



National Capital Region Chapter of the  
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction

## **Usability and the Semantic Web**

Presented by **Adrian Walker**, Reengineering

Monday, March 12, 2007, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at bitHeads, Inc.

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### **What?**

Tim Berners-Lee's vision is that "If HTML and the Web made all the online documents look like one huge book, the Semantic Web will make all the data in the world look like one huge database".

On the other hand, another Tim – Tim O'Reilly – envisions a "Web 2.0" that harnesses users' collective intelligence via lightweight user interfaces, development models, and business models.

The Semantic Web is a long-term project to create an infrastructure for programmers to use. Web 2.0, on the other hand, is mainly about high-level user experience and immediate benefits.

This talk outlines some current work on RDF, OWL, and rule interchange for the Semantic Web. I'll argue that a wider technical view of semantics will improve usability and speed up progress. The argument is illustrated with an online system called Internet Business Logic. The system combines three kinds of semantics with a lightweight author- and user-interface. It works as a kind of Wiki that people with spreadsheet-level skills can use to write and run knowledge in executable, open vocabulary English. I'll show examples of how it can be used for data mining and supply chain planning. As befits a Wiki, shared use of the system is free.

### **Who?**

**Dr. Adrian Walker** is the author of over 20 papers, and co-author of an Addison-Wesley book, on logic-based systems and databases. His experience includes: Assistant Professor at Rutgers University; Manager of Principles and Applications of Logic Programming, IBM Yorktown Research Laboratory; Manager, Internet Development at Eventra (a manufacturing supply chain company). He is currently the Chief Technology Officer of Reengineering LLC.

### **When and Where?**

This event will take place on Monday, March 12, 2007 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at bitHeads, Inc. (<http://www.bitheads.com/>), located at 1309 Carling Avenue, Ottawa (in the Westgate Shopping Centre), ON K1Z 7L3 Canada.

- Free parking is available on site.
- Bus routes that serve or run near the Westgate Shopping Centre include 85, 101, 151, and 176.
- Check OC Transpo website for more details (<http://www.octranspo.com/>).

**Note:** The bitHeads entrance is located outside on the east side of the building next door to Pet Smart and Blockbusters, and facing Merivale Rd and across from the Royal Ottawa Hospital.

Please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier to allow for registering.

The meeting fee is \$5 for non-members and free for CapCHI members (\$20/year). Membership is for the session period (September 2006-August 2007) - anyone can join!

Refreshments will be provided for the meeting.

For more information see [www.capchi.org](http://www.capchi.org) or contact [info@capchi.org](mailto:info@capchi.org).