TAGOOn+: Generation and Integration of Organizational Ontologies

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Abstract. We present TAGOOn+, a tool that supports: 1) the automatic generation of organizational ontologies from models expressed with i*, Tropos and Service-Oriented i*, and 2) the automatic integration of those organizational ontologies with generic or domain ontologies.

Keywords: iStar, organizational modeling, ontology, ontology integration, Model-Driven Engineering.

1 Introduction

TAGOOn+ is a tool that automatically generates organizational ontologies and automates their integration with other ontologies. It has two main purposes: 1) It supports the automatic generation of organizational ontologies from organizational models expressed with i*, Tropos and Service-Oriented i*, and 2) the automatic integration of those organizational ontologies with generic or domain ontologies.

2 The TAGOOn+ tool

The overview of TAGOOn+ is presented in Fig. 1. TAGOOn+ receives as inputs: (i) an organizational model $M_1$ expressed with i*, Tropos and Service-Oriented i* represented in the iStarML format. $M_1$ can be a semantically annotated model, i.e., a model annotated with concepts from a generic or domain ontology $O_D$ [4, 5]; and (ii) the ontology $O_D$, required if $M_1$ has been semantically annotated with $O_D$. The outputs of the tool are: (i) an organizational ontology $O_{iStar}$.

¹ TAGOOn+ is developed by INFOTEC-CENIDET-FBK. The current version 1.0 is downloadable under GPL license from the tool homepage http://tagoon.semanticbuilder.com
which represents the knowledge described in $M_1$: (ii) an ontology $O_{\text{Join}}$, which integrates $O_{\text{iStar}}$ and $O_D$ and represents the knowledge described in $M_1$ and $O_D$; and (iii) a text file $T_{\text{Doc}}$, that describe the $O_{\text{iStar}}$ and $O_D$ integration process. These ontologies are described in the standard Web Ontology Language OWL. TAGOOn+ has been developed using the environment of the Eclipse project and the Java programming language. It runs on Windows, Linux and Mac.

The tool is based on three main modules:

1. **Automatic Transformation module.** This module implements a transformation process following MDE ideas. Therefore, the ontological metamodel $\text{OntoiStar}+\text{tar}$ has been developed in order to integrate (into an ontology) the i*, Tropos and Service-oriented i* construct definition [3]. Moreover, transformation rules have been defined in [2] to transform a model $M_1$ into an $O_{\text{iStar}}$ ontology. $O_{\text{iStar}}$ corresponds to the ontology OntoiStar+ instantiated with individuals that represent the knowledge depicted in $M_1$, including semantic annotations [5].

We illustrate the transformation process with a short example. Let’s assume that we have an i* based model describing a disease detection process and an ontology $O_D$ that describes diseases and the parts of the human body. A task element of the model labeled as Revise esophagus is annotated with the concepts swallow, stomach and animal-organ taken from $O_D$. This task in iStarML format is represented as:

```xml
<ielement id="01" name="Revise esophagus" type="task" sannotation="swallow stomach animal-organ"/>
```

After applying the transformation process, the task corresponds to an individual of $O_{\text{iStar}}$ (see Fig. 2).

2. **Automatic Integration module.** This module integrates a semantic annotated model $M_1$ represented as ontology $O_{\text{iStar}}$ with the ontology $O_D$ used to annotate $M_1$. It parses $O_D$ to obtain its hierarchical structure and the description of each concept. Then, each individual of $O_{\text{iStar}}$ is related with one or more concepts of $O_D$ through links of type is a. In this way, $O_{\text{iStar}}$ and $O_D$ are integrated in $O_{\text{Join}}$. $O_{\text{Join}}$ contains the knowledge included in the semantically annotated i* based model $M_1$ integrated with the knowledge included in the ontology $O_D$. Following with the example (Fig. 2), the $O_{\text{iStar}}$ individual Revise esophagus is related by is a links with the concepts swallow, stomach and animal-organ.

3. **Automatic Documentation module.** This module generates a text file that describes the $O_{\text{iStar}}$ and $O_D$ integration process. A fragment of the generated documentation is:

```xml
type="task" name="Revise esophagus" annotation="swallow" description="To cause a bolus of food or drink to pass from the mouth/throat into the esophagus".
```

The semantic annotations are useful to discover hidden information. In the example, annotations add information to the task about the fact that the esophagus is used to swallow, and it is related with the stomach and it is an organ.

Using the Semantic Web Rule Language SWRL, we could generate a simple rule expressing that a person is related with two elements stomach and esophagus, and these element are related too. If this person has problems with its stomach, then it is necessary to revise the esophagus. The rule in SWRL would then be:

```xml
Person(?x) \land stomach(?y) \land esophagus(?z) \land hasRelation(?y,?z) \land
```

**Fig. 2.** A semantically annotated task element, represented in OWL
hasProblems(?x,?y) → hasRevise(?z). This rule is a short example applying reasoning over the organizational knowledge.

3 Conclusion

We have presented the tool TAGOOn+. With this tool, we bring the advantages of ontologies such as querying and reasoning, to the organizational modeling domain. Moreover, as the organizational knowledge is represented in OWL, it could be available to be exploited and consumed in the Semantic Web by paradigms such as Linked Data. On the other hand, we provide the integration of organizational models enriched with semantic annotations with ontologies, which makes organizational knowledge clearer for humans and more accessible to machines. Moreover, we believe that a concept which integrates different model elements is a strong indicator to implement a new business services inside the organization, improving the understandability and expressiveness of an organizational model.

References