NeOn: Lifecycle Support for Networked Ontologies
Integrated Project (IST-2005-027595)
Priority: IST-2004-2.4.7 – “Semantic-based knowledge and content systems”

D6.7.2 Update of the core NeOn Toolkit

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This document is an accompanying document to the main contribution of this deliverable, which is a software deliverable and embraces an update of the open-source version of the core NeOn Toolkit V1.2 which now contains complete modelling facilities for OWL-DL ontologies..
# NeOn Consortium

This document is a part of the NeOn research project funded by the IST Programme of the Commission of the European Communities by the grant number IST-2005-027595. The following partners are involved in the project:

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Change Log

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Executive Summary

This deliverable consists of two parts, (i) the software representing the third iteration of the NeOn Toolkit (V1.2) and (ii) this accompanying document. The NeOn Toolkit V1.2 now contains complete modelling facilities for OWL-DL ontologies.

The NeOn Toolkit was released at the end of September 2008 in three different versions: a source-code version for developers, a basic and an extended configuration for users. The different versions are released under different software licenses, which range from the open-source Eclipse Public License, over a free-ware license to a proprietary evaluation license for the extended configuration that contains commercial plugins.

This new version of the toolkit provides a greatly improved basis for the plugins developed by the scientific partners in the NeOn project. These plugins were mainly geared towards the OWL language and are now complemented by editing facilities for OWL-DL ontologies.
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1 Introduction

This deliver is the second iteration of its predecessor, D6.6.1 “Realisation & early evaluation of basic NeOn tools in NeOn Toolkit V1” [NeOn D6.6.1]. It describes the advancements of the NeOn Toolkit core plugins which are now contained in the NeOn Toolkit release v1.2.

The goal of this deliverable, which mainly consists of the software artefact (i.e. the NeOn Toolkit v1.2) is the provision of sufficient modelling capabilities to create and maintain OWL DL ontologies. The software that we released end of September 2008 now provides this functionality and thus offers an OWL modelling platform for NeOn partners, the NeOn use cases and other NeOn users. Since the main contribution of this deliverable is a piece of source code, we restrict the presentation here to a brief overview of the newly developed features. A more detailed description is contained in the update to the documentation deliverable “NeOn Toolkit Documentation” [NeOn D6.6.2]

The introduction to the OWL modelling feature is presented in Section 2. Sections 3 and 4 present the licensing decisions and the provided functionalities of the different configurations of the NeOn Toolkit. We close with some concluding remarks and an outlook towards future developments.
2 The OWL Modelling Facilities of the NeOn Toolkit

With the current release V1.2 of the NeOn Toolkit we complete the implementation of the OWL modelling support. The NeOn Toolkit enables users to load, browse, modify and store OWL-DL ontologies. For a complete documentation of this feature cf. [NeOn D6.6.2].

2.1 The OWL Perspective

The OWL Editor is structured in a similar way as the F-logic modelling facilities of the NeOn Toolkit. The OWL modelling tools are organized in the so-called OWL perspective (cf. Figure 1), which consists of the following main panels:

- **Ontology Navigator**: The Ontology Navigator shows the ontology projects, their corresponding ontologies, and the elements of the ontologies organized in a hierarchical manner. It supports drag-and-drop for moving or copying entities and offers a couple of actions on entities via context-menus.

- **Individuals panel**: The Individuals panel displays all instances of the selected class.

- **Entity Properties panel**: The Entity Properties panel is the main work area for defining and modifying ontology elements.

![Figure 1: The OWL perspective](image)

The OWL editor has been completely redesigned. Especially, the entity property views of the different OWL entities have changed drastically. The details of each entity are organized on multiple tabs to separate the different aspects. Each tab contains several sections, which typically represent special types of OWL axioms. Each section can be minimized to focus on special information. The whole UI is completely keyboard navigable which allows experienced users to quickly navigate and modify the model,
2.2 The OWL Class Entity Properties View

As an example for the new presentation of the OWL model we explain the layout for the details of OWL classes (i.e. the OWL class Entities Properties View) here. For OWL classes three aspects have been identified:

- Modelling of properties relevant for the class via property restrictions
- Modelling of taxonomic relationships to other classes
- Annotations for the class

Modelling of properties relevant for the class via property restrictions

OWL can be used to model situations in which the members of a particular class must have certain properties. You can use various restriction statements to indicate that something should apply to all values of a property versus only for some members. In addition, you can even specify a particular value for a property of all members of a class. The OWL editor provides the following restriction types:

- owl:allValuesFrom (ALL)
- owl:someValuesFrom (SOME)
- owl:hasValue (HAS_VALUE)
- owl:maxCardinality (AT_MOST/MAX)
- owl:minCardinality (AT_LEAST/MIN)
- owl:cardinality (EXACTLY/CARD)

The three cardinality restrictions can take class descriptions as range argument. In this case they are treated as qualified number restrictions according to the upcoming OWL 2 specification.1

Since often, the ranges of properties are represented by complex classes we adopted the Manchester Syntax2 for entering and displaying complex class descriptions in the OWL editor. The Manchester Syntax is widely deployed since it is easier to read and write than the abstract description logic notation.

---

1 Cf. http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/WD-owl2-new-features-20081202/#F5:_Qualified_cardinality
2 http://www.w3.org/2007/OWL/wiki/ManchesterSyntax
Class restrictions can either be specified as Super Restrictions or Equivalent Restrictions. If you add the class restriction in the Super Restriction section, the class under consideration will become a subclass of the restriction class (i.e. you define a necessary condition for the class). On the other hand, if you add the class restriction in the Equivalent Restrictions section, both the restriction class and the restricted class will be interpreted as equivalent, which means that they always have exactly the same members (i.e. you define a necessary and sufficient condition for the class).

**Modelling of taxonomic relationships to other classes**

On the taxonomy tab you can define classes by relating two class descriptions. Formally restrictions are also classes, but they have a different focus. They essentially talk about properties associated with a class and thus we provide a specialized user interface for them (cf. the section above).

OWL contains three language constructs for taxonomically combining class descriptions into class axioms:

- **Subclasses.** The language construct `rdfs:subClassOf` allows you to say that a class is a subset of another class.

- **Equivalent Classes.** The OWL language construct `owl:equivalentClass` allows you to say that a class has exactly the same members as another class.

- **Disjoint Classes.** The OWL language construct `owl:disjointWith` allows you to say that a class has no members in common with another class.
In addition to these language constructs, the OWL Editor allows you to specify the **super classes** of a class, which is the same as making the class under consideration a subclass of another (parent) class.

![Figure 3: Defining taxonomic relations between classes](image)

**Annotations for the class**

The annotations tab is the same for all OWL entities. Here, users can add annotations that are used to add information to resources of the ontology. They contain useful information such as the creator or some human-readable labels (rdfs:label) and comments (rdfs:comment).
2.3 Usability Features

The OWL editor of the NeOn Toolkit provides a number of helpful features that makes modelling OWL ontologies easier for users:

Navigation

If a resource is selected in either the Ontology Navigator or the Individuals panel, it will be loaded in the Entity Properties panel. From there you can navigate to other resources by pressing the Control key (Ctrl) and clicking its name.

Figure 4: Defining annotations for classes

Figure 5: Navigation facility “jump to entity”
Autocomplete

The OWL Editor also features a useful autocomplete function. Autocomplete involves the OWL Editor predicting an entity name that you want to type without actually typing it completely. It is available in all text boxes while in edit mode. You can start autocomplete by clicking `Ctrl+space` on your keyboard or by simply starting to type; autocomplete starts within a second.

