



Compact Topic Maps Syntax (CTM)

Meeting Notes

Atlanta, GE

2005-11-14



More use cases?

- **Support for “blocks” of statements**
 - everything in this block appears in a certain scope
 - all associations in this block share a role player (like nesting)
- **Prefix declarations with limited lexical scope**
 - scope is effectively one block

Brainstorming

- **Design philosophy**
 - very Pythonic! (SRN)
 - encourage uniformity of visual style, which leads to readability
 - Java or C-like (prof. Lee)
 - blocks! end delimiters! lexical scoping.
 - as minimal as possible (LMG, SRN)
 - limited number of delimiters, minimal use of delimiters, no keywords
 - make similar things look similar, even if they are different in TMDM (GDM = Graham D. Moore)
 - names and occurrences should look similar
 - subject locators and identifiers should look similar
 - binary relationships should be similar to names/occurrences
 - self-explanatory/self-describing (prof. Lee)
 - instead of “/”, use “scope”
 - hit balance between compactness and readability (SCP)
 - is this to be readable or writable? (SRN)

Brainstorming (2)

- **Has to be both to some degree (SCP)**
- **Name says it's going to be compact (SCP)**
- **Conserving vertical space is important (SCP)**
- **Modularity (at very low level) and support for nesting are to some extent opposed (prof. Lee)**
- **Missing use case: import of other files**
- **It should be Ruby-style (Dmitry)**
 - there is a way to indicate the end of a block
- **Easy to write for non-technical people (Naito-san)**
- **English keywords is hard for non-English speakers (Durusau)**
- **Should it be lex/yacc-able? (SRN)**
- **YES! (LMG)**
<http://www.isotopicmaps.org>

Next steps

- **Acting editors**
 - Sam Oh
 - Lars Heuer
 - Gabriel Hopmans
- **A requirements document**
 - based on the slides from Montréal + notes from Atlanta
- **Use cases document**
 - extend and correct, based on Atlanta feedback
- **Solicit CTM input**
 - complete syntaxes like AsTMa= and LTM
 - more incomplete syntaxes
 - suggestions for handling particular issues
- **Use case solutions document**