

COMMA 2010 Demonstration: Cohere

Simon BUCKINGHAM SHUM
Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University, UK
s.buckingham.shum@open.ac.uk

Cohere (<http://cohere.open.ac.uk>) is an open source, and freely hosted, social media platform for annotating the web with semantic “Idea” nodes, and making meaningful connections between those annotations.

Originally presented at COMMA 2008, it has continued to be developed, with the addition of an API, improved visualizations and better social web features such as groups, folksonomy, Twitter, and geolocation/temporal data mashups. Cohere was recently a winner of a Mozilla Labs 2010 design challenge to develop a Firefox browser extension for learning on the web.

Of specific interest to COMMA delegates will be the following features:

- **Cohere provides individuals or teams with a default set of visual node and connection types, including argumentative concepts and connections**, which can then be customized to provide a language suited to the context.
- **Direct highlighting and annotation of textual web resources** using the Firefox extension, providing argumentation researchers with tools for themselves, or end-user communities (e.g. students) to mark up argumentative contributions.
- **Visualization of nodes and links** in a self-organising graph, also showing the authors, thus providing a socio-semantic network view, grounded in argumentation semantics.
- **A RESTful API** enabling COMMA researchers to integrate their tools with Cohere, e.g. in order to provide reasoning services over the structures, to visualize argument graphs in Cohere, or to process annotations on texts.
- **Open source code** enabling COMMA researchers to adapt Cohere radically if necessary.