Semantic Interoperability Requires Self-describing Interaction Models IRTF T2TRG Meeting, San Jose, CA, USA, 2016

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Information Model for Interoperability

- Make use of data produced by IoT devices
- Well understood that data must be meaningful

→ About the "what"

- Domain-specific requirements have led to multiple consortia
- Each consortium has defined their own data model
- Inferred meta model could help to bridge between data models

Interaction Model

- Machine-to-machine communication
- Handle change in a global system through automation

→ About the "how"

- Integration of descriptions on the server side is straight-forward
- Consumption on the client side is challenging
- Missing abstractions have led to hard-coded clients



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Semantic Interoperability

- Information model
 - Describing the exchanged information \rightarrow vocabulary
 - Must allow for linking data models from different application domains
 - Semantic model such as RDF can span multiple domains/consortia
- Interaction model
 - Describing the possible interactions with a service/thing \rightarrow vocabulary
 - Must allow for change and diversity
 - Hypermedia-driven REST (HATEOAS)

Interaction Model with HATEOAS

- Hypermedia As The Engine Of Application State
- Model application with atomic interaction steps (request-response)
- Links and forms describe how requests must be formulated
- Relation type vocabulary attaches meaning (shared a priori)
- Publication of links and forms allows for change (URIs shared at runtime)



HATEOAS Summary

- Atomic interactions are described in-band and shape application
 - Links
 - Forms
 - Relation types (shared a priori)
- Loose Coupling
 - Servers are free to define their own resource structure
 - Clients and servers can evolve independently
- Clients can learn applications on the fly
 - Dynamically add new or even proprietary features
 - Clients can adapt to changing environments
- Servers are easy, clients are hard

Web Mashups through Open APIs





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Human Web Interaction



CoRE-HAL and Hypermedia Client

Extensions by Matthias Kovatsch and Yassin Hassan

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Extensible Representation Format

CoRE-HAL base format

- For now JSON (without -LD)
- Hypermedia controls (links and forms)
- Common descriptions (things, locations)
- Application-specific extensions
 - Descriptions for atomic use cases
 - Grouping of semantic vocabulary
 - Information model
 - Link and form relation types



CoRE-HAL Lighting State Example





CoRE-HAL Explorer



},

Hypermedia Client

- High-level path description to resource based on link relation types
- Actual (dynamic) URIs are retrieved from representations

entry = new HypermediaClient("coap://home.local"); // entry point
light = entry.follow("lighting"); // link relation type
state = light.follow("state"); // link relation type



Hypermedia Client Futures

- Lazy loading of resource representations
- Only request representations (i.e., transmit data) when used

```
entry = new HypermediaClient("coap://home.local");
light = entry.follow("lighting"); // returns Future
state = light.follow("state"); // returns Future
representation = state.get(); // lazy evaluation (not a GET)
```



Hypermedia Client Futures

- Reloadable resource representation in the Future
- Transparently handles cache control

```
entry = new HypermediaClient("coap://home.local");
light = entry.follow("lighting");
state = light.follow("state"); // returns Future
representation = state.get(); // lazy evaluation
/* Max-Age expires */
```

representation = state.get(); // retransmission of representation



Hypermedia Client Futures

- Bookmark support
- On error discovery is re-triggered to recover from unavailable/replaced resources/devices

/* thing is replaced, address and resource path changes */
data = state.get(); // resource described in Future is re-discovered



Hypermedia Client Programming API

- Programmatically provide application-specific operations
- Allow developer to use the IDE auto-completion feature

```
public class LightingStateFuture
    extends CoREHalResourceFuture<LightingState> {
```

```
public void setRGB(int r, int g, int b) {
   LightingState representation = new LightingState();
   representation.setValue(new RGBValue(r,g,b));
   submitForm("edit", representation);
}
```



Hypermedia Crawlers

- Abstract arbitrarily long link chains
- Can include metadata (and data) in link selection decision

```
// defines algorithm
thing = client.links().use(new ThingCrawler()) // returns crawler
    .findLocation("/CH/ETH/CAB/51") // metadata
    .findFirstWith("state") // link relation
```



Links

- <u>http://mkovatsc.github.io/iot-hypermedia/</u>
- <u>http://mkovatsc.github.io/core-hal-explorer/</u>
- <u>https://github.com/eclipse/californium.tools/tree/master/cf-polyfill</u>

HATEOAS Discussion

• Costs

- Higher design effort
- More Roundtrips
- Larger representation size
- Optimizations
 - Caching
 - Bookmarks
 - Reduced representations