

KiWi – A Platform for Semantic Social Software (Demonstration)

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Abstract. Semantic Wikis have demonstrated the power of combining Wikis with Semantic Web technology. The KiWi system goes beyond Semantic Wikis by providing a flexible and adaptable platform for building different kinds of Social Semantic Software, powered by Semantic Web technology. While the KiWi project itself is primarily focussed on the knowledge management domain, this demonstration shows how KiWi aspects like the Wiki Principles and Content Versatility can be used to build completely different kinds of Social Software applications. The first application we show is an “ordinary” Semantic Wiki system preloaded with content from a online news site. The second application called TagIT is a map-based system where locations and routes on a map can be “tagged” by users with textual descriptions, SKOS categories, and multimedia material. Both applications are built on top of the same KiWi platform and actually share the same content.

1 Motivation: From Semantic Wikis to KiWi

Semantic Wikis have been under investigation in the research community since 2005 (see e.g. [1,2]). Although there are many different systems with many different properties, a common trait between all Semantic Wikis is that they aim to combine ordinary Wiki content and technology with Semantic Web technologies, either in order to provide better wikis (“Semantic Web for Wikis”) or to ease the creation of Semantic Web data (“Wikis for the Semantic Web”) [3]. Many also see Semantic Wikis as the “Semantic Web in a Nutshell”, because – like Wikis show similar traits to the Web as a whole – Semantic Wikis share many properties and also problems with the envisioned Semantic Web.

The EU-funded project KiWi (“Knowledge in a Wiki”) takes the Semantic Wiki approach to the next level by providing a platform that allows to build many different kinds of Social Semantic Software, based on the conviction that most social software follows the “Wiki Principles”. By “Wiki Principles”, we mean that the term “Wiki” does not refer to technology alone. It is more a new philosophy of working with Web content influenced by ideas in the OpenSource community. These principles have revolutionised the way we work with content in the (Social) Web: