Browsing RDF – take 4

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Founder, So Many Aircraft

(also: Principal Technologist, Amazon Neptune)

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Introduction

Current:

Principal Technologist,
Amazon Neptune

Co-chair, W3C RDF-star WG

Past:

State Street, Pegasystems,
Nokia, MIT, CMU, Helsinki
Univ. of Tech.

Education:

Ph.D (D.Sc) CS & AI,
Helsinki Univ. of Tech.

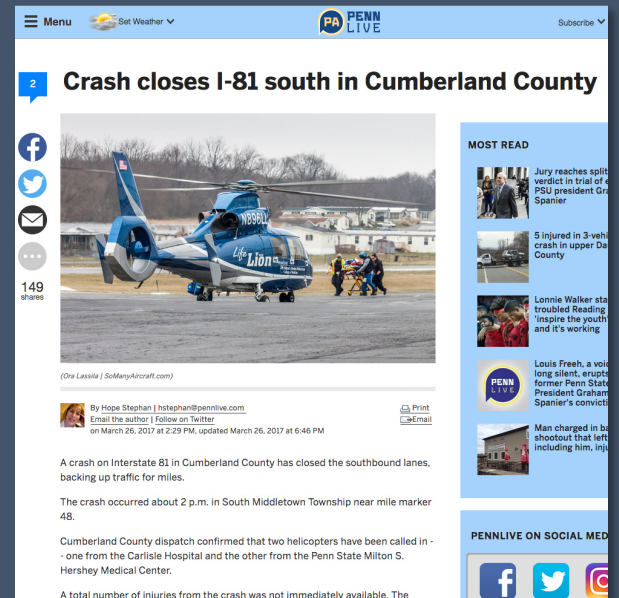
So Many Aircraft:

My "side hustle",
started in earnest in 2014

Published two books (so far)

Maintaining an aviation reference library (4,500+ books and magazines) and a large photo collection (70,000+ images)

