





Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance

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Background & Motivation

- GDPR compliance is associated with information
- Technological solutions for GDPR face challenges regarding information representation

- Semantic Web technologies have proved useful in legal compliance and for addressing GDPR
 - Commercial solutions e.g. Top Quadrant, Thomas Reuters, Signatu
 - H2020 projects such as SPECIAL, MIREL, BPR4GDPR
 - Use is growing in legal domain for information representation, querying, reasoning, and interoperability



To what extent can

- > information regarding activities
- > associated with processing of personal data and consent
- be represented using Semantic Web technologies
- for GDPR compliance?

Tasks

- 1)Representation of information
- 2)Querying
- 3) Validation
- 4) Assessment/Evaluation

Information Requirements

- A) to conduct evaluation of compliance
- B) document compliance
- a) State of system at a given time
- b) Stakeholders



State of the Art – Gaps (Ch.3)

- 1) Machine-readable representation of GDPR
- 2) Glossary of terms and concepts associated with GDPR
- 3) Representation of activities associated with processing of personal data in ex-ante/ex-post phases
- 4) Representation of consent information
- 5) Demonstration using authoritative compliance queries
- 6) Validating information for compliance evaluation





Research Objectives

- RO1 Identify the subset of GDPR and RO2 Identify information required to represent activities associated with processing of personal data and consent in investigation of GDPR compliance → Compliance queries and analysis of information (Ch.4)
- major -> RO3 Create OWL2 ontologies for representation information about:
 - Ontologies presented in Chapter 5
 - (a): concepts and text of GDPR \rightarrow GDPRtEXT (Sec. 5.2)
 - (b): activities associated with processing of personal data and consent → GDPRov (Sec. 5.3).
 - (c): consent required to determine compliance → GConsent (Sec 5.4)
- minor -> **RO4** Represent compliance questions using **SPARQL to query information** about activities associated with processing of personal data and consent → queries (Sec. 6.1)
- minor -> **RO5 Utilise SHACL to**: (a): **validate information** for GDPR compliance regarding activities associated with processing of personal data and consent (b): link validation results with GDPR → (Sec 6.2)
 - Querying and Validation of information presented in Chapter 6





Research Contributions and Outcomes

- Information modelling for GDPR compliance
- Linking information to GDPR
- Representing processing activities
- Representing Consent
- Querying information using SPARQL
- Validation framework using SHACL
- Impact on Data Privacy Vocabulary (external contribution)

Name	Type	GDPR	Result	Node
One Processing x Many Purposes	A	R32	F	Q:Consent20190415140000
Personal Data → Storage Period	A	A13-2-a	F	Q:CATQInfoStorageAccess
Personal Data → Storage Period	A	A13-2-a	F	Q:CATTPInfoStorageAccess
Personal Data → Storage Period	A	A13-2-a,R39	F	Q:Consent20190415120753
Personal Data → Storage Period	A	A13-2-a,R39	F	Q:Consent20190415140000
Right to Withdraw	A	A7-3	P	
Separation of Processing	M	R43	P	
Third Party Categories	A	A44	P	
Third Party Identities	A	A13-1-e	P	
Third Party Identities	A	A30-1-d	P	
Third Party Identities	A	A44	P	
Third Party Safeguards	A		Р	
Withdraw Consent Information	M	A7-3	P	





18 Publications (Sec. 1.4.7)

- 1) GDPRtEXT ESWC 2018
- 2) GDPRov ISWC PrivOn 2017
- 3) GConsent ESWC 2019
- 4) SPARQL queries SEMANTICS 2018
- 5) SHACL validation SEMANTICS 2018,2019, ISWC CKG 2018
- 6) GDPR interoperability analysis EURAS 2018, IJSR 2018, Book Chapter 2019
- Investigated applications
 - information management ICSC 2019, ESWC MEPDaW 2018
 - 2) privacy policies IPAW 2018, ISWC WOP 2018, TELERISE/ADBIS 2018
- 8) Data Privacy Vocabulary ODBASE 2019

Publish developed resources

- FAIR / Open Source / Open Access
- Ontologies: W3ID, Github, Gogs; Code / Data / Documents: Github, Gogs, Datahub, Zenodo
- Publications: university archive (TARA), Zenodo



Research Impact

- 1 W3C Data Privacy Vocabularies & Controls Community Group (DPVCG)
 - Author/Editor of Data Privacy Vocabulary (2019)
 - Chair since Jan 2020
- 2 EU Publications Office interest in GDPRtEXT
 - modelling of clauses, extension of ELI
 - discussion of future plans, opinion as POI and research stakeholder, invitation as sem-web expert
- 3 Consent Receipt
 - invitation to edit next version of consent standard addressing GDPR and global privacy laws with Kantara
 - recently accepted as project at ISO/IEC 27560
- 4 Involved EU / H2020 project funding applications as domain expert



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Future Plans & Opportunities

- Coverage of more GDPR topics
 - **Data Protection Impact Assessments**
 - Controller Processor agreement and data governance
- **Data Privacy Vocabulary**
 - Expand in terms of concepts, areas, documentation
 - Incorporate other laws e.g. CCPA
- Student Supervision (ongoing)
 - Use of PhD work on topics of privacy and consent online
 - Alignment and application to AI accountability / ethics
- Research applications
 - Policy and Consent
 - ISO 27560 for work on consent receipt
 - Consent extension for Schema.org
- Collaborations with researchers

