## Mashups

#### A Journey from Concepts and Models to the Quality of Applications

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# Learning Objectives

### 1. Mashup definition and characterization

Classifying dimensions, contexts of use, target users, benefits

### 2. Mashup models

Conceptual underpinning of mashups for different mashup types

### 3. Mashup tools and composition paradigms

 How mashup models can materialize into platforms for assisted mashup development

### 4. Mashup quality

Quality issues for components and mashups, going beyond traditional quality models and practices

### **CORE ASPECTS AND DEFINITIONS**

# Technological and societal context

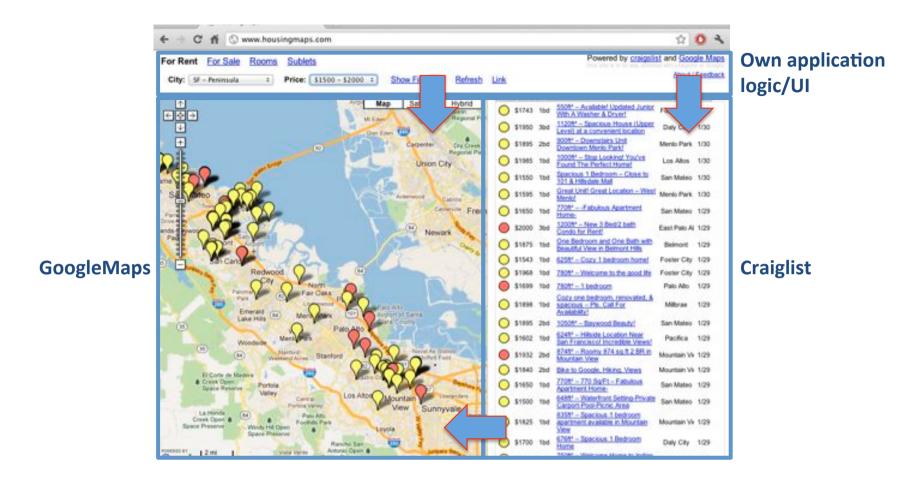
- From one-way communication medium (Web 1.0) to a distributed and democratic communication platform (Web 2.0)
- User-driven innovation
- SOA, SaaS, HTML5, sophisticated devices

Web mashups as innovative software **to reinterpret existing building blocks** by composing them in an value-adding manner





- The term mashup is widely used today
- Typical discussion points:
  - UI or not?
  - Web accessible resources or not?
  - Client-side technologies or also server-side languages?



#### The housingmaps.com mashup

Provides for the synchronized exploration of housing offers from *craigslist.com* and maps by *Google Maps* 

#### Integration is the added value provided by the mashup

# Mashup definition

A mashup is an application that integrates two or more mashup components at any of the application layers (data, application logic, presentation layer) possibly putting them into communication among each other

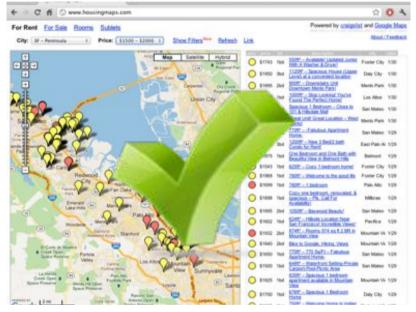
→Mashup component: any piece of data, application logic and/ or user interface that can be reused and that is accessible either locally or remotely

→ Mashup logic: is the internal logic of operation of a mashup; it specifies the invocation of components, the control flow, the data flow, the data transformations, and the UI of the mashup

## The added value...



No added value



# Additional information, functions, visualizations!

## Other definitions

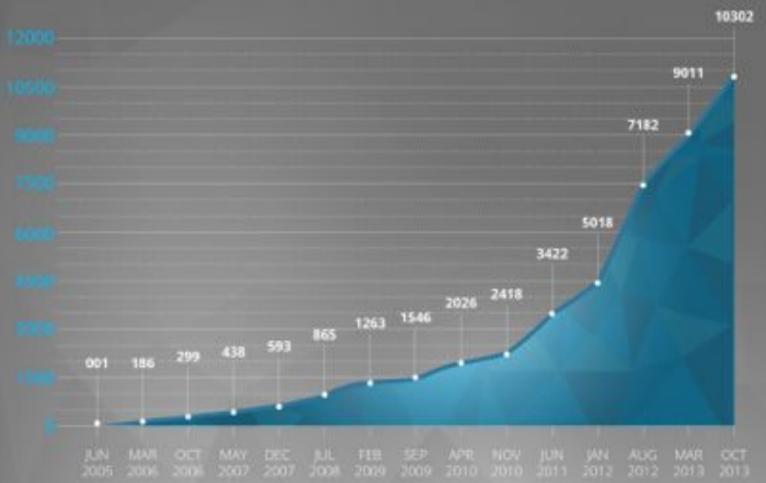
"Web-based resources consisting of dynamic networks of interacting components" (Abiteboul et Al., 2008)

"**API enablers**" (Ogrinz, 2009), to create an own API where there is none

"Combination of content from more than one source into an integrated experience" (Yee, 2008)

#### ProgrammableWeb

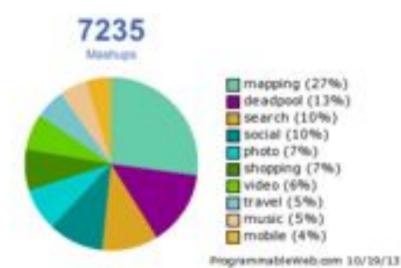
### Growth In Web APIs Since 2005



API COUNT

MONTH

## Mashup Ecosystem



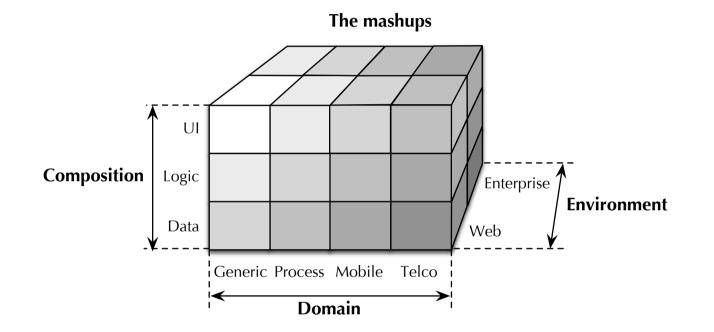
Snapshot from programmableweb.com (October 2013)

(b) All time most used tags to describe mashups

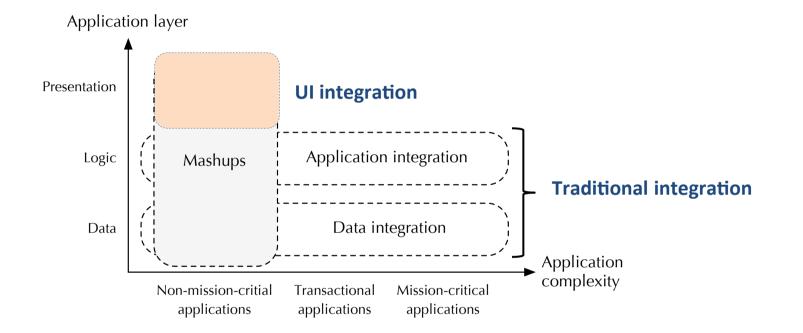
#### However...

- There are many applications that would not qualify as mashups
- The classification does not help characterize the mashup ecosystems from an engineering perspective

## Mashup cube



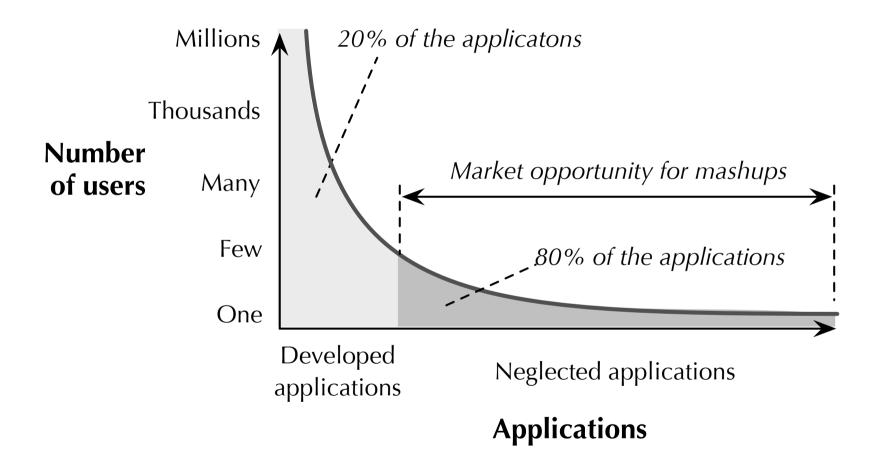
Three different perspectives on the mashup ecosystem



#### Mashup positioning in relation to other integration practices

Mashups introduce integration at the presentation layer and typically focus on non-mission-critical applications

# The long tail model

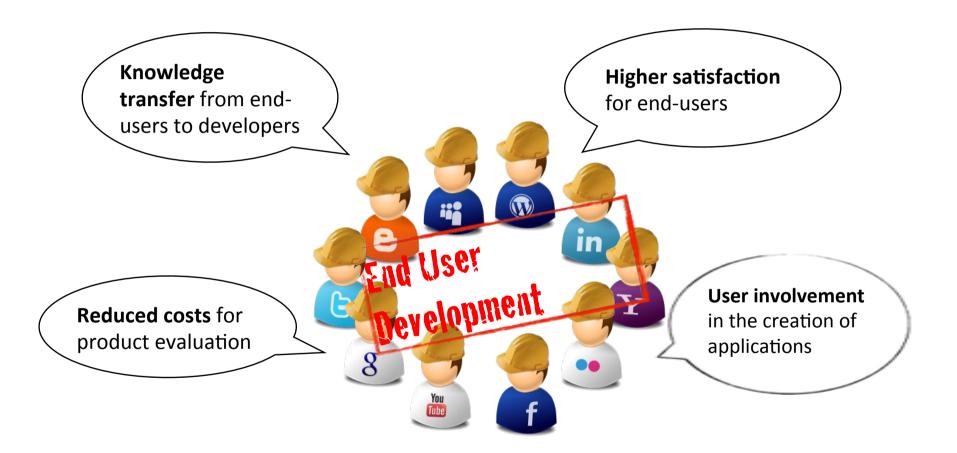


The long tail of the software market and its opportunities for mashups

## **Computer-assisted composition**



## Benefits



# Other benefits

- Easy development of situational applications for **power users**
- Fast prototyping for **developers**
- Increased ROI for SOA investments
- Increased visibility by content/component providers

# The research perspective

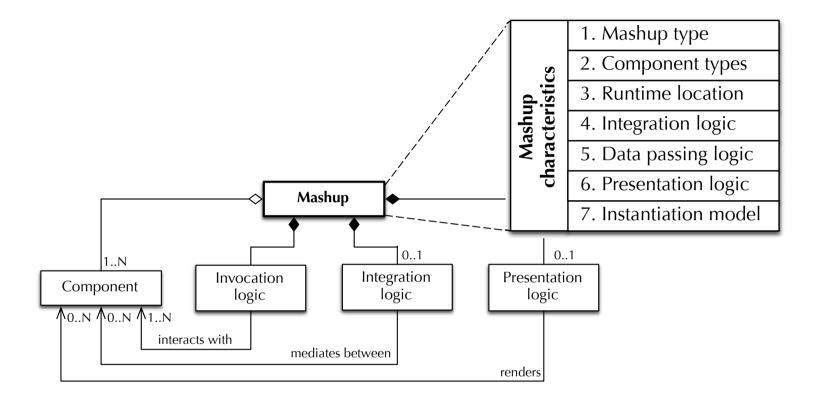
- Mashup development is non-trivial
  - A very large set of (heterogeneous) technologies and integration techniques
  - New technologies and interaction modalities emerge at **fast pace**
- Luckily, mashups typically work on the "surface"
  - Reuse of existing components neglecting the complexity hidden behind the service's external interface
  - Composition of the outputs of (much more complex) software systems
- The work of developers can be facilitated by suitable abstractions, component technologies, development paradigms and enabling tools
- Mashup development practices are increasingly becoming the very object of scientific investigations

