3. Finding Components in Component Repositories

1. Component Search with Metadata
2. Searching and Browsing with Faceted Classication
3. Faceted Component Stores
4. Searching by Conformance to Protocols

Prof. Dr. Uwe Aßmann
Technische Universität Dresden
Institut für Software- und Multimediatechnik
http://st.inf.tu-dresden.de
Version 11-0.1, 16.04.11

Obligatory Literature

- R. Prieto-Diaz. Implementing Faceted Classification for Software Reuse. CACM May 1991, vol 34(5). In the ACM digital library.
- U. Aßmann. Reuse in Semantic Applications. REWERSE summer school 2005, La Valetta, Malta. Lecture Notes In Computer Science (LNCS) 3564.
  - http://www.springerlink.com/content/blx9yfthkq5xjtjg/

References

- http://simile.mit.edu/wiki/Longwell
- http://simile.mit.edu/exhibit
- http://flamenco.berkeley.edu
- http://search.express.ebay.com
- http://base.google.com

- FacetMap: Greg Smith, Mary Czerwinski, Brian Meyers, Daniel Robbins, George Robertson, Desney S. Tan. FacetMap: A Scalable Search and Browse Visualization. IEEE Transactions on visualization and computer graphics, vol.12 , No. 5, september/ october 2006.
- Thorsten Teschke. Semantische Komponentensuche auf Basis von Geschäftsprozessmodellen. Dissertation. Universität Oldenburg, 2003.

3.1. Component Search

Component Repositories

- Components must be stored in component repositories with metadata (markup, attributes) to find them again
- Descriptions
  - Attributes: Keywords, Author data
  - Usage protocols (behavioral specifications)
    - State machines
    - Sequence diagrams
    - Contracts (pre/post/invariants)
- Examples of Component Repositories
  - CORBA
    - implementation registry
    - interface registry
  - COM+ registry
  - Commercial Component Stores
    - www.componentsource.com
  - Debian Linux Component System (apt, dpkg)

Why Searching Components?

- Searching for functionality (reuse instead of build)
- Searching for components to replace own ones
- Interface, Contract, and protocol of component is important
  - For syntactic and semantic substituability (CM-S)
- Selling components
  - Announcing them at *component markets*

Component Trading and Markets

- A public component repository is called a **market**, managed by a **trader (broker)**
  - Companies can register components at the the trader
  - Customers can search components in the markets and buy or rent them

3.2 Searching and Browsing with Faceted Classifications

(thanks to Jan Polowinski)

Faceted Classification for Better Matchmaking

- **Facets** are dimensions of a classification
  - Facets simplify search: Facet classification has been invented in library science to simplify the description and search for books [Ranganathan].
  - A component (or service) is described in several facets, dimensions, which are orthogonal to each other
- Matchmaking engines can look up a service by stating the desired properties for all facets.
- Classifications can be arranged in facets if several partitions of a group of objects exist that are orthogonal
  - In domain modelling, this is often the case
  - Without facets, multiple inheritance hierarchies have to be specified, which are often clumsy and error-prone
- Idea: use facets for better matchmaking

Comparison

Standard Classification

- **V Vögel**
  - V1 Atmung der Vögel
  - V2 Fortpflanzung der Vögel
- **F Fische**
  - F1 Atmung der Fische
  - F2 Fortpflanzung der Fische
- **S Säugetiere**
  - S1 Atmung der Säugetiere
  - S2 Fortpflanzung der Säugetiere
- **I Insekten**
  - I1 Atmung der Insekten
  - I2 Fortpflanzung der Insekten

