# RDFa:

## Embedding RDF Knowledge in HTML

Some content from a presentation by Ivan Herman of the W3c, <u>Introduction</u> to RDFa, given at the 2011 Semantic Technologies Conference.

#### What is RDFa?

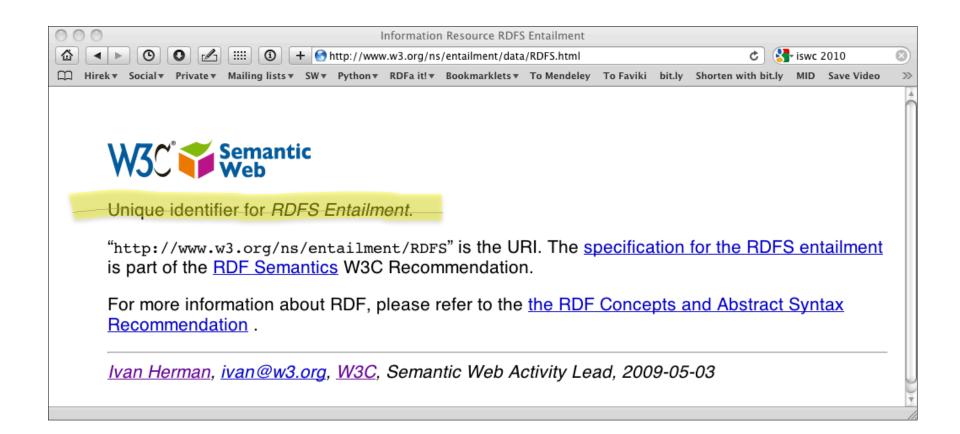


- Serialization of RDF embedded in HTML, HTML or XML
  - Provides set of attributes (the *a* in RDFa) to use with existing tags to carry RDF metadata
- 2004: work on developing standards began
- 2008: RDFa 1.0 a recommendation (but only in <u>XHTML</u>, which failed to launch)
- 2012-15: RDFa 1.1 recommendation (works in <u>HTML4</u>, <u>HTML5</u>)
- See <a href="http://rdfa.info/">http://rdfa.info/</a>

#### **Principles of RDFa**

- RDF content specified in XML attributes of tags rather than elements
- The XML/HTML tree structure is used as context, when appropriate
- Some new attributes are introduced and some existing ones (@href, @rel) reused
- When possible, HTML text content used for literal values
- → Same file used by browser & RDF extractor

#### Web page viewed by a person



http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/data/RDFS.html

#### The source

```
        Unique identifier for <em>RDFS Entailment</em>.
```

```
about="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS"

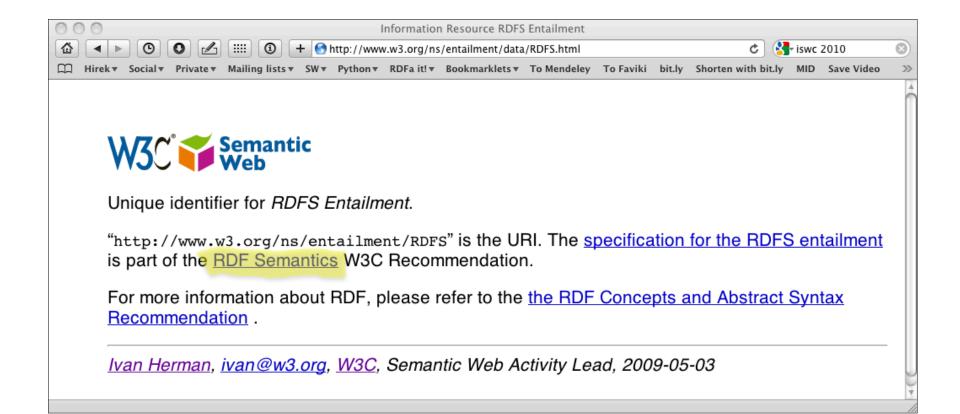
property="http://purl.org/dc/terms/description">

Unique identifier for <em>RDFS Entailment</em>.
```

```
<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
... .
```

```
<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
<http://purl.org/dc/terms/description>
... .
```

