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Preface

RuleML 2003 was the second international workshop on rules and rule markup languages for the Semantic Web, held in conjunction with the International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC). The aim of the RuleML workshop series is to stimulate research on all issues related to *web rule languages* and to provide an annual forum for presenting and discussing new research results.

The Semantic Web is a major world-wide endeavor to advance the Web by enriching its multimedia document content with propositional information that can be processed by inference-enabled Web applications. Rules and rule markup languages, such as RuleML, will play an important role in the success of the Semantic Web. Rules will act as a means to draw inferences, to express constraints, to specify policies for reacting to events, to transform data, etc. Rule markup languages will allow us to enrich Web ontologies by adding definitions of derived concepts, to publish rules on the Web, to exchange rules between different systems and tools, etc.

RuleML 2003 built on the success of RuleML 2002, which was held in conjunction with ISWC 2002, Sardinia, Italy. The proceedings of RuleML 2002 can be found at <http://www.ceur-ws.org/Vol-60/>.

Special highlights of the RuleML 2003 workshop were the two invited presentations given by Peter Chen on “Rules, XML, and the ER Model” and by Harold Boley on “Object-Oriented RuleML: User-Level Roles, URI-Grounded Clauses, and Order-Sorted Terms”. This proceedings volume also contains an invited paper by François Bry and Sebastian Schaffert on “An Entailment Relation for Reasoning on the Web”.

RuleML 2003 was held on Sanibel Island, Florida, USA, in conjunction with ISWC 2003. We would like to thank the organizers of ISWC 2003 for hosting our workshop. Special thanks go to Enigmatec Corporation, London, for sponsoring RuleML 2003. Finally, we thank all the colleagues that submitted their papers to RuleML 2003 and that contributed to the presentations and discussions.

August 2003

Michael Schroeder
Gerd Wagner

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Table of Contents

Object-Oriented RuleML: User-Level Roles, URI-Grounded Clauses, and Order-Sorted Terms	1
<i>Harold Boley</i>	
An Entailment Relation for Reasoning on the Web	17
<i>François Bry and Sebastian Schaffert</i>	
A Rule-Based XML Access Control Model	35
<i>Chutiporn Anutariya, Somchai Chatvichienchai, Mizuho Iwihara, Vilas Wuwongse, and Yahiko Kambayashi</i>	
Inference of Reactive Rules from Dependency Models	49
<i>Asaf Adi, Opher Etzion, Dagan Gilat, and Guy Sharon</i>	
Value-Added Metatagging: Ontology and Rule Based Methods for Smarter Metadata	65
<i>Marek Hatala and Griff Richards</i>	
Constructing RuleML-Based Domain Theories on Top of OWL Ontologies	81
<i>Christopher J. Matheus, Mitch M. Kokar, Kenneth Baclawski, and Jerzy Letkowski</i>	
Inheritance and Rules in Object-Oriented Semantic Web Languages	95
<i>Guizhen Yang and Michael Kifer</i>	
Rules and Defeasible Reasoning on the Semantic Web	111
<i>Grigoris Antoniou and Gerd Wagner</i>	
Inference Queues for Communicating and Monitoring Declarative Information between Web Services	121
<i>Bruce Spencer and Sandy Liu</i>	
Combining an Inference Engine with Databases: A Rule Server	136
<i>Tanel Tammet and Vello Kadarpiik</i>	
Extraction of Structured Rules from Web Pages and Maintenance of Mutual Consistency: XRML Approach	150
<i>Juyoung Kang and Jae Kyu Lee</i>	
RuleML Annotation for Automatic Collection Levels on METS Metadata	164
<i>Chieko Nakabasami</i>	
Author Index	173