- **Kiemen: F1**

Faceted Classification

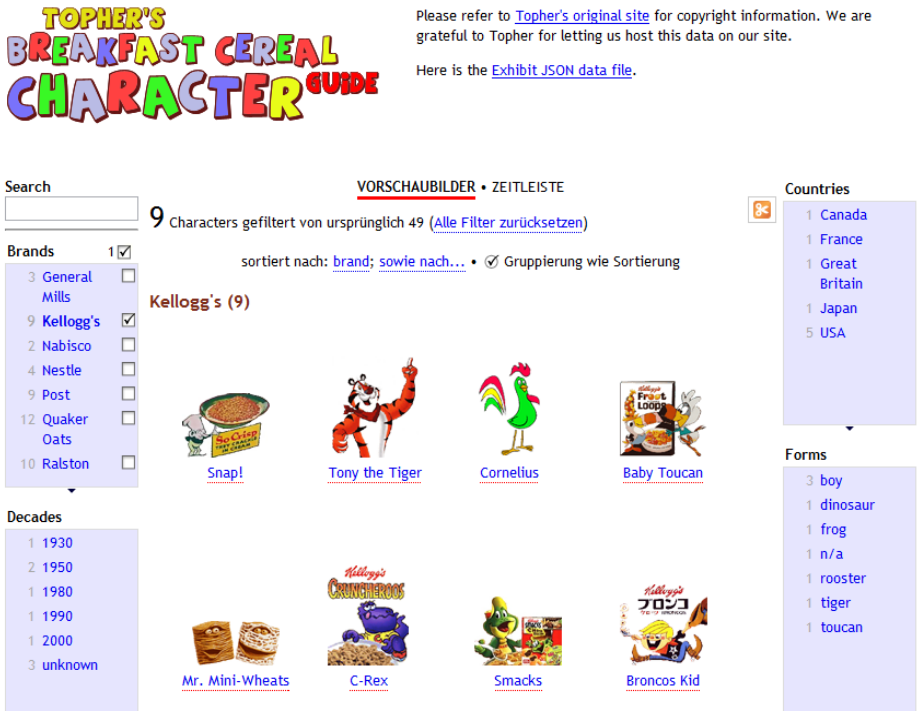
- **Prozeßfacette**
  - P Physiologie
    - PA Atmung
    - PF Fortpflanzung
- **Tierfacette**
  - 1 Vögel
  - 2 Fische
  - 3 Säugetiere
  - 4 Insekten

- **Kiemen: PA 2**

Example: Wikipedia

Facetted Browsing

- Here Facet means: any interesting property of an object
- Incremental refinement of a set of results by restricting values of the data's facets
- Empty result views impossible
- Many application domains




TOPHER'S BREAKFAST CEREAL CHARACTER GUIDE
Please refer to Topher's original site for copyright information. We are grateful to Topher for letting us host this data on our site.
Here is the Exhibit JSON data file.
Search
VORSCHAUBILDER • ZEITLEISTE
Characters gefiltert von ursprünglich 49 (Alle Filter zurücksetz
sortiert nach: brand; sowie nach... • Gruppierung wie Sortierung
Brands
3 General Mills
9 Kellogg's
2 Nabisco
4 Nestle
9 Post
12 Quaker Oats
10 Ralston
Kellogg's (9)
Snap!
Tony the Tiger
Cornelius
Baby Toucan
Mr. Mini-Wheats
C-Rex
Smacks
Broncos Kid
Countries
1 Canada
1 France
1 Great Britain
1 Japan
5 USA
Forms
3 boy
1 dinosaur
1 frog
1 n/a
1 rooster
1 tiger
1 toucan
Decades
1 1930
2 1950
1 1980
1 1990
1 2000
3 unknown
Facet
Facet
Facet
Facet


TOPHER'S BREAKFAST CEREAL CHARACTER GUIDE
Please refer to Topher's original site for copyright information. We are grateful to Topher for letting us host this data on our site.
Here is the Exhibit JSON data file.
Search
VORSCHAUBILDER • ZEITLEISTE
9 Characters gefiltert von ursprünglich 49 (Alle Filter zurücksetzen)
sortiert nach: brand; sowie nach... • Gruppierung wie Sortierung
Brands 1
3 General Mills
9 Kellogg's
2 Nabisco
4 Nestle
9 Post
12 Quaker Oats
10 Ralston
Widget for Restriction of Facet Values
Snap!
Tony the Tiger
Cornelius
Baby Toucan
Mr. Mini-Wheats
C-Rex
Smacks
Broncos Kid
Countries
1 Canada
1 France
1 Great Britain
1 Japan
5 USA
Forms
3 boy
1 dinosaur
1 frog
1 n/a
1 rooster
1 tiger
1 toucan
Decades
1 1930
2 1950
1 1980
1 1990
1 2000
3 unknown

