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## Ireland shows community spirit in deciding future of web

THE Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), located in the National University, Galway, is carrying out research based on semantic web technology, which could lead to a more connected web where people form relationships based on levels of trust.

DERI's Semantically Interlinked Online Communities (SIOC) project, led by John Breslin, is using the



John Breslin, SIOC project

information produced by Breslin's online discussion board, Boards.ie, to further the idea of a web of trust.

"A project started in 2000 called Friend of a Friend (FOAF) represents relationships between people, as well as basic contact details. SIOC does this for groups: it extends the FOAF idea to being able to talk about whole groups of people," says world wide web

creator, Tim Berners-Lee.

"Groups are a very important part of the web as online communities are where we form our trust. It is very useful to build tools applicable to all online communities so they can each generate this social trust information.

"I am excited about SIOC because you can use this data to determine trust, to let people in."