

PoolParty: Just the Facts

Some myths and facts about the leading Semantic Technology Suite

Word-of-mouth is one of the most useful marketing tools in the IT-industry. However, misleading ideas and false claims can also arise, especially in global, dynamic and sophisticated surroundings. We've put together a selection of the most common misperceptions about [PoolParty Semantic Suite](#). Feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have, or if you want to add another myth. We are very responsive!

Myth 1: PoolParty is 'only' a taxonomy editor and can only work with SKOS

This is incorrect. It's true that, in 2008, Semantic Web Company started to implement PoolParty as a taxonomy editor in its core. It was the first user-friendly software tool on the market that supported semantic web standards-based knowledge engineering tasks of professional taxonomists.



Since then, PoolParty has developed into a Semantic Middleware suite with numerous feature-rich modules, which can handle many other formats than SKOS. In 2015, PoolParty was recognized as a [Trend-Setting Product by KMWorld](#).

Myth 2: With PoolParty, taxonomy projects always have to be built from scratch

Not entirely true. PoolParty clients benefit from a comprehensive library of existing taxonomies. High-quality taxonomies are available for many different industries. Some of them can be commercially used at no cost, or purchased for a reasonable amount. PoolParty's standards-based technology ensures that any imported taxonomy will be valid and consistent. Also clients who have

taxonomies already in place, but in other formats than RDF or SKOS, can use PoolParty thanks to its extensive import features. For example, Excel-based taxonomies can be imported natively with PoolParty's Excel importer. Proprietary XML-formats can easily transformed into RDF graphs.

Even if there is no taxonomy available for a specific domain or for the internal use in an organization, users will benefit from PoolParty's linked data harvester and automatic corpus analysis. These outstanding features help to create taxonomies semi-automatically with modest effort.

Myth 3: You can add, edit and retrieve metadata only via PoolParty's GUI/editor

Not exactly. The sustainable development of a business taxonomy or a knowledge graph is most often is a collaborative effort that is coordinated by taxonomists, but it may involve other domain experts who would like to stick to their existing IT environment. PoolParty can be integrated via its RESTful API with most 3rd-party systems. Users can provide their editorial suggestions directly through the CMS or DAM they usually work with. By these means, all changes done in external systems can get synchronized with PoolParty - depending on the enabled workflows. The same mechanism can be used to extend a taxonomy or knowledge graph in PoolParty programmatically, i.e. by retrieving structured data from a database to add attributes or relations to a concept being maintained in PoolParty.

Myth 4: PoolParty doesn't support Ontology Management

Wrong. PoolParty provides Custom Schema *and* Ontology Management, which are nicely integrated with the Taxonomy Management module and workflows. If you want to extend your thesaurus by specific relations and attributes, a custom schema will be a convenient way to do so. Skilled users can also create more complex ontologies with PoolParty, if a project requires it. Our experience shows that even experienced taxonomists prefer to work with SKOS based taxonomies first, then to extend them - step-by-step - with Custom Schema Management, which is more efficient for most application scenarios.

Myth 5: PoolParty doesn't support the ISO standard for thesauri

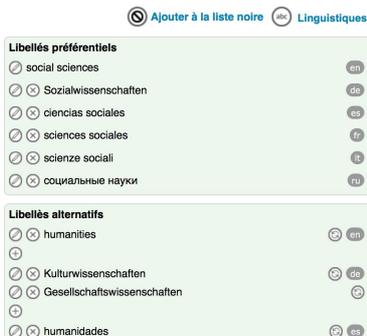
This is incorrect. PoolParty Semantic Suite comprehensively meets the [ISO-25964-1 Guidelines](#) for thesaurus management software.

Myth 6: No rules can be defined for the auto-classification of documents

Not exactly. The way you build and structure your taxonomy in PoolParty has a direct impact on the auto-classification of your documents. By adding synonyms and creating relations, you control the results. Filters as relevancy and frequency of terms in a reference corpus allow you to fine-tune the results to your needs. PoolParty's disambiguation algorithms, which can have a large impact on the precision of document classification, can be adapted based on rules that also follow the structure of your knowledge graph. Additionally, for each extraction model a black-list can be maintained to set rules about the avoidance of extraction results.

Myth 7: DBPedia is the only Linked Data source you can use in PoolParty

Not entirely true. We have predefined multiple Linked Data sources like DBPedia, Wikidata, Geonames, Wordnet and LCSH, which you can directly enable and reuse in PoolParty. These sources are most commonly used by taxonomists across different industries. We are able to integrate any other Linked Data sources on demand. Of course, one doesn't have to reuse any existing linked data source at all when creating a taxonomy or knowledge graph.



