

2008 International RuleML Symposium on Rule Interchange and Applications (RuleML-2008)

October 30-31, 2008 — Buena Vista Palace, Orlando, Florida, USA

URL: <http://2008.ruleml.org>

In recent years rule based technologies have enjoyed remarkable adoption in two areas: (1) Business Rules Processing and (2) Web-Centred Reasoning. The first trend is caused by the software development life cycle, which needs to be accelerated at reduced cost. The second trend is related to the Semantic Web and Service-oriented technologies, which aim to turn the Web into a huge repository of cross-referenced, machine-understandable data and processes. For both trends, rules can be used to extract, derive, transform, and integrate information in a platform-independent manner. While early rule engines and environments were complex, expensive to maintain, and not very user friendly, the current generation of rule technology provides enhanced usability, scalability and performance, and is less costly. A general advantage of using rules is that they are usually represented in a platform independent manner, often using XML. This fits well into today's distributed, heterogeneous Web-based system environments. Rules represented in standardized Web formats can be discovered, interchanged and invoked at runtime within and across Web systems, and can be interpreted and executed on any platform.

RuleML-2008 is the second symposium devoted to work on practical distributed rule technologies and rule-based applications which need language standards for rules operating in the context of, e.g., the Semantic Web, Intelligent Multi-Agent Systems, Event-Driven Architectures and Service-Oriented Computing Applications. The RuleML symposium is a new kind of event where the Web Rules and Logic community joins the established, practically oriented Forum of the Business Rules community to help cross-fertilizing between Web and Business Logic technology. The goal of RuleML-2008 is to bring together rule system providers, representatives of, and participants in, rule standardization efforts and open source rules communities, practitioners and technical experts, developers, users, and researchers. They will be offered an exciting venue to exchange new ideas, practical developments and experiences on issues pertinent to the interchange and application of rules in open distributed environments such as the Web.

The Symposium gives emphasis on practical issues such as technical contributions and show case demonstrations of effective, practical, deployable rule-based technologies, rule interchange formats and applications as well as discussions of lessons learned that have to be taken into account when employing rule-based technologies in distributed, (partially) open, heterogeneous environments. We also welcome groundwork that helps to build an effective, practical, and deployable rule standard, improve rule technology, provide better understanding of the integration and interchange of rules, and make the current generation of rule engines and rule technology more usable for advanced Web and Service Oriented Architectures.

Highlights

- Plenary keynotes, highlight/lightning talks, a session on Rule Standards, and a joint Boxed Lunch Panel about "Rules on the Web" together with the Business Rules Forum featuring prominent and visionary speakers.
- Keynote speakers:
 - Michael Kifer (State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA), on "Rule Interchange Format: The Framework". Joint keynote between RuleML-2008 and RR2008.
 - David Luckham (Stanford University, USA), on "The Power of Events: An Introduction to Complex Event Processing in Distributed Enterprise Systems".
 - Paul Haley (Haley Inc, USA) on "Event and Process Semantics will Rule".
 - Benjamin Grosf (Vulcan Inc, USA) on "Hyper Logic Programs in SILK: Redefining the KR Playing Field for Business and VLKB".
- A RuleML-2008 Challenge with prizes to demonstrate tools, use cases, and applications.
- Industry, demo and scientific research & development papers and presentations advancing and assessing the state of the art in event and rule-based systems selected in a peer-reviewed fashion by an international program committee.
- Invited talks given by leaders from industry and world-class experts featuring practical topics on event and rule-based computing and industry success stories.
- Social events to promote networking among the symposium delegates in an informal setting.
- Papers will be published as a Springer LNCS proceedings. A related journal special issue (IEEE TKDE) on "Rule Representation, Interchange and Reasoning in Distributed, Heterogeneous Environments", open to all, has been scheduled.

Organizing Committee

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| General Chair | Adrian Paschke, Technical University Dresden, Germany | |
| Program Co-Chairs | Nick Bassiliades, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece | Guido Governatori, NICTA, Australia |
| Challenge Co-Chairs | Costin Badica, University of Craiova, Romania | Yuh-Jong Hu, National Chengchi University, Taiwan |
| Panel Co-Chairs | John Hall, Model Systems, UK | Axel Polleres, DERI Galway, Ireland |
| Liaison Co-Chairs | Mark Proctor, JBoss Rules, UK | Rainer von Ammon, CITT GmbH, Germany |
| | Jan Vanthienen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium | |
| Publicity Co-Chairs | Matthias Nickles, University of Bath, UK | Tracy Bost, Valocity, USA |
| Web Chair | Suzanne Embury, University of Manchester, UK | |

RuleML-2008 Open Calls

RuleML-2008 Challenge – ‘Soft’ Demos

The RuleML-2008 Challenge addresses system demonstrations showcasing the practical use of rule technologies in distributed and/or Web-based environments. The focus of the challenge is on rule technologies (including rule languages and engines), interoperability, and interchange. The challenge offers participants the chance to demonstrate their commercial and open source tools, use cases, and applications. Prizes will be awarded to the two best applications. All accepted demos will be presented in a special Challenge Session.

