



## **LarKC**

*The Large Knowledge Collider  
a platform for large scale integrated reasoning and Web-search*

**FP7 – 215535**

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### **D8.3.1**

## **Community-building Efforts and Cross-fertilization**

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**Frank van Harmelen (VUA)  
Graham Hench (STI International)  
Zhisheng Huang (VUA)  
Eyal Oren (VUA)  
Elena Simperl (UIBK)  
Alexander Wahler (STI International)**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports the LarKC community building and cross-fertilization activities undertaken within the first six months of LarKC. In particular it elaborates on the LarKC community building channels, on the cooperation with other projects and communities of interest, and presents actual statistics to LarKC work.



## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

<b>IST Project Number</b>	FP7 – 215535	<b>Acronym</b>	LarKC
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<b>Document URL</b>			
<b>EU Project Officer</b>	Stefano Bertolo		




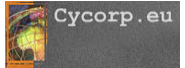








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<b>Authors (Partner)</b>	Frank van Harmelen (VUA), Graham Hench (STI International), Zhisheng Huang (VUA), Eyal Oren (VUA), Elena Simperl (UIBK), Alexander Wahler (STI International)			
<b>Resp. Author</b>	Frank van Harmelen (VUA)		<b>E-mail</b>	Frank.van.Harmelen@cs.vu.nl
	<b>Partner</b>	VUA	<b>Phone</b>	+31 (20) 598-7731

<b>Abstract (for dissemination)</b>	This document reports the LarKC community building and cross-fertilization activities undertaken within the first six months of LarKC. In particular it elaborates on the LarKC community building channels, on the cooperation with other projects and communities of interest, and presents actual statistics to LarKC work.
<b>Keywords</b>	community building, cross-fertilization

## PROJECT CONSORTIUM INFORMATION

Acronym	Partner	Contact
Semantic Technology Institute Innsbruck <a href="http://www.sti-innsbruck.at">http://www.sti-innsbruck.at</a>	STI 	Prof. Dr. Dieter Fensel Semantic Technology Institute (STI) Innsbruck, Austria E-mail: dieter.fensel@sti-innsbruck.at
AstraZeneca AB <a href="http://www.astrazeneca.com/">http://www.astrazeneca.com/</a>	ASTRAZENECA 	Bosse Andersson AstraZeneca Lund, Sweden E-mail: bo.h.andersson@astrazeneca.com
CEFRIEL SCRL. <a href="http://www.cefriel.it/">http://www.cefriel.it/</a>	CEFRIEL 	Emanuele Della Valle CEFRIEL SCRL. Milano, Italy E-mail: emanuele.dellavalle@cefriel.it
CYCROP, RAZISKOVANJE IN EKSPERIMENTALNI RAZVOJ D.O.O. <a href="http://cyceurope.com/">http://cyceurope.com/</a>	CYCROP 	Michael Witbrock CYCROP, RAZISKOVANJE IN EKSPERIMENTALNI RAZVOJ D.O.O., Ljubljana, Slovenia E-mail: witbrock@cyc.com
Hchstleistungsrechenzentrum, Universitaet Stuttgart <a href="http://www.hlrs.de/">http://www.hlrs.de/</a>	HLRS 	Georgina Gallizo Hchstleistungsrechenzentrum, Universitaet Stuttgart Stuttgart, Germany E-mail : gallizo@hlrs.de
Max-Planck-Institut fr Bildungsforschung <a href="http://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/index_js.en.htm">http://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/index_js.en.htm</a>	MAXPLANCKGESELLSCHAFT 	Michael Schooler, Max-Planck-Institut fr Bildungsforschung Berlin, Germany E-mail: schooler@mpib-berlin.mpg.de
Ontotext Lab, Sirma Group Corp. <a href="http://www.ontotext.com/">http://www.ontotext.com/</a>	ONTO 	Atanas Kiryakov, Ontotext Lab, Sirma Group Corp. Sofia, Bulgaria E-mail: atanas.kiryakov@sirma.bg
SALTLUX INC. <a href="http://www.saltlux.com/EN/main.asp">http://www.saltlux.com/EN/main.asp</a>	Saltlux 	Kono Kim SALTLUX INC Seoul, Korea E-mail: kono@saltlux.com
SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT <a href="http://www.siemens.de/">http://www.siemens.de/</a>	Siemens 	Dr. Volker Tresp SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT Muenchen, Germany E-mail: volker.tresp@siemens.com
THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/">http://www.shef.ac.uk/</a>	Sheffield 	Prof. Dr. Hamish Cunningham THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD Sheffield, UK E-mail: h.cunningham@dcs.shef.ac.uk
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM <a href="http://www.vu.nl/">http://www.vu.nl/</a>	Amsterdam 	Prof. Dr. Frank van Harmelen VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM Amsterdam, Netherlands E-mail: Frank.van.Harmelen@cs.vu.nl
THE INTERNATIONAL WIC INSTITUTE, BEIJING UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY <a href="http://www.iwici.org/">http://www.iwici.org/</a>	WICI 	Prof. Dr. Ning Zhong THE INTERNATIONAL WIC INSTITUTE Mabeshi, Japan E-mail: zhong@maebashi-it.ac.jp