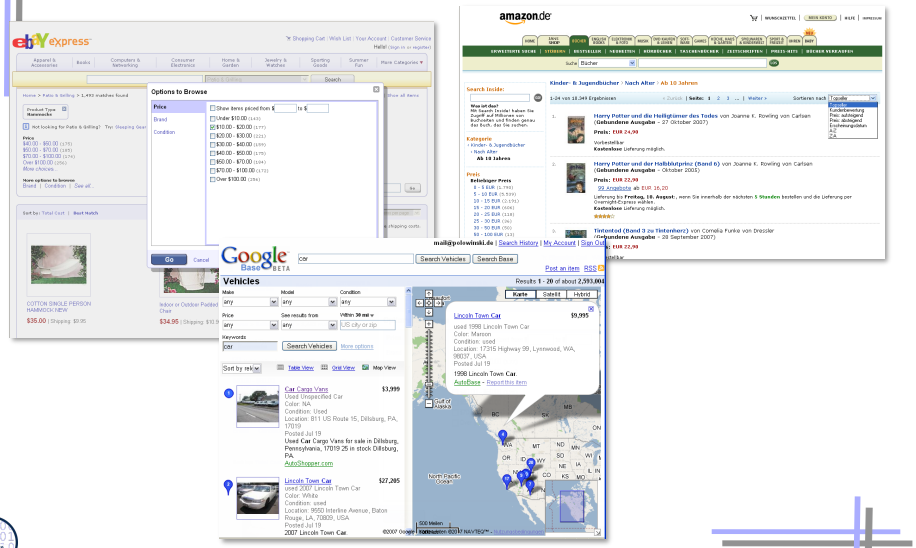

Sorting and Grouping Mechanisms
sortiert nach: brand; sowie nach... • Gruppierung wie Sortierung

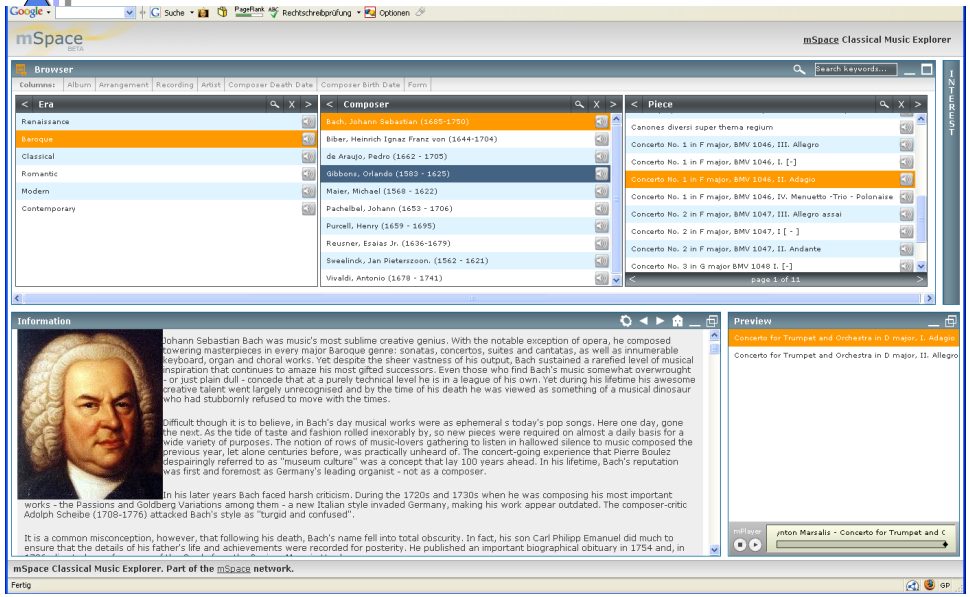

TOPHER'S BREAKFAST CEREAL CHARACTER GUIDE
Please refer to Topher's original site for copyright information. We are grateful to Topher for letting us host this data on our site.
Here is the Exhibit JSON data file.
Search
VORSCHAUBILDER • ZEITLEISTE
9 Characters gefiltert von ursprünglich 49 (Alle Filter zurücksetzen)
sortiert nach: brand; sowie nach... • Gruppierung wie Sortierung
Brands 1
3 General Mills
9 Kellogg's
2 Nabisco
4 Nestle
9 Post
12 Quaker Oats
10 Ralston
Kellogg's (9)
Result Set
Snap!
Tony the Tiger
Cornelius
Baby Toucan
Mr. Mini-Wheats
C-Rex
Smacks
Broncos Kid
Countries
1 Canada
1 France
1 Great Britain
1 Japan
5 USA
Forms
3 boy
1 dinosaur
1 frog
1 n/a
1 rooster
1 tiger
1 toucan
Decades
1 2000
3 unknown

