Ruben Verborgh

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Abstract:
Title: One flew over the cuckoo's nest
Subtitle: The role of aggregation on a decentralized Web

Talk to any librarian, archivist, or museum curator and you will find they have one thing in common: an unconditional love for the metadata they produce. Like parents raising a child and birds hatching an egg, eventually the time comes when our younglings think they're ready to spread their wings and fly into the unknown. Is it our destiny to prepare them for this flight and then disappear, or should we remain a safe haven to which they always can return? The story of decentralization versus aggregation ultimately revolves around the tension between control and trust, between holding on and letting go. In this talk, I will explain that, instead of making that choice, we rather need to strive for achieving the best of both worlds. Decentralization and aggregation go hand in hand—there's a place for both in a loving nest.

Bio:
Ruben Verborgh is a professor of Semantic Web technology at Ghent University – imec and a research affiliate at the Decentralized Information Group at MIT. He aims to build a more intelligent generation of clients for a decentralized Web at the intersection of Linked Data and hypermedia-driven Web APIs. Through the creation of Linked Data Fragments, he introduced a new paradigm for query execution at Web-scale. He has co-authored two

books on Linked Data, and contributed to more than 200 publications for international conferences and journals on Web-related topics.