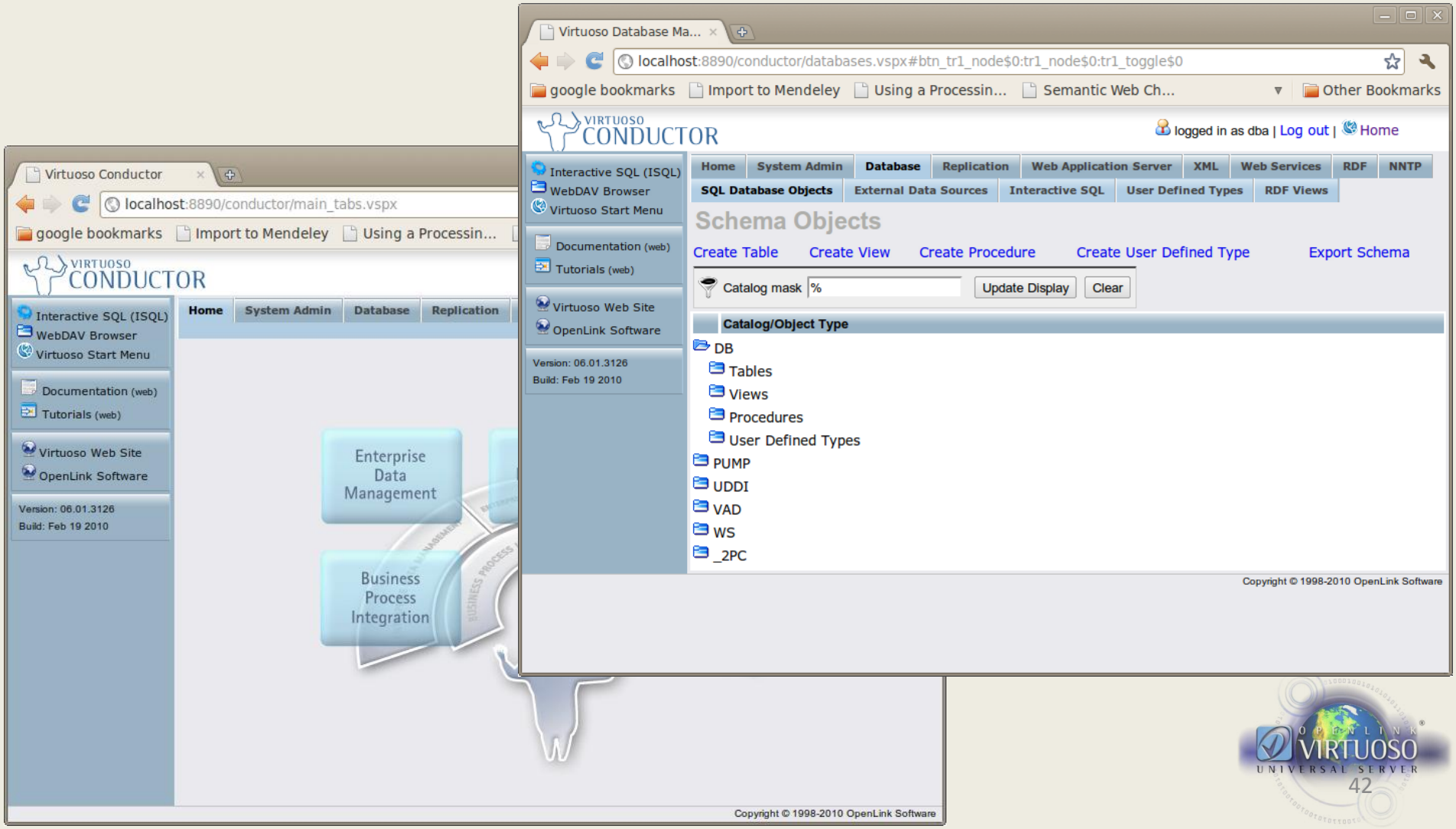
- Backward-chaining OWL reasoner coverage
  - rdfs:subClassOf
  - rdfs:subPropertyOf
  - owl:sameAs
  - owl:equivalentClass
  - owl:equivalentProperty
  - owl:InverseFunctionalProperty
  - owl:inverseOf
  - owl:SymmetricalProperty
  - owl:TransitiveProperty

Virtuoso Sponger

- An RDF-iser to bring data into the Semantic Web
- Sponger extracts RDF data from non-RDF sources
- A *Cartridge* per data source
- XSLT templates do the work
- Customisable and Programmable
  - Virtuoso PL, C++, Java

