

# TopQuadrant Newsletter – April 2011

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## New Case Study [Download](#)

It's all about the data – more and more of it! When it comes to making wise decisions, answering critical questions, and resolving significant problems concerning data –today truly is the best and worst of times. There is more data than ever and the amount is ever more rapidly growing, presenting a constant source of change, new challenges and new opportunities.

To unlock the potential of ever growing information resources, enterprises must share, connect and make sense of data that was not created with either sharing or integration in mind. The biggest obstacles to doing this are differences in business terminology and metadata. These differences exist because diverse data sources are structured and compiled for different purposes. Yet they contain related information that needs to be brought together in order for organizations to successfully use what is known. Increasingly “what is known” includes not only internal data, but also data from external partners and the web.

In this [brief case study](#) we describe how one organization is successfully using Semantic Web technologies to leverage public information and enhance understanding of their proprietary information.

## Semantic Web Intro and TopBraid Advanced Training Classes

### Getting Ready for the Semantic Web Instructor: Dean Allemang

“As I am sure you are aware, Dean Allemang is an extremely good teacher. He's incredibly expert, interesting, thoughtful, and extremely responsive and flexible to what's happening in the class. One of the best I've seen.”  
*(Typical unsolicited feedback, 2010).*

All students attending this class will get free copy of Dean's popular, practitioners guide book [“Semantic Web for the Working Ontologist”](#), now available in 5 languages, second edition coming soon!

– May 2-5, 2011, Washington DC area, Standard 4-day program.

[More details, schedule and pricing](#)      [Register](#)

### TopBraid Suite Advanced Product Training Instructor: Scott Henninger

“Scott Henninger did an excellent job. Thanks very much for your help this week! The discussions and Q&A were excellent, and I look forward to getting more acquainted with the products.” *(Typical unsolicited feedback, 2010).*

– May 23-26, 2011, Washington, DC area. Three-day program (or four-day with refresher class.)

[More details, schedule and pricing](#)      [Register](#)

## SPIN (SPARQL Rules) is now a W3C Member Submission

We are very pleased to announce that SPIN has been accepted by W3C as a member submission. With this, [SPIN specifications have moved to the W3C web site](#).

SPIN is a way to express rules and object behavior for the Semantic Web. You will not need to learn another proprietary rules language to do so. With SPIN, rules are expressed in [SPARQL](#), which is why it is also referred to as *SPARQL Rules*. SPARQL is a well-established W3C standard implemented by many industrial-strength RDF APIs and all databases. Using SPARQL means that rules can run directly on RDF data without a need for expensive transformation into a format required by a rules engine. SPIN provides a framework to leverage the fast performance and rich expressivity of SPARQL for various application purposes.

SPIN also supports modular abstraction and re-use of SPARQL queries through a templating mechanism. Templates are queries parameterized with pre-bound variables. Building on the idea of templates, SPIN makes it possible to define custom SPARQL functions. These functions can be shared on the web using their URIs, and SPARQL processors can dynamically look up function definitions on demand, such as in Web service calls. A good example of SPIN functions has been published in the context of ontology-based [unit conversion](#).

For a quick overview of SPIN, take a look at [SPIN in Five Slides](#).

For more information, visit <http://www.spinrdf.org/> or contact us at [info@topquadrant.com](mailto:info@topquadrant.com)

## New Video: Putting Vocabularies to Work - Faceted Search in TopBraid Suite

Managing controlled vocabularies is a key part of any enterprise integration solution, but vocabularies are valuable only to the extent they can be put to use – particularly in applications that everyday knowledge workers need. In this [demo](#), you'll see TopBraid Enterprise Vocabulary Net at work, managing a network of vocabularies. But beyond that, you'll see how those vocabularies make an impact in daily life, through their use within a faceted search application. The networked vocabularies are utilized directly by the application, so changes to any vocabulary in the network are reflected immediately in enhanced search capabilities in the application. [View Video](#)