![Figure 6: Autocomplete in the edit-boxes of the entity properties view](#)

Entity Label Mode

The labels that are displayed for entities in the different fields of the user interface depend on the selected **Entity Label Mode**. You can select between four different modes:

- **Complete URI**. Displays the complete URI of an entity (e.g., "http://www.example.org/sampleOntology#Company")
- **Local Name**. Displays only the local name of an entity (e.g., "Company"). This makes the ontology a lot more readable.
- **QName**. Displays the namespace prefix and local name of an entity (e.g., "onto:Company"). This is the recommended setting and is especially useful when multiple ontologies are used or different namespaces are in use.
- **Language**. If you provide a label (rdfs:label) in a specific language for an entity, this option displays the language label for every occurrence of the entity, thus providing multi-language support. Notice that only those languages are available which are specified in the Window >> Preferences >> Language Preferences dialog box.
Figure 7: Different modes for displaying entity names
3 The License Model of the NeOn Toolkit

The NeOn Toolkit is a complex piece of software. It is built on top of the Eclipse platform and one of its goals it to provide a freely available ontology modelling framework for networked ontologies. The core components of the NeOn Toolkit have been “donated” to the NeOn project by Ontoprise (stemming from Ontoprise’s ontology engineering environment OntoStudio). This basic platform is extended by all NeOn project partners via individual contributions in the form of plugins.

Ontoprise is a commercial software vendor, thus there exists a natural tension between the goal of providing a free software on the one hand and protecting the business interests on the other hand. After a lot of discussion and the advice by competent law firms, Ontoprise and the NeOn Consortium decided to provide different parts of the NeOn Toolkit under different licenses: an established open-source license for the open-source components and proprietary licenses for the non-open source components:

- The open-source components of the NeOn Toolkit are released under the open source [Eclipse Public License](http://www.eclipse.org/legal/epl-v10.html).
- The core datamodel for ontology-modelling is Ontoprise IP and is released under a freeware license.
- The commercial plugins by Ontoprise that are bundled with the extended configuration of the NeOn Toolkit are released under an evaluation licence.

In the next subsections these licenses will be briefly presented. The full license texts can be found in the Appendix.

3.1 Eclipse Public License

The NeOn Consortium releases the open-source parts of the NeOn Toolkit under the open-source Eclipse Public License version 1.0 (EPL, cf. Section 9.1). This is the same license that all Eclipse plugins are distributed with. Since we are redistributing a couple of plugins from the Eclipse platform with the NeOn Toolkit the use of EPL is compatible. Actually, the Eclipse foundation recommends using EPL for plugins.

EPL is in spirit similar to the widely used GNU Public License (GPL). Unfortunately the formulation of GPL is not as clear as EPL with respect to bundling GPL and non-GPL code. Possibly GPL-code can contaminate bundled code, i.e. requires that the bundled code must also be released under GPL: The formulation of EPL with respect to bundling is much clearer. Especially it makes clear that individual plugins can be released their own license, i.e. there is no “viral effect” of EPL of any kind. As a side effect it makes the EPL and GPL licenses incompatible with each other.

Other important features of the EPL include, that the EPL-licensed components can be modified and redistributed. EPL also excludes warranties and liabilities by the component developers.

The following table provides the list of NeOn Toolkit core plugins that are released under EPL.

- `com.Ontoprise.jpowergraph`
- `com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.datamodel`
- `com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.dependencies`
- `com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.gui`
- `com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.io`

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3.2 Freeware License

The basic ontology management functionality (API for reading, manipulating and writing ontology models, persistency of ontologies) for both, F-logic and OWL is provided by the so-called datamodel plugins. These plugins are provided in binary form and fall under a freeware license (cf. Section 9.2). They can be freely used and developers can build new plugins on-top of the freeware plugins. Thus, this license is not an open-source license in the strict sense but closer in spirit to an end-user-license agreement (EULA). The freeware license especially prohibits decompiling and changing the code. In a similar manner as the EPL, the freeware license excludes warranties and liabilities by developers. Since the provided software is free, the excluded liabilities are probably also valid under German laws, which is an important argument for Ontoprise to support this license.

The following table provides the list of NeOn Toolkit core plugins that are released under the freeware license.

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3.3 Evaluation License

When building the (extended configuration of the) NeOn Toolkit we include a couple of commercial plugins by Ontoprise (e.g. graphically modelling rules or mappings). These plugins are released under an evaluation licence (cf. Section 9.3). The wording of this evaluation license is identical to the freeware license, except for the insertion of one paragraph, which restricts the free use of the provided software to a period of (currently) three months. The software comes with a license key file which makes sure that the extended plugins cannot be used after the evaluation period has expired. This license key file also disables advanced reasoning features like the execution of user-defined rules on the ontology management layer, once the evaluation period has ended.