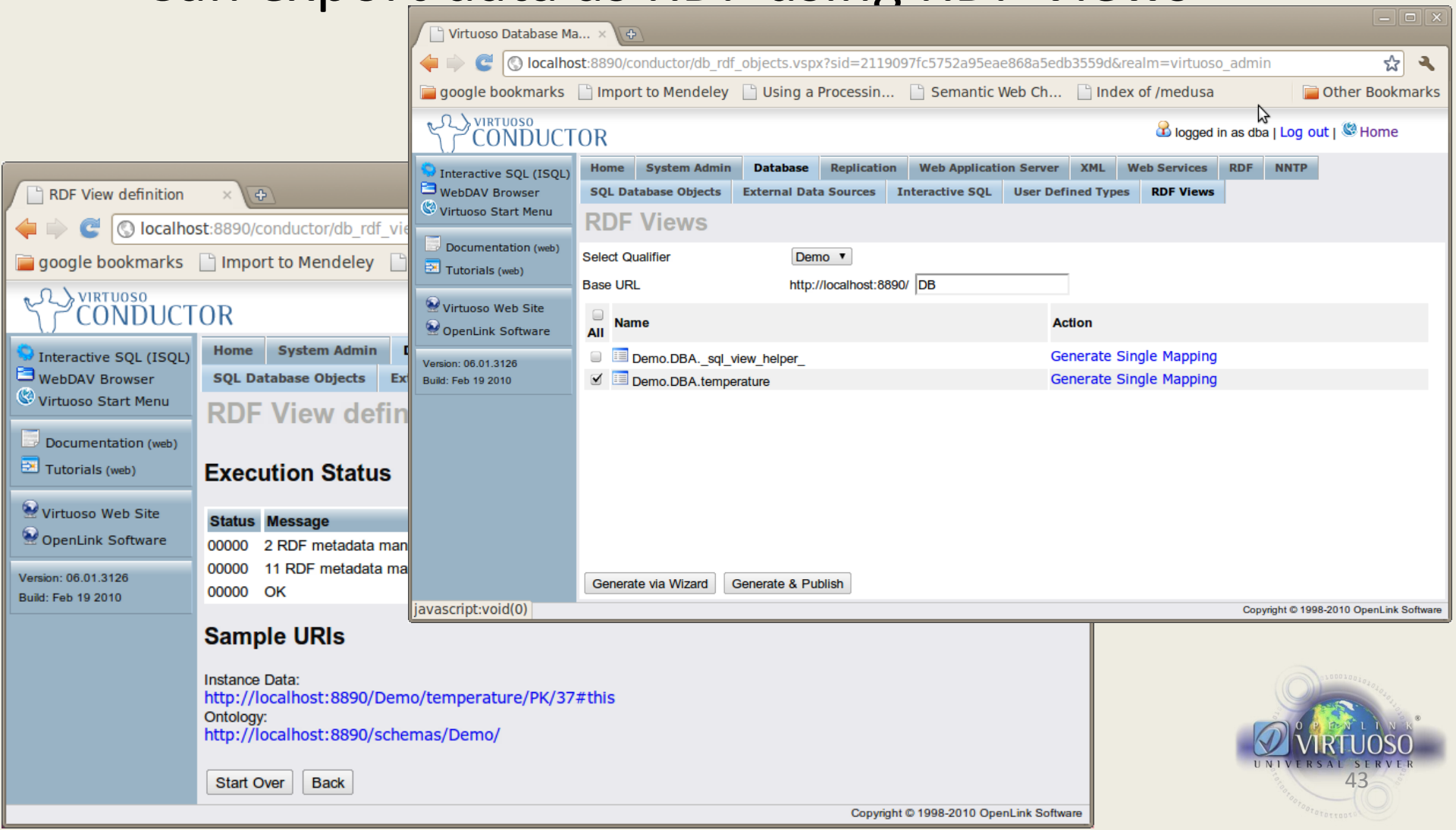
Virtuoso as a DB Server (1)

- Conductor: a GUI for server administration



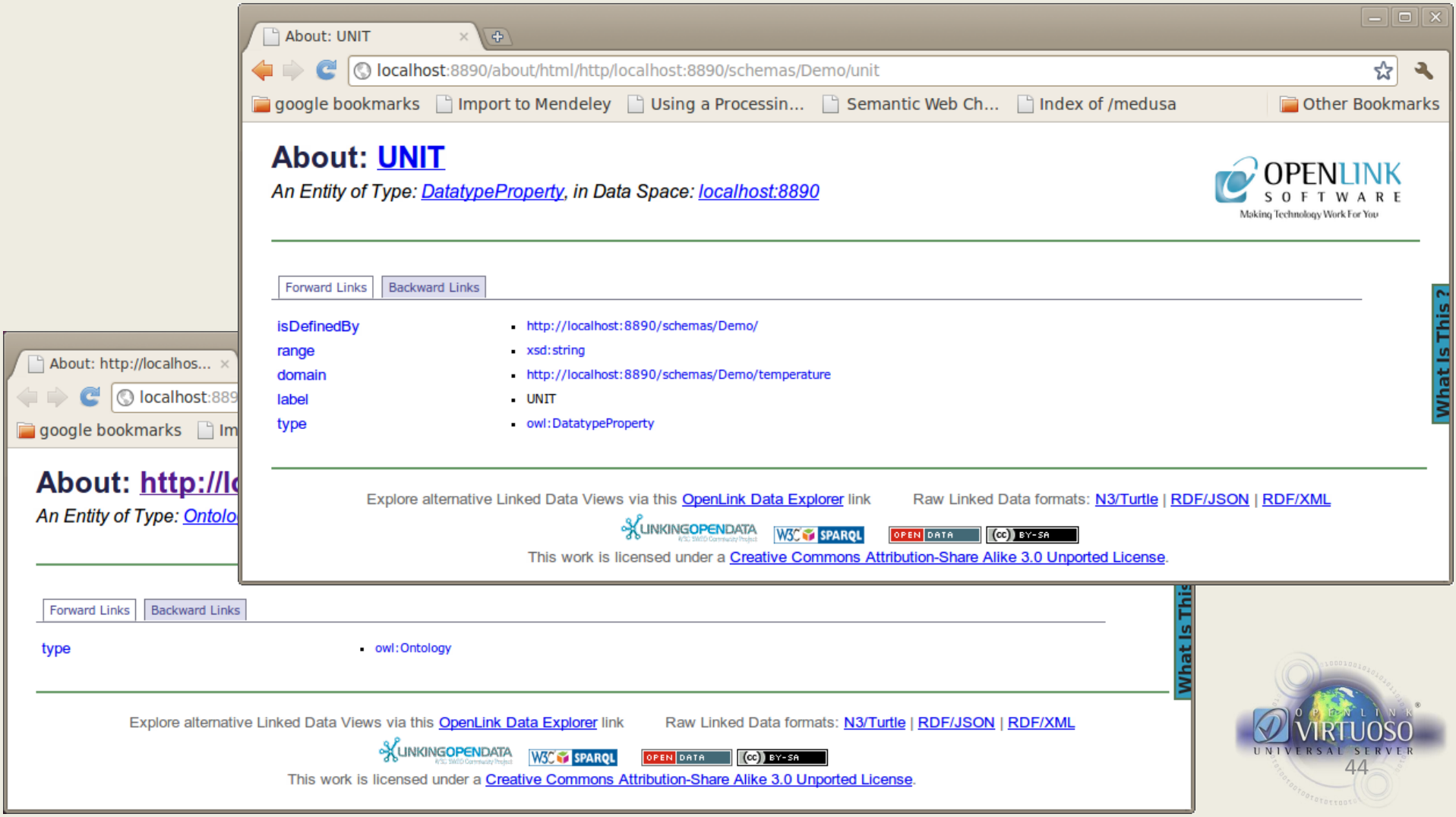
Virtuoso as a DB Server (2)

