



The Future of Semantic Wikis: Trends, Challenges and Outlook

**Dr. Mark Greaves
Vulcan Inc.
markg@vulcan.com**

The Semantic Wiki Series on the Ontolog Forum

Semantic Wiki Session Title	Chairs
A Survey of the Landscape and State-of-Art in Semantic Wiki	Sebastian Schaffert & Max Voelkel
Semantic Wiki Technology (1): An introduction to some of the Semantic Wiki Engines and Related Technologies	Harold Solbrig
Semantic Wiki Technology (2): MediaWiki, Semantic MediaWiki, Extensions, Add-on's and other Enhancements	Max Voelkel
Semantic Wiki Applications & Use Cases (1): vertical applications	Mike Dean & Peter Yim
Semantic Wiki Applications & Use Cases (2): horizontal applications	Li Ding & Jie Bao
The Future of Semantic Wikis: Trends, Challenges and Outlook	Mark Greaves and Rudi Studer

■ Semantic Wiki Series Goals

- Bring together developers, administrators, researchers, and users of semantic wikis, and provide a forum where they can share ideas and insights
- Survey the state-of-the-art in semantic wiki technology
- Get exposure to the range of use cases and applications
- Identify trends and challenges for semantic wikis

2 ■ **Audio and slides are archived at the Ontolog Forum site**



This Session: Trends, Challenges, and the Future

■ Goals for this Session

- Cap off the 5 previous sessions, with the session chairs presenting brief overviews and perspective based on their sessions
- Provide customary lightning talks and open discussion around where the semantic wiki community is, and where it is heading

■ Two upcoming Semantic Wiki meet-up activities

- *Social Semantic Web: Where Web 2.0 Meets Web 3.0*, AAAI Spring Symposium, March 23-25 at Stanford University
 - Workshop page: <http://tw.rpi.edu/sss09>
 - Symposium papers will address several blendings of semantics and social software, not just wikis
 - Informal F2F is planned afterward on Semantic MediaWiki and its extensions
- *Semantic Technology Conference 2009*, San Jose, CA
 - There will be several sessions and talks describing semantic wikis
 - There may be an SMW commercial user's group meeting

Trends and Outlooks: Three Areas to Watch

■ User Interfaces are THE problem

- Semantic Wikis are tools for *Publication* and *Consensus* around semantic data
- Wikis are now an IT code word for “zero-training”
- Semantic-specific wiki UIs must dovetail with the “wiki way”

■ We haven't yet retired the Knowledge Engineer

- There is no persuasive evidence that “schema-last” social systems like semantic wikis will converge on good, usable ontologies
 - We need to find the places where the crowd will converge on something valuable
- Currently, good semantic authoring still requires some amount of gardening
 - Authoring tool support with wizards, check-bots, etc
 - Knowledge engineers actually know something
- How do we achieve network effects in semantics?

■ Resist Scope Creep

- Semantic Wikis appear to have a “sweet spot” in RDF(S)-style KR
- Other tools can supplement wikis when the KR requirements get too complex