## The Web page viewed by a person



#### The source

```
<a about="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS"
    rel="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#seeAlso"
    href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/">
        RDF Semantics.
```

```
a about="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS"
    rel="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#seeAlso"
    href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/">
        RDF Semantics.
</a>
```

```
<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
....
```

```
<a about="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS"
    rel="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#seeAlso"
    href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/">
        RDF Semantics.
</a>
```

```
<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
<http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#seeAlso>
......
```

## **Ntriples in HTML** 🐵

Maybe we can do better, instead of this

#### Allow URI prefixes and shared subject, like this

```
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix dcterms: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .
<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
    rdfs:seeAlso <http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/> ;
    dcterms:description "Unique identifier for RDFS Entailment." .
```

#### **Turtlizing RDFa**

- Turtle supports several simplifying ideas
- Use compact URIs (<u>CURIE</u>) when possible
  - URI with a prefix defined elsewhere, e.g., foaf:mbox
- Making use of the natural structure for
  - shared subjects
  - shared predicates
  - creating blank nodes
  - etc.

## **CURIE** definition and usage

```
<html>
...

          Unique identifier for <em>RDFS Entailment</em>.
...
</html>
```

#### can be replaced by:

## Details on @prefix in RDFa

- Can be anywhere in the HTML tree and is valid for entire sub-tree
  - i.e., html element not the only place to have it
- The same @prefix attribute can hold several definitions:
  - prefix="dcterm: http://purl.org... foaf: http://..."
- CURIEs and "real" URIs can usually be mixed
- CURIEs cannot be used on @href

## **Sharing subjects**

Basic principle: @about is inherited by children nodes, so no reason to repeat it

```
<html prefix="dcterms: http://purl.org/dc/terms/</pre>
            rdfs: http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#">
 <body about="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS">
   Unique identifier for <em>RDFS Entailment</em>.
   ...<a rel="rdfs:seeAlso"
    href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210">
    RDFS Semantics</a>...
```

## ... yielding

```
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
@prefix dcterms: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .

<http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/RDFS>
    rdfs:seeAlso <http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/> ;
    dcterms:description "Unique identifier for RDFS Entailment." .
```

#### On reusing literals

- Reusing literals is a plus, but you don't always want to do it
- The basic rule says: the (RDF) Literal is the enclosed text from the HTML content
- This is fine in 80% of the cases, but...
- …it may not be natural in many cases!

#### **Example:** dates

• This leads to:

```
@prefix dcterms: <http://...> .
@prefix xsd: <http://...> .
<...> dcterms:date "2010-07-05"^^xsd:date .
```

2010-07-05 is official ISO format (for xsd:date)
 but "July 5, 2010" is preferred by people

## **Usage of @content**

#### • Also leads to:

```
@prefix dcterms: <http://...> .
@prefix xsd: <http://...> .
<...> dcterms:date "2010-07-05"^^xsd:date .
```

#### On subjects and objects

- Here is our rule so far
  - @about sets the subject
  - @href sets the object
- But that is not always good enough
  - We may not want to introduce an active link (i.e.,
     "a" element) on the web page
  - what about other links in HTML?

#### We may not always want links...

- The RDFa @resource attribute is equivalent to @href
- Sets the object, just like @href but is ignored by browsers, e.g.,:

#### More features

- RDFa 1.1 has more features that make it easier to represent knowledge compactly in HTML
- These take advantage of the HTML tree context
- We'll skip the details, which you can find in
  - RDFa 1.1 Primer
  - RDFa 1.1 Core

#### **Authoring RDFa**

- Some tools already have RDFa facilities:
  - e.g., it is possible to add the right DTD to
     Dreamweaver, Amaya has it at its core, etc.
- There are plugins to, e.g., WordPress, to generate RDFa markup
- CMS systems (like Drupal 7) may have RDFa built in their publication system
  - users generate RDFa whether they know about it or not...