Part I

### **MASHUP MODELS**

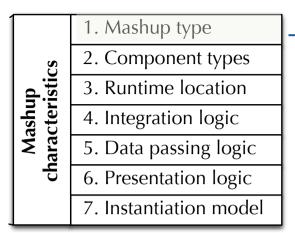
## Learning Objectives

- **1. Introducing models for different mashup types**
- 2. Introducing typical architectural patterns
- 3. Identifying the peculiarity of UI integration



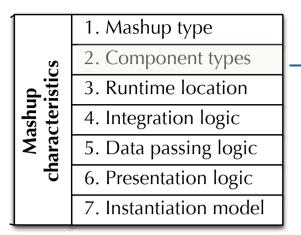
#### Basic mashup model

A mashup integrates a set of components, possibly puts them into communication, and optionally renders results or components



Positioning the mashup at one or more of the three layers of the application stack depending on the output of the mashup

- Data mashups
  - Fetch data from different resources, process them, and return an integrated result set
- Logic mashups
  - Integrate functionality published by logic or data components
- User Interface (UI) mashups
  - Combine the component's native UIs into an integrated UI; the components' UIs are possibly synchronized among each other
- Hybrid mashups
  - Span multiple layers of the application stack, bringing together different types of components inside one and a same application; integration happens at more than one layer



Determining what kind of invocation, integration and presentation logic can be adopted for building the mashup

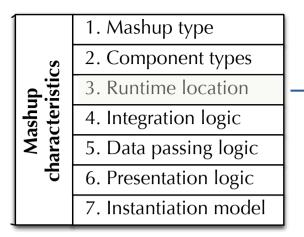
- Data components
  - RSS and Atom feeds, XML JSON, CSV and similar data resources, web data extractions, micro-formats, SOAP or RESTful services that are **used as data services only**

#### • Logic components

 SOAP and RESTful web services, JavaScript APIs and libraries, device APIs, and API extractions

#### • UI components

 Code snippets and JavaScript UI libraries, Java portlets, widgets and gadgets, web clips and extracted UI components



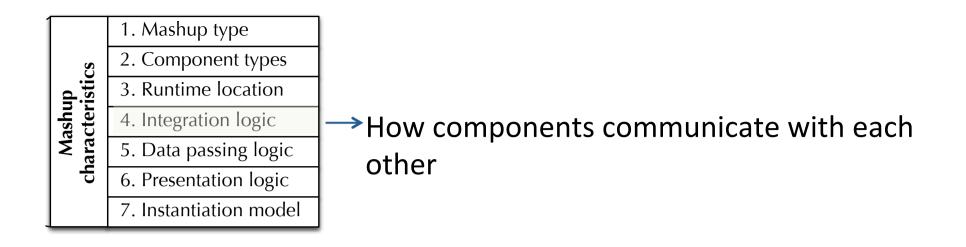
- Possible architectural configurations, compatible with the requirements of the chosen components
- Client-side mashups

- e.g., UI mashups

- Server-side mashups
  - e.g., data and logic mashups

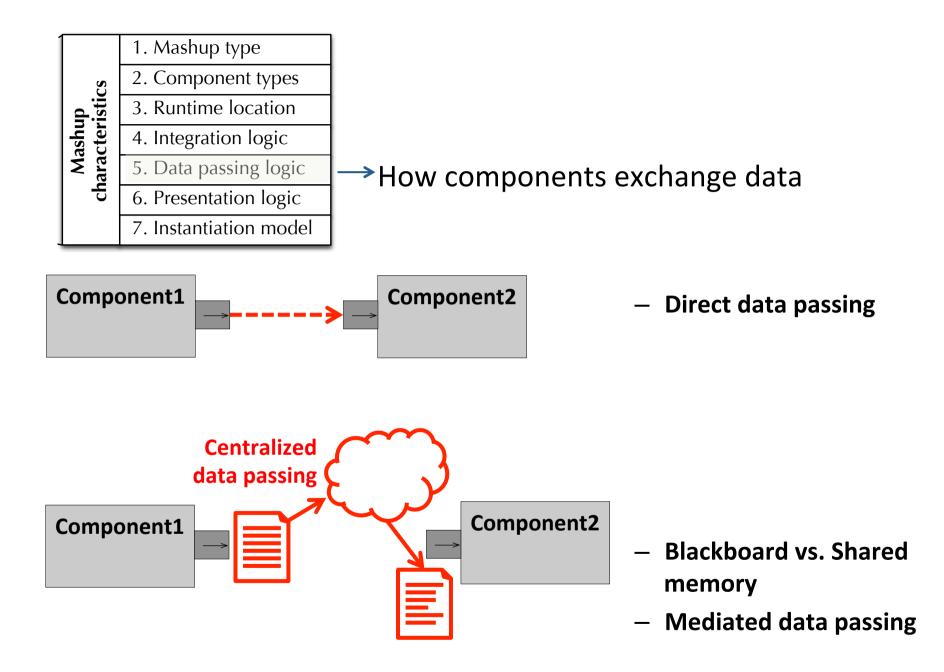
### • Client-server mashups

– e.g., hybrid mashups with user interfaces



#### • UI-based integration

- The UI of the mashup acts as a container
- Components run in a completely isolated fashion
- Orchestrated integration
  - Centralized composition logic, orchestrating component execution
- Choreographed integration
  - Each component participating in a choreography is individually able to send and receive messages
  - The mashup puts into place only the communication infrastructure



Mashup characteristics	1. Mashup type	
	2. Component types	
	3. Runtime location	
	4. Integration logic	
	5. Data passing logic	
	6. Presentation logic	$\rightarrow$ How components and their outputs are
	7. Instantiation model	visualized in the mashup's UI

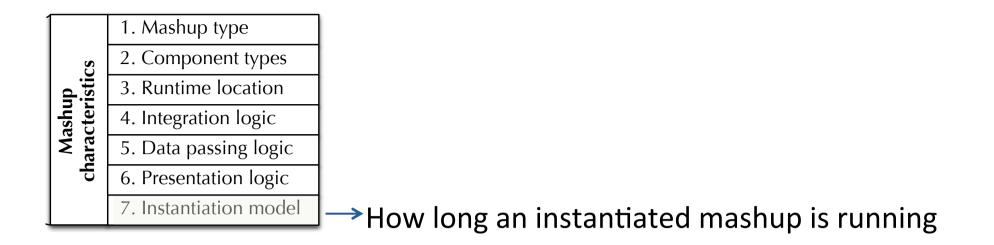
#### **Reuse of components' Uls**

**Ad-hoc Uls** 



0.4





• Stateless

- No internal state for their execution, ex.: data mashups

#### • Short-living

- Last the time of a user session, ex.: UI mashups

### • Long-living

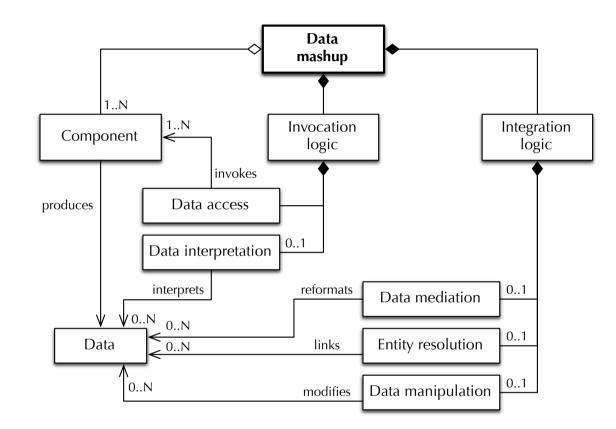
Survive across different user sessions, ex.: process mashups

#### 1. Data Mashups

### 2. UI Mashups

# Data Mashups

- Integrate components at the data layer of the application stack by fetching data from different data services or Web resources, processing them, and returning an integrated result set
- No presentation layer
- Output: typically **published as a data source**
- Core integration practice: data integration

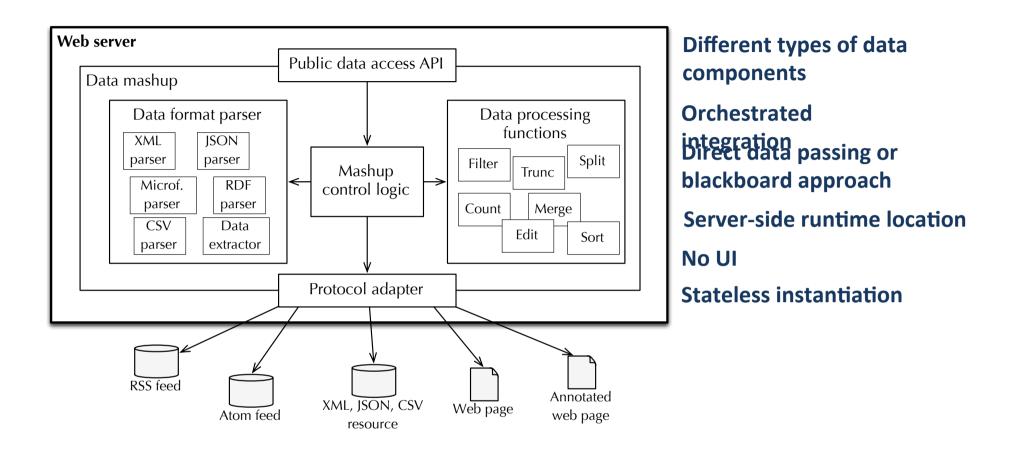


#### A conceptual model for data mashups

Data mashups fetch data from different sources and integrate them, mix them, filter them, process them, etc., so as to produce a unified data set as output

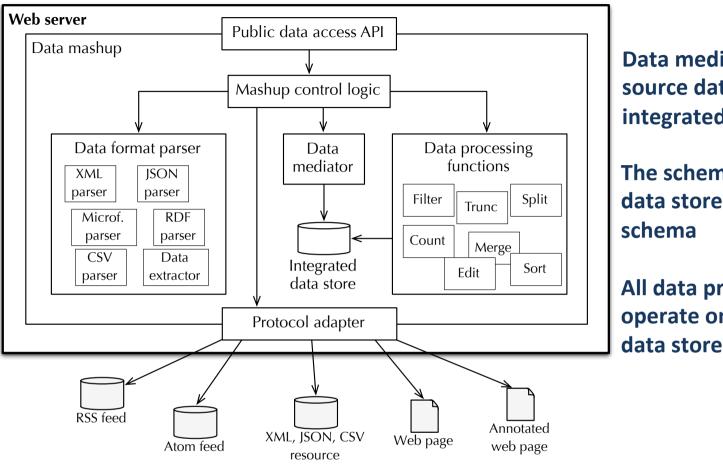
# Compared with data integration...

