

Embedding Knowledge in HTML

Some content from a presentations by Ivan Herman of the W3c

HTML is Everywhere

- We usually think of HTML as the language of Web pages
- But it's also widely used on/for mobile devices and tablets
 - It readily adapts for different screen sizes/orientations
- And is the basis of many ebook formats
 - E.g. Kindle's formats, mobi, epub
- How can we add knowledge to HTML pages?

Adding RDF-like data to HTML

- We'd like to add semi-structured know-ledge to a conventional HTML document
 - Humans can see and understand the regular HTML content (text, images, videos, audio)
 - Machines can see and understand the data markup in XML, RDF or some other format
- Possibilities include
 - Add a link to a separate document with the knowledge
 - Embed the knowledge as comments, javascript, etc.
 - Distribute the knowledge markup throughout the HTML as attributes of existing HTML tags

One page, not two

- Content providers prefer not to generate multiple pages, one for humans (HTML) and another for machines (RDF)
 - RDF serializations are complex
 - Requires a separate storage, generation, etc. mechanism
 - Introduces redundancy, which can lead to errors if we change one page but not the other
- Simplifies the job of search engines as well

General approach

- Provide or reuse tag *attributes* to encode the metadata
 - Browsers and web apps ignore attributes they don't understand
- Three approaches have been developed
 - [Microformats](#) (~ 2005)
 - [RDFa](#) (~ 2007)
 - [Microdata](#) (aka schema.org) (~ 2012)
- Status 2014/5 (IMHO)
 - *Microformats* used but future is limited
 - *RDFa* becoming the encoding of choice
 - Schema.org vocabularies getting large uptake

