Introducing "BlogSpread"

First Ideas

Based on discussions and work of:

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What is the goal?

- A {framework|platform|application} to analyze and visualize {blogs|forums|websites|the social web}.
- Yet another framework...
- Interoperable with existing data (by means of semantic web technologies)

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Motivation, Why?

- Do we need it? Does someone else need it?
- Maybe...
 - ... many smaller research projects: BA/MA theses, student research projects → no reinvention of wheel.
 - ... not only smaller research projects → Reduce overhead.
- Is it part of active research?

Mannheim Use-Cases

- Development of research software
 - Opinion mining, sentiment analysis on blogs
 - Natural language processing
 - Learning ontologies/thesauri from blogs

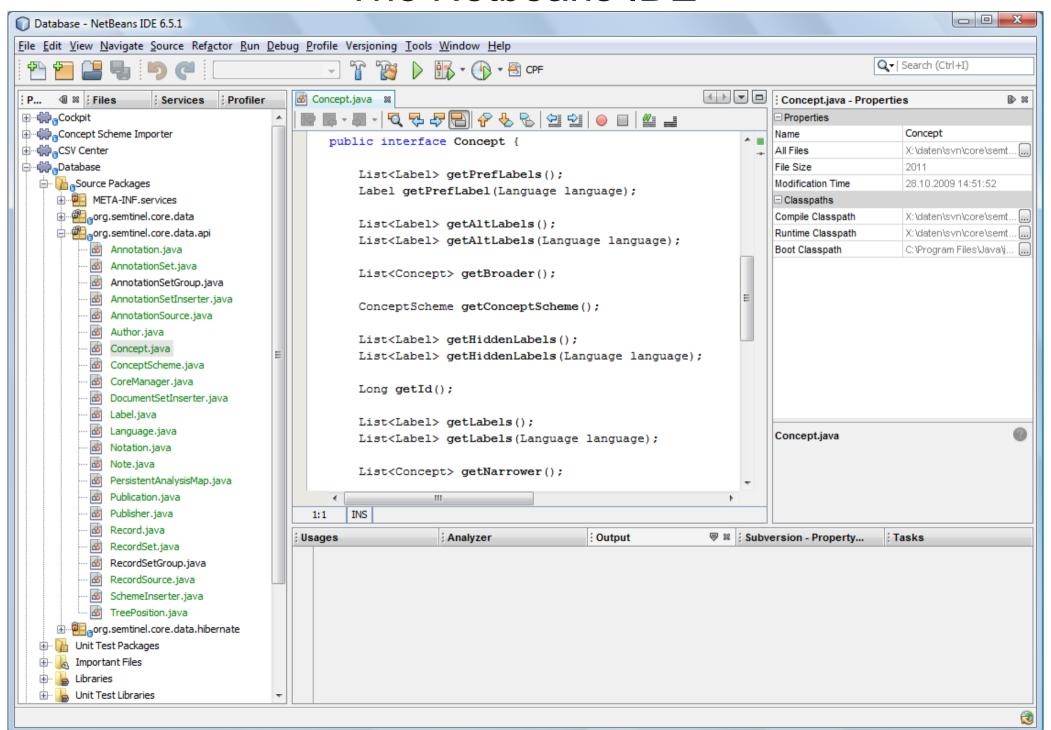
Architecture

- The core of the project will be a desktop application.
 - Targeted user is a single researcher who uses BlogSpread for experiments.
- The APIs can also be implemented as webservices, so that analyses can be provided as webservice.
- Agent technologies are used where applicable to improve scalability and encourage modularization.