- Can export data as RDF using RDF Views



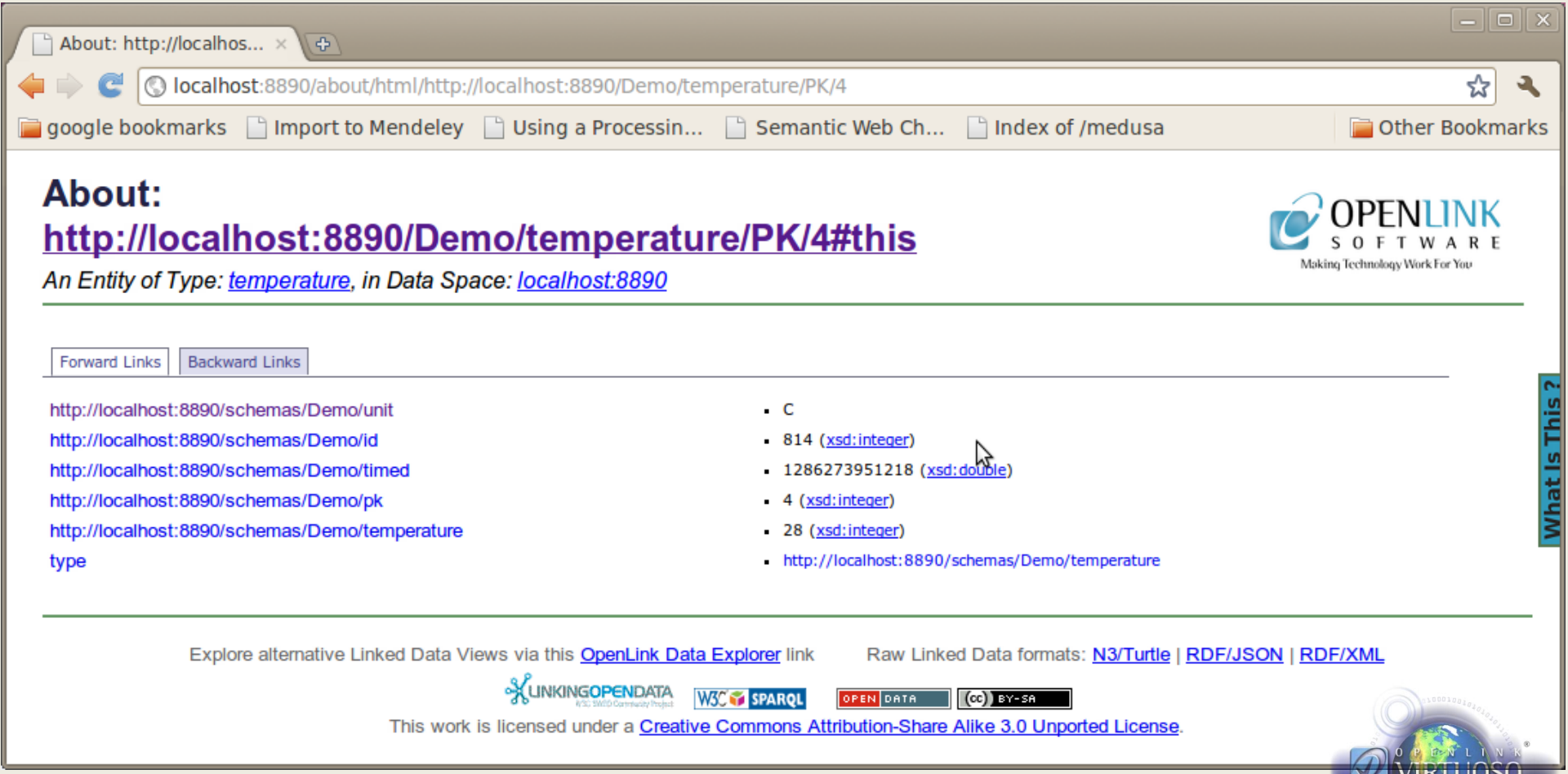
Virtuoso as an RDF Server (1)

- A URI for every resource, browseable repository



Virtuoso as an RDF Server (2)