<p>INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER <a href="http://www.iarc.fr/">http://www.iarc.fr/</a></p>	<p>IARC2</p>  The logo of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). It features a central Rod of Asclepius (a staff with a single snake) superimposed on a map of the world. The entire emblem is encircled by a laurel wreath.	<p>Dr. Paul Brennan INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER Lyon, France E-mail: <a href="mailto:brennan@iarc.fr">brennan@iarc.fr</a></p>
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this task is to ensure that the work carried on throughout the project is aligned to similar inter-disciplinary initiatives in order to increase its quality, impact and visibility within the relevant communities of practice. The core part of the activities planned for this task is community building and networking. This includes activities targeted at encouraging inter-disciplinary scientific collaboration and cross-fertilization, and those aimed at promoting the creation of a user community of early adopters of and contributors to the LarKC technologies. The former will be achieved by individual partners through their collaboration with relevant initiatives and parties in their field of activities, and through the organization of dedicated events. The main instrument for the implementation of the latter will be the Early Access Group.

This document is an accumulated report of the LarKC community building and cross-fertilization activities throughout the duration of the project. The corresponding materials will be regularly updated based on the user feedback received. The results of this interaction will be summarized in the versions of D8.3 due M18, M33, and M42, respectively.

The current version of this document reports on relevant activities undertaken within the first six months of LarKC. In particular it elaborates on the LarKC community building channels, on the cooperation with other projects and communities of interest, and presents actual statistics to LarKC work.

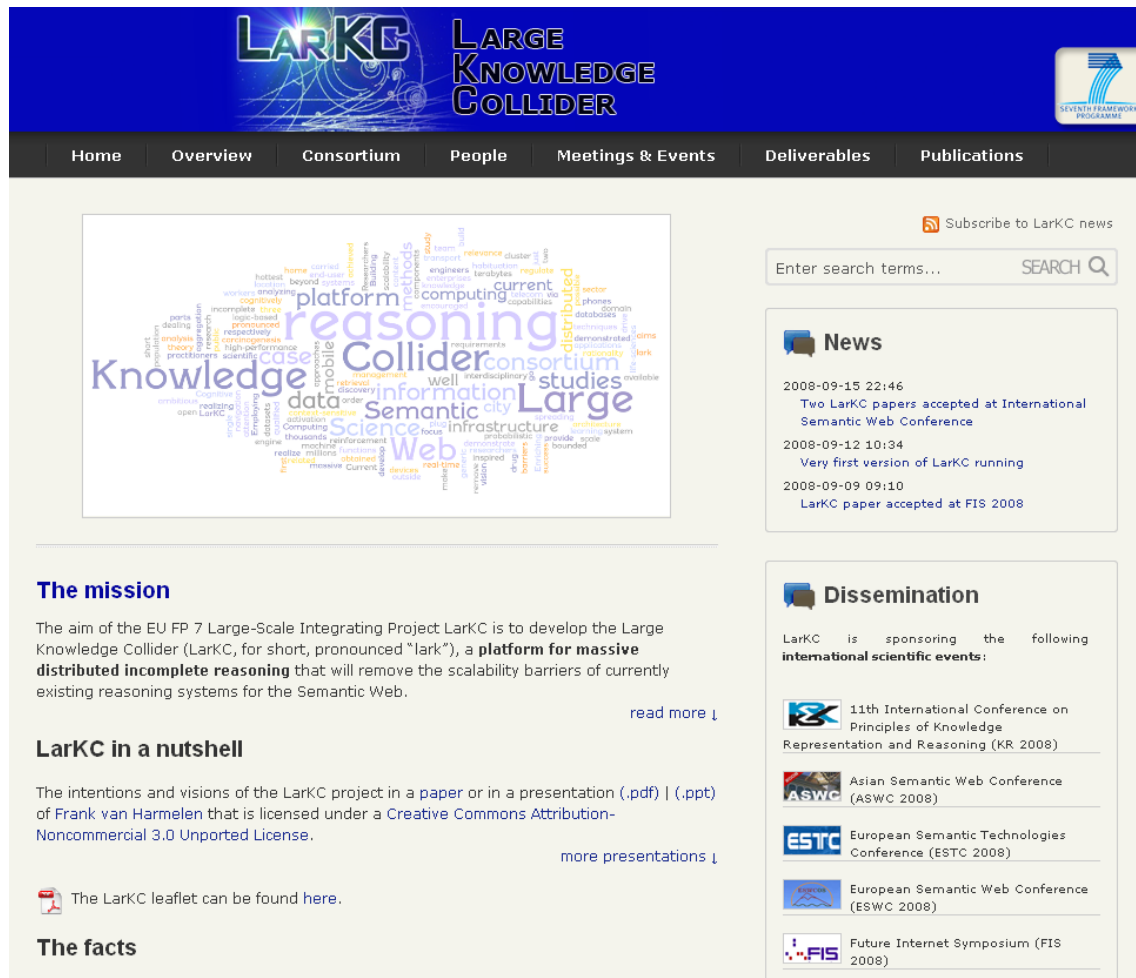
## 2 LARKC COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

