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Transforming Social Media Data into Linked Enterprise Government Data Asset for Tracking Public Policy and Services

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Social Media in Government



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- o Governments understand the benefits derivable from harnessing social media data = Government 2.0
- o Many governments from United States thru United Arab Emirates to Australia; have developed policies enabling public agencies to use social media to promote more flexible and near real-time government-citizen interaction
- o However, technical challenges have contributed to limited exploitation of available social media contents, e.g. for policy tracking











Challenges - Scale



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- o How to cope with massive amount of real-time data generated on Social media by citizens?
- o How can governments effectively harness the collective intelligence of citizens embodied in social media contents for different purposes?
 - Gui di ng deci si on-maki ng process.
 - Sensing and tracking public sentiments on public policies
 - Monitoring quality of public services to improve QoS
 - Exploring different views regarding public policies, procedures and services





Challenges - Contents



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- o Pulling social media content is challenging
 - Many sources such as Twitter, Facebook, Google+
 - Different APIs
 - APIs call limitations
 - Different return APIs formats JSON, XML etc.
 - Privacy Limitation
 - Noise in data
- o Integrating social media contents into existing e-Government enterprise data requires significant engineering effort.



Solution - Technologies



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Empl oyi ng:

- 1) Semantic Web and Linked Data for information integration within the government enterprise
- 2) Natural Language Processing for Social Media Content or Text Analysis

To create: Social Media Linked Data Space

- Repository for holding social media content from different sources
- Transforms all captured contents into single machine readable format RDF
- Enriches and integrates homogenized social data with existing Enterprise Data Hub





Solution - Design

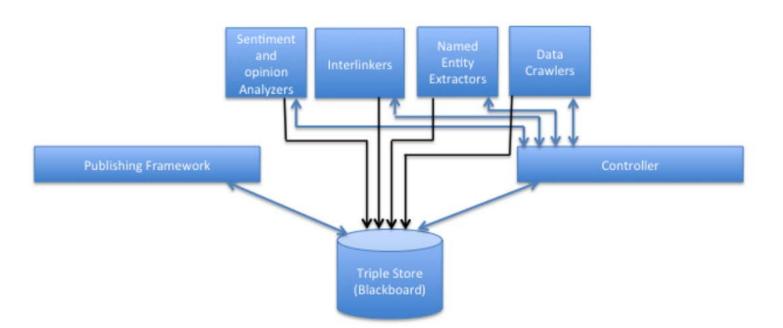


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The design of the Social Media Linked Data Space is based on two popular design patterns

- The implicit invocation pattern.
- The blackboard pattern.









Solution - Justification



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Technology Choice:

- One format for representation (RDF)
- One method for access the data (SPARQL)
- Linked to existing information hubs.

Design Choice:

- Simple and easy to scale.
- The components can be distributed.
- More components can easily be added to the system without disrupting the flow of the system.
- Uses standard protocols HTTP and SPARQL for communication.
- Platform and Language independent.



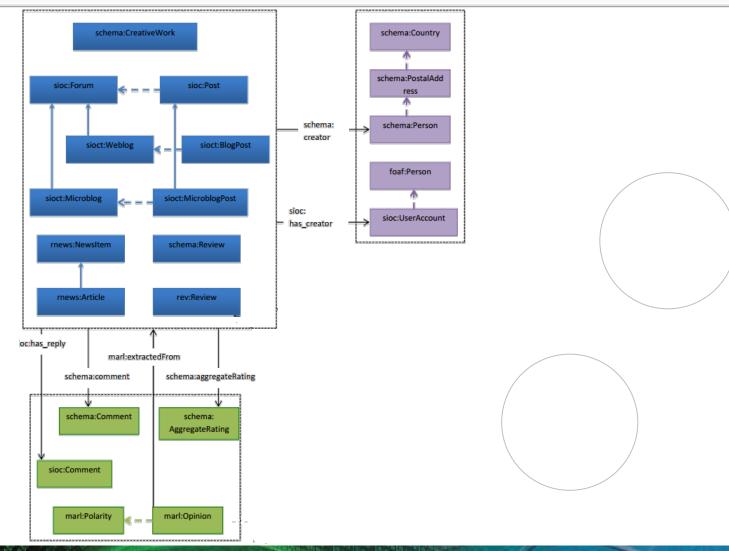




Solution - Data Model



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Solution - Enrichment



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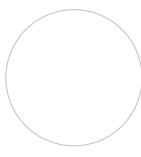
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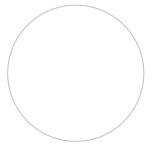
Techni ques:

- o Name Entity Recognition (NER).
- o Interlinking

Tools

- Stanford NER
- o DBpedia Spotlight
- o Zemanta









Appl i cati ons



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Rich services can be built around Social Media Linked Data Space to improve decision making and service delivery, including the following:

- Tracking public polices and specific services differentiated by geographies and demography
- identifying ideological biases in public policy discourse
- Sensing public sentiments on on-going programs
- Detecting odd events for instance resulting from government-citizen communication gap
- Monitoring quality of services based on opinions



Status & Beyond



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- 1) Proof of concept of Social Media Linked Data Space has been developed as part of an on-going project for product and service tracking.
- 2) Information on an initial set of entities have been extracted from 4 different social media platforms.
- 3) Plans to extract entities based on public policy and service vocabularies.







Bi bl i ography



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- 4) Osimo, D.: Web 2.0 in Government: Why and How? JRC Scientific and Technical Reports. European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (2008), http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC45269.pdf





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Thank you!

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