Topincs Wiki

Collaborative Topicmapping

Topincs Wiki: Collaborative Topicmapping

Robert Cerny

Outline

- Motivation

- Architecture

- Demo

- Outlook

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Motivation

»What for?«

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Last year's TMRA 2006

- Topincs: a RESTful web service interface

- Topincs Server: an implementation of the interface

- Topincs Editor: a web based Topic Maps Editor

- Knowledge logging during the conference

- First exposure of Topincs in multi-user-environment

- User interface was the Topincs Editor

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Topincs Editor

- Topic maps editor (TMDM)

- AJAX application (one page load)

- The user can edit any property of an item

- Too many options for fast and easy editing

- Too complicated, too little guideance

- Only Firefox and Opera

- **Failed »the wife test«**

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Learnings

- More user-friendly interface necessary

- Allow faster editing (less actions)

- Hide Topic Maps paradigm

- Loose less information in natural language occurrences

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- Semantic Wiki

- AJAX pages, using browser infrastructure (navigation, bookmarks)

- Editing occurrences, names: only value

- Editing associations: only players

- Create new statements where a prototype exists

- Currently in beta stadium

- **Passed »the wife test«**

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Motivation

»What for?«

- A user-friendly, collaborative topic map editor

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Architecture

»How does it work?«

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Stores

- A Store is set of topic maps that people work upon in collabration

- Every subject is represented by one topic within a store

- A store has a URL

- Example: **http://www.topincs.com/tmra/2007**

- Editor: [Store URL]/editor/

- Wiki: [Store URL]/wiki/

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Articles

- Every article is a topic map about a subject

- Contains **all statements** that the store has on the subject

- The topic representing the subject with occurrences and names

- All associations where the subject plays a role in

- All referenced topics and their names in the current scope

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Addressing

- [Store URL]/wiki/id:system_id

- [Store URL]/wiki/si:some_subject_identifier

- [Store URL]/wiki/sl:some_subject_locator

- [Store URL]/wiki/ii:some_item_identifier

- Current version contains a bug:

- http://www.topincs.com/issues/wiki/id:117

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Ontological reflection

- Very simple: No abstract model, but prototypes

- If there exists a person with an telephone number, suggest telephone number for topics of type person.

- The interface offers a reflection mechanism to query what types of statements topics of certain type have

- Has limitations, but allows guidance

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Architecture

»How does it work?«

- Small topic maps about one subject (similar to an article)

- Statements about a subject (occurrences, names, and associations)

- Addressable at a URL

- Ontological reflection

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Demo

»Show me!«

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Outlook

»What comes next?«

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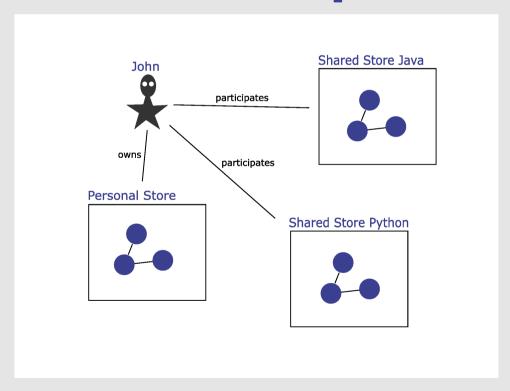
Next features and actions

- Discussion (easy)

- Versioning (not easy)

- How-to clips on youtube

- http://www.topincs.com/**manual**/wiki/

- Merging in the web browser

- **Topincs has the potential to allow people that speak different languages to create content collaborativly**!

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Vision of Topincs

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Outlook

»What comes next?«

- More wikiness in the Wiki

- Better documentation

- Merging in web browser