Funding Calls - applied/in-progress

- 1) Ireland Postdoc Fellowship (individual)
- 2) H2020 ICT on IoT (WP lead)
- 3) NGI Trust 2020 (co-ordinator)
- 4) NGI DAPSI (team lead)
- 5) ICO (UK) grants (research lead)

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Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance



Summary of PhD

To what extent can

- information regarding activities
- associated with processing of personal data and consent
- be represented using Semantic Web technologies
- for GDPR compliance?

```
RO1 and RO2 → Compliance queries and analysis of information (Ch.4)
RO3 → Ontologies presented in Chapter 5
     (a): concepts and text of GDPR \rightarrow GDPRtEXT (Sec. 5.2)
```

(b): activities associated with processing of personal data and consent \rightarrow GDPRov (Sec. 5.3)

(c): consent required to determine compliance \rightarrow GConsent (Sec 5.4)

```
RO4 → SPARQL queries (Sec. 6.1)
```

 $RO5 \rightarrow (Sec 6.2)$ SHACL for validation and link results to GDPR (Sec 6.2)

Resources: documented and open access at https://openscience.adaptcentre.ie

Impact:

- Data Privacy Vocabulary: community agreement and specification
- Consent Receipt: data model and standard, project at ISO









Notes Index

12.	GDPR: compliance requirements	42.	SotA: Analysis – representation activities	72.	GConsent – overview
13.	GDPR: sources of information	43.	SotA: Analysis – representation of consent	73.	GConsent – relationship with GDPRov
14.	Ex-ante & Ex-post	44.	SotA: Analysis – querying	74.	GConsent – context and concepts
15.	ISO standards for GDPR	45.	SotA: Analysis – compliance evaluation	75.	GConsent – example use-cases
16.	Technological development of legal compliance solutions	46. 47.	Analysing GDPR compliance requirements GDPR req. – stakeholder requirements	76. 77.	GConsent – evaluation GConsent – compare with SotA
17.	Approaches for legal compliance	48.	GDPR req. – interoperability model	78.	GConsent – use-case from SPECIAL
18.	Commercial solutions for GDPR	49.	GDPR req. – compliance questions	79.	DPV - overview
19.	Timeline of research	50.	GDPR req. – consultations	80.	DPV - concepts
20.	RQ: definitions	51.	GDPR req categories	81.	DPV – comparison with phd ontologies
21. 22.	Strengths and Weaknesses of my work Publications list	52. 53.	GDPR req. – use-cases GDPR req. – assumptions / constraints	82. 83.	Querying – compliance questions Querying – GDPR readiness checklist
23.	Why not ODRL?	54.	Ontology engineering methodology	84.	Querying — methodology
24.	Are they really OWL2 ontologies?	55.	GDPRtEXT - overview	85.	Querying – analysis
25.	SotA: Scope	56.	GDPRtEXT - ELI extension	86.	Querying — demo
26.	SotA: Survey of legal approaches	57.	GDPRtEXT – script for text extraction	87.	Querying – evaluation
27. 28.	Why not BPMN? SotA: Legal Ontologies	58. 59.	GDPRtEXT – DPD mapping GDPRtEXT – compliance reporting	88. 89.	Querying – compare to SotA Validation – model
29.	SotA: Analysis criteria	60.	GDPRtEXT – evaluation	90.	Validation – link to GDPR
30.	SotA: Approaches using Sem-Web	61.	GDPRtEXT - compare with SotA	91.	Validation – manually evaluated constraint
31.	SotA: Approaches other	62.	GDPRov – overview	92.	Validation – ex-ante and ex-post results
32.	SotA: Approaches for privacy policies	63.	GDPRov – ex-ante and ex-post phase	93.	Validation – demo
33. 34.	SotA: Approaches for consent SotA: upcoming research projects	64. 65.	GDPRov – Extending PROV-O and P-Plan GDPRov – Data Lifecycle	94. 95.	Validation – Quantcast data Validation – constraints
35.	SotA: SPECIAL	66.	GDPRov - Consent Lifecycle	96.	Validation – SPARQL queries
36.	SotA: MIREL + DAPRECO	67.	GDPRov – change detection	97.	Validation – evaluation
37.	SotA: BPR4GDPR	68.	GDPRov – evaluation	98.	Validation – compare to SotA
38.	SotA: Ujcich et al.	69.	GDPRov - compare with SotA	99.	Conclusion – fulfilment of RO and RQ
39. 40.	SotA: RestAssured SotA: Analysis	70. 71.	GDPRov – data storage and location GDPRov – use-case from SPECIAL	100.	Conclusion – extent of sem-web
41.	SotA: Analysis – representation of GDPR				









GDPRtEXT - overview

- Ontology to specify GDPR at a granular level + RDF dataset
 - Extends ELI (in a compatible manner)
 - PID individual clause/section
- SKOS glossary of GDPR concepts
 - Personal Data
 - Legal Basis
 - Principles, Rights
 - Compliance obligations

Dataset	Distribution	Comment
canonical	HTML, PDF, XML	Official GDPR distributions
textid, dataset	HTML, JSON, text	GDPR text with IDs
annotated	XML, Turtle, JSON- LD	RDF





