

Preface

This book presents an overview of the results of the research project ‘LOD2 – Creating Knowledge out of Interlinked Data’. LOD2 is a large-scale integrating project co-funded by the European Commission within the FP7 Information and Communication Technologies Work Programme (Grant Agreement No. 257943). Commencing in September 2010, this 4-year project comprised leading Linked Open Data research groups, companies, and service providers from across 11 European countries and South Korea.

Linked Open Data (LOD) is a pragmatic approach for realizing the Semantic Web vision of making the Web a global, distributed, semantics-based information system. The aim of the LOD2 project was to advance the state of the art in research and development in four key areas relevant for Linked Data, namely 1. RDF data management; 2. the extraction, creation, and enrichment of structured RDF data; 3. the interlinking and fusion of Linked Data from different sources; and 4. the authoring, exploration, and visualization of Linked Data. The results the project has attained in these areas are discussed in the technology part of this volume, i.e., chapters 2–6. The project also targeted use cases in the publishing, linked enterprise data, and open government data realms, which are discussed in chapters 7–10 in the second part. The book gives an overview of a diverse number of research, technology, and application advances and refers the reader to further detailed technical information in the project deliverables and original publications. In that regard, the book is targeted at IT professionals, practitioners, and researchers aiming to gain an overview of some key aspects of the emerging field of Linked Data.

During the lifetime of the LOD2 project, Linked Data technology matured significantly. With regard to RDF and Linked Data management, the performance gap compared with relational data management was almost closed. Automatic linking, extraction, mapping, and visualization of RDF data became mainstream technology provided by mature open-source software components. Standards such as the R2RML RDB2RDF mapping language were defined and a vast number of small and large Linked Data resources (including DBpedia, LinkedGeoData, or the 10.000 publicdata.eu datasets) amounting to over 50 Billion triples are now available. The LOD2 project has driven and actively contributed to many of these activities. As a result, Linked Data is now ready to enter the commercial and large-scale application stage, as many commercial products and services (including the ones offered by the industrial LOD2 project partners) demonstrate.

In addition to the LOD2 project partners, who are authors and contributors of the individual chapters of this book, the project was critically accompanied and supported by a number of independent advisers and mentors including Stefano Bertolo (European Commission), Stefano Mazzocchi (Google), Jarred McGinnis (Logomachy), Atanas Kiryakov (Ontotext), SteveHarris (Aistemos), and Márta Nagy-Rothengass (European Commission). Furthermore, a large number of stakeholders engaged with the LOD2

project, for example, through the LOD2 PUBLINK initiatives, the regular LOD2 technology webinars, or the various events organized by the project. We are grateful for their support and feedback, without which the project as well as this book would not have been possible.

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