LogiLogi
Platonism as a Working Product

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LogiLogi.org
In this Talk we Present
LogiLogi, a platform for philosophers

We will answer these 3 questions

3 Sub-Questions

1. Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?
2. What is LogiLogi?
3. What's the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?
Introduction

In this Talk

Outline of the Talk

Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

What is LogiLogi?

What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?

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Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

Introduction

Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?
Conversations and Papers
The Web
Beyond Conversations and Papers because

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Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

“Then he [who knows the just and good and honourable] will not seriously incline to write his thoughts [which he values and which he wishes to bear fruit] in water with pen and ink, sowing words which can neither speak for themselves nor teach the truth adequately to others?”
Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

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- Plato, *Phaedrus*
Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

“Then he [who knows the just and good and honourable] will not seriously incline to write his thoughts [which he values and which he wishes to bear fruit] in water with pen and ink, sowing words which can neither speak for themselves nor teach the truth adequately to others?”

- Plato, Phaedrus

- Plato saw written philosophy as a lesser form
  - derived from speech
  - not embodied, passive, helpless
  - writing was only good as an aid to memory

- His memory aid seeded our philosophical tradition
Conversations and Papers

Advantages of conversations:

• Conversations can be **focused and tailored**
  • the other is known and present
• They provide **fast feedback**
  • response is immediate
• **Are interactive** and thus more lucid
  • explication/defence minimizes misunderstandings
• And are often **easy and informal**
  • not much overhead
Conversations and Papers

Advantages of papers:

- Texts are more **lasting** than conversations
  - they can survive their authors
- They can be **spread and shared** more easily
  - written once, read by many
- Can support **more complexity**
  - via private re-reading and larger size
- Can easily **be referenced**
  - via footnotes and quotes
Further improvements of papers and books:

- Even **more durabilitity** thanks to institutions
  - like libraries, archives and digitalization
- **Selection and quality-control** thanks to Journals
  - peer review and selected monthly digests
- Faster and easier **access**
  - printing, copy-service, web-collections, google
Conversations and Papers

Remaining limits of papers and books:

• **Not tailored** to different audiences
  • still largely a mass-product

• **Feedback-cycles** of a year or more
  • from first submission to publication of derived works

• Interactivity, hypertext, and re-use of parts
  • still as **static** as the tablets of Moses
The Web

The web is fusing media:

- The web can **combine the advantages** of conversations
  - focused, fast, interactive and informal
- And the advantages of papers
  - lasting, sharable, larger and easily referenced
- And with Web 2.0 also many **social improvements**
  - filtering, peer-review, suggestions
- Into an informal **form between papers and conversations**
  - is already possible, and will be useful
The Web

The web is a young medium:

- It has been there only since 1990/1968
  - writing was just used for bookkeeping after 18 years
  - something more useful for philosophy is likely to appear
- New media are always misunderstood
  - cars as horseless carriages
  - radio as wireless telegraph
  - film for recording theater plays
- Digitalized journals are not the end of it
Beyond Conversations and Papers because

Conversations and Papers

- conversations are focused, fast, interactive and informal
- papers are lasting, sharable, larger and easily referenced
- improvements were in durability, selection and access

The Web

- can combine the virtues of conversations and papers to an informal form between them
- the web is to be more than digitalized journals...
What is LogiLogi? 

Introduction

Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

What is LogiLogi?

Hypertexts and Links
A pluralistic Meritocracy
LogiLogi is

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Basics

- A platform for philosophical discussions
  - to enable in-depth discussions and explications via the web
  - for new ideas that you can’t (yet) turn into a full-sized paper
- Core values are combining:
  - the advantages of conversations and papers
  - the openness of the web with an (almost) academic quality
- The software produced is Free/Open Source
  - in the Ruby on Rails Web2.0 framework (AJAX & all)
  - worked on with (max) 10 people simultaneously
  - 15.000 lines of code, 6 person-years in 2 years
  - would have cost $300.000 (Ohloh analysis)
What is LogiLogi?