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GDPRtEXT – ELI extension

- LegalResource → document
- LegalSubResource → section in document (GDPRtEXT uses this)
- has part property \rightarrow specify relation between sections
- FRBR model \rightarrow allows specification of language and format specific publications
 - E.g. PDF, XML
 - E.g. EN, FR, DE
- GDPRtEXT only models GDPR at a conceptual level.
- FRBR can be extended on top of GDPRtEXT same as ELI
- ELI+ is proposed/planned extension to ELI



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GDPRtEXT – extracting text

- Official GDPR publication lists its contents inside a table element
- Does not specify metadata (e.g. clause, number, title)
- JS script parses this output to extract data
- Alternative is to use XML much more consistent
- Issue highlighted to publication office
- Response:
 - ELI+ will have more structured metadata
 - HTML will also be better structured



GDPRtEXT – DPD Mapping

- Create LOD version of DPD (assign PID to each clause)
- Create mapping between DPD clause and GDPR clause
 - Based on interpretation of obligation
 - Based on available information at time
- Annotate corresponding XACML statements based on change
 - Extended, same, reduced, completely changed, slightly changed
- Collaboration work (collaborator was leading work on XACML)





GDPRtEXT – Compare with SotA

Table 5.2: Comparison of GDPRtEXT with SotA

Work	GDPRtEXT	ELI	ELI+	Agarwal et al	PrOnto
Vocabulary	ELI	OWL2	OWL2	RDFS	Akoma Ntoso
Granularity	Sub-Paragraph	Legislation	Sub-Paragraph	Paragraph	Sub-Paragraph
Glossary	✓	×	✓	×	×
PID	✓	1	✓	×	×
OA	✓	1	✓	×	X
GDPR text	✓	Х	1	×	1

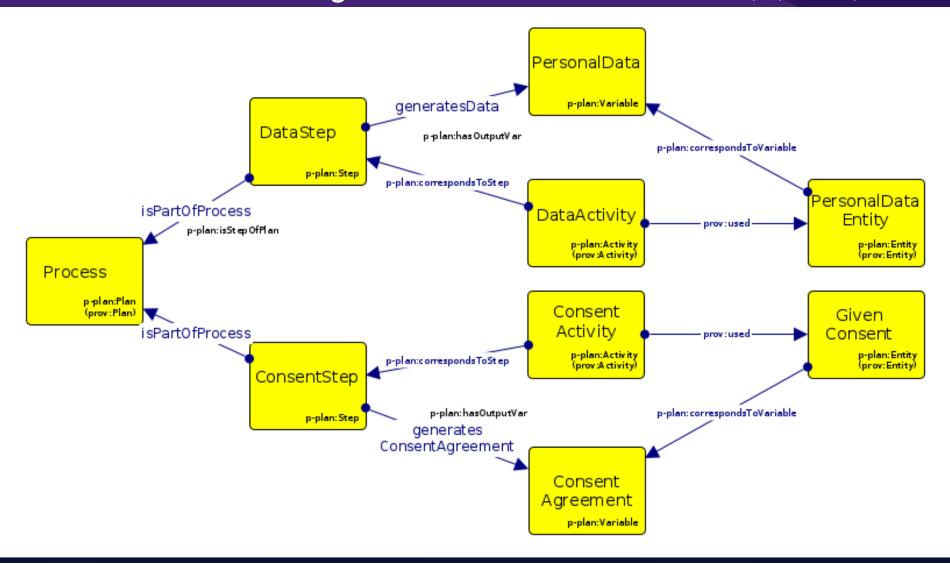


GDPRov - Overview

- Provenance (of plans and activities) ontology for GDPR
- Extends PROV-O and P-Plan
 - PROV-O → provenance of activities (ex-post) + prov:Plan
 - P-Plan → scientific workflow (ex-ante + ex-post)
- Represents Ex-ante and Ex-post phases
- Models data and consent lifecycles
- Granular abstraction of processes and steps
- Concepts
 - Agents
 - Data
 - Consent
 - Activities (Processing, Purposes)
 - Anonymisation
 - Rights
 - Data Breach
- Composition of activities as steps and processes