Microformats approach

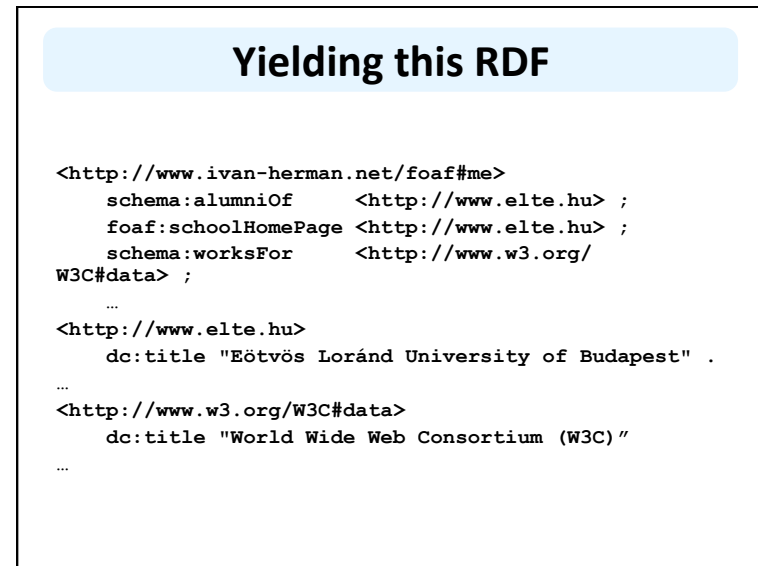
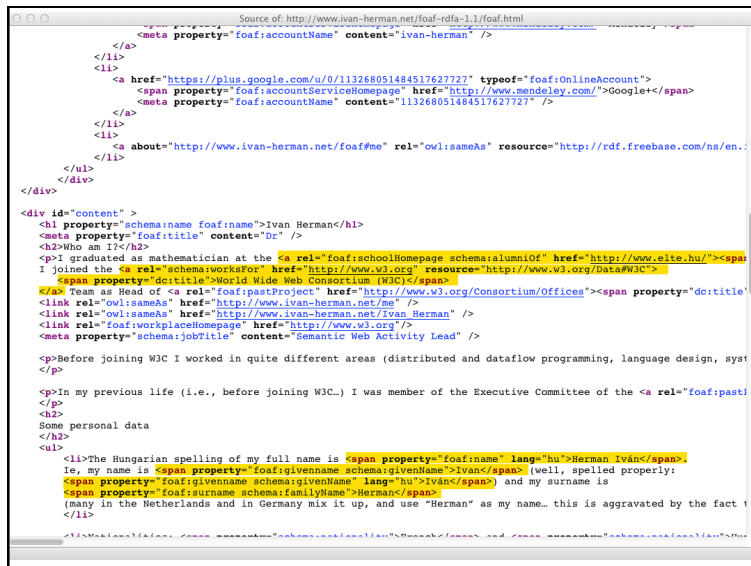
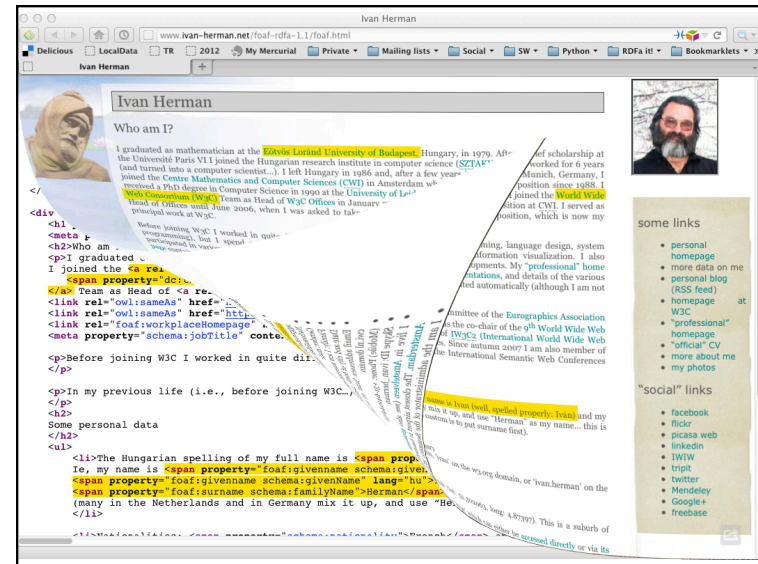
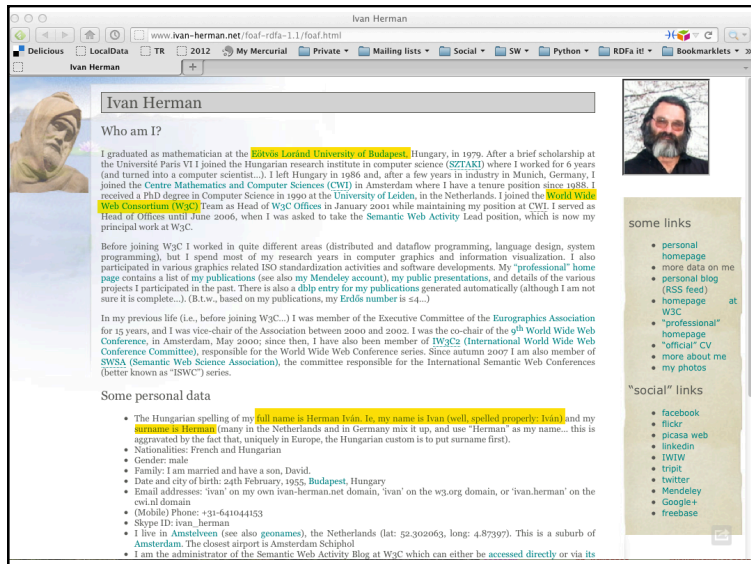
- Reuses HTML attributes like @class, @title
- Separate vocabularies (address, CV, ...)
- Difficult to mix microformats (no concept of namespaces)
- Does not, inherently, define an RDF representation
 - possible to transform via, e.g., XSLT + GRDDL, but transformations are vocabulary dependent

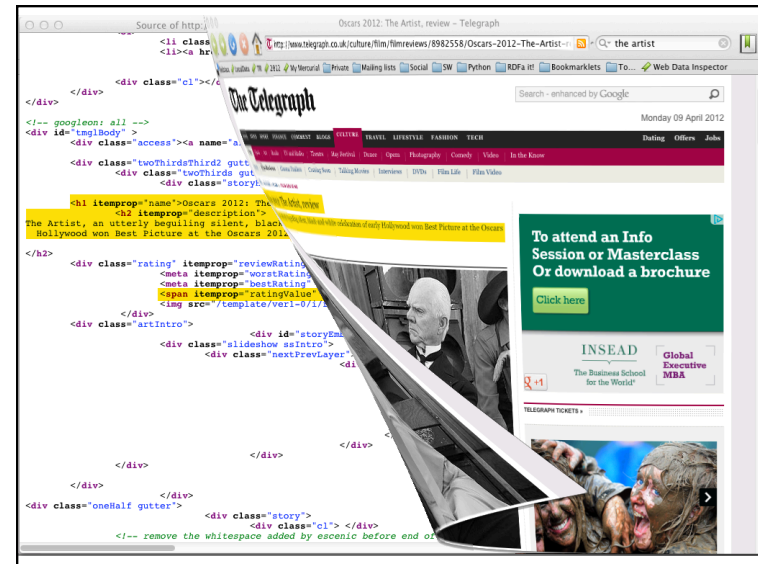
Microdata approach

- Defined and supported by Google, Bing, Yahoo and Yandex
- Adds new attributes to HTML5 to express metadata
- Works well for simpler “single-vocabulary” cases, but not well suited for mixing vocabularies or for complex vocabularies
- No notion of datatypes or namespaces
- Defines a generic mapping to RDF

