Semantics for and from Information Models
Mapping EXPRESS and use of OWL with a UML profile for EXPRESS

OMG Semantic Information Day March 2009
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Agenda

» OASIS PLCS and ISO 10303 STEP use of OWL as Reference Data for data exchange

» NIST “Future STEP” Project semantics thread
Part 1: OASIS PLCS and ISO 10303 STEP
use of OWL as Reference Data for data exchange
The Approach to the PLCS/AP233 standards

- In ISO: Standardize flexible information model, less strongly typed than traditional ISO STEP schemas
  - Modelled ability to say `isMemberOf` and `SameAs` as part of schema
    - Did not change the EXPRESS modelling language
  - 200+ information model concepts require Reference Data
    - Reference Data is their term for an “external” ontology

- Separately: standardize user guides and Reference Data
  - OASIS PLCS Technical Committee formed for this purpose

- Enable non-standard Reference Data extensions
  - Enables further tailoring and contracting for standards-based exchange between partners
Requirement 1

ISO Information Model

External Classes

Dot end is subclass
Requirement 2

Hour is an instance of Unit

OWL Ontology
XML Schema is generated from ISO Information Model. It is validated against XML exchange document. Classification says "#2=Activity" is a member of "Repair". SameAs says "#1=Unit *is* "Hour". Solid box is an instance of Activity named "Activity x".
Techniques to make this work

» Adopt OWL for Reference Data
   - Use Dublin Core annotations for Reference Data

» Convert ISO EXPRESS entity types schema to OWL classes
   - Purely structural EXPRESS to OWL mapping implemented in 2003
     » Based on 2003 October paper - *A Brief Foray into Semantic Web Technology and STEP*

» Specify relationship between ISO EXPRESS-driven OWL classes and Reference Data classes
   - Is Subclass Of
     » **CriticalRequirement** is kind of **Requirement**
     - Individuals
       » **Hour** is instance of **Unit**

» Need diagram notation – OMG helps here
Use OWL and EXPRESS Profile together
Conclusions

» Many sources of Reference Data being recast as OWL, or at least URIs are being assigned
  - Including OMG UML and SysML specifications
  - OASIS PLCS TC is harvesting many specs

» Success of ISO STEP Reference Data as OWL approach is one step down the road for product data semantics

» Much more required (and possible) to get full benefits
  - ISO community beginning to participate in ontology community
  - NIST Ontology Summit 2009 is one good example
Part 2: NIST “Future STEP” Project semantics thread
NIST “Future STEP” Project Goals

» To enable enterprise integration based on inter-related data exchange, ontology and service specifications

» To enable the selective harvesting of ISO 10303 (aka STEP) standards into ontologies and other widespread modeling languages via OMG Model Driven Architecture ™ approach

- ISO TC184 SC4 STEP community has been creating data exchange information models for 20 years – lots of knowledge, lessons learned and capability there

- With possibility of ISO STEP harvesting improvements made in OMG and W3C back into its standards

- May lead ISO STEP to adopt OMG & W3C technology
Near-Term Goal - Harvesting STEP

ISO
- STEP EXPRESS Schemas
- OWL Reference Data
- Data

Future STEP Project
- Harvesting Process, Specs & Tools

OMG
- OMG EXPRESS
- ODM/OWL
- UML Profile for EXPRESS
- STEP as UML
- APIs & Services
- XML Schema

Industry
- Reasoner
- UML 2 Tool & Executable UML
- Software Systems Integration

Inter-related suite of stds
End Goal – New ISO STEP Approach

- Standardized Core Ontologies and Mapping
- SOA
- Data Exchange
- Reasoning
- Industry Extensions
How NIST Ontology Summit 2009 Can Help

» Add to focus on core ontologies for product data
  - Some basics are required (e.g. Units)

» Provide guidance on best-practices, and what is “doable” with respect to our goal of harmonized/aligned OWL, UML, EXPRESS, XML Schema, SOA, ROA, etc.

» Support overall objectives in communiqué
Future STEP Project Semantics Thread

» Language-related evaluations
  - Meta-model of ISO EXPRESS as OMG standard
  - Formal mapping between EXPRESS and OMG Ontology Definition Metamodel OWL
  - Related using OMG Query/View/Transform (QVT)

» Inter-related suites of standards
  - Information models for data exchange with OWL Reference Data
  - Ontologies for reasoning

» Use Systems Engineering domain reference examples
  » OMG Systems Modeling Language (SysML)
  » ISO STEP 10303-233 (AP233) Systems Engineering
  » Example use case: Finding Systems that satisfy Requirements using DL reasoner
Example Use Case

SysML User

Company Systems Repository

Requirements (AP233)

S-satisfies-R (AP233)

S-subClass-R (OWL DL)

Requirements (OWL DL)

Systems (OWL DL)

DL Reasoner

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
**Schemas and OWL**

EXPRESS schemas define a domain. Ontologies define a domain. Therefore, mapping EXPRESS schemas into OWL ontologies should be possible. A similar exercise is already underway in the Object Management Group where an RFP for a UML/OWL capability has been issued. The mapping described in this paper is simple and does not try to address every intricacy of EXPRESS. The purpose is to encourage more work towards proving that SW technologies can be applied to STEP.

Table 1 lists EXPRESS concepts and how they are mapped into OWL in the examples contained in this paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPRESS concept</th>
<th>OWL Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>schema</td>
<td>Ontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entity type</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supertype/subtype graph</td>
<td>subClassOf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>select type</td>
<td>Class and subClassOf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explicit attribute of type simple data type</td>
<td>DatatypeProperty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explicit attribute of type entity or type except enums</td>
<td>ObjectProperty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string, integer, boolean, number/real data types</td>
<td>XML Schema string, integer, boolean, double data types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entity name and Entity.Attribute name</td>
<td>Identifiers for OWL representations of EXPRESS items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - EXPRESS to OWL mapping
Semantic Mapping: Functions Required

» Assign EXPRESS elements to separate Ontologies regardless of originating EXPRESS Schema

» Entity Type to Object Property
  - E.g. Organization_assignment
  - Related OWL Reference Data classes map to subPropertyOf

» Attribute Value to subPropertyOf
  - e.g. Organization_assignment.role value is subPropertyOf OrganizationAssignment

» Ignore Entity Type, Attribute

» Assign Attribute Domain, Range, Cardinality

» Entity Type isMemberOf Entity Type (caveat = OWL Full)
  - e.g. Organization isMemberOf Organization_type
Conclusions

Near term approach ready, now for the hard part … actually doing it

- Finding QVT tools to specify mapping is a problem
  - Turns out we are “the pioneer” in this area for publishing a standard transformation in an OMG standard

- Planning
  - June 2009 – publish working drafts for review
  - September 2009 – deliver specifications and demonstration
    - EXPRESS to ODM OWL mapping as QVT may be RFC to ODM spec

End Goal

- Presentation of recommendations for “Future STEP” to ISO STEP community in May – we hope that starts the process
- NIST Ontology Summit 2009 has been a forcing function to gather momentum/focus