Knowledge graph capturing all of the above



Me and KR platforms…

My M.Sc thesis, KR layer for many projects

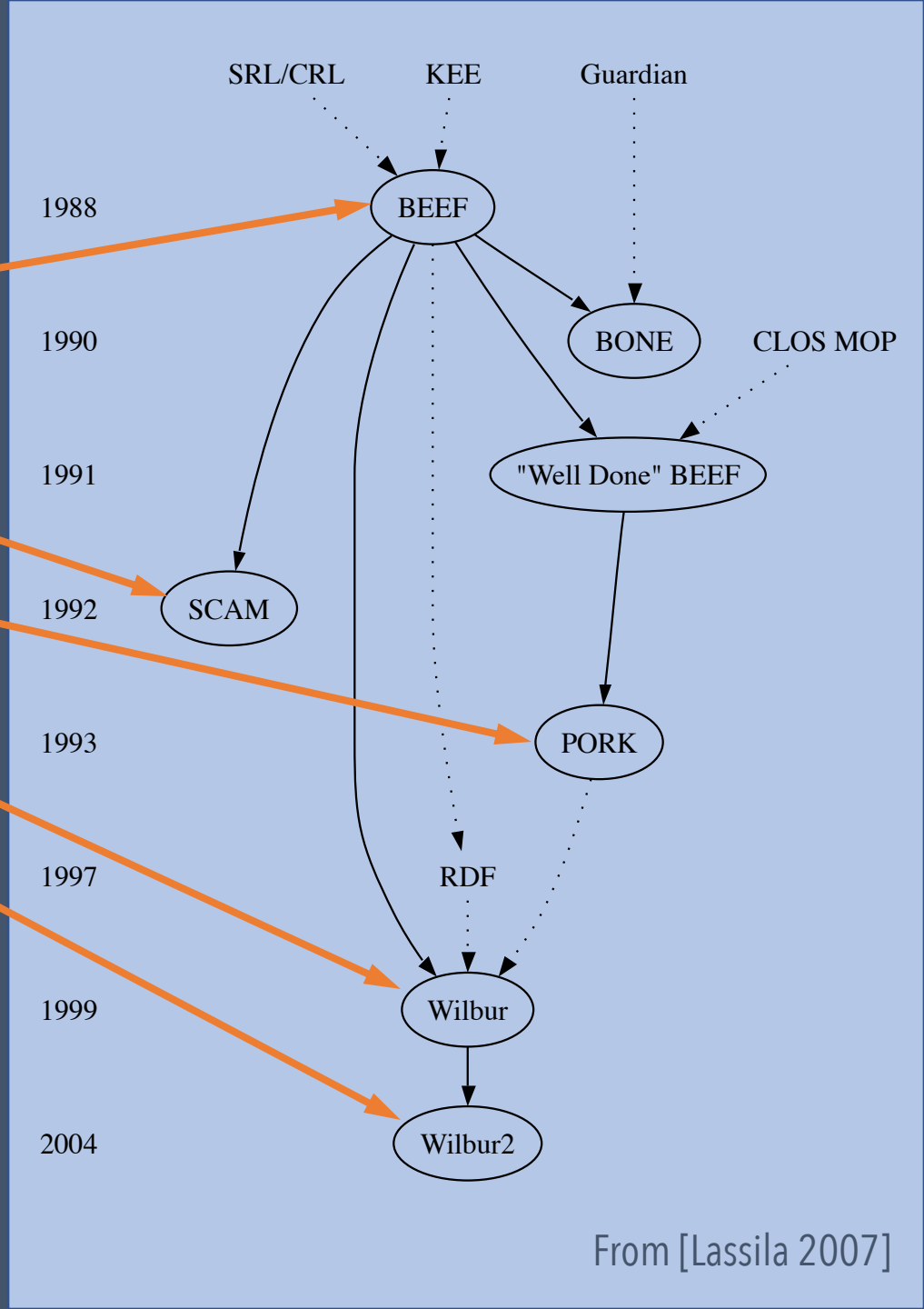
KR layer for NASA's RAX planner

KR layer for CMU's OZONE platform

My 1st attempt to build an RDF library

My Ph.D thesis (path queries, reasoning)

Piglet: Wilbur redone in C++
and Python (in 2008, not shown)



From [Lassila 2007]

