Contribution ID: **30**   Type: **oral presentation**

Extending FOAF with HEPNames Information for Use in HEP Semantic Web Applications

Monday, 13 February 2006 14:20 (20 minutes)

The Semantic Web shows great potential in the HEP community as an aggregation mechanism for weakly structured data and a knowledge management tool for acquiring, accessing, and maintaining knowledge within experimental collaborations. FOAF (Friend-Of-A-Friend) (http://www.foaf-project.org/) is an RDFS/OWL ontology (some of the fundamental Semantic Web technologies) for expressing information about persons and their relationships. FOAF has become an active collaborative project that has evolved into a flexible and practically used ontology. The HEPNames database (http://www.slac.stanford.edu/spires/hepnames/about.shtml) is a comprehensive and widely used directory of individuals involved in HEP and related fields. The data in HEPNames is compiled from numerous sources, including laboratory directories and user supplied information. This paper will describe efforts for expanding the FOAF profile information with that data present in HEPNames thereby providing an expanded, machine-readable data format for HEP collaborator information that is understandable to HEP Semantic Web applications.

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Session Classification: Software Tools and Information Systems

Track Classification: Software Tools and Information Systems