

statement. Examples of statements we can represent using such a model include “The Baron Way Apartment is an Apartment,” “The Baron Way Apartment is part of The Baron Way Building,” and “The Baron Way Building is located in Amsterdam.” Because RDF is not particular to any domain or use, it is necessary for users to define the terminology they use within these statements. To do this, they make use of RDF Schema (RDFS). RDFS allows users to precisely define how their *vocabulary* (i.e. their terminology) should be interpreted.

Combined, these technologies define the components of a standard language for exchanging arbitrary data between machines:

- RDF – data model
- RDFS – semantics
- Turtle / RDFS / RDF/XML – syntax

While RDF is primarily the data model within this language, it is often used as the name for the whole of it (as we commit ourselves within this book).

Chapter Overview

- Section 2.2 describes RDF.
- The various syntaxes used for RDF are presented in section 2.3.
- The basics of RDF Schema are introduced in section 2.4 and the complete language is presented in section 2.5 and section 2.6.
- The formal meaning of RDFS is given from two perspectives in sections 2.7 and 2.8.

2.2 RDF: Data Model

The fundamental concepts of RDF are resources, properties, statements, and graphs.