In this chapter, we will give an overview of the various community building, networking and cross-fertilization channels implemented in the LarKC project: the LarKC Website, the project mailing lists, the LarKC Wiki, and the LarKC Weblog. These channels also support complementary activities such as training and dissemination, which are addressed in deliverables D8.1 and D8.2, respectively.

### 2.1 LarKC Website

The project Web site, available at <http://www.larkc.eu>, functions as a project dissemination tool, as a training portal and as a place demonstrating the most important achievements of the project. It is based on a content management system, so that project participants and interested users can register and be notified when new deliverables or software become available.

A screenshot of the LarKC Website is shown in Figure 2.1.



The screenshot shows the LarKC website homepage. At the top, there is a blue header with the LARKC logo and the text 'LARGE KNOWLEDGE COLLIDER'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Overview, Consortium, People, Meetings & Events, Deliverables, and Publications. The main content area features a large word cloud with terms like 'reasoning', 'Knowledge', 'data', 'information', 'studies', 'Semantic', 'Web', 'collider', 'consortium', 'platform', 'distributed', 'incomplete', 'reasoning', 'scalability', 'barriers', 'currently', 'existing', 'reasoning', 'systems', 'for', 'the', 'Semantic', 'Web'. To the right of the word cloud is a search bar and a 'Subscribe to LarKC news' button. Below the word cloud, there are three main sections: 'The mission', 'LarKC in a nutshell', and 'The facts'. 'The mission' describes the project's goal to develop a platform for massive distributed incomplete reasoning. 'LarKC in a nutshell' provides a brief overview and links to a paper and presentations. 'The facts' lists key events and conferences. On the right side, there are three boxes: 'News' with recent updates, 'Dissemination' listing international scientific events, and a 'Subscribe to LarKC news' button.

Figure 2.1: LarKC Website

More information about the project Web site is available in deliverable D8.2, which is due M6.

## 2.2 LarKC Mailing Lists

The LarKC mailing lists are designed for the communication by emails for internal groups or external groups (e.g., early access group). Till September 2008, we have set up the following mailing lists, mainly for the internal group communication. The mailing lists for external group communications will be set up in the near future.

- **Ict-larkc** for discussions of the whole LarKC consortium
- **Larkc-epmb** for discussions of the LarKC Executive Project management Board
- **Larkc-tmb** for discussions of the LarKC Technical Management Board
- **Larkc-wp1** for internal discussions of LarKC WP1
- **Larkc-wp2** for internal discussions of LarKC WP2
- **Larkc-wp3** for internal discussions of LarKC WP3
- **Larkc-wp4** for internal discussions of LarKC WP4
- **Larkc-wp5** for internal discussions of LarKC WP5
- **Larkc-wp6** for internal discussions of LarKC WP6
- **Larkc-wp7a** for internal discussions of LarKC WP7a
- **Larkc-wp7b** for internal discussions of LarKC WP7b
- **Larkc-wp8** for internal discussions of LarKC WP8
- **Larkc-wp9** for internal discussions of LarKC WP9

## 2.3 LarKC Wiki

The LarKC Wiki, available at <http://wiki.larkc.eu> serves as an internal project discussion forum and knowledge sharing platform, but also as a public portal about relevant information. A screenshot of the LarKC Wiki is shown in Figure 2.2.

The wiki is divided in a private part (<http://wiki.larkc.eu/LarkcProject> and below) which is only accessible to the project members. On this private part, each work package created their own subsection with pages on relevant topics, work scheduling, information sharing, etc. The private part also includes project-internal management information, local organisation details of project meetings etc. The private part is accessible only to project members (both for read- and write-access, but has no further access control: all members can see and edit all information, and are indeed encouraged to do so.

The public part of the wiki (everything not declared private) is readable for everyone, but writable only by the project partners. The public part contains information about various relevant technology topics (such as approximate reasoning, triple stores, and distributed computing), giving a general introduction to

these topics and links to further information. The public part also lists information about LarKC events, early adopters, and opportunities to meet and interact with LarKC project members.

At the time of writing (September 2008), the LarKC wiki contains some 125 pages, of which some 60 project internal. In total, these pages have been updated some 950 times since the start of the wiki (June 2008), meaning that each page has been edited on average around 8 times.

