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Abstract: Real-world problem solving requires integrated problem solving skills. However, in reality, various problem solving techniques have been covered in separate courses in computer science (or other Information Technology-related) curriculum, leaving little time for students to apply learned knowledge together. The advent of E-technology provides an excellent opportunity to change this. In particular, in this paper we take a look at the issue of using ontologies to enable integrated problem solving. We start with a general review on ontologies, pointing out the dual role of ontologies as an e-technology in education. We then focus on the role of ontologies for integrated problem solving by reviewing our recent experiences from a number of student projects in database management system (DBMS), artificial intelligence (AI), data mining (DM) and other senior level courses, pointing out the important role of ontology as a common theme to thread various aspects related to intelligent information systems. These projects have shown exploring ontology-related aspects is an effective way for students to develop skills in integrated problem solving.

Keywords: intelligent problem solving, ontologies, E-technology in education