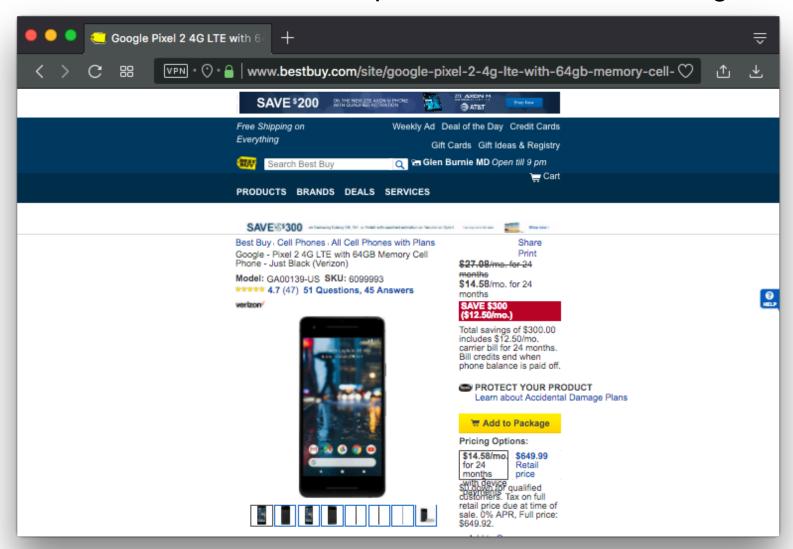
#### **Consuming RDFa**

- Major search engines (Google, Yahoo) process
   RDFa for vocabularies they understand can use
- There are libraries, distillers, etc., to extract RDFa information
  - may be part of RDF development environments like Redland, RDFLib
  - see, for further references,
     <a href="http://rdfa.info/wiki/Consume">http://rdfa.info/wiki/Consume</a>
- Facebook's "social graph" is based on RDFa

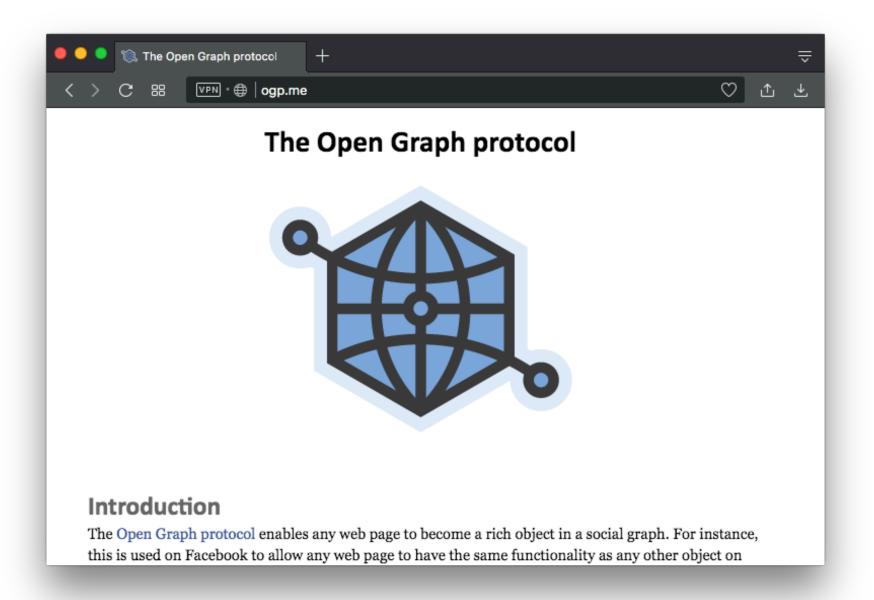


#### A page from Best Buy

RDFa for Facebook markup, JSON-LD for search engines



## FB's Open Graph Protocol



#### **Publishing RDFa**

- RDFa+HTML file can just be on a server
  - the client extracts the RDF content
- Content negotiations can be set up on the server side
  - the client gets the format he/she asks for
  - the RDF content can either be generated on the fly or stored on the server statically

## Google's rich snippets

Embedded metadata (microdata or RDFa) is used to improve search result page

 at the moment only a few vocabularies are recognized, but that is evolving continually