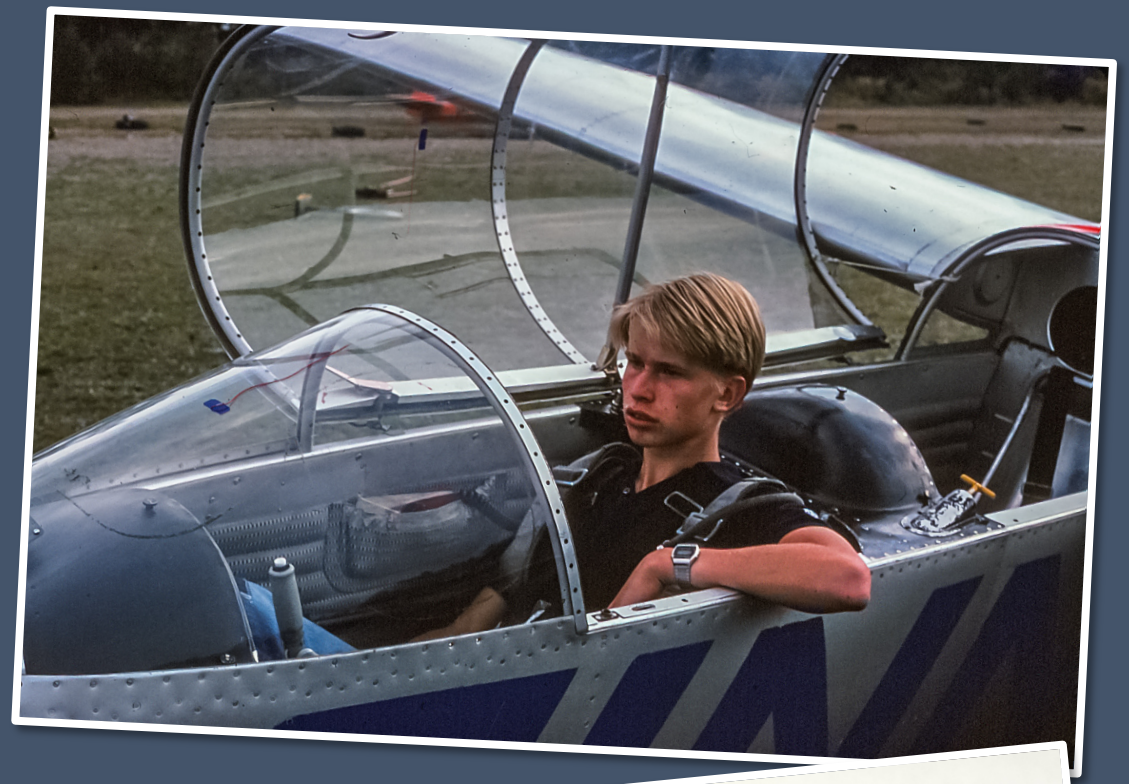
Me and aviation…

Started taking aircraft photos at age 12.

First solo flight at age 17 (glider certificate).

Wanted to be a fighter pilot (instead, served in the Finnish Army).

Life-long builder of scale models.



Browsing RDF?

Browsing RDF is effectively step-by-step path traversal

We define a *traversal query* as a means of discovering what is immediately next to the node we are currently looking at

- in other words, "where could the user go next?"
- this could mean "forwards" or "backwards"

Traversal queries cannot terminate in a blank node, because subsequent queries cannot start from a blank node

- we need to be able to do this in a stateless system (approx. REST)

Browsing RDF?

RDF Concise Bounded Description (CBD) is a recursive traversal query guaranteed not to terminate in a blank node

Most triple store implementations return a CBD for DESCRIBE queries

CBD cannot be expressed as a SELECT query

- path-length -bounded approximations can be written as SELECT queries

https://www.w3.org/submissions/CBD/

Browsing RDF?

A browsable graph can be rendered one CBD at a time

The RDF metamodel and RDF Schema are all the system needs to know to render RDF in a human-friendly manner

- any ontologies the system has access to just make the experience better
- "best effort"

Browsing RDF?

Basic principles:

1. every node becomes a page in HTML hypertext, every (owl:ObjectProperty) edge becomes a link to another page
2. never show a URI if a qualified name can be derived, never show a qualified name if a human-readable label can be found; use rdfs:label (and sub-properties thereof) to find labels
3. everything is "clickable"
4. provide means to filter what is shown (e.g., literal language tags)
5. provide means to customize rendering (e.g., typed literals)

My attempts to build an “RDF browser”

Wilbur	2000	MCL IDE + CLOS	direct API	Extension of MCL’s data inspector. Wilbur toolkit open sourced for the DAML program.
OINK 1	2005	Wilbur + CLOS	WQL	Part of my Ph.D work to demonstrate WQL. Included “query-by-browsing” UI.
OINK 2	2008	Piglet + C++/C + Python 2.7	WQL	Trying to put a triple store on a mobile phone. Derailed by Nokia’s downfall.
OINK 3	2022	Any triple store + Python 3.x	SPARQL	Trying to see if this can be done with SPARQL alone. Managing SMA’s KG.