- Data mashups are a Web-based form of data integration, intended to solve different problems
- Covering the "long tail" of data integration requirements
  - Very specific reports or ad-hoc data analyses
  - Simple, ad-hoc data integrations providing "situational data" that meet short term needs
  - Non-mission-critical integration requests



#### Point-to-point data mashups

Basic architecture with direct data passing among components and data processing functions. The mashup control logic establishes the necessary direct point-to-point communications



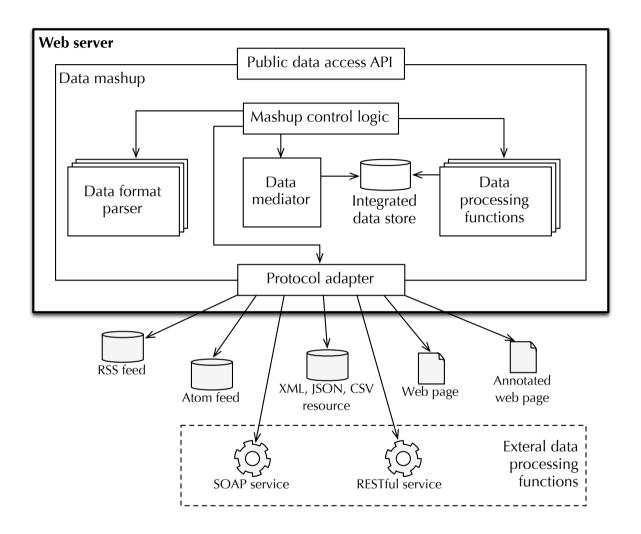
Data mediations between the source data models and the integrated data store

The schema of the integrated data store acts as a global schema

All data processing functions operate on this integrated data store

#### **Centrally-mediated data mashups**

Data are transformed and stored in an integrated data store, and all data processing functions operate on this integrated data store only

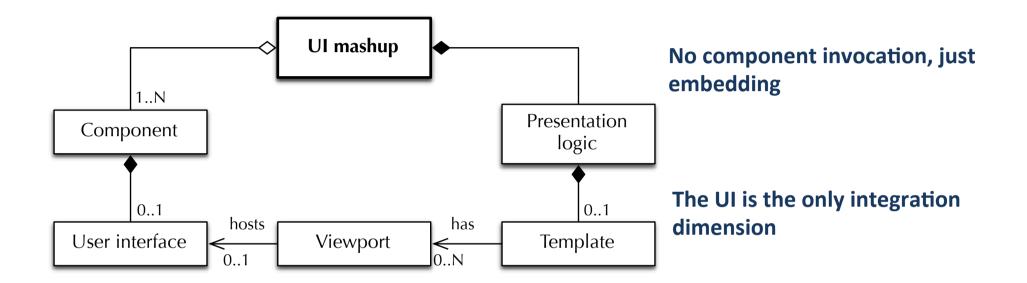


#### Data mashups with external data processing logic

Besides internal data processing functions, web services or similar are exploited to reuse third-party data processing capabilities and power

# User Interface Mashups

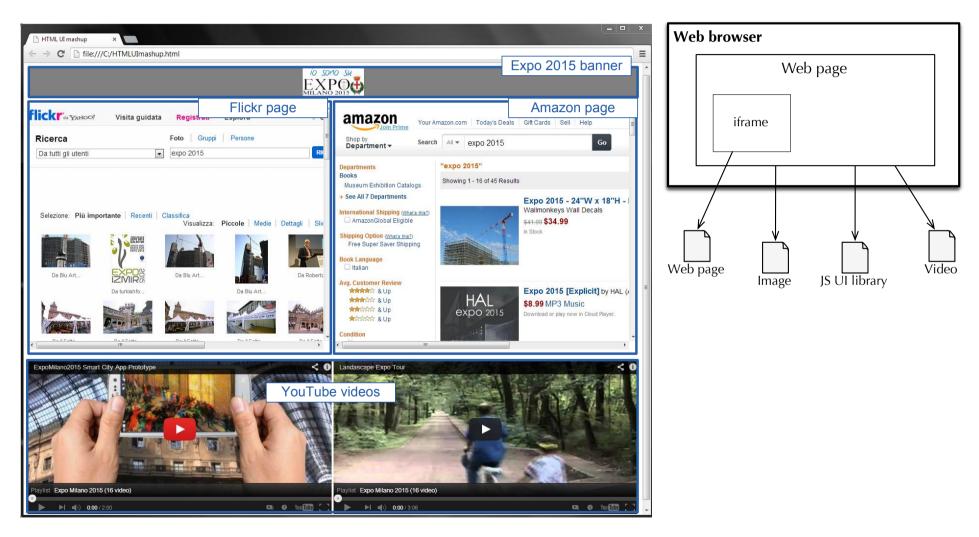
- Component integration at the presentation layer (UI integration)
  - Reusing and possibly synchronizing the UIs of the involved components and mediating possible data mismatches
- Output: a Web application the users can interact with
- Particularly appropriate when components have natively a UI and developing a new UI from scratch is simply too costly
- Mostly client-side, generally short-living
- Different level of complexity: from sharing of a same page layout to complex synchronization/communication patterns



#### UI mashups without inter-component communication

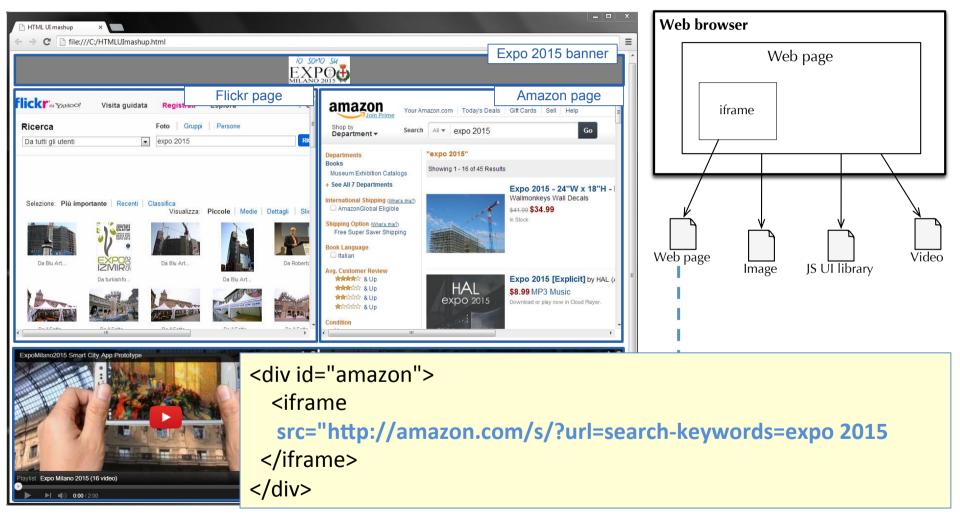
A specialization of the basic mashup model with new elements: **user interface, templates, viewports** 

### HTML UI Mashup



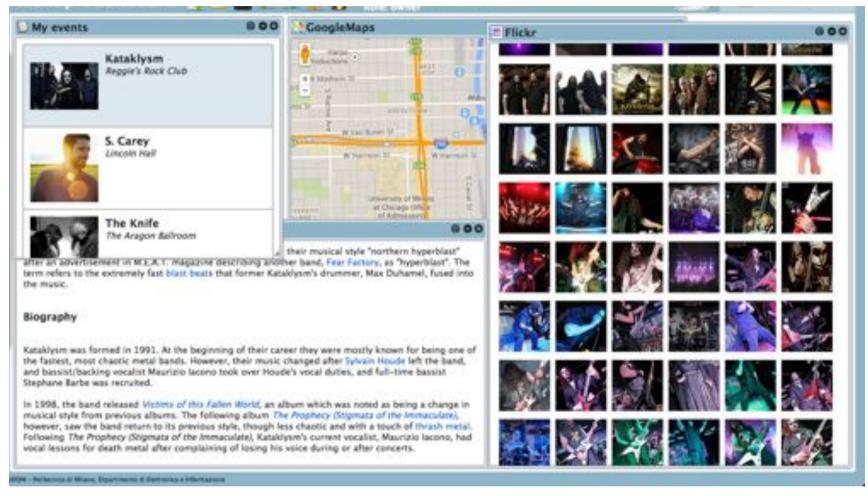
The simplest UI mashup: embedding external resources inside own HTML code

### HTML UI Mashup



The simplest UI mashup: embedding external resources inside own HTML code

#### Wrapped UI Mashup



Wrappers invokes the original service, interprets and manipulates the retrieved results

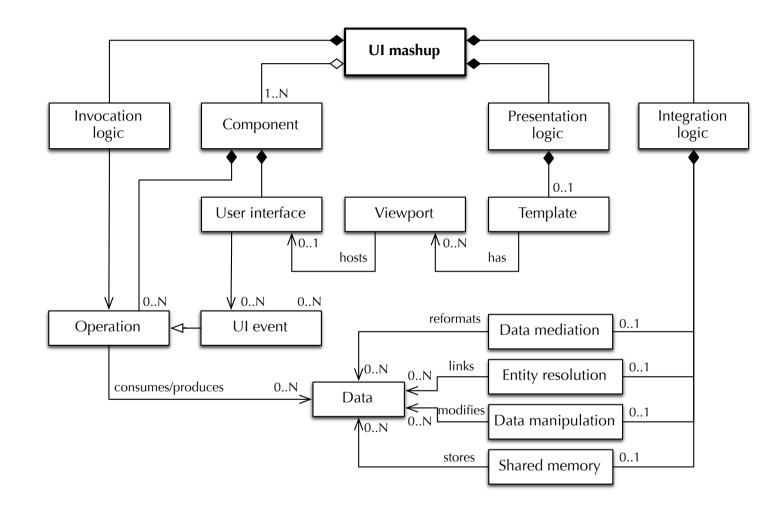
- Visualizes data according to a suitable HTML UI
- Captures UI events
- Handles external requests for operations

#### Wrapped UI Mashup



Wrappers invokes the original service, interprets and manipulates the retrieved results

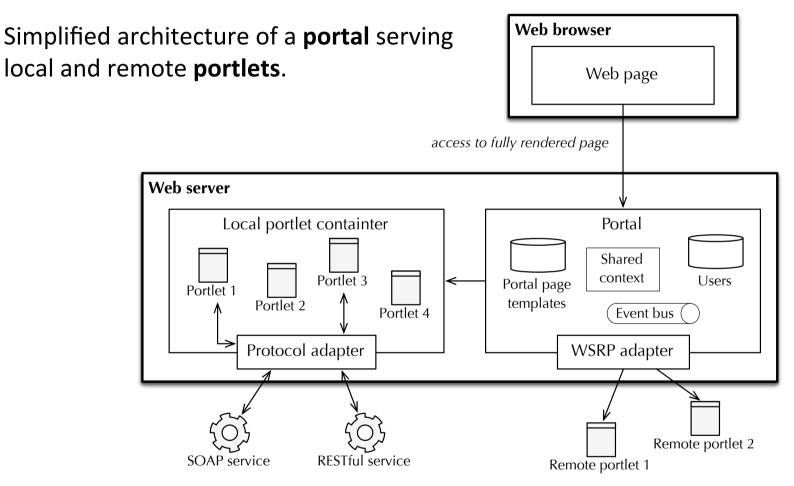
- Visualizes data according to a suitable HTML UI
- Captures UI events
- Handles external requests for operations



#### UI mashups with inter-component communication

Three new elements for the synchronization of components: **operations, UI events, shared memory** 

### Container-based UI mashups



**Container:** runtime environment suporting the deployment and execution of portlets

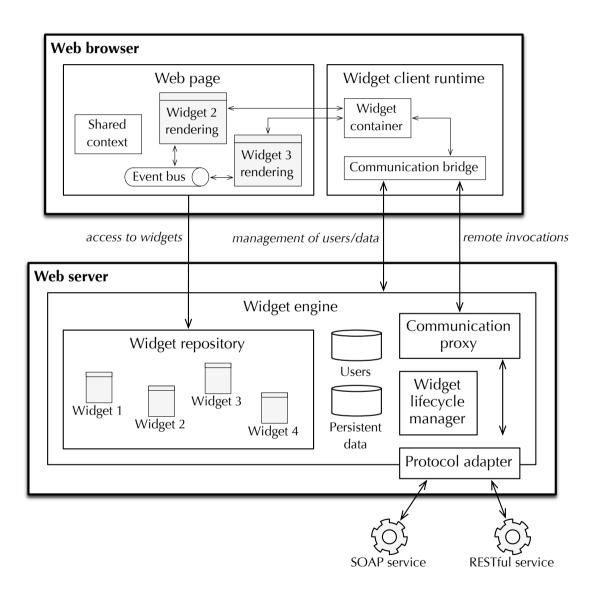
**Portal:** aggregates the markup of portlets and manages communications with the portlet container in a centrally mediated fashion

### Widget-based UI mashups



Different areas of the page correspond to different viewports, each one displaying the content of a widget

### Widget-based UI mashups



# Logic Mashups

- Integrate components at the application logic layer, by enabling the composition of functionality published by logic or data components, and mediating data compatibility issues if necessary
- Output: a process that orchestrates components, in turn published as logic component, e.g., a SOAP web service or JavaScript object
- Covered by traditional practices for Service Composition

   no further discussed here

# MASHUP TOOLS AND COMPOSITION PARADIGMS

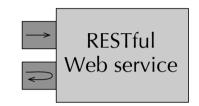
Part III

Learning objective = learn how to obtain the key ingredient for a mashup tool, i.e., the **mashup language** 

- 1. Mashup design concerns
- 2. Component abstractions
- 3. Graphical mashup languages
- 4. XML mashup languages
- 5. Other languages
- 6. Developing languages
- 7. Reference architecture for mashup tools