- Example: Measurement URI



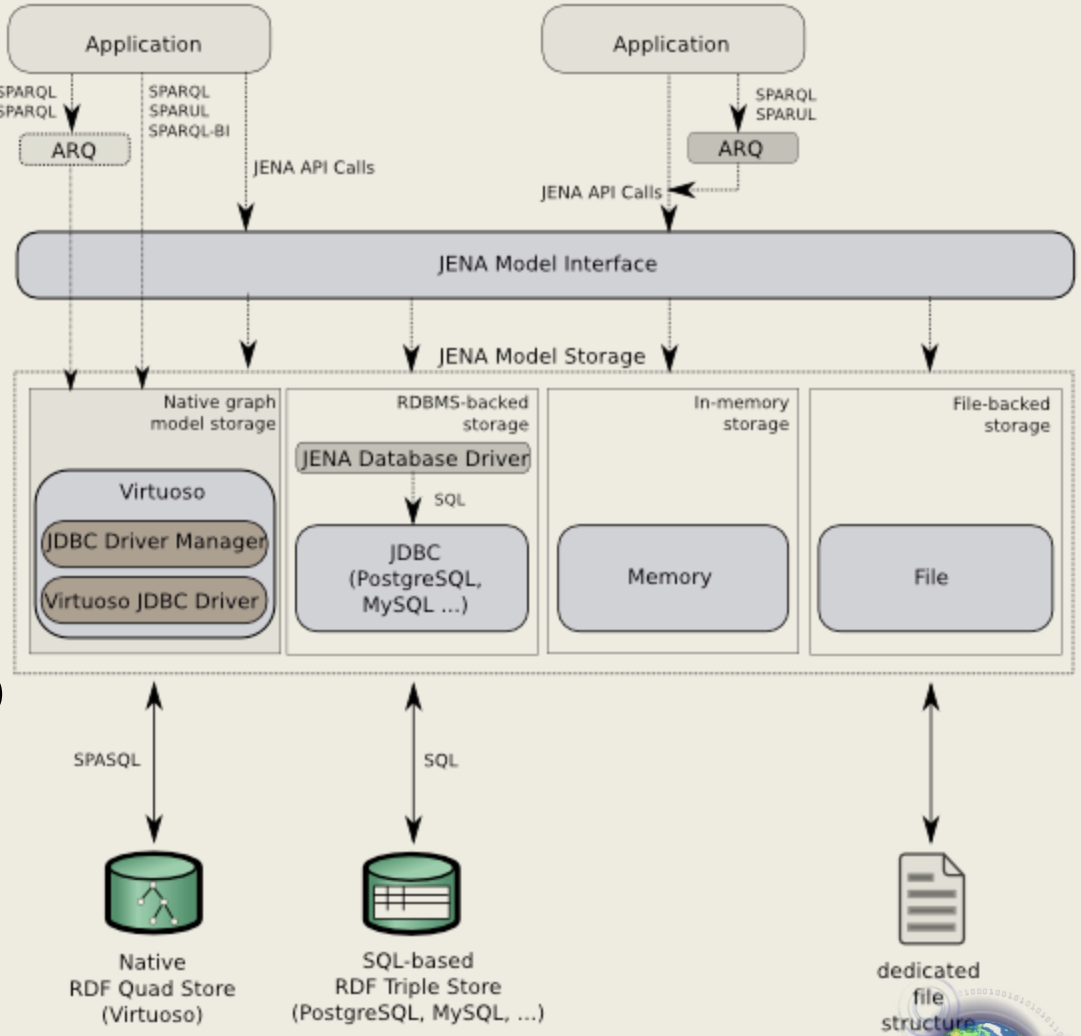
Virtuoso as an RDF Server (3)

- RDF data also accessible via
  - ODBC, JDBC, OLE DB, XMLA, ADO.NET
- Difficulties in extracting RDF Data
  - Tables *must* have a primary key
  - Mappings are defined using regular expressions and tend to be complicated

```
DB.DBA.URLREWRITE_CREATE_REGEX_RULE ( 'demo_rule6', 1, '/Demo/objects/([^#]*)', vector('path'), 1,
'/sparql?query=DESCRIBE+%%3Chttp%%3A//^{URIQADefaultHost}^/Demo/objects/%U%%3E+FROM+%
%3Chttp%%3A//^{URIQADefaultHost}^/Demo%%23%%3E&format=%U', vector('path', '*accept*'), null,
'(text/rdf.n3)|(application/rdf.xml)', 2, null );
```

Virtuoso Jena Provider

- Offered by OpenLink
- Native Graph Model Storage Provider
- Enables access to the Virtuoso RDF Quad store through Jena



Querying Remote Repositories

- XML over HTTP (RESTful approach)
  - http://demo.openlinksw.com/sparql?default-graph-uri=urn:lsid:ubio.org:namebank:11815&should-sponge=soft&query=SELECT+*+WHERE+{?s+?p+?o}&format=text/html
- No create/update/delete capabilities

SPARQL Query Interface (1)

- SPARQL queries can be named and stored
  - A query named *sparql-demo* listens to:
    http://localhost:8890/DAV/sparql-demo
- Can return results over HTTP (XML by default)
- MIME type of the RDF data
  - 'rdf+xml' (default) | 'n3' | 'turtle' | 'ttl‘

SPARQL Query Interface (2)

- SPARQL results example in RDF/XML

```
<ROOT>
<rdf:RDF  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#" xmlns:rs="http://www.w3.org/2005/sparql-results#"
xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#">
<rs:results rdf:nodeID="rset">
      <rs:result rdf:nodeID="sol193">
            <rs:binding rdf:nodeID="sol193-0" rs:name="x">
                  <rs:value rdf:resource="http://localhost:8890/Demo/temperature/PK/4#this"/>
            </rs:binding>
            <rs:binding rdf:nodeID="sol193-1" rs:name="y">
                  <rs:value rdf:resource="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type"/></rs:binding>
            <rs:binding rdf:nodeID="sol193-2" rs:name="z">
                  <rs:value rdf:resource="http://localhost:8890/schemas/Demo/temperature"/>
            </rs:binding>
      </rs:result>
…
</rs:results>
</rdf:RDF>
</ROOT>
```