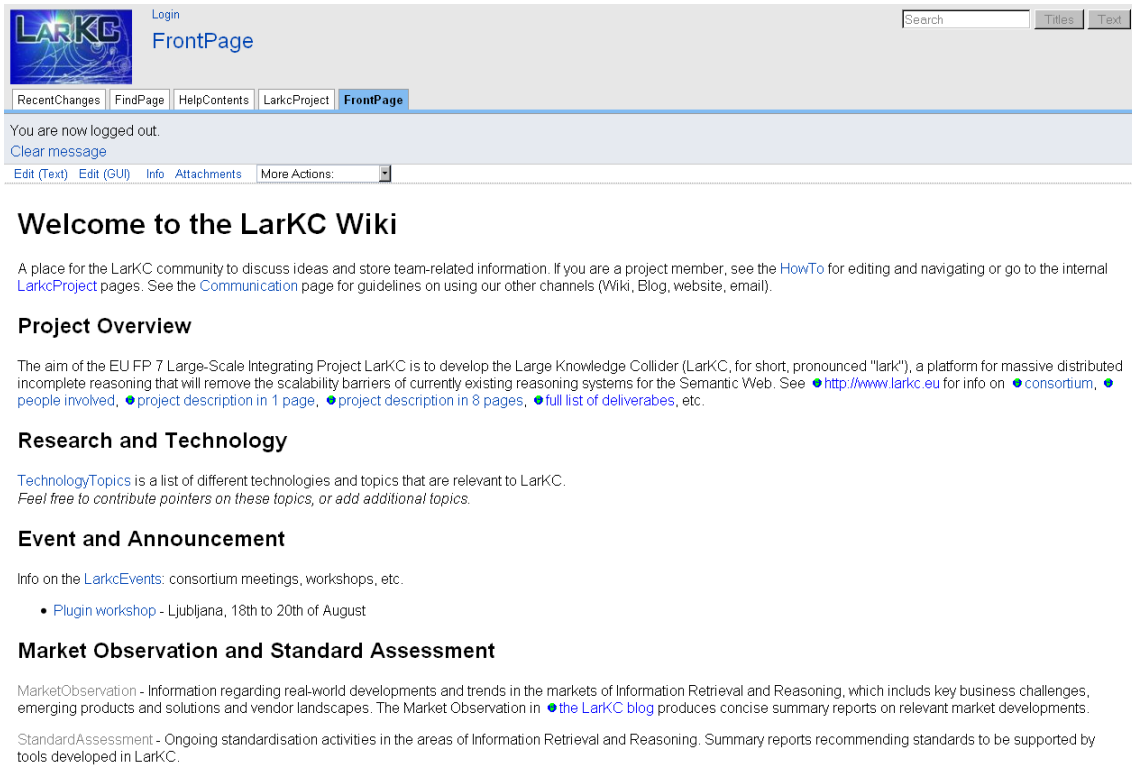


Figure 2.2: LarKC Wiki

## 2.4 LarKC Blog

The LarKC Blog, available at <http://blog.larkc.eu>, serves as a public discussion forum and knowledge sharing platform, which are accessible both for internal members and external people. A screenshot of the LarKC Blog is shown in Figure 2.3.

The LarKC Blog plays a similar but different role like that of the LarKC Wiki. The former is a forum mainly for public discussion and the latter is a place mainly for accumulated knowledge sharing. Intuitively, a blog is like a journal, whereas a wiki is like a workshop. It is useful to use a blog if one wants to have an ongoing dialogue or discussion. For example, the WP6 people found it is useful to raise a discussion on the difference between the closed world assumption and open world assumption for urban computing, therefore a post was created at the Blog for this discussion. The LarKC Wiki, however, is less about new content every day, and more about evolving the same content over time. For example, a technical topics hierarchy is designed in the LarKC Wiki to collect the relevant research

resources. See the discussion about the LarKC Wiki for internal training in the LarKC deliverable D8.1 for the detail. In short, the LarKC Blog is designed for both internal and external communicating, whereas the LarKC Wiki is designed for getting work done, or working together.

## LarKC weblog

 [Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#)

### Racing RDF stores against databases

September 18th, 2008

Chris Bizer has developed a benchmark for RDF stores, and has run it to compare native RDF/SPARQL stores against SQL databases (wrapped as RDF stores). The results are rather interesting, see <http://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/semantic-web/2008Sep/0128.html>.

All of this run on datasets ranging from 250k to 100M triples.

The management summary of this seems to be that:

1. that relational database to RDF wrappers generally outperform RDF stores for larger dataset sizes.
2. that no store outperforms the others for all queries and dataset sizes.
3. that the query throughput still varies widely within the multi-client scenario.
4. that the fastest RDF store is still 7 times slower than a relational database.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [No Comments](#) »

### The First LarKC API and Prototype

September 16th, 2008

by *Barry Bishop, STI-Innsbruck*

A first draft of the LarKC API for plug-ins has been created. This API is mostly the product of an intensive workshop kindly hosted for us by CyC Europe in Ljubljana in August.

