

OOR-IPR mini-series session-3: IPR policy, position, consensus

Joint OOR-Ontolog-NCBO-CC-IAOA-OASIS

**"Open Ontology Repository (OOR)
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
Policy and Issues"**

Panel Discussion mini-series

OOR-IPR session 3:
**Discussion and consensus
on licensing arrangements
for the OOR Initiative,
and positions we might take
on related IPR issues**

30-September-2010

(v 1.0)

OOR Background

The Open Ontology Repository (OOR) initiative, started in 2008, promotes the global use and sharing of ontologies by:

- Establishing a (system of) hosted registry-repository;
- Enabling and facilitating open, federated, collaborative ontology repositories, and
- Establishing best practices for expressing interoperable ontology and taxonomy work in registry-repositories.
- OOR is:
 - An open (ontology) content initiative
 - An open source software initiative
 - An open infrastructure initiative

See: <http://OpenOntologyRepository.org>

Co-organizers of this OOR-IPR initiative

This mini-series is jointly organized by:

- the OOR initiative,
- the Ontolog-community,
- NCBO (US National Center for Biomedical Ontology),
- CC (Creative Commons),
- IAOA (the International Association for Ontology and its Applications), and
- OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards).

OOR-IPR objectives

This "OOR-IPR mini-series" will, hopefully, start a dialog among the global ontology community and other stakeholder communities, to specifically address IPR issues relating to the "open ontology repository (OOR)" initiative. The discussion will, invariably, touch upon IPR issues pertaining to ontology in general as well.

Given the complexity of the issues involved, one can look at this mini-series to merely be the beginning of a quest, by the collaborating parties and their communities, to fully understand the issues, and to get themselves into a position to address them.

As a community, we trust we will, over the course of this mini-series and subsequent actions and events, address a very important set of issues, that really have to be cleared, before the world can realize the full potential of open ontology repositories enabled by the science & technology of ontology and semantics.

Three (3) virtual sessions planned

- 2010_09_09 - Thursday: session-1: an exposition on relevant IPR regimes - see: [ConferenceCall_2010_09_09](#)
- 2010_09_16 - Thursday: session-2: what are the IPR issues relating to open ontology repositories (and ontologies in general)? - see: [ConferenceCall_2010_09_16](#)
- 2010_09_30 - Thursday: session-3: discussion and consensus on licensing arrangements for the OOR Initiative – see: [ConferenceCall_2010_09_30](#)

Our session-3 (today's) panel

Session chair: **Dr. Leo Obrst** (Co-convener, OOR; MITRE)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Peter Yim** (Co-convener, OOR; Ontolog; IAOA)
 - presenting the "Strawman"
- **Mr. Mike Dean** (Co-convener, OOR; Raytheon-BBN)
 - Commentary, as team lead for the OOR system development
- **Mr. Bruce Perens** (original author of the "Open Source Definition") – Commentary
- **Mr. James Bryce Clark** - (General Counsel, OASIS)
 - Commentary
- **Mr. John Wilbanks** (VP of Science, Creative Commons)
 - Commentary (*invited*)

Our session-3 (today's) agenda

- 1. Opening - chair, LeoObrst
- 2. Presenting "the Strawman" candidate OOR IPR Policy and community position(s) on patents - PeterYim
- 3. Discussion and some questions about "the Strawman" from the perspective of the [[OOR]] team & leadership - MikeDean
- 4. Expert Panelists' Commentary on "the Strawman" - BrucePerens, JamieClark , JohnWilbanks (~10 min. each)
- 5. Q & A , open discussion and 'tweaking' of the policy and position statements - All (30 min.+)
- 6. Getting to a group consensus - moderated by the chair
- 7. Conclusion / Follow-up - chair

The Strawman

Candidate IPR Policy for the OOR Initiative: (1)

* That software contributions to the OOR effort has to carry a compatible, non-reciprocal, "gift," open-source license. If one is not specified by the contributor, the software license will default to the "Simplified BSD License" (FreeBSD License). (2I8R)

- o compatible open-source licenses include (but not limited to) the MIT License, Apache License version 2.0, Mozilla Public License 1.1 (MPL), and Eclipse Public License version 1.0 (EPL); (2I8S)

- o it is also acceptable if the software contribution in question is in the public domain (2I8T)

* Any content contribution to OOR should specify an IPR license, as part of the OOR "gatekeeping" requirements, which will be maintained in the content contribution metadata. Each repository using the OOR software can specify its own set of acceptable IPR content licenses. (2I8U)

Candidate IPR Policy for the OOR Initiative: (2)

* That content (essentially ontologies or other "knowledge organizational structures (KOS's)") contributed to the open public instance of OOR (which the OOR team will operate) will either one of the following: (2I8V)

- o a compatible, non-reciprocal, "gift," open-source license. If one is not specified by the contributor, the software license will default to the "Simplified BSD License" (FreeBSD License). (2I8W)

- + compatible open-source licenses include (but not limited to) the MIT License, Apache License version 2.0, Mozilla Public License 1.1 (MPL), and Eclipse Public License version 1.0 (EPL), OR (2I8X)

- o a Creative Commons Attribution only License (CC BY 3.0 or its successor). (2I8Y)

- o it is also acceptable if the content contribution in question is in the public domain (2I8Z)

Candidate Position Statements that we would make:

(as a joint community co-organizing this effort) which we will seek (optional) endorsements by individual members of the communities involved. (2I91)

* we believe ontologies are fundamental to enabling interoperability, and therefore support the position that ontology should not be patentable. (2I92)

* we also believe that patents covering software will discourage, rather than encourage, innovation, and therefore support the position that software should not be patentable. (2I93)

Collected Community Input (summary)

- general desire to keep the technology and the content as “open” as possible, and be shared under a “gift” license (although there is still a minority who wants their work shared under a reciprocal license)
- realization that current statute falls short of adequately covering IPR issues relating to “ontology” and a willingness to contribute to the discourse and to help inform policy
- serious concern on the effect on bogus patents or ones with overly broad claims, on the future development in this field and on the future of computing in general

Questions

- Is it viable to allow multiple “gift” licenses for software within a single integrated project? Do other projects do this?
- It’s unclear whether ontologies should be covered by open source and/or content licenses. Is it reasonable to allow contributors to use either?
- Are you aware of ontologies or other formalizations of IPR rights that OOR software could leverage?
- What did we miss?

Open Q & A and Discussion:

Participate and Influence the outcome

Let's try to reach a consensus here

... upon adoption as a consensus by the participants at this session, this policy will be circulated via the community mailing list(s) and will be opened to comments from the rest of the community for one week. Barring serious objection (under which circumstances, the subject will be re-opened to debate by those involved), this OOR IPR Policy (non-substantive edits included, as appropriate) will be adopted and go into effect as of 15-Oct-2010.

The Consensus

(as at the end of this session)

... the following slides will be tweaked based on the discussion during the session and will be updated for the archives afterwards.

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Resources & References:

- Details on this session can be found at:
http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?ConferenceCall_2010_09_30
- More on the OOR-IPR effort, see:
http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?OpenOntologyRepository_IPR
- Additional References & Resources, see:
http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?OpenOntologyRepository_IPR#nid2HN0