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• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.collocation
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.filesystem
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.wsd1
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.ontomap
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.ontomap.mathtransform
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.query
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.query.regressiontest
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.rdf
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.remoteob
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.rule
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.synonyms
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.uml
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.generated
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.query
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.query.logview
• com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.xlsannotation
4 The Plugins of the NeOn Toolkit

The NeOn Toolkit comes in two configurations: (i) the basic configuration, which coincides with the open-source version and (ii) an extended configuration that in addition to the basic functionality contains some commercial plugins provided by Ontoprise. The following table summarizes the main features of the two configurations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>EPL</th>
<th>Evaluation License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-Logic ontology modelling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphical rule editor and debugger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWL-DL modelling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Form-based query interface for F-logic KBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import/Export of multiple ontology formats</td>
<td></td>
<td>OntoMap for mapping F-logic ontologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphical display of F-logic ontologies</td>
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<td>RDF(S) ontology modelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search in OWL and F-logic ontologies</td>
<td></td>
<td>On-line user manual for OntoBroker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-line user manual for F-logic and OWL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Database schema lifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modelling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regression-test component for F-logic KBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Facility for formulating explanation texts for rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Web service import and export</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1 The Basic Configuration

The basic configuration of the NeOn Toolkit provides functionality for basic ontology management for both F-logic and OWL-DL ontologies. It consists of the following plugins:

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.datamodel:

This plug-in represents the core plug-in of the NeOn Toolkit since it represents the internal datamodel and thus the knowledge representation aspects of the application. It provides access to the underlying datamodel via an API. The datamodel is realized by OntoBroker and made accessible via the KAON2 API.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.gui:

This plug-in contains the core UI components and connects them with the underlying datamodel via the com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.datamodel plug-in. The main UI elements include the ontology navigator and the property editors for the different ontology entities. The user interface for the F-logic aspects of the NeOn Toolkit are also realized in this plug-in.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.io:

This plug-in provides functionality to import and export ontologies in different formats from and to the local file system or a WebDAV server (Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning).

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.swt:

Here, the basic Eclipse SWT (Standard Widget Toolkit) classes are extended and customized to support the GUI plug-in.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

http://www.eclipse.org/swt/
com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.ontovisualize:

The ontovisualize plug-in contains a view to graphically visualize F-logic ontologies using the JPowerGraph library\(^5\) which is customized in the following plug-in.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.jpowergraph:

Integration of the jpowergraph library and some extensions for the visualization plug-in.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.search:

This plug-in provides some search functionalities for ontological entities like concepts, attributes, relations and instances.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.refactor:

The refactor plug-in provides functionalities and extension points for operations that modify ontologies in a complex manner, e.g. removing a property. It provides wizards that support users in monitoring and controlling their actions on ontology elements.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

org.neontoolkit.plugin:

This is the branding plug-in. With this plug-in the toolkit can be customized regarding the splash-screen, the about-dialog etc.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

org.neontoolkit.gui:

In this plug-in the extension points and associated Java interfaces are specified that allow for extending the toolkit with additional functionality. It is extended by the com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.gui plug-in for the F-logic modelling and by com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.gui plug-in for the OWL modelling user interfaces.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

org.neontoolkit.help:

In this plug-in we define the on-line documentation for the basic features of the NeOn Toolkit as specified in [NeOn D6.7.1] and [NeOn D6.6.2]. The documentation is available via the Help Contents entry of the Help menu.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.dependencies:

This plug-in is just a wrapper for a number of 3rd party libraries that are used by the basic NeOn Toolkit plugins.

\(^5\) https://sourceforge.net/projects/jpowergraph/
This plug-in is released under the EPL licensing model. Since this plug-in does not contain any source-code or own developments the associated licenses for the contained libraries apply.

