

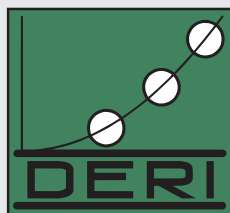


Call for Papers

**1st Workshop on Friend of a Friend,
Social Networking and the (Semantic) Web**

*Galway, Ireland
1st-2nd September 2004*

<http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/Europe/events/foaf-galway/>



FOAF Workshop Galway 2004

The FOAF (Friend of a Friend) project explores a unique combination of themes from social networking, search engines, knowledge representation and software development. FOAF was designed as a practical experiment that would highlight the technical, social and business challenges raised by the next generation of "Semantic" Web technology. Over the past few years, the FOAF developer community has been working on standards-based techniques for publishing and harvesting machine-readable descriptions of people, the links between them, and the things they create and do. The working assumption of the project is that such techniques will underpin the deployment of the next generation of Web technology, W3C's "Semantic Web". The FOAF project was created in the expectation that these machine-readable descriptions will grow, as the Semantic Web platform matures, to cover companies, organisations, documents, groups, products, file sharing and many other aspects of life, both online and off. The time has come to evaluate these assumptions in the context of the opportunities and challenges presented by the rise of FOAF and the Semantic Web.

Social networking is a recent topic gaining much interest and publicity. Social networking sites are community sites where users can maintain an online network of friends or associates for social or business purposes: whether looking for a job, reconnecting with old friends, moving to a new area, or dating. Most of these sites are based on a centralised architecture: all users' descriptions are stored in one big database. There is, however, growing user and business interest in portability between such sites, and for sophisticated "single sign-on" mechanisms that reduce the need for data re-entry, while allowing users to manifest different aspects of themselves in different contexts. FOAF-based import/export allows such sites to address user demand for control of "their" data; however, many deployment, privacy, authentication and engineering issues have not yet been fully explored. To what extent do mechanisms such as FOAF change the environment they attempt to describe? How can the visibility of personal data be restricted to certain audiences? How can businesses make money when their customers can migrate to new services with increased ease?

This workshop on FOAF, social networking and the Semantic Web provides a first chance to discuss the unusual combination of perspectives - academic and scientific, engineering, social, legal and business - drawn together by these trends. The workshop aims to bring together for the first time researchers interested in the effects, analysis and application of social networks on the (Semantic) Web as well as practitioners building applications and infrastructure. The workshop will also try to give a snapshot of current developments, as well as setting a roadmap for the future of both FOAF and social networking - especially in the context of the Semantic Web.

We invite the submission of full papers as well as position statements and demonstration descriptions. Topics of interest for full papers include, but are not limited to the following:

- Social network metadata standards
- Trust issues in social networks
- Profiles of FOAF, subsets, mapping to other vocabularies and formats
- Federated digital identity, single sign-on (decentralized identity management)
- Business models for the Semantic Web (life after banner advertisements)
- Integration with desktop and mobile applications (chat, IM, P2P, Bluetooth, address books, RSS/Atom)
- Privacy, etiquette and best practice issues for aggregators
- Infrastructure for social networking
- Applications of online social networking
- Knowledge management with social networks
- Mathematical analysis of social networks
- Exchange of social network information
- Applications of online social networks
- Shared annotations
- Use of digital signatures and encryption with RDF/XML
- RDF-based search engines, data harvesting and syndication
- GUIs (browsers, editors) for FOAF and Semantic Web data
- Formalisms that address problems of heterogenous changing data
- Pragmatics of sharing data schemas across subtly different datasets

Full paper submissions due: **18th July 2004**
 Position papers and demo proposals due: **22nd July 2004**
 Notification for acceptance: **5th August 2004**
 Web-ready versions due: **16th August 2004**
 Workshop date: **1st-2nd September 2004**

See the website for paper formatting and submission guidelines at:

<http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/Europe/events/foaf-galway/>



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Companies or organisations interested in sponsoring the FOAF Workshop can contact john.breslin@deri.ie

