Panel

Towards the Policy-Aware Web: The Real Web 3.0?

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Interest Group

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PANEL OVERVIEW

The sharing and control of information on the Web needs to be balanced to provide the web community with the best experience and outcomes. The Policy-Aware Web is an emerging direction that may hold the key in getting this balance right by allowing future policy languages to maintain this harmonization. This panel will discuss, highlight, and debate the challenges in moving towards the Policy-Aware Web and the paths it could lead. The target audience includes all web stakeholders as most policies, such as privacy and rights, are intrinsic to all web users, information, services and content.

Categories & Subject Descriptors:

H.3.5 [Information Storage and Retrieval]: Online Information Services—Web-based services

General Terms:

Languages, Legal Aspects, Management, Security, Standardization.

Keywords:

Policy-Aware Web, Privacy, Rights, Identity.

PANEL DESCRIPTION

The Policy-Aware Web is the promise for supporting policy management at the Web infrastructure level and is now becoming a focus of new research for the Web [1] and workshops [2] and a W3C Interest Group [3]. A policy is any set of rules or statements that capture and express the requirements of individuals and organizations from a corporate, legal, best practices, and/or social perspective. Currently, policy languages exist that cover and broadly address privacy, access control, and obligation management areas. However, what is missing is an overall framework and architecture allowing a combination of constraints and policy languages to interoperate and provide an accountable, enforceable, flexible and trusted experience for the web community.

The panel will discuss how to identify and overcome the obstacles of current web technologies and the road forward towards the policy-aware web architecture. In addition, the Web community needs to understand the benefits and expected enhancements from the policy-aware web and what role they can play in setting the requirements to drive the new architecture. The panel will also discuss current policy specifications and supporting standards, such as the Semantic Web, and the role they play on the future policy-aware web.

In particular, we look for answers and directions to the following debatable points of view:

- Will the web community accept or need a policy-aware web?

- What is the range of policies that should be supported?

- Will the Semantic Web really help or hinder?

- What standards need to be developed?

- Who will lead this work?

- How to gracefully introduce the policy-aware web to the existing web?

- How will users trust the policy-aware web?

- Having a standard policy language with well understood semantics seems to the easiest approach. Is this a good starting point?

The answers will probably not be simple and straightforward, but hopefully will be controversial enough for a lively discussion. More importantly, it will cover various issues like information needs, user experience, policy models, and interoperability.

PANELISTS

Elisa Bertino, *Purdue University, USA*

Elisa is professor at the Department of Computer Science, Purdue University and Research Director of CERIAS. Her main research interests cover many areas in the fields of information security and database systems. Her research combines both theoretical and practical aspects, addressing as well applications on a number of domains, such as medicine and humanities.

Piero Bonatti, *Universita' di Napoli Federico II, Italy*

Piero is full professor at the University of Naples "Federico II", and the coordinator of the WG on policies of the European network of excellence REWERSE. His research interests include foundational and applicative aspects of computer security, knowledge representation and reasoning, and the mutual relationships between these fields.

Marco Casassa-Mont, *Hewlett-Packard, UK*

Marco is a senior researcher and technical contributor at HP Labs in Bristol. His research interests are related to security, privacy and trust, adaptive systems, web services and web technologies. His work includes research and development of secure and trusted technologies, systems and solutions for people, enterprises and the Internet. He is co-chair of the W3C Policy Languages Interest Group.

Renato Iannella, *NICTA, Australia*

Renato is a Principal Scientist at the National ICT Australia (NICTA) research laboratory where he leads the Smart Applications For Emergencies (SAFE) project. His research covers technologies and standards in information engineering and architectures, rights management, and policy-based web infrastructures. He is co-chair of the W3C Policy Languages Interest Group and former member of the W3C Advisory Board.

Lalana Kagal, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA*

Lalana is a Research Scientist at the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and is part of the Decentralized Information Group. Her research interests include policy languages and frameworks, knowledge representation, behavior and knowledge management in dynamic and distributed environments, and privacy and trust in information systems.

Irene Pollach, *University of Aarhus, Denmark*

Irene is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Language and Business Communication at the University of Aarhus. Her research interests include web-mediated communication of companies and non-profits, data privacy, and qualitative methods.

Thomas Roessler, *W3C, France*

Thomas is Security Activity Lead at W3C and team contact for the W3C Policy Languages Interest Group. Thomas has published and given talks on topics including anonymization services, legal questions of digital signatures, and online privacy.

REFERENCES

[1] Weitzner, D., Hendler, J., Berners-Lee, T., & Connolly, D. Creating a policy-aware web: Discretionary, rule-based access for the world wide web. In Elena Ferrari and Bhavani Thuraisingham, editors, Web and Information Security. IRM Press, 2006

[2] W3C Workshop on Languages for Privacy Policy Negotiation and Semantics-Driven Enforcement, 17 - 18 October 2006, Ispra, Italy <http://www.w3.org/2006/07/privacy-ws/>

[3] W3C Policy Languages Interest Group <http://www.w3.org/Policy/pling/>