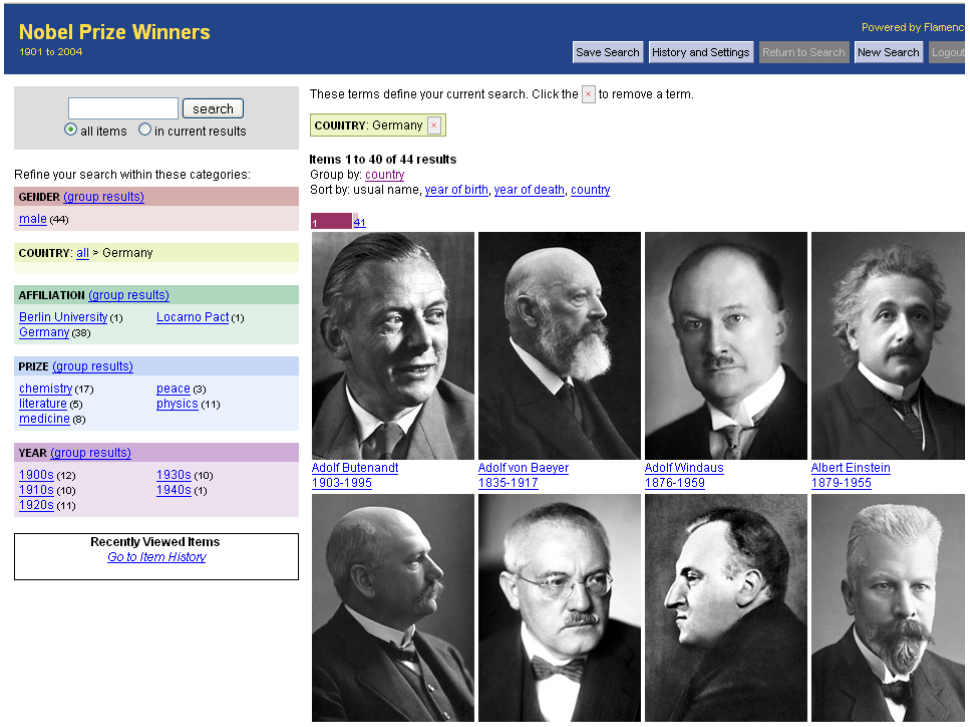
More Examples of Facetted Browsers

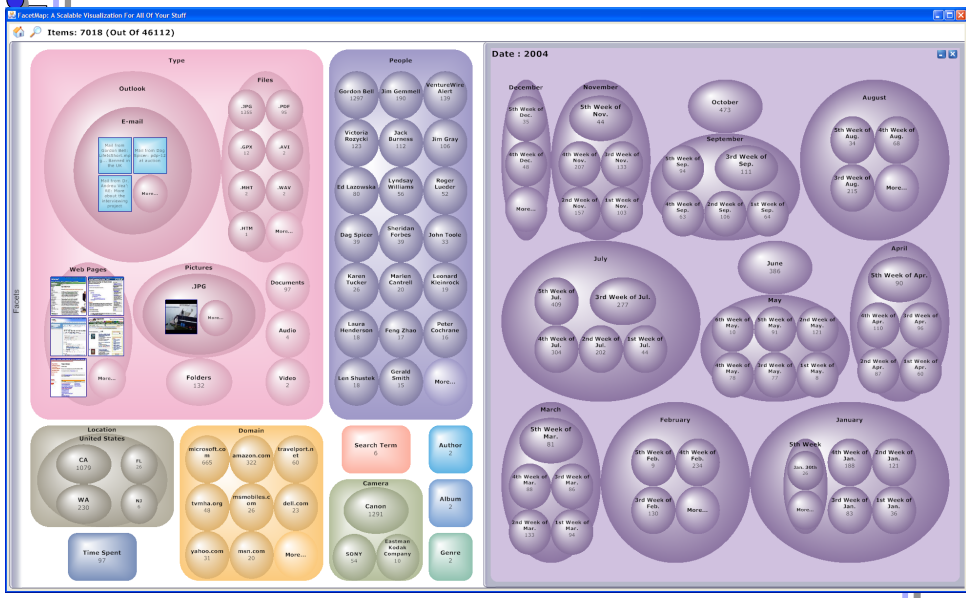
- Flamenco
  - FLexible information Access using MEtadata in Novel COmbinations
  - University of California, Berkeley
  - Browses DB
- Longwell
  - SIMILE-Project
  - Browses RDF
- Exhibit
  - SIMILE-Project
- mSpace
  - *University of Southampton*
- FacetMap
  - Microsoft Research