`com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.owl.model`:
This plug-in provides means for conveniently accessing and manipulating OWL models from other plugins within the NeOn Toolkit. Its primary “client” is the `com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.owl.gui` plug-in.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

`com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.owl.gui`:
In this plug-in we implemented the user interface for loading, storing, displaying, and modifying OWL ontologies. This is the central plug-in for all OWL modelling GUI elements.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

`com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.owl.help`:
In this plug-in we define the on-line documentation for new OWL features of the NeOn Toolkit as specified in [NeOn D6.6.2]. The documentation is available via the Help Contents entry of the Help menu.

This plug-in is released in source code form under the EPL licensing model.

In addition to these open source plugins that are also delivered in source code form, the NeOn Toolkit brings a few more plugins that are only delivered in binary form. For the purposes of NeOn these plugins come under a freeware license. The following list of plugins together represent the underlying ontology modelling, storage and reasoning facilities provided by the NeOn Toolkit.

- datamodel
- datamodelBase
- com.Ontoprise.dependencies
- dependencies
- flogic-parser
- kernel-g3
- ontobroker-core
- Ontoprise-licensechecker
- server
- touchgraph
- util

### 4.2 The Extended Configuration

A long list of plugins is distributed in the so-called extended configuration of the NeOn Toolkit and fall under the proprietary evaluation license. In this section we will not list all of them individually; rather we will group them according to their functionality and give a brief introduction into the features provided by each group.

#### 4.2.1 Extended F-logic Modelling

The modelling facilities provided by the basic configuration support the basic means for modelling ontologies in F-logic. The extended configuration adds plugins that greatly improve the expressivity of F-logic models that can be created with the NeOn-Toolkit. Most importantly, the `rules` plug-in implements a graphical rule-editor for authoring F-logic rules
that obey the schema defined in the ontologies. Along with the rules, user now can formulate explanation templates that can be used to justify the deduction process of retrieving query results. For each ontology element the user now can also define synonyms in different languages to improve the user experience in F-logic-based applications. The last plug-in in this group of extended F-logic modelling functionality provides a textual F-logic editor that enables users to textually create and modify ontologies. It offers support in the form of syntax highlighting and easy navigation even in bigger ontology files.

Plugins:

- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.rule
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.explanation
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.synonyms
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.flogiceditor
- com.darkmatter.diagram.editor
- com.Ontoprise.darkmatter.interfaces
- com.Ontoprise.darkmatter.plugin.ruleeditor

### 4.2.2 F-logic Testing and Debugging

The extended configuration allows for creating complex F-logic rule bases. Thus verifying there correctness and completeness is important. The debug plug-in allows to step-by-step evaluate the execution of the reasoning involved in answering a query. The regression test facility allows formulating unit tests that can be executed easily to make sure that new rules or updates of existing rules do not break the intended behaviour of the overall knowledge base.

Plugins:

- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.debug
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.query.regressiontest

### 4.2.3 F-logic Querying

The query plug-in provides a form based query builder that enables users to create F-logic queries that follow a given ontology, i.e. it shields users from the F-logic syntax and interacts with them solely on the conceptual level.

Plugins:

- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.query

### 4.2.4 Visualizing and Printing F-logic ontologies

This plug-in displays the taxonomy of F-logic ontologies as a two-dimensional graph or tree. This graph can be printed or saved as PDF.

Plugins:

- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.graphviz

### 4.2.5 Graphical Mapping of F-logic ontologies

This set of plugins provides a graphical tool for aligning and mapping F-logic ontologies. The user can create mapping rules which will be formalized as F-logic and thus are executable at run time.

Plugins:
4.2.6 Support for Optimizing F-logic rule bases
This plug-in is more an OntoBroker plug-in than a NeOn Toolkit plug-in. It supports users in enhancing the performance of F-logic rule bases with a genetic optimizer algorithm.

Plugins:
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.genetics

4.2.7 Online documentation for F-logic and OntoBroker
The following plugins also are essentially OntoBroker plugins. They provide an on-line manual for the F-logic language and for the OntoBroker reasoning system that serves as datamodel and reasoner for the NeOn Toolkit.