#### Archives

- » [September 2008](#)
- » [August 2008](#)
- » [July 2008](#)
- » [June 2008](#)

#### Categories

- » [Uncategorized](#) (27)

#### Meta

- » [Log in](#)
- » [Valid XHTML](#)
- » [XFN](#)
- » [WordPress](#)

Figure 2.3: LarKC Blog

At the time of writing (September 2008), the LarKC Blog contains 27 posts and 16 comments, which cover diverse topics. Figure 2.4 shows part of the topics which are posted in the LarKC Blog. So far these pages have been viewed 5521 times by 1047 visitors since June 5th, 2008 when the first message was posted at the Blog. The statistics overview of the LarKC Blog is shown in Figure 2.5<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>The server was down on Sept 7, 2008.

Date	Title	Author	Categories	Tags	Status
22 hours ago	<a href="#">Racing RDF stores against databases</a>	FrankVanHarmelen	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/09/16	<a href="#">The First LarkC API and Prototype</a>	BarryBishop	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/09/05	<a href="#">Big Data</a>	IreneCelino	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/09/04	<a href="#">Technology Cooperation between Korea and EU</a>	Kono	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/09/04	<a href="#">Best Practice Recipes for Publishing RDF Vocabularies</a>	GeorginaGallizo	Uncategorized	OWL, RDF, W3C	Published
2008/08/25	<a href="#">XProc: An XML Pipeline Language</a>	zhisheng	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/08/02	<a href="#">netbeans IDE 6.5 to support groovy</a>	quesada	Uncategorized	groovy, IDE, tools	Published
2008/07/28	<a href="#">REWERSE</a>	huang	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/14	<a href="#">Slovenia and New Zealand are 43% related.</a>	MichaelWitbrock	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/13	<a href="#">Real Time Cities</a>	MichaelWitbrock	Uncategorized	Grid computing, LarkC, San Francisco California, sensor network	Published
2008/07/11	<a href="#">Librarianship: the Forgotten Silver Bullet?</a>	HamishCunningham	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/09	<a href="#">Xerox looking at semantic technologies</a>	FrankVanHarmelen	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/07	<a href="#">ReadWriteWeb on Semantic Web</a>	FrankVanHarmelen	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/06	<a href="#">Popular Indian IT magazine writing about Semantic Web</a>	FrankVanHarmelen	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published
2008/07/03	<a href="#">Thousands of cores?</a>	FrankVanHarmelen	Uncategorized	No Tags	Published

Figure 2.4: Part of Posts at LarkC Blog

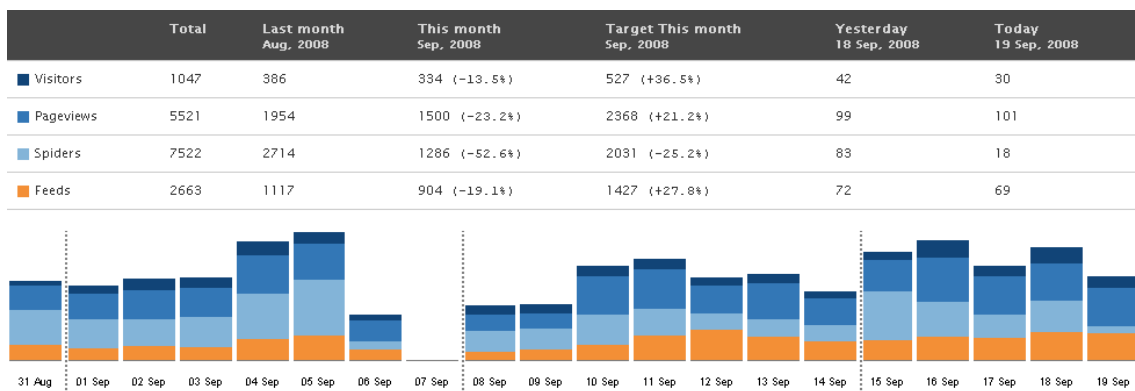


Figure 2.5: Statistics Overview of LarkC Blog

## 3 COOPERATION AND ADVISORY

### 3.1 Cooperation with Other Projects

LarKC will initiate a cross-project cluster on Web scalability within STI, in which several related project of the current and future EU FP have already showed interest to contribute to: the FP6 STREP TripCom, the FP7 IP OKKAM, and others. These projects share the overall goal of developing new approaches for realizing scalable systems at Web level using semantic technologies and will benefit from the support provided by STI through its road mapping, standardization, commercialization, and education services.

A first event in this direction was organized by the aforementioned projects and STI International at the IEEE International Conference on Semantic Computing ICSC 2008, in August 2008. It is described in the next section.

