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For Immediate Release

TopQuadrant and Franz Partner to Enable Semantic Web Applications Previously Not Possible

New Class of Applications Dynamically Generate Information without First Requiring Human Interpretation

ALEXANDRIA, VA and OAKLAND, CA, – April 9, 2007 – TopQuadrant, a leading Semantic Web solutions company, and Franz Inc., the leading vendor of dynamic object-oriented development tools and object databases, today announced a technology partnership to deliver the world's first production ontology design environment with an integrated, enterprise-class triple-store database. The integration of TopQuadrant TopBraid Composer with the Franz AllegroGraph 64-bit RDFStore database allows web developers to create a new generation of smart, enterprise-scale applications with the power and speed of semantic inference to process information and produce results previously not possible.

"Semantic Web applications organize information in a way that can be interpreted by computers, which has produced a ground swell of interest in semantic application development," said Ralph Hodgson, co-founder and executive partner at TopQuadrant. "But real-world applications require massively scalable datastores to support processing of enormous networks of information and continuously growing data streams. By combining our ontology design environment with Franz' highly scalable triple-store database, people will be able to build semantic web systems that can query terabytes of data and generate timely results -- in seconds instead of weeks."

"Today's data-centric computer applications are bumping into a productivity wall because they often require human interpretation at each step of the process," said Dr. Sheng-Chuan Wu, VP of corporate development at Franz. "But by capturing the data semantics and relationships between data, a certain level of intelligence can be automatically inferred and drawn upon dynamically. We can create 'background intelligence' by combining semantic ontology models with a highly scalable triple-store database, which can then be leveraged to help computers perform highly complex tasks at speeds we've not yet experienced."

Enterprise-class semantic web application development requires both an ontology design environment and triple datastores. By integrating AllegroGraph RDFStore with TopBraid Composer, users now have an interactive graphical development platform to build comprehensive semantic models connected to large scale datasets that can be stored and queried very efficiently.

TopBraid Composer is an Eclipse-based Semantic Web ontology development tool that seamlessly supports multiple inference (reasoning) engines for specific tasks. The inference engines use asserted information to automatically discover and incorporate new information, allowing critical implications to be generated from complex logic networks without human intervention.

AllegroGraph RDFstore is a high-performance, persistent triple datastore for saving and querying billions of RDF triples in real-time. It is the world's only triple-store database that can support billions of triples without significant performance degradation.

About Franz, Inc.

Franz Inc., (<http://www.franz.com>) based in Oakland, California, is the leading vendor of dynamic object-oriented development tools and object and semantic databases, featuring Allegro CL/CLOS, AllegroCache and AllegroGraph. Founded in 1984 and privately held, Franz Inc. has been serving customers worldwide with industry-leading technologies since its inception.

About TopQuadrant

TopQuadrant is a leading semantic web solutions company, providing a full range of products services, knowledge, training programs and methods. TopQuadrant assists clients to achieve a wide range of business goals including semantic solutions for net-centric operations, semantic integration, search, collaboration, policy management, enterprise architecture, semantic web services and other ontology-driven applications. For more information, visit www.topquadrant.com.

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