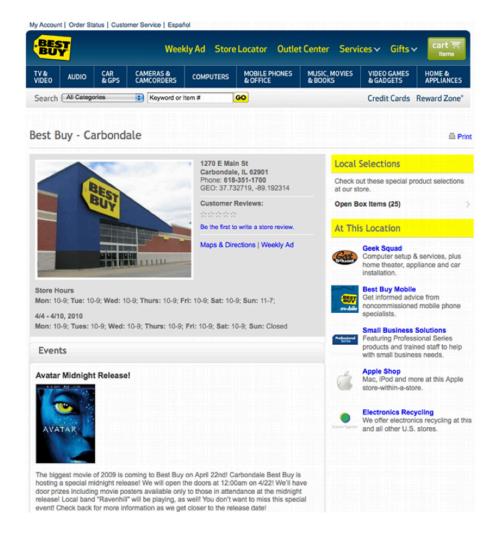


#### Effects of, e.g., Google or Facebook

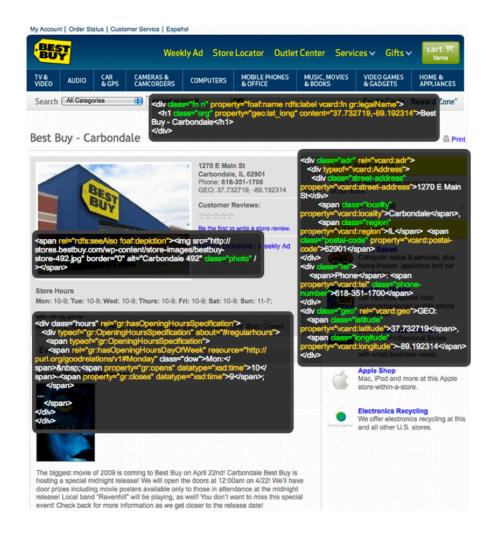
A number of popular sites publish RDFa as part of their normal pages:

- Tesco, BestBuy, Slideshare, The London Gazette, Newsweek, MSNBC, O'Reilly Catalog, the White House...
- Creative Commons snippets are in RDFa (e.g., on Flickr)

#### BestBuy example of RDFa use



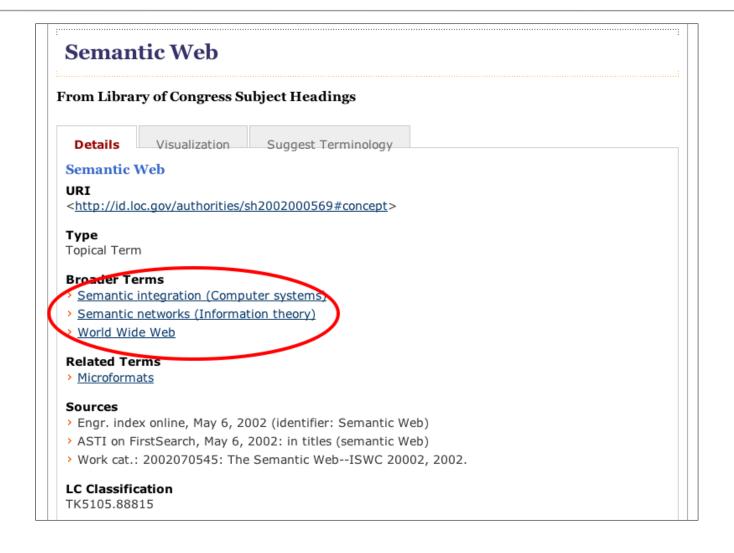
#### BestBuy example of RDFa Use



#### **Effects on BestBuy**

- Reported in a BestBuy blog:
  - GoodRelations+RDFa improved Google rank tremendously
  - 30% increase in traffic on BestBuy store pages
  - Yahoo observers a 15% increase in click-through rate
- Today, BestBuy uses RDFa for much more than just snippets
  - E.g., to locate shops that have certain products on stock...