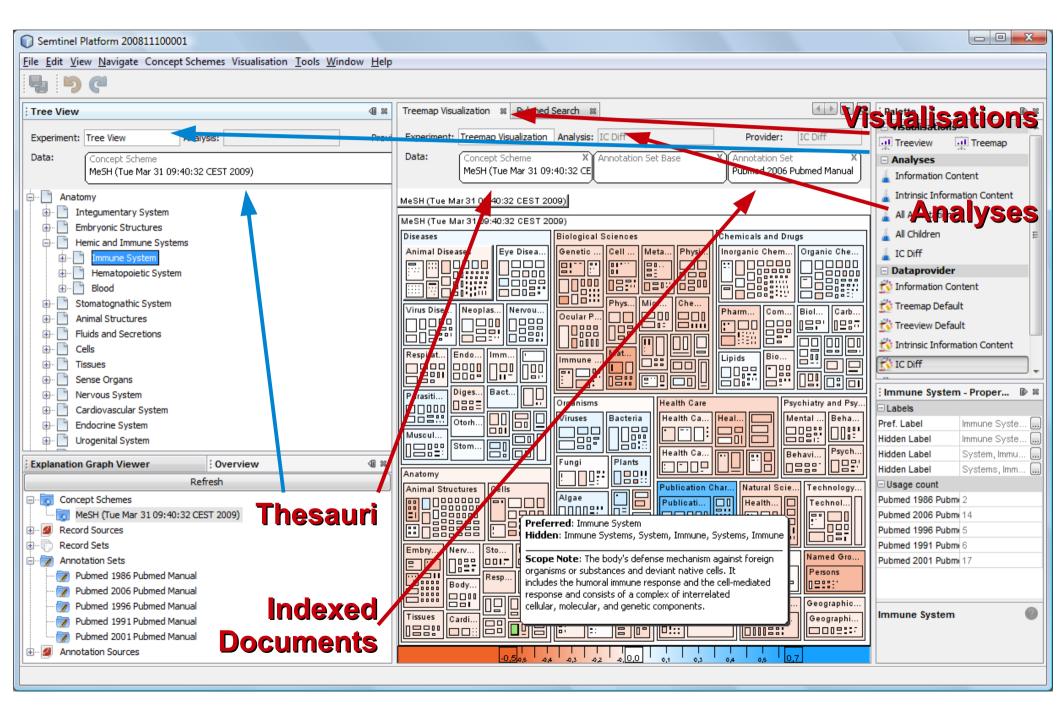
Environment

- Rich Client Desktop Application
 - That means: Use a framework!!!
- Programming language: Java
 - Two serious RCP candidates:
 - Eclipse RCP
 - Netbeans Platform
- We use Netbeans Platform
 - Main reason: expertize and existing code
 - There is no better or worse, it is more a matter of taste.