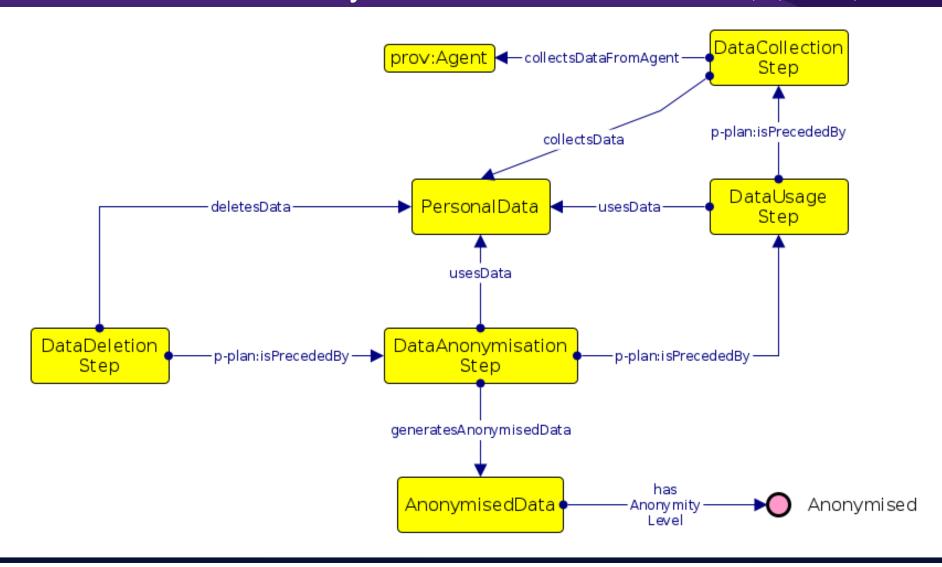








GDPRov – Data Lifecycle

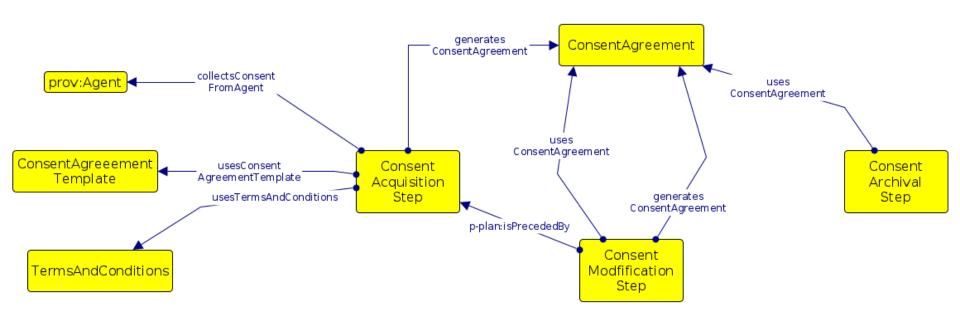








GDPRov – Consent Lifecycle



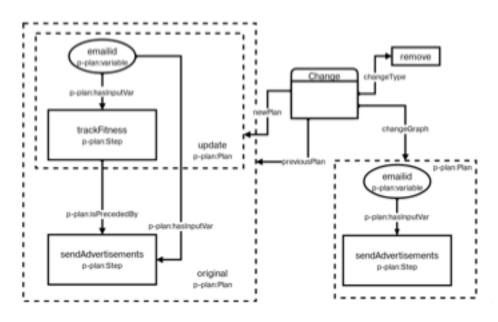






GDPRov – Change Detection Use-Case

- Temporal state of Plan / System
- Compare new and old states
- Identify differences in activities
- Evaluate change in GDPR obligations (e.g. new purposes added)
- Evaluate change required for compliance (e.g. renew consent)





GDPRov – Compare with SotA

Table 5.4: Comparison of GDPRov with SotA

Work	Repr	EA	EP	Pu	Pr	DS	Rp	St	Rg	LB
GDPRov	PROV-O,P-Plan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SPECIAL	PROV-O	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
SPL+CitySPIN	PROV-O	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
MIREL	PWO	1		1	1			1	1	
MRL+DAPRECO	PWO	/		/	1			1	1	
BPR4GDPR		/	1	/	/	/	/			
Ujcich et al.	PROV-O		1	1	1	/	1	1	1	1
Lodge et al		1		1						
Tom et al	BPMN	1			1	1	1	1	1	
LUCE		1	1			/	1			
Sion et al		1		1	1	1	1	1		1
privacyTracker		/	1			/	1			
Basin et al		/		1						
RestAssured				1	1	/	1	1		







GDPRov – Data Storage and Location

- Data Storage duration (temporal properties)
 - Fixed timestamp e.g. 27-APR-2020
 - Duration e.g. 2 years
 - Indefinite e.g. "as long as required"
 - Dependent on event/condition e.g. "until you are logged in"
 - Proposal: hasStorageDuration (union of properties)
- Data Location (geospatial and political properties)
 - Country
 - Region (e.g. North America)
 - Political Unions (e.g. EU → Brexit changes memberships)
 - Multiple locations with dynamic changes e.g. servers
 - Proposal: hasDataLocation (union of properties)



GConsent - Overview

- Consent-specific ontology for GDPR
- Models purpose, processing, etc. focused on consent instance
- Companion to GDPRov
- Models context
 - Required to analyse GDPR consent requirements
 - E.g. Location, medium
- Models consent states
 - Based on consent management in real-world
 - Organisations need to track consent
 - E.g. Given, Requested, Invalidated
- Models chain of consent instances

