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SUMMARY

Web standards specialist, focusing on community participation models for standards development, and on the combination of social graph datasets with structured linked data. Experienced project lead, consultant, developer and technology designer.

EXPERIENCE

Schema.org project lead, Google
Contracting via SpyPixel Ltd., since October 2011, 60% FTE.

Coordinating the evolution of schema.org vocabulary and technology platform, liasing and negotiating with the core schema.org partners, standards groups, and other external and Google-internal stakeholders.

Accomplishments

- Established a hybrid model for accountable, public-facing development of schema.org, balancing proprietary and collaborative aspects.
- Conflict resolution and technical analysis around RDFa/Microdata.
- Outreach, vocabulary integration and collaborative design with a diverse range of schema designers.

Research staff (NoTube EU project), VU University Amsterdam
2009-ongoing

Provided technical leadership, prototyping, coordination and standards liaison, primarily for the NoTube EU research project (~50% FTE). Prototyped platforms for Social TV combining personalisation (activity stream data mining with Apache Mahout, Pig and Hadoop), schema design and protocols for multi-screen interfaces.

Accomplishments

- With collaborators including BBC, improved 'apps for social TV' models to work with multiple devices.
- Prototyped vendor-neutral systems for '2nd screen' and activity stream analytics, and initiated pre-consensus standards work at W3C.

Project lead, Friend of a Friend (FOAF) project
2000-ongoing

The FOAF experiment, without formal funding or structure, had significant impact over the last decade. It was the first widely deployed 'decentralised social network' technology, promoting the 'linked RDF' model that gave rise to the Linked Data movement. Since 2000, FOAF combined the now-mainstream themes of 'social graph' and linked, graph-based structured data. In addition to social network publishers, it is now used in numerous major datasets ranging from Wikipedia/DBpedia, MusicBrainz and bibliography to open government data. has been used in products including Google Social Graph API, Yahoo Search Monkey, OSX addressbook, and Yandex blog search.

Accomplishments

- Created the initial seeds of the Linked Data movement and datasets.
- Showed the potential for distributed, decentralised social graph systems.
- Provides one of the most widely used base schemas for linked Web

data.

Director/owner, SpyPixel Ltd UK.
Bristol UK, 2002-ongoing

A European Web technology company, SpyPixel Ltd has supplied technology analysis, leadership, and consulting services to clients including Google, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), Harvard University, Facebook, Council of Europe, Joost TV. With Zoja Bajbutovic, the company is now a family business, providing interaction design and usability services to additional customers including Layar, Greenpeace.

Accomplishments

- Advised Facebook on standards strategy for Open Graph Protocol, leading to billions of pages using W3C RDFa technology.
- At Joost in 2005/6, contributed to launch of an early App-extensible Social TV platform, including prototyping, standards and developer relations.
- Regular Invited speaker and organizer across a wide range of events, ranging from human rights (HURIDOCS conference), Drupal Conference keynote, Dublin Core 2012 keynote, to hacker meetups.

Technical Staff, World Wide Web Consortium
MIT, Cambridge MA and Sophia-Antipolis, France — 1999-2005

Joined W3C staff as a Visiting Engineer, worked with MIT-based team to help design and launch Semantic Web initiative. Created and led RDF/SemWeb Interest Group, increasing scale and depth of public participation in W3C standards. Created and co-chaired the RDF Core Working Group which formalized and stabilized W3C's core specs for structured graph data.

Proposed, negotiated, directed and successfully delivered multi-partner EU project SWAD-Europe, staffing standards and prototyping work for RDF Core, SKOS and other pre-consensus work. Introduced implementor lightning talks, blog and Wiki-based community incubation habits into W3C activities.

Accomplishments

- Balanced chairing, editorial, fundraising and project management roles in support of an updated and stable suite of RDF standards. Co-edited RDF Schema W3C Recommendation.
- Created and deployed mechanisms for wider participation in the Web standards process, resulting in better specs, deeper consensus and broader community engagement with industry.
- Led early technical prototypes in support of Web standards (e.g. RDF query in Ruby, Javascript; Prolog-Mozilla extension; graph visualization).

Senior Technical Researcher, Institute for Learning and Research Technology, University of Bristol UK.
Bristol, 1995-2001

A research and development role leading metadata/standards work in a digital iibrary and learning technology group. Early work on metadata and distributed search, query and rule standards. Built a national jobs/CVs social network for social science researchers. Tech lead on Image archive, learning DTD, data visualization for schools and other projects. Authored successful funding proposals. PI on multimedia metadata Harmony project; Technical Director for

medical content labelling EU project, MedCertain.

Accomplishments

- Created and led the first and the most practically minded group focussed on application of Web data standards (RDF) to real world problems.
- Leading role in academic and European research community engagement with W3C standards, widening participation and public involvement.
- Published early technical work on RDF query, thesaurus, rules; with followup activities bringing each to their eventual standardisation.

EDUCATION

University of Bristol
Philosophy & Sociology (BSc, 1st class) — 1991-1994

REFERENCES

Further references and full contact details available upon request.

Guus Schreiber, Professor. Web & Media group, Computer Science department, The Network Institute, VU University Amsterdam.

Simon Lucy, Solutions (Chief) Architect. at BBC. Previously head of client development at Joost, Ltd.

Tim Berners-Lee, Director. World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).