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WebDat: Bridging the Gap Between Unstructured and Structured Data

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Accelerator R&D environments produce data characterized by different levels of organization. Whereas some systems produce repetitively predictable and standardized structured data, others may produce data of unknown or changing structure. In addition, structured data, typically sets of numeric values, are frequently logically connected with unstructured content (e.g., images, graphs, comments). Despite these different characteristics, a coherent, organized and integrated view of all information is sought out. WebDat is a system conceived as a result of efforts in this direction. It provides a uniform and searchable view of structured and unstructured data via common metadata, regardless of the repository used (DBMS or file system). It also allows for processing data and creating interactive reports. WebDat supports metadata management, administration, data and content access, application integration via Web services, and Web-based collaborative analysis.

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