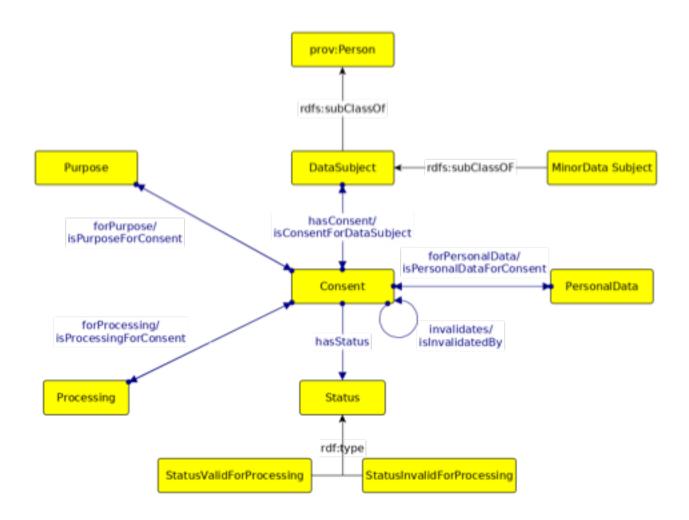




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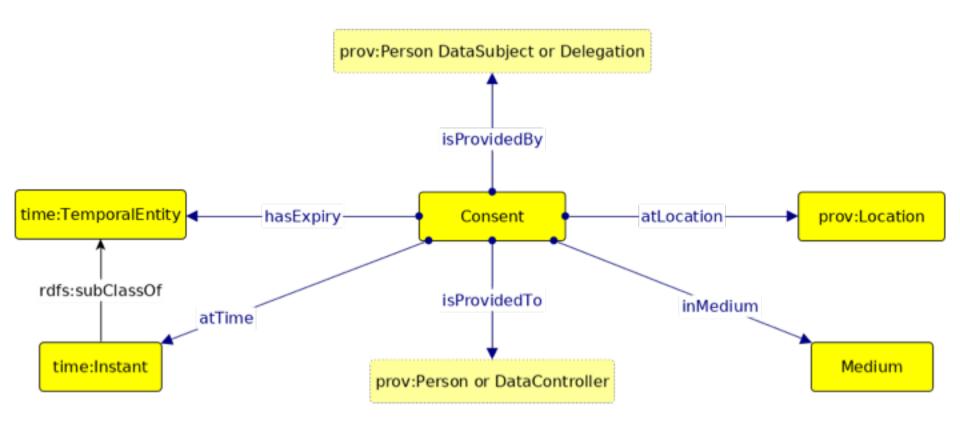
GConsent – Core Concepts









