

# Ousía

Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

Benjamin Paaßen, Andreas Stöckel

April 16th, 2015

Semantic Markup is useful...

Semantic Markup is useful...  
...but scarcely anyone uses it



“But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

## “But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

- ⊕ Clearly defined underlying “ontology”

## “But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

- ⊕ Clearly defined underlying “ontology”
- ⊕ Can be styled via CSS (separation of presentation and content)

## “But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

- ⊕ Clearly defined underlying “ontology”
- ⊕ Can be styled via CSS (separation of presentation and content)
- ⊖ Very verbose



## “But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

- ⊕ Clearly defined underlying “ontology”
- ⊕ Can be styled via CSS (separation of presentation and content)
- ⊖ Very verbose
- ⊖ No concept of “annotations”

## “But wait! HTML *is* Semantic Markup”

- ⊕ Clearly defined underlying “ontology”
- ⊕ Can be styled via CSS (separation of presentation and content)
- ⊖ Very verbose
- ⊖ No concept of “annotations”
- ⊖ Non-extensible

“But wait! Word™ allows me to define my own classes!”

“But wait! Word™ allows me to define my own classes!”

⊖ This is actually just CSS

“But wait! Word™ allows me to define my own classes!”

- ⊖ This is actually just CSS
- ⊖ Hard to exchange styles between documents

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\LaTeX$ ! I can define my own commands!”

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ! I can define my own commands!”

⊕ Extensible (“macros”)

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\LaTeX$ ! I can define my own commands!”

- ⊕ Extensible (“macros”)
- ⊕ Easy to write documents



“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\LaTeX$ ! I can define my own commands!”

- ⊕ Extensible (“macros”)
- ⊕ Easy to write documents (at least for some people)

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ! I can define my own commands!”

- ⊕ Extensible (“macros”)
- ⊕ Easy to write documents (at least for some people)
- ⊖ No structure definition

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\LaTeX$ ! I can define my own commands!”

- ⊕ Extensible (“macros”)
- ⊕ Easy to write documents (at least for some people)
- ⊖ No structure definition
- ⊖ Macros expand to typesetting commands

“But wait! I hack my documents in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ! I can define my own commands!”

- ⊕ Extensible (“macros”)
- ⊕ Easy to write documents (at least for some people)
- ⊖ No structure definition
- ⊖ Macros expand to typesetting commands
- ⊖ Turing-complete programming language

# Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

*Ousía — The entirety of constant features, based on which objects can be defined.*

— Wikipedia

# Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

*Ousía — The entirety of constant features, based on which objects can be defined.*

— Wikipedia

- ▶ **Semantic:**  
Explicit conceptualization of semantic entities in ontologies.

# Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

*Ousía — The entirety of constant features, based on which objects can be defined.*

— Wikipedia

- ▶ **Semantic:**  
Explicit conceptualization of semantic entities in ontologies.
- ▶ **Extensible:**  
Allow users to define their own ontologies and typesystems.

# Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

*Ousía — The entirety of constant features, based on which objects can be defined.*

— Wikipedia

▶ **Semantic:**

Explicit conceptualization of semantic entities in ontologies.

▶ **Extensible:**

Allow users to define their own ontologies and typesystems.

▶ **Markup:**

Mark references to semantic concepts in text.



# Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

*Ousía — The entirety of constant features, based on which objects can be defined.*

— Wikipedia

▶ **Semantic:**

Explicit conceptualization of semantic entities in ontologies.

▶ **Extensible:**

Allow users to define their own ontologies and typesystems.

▶ **Markup:**

Mark references to semantic concepts in text.

