

What causes sectarianism and how to alleviate it

Barry Smith

- Why do you want to build yet another ontology for X, rather than reuse an existing one?
- One reason: Because of a lack of trust
- How to increase trust in the realm of ontology development?

All IT people should have licenses

- Why?
- Increasingly, people's lives depend upon IT, (because increasingly, people's doctors depend upon IT)
- Formal codes of ethics for engineers since 1912
- Vint Cert proposes code of ethics for web engineers (*New York Times*, Jan. 5, 2012)

Hippocratic oath and code of ethics

- Since 2010, members of the executive boards of all banks in the Netherlands have had to sign a Banker's Oath as part of a code of ethics.
- 2010: MBA Oath proposed (Anderson and Escher, 2010)
- 2010 Economist's Oath proposed (DeMartino 2010) for economists who serve as policy advisors

Suggested principles for an ontologist's code of ethics

1. I hereby swear that I will reuse existing ontology content wherever possible
2. I hereby swear that whenever I reuse terms from an existing ontology, I will keep their original source IDs
3. I hereby swear that before releasing an ontology I will **aggressively test** it in multiple real-world applications
4. I hereby swear that before committing a new term and definition to an ontology I will always **think first**

How do we advance trust?

de Tocqueville:

- “In democratic countries the science of association is the mother of science; the progress of all the rest depends upon the progress it has made.”