## **MASHUP CONCERNS**

Components and component models







#### The business protocol is RESTful discovered incrementally by web service navigating links to resources. Name Entry point 1..N I...N renders 0..N Resource Representation Components complies 1..N references with Name Media type URL 0..1 0..1 and component 0..N Schema contains Link 0. N 0..1 supports complies models with 0..N produces 1..4 consumes HTTP operation Message 0. reads produces HTTP status code Get operation creates Post operation updates Put operation deletes Delete operation Session parameter Render parameter Event Name Name Name Value Value Object The service's Web service 10..N 1 0..N 10..N business protocol shares specifies the order Name in which operations Endpoint Java portlet can be invoked. Protocol binding has deployed as Name N 1..N 1..N 1..N Operation For synchronous Portlet mode Operation Package communications Name Ą implements contains Д represents 1..N \ User interface Source file init 1..N Solicit-response Request-response One-way Name 1..N encodes operation operation operation destroy Format $A_{12}$ Content 0..1 0..1 has output 0..1 0..1 0..1 has input processAction has **1.**.N Configuration input processEvent document has output Message has input produces render 1..N complies with **Component model 1** Schema

#### Component model 2

For asynchronous

communications

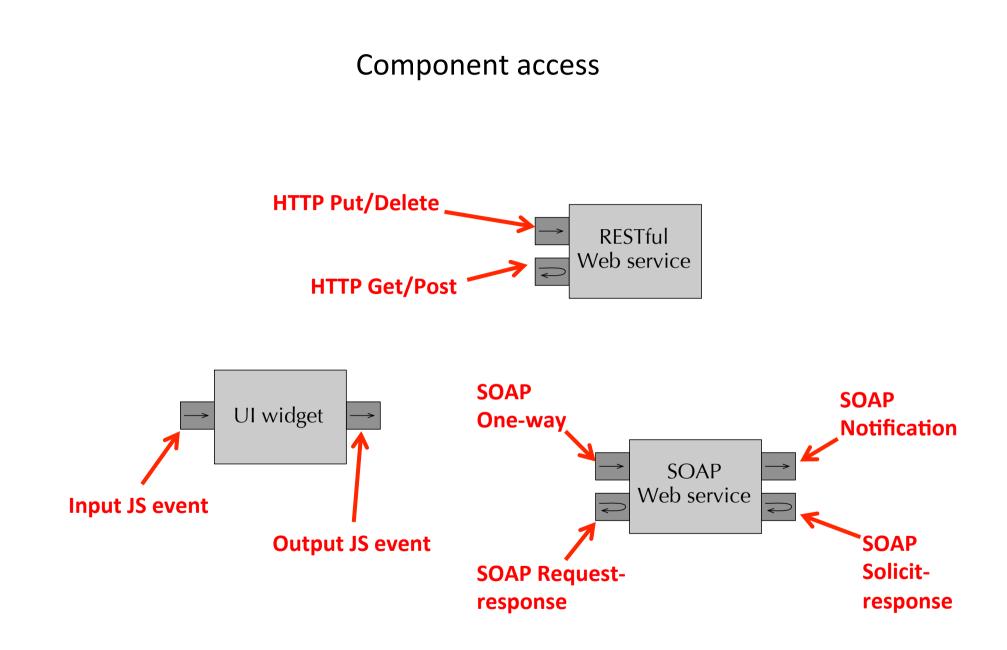
Notification

operation

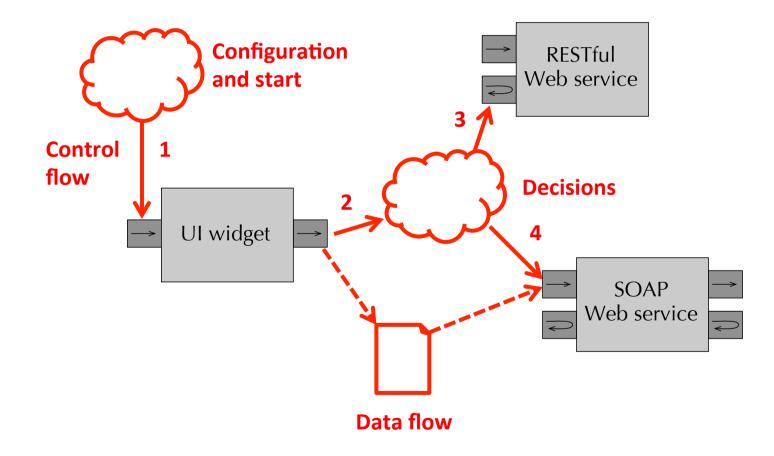
0..1 has output

has fault

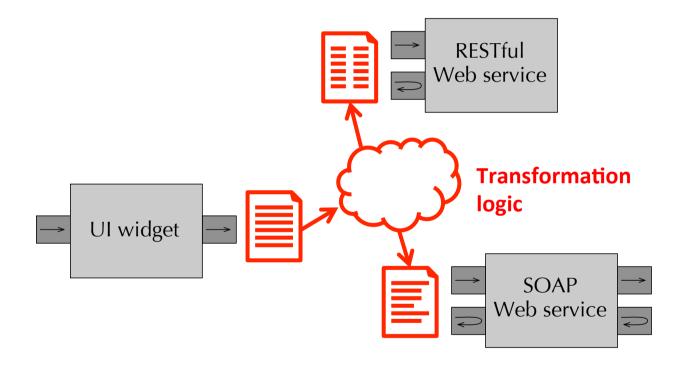
**Component model 3** 



Control flow and data flow



### Data transformations



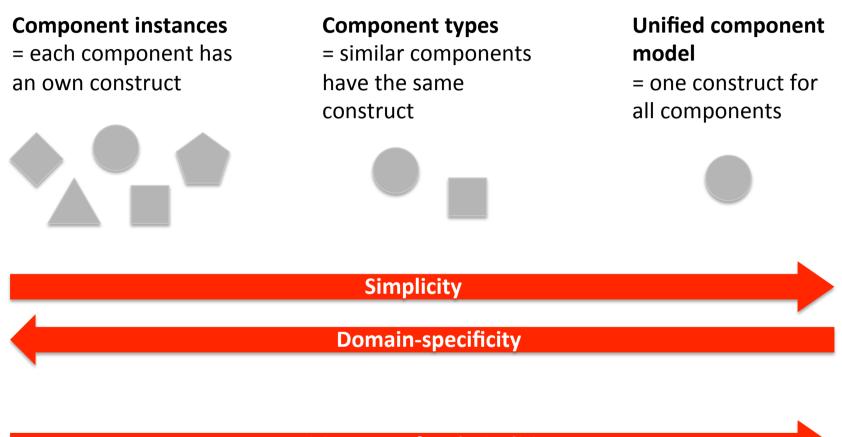
### User interface layout



**Graphical placement of components** 

## **COMPONENT ABSTRACTIONS**

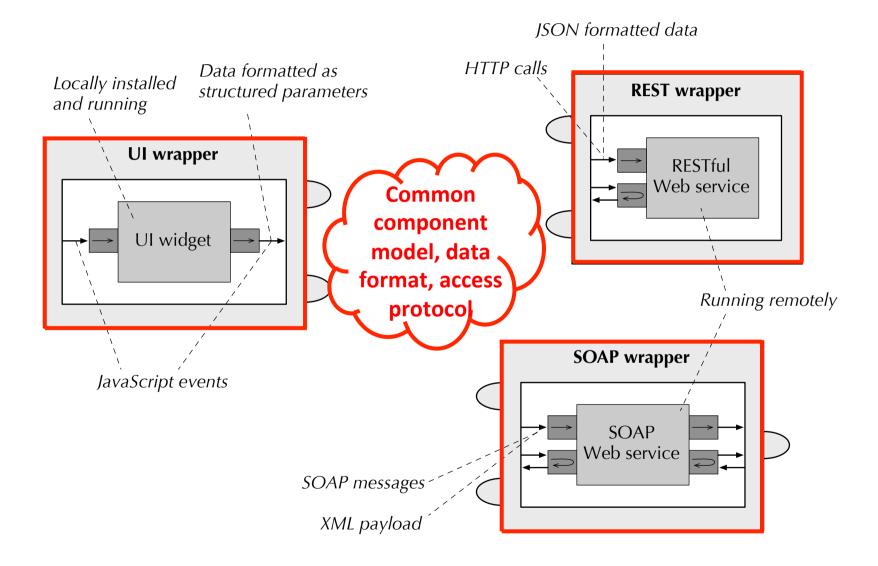
#### Modeling constructs may represent....

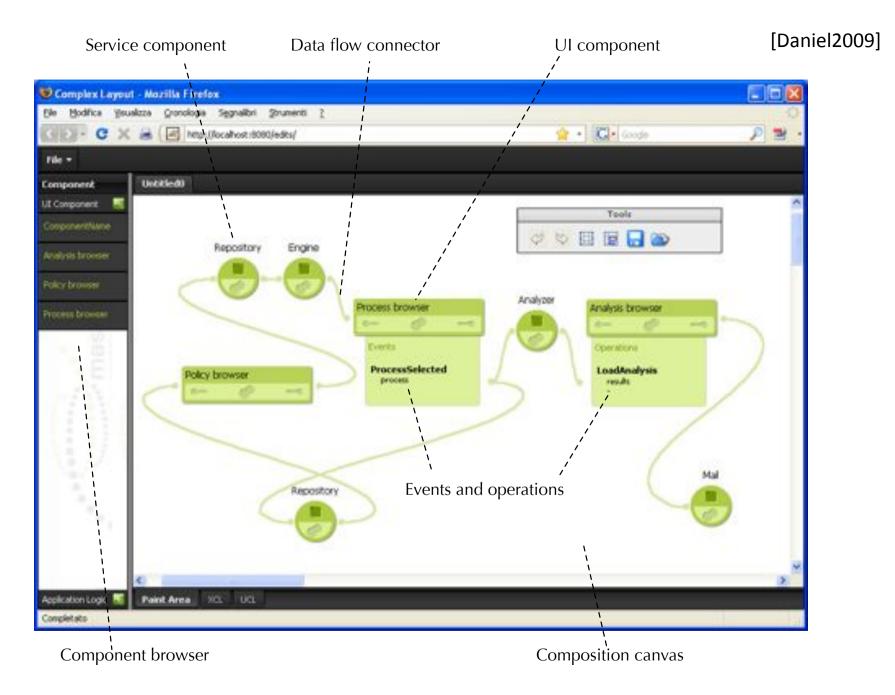


Intuitiveness of technicalities

**Intuitiveness of domain** 

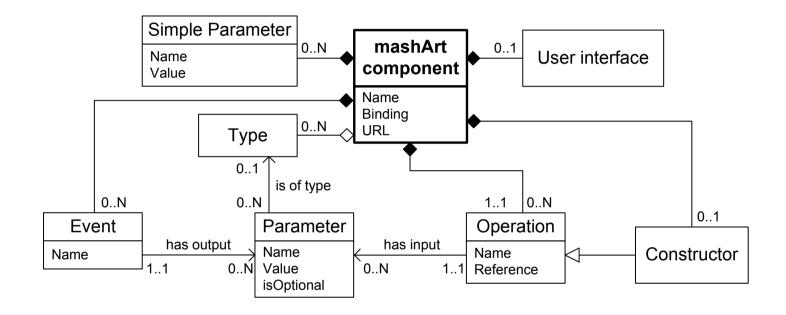
### Abstracting = wrapping





Components in mashArt: apparently two component models

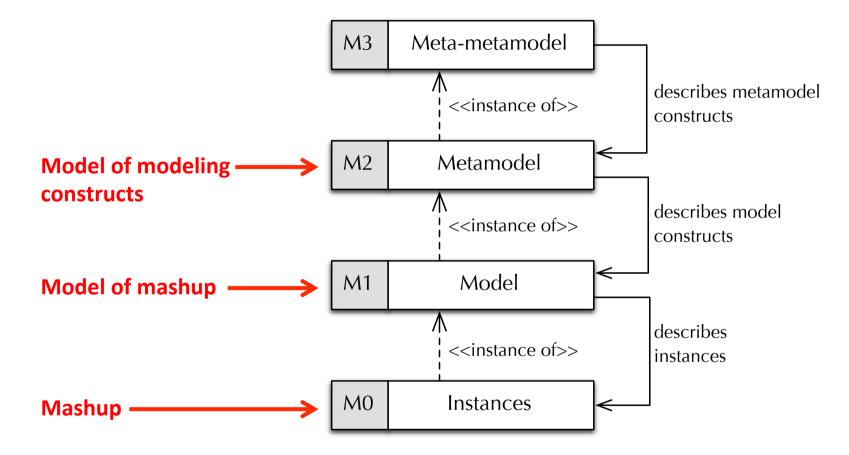
#### But internally mashArt uses a **unified** component model



The model accommodates: SOAP/RESTful web services RSS/Atom feeds UI components

### **GRAPHICAL MASHUP LANGUAGES**

# Model-driven mashup development



OMG's Meta Object Facility (MOF)

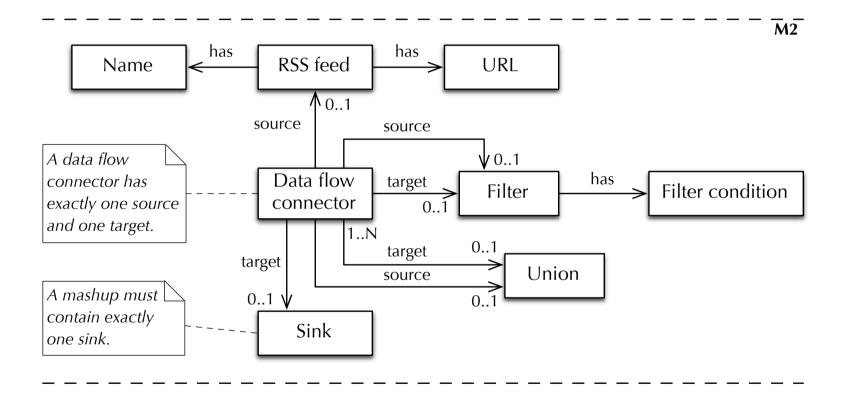
Let's proceed by **example**...