▶ **Framework:**

Library providing access to the semantic graph

# Ousía – Pipeline

## INPUT

Document & Descriptor Library

Document

---

## **USER-PROVIDED DATA**

Collection of OSML or OSXML  
files

# Ousía – Pipeline

## INPUT

Document & Descriptor Library

Document

Ontologies



Types



---

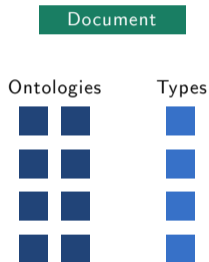
## USER-PROVIDED DATA

Collection of OSML or OSXML  
files

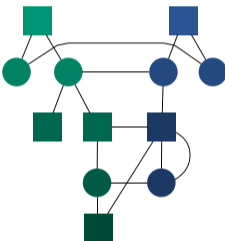
# Ousía – Pipeline

## INPUT

Document & Descriptor Library



compiled  
into



## INTERMEDIATE

Semantic Graph Representation

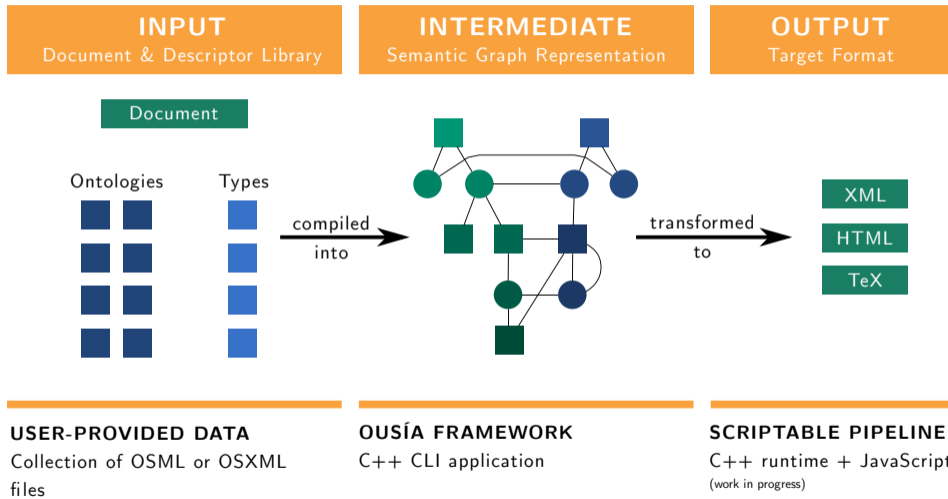
### USER-PROVIDED DATA

Collection of OSML or OSXML files

### OUSÍA FRAMEWORK

C++ CLI application

# Ousía – Pipeline



# OSXML vs. OSML

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>
    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <stanza>
          <line>The wind was a torrent of darkness
            among the gusty trees,</line>
          <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
            tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
        </stanza>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

# OSXML vs. OSML

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>
    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <stanza>
          <line>The wind was a torrent of darkness
            among the gusty trees,</line>
          <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
            tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
        </stanza>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

## OSML

```
\begin{document}
  \import [rel=ontology,src=book]
  \import [rel=ontology,src=poem]
  \begin{book}
    \heading{Collected Poems}
    \begin{meta}
      \author{Alfred Noyes}
      \year{1906}
    \end{meta}
    \begin{chapter}[name=highwayman]
      \heading{The Highwayman}
      \begin{poem}
        \begin{stanza}
          \line{The wind was a torrent of darkness
            among the gusty trees,}
          \line{The moon was a ghostly galleon
            tossed upon cloudy seas}
        \end{stanza}
      \end{poem}
    \end{chapter}
  \end{book}
\end{document}
```

# OSXML vs. OSML

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>
    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <stanza>
          <line>The wind was a torrent of darkness
            among the gusty trees,</line>
          <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
            tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
        </stanza>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

## OSML

```
\import[ontology]{book}
\import[ontology]{poem}
\begin{book}{Collected Poems}
  \meta
    \author{Alfred Noyes}
    \year{1906}
  \begin{chapter#highwayman}{The Highwayman}
    \begin{poem}
      \begin{stanza}
        \line{The wind was a torrent of darkness
          among the gusty trees,}
        \line{The moon was a ghostly galleon
          tossed upon cloudy seas}
      \end{stanza}
    \end{poem}
  \end{chapter}
\end{book}
```



# OSXML vs. OSML

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>

    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <stanza>
          <line>The wind was a torrent of darkness
            among the gusty trees,</line>
          <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
            tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
        </stanza>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

## OSML

```
\import[ontology]{book}
\import[ontology]{poem}

\book{Collected Poems}
\meta
  \author{Alfred Noyes}
  \year{1906}

\chapter#highwayman{The Highwayman}

\poem
\stanza
\line{The wind was a torrent of darkness
      among the gusty trees,}
\line{The moon was a ghostly galleon
      tossed upon cloudy seas}
```

# OSXML vs. OSML (Semantic Structure Interpolation)

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>

    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <line>The wind was a torrent of darkness
          among the gusty trees,</line>
        <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
          tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

