

Problem:

Breakthrough in using and accepting Topic Maps as a powerful knowledge managing concept in science and business is still missing.

Question:

What are the open problems and fundamental barriers, which prevent Topic Maps from unleashing his full potential.

solution →

How to use this „discussion poster“:

- 1.) Add your open task to the appropriate section!
- 2.) Prioritize the problems (not relevant, medium & critical)!
- 3.) Find out who works on solution or participate!

Section A: Development

- 1) Free, fast and state-of-the-art APIs and engines in different programming languages are still needed (including full support of all standards e.g. TMCL, TMQL)
- 2) Lack of easy to use applications for modeling and presentation, especially an intuitive editor for collaborative creation of Topic Maps
- 3) No multi view & problem oriented Topic Map Visualization, just jiggling net graphs
- 4) A useful standardized graphical notation or at least a common sense is still absent (for knowledge and not data modeling!)

Section B: Use-Cases and Applications

- 1) Use cases as well as project showcases are still missing
➔ still no „Killer Application“ in sight
- 2) Where is the real Topic-Map-Wiki, which finally uses the strength of the Topic Map paradigm?
- 3) Information about successful and failed projects are missing!
➔ No lessons learned?

Section C: Modelling Questions

- 1) Too few useful Topic Maps are modeled and published
➔ The overwhelming majority are just test scenarios; Real-life knowledge domains are modelled in RDF, e.g. DMOZ
- 2) Still no common consensus about the nature and the usage of scopes (e.g. scope merging ➔ xor, or, and ?)
- 3) A centralized or decentralized repository for PSIs is still absent,
➔ many concepts, but no running system (except Wikipedia)

Section D: Information and Marketing

- 1) Information on Topic Maps are scattered and many relevant websites are not up to date
- 2) No common repository of tools and applications exists.
- 3) Topic Maps are insufficient taught at universities
➔ difficult, because of the lack of tools and real life use-cases
- 4) No state-of-the-art Topic Map book for novices and software developer
- 5) A public relations foundation for Topic Maps is needed for support and public relations
➔ see successful Open Source Projects like Mozilla.

Section E: Basic Research & Standards

- 1) Semantic aspects of Topic Maps are still not sufficiently examined
➔ index interpretation of Peirce or Heidegger?
- 2) (Too) many non-standardized exchange formats exist and are still used and extended
- 3) Where is the “Meta Object Facility” based metamodel for Topic Maps?

Section F: Miscellaneous

- 1) Topic Map community has lost sight of its roots from intelligent knowledge index ➔ pure data modelling

Let's talk about it,
and then get to work!

Section A: Development

Section C: Modelling Questions

Section E: Basic Research & Standards

Section B: Use-Cases and Applications

Section D: Information and Marketing

Section F: Miscellaneous