Let's design a simple **data mashup** language...

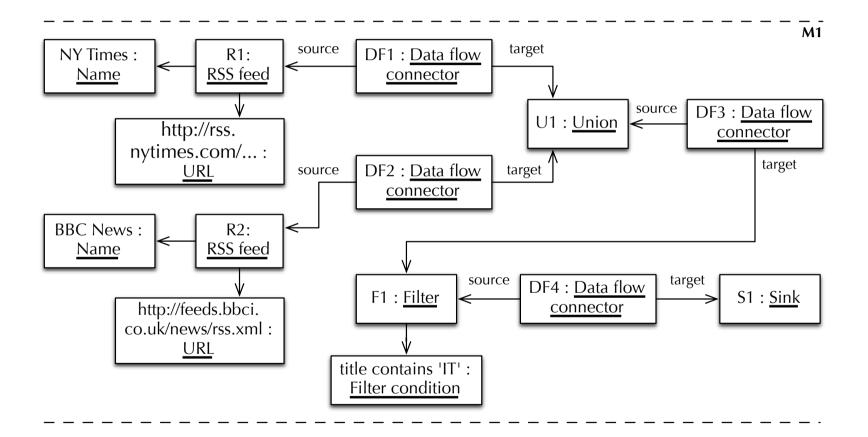


- 1. Integrate **RSS feeds**
- 2. A Union operator merges feeds
- 3. A Filter operator filters items by conditions
- 4. A Sink component ends processing
- 5. Data flow connectors propagate data

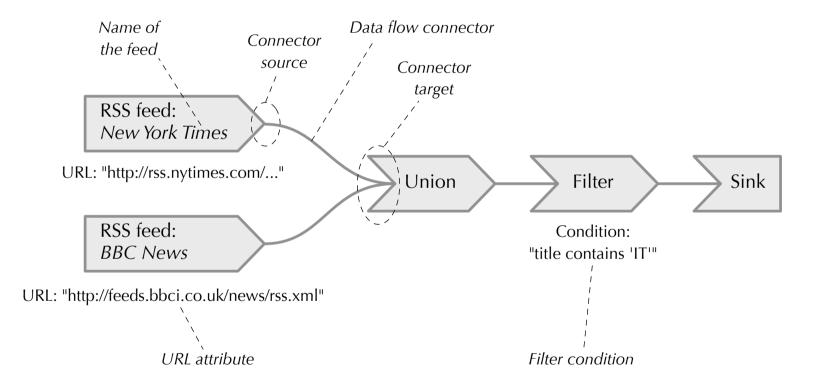
### Metamodel



### **Model** (abstract syntax) = instance of metamodel

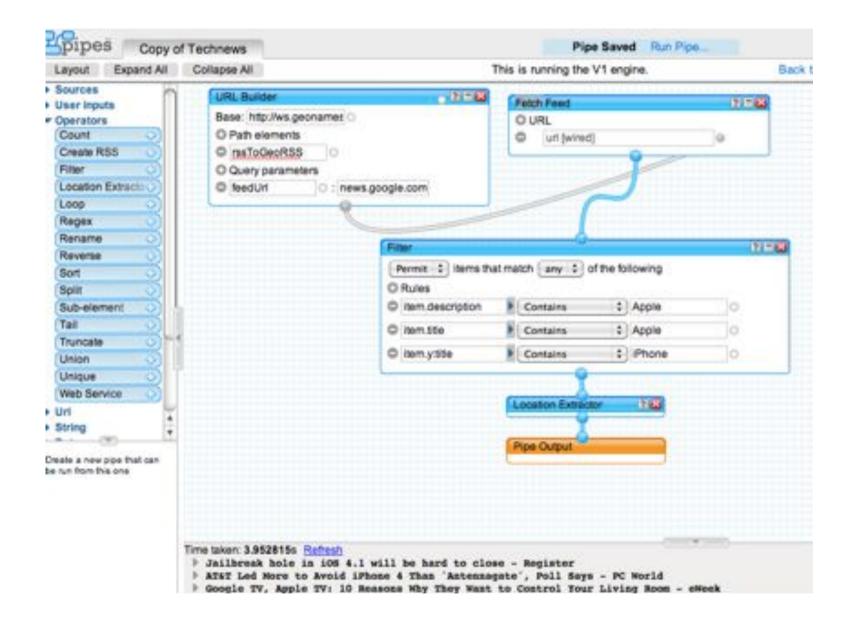


### Model (concrete syntax) >> Human readable

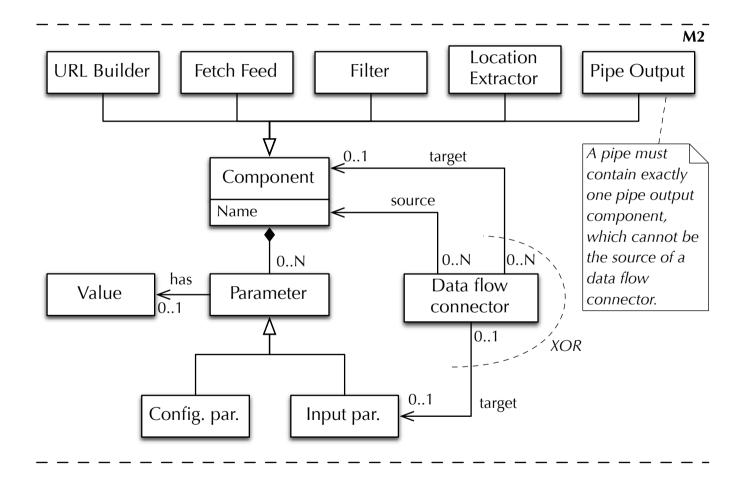


Same model as before!

#### Let's reverse-engineer Yahoo! Pipes



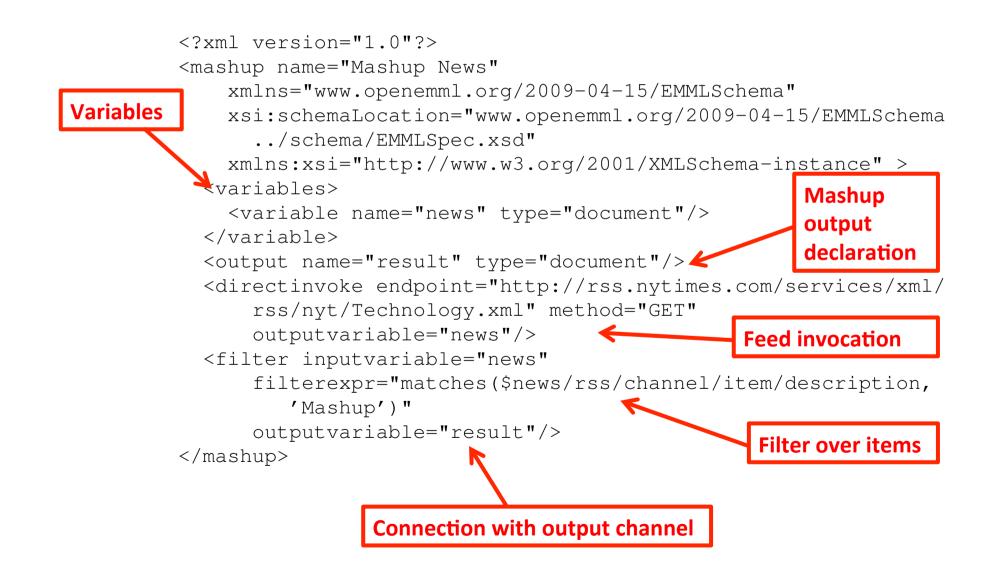
### And here a possible metamodel



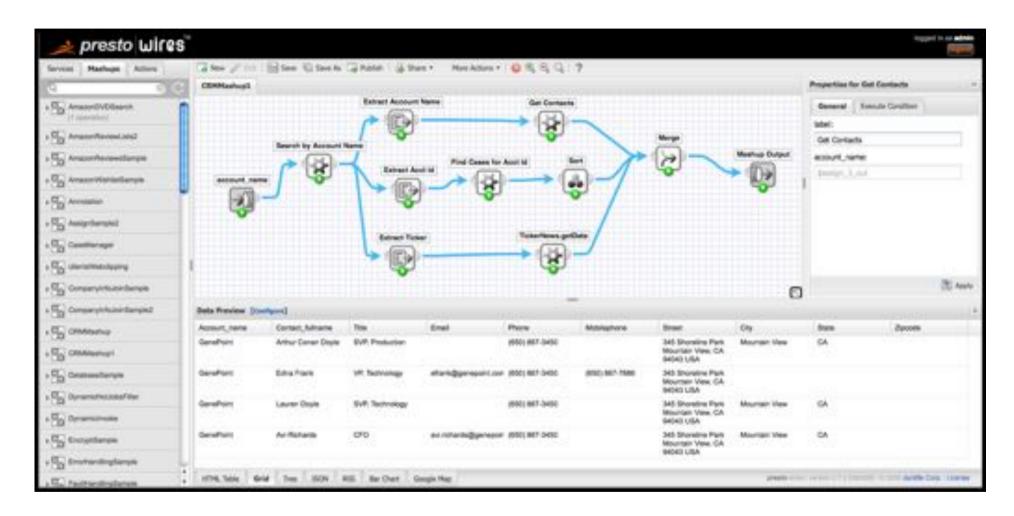
### XML MASHUP LANGUAGES

### **EMML**, the Enterprise Mashup Markup Language Data mashups

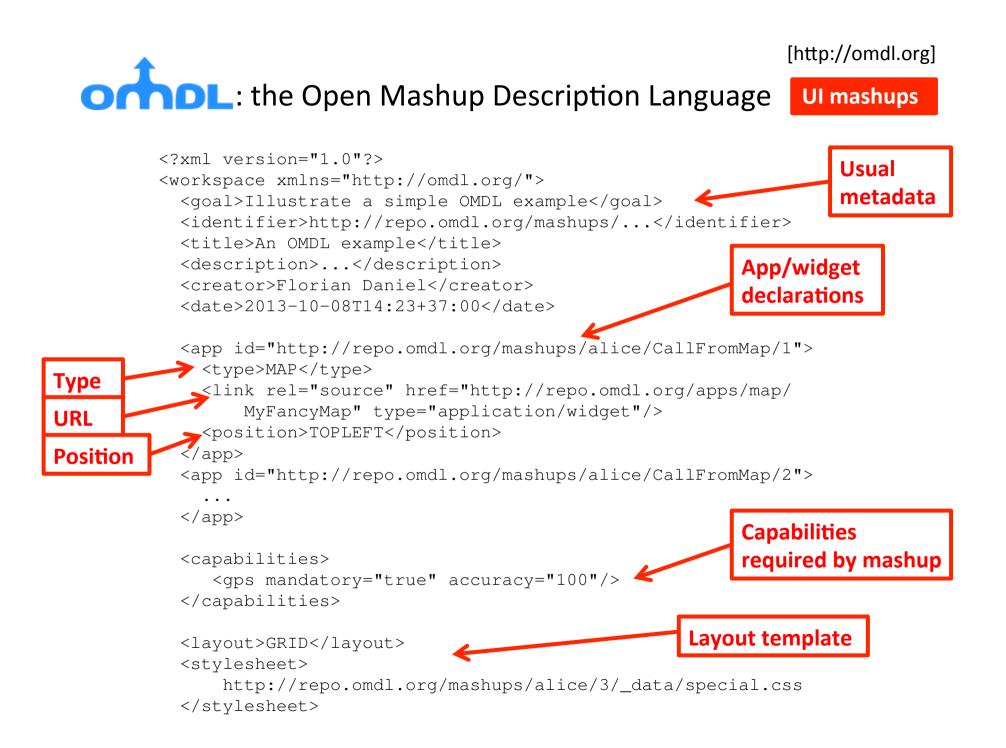
[http://mdc.jackbe.com/prestodocs/v3.7/emml/mashup-library-intro.html]