## OSML

```
\import[ontology]{book}
\import[ontology]{poem}

\book{Collected Poems}
\meta
  \author{Alfred Noyes}
  \year{1906}

\chapter#highwayman{The Highwayman}

\poem
\line{The wind was a torrent of darkness
      among the gusty trees,}
\line{The moon was a ghostly galleon
      tossed upon cloudy seas}
```

# OSXML vs. OSML (Annotations)

## OSXML

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<document>
  <import rel="ontology" src="book" />
  <import rel="ontology" src="poem" />
  <book>
    <heading>Collected Poems</heading>
    <meta>
      <author>Alfred Noyes</author>
      <year>1906</year>
    </meta>

    <chapter name="highwayman">
      <heading>The Highwayman</heading>
      <poem>
        <line>The wind was a <a:start:metaph/>
          torrent of darkness<a:end:metaph/>
          among the gusty trees,</line>
        <line>The moon was a ghostly galleon
          tossed upon cloudy seas</line>
      </poem>
    </chapter>
  </book>
</document>
```

## OSML

```
\import[ontology]{book}
\import[ontology]{poem}

\book{Collected Poems}
\meta
  \author{Alfred Noyes}
  \year{1906}

\chapter#highwayman{The Highwayman}

\poem
\line{The wind was a <\metaph torrent of darkness\>
  among the gusty trees,}
\line{The moon was a ghostly galleon
  tossed upon cloudy seas}
```

# OSXML vs. OSML (User defineable syntax)

## OSML

```
\import [ontology]{poem}
```

```
\begin{poem}
```

```
\title{The Highwayman}
```

```
\author{Alfred Noyes}
```

```
\year{1906}
```

```
\part
```

```
The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding-  
    Riding-riding-  
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.
```

```
He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,  
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe-skin;  
They fitted with never a wrinkle: his boots were up to the thigh!  
And he rode with a jewelled twinkle,  
    His pistol butts a-twinkle,  
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.
```

```
\end{poem}
```

# Result (via XSLT to HTML)

## **The Highwayman**

by Alfred Noyes (1906)

### **PART I**

*I*

1 The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,  
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
And the highwayman came riding—  
5       Riding—riding—  
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

*II*

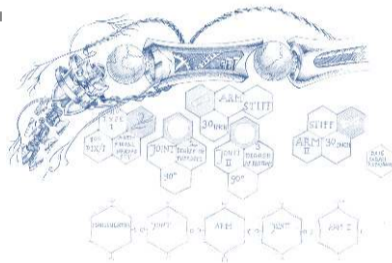
He'd a French cocked-hat on his forehead, a bunch of lace at his chin,  
A coat of the claret velvet, and breeches of brown doe-skin;  
They fitted with never a wrinkle: his boots were up to the thigh!  
10 And he rode with a jewelled twinkle,  
      His pistol butts a-twinkle,  
His rapier hilt a-twinkle, under the jewelled sky.

- ▶ **Poster:**  
“Ousía – Extensible Semantic Markup Framework”
- ▶ **Talk:**  
“Meaningful Networks – Towards a Decentralized and Dynamic Semantic Web”

## Meaningful Networks

Towards a Decentralized and Dynamic Semantic Web

Benjamin Paaßen, Andreas Stöckel



Interdisciplinary College  
March 6-13, 2015  
Günne

## Ousía

### Extensible Semantic Markup Framework

Ousía [ˈuːziə] represents documents in purely semantic markup with user definable structure.

Documents are parsed into an universal intermediate representation, ready to be converted to any format using XSLT<sup>[1]</sup>.

Download the Source Code  
(pre-alpha)

[1] Sticking to XML and XSLT is not our plan. We intend to provide a scriptable output pipeline. But we're not quiet there yet.

<http://ousia-framework.org/>

Demo





# Outlook

- ▶ Scriptable output pipeline
- ▶ Output independent style definitions
- ▶ Domain library
- ▶ Documentation
- ▶ Editor (GUI)

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

# Attribution

- ▶ *Kizil-Hauzen-Brücke*, CC-BY-SA
- ▶ Semantic Databases, © Sarah Rosenhahn
- ▶ *Kreisviadukt Brusio*, David Gubler, CC-BY-SA