This site, LogiLogi Manta, intends to make lucid humanities-related discussions possible over the web. We want to bring together the virtues of the written and the spoken word. Core values are real openness and quality of content. How to combine these seemingly contradictory notions?

The answer is social software modelled after Bruno Latour's philosophy of science, in short Manta is wiki + tagging + rating, where texts can by default not be edited by anyone, tags can be used in links, and rating occurs from the viewpoints of different peer-groups. Anyone can start a peer-group, and one's voting power within a peer-group is determined by the ratings one's own writings received from the other members of the peer-group.

Short documents - or what we call logs - can be reached through one or more tags (such as Logi_Logi or stacked together as: Logi_Logi/Manta), and multiple logs can be tagged with the same tags. If there are multiple contenders for a tag, their ratings decide which one is shown to the user. A user can select which peergroup to use as his filter, and this, which ratings decide which log is shown to him.
Hypertexts and Links

Slim, smart hypertexts:

- **Texts are kept short within LogiLogi**
  - only about 500 words (so called logi’s)
  - to maximize the advantages of hypertext
- They can be **informal and experimental**
- They can be **improved incrementally**
  - only by their author (different from wiki’s)
  - so intellectual responsibility is maintained
- Possibly only when
  - a logi arouses interest, or questions arise
  - this saves time and keeps your thinking agile
  - allows you to explore more ideas
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For a more extensive introduction to LogiLogi and it's relation to the Philosophical tradition, see this short (1500-words) paper: English, Français.
Hypertexts and Links

A diversity of dynamic links:

- Links can be inserted by all
  - like inserting a footnote in a published article
- Links in LogiLogi can refer to
  - versions of logis
  - logis
  - tags (the default)
- Logis can be tagged with one or more tags
  - and multiple logis can have the same tag(s)
- Thus a link can point to a set of logis
  - the logi with the highest rating is shown
A diversity of dynamic Links

Welcome

Jun 1
2008

by: EDUARD EDISON

Outgoing Links
1. ..cs Peter Abelard=Eduard_Edison_24
   No matches found...
2. /Logi Logi/Manta
   Eduard Edison 2.0

In this Talk

Introduction

Why go beyond?

Conversations and Papers

The Web

Beyond because

What is LogiLogi?

Hypertexts and Links

A pluralistic Meritocracy

LogiLogi is

The Philosophy?

Smaller Stories

Entity Oriented Writing

The Philosophy is

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A pluralistic Meritocracy

A fierce, fair meritocracy:

- Logi’s can be rated by all
  - both by visitors and people with accounts
  - but voting-power varies (0.1 versus 1.0 and up)
- Authors with well-rated logi’s receive more voting-power
  - they thus can gain influence and standing
- This makes LogiLogi a meritocracy
  - the best will have most influence
  - similar to the social structures surrounding journals
- It all happens without judgement by admins/cliques
  - the formula is public and simple
  - and anonymous/unbiased like a market-mechanism
A fierce, fair Meritocracy
A pluralistic Meritocracy

LogiLogi is a plurality of peergroups:

- LogiLogi has multiple peergroups
- Peergroups are like schools, viewpoints or paradigms
  - as good philosophy is not always good history, etc...
  - and what is good philosophy?
- Votes are in the context of a peergroup
- A well-rated logi grants an author group-membership
  - peergroups are thus self-organizing
- Visitors can pick which peergroup to use as their filter
  - allowing for a diversity of viewpoints
  - preventing humour/etc as the common denominator
- Everyone can start a new peergroup (w.o. startup costs)
  - but only good ones will attract enough attention/users
A plurality of Peergroups
LogiLogi is

- slim, smart hypertexts
- a diversity of dynamic links
- a fierce and fair meritocracy
- a plurality of peergroups
What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?

Introduction

Why go beyond Conversations and Papers?

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What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?
  Smaller Stories
  Entity Oriented Writing
  The Philosophy of LogiLogi is

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What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?

