

First International Workshop on using Ontologies in Interactive Systems, ONTORACT'08

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the workshop is to hold a multidisciplinary event bringing together researchers and practitioners to share their experiences of using ontologies for managing user interaction and interactive systems.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.1.1.2 [User/Machine Systems]:

General Terms

Human Factors

Keywords

Knowledge representation and engineering, ontologies for user and task modeling, interactive systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

Ontologies, formal representations of knowledge, are currently widely in use in computer science research. They have mainly been used as tools for creating and managing large terminologies (e.g. medical controlled vocabularies) and taxonomies (e.g. gene ontology) and in applications of Natural Language Processing (NLP). However, ontologies can also be used as extremely powerful modeling tools. A yet untapped but emerging domain of application is to use ontologies for user and task modeling. While there is currently a wide diversity of efforts and many scattered projects on these topics, the goal of ONTORACT is to highlight both what is common and complementary within the diversity of efforts. By bringing experts and researchers under a single roof, the workshop organisers hope that it will foster exchange of experience and expertise and foment future collaboration between the workshop participants.

2. AIM of ONTORACT WORKSHOP

The workshop seek original contributions describing various

applications of ontologies for managing user interaction and interactive systems. Topics of interest, include but are not limited to:

- Ontologies for accessibility and assistive technology
- Ontologies for promoting the digital inclusion of elderly and special need users
- Ontologies for user modeling, adaptation and personalisation
- Ontologies of multimodal interaction
- Ontologies in pervasive environments
- Ontologies in healthcare
- Ontologies in intelligent transport systems
- Ontologies in web applications
- Ontologies and tutoring and dialogue systems
- Ontologies and recommender systems
- Ontologies for information retrieval
- Various applications of ontologies in interactive systems

The workshop will be particularly interested in looking at applications aiming to improve accessibility to the digital society for elderly and special need users. The workshop organisers aim at establishing a two way dialogue. While some researchers may currently be working on areas relevant to “digital inclusion”, they may not be aware of the potentials of their research for accessibility applications. Equally, solutions specifically designed to address challenges faced by users with special needs may become relevant for broader applications, as is often the case in HCI. Therefore, the workshop will both serve as a platform for increasing awareness of the challenges of digital inclusion facing elderly and special need users, while promoting technologies and solutions to successfully address these challenges.

3. PROGRAM CHAIRS and COMMITTEE

Dr. Matt-Mouley Bouamrane is a research associate at the Medical Informatics Group of the University of Manchester, United-Kingdom and is a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Digital Economy Inclusion Cluster headed by Prof. Alan Newell of the University of Dundee. His research interests include knowledge engineering, users and task modeling, multimodal interfaces and accessibility. Dr. Saturnino Luz is a Lecturer at the

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University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland. His research interests include the development of technologies for human-computer interfaces in the areas of computer-supported collaborative systems, spoken language systems, dialogue management, and design support tools for multi-modal systems. Dr. Masood Masoodian is a senior lecturer at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. His research interests include the study of human-to-human communication, groupware applications, access to information using portable devices and the study of virtual communities.

The program committee reflects the international and multidisciplinary nature of the workshop and include experts in HCI, the semantic web, knowledge engineering, accessibility and assistive technology, pervasive environments, etc. Members of the program committee were at the time of writing: K. Ahmad, M. Alcaniz, T. Burger, R. Chbeir, S.J. Cunningham, G. Doherty, M. Ghorbel, C. Gravier, A.Hadjali, C. Hayes, R. Kadouche, S. Karim, H. Kosh, K. Masuwa-Morgan, M. Mokhtari, Z. Obrenovic, F. Paganelli, E. Pardede, B. Parsia, B. Pellens, D. Radicioni, J. Vanderdonck, M. Wallace, Y. Yesilada.

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