

## *inContext – On Coupling and Sharing Context for Collaborative Teams*

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## Motivation

- Design time context coupling
- ✓ Runtime context coupling
- ✓ Ilustrating examples
- Conclusion and future work



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# Motivation - Today's Pervasive Collaboration Services



✓ A user needs different services even for a single activity

- ✓ How to enable services from different providers to become aware of the overall collaboration context
  - Services need context from preceeding "steps"
  - Services should require minimum user interventions

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- E-professional knows his/her part of collaborative process
  - links between actions, relations between users, relevant resources, artifacts, etc.
- However, services are limited to compositions within applications
- Context coupling techniques enrich services with overall collaboration context and link context across user boundaries



### ✓ To enable context-aware collaboration services

- Need to have explicit context information models
  - Well-defined models for associating diverse types of context in today's team collaboration
- Need a mechanism to correlate and manage context for collaboration services
  - Service independent approach
  - Across distributed, service-based environments
- ✓ This paper focuses on
  - Context coupling techniques at design-time and runtime for SOAP-based collaboration services



#### **Requirements for Context Coupling**



 Need both design-time and runtime context coupling techniques

Collaboration context across user boundaries



#### **Design-time Context Coupling**



- Model individual context, team context and activity context using RDF
- Support flexible and extensibe models by including domain-specific context models and reusing common RDF context models



- ✓ Supporting distributed context management
- ✓ Using URI to retrieve context information
  - ActivityURI and UserURI
- Embedding URIs specifying context information into SOAP message header
  - No application-specific source code
  - Extensible mechanism
- ✓ Supporting RDF/XML context Information
  - XSPARQL for querying context data and transforming RDF to XML





#### Runtime Context Coupling Techniques (cont.)



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```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<soapenv:Envelope
   ...
   <soapenv:Header>
        <ns1:ctxtunnelling
        soapenv:actor="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/actor/next"
        soapenv:mustUnderstand="0" xmlns:ns1="www.in-context.eu">
        <ns1:Activity>
                 http://www.in-context.eu/pcsa#act1
        </nsl:Activity>
        <ns1:User>
                 http://www.in-context.eu/pcsa#Rossi.E54
        </nsl:User>
        </ns1:ctxtunnelling>
   </soapenv:Header>
   <soapenv:Body>
   </soapenv:Body>
</soapenv:Envelope>
```

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## ✓ Context Tunneling Handler

- SOAP Header extensions: carry over User/Activity ID in service calls, enables tunnelling, monitoring, mining
- Prototypes for AXIS1, AXIS2 and .NET
- Context aware services can exploit it, but no obligation → no specific change for services
- Enable context ranking and constraints
- ✓ Different high-level interfaces to the Context Store
  - getContext(XML, XSPARQL)
  - setContext(XML,SPARUL)



#### **Illustrating Example**





- ✓ inContext techniques for coupling and sharing context for today's collaboration services
  - Developed generic RDF/OWL-based context models
  - Provided generic runtime service-based context coupling framework: SOAP header extensions, distributed context management, XSPARQL
  - Based on multidisciplinary research efforts: Web services engineering + ontology/semantics + collaborative computing
- Working on a reference architecture for context-aware collaboration services
- Utilizing context coupling and sharing techniques for the FP7 COIN IP to support human interactions in collaboration

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What: the inContext demo, much more than this talk When: Tue, 24 (tomorrow)

- during the coffee breaks
- at 10 am and 15 pm

Where: the coffee room

Who: you and the inContext team How: live demo and discussion