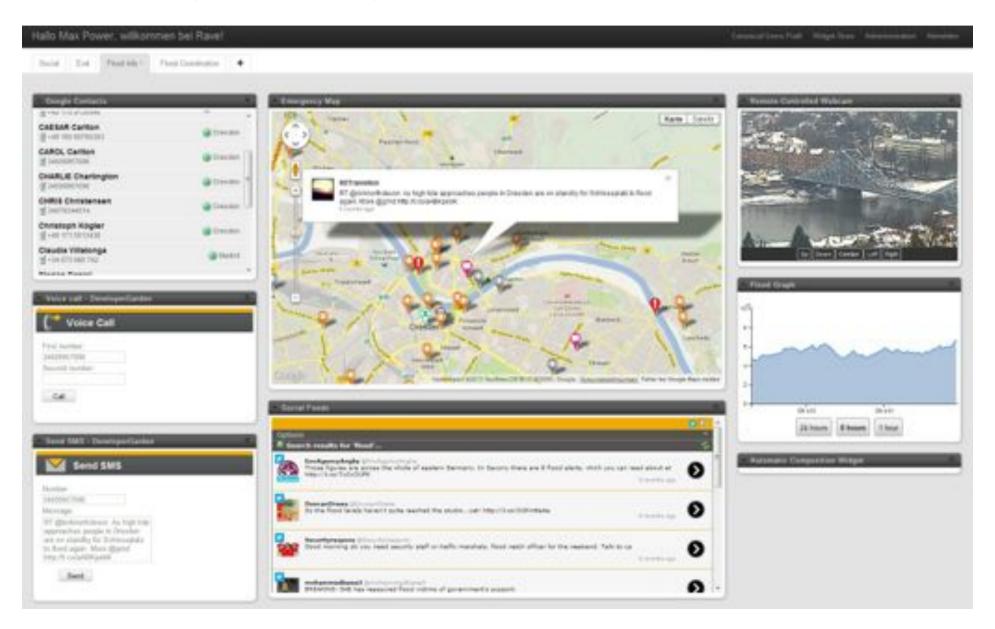
### Software AG Presto implements EMML



JackBe has recently been acquired by Software AG, and many of the former online resources are no longer accessible



# The **OMELETTE Apache Rave** environment has OMDL-compliance workspaces



### **DEVELOPING MASHUP LANGUAGES**

#### **Conceptual development**

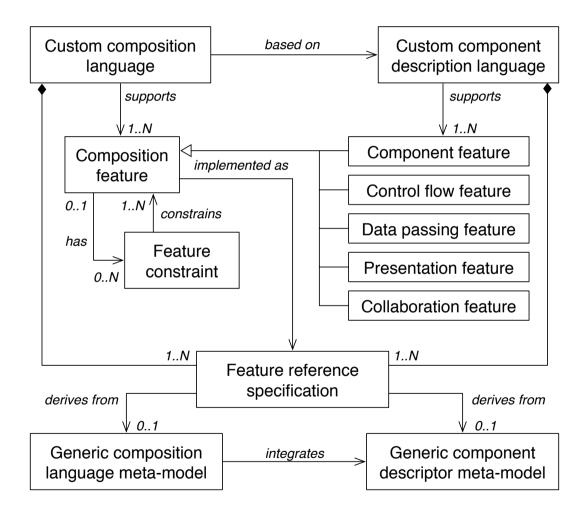
of mashup languages/platforms [Soi2014]

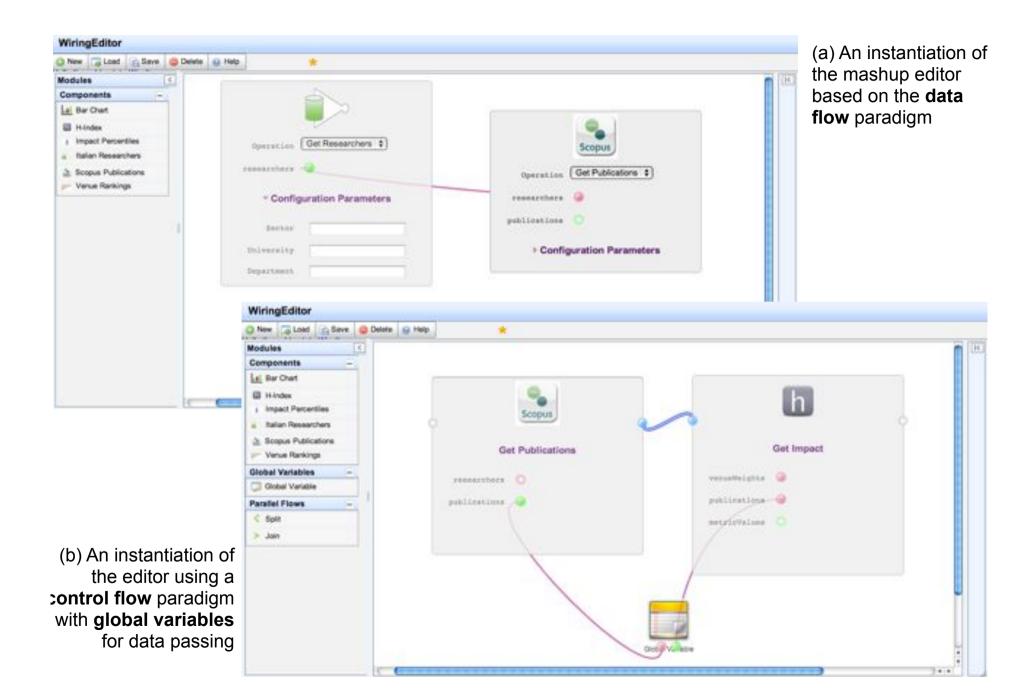
**Observation:** All mashup languages share similar **features** 

#### Idea: 1. Extract/isolate features

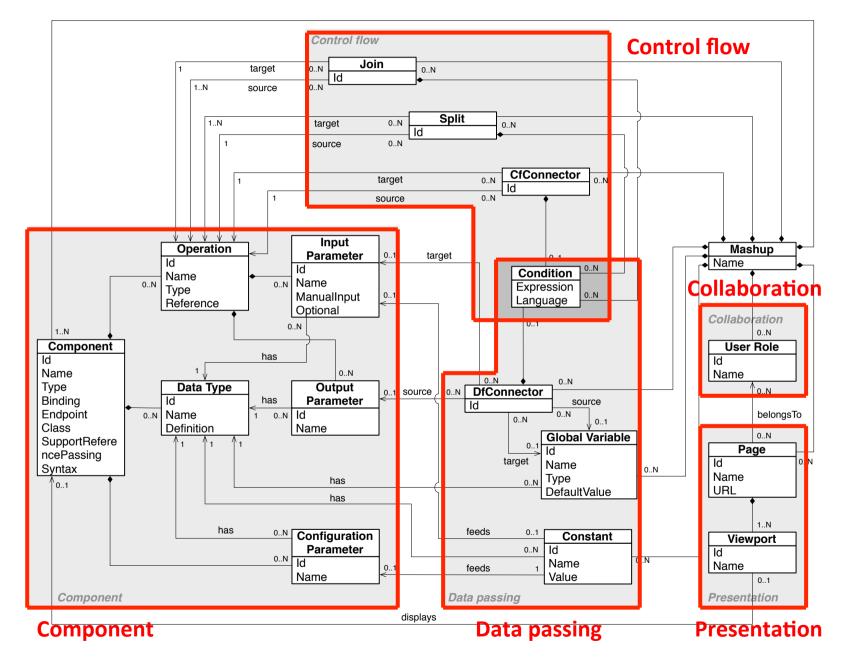
- 2. Express features as reusable mashup language patterns (XSD)
- 3. Implement a **library** of features (XSD)
- 4. Identify conflicts and inclusions (simple rules)
- 5. Develop a **runtime environment** that supports all features
- 6. Develop new languages by **assembling** features
  - Mashup language
  - Component description language
- **7. Customize** the runtime environment with new language

#### Concept





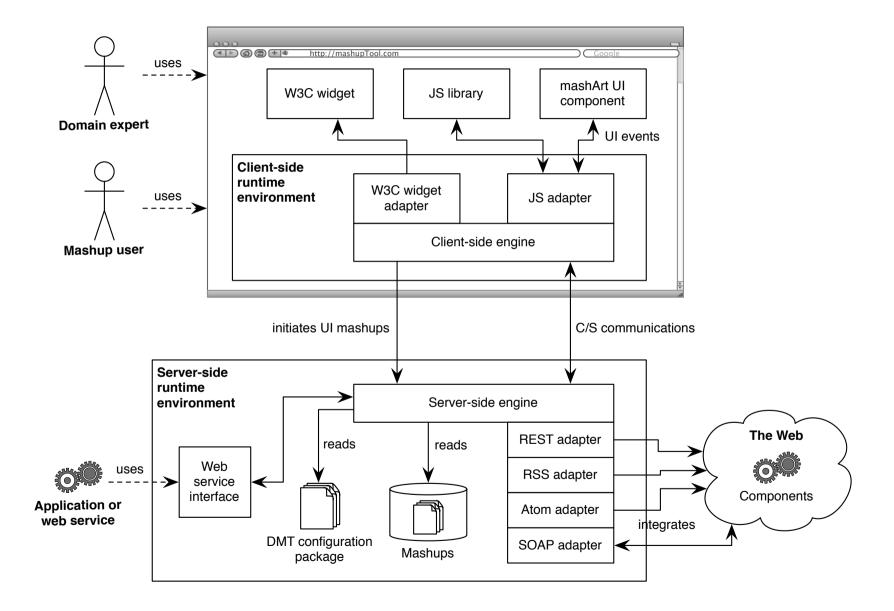
#### **Generic** mashup language model (not executable!)