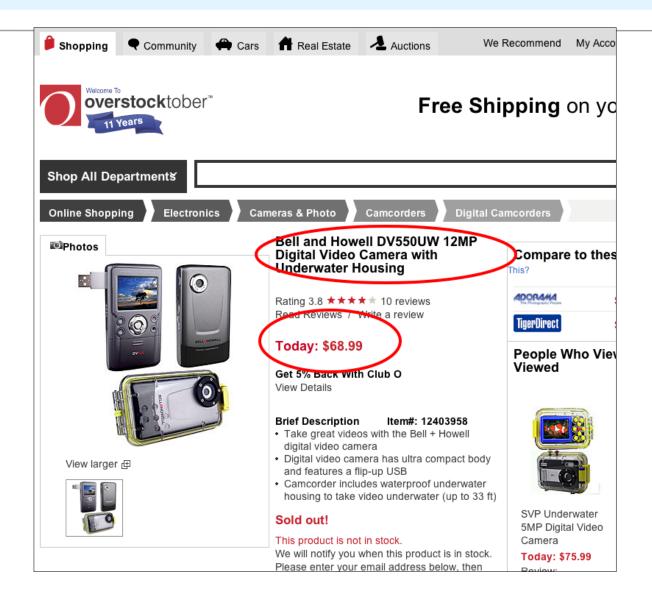
#### **Library of Congress RDFa use**



## Library of Congress RDFa use

```
000
                                Source of http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh2002000569
                    Topical
Term
                 <
                     <h3>Broader Terms</h3>
                    <
                           <a href="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh2004000479#concept" rel="skos:broader"</pre>
                               <span property="skos:prefLabel" xml:lang="en">Semantic integration (Comput
systems)</span>
                           </a>
                        <
                           <a href="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh92004914#concept" rel="skos:broader"</pre>
                               <span property="skos:prefLabel" xml:lang="en">Semantic networks (Information)
theory)</span>
                           </a>
                        li>
                           <a href="http://id.loc.gov/authorities/sh95000541#concept" rel="skos:broader"</pre>
                               <span property="skos:prefLabel" xml:lang="en">World Wide Web</span>
                           </a>
```

## Overstock.com example



#### Overstock.com example



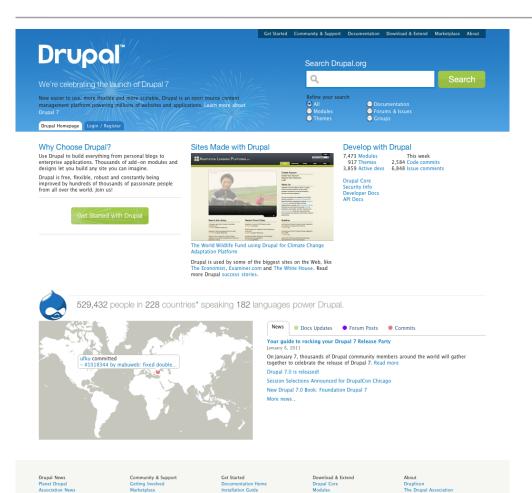
#### overstocktober™

#### Free Shipping on yo



#### Drupal content management system

Drupal.org



Site Building Guide

Drupal is a registered trademark of Dries Buytaert

api,drupal.org

Groups & Meetups

DrupalCon Chicago 2011

- RDF support in Drupal
   v. 7
- Major CMS system
- Has RDF at his core, pages contain RDFa
- In one step millions of pages of additional RDF data!

#### The Examiner.com



#### The Examiner.com



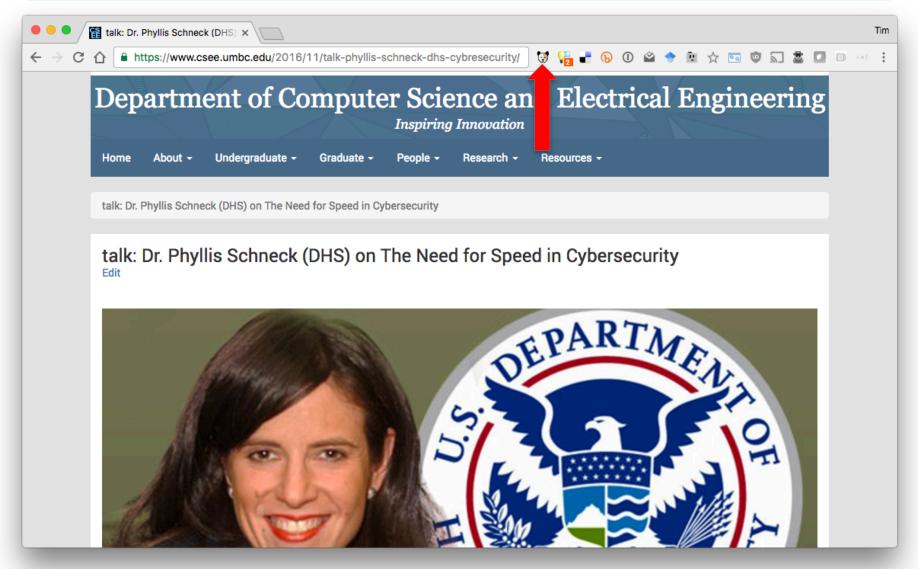
#### **Extracting the data**

```
rdfa> python getdata.py "http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/data/RDFS.html"
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/terms/> .
@prefix ent: <a href="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/">http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/>.</a>
ent:RDFS a ent:Entailment;
  dc:creator <http://www.ivan-herman.net/foaf#me>;
  dc:date "2010-05-03"^^xsd:date;
  dc:description "Unique identifier for RDFS Entailment";
  rdfs:comment "The specification for the RDFS entailment is ... Semantics W3C Recommendation.";
  rdfs:isDefinedBy <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/#rdfs">http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/#rdfs</a> entailment>;
  rdfs:seeAlso <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/">http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-mt-20040210/</a>.
<a href="http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/data/RDFS.html">http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/data/RDFS.html</a> dc:title "Information Resource RDFS Entailment";
  xhv:stylesheet <a href="http://www.w3.org/StyleSheets/TR/base">http://www.w3.org/StyleSheets/TR/base</a>.
<a href="http://www.ivan-herman.net/foaf#me">http://www.ivan-herman.net/foaf#me</a> a foaf:Person;
  rdfs:seeAlso <a href="http://www.ivan-herman.net/foaf">http://www.ivan-herman.net/foaf</a>;
  foaf:mbox <mailto:ivan@w3.org>;
  foaf:name "Ivan Herman";
  foaf:title "Semantic Web Activity Lead";
  foaf:workplaceHomepage <a href="http://www.w3.org">http://www.w3.org</a>.
```

