December, 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2008
Koblenz, Germany

A Semantic Model for the Authorisation of Context-Aware Content Adaptation

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**Introduction**

“The current Internet gold rush will be dwarfed by what is about to happen with Wireless Internet Access.” – The Economist

- **Universal Multimedia Access (UMA):** the universal access to multimedia content or the availability of audiovisual material to any terminal through any network at any moment.

- **Content Adaptation**
Content Adaptation in MPEG-21

- MPEG-21: A Multimedia Framework with the Digital Item at its center (a generic media container)
- MPEG-21 Part 7: Digital Item Adaptation

MPEG-21 DIA TOOLS

MPEG-21 Digital Item → Digital Item Adaptation Engine → Adapted MPEG-21 Digital Item
Adaptations and the Intellectual Property

- **Adaptation needs to be authorised!**
  - Content is often considered an artistic work subject to the Intellectual Property (IP) legislation.
  - Adaptations may infringe Copyright Laws.
  - Both Content Creators and Content Distributors have to express digitally their authorisation in the framework of a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system.

![Diagram showing the flow from Content Creator to Content Distributor to End User with rights such as Distribution Right, Adaptation Right, Render Right, and Original content and Adapted content]
Existing alternative proposals

- First amendment to DIA standard:
  - permittedDiaChanges and changeConstraints
  - Write MPEG-21 REL licenses referring to DIA constraints
- Vocabulary in RDD: mx:adapt, m1x:governedAdapt

```xml
<r:license>
  <r:grant>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="Student"/>
    <mx:play> <mx:diReference licensePartIdRef="Lesson"/>
    <r:allConditions>
      <dia:permittedDiaChanges>
        <dia:ConversionDescription xsi:type="dia:ConversionUriType">
          <dia:ConversionActUri uri="urn:visnet:TemporalResolutionScaling"/>
        </dia:ConversionDescription>
      </dia:permittedDiaChanges>
      <dia:changeConstraint>
        <dia:constraint>
          <dia:AdaptationUnitConstraints>
            <dia:LimitConstraint>
              <!-- 20 refers to frame rate -->
              <dia:Argument xsi:type="dia:ConstantDataType">
                <dia:Constant xsi:type="dia:IntegerType">
                  <dia:Value>10</dia:Value>
                </dia:Constant>
              </dia:Argument>
              <!--13 refers to the operator '->
            </dia:LimitConstraint>
          </dia:AdaptationUnitConstraints>
        </dia:constraint>
      </dia:changeConstraint>
    </r:allConditions>
  </r:grant>
  <r:issuer>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="Teacher"/>
  </r:issuer>
</r:license>
```
Virtual Collaboration Scenario (VISNETII)

- **Adaptation Decision Engine (ADE):** takes the adaptation decision by inferring higher-level concepts from low-level context.
- **Adaptation Authorizer (AA):** decides whether an adaptation is authorised or not.
- **Context Providers (CxPs):** software/hardware providing explicit contextual information.
- **Adaptation Engine Stacks (AESs):** A suite of Adaptation Engines.
The Context Aware Ontology

- The CAO describes:
  - The Usage Environment Descriptors
  - The MPEG-7 Multimedia Description Schemes
- And upgrades the models them from a syntactic to a semantic level
The RRDOnto

- **Represent Right Data Ontology**
  - Digital Media Project: to “*promote continuing successful development, deployment and use of Digital Media that respect the rights of creators and rights holders to exploit their works, the wish of end users to fully enjoy the benefits of Digital Media and the interests of various value-chain players to provide products and services*”
  - Interoperable DRM Platform: Tools implementing basic common DRM Functions
  - RRD Onto: An ontology about the Intellectual Property Rights along the Value Chain

- Evolved into the **Media Value Chain Ontology (MVCO)**, probable MPEG-21 Part 19
The Permit can authorise an Adaptation action based on certain requirements/bans.
Interoperating RRDOnto and CAO

- Ontology integration (subclassOf, equivalence, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPEG-21 DIA</th>
<th>CAO Ontology</th>
<th>RRDOnto</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UserProfile</td>
<td>User</td>
<td>User</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Item</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>IPEntity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NaturalEnvironment</td>
<td>NaturalEnvironment</td>
<td>subclass of Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal set of UEDs</td>
<td>Terminal</td>
<td>subclass of Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network set of UEDs</td>
<td>Network</td>
<td>subclass of Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>permittedDiaChanges</td>
<td></td>
<td>subclass of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hasChangeConstraint</td>
<td></td>
<td>subclass of Fact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Semantic Authorisation Process:

- ADE creates instances of the CAO ontology based on the simple XML CxPs information, together with the Media Information and the desired operation and characteristics.
- CAO class individuals are sent to the AA, which in turn looks up in its license store (a collection of Permit instances) and matches for a suitable one to authorise the requested operation.
- The authorisation itself is described as a mere result of a rule validation (SWRL).
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