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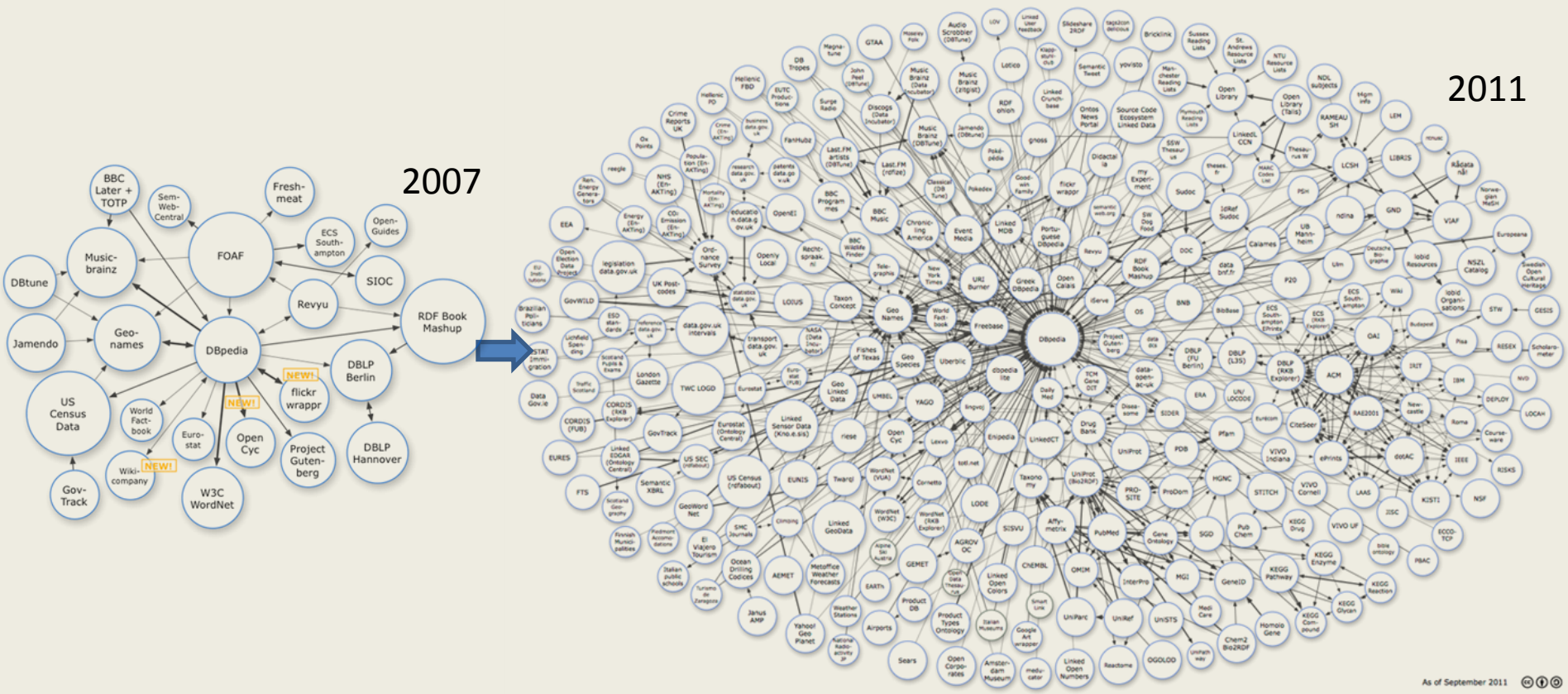
The Linked Open Data Cloud (1)

- Data available on the Web
  - Under an open license
- Available as structured data
  - Excel sheet instead of a scanned image
- Use non-proprietary format
  - CSV, RDF instead of DOC, XLS
- Use linked data format
  - URIs to identify things
- Linked to other people's data
  - Provision of context

Also see: http://lab.linkeddata.deri.ie/2010/star-scheme-by-example/

The Linked Open Data Cloud (2)

- Interconnected datasets using URI's and RDF



Source: http://linkeddata.org

Also see the ckan datahub: http://thedatahub.org/group/lodcloud

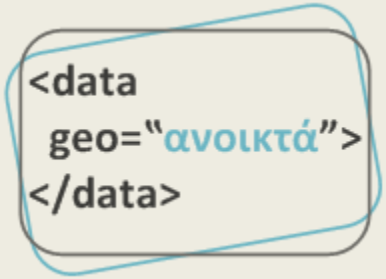
The Linked Open Data Cloud (3)

- Consumer capabilities
  - Access it, print it, store it locally, enter the data in another system
  - Process, aggregate, visualise, manipulate, export in another format, reuse
  - Avoid vendor lock-ins
- Publisher capabilities
  - Make data discoverable
  - Increase the value of the data
    - Allow added-value services
  - Fine-granular control over the data

Also see: http://lab.linkeddata.deri.ie/2010/star-scheme-by-example/

Open Government Data

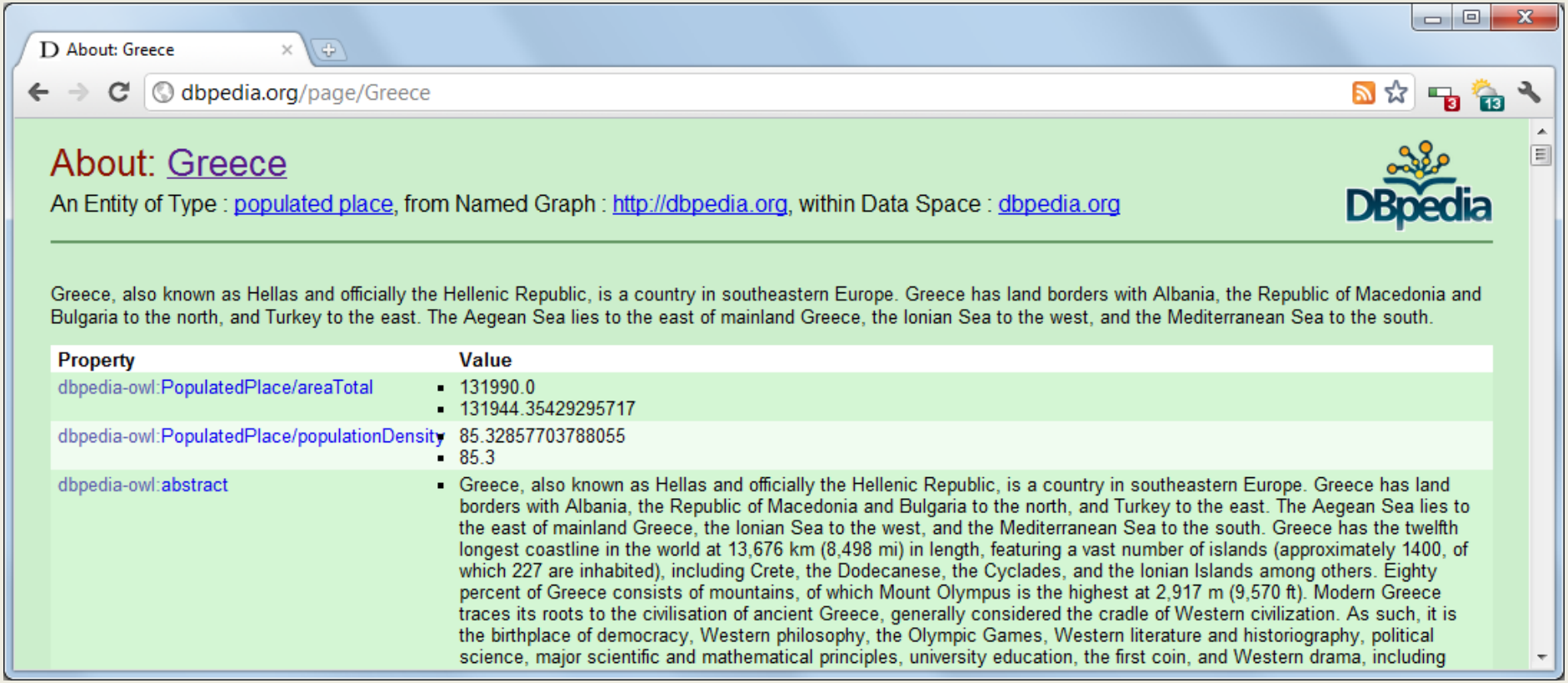
- Prominent examples include
  - data.gov (US)
  - data.gov.uk, (UK)
  - data.london.gov.uk (UK)
  - digitaliser.dk (DK)
  - data.govt.nz (NZ)
  - linkedopendata.it (IT)
  - geodata.gov.gr (GR)