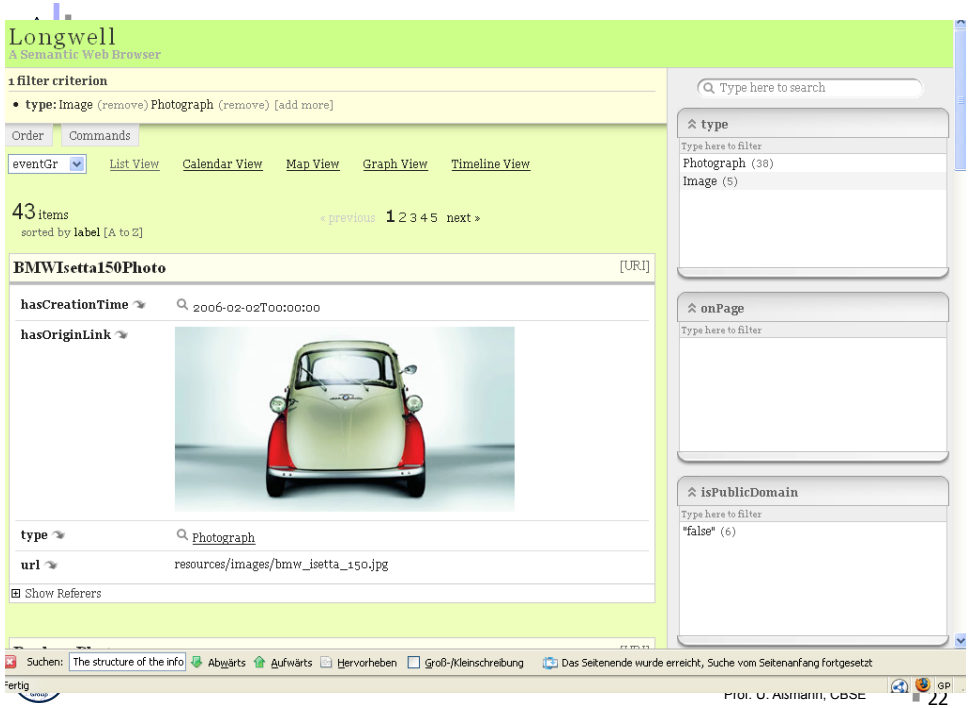
Facetted Browsing in e-Commerce











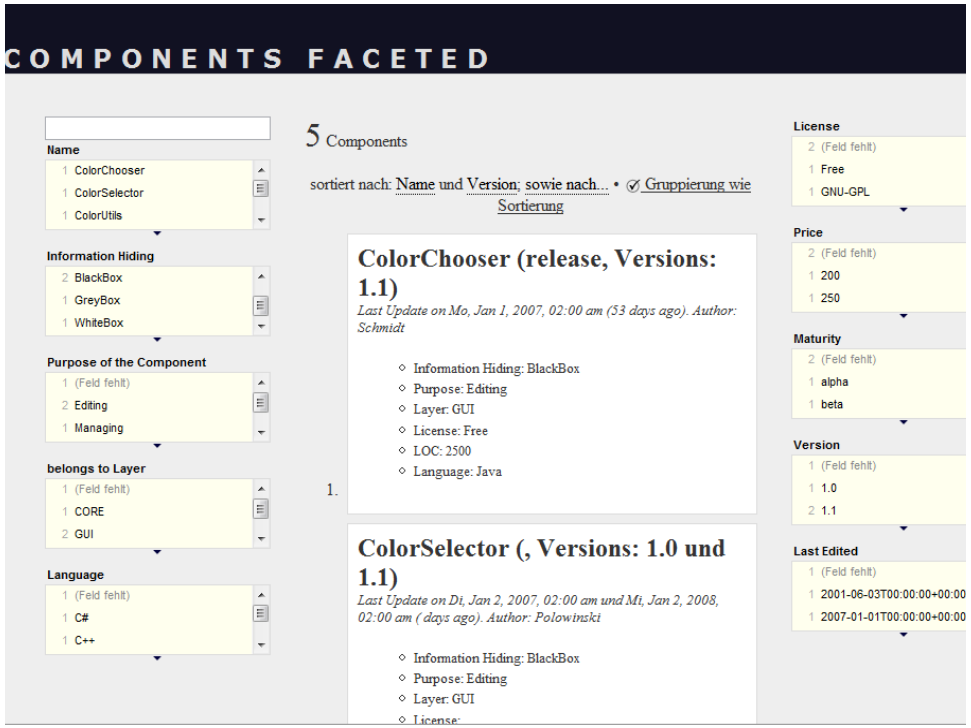
3.3 Faceted Component Repositories and Stores