Myth 8: PoolParty works only in English

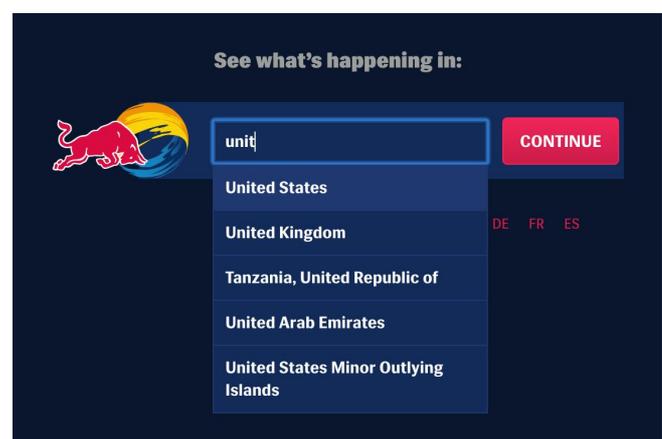
This is incorrect. The graphical user interface of PoolParty is available in 5 languages (English, German, French, Spanish, Slovak). Virtually all world languages can be used for knowledge modelling, and around 40 languages are available for advanced text mining and entity extraction functionality. Automatic Linked Data harvesting based on DBpedia is available in four languages at the moment: English, French, German, and Spanish.

Myth 9: PoolParty is Open Source software

Not entirely true. PoolParty is an enterprise-ready software product that can be licensed for commercial purposes, or used as a cloud service. It's true that PoolParty is based on W3C's open standards, and as such PoolParty helps its customers to avoid vendor lock-in. Integration of PoolParty components can be realised on top of REST APIs, JSON and other common de-facto standards. PoolParty APIs and its standards-based approach guarantee a seamless integration of a future-proof technology for more agile data management.

Myth 10: PoolParty doesn't scale for enterprise use

Wrong. PoolParty is an enterprise-ready platform for agile data management, which meets all the software requirements enterprises typically have when dealing with large amounts of data: high reliability, excellent usability, and outstanding performance. PoolParty Semantic Suite has passed extensive security evaluations by global financial institutions, large retailers, manufacturers and governmental organizations. Additionally, PoolParty is a scalable technology providing



means for clustering and redundant deployment. For example, Red Bull uses PoolParty for its global

and multilingual metadata management and is integrated in an e-commerce platform with more than 18 million visits a day.

Myth 11: PoolParty is based on Graph Databases which are still slow

Not entirely true. With numerous query types, the reverse is true: SQL databases perform slower than graph databases. Performance depends on the kind of application being run on top of a database. Graph Databases aren't meant to replace relational databases, but rather to complement the existing technology stack, especially when it comes to information integration, data warehousing, data analytics, and semantic search applications.

Myth 12: PoolParty can only be used as a cloud service

Not exactly. Our customers can choose between [cloud services and on-premise solutions](#).

Myth 13: There is no on-site training provided for the U.S. market

Wrong. Around 50% of PoolParty customers are US-based. We work with certified partners operating in the U.S. market, who provide PoolParty on-site training. Sometimes our clients prefer virtual training with our consultancy team from Semantic Web Company. In 2016, Semantic Web Company will establish a subsidiary company in the U.S., which will provide technical support for our partners and clients directly. Semantic Web Company has been chosen by renowned [KMWorld](#) in the "100 Companies that Matter in KM" for 2016.

Myth 14: PoolParty is not a multi-user system, because only one user at a time can edit a vocabulary

This is incorrect. A PoolParty Server can handle multi-user scenarios by default due to its system architecture, which is based on the most robust web technologies of our days. Taxonomists, ontologists, and software agents (via API) can access, read, update, and delete concepts and data in parallel. Rules can be set to prevent change from being overwritten. PoolParty's user management handles several roles with various editorial rights.

Myth 15: PoolParty has no revision management

Wrong. Any modification is stored in the history graph of a taxonomy project. By that, it's fully transparent when, what, and who has edited a taxonomy. This data can be used as a basis to generate activity reports for several reasons. To roll back to an earlier stage of a taxonomy, PoolParty's built-in snapshot mechanism is used.

Important Links

- PoolParty Manual: <https://doc.poolparty.biz>
- PoolParty Service Desk (Login for customers & partners only): <https://support.poolparty.biz/>
- PoolParty E-Learning: <https://www.poolparty.biz/knowledge-zone/>
- SEMANTiCS conference: <http://semantics.cc/>
- PoolParty LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4059165>
- YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/semwebcompany>