# **NCSA provenance challenge**

- Two workflow implementations
  - D2K modules and itinerary
  - CyberIntegrator / im2learn tools and metaworkflow
- Common execution trace format – RDF
- No common vocabulary or ontology
  - D2K / CI teams developed execution trace formats independently w/o coordination



#### **D2K implementation**





## **CyberIntegrator implementation**

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### **Collecting the execution traces**





# **Answering the queries**

- RDF loaded into Kowari 1.2
- Guessed semantics
  - properties named things like "hasInput"
  - inferred object classes (e.g., inputs, parameters) from associated properties
  - guessed what literals meant (e.g., "OK")
- Wrote iTQL to answer queries
  - identify nodes representing answer (e.g., "find all invocations of ...")
  - added external-to-workflow facts as required



### Indexing precedence



CyberIntegrator





### What's cool

- D2K / CyberIntegrator teams worked independently on trace format
  - no formal ontologies, identifier schemes
  - major problems with implied ontologies, but queries could still be answered
- RDF / iTQL allows integrating multiple ontologies
  - workflow trace + annotation
  - indexing (e.g., precedence)
  - can store either trace in any triple store
  - (SPARQL doesn't do transitive closure) National Center for Supercomputing Applications



## Discussion

- How similar are the implied ontologies used by these tools?
  - if the ontologies were explicit, how much could we do without having to hand-tune queries? (owl:sameAs? rules?)
  - how similar could they be? is there a useful taxonomy of workflow execution traces?
- What about provenance outside of workflows?
  - can we generalize the execution trace ontology to other cause/effect chains?