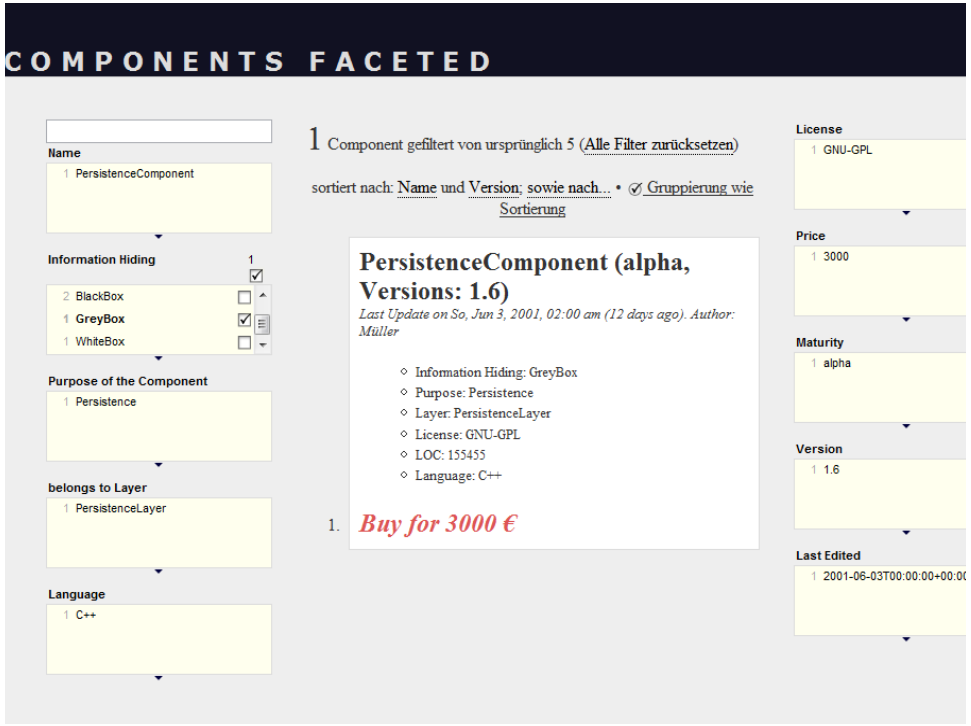
Example: Service Facets in a UNIX System

- To describe the services of a UNIX system, [Prieto-Diaz] employed a 4-faceted scheme
  - function
  - logical object
  - implementation object
  - tool
- UNIX services can be described with appropriate facet values, e.g.,
  - (function = append, logical class = line, implementation class = file, tool = text editor):
  - “append a line to a file with a text editor”
- And looked up in a repository

Example: Services in a UNIX System

- [Prieto-Diaz] already suggested to use *controlled vocabulary* (*domain ontologies*) to improve the effectiveness of the search:
  - If every facet is described by an ontology, the service descriptions are standardized for a user group and improve understanding of service semantics.
- Facets simplified the description of the components, improved the understanding of their domain, and facilitated the search in component libraries.