Promotional video: http://opengovernmentdata.org/film/

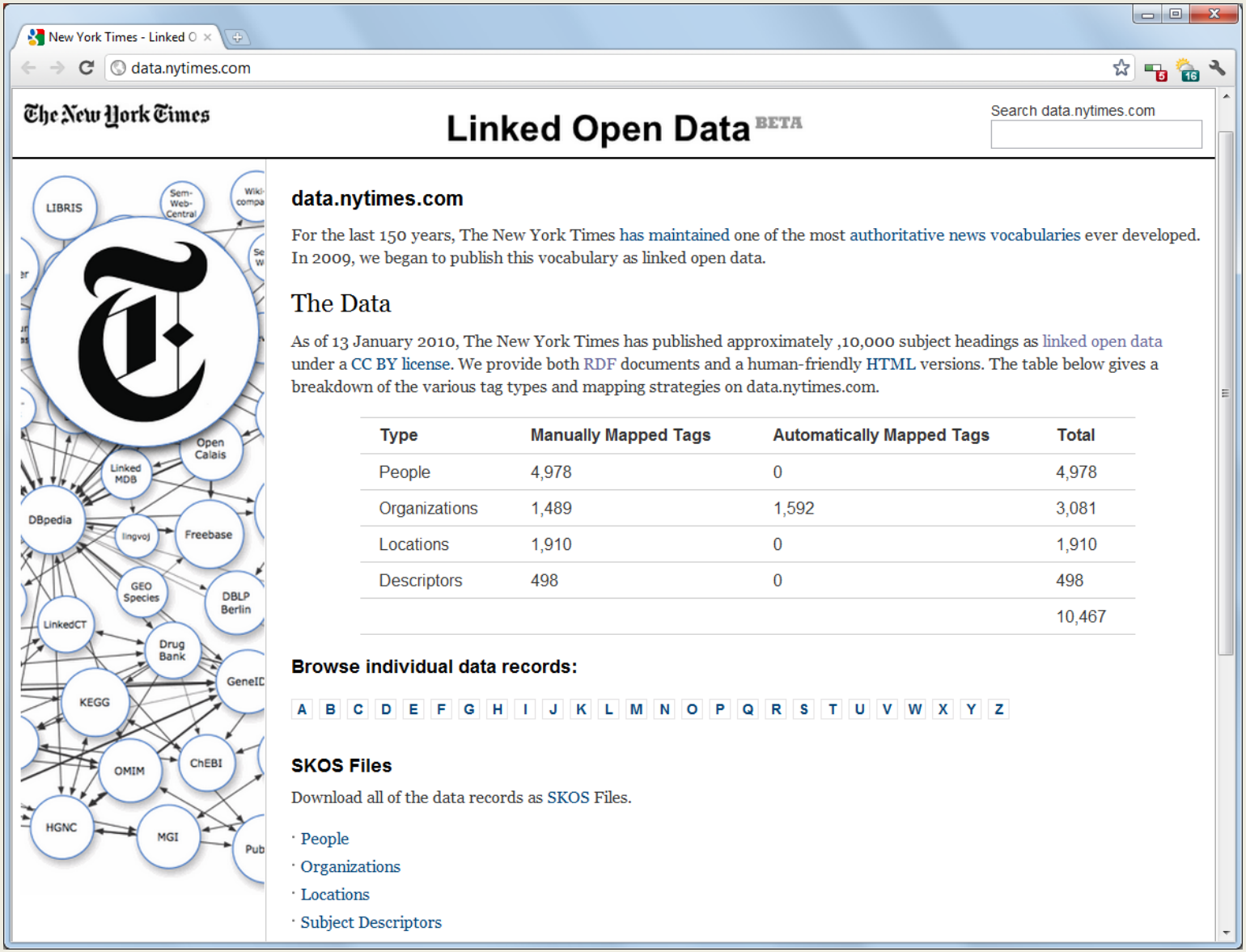
The DBPedia Project

- Structured information based on Wikipedia
- SPARQL endpoint: dbpedia.org/sparql
- Example: Greece on DBPedia