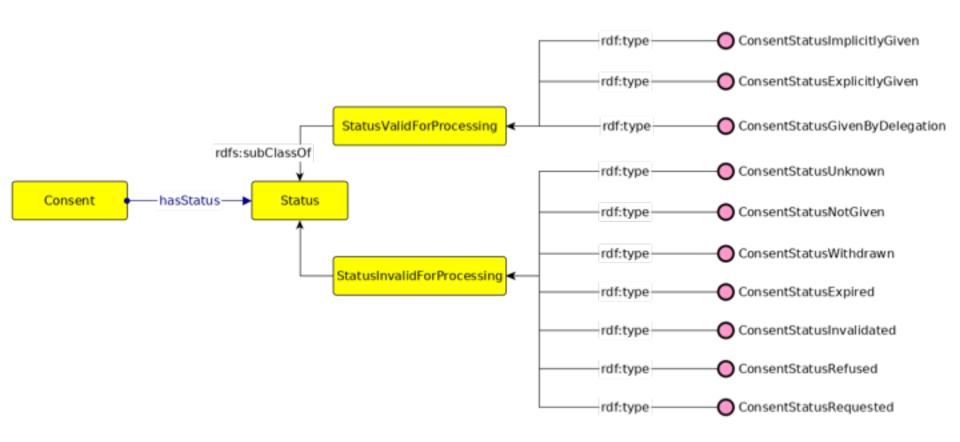








GConsent – Consent States

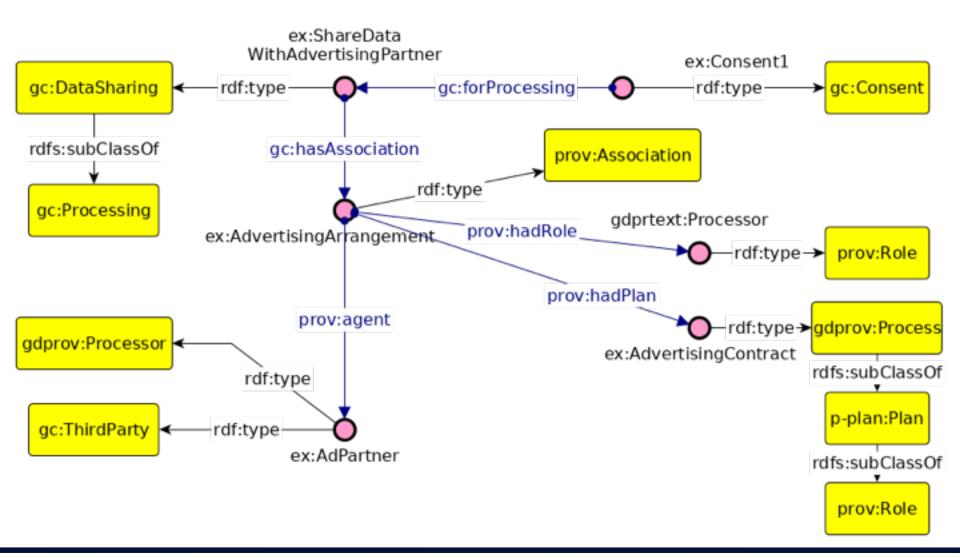








GConsent – Example #3

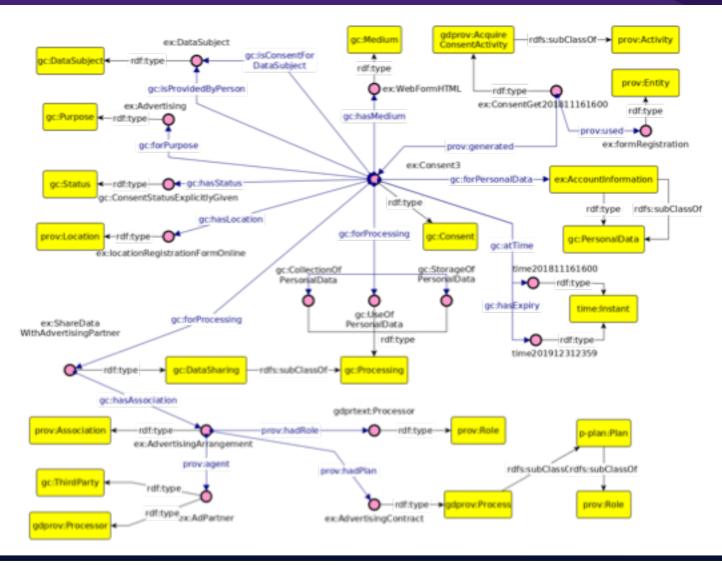








GConsent – GDPRov









GConsent – Compare with SotA

Table 5.7: Comparison of GConsent with SotA

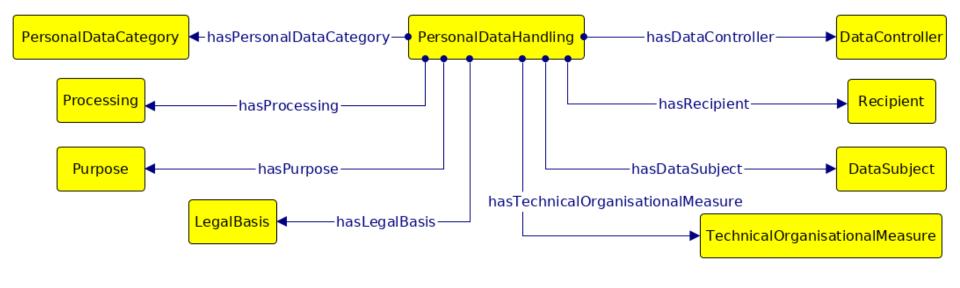
Work	PD	Pu	Pr	Sh	St	Rp	s	w	D	SE	Ct	Т
GConsent	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SPECIAL	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				
SPL+CitySPIN	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				
Lodge et al	1	1										
Peras	1	1	1	1	1			1				
Coletti et al	1	1					1	1				
AdvoCATE	1	1			1	1				1	1	
RestAssured	1	1	1	1	1	1						
OPERANDO	1	1	1	1		1						
PoSEID-on	1					1						
MHMD	1											
DECODE	1	1			1							
Consent Receipt	1	1									1	1



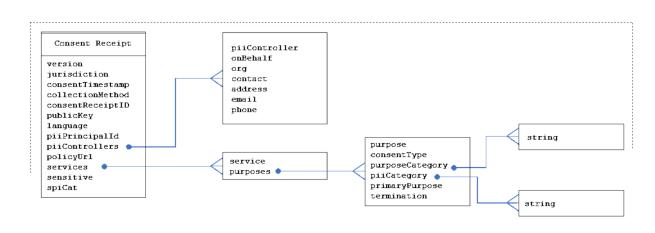




DPV – Core Concepts



Consent Receipt v1.1











DPV --> PhD Ontologies

GDPRtEXT

- DPV does not provide GDPR glossary but provides related concepts
- Does not model text of GDPR
- Uses a more recent iteration of URL format (not formalized)
- GDPRtEXT can be additional glossary for DPV
- GDPRov
 - DPV does not model provenance records (not in scope)
 - DPV does not have phases of compliance
 - GDPRov can add on DPV concepts (e.g. purpose → steps)
- GConsent
 - DPV models consent fields (based on GConsent + Consent Receipt)
 - Not all fields are modeled
 - Consent States not incorporated
 - DPV can utilize more fields from GConsent



Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance



Querying with SPARQL

- SotA does not provide SPARQL queries for reuse (as resource)
- SPARQL queries are highly use-case dependant
- Chosen use-case: GDPR Readiness Guide (2017) by Irish DPC
 - One of first such guides published, authoritative
 - In English, clear questions, meant for organisations
 - Also used to develop compliance questions for RO1 and RO2

Method:

- Identify information required by questions
- Analyse questions based on information requirements
- Interpret SPARQL queries using ontologies (GDPRov + GDPRtEXT)
- Create synthetic use-case (test data)
- Execute SPARQL queries
- Evaluate a) extent of queries b) suitability of queries



Querying with SPARQL - Queries

- Questions categorized based on information dependancy
 - 1. Demonstrative retrieved information is sufficient
 - Assistive retrieved information needs to be evaluated
 - 3. Evaluative more information needs to be retrieved
- Argument: SPARQL nested queries? Or compliance evaluation approach?
- Questions do not relate to ex-ante and ex-post
 - but implicitly refer to plans and processing activities
 - Categorise based on implicit information
- GDPRov evolved after this exercise
- Thesis also reflects capabilities of current iteration of GDPRov
- Validation use-case better choice for demonstration of queries
- Provides a way to link information to GDPR
 - SPARQL CONSTRUCT queries an alternative
 - But does not permit validation of information

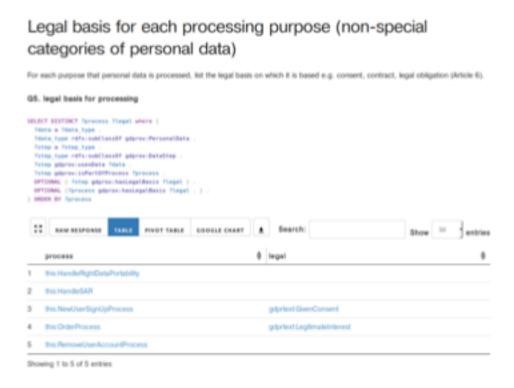


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Querying with SPARQL - Evaluation

