

Identity Crisis and Serendipity

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Semantic Web: A Difficult Message

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- **Q: Why then is the Semantic Web so attractive?**
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Semantic Web can be a solution to those problems and situations that we are yet to define

Serendipity

- **Characteristic to the Semantic Web is serendipity in**
 - reuse of information
 - integration of information
 - interoperability
- **Role of serendipity is critical in “ephemeral” use cases**
 - e.g., Semantic Web in pervasive computing
- **There is an “identity crisis” we need to address to take us closer to this serendipity...**

Identity Crisis?

- **TimBL: “[...] everything of importance deserves a URI”**
- **Nice idea, but current reality is unfortunately different**
 - many things do not have URIs
 - it is unclear how to choose URIs (w/ obvious consequences)
- **Can we add something to RDF to help?**
 - using something like `owl:sameAs` allows you to give “hints” to system (reasoner) on how to unify data
 - inverse functional properties (i.e., primary keys) allow automatic integration
 - use a reasoner to do this
- **(I call this “RDF++”)**