The Netbeans IDE



Semtinel: Based on Netbeans Platform



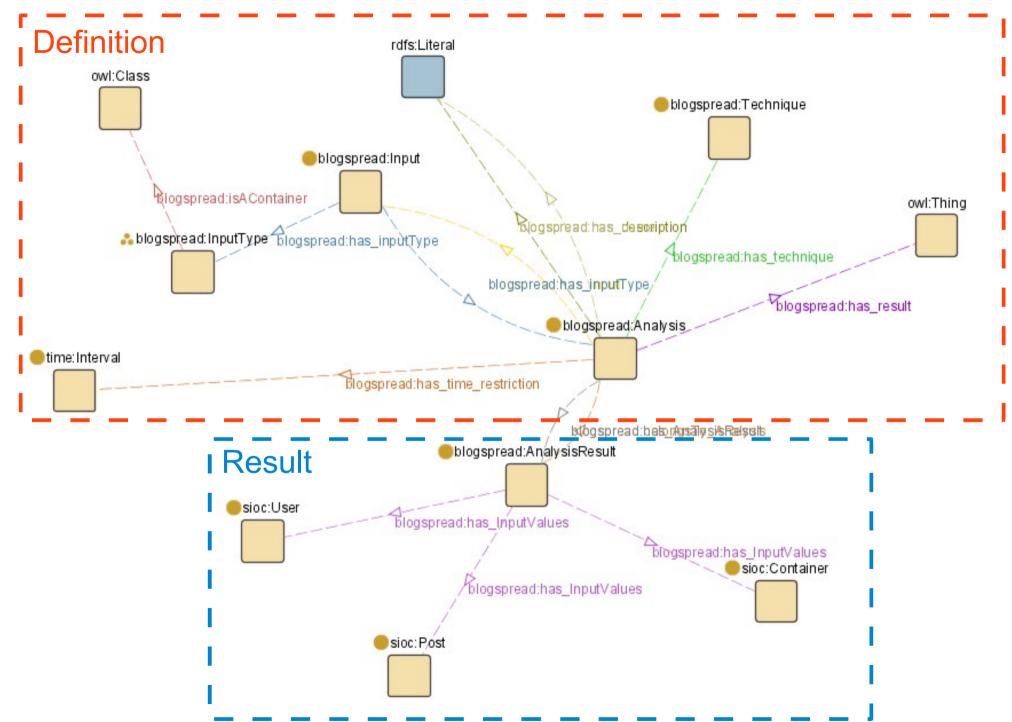
Talking about analyses

- Analyses have...
 - ... different numbers of inputs
 - ... different types of input
 - ... different numbers of results
 - ... different types of results
- An analysis can built upon other analyses
- An analysis is not necessarily pure math, but a black box (maybe it uses arbitrary backgroundknowledge internally)

Talking about visualizations

- Visualizations work for different kinds of data.
- Visualizations can combine several analysis results.
- Example: Treemap
 - Needs hierarchical data (so this property should be part of the data description)
 - Can simultaneously visualize two results by means of color and size, both usually are provided by a metric.
 - The color metric usually needs a limited range.

The Analysis Ontology: A first draft

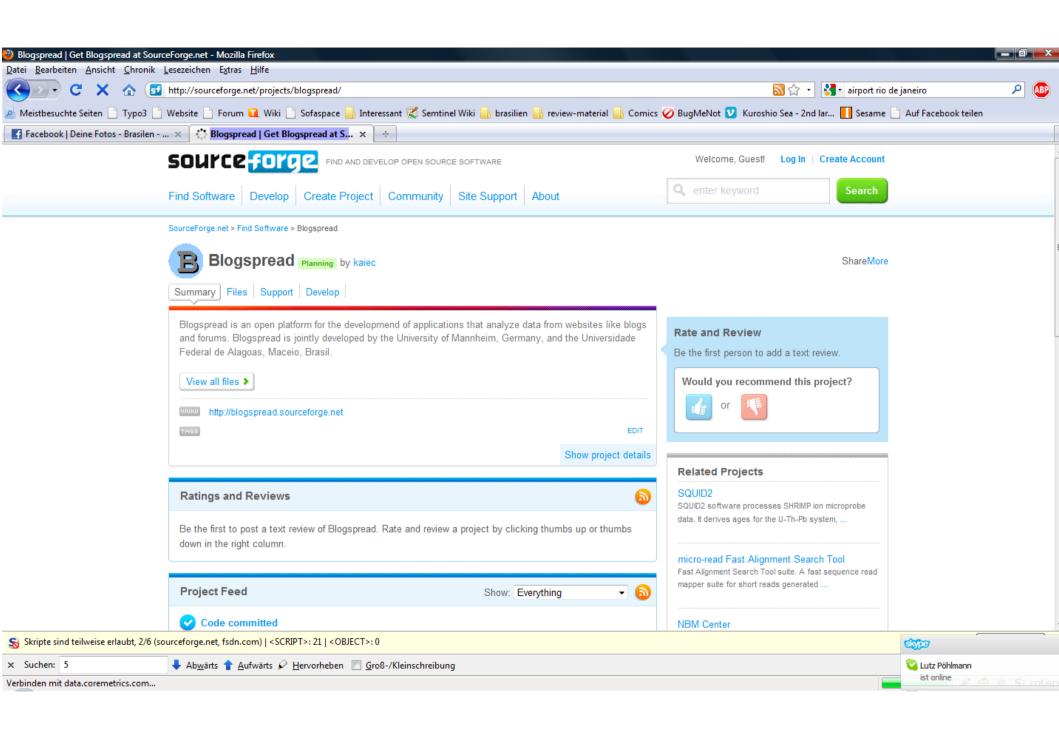


Existing projects

- University of Mannheim
 - Semtinel (Kai)
 - Blogalyzer (Kai)
- University of Pernambuco, Recife
 - Master-Web, Agathe (Fred)
 - BWI + Pos Tagging (Rinaldo)
 - GATE Pipelines (Luciano)
 - Visualisation Tool (Amadeu)
 - Tag Suggestion (Icaro)

BlogSpread on Sourceforge

- http://blogspread.sourceforge.net/
- We will use it (at least) for:
 - Wiki
 - Mailinglists
 - Code-Repository
 - Downloads
- Everyone in this room can join this project!
- Spread the word!





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