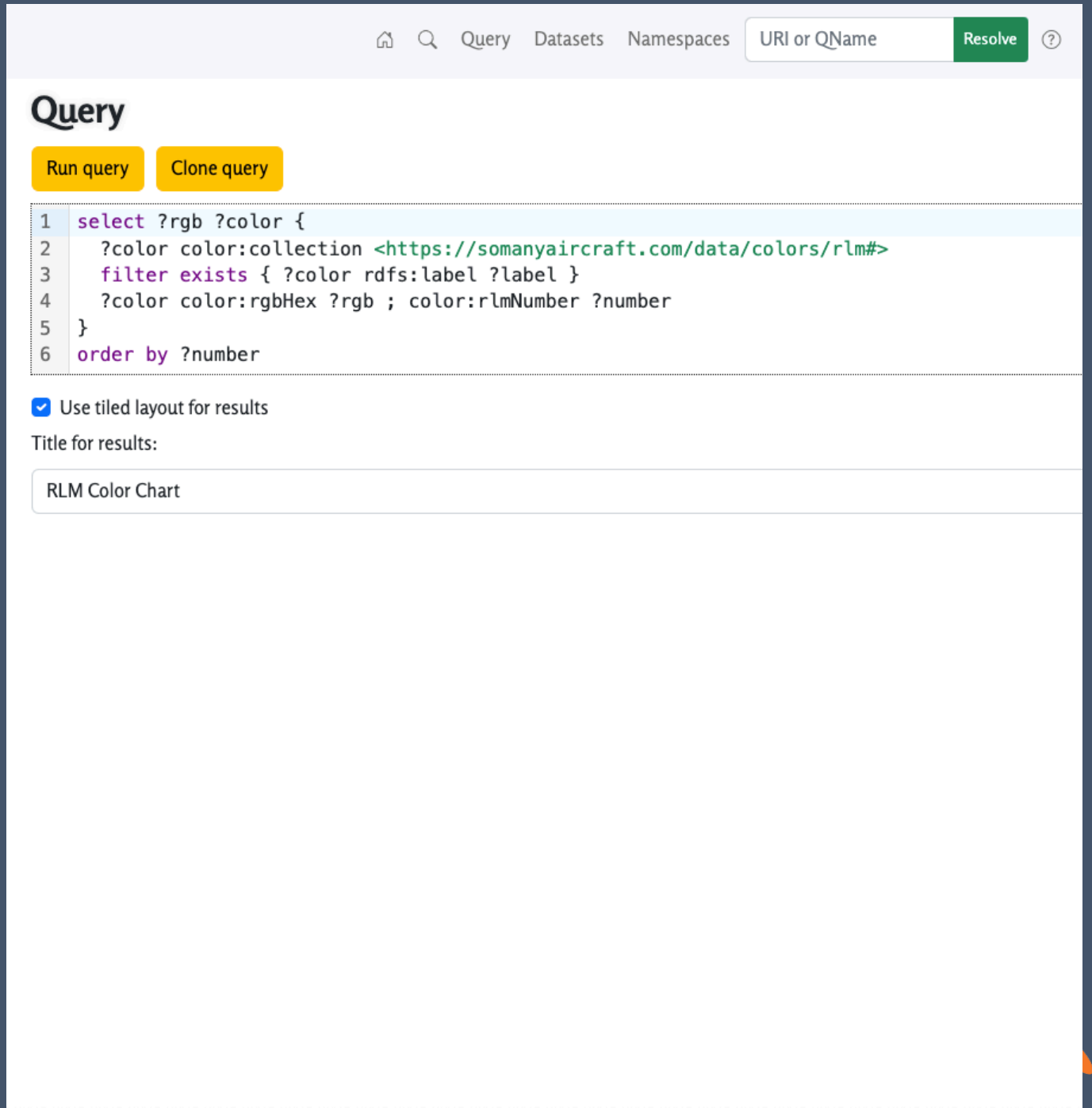
Query editor

Queries can be edited, visualized, and saved

"Saving" a query simply means you bookmark it

Query results are "browsable"

Demo later…



Which one is better?