**TripCom** The project TripCom<sup>1</sup> provides the foundational conceptual work and corresponding implementation for the realization of a space-based coordination and communication middleware for the Semantic Web. As the first project in this field, TripCom uses primarily RDF as a representation language for space data, and exploits reasoning on semantic data only to a limited extent. The latter is also due to the the lack of appropriate instruments to combine reasoning with the coordination model underlying such systems. LarKC technology will allow TripCom to take up its initial ideas and achievements towards fully Semantic Web-enabled spaces, to design and implement the extensions or changes needed in order to feasibly support more expressive Semantic Web formalisms, and to embed reasoning into distributed spaces. In turn, TripCom's expertise in designing and deploying scalable distributed systems for RDF data look-up, as well as its analysis of trade-offs of middleware functionals and non-functionals with regard to scalability are valuable inputs for the development team of LarKC in this early stage of the project. The collaboration with TripCom is ensured through several partners (UIBK, OntoText, Cefriel), participating in both projects. A first working meeting, including an overview talk by Reto Krummenacher (UIBK) and discussions on the potential usage of the Triple Space infrastructure, was organized at the LarKC Q2 meeting in Amsterdam.

**OKKAM** intensive discussions have been ongoing with OKKAM, which is aimed at providing an infrastructure for the management of unique identifiers on the Semantic Web. Two opportunities have been identified: the LarKC use-cases might benefit from the OKKAM infrastructure. In particular WP7a (early clinical drug development) is interested in deploying the OKKAM infrastructure for life-science identifiers. Conversely, the OKKAM platform might benefit from the LarKC reasoning capacity that would be needed for proper reasoning about identity in domains plagued by homonym and synonym problems. There is regular contact (at least monthly, often more frequently) contact both at management level and at the level of workpackages.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.tripcom.org>

**ALERT** is aimed at developing the technology for detecting adverse drug events from data in patient-records. This particular task is very relevant to the work in WP7a (early clinical drug development). Astrazeneca is the leading pharmaceutical participant in ALERT, as well as being the lead partner in LarKC's WP7a. Contact has been established between the ALERT and LarKC employees inside Astrazeneca, and a meeting has been held between the scientific directors of both projects (for LarKC: Dr. van Mulligen, Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam). Dr. van Mulligen also spoke at a plenary session at the LarKC meeting in Amsterdam in July, and information is being exchanged in the context of WP7a.

## 3.2 Advisory Board

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide the project with advice on all matters, both technical issues, dissemination opportunities, possible links with industry and with other research projects, etc. The members of the Advisory Board will receive quarterly briefings on the progress of the project, and will be invited once a year to attend a briefing meeting where they will be asked to give feedback and guidance to the project based on the material presented to them at and before the meeting.

Current members of the advisory board are

- Dr. Mark Greaves, director, Knowledge Systems at Vulcan Inc.
- Dr. Ron Brachman, worldwide head of research at Yahoo!
- The third position is held vacant until it is clear from which additional expertise the project would benefit most.

## 4 EVENTS AS COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS AND CROSS-FERTILIZATION

The Scalability of Semantic Computing special session at the IEEE ICSC2008<sup>1</sup> was a cross-project initiative of several FP6 and FP7 European projects which share the overall goal of developing new approaches for realizing scalable systems at Web level using Semantic Web and Semantic Web services technology. This cross-project coordination lead by STI International consists of FP6 IP SUPER, FP6 STREP TripCom, FP7 IP LarKC, FP7 IP SOA4All, FP7 IP OKKAM and FP7 SA Service Web 3.0.

The special session, titled “Scalability in Semantic Computing: the European View” gave an overview of some of the most important achievements of European research in its enterprise towards the realization of scalable and robust semantic technologies. The papers presented throughout the session addressed the following topics:

- Semantic Service Orientation - the FP7 IP SOA4ALL
- Semantic Middleware - the FP6 STREP TripCom
- Semantic Web Reasoning - the FP7 IP LarKC
- Identity and Reference Management - the FP7 IP OKKAM
- Semantic Business Process Management - the FP6 IP SUPER

The event was rounded off by two further presentations: a keynote by Randy Shoup, Distinguished Architect in the eBay Marketplace Architecture Group, who presented real-world strategies for scaling, including partitioning, asynchrony, virtualization, and automation, applied at the largest auction site in the world, and potential use cases for semantic technologies, and reasoning, in this setting; and a concluding presentation by Graham Hench, STI International, who presented a first outline of a future conceptual road map for scalable semantic computing leveraging the results, findings and insights of individual project-related contributions.

We are now organizing the NeFors08 (the 2008 Workshop on New forms of reasoning for the Semantic Web: scalable, tolerant and dynamic<sup>2</sup>). This workshop is intended to focus on the problems of scalability and robustness of reasoning on the Web, and furthermore to investigate alternative reasoning methods, which take incompleteness and distribution of data and knowledge as inherent properties into account. The workshop will take place during the 3rd Asian Semantic Web Conference (ASWC2008), December 2008, in Thailand, as a full-day event. NeForS08 is the follow-up of the First international workshop on “New forms of reasoning for the Semantic Web: scalable, tolerant and dynamic”, which took place in Busan, Korea in November 2007 and was co-located with the 6th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2007) and 2nd Asian Semantic Web Conference (ASWC 2007).