“The narrative function is losing its functors, its great hero, its great dangers, its great voyages, its great goal. It is being dispersed in clouds of narrative language elements...”
What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?

“The narrative function is losing its functors, its great hero, its great dangers, its great voyages, its great goal. It is being dispersed in clouds of narrative language elements...”

- Jean-Francois Lyotard, La Condition Postmoderne
What’s the Philosophy behind LogiLogi?

“The narrative function is losing its functors, its great hero, its great dangers, its great voyages, its great goal. It is being dispersed in clouds of narrative language elements...”

- Jean-François Lyotard, *La Condition Postmoderne*

- Jean-François Lyotard declared the **end of big stories**
  - grand narratives like Hegelian Dialectics, Marxism, ...
  - replaced by a plurality of small stories
  - each in their own domain

- **Small stories in competition** with eachother
Smaller Stories

From the cathedral to the bazaar:

- In Free Software development via the web
  - something like the end of big designs happened
  - Eric Raymond’s *From the Cathedral to the Bazaar*
- No single architect anymore
  - architecture emerges from collective contributions
- Informal and incremental improvements
  - release often, release early
- Peer review and collaboration
  - given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow
- Quite much like the academic tradition
Smaller Stories

From books, to articles, to ?:

- Historically a quite concrete move to smaller texts
  - first all-encompassing worldviews in traditions
  - then books as the magnum opii (from the middle-ages)
  - now articles (from the 17th century onwards)

- And these texts had more & more inter-textuality
  - first all predecessors were repeated
  - then all relevant predecessors were summarized
  - now they are referred to via notes

- So what’s next for philosophy ?
  - just online journals, the web as it is now ?
  - or something more ?
Entity Oriented Writing

One point per logi, one logi per point:

- LogiLogi is built for what we call
  - Entity Oriented Writing
- Which means writing to the point
  - your first logi expresses your point (500 words max)
- Linking from there to what’s not central to it
  - don’t explain things described by other’s inline
  - elaborate in other logis as/when needed
- Easily write a new logi for a new audience
  - but often it will already readable by a diverse public
- As the logi is understandable to fellows
  - others can follow the links or ask questions
Entity Oriented Writing

Concepts depend on context:

- LogiLogi cherishes the breakdown of language
  - and the differentiation of (philosophical) domains
- It needs **no global definitions**
  - in software global namespaces are passe
  - there is Object Oriented Design
  - which ties variables to objects & contexts
- This **reduces complexity**
  - a good thing in the sense of Niklass Luhmann
  - it’s a specialization of language
  - language **curving around our cognitive limits**
- So we can face more **complexity where it matters**
Entity Oriented Writing

Small stories in competition:

- Truth, if at all, resides in the (inter)textual
  - there is no philosophical truth an sich
  - the value of ideas/texts depends on ... X
  - and differs across (peer)groups

- Truth, if at all, is optimized through competition
  - through collective judgements
  - like value in a market
  - and consensus in a democracy

- LogiLogi is a radicalization of intertextuality
  - without losing touch to the collective sense
The Philosophy of LogiLogi is

**A continuation of the Move**

- to smaller, more collaborative texts
- from the Cathedral to the Bazaar, the web
- from traditions, books, articles, to ?

**LogiLogi is for Entity Oriented Writing**

- short, informal, incrementally improved texts
- definitions/elaborations in context to reduce complexity
- improvement of ideas via open and free competition
Conclusion

• The web will go beyond papers and conversations
  • focused, fast, interactive, informal like conversations
  • lasting, sharable, larger and referencable like papers
• LogiLogi may harness the web for philosophers
  • with its slim hypertexts and easy linking
  • and its plurality of meritocratic peergroups
• And it is built for Entity Oriented Writing
  • ever smaller stories, to a collaborative Bazaar model
  • faster turnaround, more context, less complexity
Thanks for Your Attention

We hope LogiLogi may be of use to you,

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(developers & contributors in alphabetical order)
Questions

Any questions?

http://www.LogiLogi.org
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