Context Spaces as the Cornerstone of a Near-Transparent & Self-Reorganizing Semantic Desktop



Research Center for Artificial Intelligence

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Motivation

> existing Semantic Desktops:

- > rather complicated to use
- > not scaling well
- > no real "killer app" available
- > 2 categories of Semantic Desktop apps:
 - \geq newly created semantic ones
 - plug-ins to enhance traditional non-semantic ones

Abstract

Existing Semantic Desktops are still reproached for being too complicated to use or not scaling well. Besides, a real "killer app" is still missing. In this paper, we present a new prototype inspired by NEPOMUK and its successors having a semantic graph and ontologies as its basis. In addition, we introduce the idea of context spaces that users can directly interact with and work on. To make them available in all applications without further ado, the system is transparently integrated using mostly standard protocols complemented by a sidebar for advanced features. By exploiting collected context information and applying Managed Forgetting features (like hiding, condensation or deletion), the system is able to dynamically reorganize itself, which also includes a kind of tidy-up-itself functionality. We therefore expect it to be more scalable while providing new levels of user support. An early prototype has been implemented and is presented in this demo.

Intuition: every action is performed in a certain context \rightarrow every stored information item is related to ≥ 1 contexts

Context Spaces

Self-Reorganization

- extend Semantic Desktop technology with context spaces
- > enable users to directly interact with and work on these context spaces
- > make existing applications respect these context spaces without further ado



- exploit this contextual information to provide new levels of user support
- e.g. self-(re)organization by means of Managed Forgetting:
- \geq an escalating set of measures: temporal hiding, condensation, adaptive sync, archiving & deletion



Near-Transparent Integration



- transparent integration into the rest of the system using standard protocols
- > a context space is not just a folder
 - \rightarrow more contextual information, e.g. a context space could represent a meeting
 - \rightarrow additional information: date & time, repetition (if applies), location, attendees, organizer, etc.

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Conclusion

- established foundation for
 - enabling users to interact with and work on context spaces
 - > making context spaces available in all their applications without further ado
 - providing new levels of user support by self-(re)organization

Outlook

- > extensive user studies planned
- several features need to be fully implemented

Example of Forgetting

during meeting	after 8 months	after 2 years		
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Further Self-(Re)Organization

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Context Model

• current, recent documents relevant topics, domains

 active applications, tools recently used services











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demo

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