

Introduction to the Aggregation Database

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What is the problem?

The Aggregation Database is being developed to solve some new problems occurring when data is distributed in SEIS:

- How to *discover* the datasets
- How to *search* for the datasets
- How to *track* updates to the datasets
- How to *bookmark* found datasets
- How to *merge* datasets
- How to *trust* the dataset
- How to trust the *trust*

The system is going to be an extension to EEA's Reportnet system

Discovering the data

Datasets tend to be only numbers. Unlike Google, that mainly harvests webpages, a SEIS search engine can't get information from the content of the files.

The aggregation database will use two mechanisms to discover relevant datasets.

1. A collaborating node provides a *manifest* of the relevant files existing on its own website
2. Users register the files at a new website called QAW along the principles of del.icio.us and digg.com

Discovering with the manifest file

- The manifest lists location and any metadata the provider has on each file
- The format can handle any type of metadata property

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<rod:Delivery rdf:about="http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/hu/colrzxujg/envrzxuuw">
  <dc:title>Bathing water report, 2006</dc:title>
  <rod:released>2007-11-15T16:17:27Z</rod:released>
  <rod:locality rdf:resource="http://rod.eionet.eu.int/spatial/17"/>
  <rod:period>2006</rod:period>
  <rod:obligation rdf:resource="http://rod.eionet.eu.int/obligations/21"/>
  <rod:file rdf:resource="http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/hu/bwd.xml"/>
</rod:Delivery>
```

Registering a SEIS dataset

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User name: roug [Logout](#) [Personal page](#)

Register new resource

URL:

Recent resources

- [River data Cyprus](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [2006_September](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [EUMM_2005_Mar05](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [Ozone Data for 2001 - annual statistics and exceedances](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [Groundwater Quality Data 2004_corr](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [2005 - May](#)
Discovered : 14/10/2008 @ 19:22
Related tags:
- [ES122 - FUERTEVENTURA](#)

Discovered via manifest files and manual registration

Breaking news!

Now you can use a [bookmarklet](#) to simplify the process of adding resources to the system. Follow this link to [add the bookmarklet to your browser](#).

Adding metadata

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Edit resource

Info (hide)

1. Resource was successfully added

Main data | Attributes | Methodology | Obligations | Users QA reports


URL  <http://uba.at/riverdata/delivery2008.xml>

Type

Title

Description

Tags *Space separated*

Save | Clear entries 

Breaking news

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Bookmarking and searching the dataset

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Working with files vs. records

- Now we know where the files are in the SEIS universe
- But we can do *more*:
 - We can read the content of XML files
 - Example of an XML snippet:

