Vladimir Geroimenko, Chaomei Chen (Eds.)

Visualizing the Semantic Web

XML-based Internet and Information Visualization

• **The first book to cover visualization and the Semantic Web**

Vladimir Geroimenko and Chaomei Chen The Semantic Web is avision that has sparked a wide-ranging enthusiasm for a new generation of the Web. The Semantic Web is happening. The central idea of this vision is to make the Web more understandable to computer programs so that people can make more use of this gigantic asset. The use of metadata (data about data) can clearly indicate the meaning of data on the Web so as to provide computers with enough information to handle such data. On the future Web, many additionallayers will be required if we want computer programs to handle the semantics (the meaning of data) properly without human intervention. Such layers should deal with the hierarchical relationships between meanings, their similarities and differences, logical rules for making new inferences from the existing data and metadata, etc. Dozens of new technologies have emerged recently to implement these ideas. XML (eXtensible Markup Language) forms the foundation of the future Web, RDF (Resource Description Framework), Topic Maps and many other technologies help to erect a "multi- storey" building of the Semantic Web layer by layer by adding new features and new types of metadata. According to Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the current Web and the Semantic Web, it may take up to ten years to complete the building. The new Web will be much more complex than the current one and will contain enormous amounts of metadata as weIl as data.

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