- 32 of 63 questions represented as SPARQL queries
- 31 of 63 not implemented: 20 not in scope, 3 lacking concepts in GDPRov
 - G8: data retention/storage periods/duration
 - S5, S7: technical measures
- Exercise undertook before GConsent was developed
- Since this guide is based on organization's plans, it was not repeated with GConsent
- Online demo

 (alt implementation using RDF-JS, Communica possible to permit anyone to upload data graphs and query)









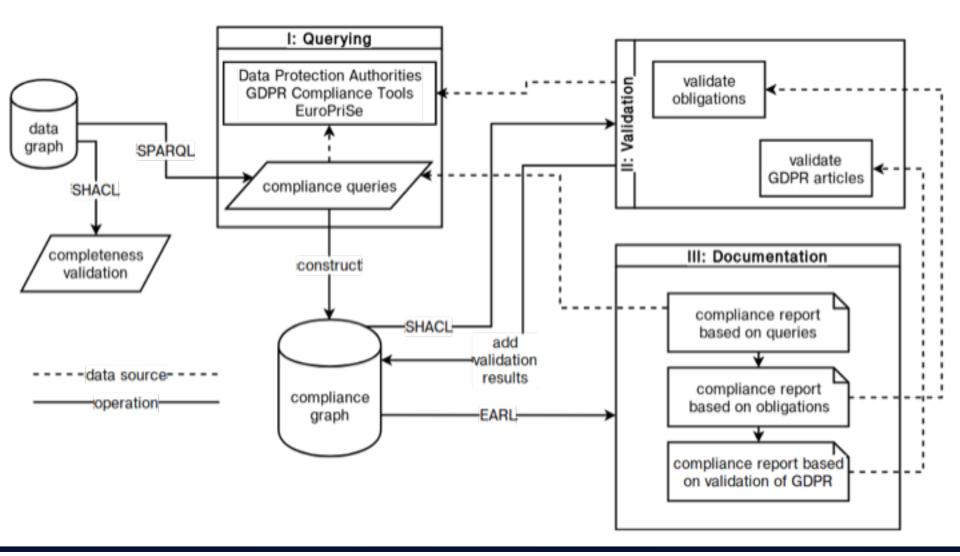
Validation Model

- GDPR Compliance: info satisfies obligations and requirements
- Ensuring correct information i.e. validation for a) correctness b) completeness
- SotA does compliance evaluation, PhD work is about this validation
- If approach is using RDF data, SHACL is nice because:
 - 1. Persists test results as RDF data
 - 2. Flexible build own tests and add components

PhD → Validation Model

- 1. Utilises SHACL to validate information for GDPR compliance.
- Expresses compliance as a test-driven exercise similar to the concept of unit-testing in software engineering.
- Utilises results of testing ex-ante information for testing of ex-post information in order to reduce the number of tests required.
- 4. Constructs a compliance graph by storing validation results based on concept of knowledge-graph.
- Demonstrates use of compliance graph in retrieving and documenting information regarding GDPR compliance

Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance









Validation Model – linking to GDPR

- Associate test with GDPR to specify validation of related information
- Add property using GDPRtEXT

10

- Enables annotation of compliance evaluation and testing back to GDPR
- Permits querying of tests/information based on GDPR links
- To extend for other laws, create a generic property referring to legal clauses

```
:Constraint rdfs:subClassOf sh:NodeShape ;
   rdfs:label "Constraint" .
:AutomaticallyCheckedConstraint rdfs:subClassOf :Constraint, sh:NodeShape ;
   rdfs:label "Automatically Checked Constraint" .
:ManuallyCheckedConstraint rdfs:subClassOf :Constraint, sh:NodeShape ;
   rdfs:label "Manually Checked Constraint" .
:linkToGDPR a rdfs:Property;
   rdfs:range eli:LegalResourceSubdivision ;
   rdfs:label "linkToGDPR" .
```



Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance



Validation Model – Ex-ante → Ex-post

- GDPR requires organisations to plan activities i.e. ex-ante plans
- GDPR requires organisations to ensure plans compliance i.e. ex-ante compliance
- GDPR requires organisations to ensure processing activities are compliant i.e. ex-post
- However, ex-post processing activities are based on ex-ante plans
- Reuse ex-ante test data
 - if common elements are already tested in ex-ante
 - only unique elements need testing again in ex-post
- E.g. Consent Dialogue
- Shown to all users of websites i.e. ex-ante information
- Given consent unique to individual i.e. ex-post information
- To test consent as per GDPR
 - Test consent dialogue was valid (common for all users)
 - Test given consent was valid (specific to individual)
- Test common information once, persist test results as data
- Now only single check to ensure common tests were passed
- Therefore, test complexity is reduced in ex-post testing
- (common sense approach used commonly!)