A submission to the RuleML-2008 Challenge has to meet the requirement that explicit (declarative) rules play a central role in the application. For the 2008 Challenge this means that:

- Rules are available in the explicit representation of a declarative format and are decoupled from the application (rather than only existing in a form that is compiled or hard-coded into the application logic).
- Rules are used in interesting and practically relevant ways, e.g. to derive new information, transform knowledge, provide decision support; or, to enable automated monitoring, enforcement, validation, or management of the logic of an application.

The demo should preferably (but not necessarily) be embedded into a web-based or distributed environment so that there will be a need for features related to the RuleML symposium topics, as listed in the call for papers. Demos will be evaluated during RuleML-2008, and prizes will be awarded to the first two best applications.

Submissions to the RuleML Challenge 2008 consist of (1) a link to information about the demo/showcase, e.g. a project site, an (embedded link to an) online demonstration, a presentation, or a download site and (2) a demo paper of up to 3 pages (e.g., in LNCS format), describing the demo showcase. Demo papers will be subject to a review process, so a demo paper should contain a substantial presentation of the system to enable a proper evaluation of the techniques used. The demo link should be submitted through the Challenge Website (<http://ruleml-challenge.cs.nccu.edu.tw/>), while the demo paper should be submitted as a pdf file by email to: ruleml2008@easychair.org with the text 'Submission to RuleML-2008 Challenge' in the subject. Submitted demo links will be immediately available on the Web, which can provide instant visibility.

Highlight Talks

We invite submission of outstanding full papers that have been published between 2007 and October 2008. Publications that are "in press" and already linked on the journal web site are also welcome. A group of experts will select the papers to be presented at the meeting considering the impact of the work on the field, the likelihood that the work makes a good presentation, and the relevance for the topics of RuleML-2008, in general.

Submissions should be sent directly to the RuleML-2008 chairs at ruleml2008@easychair.org, and must include:

- Name/affiliation/email of submitter (assumed to be the presenter) and ALL co-authors.
- A 250-word abstract-like argument that explains how the submitted paper(s) suit the goal of presenting highlights that impacted the field.
- Sources of original publication(s) (Year, Journal, Vol., pages) and PDF with paper(s).

The selected Highlights will be presented in a special track during the RuleML-2008 Symposium. All presentations will have to be completed within 20 minutes and will be followed by 5-minute discussions. While presenters are expected to focus mostly on the chosen paper(s), short infusions of more recent data are welcome.

Lightning Talks

A lightning talk is a 5-minute presentation on any topic of interest to the RuleML community; it can be a new idea, a technology, an evaluation, an observation, a complaint, an explanation, a suggestion, a report of success or failure, a call to action, a description of a technique, or a lament. In general, it is supposed to be a short visionary talk which should initiate discussion. If you are a rule developer working on an exciting project and you do not have the time to submit a full paper, Lightning talks are a great way to interact with the RuleML community and receive feedback on your ideas. Lightning talks are presented back-to-back with a strictly enforced five minute limit, so make sure that you can fit your presentation within this time span.

People interested at giving a lightning talk during RuleML-2008 should show their interest by sending an email to ruleml2008@easychair.org, including a title and a 250-word abstract of their intended talk.

Fast Abstracts

Fast Abstracts at RuleML-2008 are short presentations, either on new ideas or work in progress, or radical opinions that can address any issue relevant to RuleML-2008. Fast Abstracts provide an opportunity to receive early feedback from the community. Contributions are particularly solicited from industrial practitioners and academics that may not have been able to prepare full papers, but seek an opportunity to engage with the RuleML community.

Fast Abstracts should be 4-pages long, and must be formatted in LNCS format. Submissions should be sent directly by email to ruleml2008@easychair.org, and they will be refereed on the relevance to RuleML 2008, but also on their novelty of idea and/or on their capacity to stimulate and intrigue the reader. Accepted contributions will be published in electronic form (at the Symposium's Web site and on CD), and an author will deliver a short talk in the Fast Abstracts track at the conference. At least one author of each accepted Fast Abstract is expected to register to the conference.