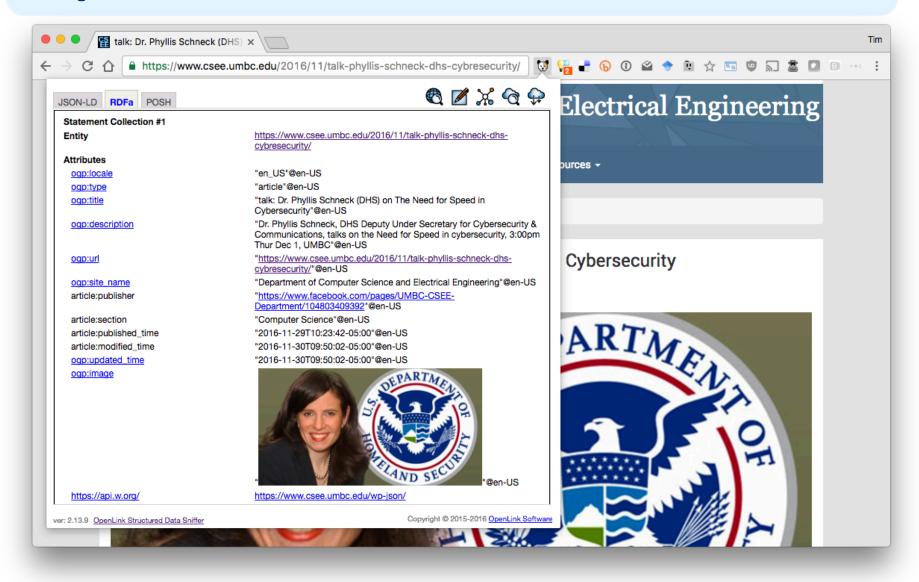
## getdata.py is very simple

```
import rdflib, sys
if not (1 < len(sys.argv) < 4):
  print 'usage: python getdata.py url ['json-ld' | rdfa | rdfa1.1 | microdata | html ]'
  print ' eg: python getdata.py "http://www.w3.org/ns/entailment/data/RDFS.html"
  sys.exit(0)
url = sys.argv[1]
format = sys.argv[2] if len(sys.argv) == 3 else 'rdfa1.1'
g = rdflib.Graph()
g.parse(url, format=format)
print g.serialize(format='n3')
```

## OpenLink Structured Data Sniffer\*



#### OpenLink Structured Data Sniffer\*



#### Conclusions

- Web developers want content providers to add structured data to HTML pages
- Content providers are incentivized to do so because their content will be better understood, ranked higher, more useful, etc.
- RDFa is most powerful & flexible knowledge markup standard understood by search engines
- RDFa is also an alternative serialization of full RDF