RDFa approach

- Adds new (X)HTML/XML attributes
- Has namespaces and URIs at its core
 - So mixing vocabulary is easy, as in RDF
- Complete flexibility for using literals or URI resources
- Is a complete serialization of RDF





Yielding this RDF

```

[ rdf:type schema:Review ;
  schema:name "Oscars 2012: The Artist, review" ;
  schema:description "The Artist, an utterly
  beguiling..." ;
  schema:ratingValue "5" ;
  ...
]

```

Rich Snippets

- Search engines add text under results to preview what's on page and why it's relevant
- Text often extracted from structured data embedded on the page
- See <http://bit.ly/RichSN> for more information

The screenshot shows search results with rich snippets. For 'Little Water Cantina', it displays a star rating (4.5), the number of reviews (90), and a price range (\$5). For 'Leonard Cohen', it shows a star rating (4.5), the number of reviews (2), and a duration (1 hr 32 mins). A table of songs is also visible:

Track	Duration
Suzanne	2:34:40
The Darkness	2:34:29
Going Home	2:35:51
Hallelujah	2:36:12

The screenshot shows a Google search result for 'The Artist' movie. It includes rich snippets for location (Amsterdam), any time (Past hour, Past 24 hours, Past week, Past month, Past year, Custom range...), and more search tools (More search tools). The main result is 'The Artist (2011) - IMDb' with a star rating (4.5) and a link to the IMDb page. Below it, there is a snippet from Wikipedia and a YouTube trailer link.

RDFa and Microdata: similarities

- RDFa and Microdata are modern options
 - [Microformats](#) is another
- Both have similar approaches
 - Structured data encoded in *HTML attributes only* – no new elements
 - Define some special *attributes*
 - e.g., **itemscope** for microdata, **resource** for RDFa
 - Reuse *some* HTML core attributes (e.g., **href**)
 - Use textual content of HTML source, if needed
- RDF data can be extracted from both

RDFa and microdata: differences

- Microdata *optimized* for simpler use cases:
 - One vocabulary at a time
 - Tree shaped data
 - No datatypes
- RDFa provides full serialization of RDF in XML or HTML
 - Price is extra complexity over Microdata
- RDFa 1.1 Lite is a simplified authoring profile of RDFa, very similar to microdata

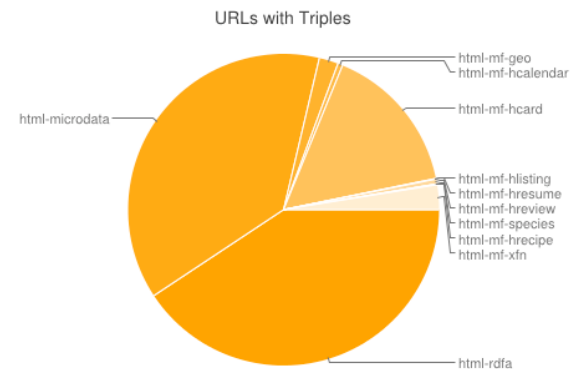
Amount of structured data on Web?



- [Web Data Commons](#) project uses [Common Crawl](#) data to estimate how much structured data is on the Web
- Looked for Microdata, RDFa, and nine common Microdata formats (e.g., [hCalendar](#), [hCard](#)) in URLs parsable as HTML
- Nov. 2013 crawl:
 - 44TB (compressed) data from 2.2B URLs from 13M domains
 - 14% of domains, 26% of URLs had semantic data
- Processing 40TB (compressed) of the 2012 crawl took 5.6K machine hours on 100 machines and cost ~\$400

What formats were found?

- Microdata use up (140K->463K sites form 2012->13)
- See [here](#) for details on 2013 crawl



Conclusions

- The amount of structured data on the web is growing steadily
- Microdata shows the strongest growth
- RDFa also common
- Microformat data is probably not growing as much