

# Preface

The Semantic Web is a worldwide endeavor to advance the Web by enriching its content with semantic metainformation that can be processed by inference-enabled Web applications. Taxonomies and rules, along with their automated reasoning techniques, are the main components of Semantic Web ontologies.

Rule systems are considered to be a major area in the further development of the Semantic Web. On one hand, rules can specify declarative knowledge in ontology languages, expressing constraints or transformations, either in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, description logics. On the other hand, rules can specify behavioral knowledge, enforcing policies or reacting to events/changes.

Finally, rule markup languages such as RuleML allow us to publish rules on the Web, to process rules in general XML environments as well as special rule engines, to exchange rules between different applications and tools via XSLT translators, as well as to embed rules into other XML content and vice versa.

This workshop was dedicated to all aspects of rules and rule markup languages for the Semantic Web. RuleML 2004 was the third in a series of workshops that was initiated with the International Semantic Web Conference. The previous workshops were held on Sardinia, Italy (2002), and on Sanibel Island, USA (2003).

This year we had 25 submissions, of which 11 were accepted as regular papers and another five as short papers describing tools.

We are grateful to our two invited speakers, Mike Dean from BBN and Christine Golbreich from the University of Rennes. Our thanks also go to all submitters and reviewers without whom the workshop and these proceedings could not have succeeded.

September 2004

Grigoris Antoniou and Harold Boley  
RuleML 2004 Program Chairs

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