Representing Activities associated with Processing of Personal Data and Consent using Semantic Web for GDPR Compliance

Validation Model – Quantcast

- Quantcast is the largest consent dialogue provider on the internet
- Part of the IAB framework
- Claims high number of data points available for analytics as a service
- Consent Dialogue → RDF data using GDPRov + GConsent + GDPRtEXT
- Develop SHACL constraints based on compliance questions to validate data
 - Complexity: basic, low, simple
 - Does not do compliance evaluation, only ensures information is correct & complete
- Consent dialogue tested in Ex-ante phase, results saved
- Given consent tested in Ex-post phase, also tests Ex-ante saved results
- More efficient tests in this process
 - Without splitting across phases: 59 tests for each given consent
 - Ex-ante tests: 57
 - Ex-post tests: 3 (2+1 for ex-ante saved results)
 - After splitting across phases: 3 tests for each given consent



Validation Model – Quantcast SPARQL queries

Table 6.3: SHACL validation report linked to GDPR

Name	Type	GDPR	Result	Node
Consent ≠ Inactivity	M	R32	P	
Consent ≠ Pre-ticked Boxes	M	R32	P	
Consent ≠ Silence	M	R32	P	
Consent → Data Subject	A	A4-11	P	
Consent → Given To	A		P	
Consent → Location	Α		P	
Consent → Medium	Α	A7-2	P	
Consent → Personal Data	A	A4-11,R32	P	
Consent → Processing	A	A4-11,R32	P	
Consent → Provided By	A	A7-2	P	
Consent → Purpose	Α	R32,R42	P	
Consent → Status	Α		P	
Consent → Timestamp	Α		F	Q:Consent20190415120753
Consent → Timestamp	Α		F	Q:Consent20190415140000
Consent ≡ Choice	M		P	
Consent ≡ Freely Given	M	A4-11	P	
Consent ≡ Specific	M	A4-11	P	
Consent ≡ Statement of Clear Action	M	A4-11	P	
Consent ≡ Unambigious	M	A4-11	P	
Consent Generating Activity	A		P	







Validation Model – Compare with SotA

Table 6.4: Comparison of SHACL validation with SotA

Approach Evaluation meth		Scope	Machine- readable result?	Provides remedies?	Links result to GDPR?	
Pandit	SHACL	RDF data	1	1	1	
SPECIAL	OWL	Consent	/			
SPL+SERAMIS	ODRL	Obligations	1	1	1	
SPL+Vos et al.	OWL, ASP	Obligations	1	1		
SPL+CitySPIN	OWL	Consent	1			
MIREL	RuleML	Obligations	1	1	1	
MRL+DAPRECO	RuleML	Obligations	1	1	1	
BPR4GDPR	OWL	Process Flows		1		
Lodge et al	SDK	Process Flows	1	1		
Tom et al	BPMN	Process Flows	1	1		
Corrales et al	Questionnaire	Obligations				
LUCE	Smart Contracts	Data Sharing	1			
AdvoCATE	Smart Contracts	Consent	1			
Sion et al	UML, DFD	Process Flows	1	1		
privacyTracker	Access Control	Data Sharing	1			
Robol et al	STS	Process Flows	/			
GuideMe	Questionnaire	Process Flows		1		
Basin et al	Algorithm	Process Flows				
RestAssured	XACML	Process Flows	1			
DEFeND	Questionnaire	Obligations	1			
OPERANDO	Access Control	Process Flows	1			
PoSEID-on	Smart Contracts	Data Sharing	1			
DECODE	Smart Contracts	Consent	1			







Ontology Engineering Methodology

- Ontology quality Design, Semantics; OOPS!, Use-cases
- Documentation WIDOCO
- Dissemination FAIR principles
 - W3ID persistent identifier; Linked Open Vocabularies (LOV); GitHub, Zenodo
- Evaluation competency question, application to use-cases
- NeOn: identify requirements and use-cases
- UPON Lite: iteratively develop ontological representation

Table 1.1: Summary of Evaluation Methods

Method	GDPRtEXT Ontology	GDPRov Ontology	GConsent Ontology	Querying using SPARQL	Validation using SHACL
Fulfilment of Competency Questions	✓	✓	1	N/A	N/A
Semantic reasoner logical consistency	✓	1	1	1	1
OOPS! common pitfalls detection	✓	✓	1	N/A	N/A
Documentation metadata and quality	✓	1	1	N/A	N/A
Demonstrate application to use-case	√	✓	1	1	/
External use-case	X	1	1	1	1
Comparison with SotA	✓	1	1	1	/
Analysis of citations	/	1	N/A	1	N/A
Dissemination of work (for providing tra	nsparency)				
Peer-reviewed publication	1	1	1	1	1
Reproducibility (open access resources)	1	1	1	1	1







Timeline of Research

- 2016: Started work in March-September 2016
 - Relevant work existing: preliminary work in DAPRECO
- 2017:
 - Published GDPRov by September 2017
 - Preliminary work on consent ontology September 2017
- 2018:
 - Published GDPRtEXT in January 2018
 - SPECIAL published work on GDPR compliance in June 2018
 - MIREL+DAPRECO published PrOnto in July 2018
 - Adopt GDPR readiness guide for SPARQL queries in August 2018
 - Developed GConsent by September 2018
- 2019
 - H2020 projects on GDPR publish deliverables and papers in January 2019
 - Developed SHACL validation model by March 2019
 - Data Privacy Vocabulary is published in June 2019
- SotA analysis in August-September 2019
- Thesis draft in December 2019, Submitted in February 2020



ODRL, BPMN

- ODRL to express GDPR obligations
 - Information needed for resolving activities → provenance
 - Information needed for expanding GDPR activities
 - How to evaluate?
 - SotA: Agarwal et al. and Vos et al. have used ODRL profiles
- BPMN
 - Business process standard for representation
 - Own set of tooling, querying, validating
 - How to operate while being interoperable?
 - How to specify GDPR concepts and activities?
- Major factors:
 - Extending vocabulary with GDPR concepts
 - Querying for information
 - Validation / Tests
 - Linking of information with GDPR



