

Preface

RuleML 2005 was the first international conference on rules and rule markup languages for the Semantic Web, held in conjunction with the International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC) at Galway, Ireland. With the success of the RuleML workshop series came the need for extended research and applications topics organized in a conference format. RuleML 2005 also accommodated the first Workshop on OWL: Experiences and Directions.

Rules are widely recognized to be a major part of the frontier of the Semantic Web, and critical to the early adoption and applications of knowledge-based techniques in e-business, especially enterprise integration and B2B e-commerce. This includes knowledge representation (KR) theory and algorithms; markup languages based on such KR; engines, translators, and other tools; relationships to standardization efforts; and, not least, applications. Interest and activity in the area of rules for the Semantic Web has grown rapidly over the last five years. The RuleML 2005 Conference was aimed to be this year's premiere scientific conference on the topic. It continued in topic, leadership, and collaboration with the previous series of three highly successful annual international workshops (RuleML 2004, RuleML 2003 and RuleML 2002). The theme for RuleML 2005 was rule languages for reactive and proactive rules, complex event processing, and event-driven rules, to support the emergence of Semantic Web applications.

Special highlights of the RuleML 2005 conference included the keynote address by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Director of W3C. His talk, titled "Web of Rules", discussed whether knowledge can be represented in a web-like way using rules, so as to derive serendipitous benefit from the unplanned reuse of such knowledge. The two other invited papers were by Dr. Opher Etzion of IBM Haifa Labs entitled "Towards an Event-Driven Architecture: An Infrastructure for Event Processing" and by Dr. Susie Stephens of Oracle USA on the application of Semantic Web technologies in life sciences entitled "Enabling Semantic Web Inferencing with Oracle Technology: Applications in Life Sciences".

We would like to thank our Steering and Program Committees as well as all colleagues who submitted papers to RuleML 2005. We would also like to thank the organizers of ISWC and the OWL Workshop for their cooperation and partnership. Special thanks go to IBM Haifa, Israel, for sponsoring RuleML 2005. Finally, we would like to thank GoWest for their conference planning services.

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Asaf Adi
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Said Tabet, The RuleML Initiative, USA

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