```
<stations xmlns:xsi=http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance
xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="http://water.eionet.europa.eu/stations.xsd">
  <station>
    <local_code>32301</local_code>
    <name>St. Pölten</name>
    <longitude>15.63166</longitude>
    <latitude>48.21139</latitude>
    <altitude>270</altitude>
    <station_type>Industrial</station_type>
    <area_type>urban</area_type>
  </station>
  ...
</stations>
```


Merging principles

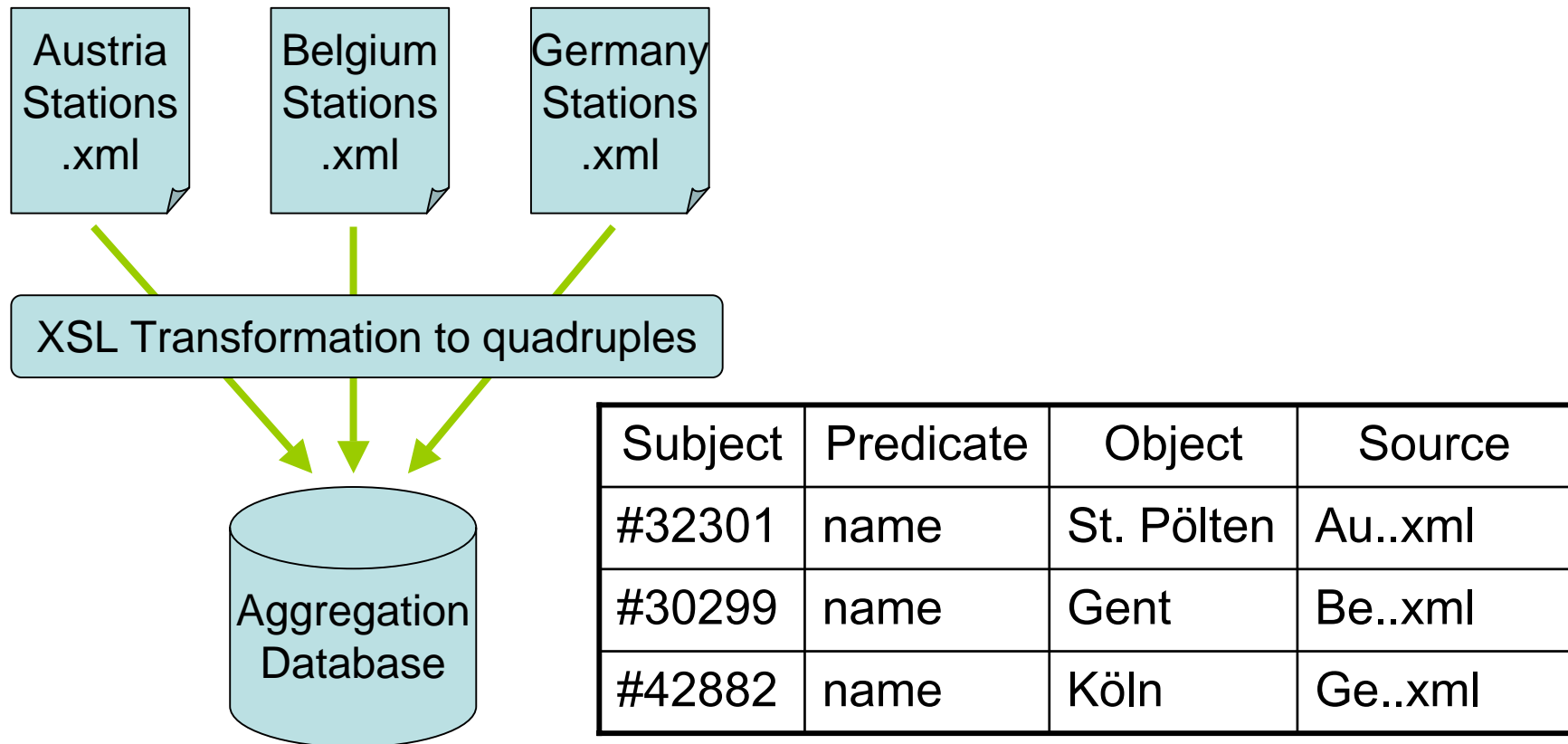
Station structure as a table (austria.xml)

Identifier	local code	name	...
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	...
#32302	32302	Linz	...

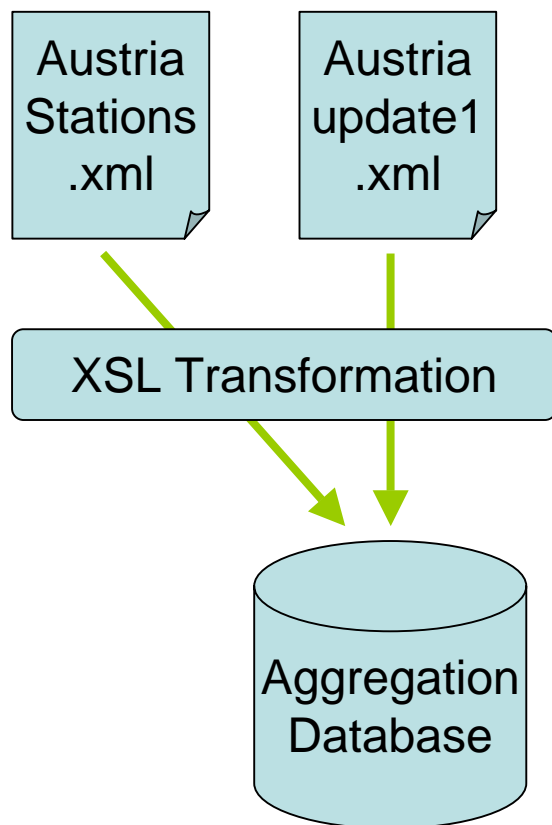
Quadruple structure

Subject	Predicate	Object	Source
#32301	type	River Station	<i>austria.xml</i>
#32301	local code	32301	<i>austria.xml</i>
#32301	name	St. Pölten	<i>austria.xml</i>
#32302	type	River Station	<i>austria.xml</i>
#32302	local code	32302	<i>austria.xml</i>
#32302	name	Linz	<i>austria.xml</i>

Merging the datasets



Merging the datasets (with later updates)



Subject	Predicate	Object	Source
#32301	name	St. Pölten	Au..xml
#32301	date	2005-10-8	Au..xml
#32301	name	Spratzern	Au..update1.xml
#32301	date	2008-6-18	Au..update1.xml

Searching

- To find all river stations in Europe you search for subjects with the *type="River Station"*

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	2005-10-8	15.63166
#32301		Spratzern	2008-6-18	
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

- The query will format it as a table for you
- Obviously you get duplicates because 32301 has been updated

QA work

- Let's first colour the cells by their source

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	2005-10-8	15.63166
#32301		Spratzern	2008-6-18	
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

QA work

- Then we merge by letting the newer sources overwrite the older:

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	Spratzern	2008-6-18	15.63166
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

QA work

- Don't trust one source?
- Turn it off before you merge

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	2005-10-8	15.63166
#32301		Spratzern	2008-6-18	
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

QA work

- Then we merge

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	2005-10-8	15.63166
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

QA work

- Gapfilling?
- Add your own source as a layer
- The layer is stored on QAW

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	St. Pölten	2005-10-8	15.63166
#32301		Spratzern	2008-6-18	
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667
#32301			2008-11-27	15.65000

Hermann's gapfilling layer created 2008-11-27

QA work

- Then we merge

Identifier	Local_code	Name	Date	Longitude
#32301	32301	Spratzern	2008-11-27	15.65000
#30299	30299	Gent	2004-11-12	3.733333
#42882	42882	Köln	2001-4-14	6.966667

- And we export to our working database for production...

Trusting the dataset and trusting trust

- Datasets and values can be evaluated by looking at the source
- Is the source URL from a reliable organisation/person?
- Is the methodology described?
- Are there reviews on QAW?
 - Who wrote the reviews?
- Are there others who have used the data?
 - Who are they?

Summary

These new tools intend to solve the use of the Reportnet deliveries:

- Aggregation/Merging
- Manual QA and gap-filling
- Traceability to the sources
 - Noticing when the source has been updated/deleted
- Review of the source for inclusion
 - That was no problem before because only authorised parties could upload to CDR
 - With SEIS now anyone can participate