Plugins:
- com.Ontoprise.flogic.help
- com.Ontoprise.ontobroker.help

4.2.8 Lifting of Relational Data Bases
This plug-in supports users to reuse content from relational data bases. It works by translating the schema information from a data base, i.e. the tables, columns, keys, datatypes etc., into an F-logic ontology. This lifting is realized by formal F-logic rules that can actually retrieve data from the data bases at query time. In this way ontology-based applications can be built that work on real data from an RDBMS.

Plugins:
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.dbschemaimport

4.2.9 Populating F-logic Ontologies from Non-Ontological Sources
Companies utilize a number of data and information stores, e.g. file servers, Excel spreadsheets, UML diagrams, or full text indexers often contain valuable information that should be made available to certain ontology-based applications. These plugins can access the different stores and lift them to an ontological level. Either at lifting time or at query-time facts are created to populate the ontology. These facts can be used to answer F-logic queries.

Plugins:
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.collocation
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.filesystem
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.remoteob
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.xlsannotation
- com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.uml

4.2.10 RDF-Schema Modelling
Starting with this release of the NeOn Toolkit we deliver the plug-in for modelling RDF-Schema ontologies. This completes the set of relevant ontology languages for the Semantic Web (in addition to F-logic and OWL).
Plugins:
  
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.rdf

4.2.11 WebService Support
The following set of plugins serves two purposes. Firstly, it provides means to lift web services on the ontological level (similar to the DBSchema lifting). Secondly, it creates a web-service wrapper around F-logic queries (against arbitrary (external) sources) and, thus, makes knowledge bases available to the world in a controlled way using open standard interfaces.

Plugins:
  
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.imports.wsdl
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.generated
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.query
  • com.Ontoprise.ontostudio.webservices.query.logview
5 How to Obtain the NeOn Toolkit

Currently the NeOn Toolkit is available in three different versions:

- the source code version for developers
- a basic configuration for users
- an extended configuration for users

The source code is provided via the source code management platform Ontoware for developers. Users can retrieve the executable versions via the NeOn-Toolkit.org web site.

5.1 The Source Code Version

5.1.1 Source Code Management

The source-code of the NeOn Toolkit is hosted on the Ontoware software repository at http://Ontoware.org/projects/neon-toolkit/

The repository contains two packages that together constitute the source-code version of the NeOn Toolkit. The neon-toolkit.sources package contains the NeOn components that essentially represent the user interface of the NeOn Toolkit as Eclipse plugins. These plugins fall under the open-source EPL (cf. Section 9.1).

In order to work properly these plugins depend on some other plugins that represent the ontology management, storage, and reasoning functionality. Developers who want to implement their own functionality into the NeOn Toolkit and thus have compile-time dependencies should build ontop of these datamodel plugins and the NeOn Toolkit open-source plugins. This functionality is provided in the form of a number of freeware plugins (cf. Section 9.2).

5.1.2 Contributions to the NeOn Toolkit Development

We envision and support two ways for contributing to the NeOn Toolkit development. Firstly, users and developers are invited to provide feedback, bug-reports and patches. This can be done via the NeOn Toolkit portal at http://www.neon-toolkit.org/, which hosts mailing-lists, a forum and a Bugzilla installation for issue-tracking. Secondly, all developers (including NeOn Partners) can implement their own functionality, e.g. scientific achievements, as plugins for the Toolkit. These plugins can be uploaded to the NeOn Toolkit portal or to Ontoware, and thus, made available to the public.

Currently, we restrict direct, unsupervised contributions to the open-source plugins, which constitute the basis of the NeOn Toolkit. That means, that the source code uploaded to Ontoware is essentially “read-only”. Contributions are welcome but must not be committed to the repository directly but will be scrutinized by the core development team. This, of course, does not prevent any development of plugins or third party contributions.

5.1.3 Prerequisites for Using and Extending the Source code

In order to build and extend the NeOn Toolkit developers must install JDK 1.5. Since Eclipse is a development environment make sure that the development kit of Java is installed and not only the runtime environment (JRE). Make sure the environment variables are properly set to refer to the JDK’s bin folder rather than the JRE’s bin folders.

