



**Principles and Practice of Semantic Web
Reasoning: International Workshop, PPSWR
2003, Mumbai, India, December 8, 2003,
Proceedings (Lecture Notes in Computer Science)**

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The Semantic Web is a major endeavor aimed at enriching the existing Web with metadata and processing methods so as to provide Web-based systems with advanced (so-called intelligent) capabilities, in particular with context-awareness and decision support. The advanced capabilities striven for in most Semantic Web application scenarios primarily call for reasoning. Reasoning capabilities are offered by existing Semantic Web languages, such as BPEL4WS, BPML, ConsVISor, DAML-S, JTP, TRIPLE, and others. These languages, however, were developed mostly from functionality-centered (e.g., ontology reasoning or access validation) or application-centered (e.g., Web service retrieval and composition) perspectives. A perspective centered on the reasoning techniques (e.g., forward or backward chaining, tableau-like methods, constraint reasoning, etc.) complementing the above-mentioned activities appears desirable for Semantic Web systems and applications. The workshop on "Principles and Practice of Semantic Web Reasoning," which took place on December 8, 2003, in Mumbai, India, was the first of a series of scientific meetings devoted to such a perspective.

Just as the current Web is inherently heterogeneous in data formats and data semantics, the Semantic Web will be inherently heterogeneous in its reasoning forms. Indeed, any single form of reasoning turns out to be unrealistic in the Semantic Web. For example, ontology reasoning in general relies on monotonic negation (for the metadata often can be fully specified), while databases, Web databases, and Web-based information systems call for non-monotonic reasoning (for one would not specify non-existing trains in a railway timetable); constraint reasoning is needed when dealing with time (for time intervals have to be dealt with), while (forward and/or backward) chaining is the reasoning of choice when coping with database-like views (for views, i.e., virtual data, can be derived from actual data using operations such as join and projections).

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