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<sup>1</sup>ICSC2008 was held in Santa Clara, CA, USA, August 4-7, 2008. <http://icsc.eecs.uci.edu/>

<sup>2</sup><http://nefors08.larkc.eu/>

## 5 PLAN OF COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS AND CROSS-FERTILIZATION

### 5.1 Inter-disciplinary Community Building

The scientific communities that will be targeted by our inter-disciplinary community building efforts are very diverse and hitherto largely independent of each other: cognitive systems, Web intelligence, Semantic Web and knowledge technologies, machine learning, multi-agent systems, information and game theory. One way we plan to promote cross-fertilization will be through inter-disciplinary workshops, organized alongside major conferences in the respective research fields.

The LarKC partners representing each of these diverse research areas will be responsible to promote the project results within the respective communities:

- WICI for the Web Intelligence community, through the participation in the Web Intelligence Consortium,
- MPG and WICI for the cognitive research community,
- STI and VUA for the Semantic Web and knowledge technology community, through their extensive involvement as organizers of all major conferences etc. In this respect LarKC partners are already involved in the organization of scientific workshops on topics which are integral part of the project.

### 5.2 Early Access Group

LarKC will create a **Early Access Group** that will be open to participation to scientists working in related fields. Members of this group will get early access to project infrastructure and will be invited to experiment with plug-ins on the LarKC platform (i.e., the Collider). This will both verify the generality of the plug-in interfaces and encourage take-up of the project results.

We estimate that the Early Access Group will have a number of 10 to 20 scientists from each related field. In case of a smaller number, dissemination channels (e.g. workshops, conferences, etc.) and communication channels (mailing lists) will be used to advertise LarKC in the related fields and get scientists from these fields involved in the experiments. In case of a larger number, scientists with most challenging scenarios and already developed plugins will have priority on the Collider. However, there are already incoming enquiries of interest to participate in the EAG from different universities in Europe. Let us be confident that this situation will not occur.

### 5.3 STI International Community

As a third party member of the LarKC consortium, STI International supports several community building activities targeted towards those devoted to furthering the development of semantic technologies, however open to all those interested in exploiting the rapid progressions achieved in this field. The STI International