Developers must obtain copies of the basic Eclipse development environment version 3.3.2 and the Graphical Editing Framework (GEF). The Eclipse IDE can be found at http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/.
The GEF provides a framework for developing graphical editors and visualizations. It can be downloaded from


Alternatively the feature update mechanism of the Eclipse IDE can be used. It is important that the version of GEF is compatible with the Eclipse platform version 3.3. It is recommended to use GEF version 3.3.2.

For setting up the IDE, install Eclipse 3.3 and copy the GEF files into the proper folders ([plugins] and [features]) in the installation folder of Eclipse 3.3. All other required libraries are contained in the [lib]-folders of the plugins shipped and need not be installed separately.

The software deliverable contains three more files:

- ontoconfig.prp
- log4j.properties
- neon.key.xml

These files contain required configuration information. They must be copied into the root folder of your Eclipse installation. In Eclipse speak it is \${eclipse_home}.

### 5.2 The Executable Versions of the NeOn Toolkit

For the community of users we provide a multitude of different executables for the NeOn Toolkit. All can be found in the download section of the NeOn Toolkit portal:

http://www.neon-toolkit.org/

We provide self-extracting installers for Windows that installs the toolkit with a single mouse-click, and compressed zip files containing the toolkit for Windows, Linux and MacOS.

As stated above, there are two different configurations of the executable versions of the NeOn Toolkit. The basic configuration (cf. Section 4.1) is released under the open-source license and can be freely used by anyone. It supports only a subset of the functionality offered by the extended configuration (cf. Section 4.2). Since the extended configuration contains some commercial plugins developed by Ontoprise it is released under a proprietary evaluation license which expires after a period of three months.
6 Future Steps for the Core NeOn Toolkit

The current build of the NeOn Toolkit is based on OntoStudio 2.1 which was released in September. Early next year we expect another bug fix update to the NeOn Toolkit, which then will be the last version that is based on the OntoStudio 2.1 release branch.

Ontoprise currently maintains the 2.1 branch only but invests most of its new developments on the forthcoming version 2.3 of OntoStudio. This next major release of OntoStudio is planned for May 2009.

During the first months of 2009 the Ontoprise will migrate the OWL editor, which currently only exists on the 2.1 release branch, to the new version. This will prepare the needed base functionality for the NeOn community as a new basic release of the NeOn Toolkit shortly after OntoStudio 2.3 is released. This release will be numbered NeOn Toolkit 1.3.

For this new release a couple of API modifications, primarily on the Eclipse-based GUI level are expected that the developer community including the NeOn partners will need some time and effort to migrate the implemented features and plugins to the new platform.

The build process will greatly improve for the version 1.3. We plan to implement a so-called headless Eclipse build, which synchronized the development and build environment greatly. In this process we will also package the plugins of the basic and extended NeOn Toolkit into Eclipse features, which simplifies the task of installing, updating, and also publishing the components individually. We expect a feature structure similar to the one used to present the extended plugins in Section 4.2.
7 Conclusion

This deliverable mainly consists of the third iteration of the NeOn Toolkit (V1.2). It now contains complete modelling facilities for OWL-DL ontologies. The NeOn Toolkit is released in three different versions: a source-code version for developers, a basic and an extended configuration for users. The different versions are released under different software licenses, which range from the open-source Eclipse Public License, over a free-ware license to a proprietary evaluation license for commercial plugins.

This version of the toolkit provides a solid basis for the plugins developed by the scientific partners in the NeOn project. These plugins were mainly geared towards OWL modelling like e.g. the Radon plug-in that checks ontologies for consistency and provides suggestions for repairing them.

In this document we presented an overview of the new OWL modelling features, and the different versions of the toolkit with associated license agreements. For the future we foresee that we gather feedback from the NeOn user community and the NeOn project partners with respect to usage of the OWL modelling feature to locate and fix bugs, to enhance the usability and to add missing features; overall, to make it more mature.
8 Reference


http://www.Ontoprise.com/content/e799/e893/e938/e954/e956/UserGuide_OntoBroker_5.0_eng.pdf
9 Appendix – License Texts

9.1 EPL

Eclipse Public License - v 1.0

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