Connecting Topics

Using transclusion to connect proxy spaces
Outline

- Introduction
- Problem
- Solution
- Demo
Introduction

»What is Topincs?«
Topincs

A software for agile knowledge management.

It works on top of the common web infrastructure and the Topic Maps Data Model.
agile

recording demands can be satisfied within minutes

no schema specification necessary

no programming necessary
Ontological reflection

- Look at what has been said about instances of a type and suggest those statement types
- Guidance instead of constraints
- It's not about reality, it is about what people say about reality
- Has limitations, e.g. cardinality
Client-Server Architecture

My clients always want JSON, but I can do XML too: XTM 1.0 and 2.0

I assign an URL to every item:
<store>/topicmaps/<a_name>
<store>/topics/<a_number>
<store>/names/<a_number>
<store>/occurrences/<a_number>
<store>/associations/<a_number>
<store>/roles/<a_number>
Topincs Editor

is a topic map editor

unlimited expressivity

requires TM knowledge

manages ontological reflection

for admins
Topincs Wiki

- is a semantic wiki
- form approach
- easy to use, fast too
- consumes ontological reflection
- no TM knowledge required
- for users

![Topincs Wiki Interface](image)
Segmentation into topic maps
Problem

»What is wrong?«
Downsides

- Navigation only within a topic map
- Lots of topics about the same subject which do not know about each other
- Repetitive manual work with ontology creation
Solution

»Here is the fix!«
Goal

- Exchange topics and statements between topic maps
- Fine grained, on an item level
- In the web browser, not on the server console
- Easy to use interface
- As little TM lingo as possible
Transclusion

- The term is coined by Ted Nelson
- Augmentation or composition of a document with a fragment from a different document
- By reference
- Natural language and markup languages
- Context free fragments
Application in TopicMaps

- There is a topic map at the client
- Merge with a different topic map initiated by the user
- Has no effect on the server until user saves
- For the user they are the same as manual creations
Benefits!

- Look Ma, no PSI!
- Item identifiers make this possible
- Very powerful together with ontological reflection
- Subject identity decisions are propagated
Topincs

A software for agile and distributed knowledge management.

It works on top of the common web infrastructure and the Topic Maps Data Model.
Demo

»I want to see it!«
Important resources for Topincs

Homepage
http://www.cerny-online.com/topincs/

Mailing list
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/topincs/

Community
http://www.topincs.com/

Demo store
http://www.topincs.com/demo/wiki/