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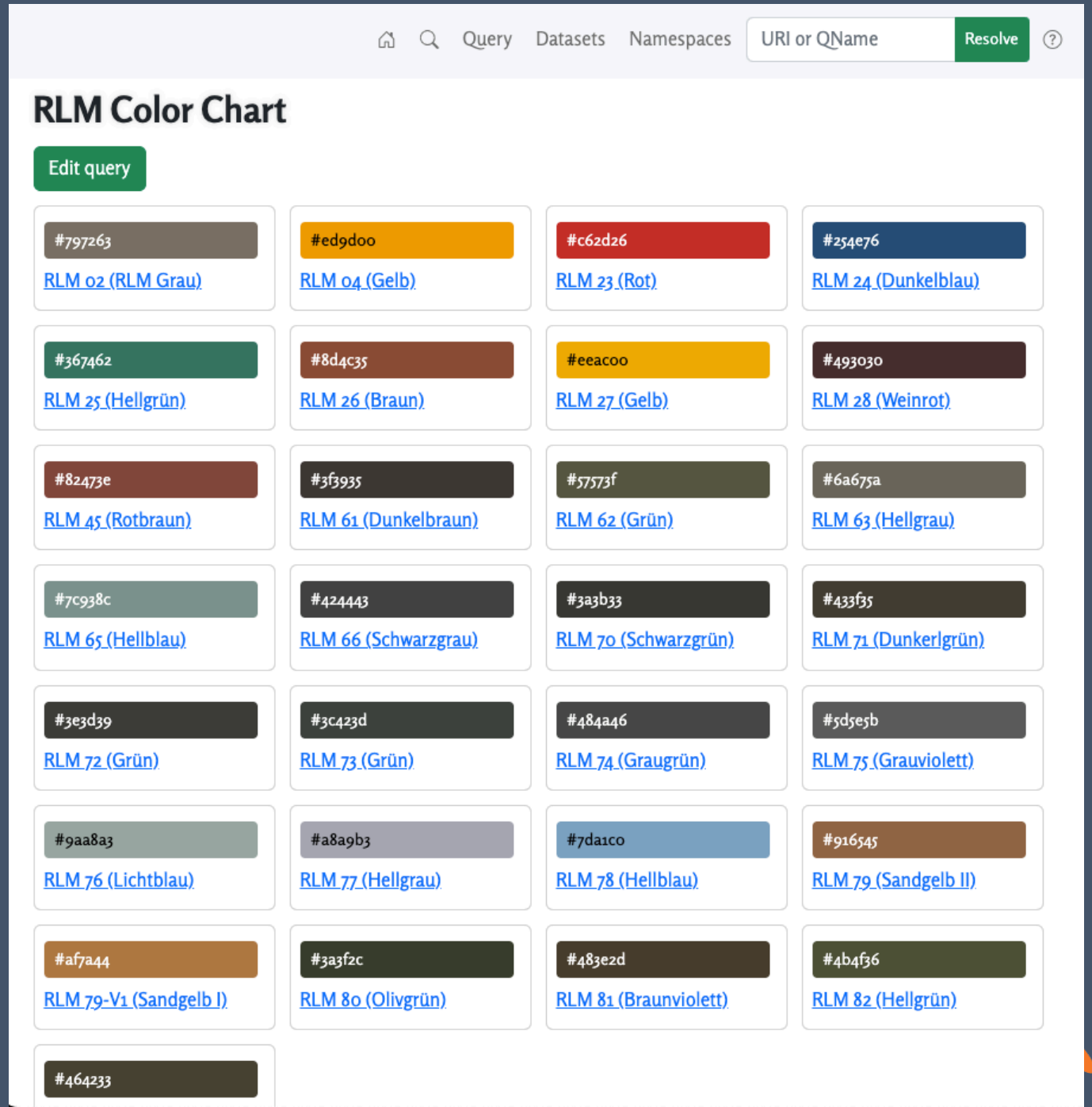
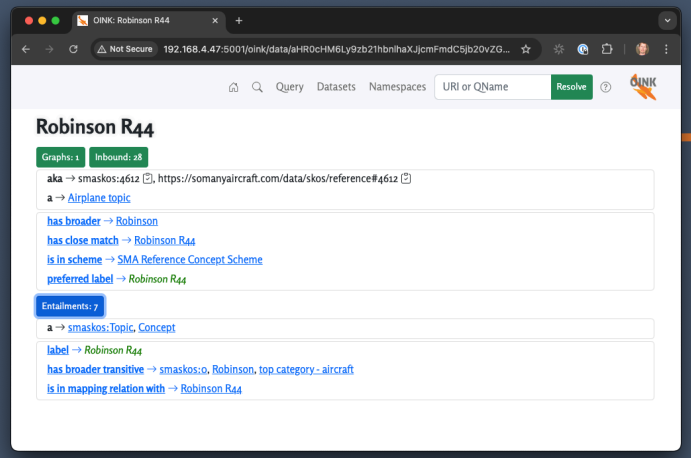
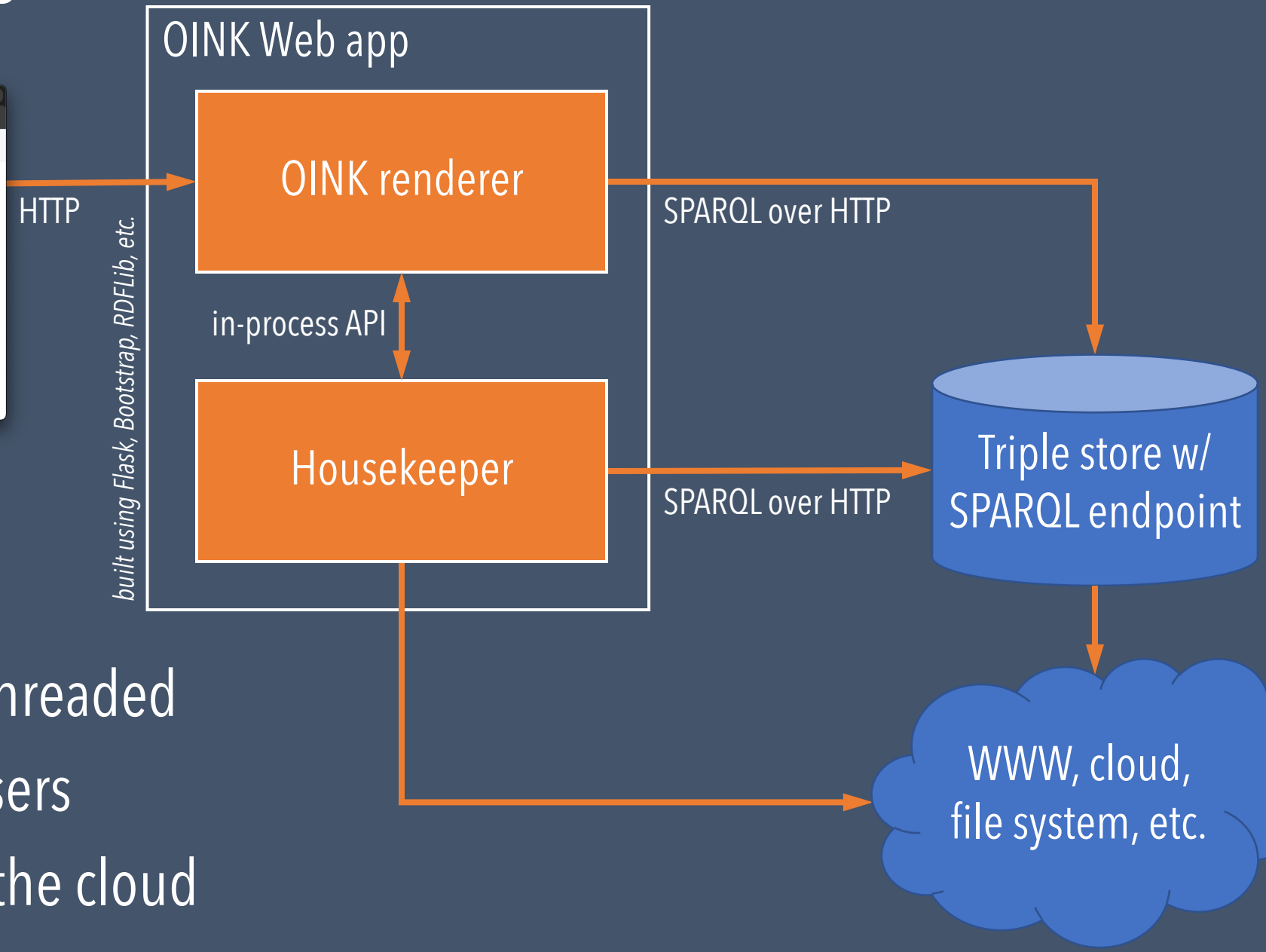


OINK architecture





OINK Web app

- is stateless & multi-threaded
- supports multiple users
- can run locally or in the cloud

Housekeeper

Maintains a catalog of datasets in the triple store (using DCAT)

- tracks catalog changes (using PROV-O)
- supports classification of data sources and datasets (using SKOS)

Can load any serialized RDF via HTTP or from the local file system

Can load RDF from tabular or semi-structured sources (using RML)

- we have our own implementation of RML ("tinyrml" Python lib)

Can read image metadata directly from photos (XMP)

- we have our own XMP support ("xmptools" Python lib)

Ongoing development

Current SMA KG lives in a system built on the Wilbur RDF toolkit

- Wilbur triple store → no SPARQL
- UI is not flexible enough to handle the full diversity of the KG
- photo metadata is not automatically harvested

Upcoming additions to OINK

- UI layer with bespoke class-based rendering; current OINK UI as fallback
- SPARQL update queries

SMA KG migrated to a separate triple store, new UI built on OINK

Demo

Questions?

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