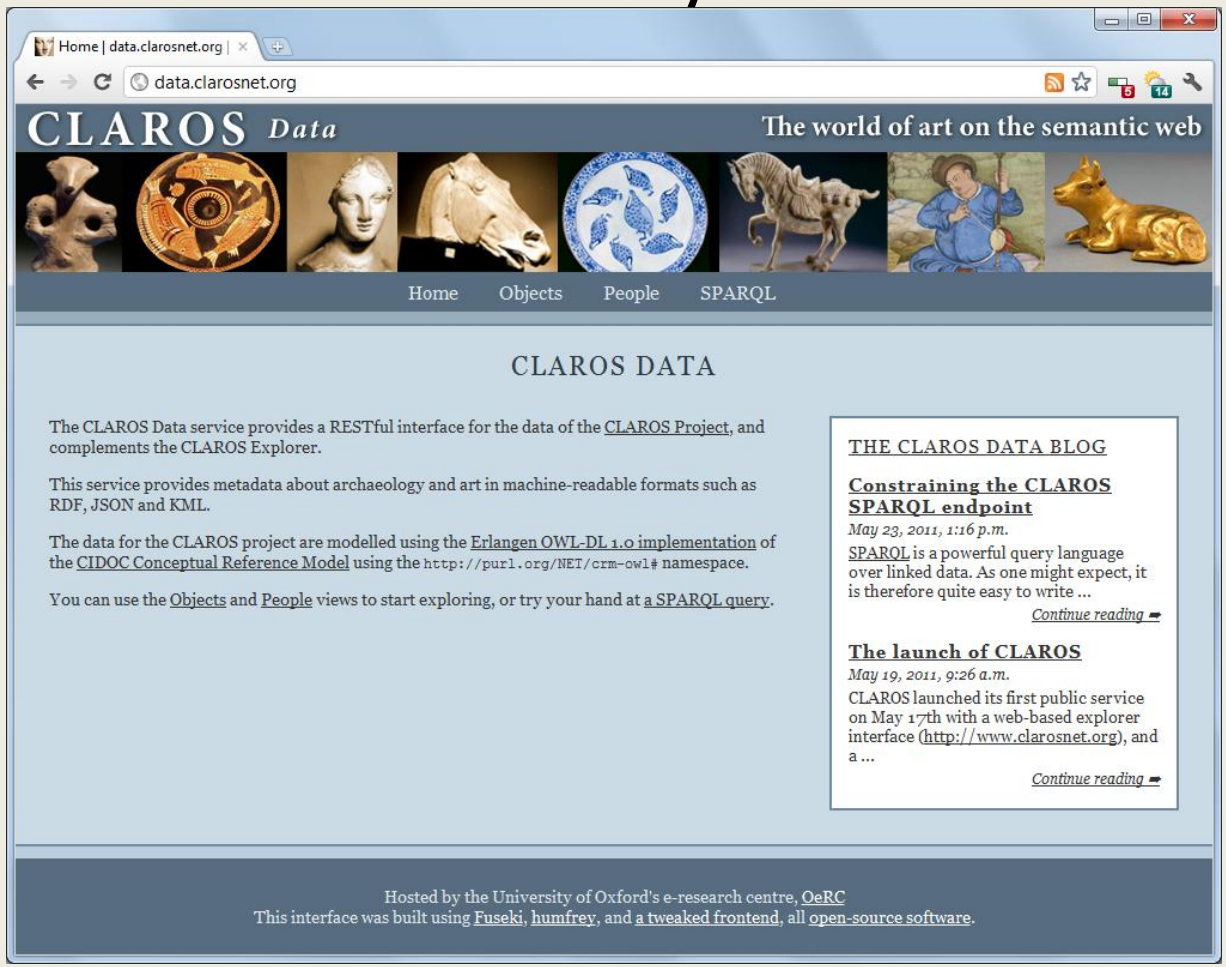
New York Times Public Data

- News data



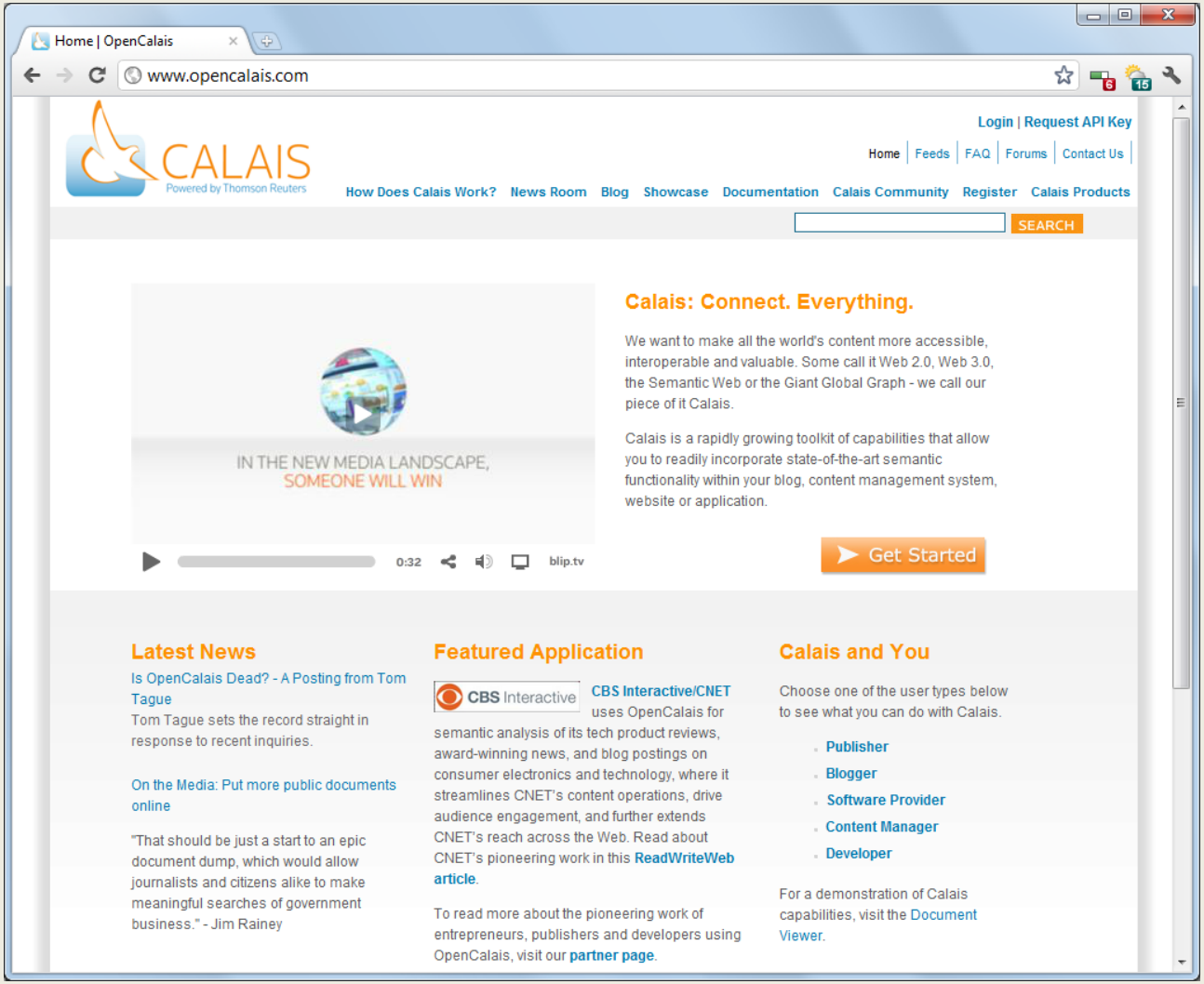
The Claros Project

- The world of art on the Semantic Web
- Uses the CIDOC-CRM vocabulary to describe
  - Objects
  - Places
  - Periods
  - People
- OWL DL
- RESTful



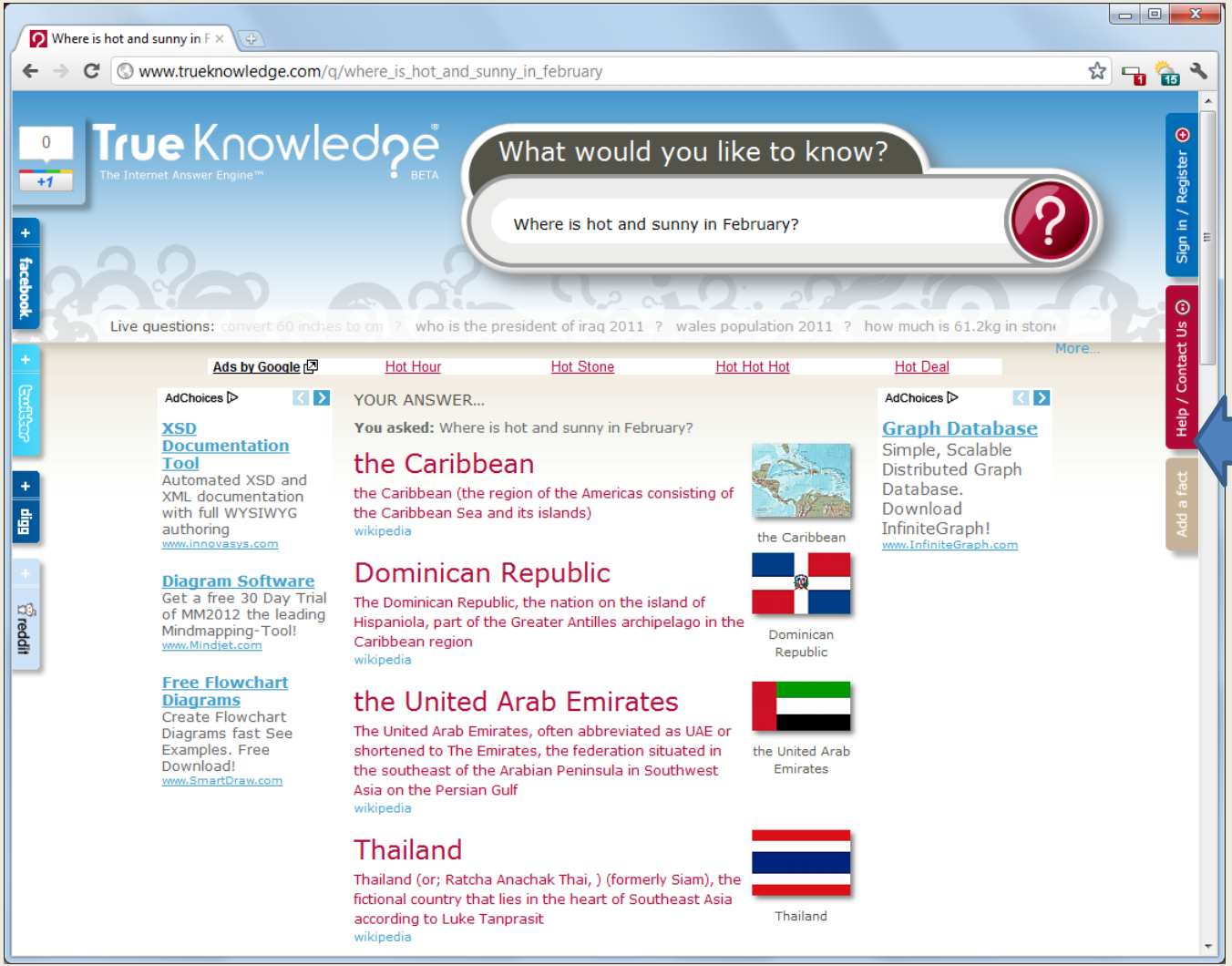
The OpenCalais Project

- Creates semantic metadata for submitted content
- By Thomson Reuters
- Free to all
- Extracts RDF using NLP
- Uses WS



The TrueKnowledge Engine

- Based on facts, not keywords



Thank you for your attention!
Questions?

Appendix

- Installing Virtuoso as a system service
  - Windows 7
    - Download and extract from http://virtuoso.openlinksw.com/dataspace/dav/wiki/Main/VOSDownload
    - Open a command line prompt as administrator
    - Register required DLL
      - regsvr32 virtodbc.dll
    - Install service
      - virtuoso-t +service screate +instance "DB" +configfile virtuoso.ini
  - Ubuntu 10.04 LTS
    - sudo apt-get install virtuoso-server