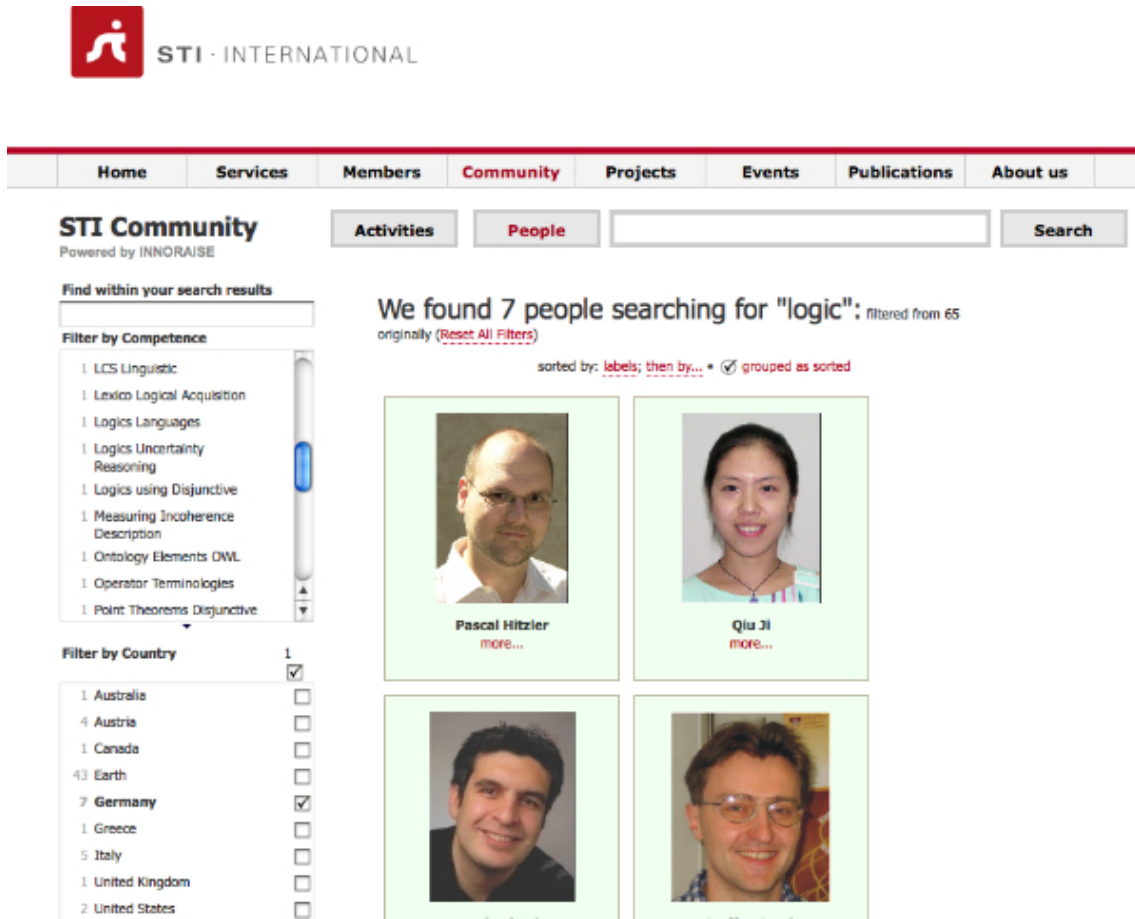


Figure 5.1: STI Community Profile Browser

Community<sup>1</sup> relies on the following media platforms designed to provide interested visitors with a wealth of information related to semantic technologies.

### 5.3.1 STI Community Profiles

A main service provided to the STI International Community is an expert finder and profile tracker targeted towards professional and academic audiences interested in semantic technologies. Empowered by the semantic technology developed in the INNORAISE<sup>2</sup> project, the Web application helps you actively follow, interact, and evaluate user credibility and notability within the broad semantic technology community. The innovative search platform allows members to discover other interesting people based on their competences and your topics of interest, as well as track their online trails left in the Web 2.0 universe. The STI International Community already features information about more than 3000 individuals with some sort of expertise in semantic technologies, which have been identified using INNORAISE social search technology. Please refer to Figure 5.1 for a screenshot.

Additional surveys of social networks and industrial community activities relevant to LarKC have also been conducted by STI International. The following Facebook groups represent a significantly large group of those interested in the

<sup>1</sup><http://www.sti2.org/index.php/community>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.innoraize.com>

research and development of semantic technologies which should not be ignored: Web 3.0<sup>3</sup> 11,303 members, The Semantic Web - Benefits, Education & Outreach<sup>4</sup> 617 members, Semantic Technology Forum<sup>5</sup> 305 members (administered by STI International), and Semantic Web and Web x.0 R&D<sup>6</sup> 197 members. Currently, the LarKC<sup>7</sup> group on Facebook has 53 members.

Though communities in general become less collaborative as they enter the industrial market, it is important to consider market forecasts as well as successful uptake and industrial adoption that have already started to take place. Project10Xs "Semantic Wave 2008 Report: Industry Roadmap to Web 3.0 & Multibillion Dollar Market Opportunities"<sup>8</sup> predicts markets for semantic technology in ICT to exceed \$10 billion by 2010 and lists some 360 companies and organizations which provide and develop semantic technologies. Estimates based on semantize<sup>9</sup>, a site that gathers and categorizes online content related to semantic technology, has a collection of approximately 150 companies and organizations.

### 5.3.2 STI Blog

The STI blog is authored by the coordinating members of STI International, including some members from the LarKC consortium. It aims to provide its readers with:

- An up-to-date, fair presentation of the most controversial topics and developments of semantic technologies
- An analytical synopsis of scientific and industrial events related to semantic technologies
- A medium for the presentation of visionary ideas and directives to be fulfilled by the semantic technology community
- A review of other miscellaneous activities related to the semantic technology community

The blog is open for all readers, however in order to leave comments you are required to join the STI Community (which only requires submitting your name and email address).

### 5.3.3 STI Semantic Apps

Each month, the STI Community website will showcase a semantically-oriented piece of software developed in part by the STI International member organizations, or submitted by a member of the STI Community. In addition to publicizing the tool to interested community members, an evaluation questionnaire (and, later, the compiled results) is also be made available to registered community users. Such a

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2256535634>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2220211728>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9236901547>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.facebook.com/inbox/#/group.php?gid=2774323881>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4661184627>

<sup>8</sup><http://project10x.com/dispatch.php?task=exsum&promo=sw20081000>

<sup>9</sup><http://semantize.com/>

platform will prove to be quite valuable once LarKC has produced distributable prototypes ready to be evaluated by a larger user group.

#### **5.3.4 STI Resources**

The STI Resources section of the community website provides a collection of some of the most valuable up-to-date resources pertaining to the advancements in semantic technology and related fields. An ongoing collection of STI recommended feeds, working-, activity-, and interest- groups of particular relevance can be found here. An RSS feed of the LarKC Weblog is also included.

#### **5.3.5 STI Mailing List**

Finally, a mailing list consisting of all STI Community members has been created in order to announce important events, software releases, and abstract reports of the recent activities of the STI Member organizations. There are currently over 150 members subscribed to the mailing list.

## 6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this document, we have analyzed various communication channels for the community building. The LarKC website, the LarKC mailing lists, the LarKC Wiki, and the LarKC Blog have served as infrastructures for internal/external communication and knowledge sharing among internal/external members. We have reported the cooperation with other projects and various events of community building efforts and cross-fertilization. We have presented a detailed plan of the community building efforts and cross-fertilization for coming periods.