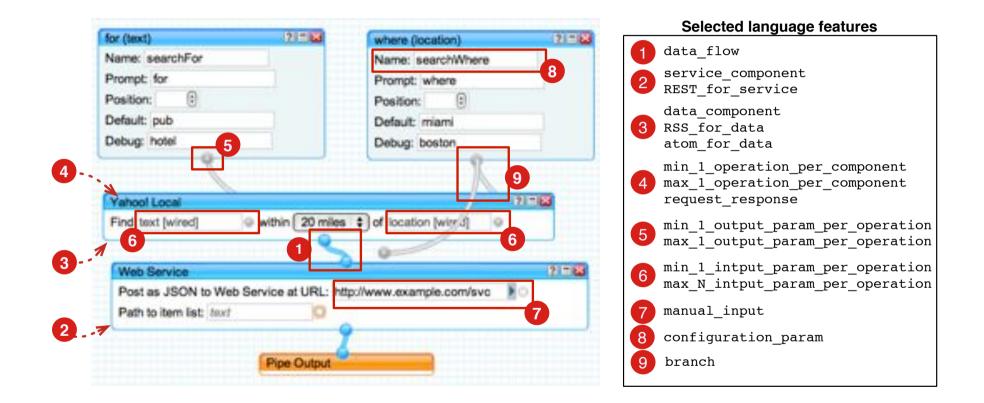
#### Example of **feature specification**

```
<feature name="data_flow" label="Data flow">
<description> The composition paradigm is data flow, that is, it is possible
to explicitly define the flow of the data among components opearations.
In this case the data passing and the control flow overlap since
operations triggering depends on the data flow.
</description>
<specification>
<include fragments="dfConnectorDef, dfConnectorType,
    dfSourceOutputParameter, dfTargetInputParameter" />
</specification>
<constraints>NOT(control_flow)</constraints>
</feature>
```

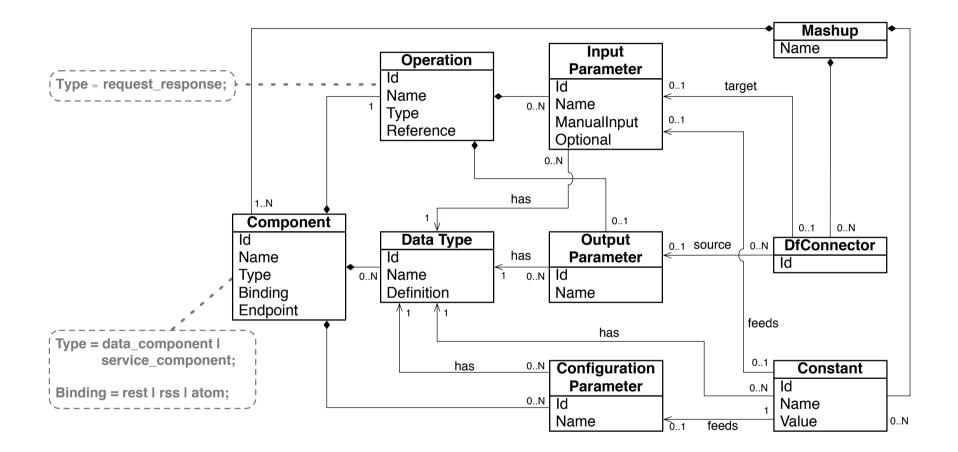
#### Runtime environment (operational semantics of language)



#### Conceptual development example: Yahoo! Pipes



#### Resulting mashup language model



Attention: this **model** is **by design** different from the **metamodel** presented earlier!

### **OTHER MASHUP LANGUAGES**

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8	NTLS	132%	50.26%			🚊 🤛 Sales-oppr-Nov08	Symbol	
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10							- Price %Change	
11	NewsIndex					CRMContacts	http://news.google.com/?output	
12	RATEnews				E		title	
13	BEATnews					Oursers Folders	- link	
14	THORnews					Query Folders	-guid	
15	LHCGnews						category	
16	NTLSnews						pub Date	
17							description	
18	2.2						http://news.google.com/?output=rss	
19	Contacts						e III +	
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21	<b>BEATcontacts</b>					Formula MISC_RSShttp://www.pasdaq.com/aspxcontent/NasdaqRSS		
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24	NTLScontacts					Stocktable		
25						⊕ 04 Feb 2009 16:00:00 - 1	Object Browser	

Spreadsheet-based mashups [Kongdenfha2009]

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Spreadsheet-based mashups [Kongdenfha2009]

Social Spreadsheet [Jara2013]



#### NaturalMash [Aghaee2013] = controlled natural language



itneractive workspace

according to "default bindings" based on component compatibility

behaviours that the two components have to show within the final application

#### PEUDOM [Matera2013] = live, visual programming

### **REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE**

### Reference architecture for mashup tools

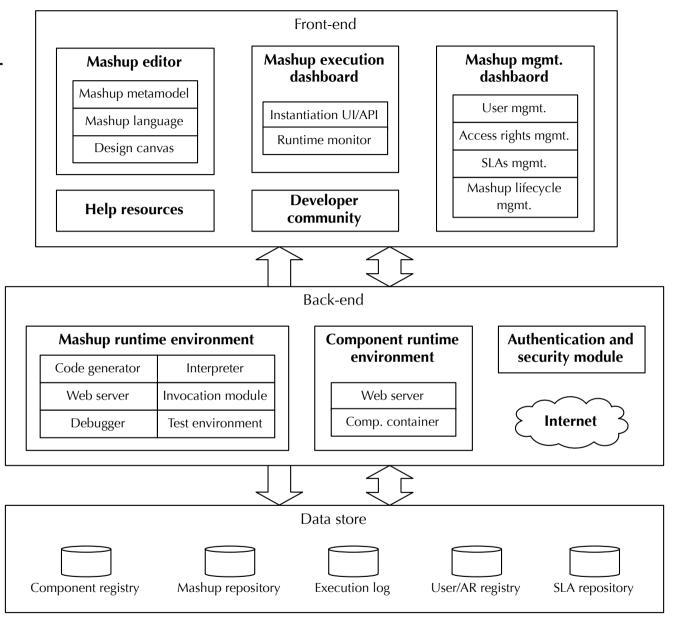


Fig. 8.15 Conceptual reference architecture of a mashup platform articulated into front-end, back-end and persistent data store.

### **MASHUP QUALITY**

Part IV

# Learning objectives

### 1. Component quality

 Definition of the main data quality dimensions to evaluate mashup components

### 2. Composition issues

 Issues related to the assessment of the quality of composed application

### 3. Mashup quality

 Definition of the data quality dimensions to evaluate mashup applications

## The importance of quality



### Garbage in $\rightarrow$ garbage out

# Quality

# "Even though quality cannot be defined, you know what it is...."

**Robert Pirsig** 

# Is Quality Measurable?



### **Quality Assessment**



### We need a quality model!

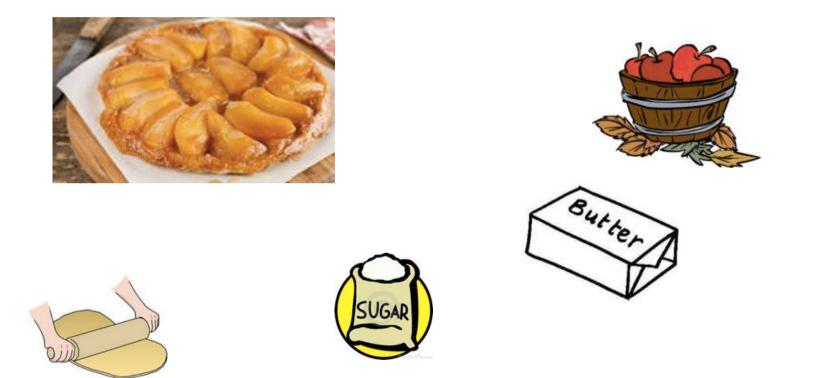
## Mashups

"Mashups are Web applications that integrate inside one web page *two or more* heterogeneous resources...."

# ....Integration of two or more heterogeneous sources...



# Quality of a composed object



The quality of the composed objects depends only on the quality of the components?

# FROM THE COMPONENTS ... A QUALITY MODEL

### The structure of an API

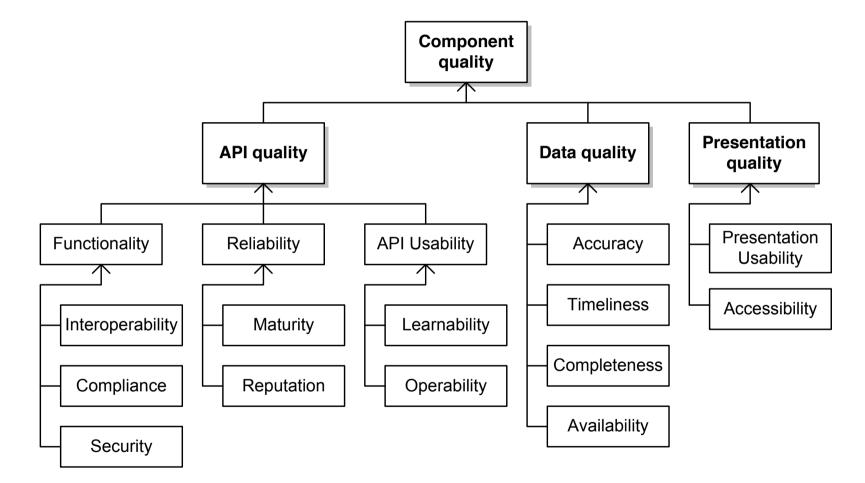


## Quality contributions



- Software quality dimension: ISO standard
- Contributions addressing quality of software components: complexity, modularization, cohesion, coupling

# The quality model an overview...



[Cappiello2009]

### **API quality - Functionality**

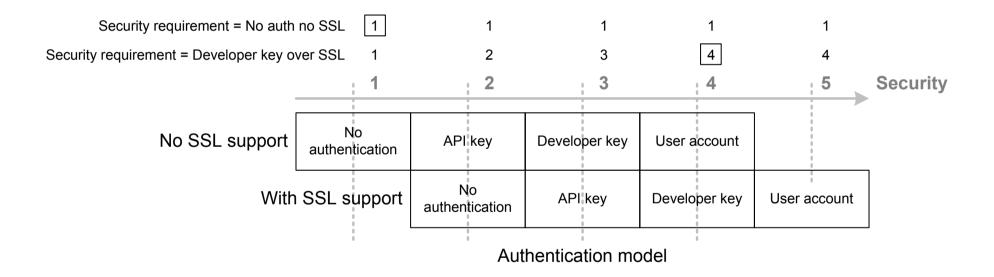
Interoperability

Compliance

Protocols Language Data formats

# API quality – Functionality

### Security



# API Quality - reliability

$$Maturity_{comp} = max(1 - \frac{CurrentDate_{comp} - LastUseDate_{comp}}{\frac{CurrentDate_{comp} - CreationDate_{comp}}{|V_{comp}|}};0)$$

Age

Usage

Maintainance



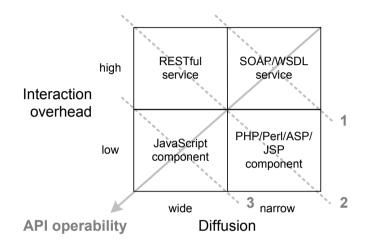




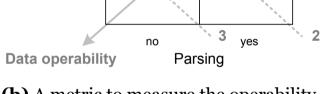
### **API usability - operability**

Standard

structure



(a) A metric to measure operability of API types



JSON

Parameter-

value pairs

ХMĹ

ATOM, RSS,

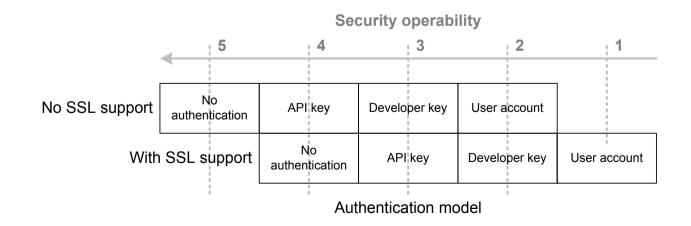
GData

× 1

no

yes

**(b)** A metric to measure the operability of data formats



# API usability - learnability



#### Documentation

#### Examples

1	Import	java.util.Scanner;
2	import	org.scribe.builder.*;
3	import	org.scribe.builder.api.*;
4	import	org.scribe.model.*;
5	import	org.scribe.oauth.*;
6		
7		class TwitterExample
9		blic static void main(String[] args)
10		
11	1	OAuthService service = new ServiceBuilder()
12		.provider(TwitterApi.class)
13		.apiKey("6icbcAXyZx67rBuTAUMSQw")
14		.apiSecret("SCCAdUUc6LXxiazxH3N00fpNUvlUy84mZ2XZKiv39s")
15		.build();
16		<pre>Scanner in # new Scanner(System.in);</pre>
17		Token requestToken = service.getRequestToken();
18		
19		System.out.println(service.getAuthorizationUrl(requestToken));
20		System.out.println("And paste the verifier here: ");
21		Verifier verifier = new Verifier(in.nextLine());
22		
23		Token accessToken = service.getAccessToken(requestToken, verifier);
24	}	
25	1	



### **Presentation Quality**

### Usability



### Accessibility

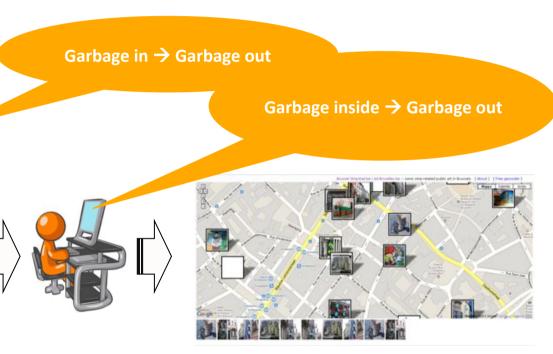
### Reputation

## TO THE COMPOSITION...A QUALITY MODEL

# Mashup quality: main aspects



Mashup component: Flickr



Mashup application: e.g., BrusselStripstad.be

## Quality assessment?



Mashup component: Flickr



Mashup application: e.g., BrusselStripstad.be

# Quality assessment: a first experiment



Mashups are accessible as **normal Web pages**... ...can we use the **same models** and tools developed for quality assessment of traditional web pages?

