W3C at the Mobile World Congress 2013

by Marie-Claire Forgue

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) was present at the Mobile World Congress 2013 25-28 February 2013 to demonstrate the impact of the Open Web Platform and HTML5-based Web apps, proposed as the best development solutions addressing reduction in costs and complexity. Nowadays, HTML5-based Web applications are enhanced with new capabilities such as responsive design, WebRTC (Web Real-Time Communication), near field communication (NFC), Web payments, and full integration of video.

In 2005, W3C launched its Mobile Web Initiative, and, since then, has been present at almost every Mobile World Congress, one of the biggest events

W3C booth at the Mobile World Congress

focused on mobile devices and networks. Back in 2005, any claim that the Web had a big role to play on mobile devices was met with incredulous smiles and funny stares at best.

Fast forward to the 2013 edition of the congress, and while W3C certainly had the largest HTML5 logo on display at its booth, the real message came from the spread of these logos on many, many other stands. Not only has the Web gained visibility on mobiles, with several systems now providing HTML5-based development platforms for their systems (Windows 8, Blackberry, Tizen), but also, one of the highest profile announcements at the congress was around FirefoxOS, Mozilla's mobile operating system entirely based on Web technologies.

In 2013, W3C showcased demonstrations of HTML5 and other open W3C

Web technologies at its booth in the "App Planet" Hall of the new congress venue, Fira Gran Via, in Barcelona. W3C presented two Web apps featuring the creation of an online photo gallery for a variety of devices. In addition, W3C Members such as Adesis, Ayumento de Zaragoza, Intel, Joshfire, Mozilla, Nokia, Tapquo, and partners such as the EU project webinos, demonstrated their unique Open Web Platform applications.

The W3C booth received much attention from developers, industry leaders, the media, analysts and many others. With this large and broad audience, W3C staff and W3C members were pleased to discuss how the Web is transforming all industries, including mobile, television, advertising, games, publishing, automotive, and health care. Specifically, a wide range of stakeholders are now looking at accelerating the adoption of Web technologies in the automotive industry, leading to the

recent creation of the W3C Automotive and Web Business Group. Also, the February 2013 W3C electronic books workshop reported technical discussions focused on Open Web Platform technologies currently used in eBooks and the need for improvements of these technologies for future digital publications.

ERCIM is the European host of W3C.

Links:
W3C@MWC'13:
https://www.w3.org/2013/MWC/
webinos project: http://webinos.org/
W3C eBooks workshop report:
http://www.w3.org/2012/08/electronic-books/rapportebook.html
W3C Automotive and Open Web Platform Business Group:
http://www.w3.org/community/autoweb platform

PROMISE Winter School 2013 on Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases

by Nicola Ferro

The main mission of the PROMISE EU FP7 network of excellence is to advance the evaluation and benchmarking of multimedia and multilingual information access systems. Together with the ELIAS research network on information access system evaluation, funded by the European Science Foundation, PROMISE organized a winter school on "Bridging between Information Retrieval and Databases" as a week long event in Bressanone, Italy, from 4-8 February 2013.

The aim of the school was to give participants a grounding in the core topics that constitute the multidisciplinary area of information access to unstructured, semi-structured, and structured information. The idea of the school stemmed from the observation that, nowadays, databases are increasingly using techniques that have traditionally been typical of information retrieval and, viceversa, the use of database-oriented techniques is becoming more common in information retrieval.

17 experts from academia and industry were invited to speak on a large variety of topics ranging from introductory talks on databases, information retrieval, experimental evaluation, metrics and statistics to advanced topics such as semantic search, database keyword search, semi-structured search, and performance evaluation. Focused lectures were devoted to bridging gaps between information retrieval and databases and to the management and sharing of research data via evaluation infrastructures. Hot topics concerned evaluation with respect to usefulness, crowdsourcing, evaluation on social media, and moving from evaluation to applications.

52 participants from 16 countries attended the courses (17% MsC students, 63% PhD students, 10% post-

Participants of the PROMISE Winter School

docs, 10% academic) with a background mostly on databases (32%), information retrieval (40%), both (15%), and natural language processing (9%). 15 scholarships (supported by ELIAS) were made available to assist participation. The multidisciplinarity of the participants and lectures stimulated lively exchanges of ideas and many questions. Most of the speakers stayed for the entire week, enriching the discussions. Interestingly enough, the school turned out to be a brainstorming and discussion opportunity also for the lecturers, since they had the occasion of meeting colleagues from different fields with different perspectives, on a common ground of shared topics and issues.

To favour discussion and knowledge sharing, participants were asked to bring a poster describing their own research activities and plans. The three best posters were awarded a small prize and the winners were invited to contribute a short paper on their activities for the volume on the school lectures, currently under preparation.

The school presentation slides can be found at the link below. Information on all PROMISE publications, including the Proceedings of the PROMISE 2012 winter school on "Information Retrieval meets Information Visualization" can be accessed on the main PROMISE web site.

Links:
PROMISE: http://www.promise-noe.eu/events/winter-school-2013/
ELIAS: http://www.elias-network.eu/

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Call for Contributions

ERCIM/EWICS Workshop on Dependable Embedded and Cyberphysical Systems at SAFECOMP 2013

Toulouse, France, 24 September 2013

The ERCIM Working Group on Dependable Embedded software-intensive Systems will again organize a workshop at the SAFECOMP conference jointly with EWICS TC7, the European Workshop on Industrial Computer Systems, TC7, Safety, Reliability and Security.

The first day is dedicated to workshops and tutorials. The organisers would like to invite ERCIM members to contribute to and participate in our workshop which can be attended independent from SAFECOMP. No extra costs will arise for participants since the additional cost is covered by the dissemination budgets of the organizers.

Embedded systems are everywhere – comfort, health, services, safety and security of people depend increasingly on them. In combination and close interaction with the real-world environment and humans, they become so-called "Cyber-physical Systems", acting independently, co-operative or as "systems-of-systems". The impact on society as a whole is tremendous. Smart (embedded) systems are regarded as the most important business driver for European industry. They are a targeted research area for European Research Programmes in Framework 7, in the