Introduction

Ontologies are shared models of a domain that explicitly encode a view which is common to a set of different parties. Contexts are local models which explicitly encode one party's subjective view of a domain.

During the last decade, there has been a line of successful series of workshops and conferences on the development and application of contexts and ontologies. Early workshops were focused mostly on identifying what contexts and ontologies are, and how they can be formalized and exploited. In more recent years with the emergence of distributed systems (e.g., P2P systems, Semantic Web) the focus of workshops shifted towards questions of practical applications, such as semantic integration, coordination and meaning negotiation among information sources, where both contexts and ontologies were applied as promising solutions. However, few, if any, of these meetings have focused on combining the themes of ontologies and contexts and discussed them as complementary disciplines.

The goal of the workshop is to bring together people from the context and ontology communities and to discuss the approaches they use for information integration. Therefore, the workshop pushes the cross-fertilization and exchange of ideas (e.g., what are the commonalities and differences in the methods they use, which of the methods from the ontology community can be successfully adopted in the context community, and vice versa), and, hence, make their meeting mutually beneficial. In particular, the following technical issues are addressed within the workshop:

- to provide detailed elaboration concerning how the semantic heterogeneity problem can be tackled with the help of approaches for combination of multiple contexts and multiple ontologies;
- to proceed with further analysis and understanding of the technical problems related to integration of contexts and ontologies from theoretical, practical and application perspectives.

We received 30 submissions for the workshop. The proceedings of the workshop contain long and short papers. Out of the submissions, 11 were selected as long papers for oral presentation and 16 were selected as short papers for poster presentation.

Further information about the C&O workshop can be found at: http://www.c-and-o.net/

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