Other Advantages

- The facet classification is rather immune to extensions
  - Extending one facet leaves all others invariant
  - Example: If Europe is extended with a new member state, the matchmaking algorithm can deliver new courses from the new member state, without affecting the rest of the semantic specifications at all
- The accuracy can be improved by synonym lists (thesauri)
  - Synonyms increase the chances for a match
  - They permit to search not only for keywords, but also for their *synonyms* (assembled in a *thesaurus*)
  - Beyond synonyms other refinement relations of concepts can be used to improve the search
  - Example: Great Britain is used as a synonym for England, Scotland, and Wales. Synonyms allows for matchmaking on any of the keywords, so that students looking for a course need not bother about geographic and political details.

The Use of Ontologies in Faceted Matchmaking

- Ontologies simplify matchmaking by standardization
  - Since they provide standardized terminology and standardized ontological relations between the terms, queries can specify
    - keywords with a precise, shared, and standardized meaning (semantic search),
    - contextual information for search in context, where the context is defined by the ontological relations of the terms.
- Example:
  - A web course on IT basics can be queried by the standardized word IT-basics (being semantic search)
  - also in context, by relating it to courses such as IT-advanced or IT-preparatory (contextual search)
    - "find me an IT basics course, which has a preceding preparatory IT course and has a follow-up advanced IT course"

Example: Finding Courses in Europe based on Ontologies

- A course in the unified Bologna world of European education can be described by several facets:
  - topic area (computer science, music, literature, etc.),
  - level of advancement (undergraduate, graduate),
  - cost (free, non-free),
  - country (Germany, Italy, WesternEurope, EasternEurope, etc.)
- Every facet can be described by an ontology, in this case on
  - topic area
  - level
  - cost
  - country
- A semantic description of a course selects one value for each facet and forms a tuple
  - A free undergraduate music course could be described by the tuple (topic area = music, advancement = undergraduate, cost = free, country = WesternEurope).

Finding Courses in Europe

- Searching a course throughout the course databases in Europe consists of comparing the tuple point-wise to database entries.
- The values need not match exactly,
  - Subsumption (inheritance) in the facet ontologies can be used to deliver refinement of matchings.
  - Example: if free-course is subsumed by non-free-course, the matcher can yield a free course, even if the client desired a non-free one.
  - Example: a matchmaker can return a (music, undergraduate, non-free, Germany)-course which should fit the client's desires.

Putting up a Component Repository for Your Company

- Define facets for component metadata
  - If possible, reuse an ontology for a facet
  - Form a thesaurus for synonyms
  - Store the metadata as a tuple in the database
- Realize a search algorithm that uses facets together with thesauri

3.4 Searching by Protocol Conformance

Protocol Conformance means semantic substituability

Component Protocols with Operational Contracts

- Components have a **protocol** in which their ports, services, procedures should be called, invoked, or signalled
- The order of component invocation can be fixed by a language over the alphabet of the ports, services, procedures (**state-based protocol contract, operational contract**)
  - Finite state automaton (regular language)
    state chart (Hierarchical finite state machine)
    UML defines *prococol machines*
    Data flow diagram
  - Stack machine (context-free language)
  - Petri net (regular dialects, context-free and context-sensitive dialects)
- The contract provides an *abstraction* of the implementation of the component
  - Implementations must be proven to be **conformant** to the procotol
- Conformance checking should be decidable (protocol language should be decidable)

Searching by Protocol

- A component protocol P(C1) can *subsume* a component protocol P (C2)
  - P(C1) <= P(C2)
- Then, C1 is **conformant** to C2 and C1 can **substitute** C2
- **Subsumption checking** and thus, **conformance checking**, should be decidable (protocol language should be decidable)

- A component C can be searched in a repository, if a query protocol Q is given with Q <= P(C)
- Search consists of subsumption checking with all component protocols in the repository

Declarative Protocols

- A protocol can also be specified as predicates over the states of a component **(declarative contract)**
  - Preconditions (assumptions)
  - Postconditions (guarantees)
  - Invariants
- Then, the protocol consists of logic
- The logic should be decidable
  - OCL
  - Description logic
  - Datalog
- Subsumption checking of protocols and conformance can be done by reasoning
  - E.g., by subsumption checking of an OWL class hierarchy

The End - Acknowledgements

- Faceted browsing slides are courtesy to Jan Polowinski.