- We assess (by using automatic tools) the quality of 68 mashups on the basis of four criteria:
- Usability: measures the ease of use of the mashup. (SiteAnalyzer)
- Readability: measures how easy or difficult it is to read and understand the text rendered in the mashup. (Juicy Studio)
- Accessibility: measures how well the mashup complies with the W3C web accessibility guidelines. (SiteAnalyzer)
- Performance: measures the loading time of the mashup till all elements of the application are rendered in the page. (Pingdom)

# Results of the experiment: five "best" and five "worst" mashups.

Rating	Mashup	Usability	Readability	Accessibility	Performance
1	A Paris Hilton video site	83.9%	65.2	85.5%	3.1 sec.
2	Sad Statements	81.4%	35.2	80.5%	5.1 sec.
3	ShareMyRoutes.com	79.8%	62.9	78.4%	2.8 sec.
4	DiveCenters.net	79.5%	75.0	73.3%	1.4 sec.
5	Cursebird	79.1%	78.1	79.3%	2.1 sec.
and a	644 - C		-+++-		- 14e-
64	CityTagz	65.0%	53.3	64.2%	3.2 sec.
65	Blue Home Finder	64.9%	77.7	63.9%	7.3 sec.
66	Gaiagi Driver - 3D Driving Simulator	64.8%	53.9	64.6%	6.3 sec.
67	2008 Beijing Olympics Torch Relay Path	62.2%	10.5	58.7%	2.0 sec.
68	Tidespy: Tide Charts with Best Fishing Times	61.2%	58.2	64.3%	5.7 sec.

• Are these results **reliable**? We conducted five independent evaluations by manually inspecting the same mashups and we compared the two evaluations and we found...

## ... a counterexample...



# Mashup quality: the need for a quality model

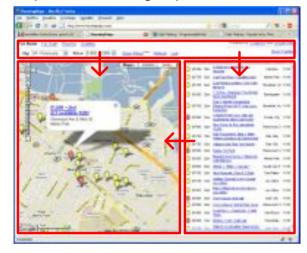
- High focus on **composition** aspect in mashups:
  - Data integration
  - Service orchestration and UI synchronization
  - Layout
- The success of a mashup is certainly influenced by the **added value** that the final combination of components is able to provide.

### Composition patterns[Cappiello2010]

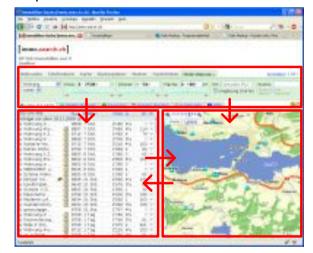
#### http://dailymashup.com/

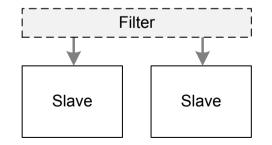


#### http://www.housingmaps.com/

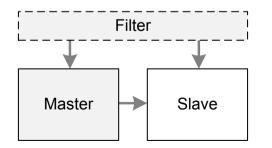


#### http://immo.search.ch/

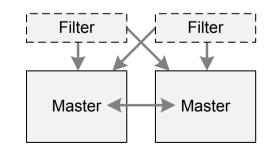




(a) Slave-Slave pattern



(b) Master-Slave pattern

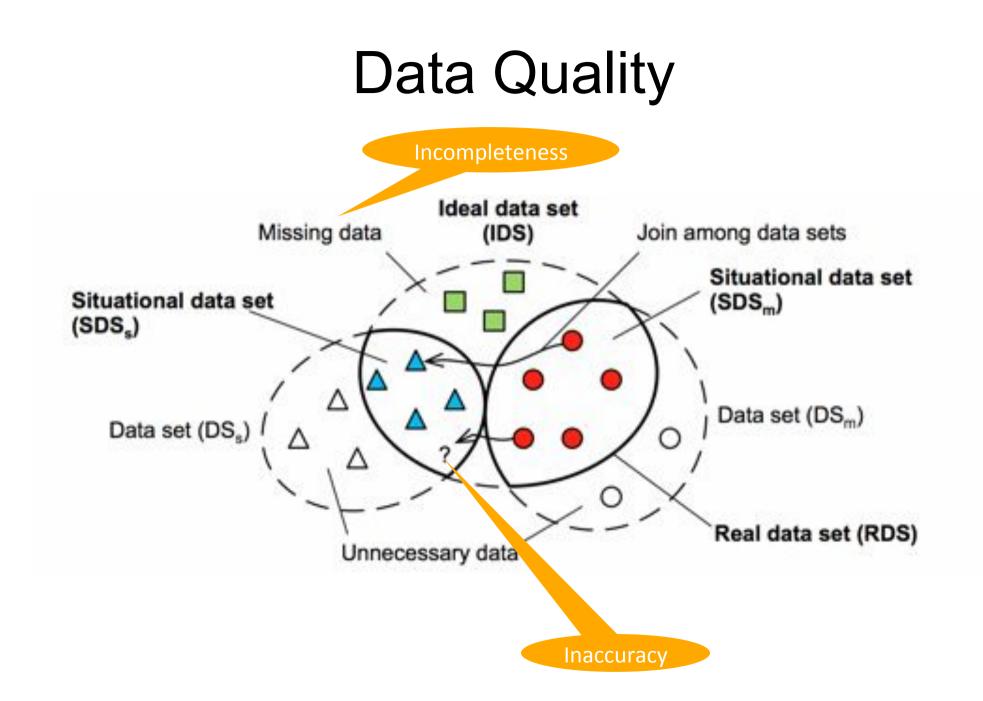


(c) Master-Master pattern

## The quality model



[Cappiello2011]



# **Presentation quality**

### Usability

traditional dimensions such as orientation, users control, predictability, layout consistency
Learnability: the mashup features should be visible enough and the corresponding commands should be self-expressive so that even naive users can easily master the mashup execution.

Layout consistency

### Accessibility

•Accessibility criteria do not need to be specialized for mashups.



### Usability

navigability and richness of links, or any other criteria addressing the hypertext structure
readability, cohesion or coherence



## Composition Quality: added value

 The added value of the composition can be related to the amount of provided features and/or offered data. The mashup has an added value if it provides at least more functionality or data than the ones provided by its components









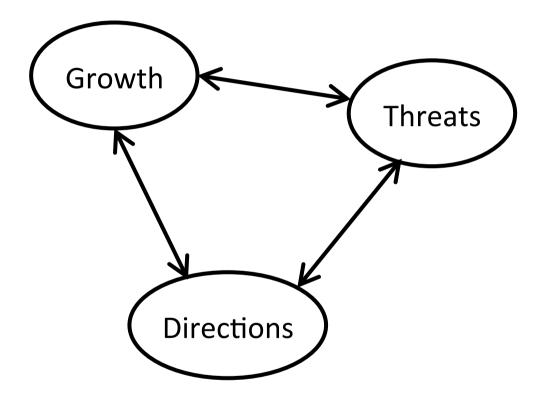
# Composition Quality: other dimensions

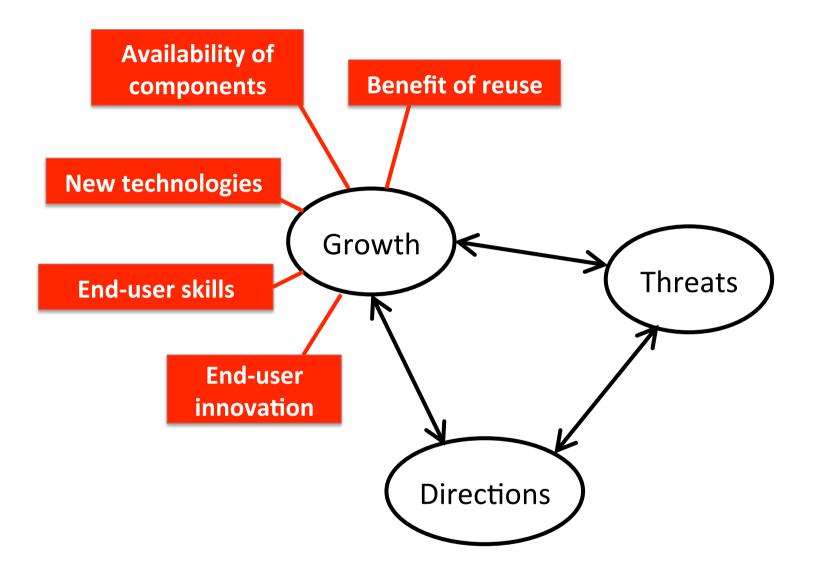
- **Component suitability**: it refers to the appropriateness of the component features and data with respect to the goal that the mashup is supposed to support.
- **Component usage**: it may happen that, even though a component is very rich from the point of view of data and functionality, it is improperly used within a composition.
- **Consistency**: poor quality compositions can also be caused by inconsistencies at the orchestration level.
- Availability: the degree in which the mashup can be properly accessed during a given time interval. It depends on the availability of the components and on their role in the composition.

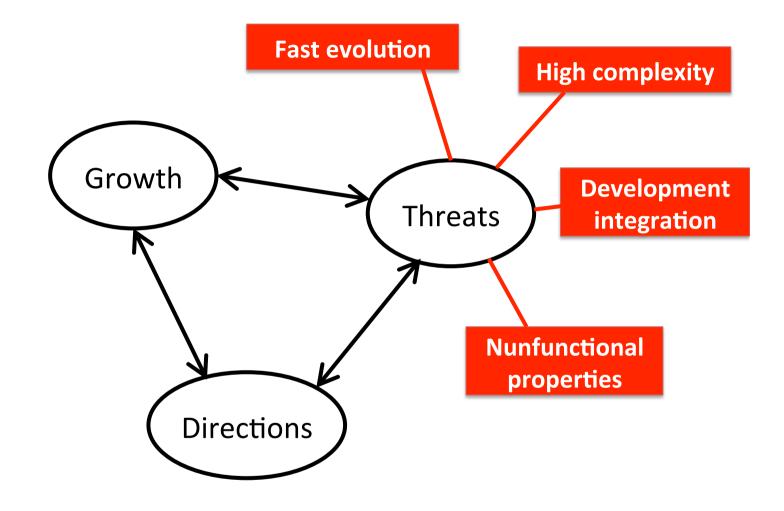
### Remember....

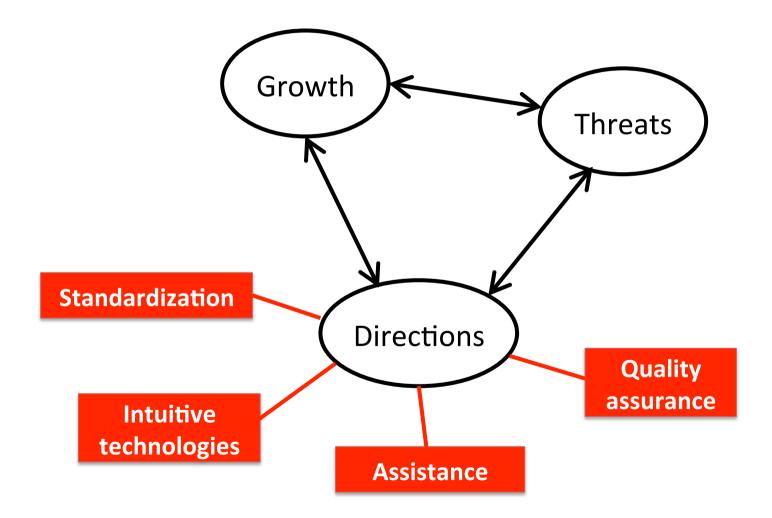
### Garbage in $\rightarrow$ garbage out

### OUTLOOK

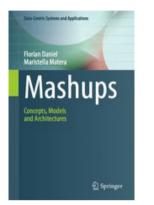








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