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)
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**