



3rd TF-Media meeting
Thursday-Friday, October 7-8, 2010
Trondheim, Norway

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Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The third TERENA media task force (TF-Media) meeting was held on 7-8 October 2010, in Trondheim, Norway, hosted by UNINETT. The meeting was attended by 28 people in person, at least 7 people followed the meeting on-line, and 2 were apologised (see the full list of participants enclosed). TERENA secretary was Peter Szegedi.

The task force meeting was preceded by the UNINETT Lecture Recording Workshop:
<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/opencast/>

The TF-Media task force meeting agenda and presentations are available on the TERENA website: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/programme.html>

2. Introductions

Peter Szegedi (TERENA) briefly introduced the TERENA community as a whole and the activities of TERENA Secretariat supporting this community. Slides are available here:
<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-intro-peter.pdf>

Andy Zbinden (SWITCH), the task force chairman, introduced the scope of the task force including its work items and gave a brief overview on NRENS' potential for educational market as a motivation for joining forces under this task force. Andy's slides can be found here: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-intro-andy.pdf>

There was a small discussion about collaboration opportunities within the community regarding media services. Andy mentioned the example of SWITCH and FCCN, where the Swiss NREN collaborates with the Portuguese NREN on media management system integrations. In some countries (e.g., in Czech Republic) usually there are no collaborations at the institutional level except some joint courses between universities, while in other countries (e.g., in the Nordics) there is a long tradition of national and international collaborations. The community is quite diverse in that sense and TF-Media's role is to find the way how potential collaborations can be facilitated among task force participants.

3. Review of outstanding action

Peter Szegedi (TERENA) gave an overview on the outstanding action items:

Reference	Who	Action	Status
Action Tsec(10)045-1	Juan Quemada (Technical University of Madrid)	Prepare and circulate an invitation to TF-Media to become the test community of GLOBAL Plaza	DONE , the Global Plaza Workshop was held on 13 September, 2010 http://www.terena.org/activities/media/vc2/
Action Tsec(10)045-2	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Create a dedicated webpage for "affiliated projects" (such as Opencast) under the TF-Media website and publish the liaison statement there	DONE http://www.terena.org/activities/media/communities.html
Action Tsec(10)045-3	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Collect the list of TF-Media participants who are willing to join forces and initiate any new software development project under Opencast	Opencast contacts have been given to the community. Some tool development discussions are being done at NRENS' level (e.g., SWITCH - FCCN).
Action Tsec(10)045-4	Frans Ward (SURFnet)	Invite someone from Opencast (who can speak about the technical roadmap and the funding model) to the next coming TF-Media meeting	DONE See presentation of Rüdiger Rolf (Universität Osnabrück)
Action Tsec(10)045-5	All (TF-Media)	Check the on-line NREN Questionnaire and propose new questions (send them to the mailing list)	No progress so far. Reconsider the needs...

Action Tsec(10)045-6	Jose-Maria Fontanillo (RedIRIS) and Frans Ward (SURFnet)	Initiate technical and non- technical discussions with Europeana on behalf of TF-Media	On going...
Action Tsec(10)045-7	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Invite someone from Europeana to the next coming TF-Media meeting	Left for the next meeting
Action Tsec(10)045-8	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Clarify the logistic details of the 3 rd TF-Media meeting with UNINETT and the TF-CPR group	DONE

4. Presentations and discussions

Opencast roadmap:

1) Rüdiger Rolf (Universität Osnabrück) gave an update on the Opencast Matterhorn technical roadmap covering the release cycles and participation possibilities. Slides are available here: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-opencast.pdf>

Opencast currently has a grant driven governance model. The project manager (Adam Hochman) and the product owners (see slides) discuss and decide on topics. Product owners keep in close touch with the developers in their area. The appropriate contact details have been given to TF-Media participants interested in joining Opencast's software developments.

Metadata issues:

2) Ramón Cahenzli (Zurich University of the Arts) talked about Media Archive of the Arts (MAdeK) project that has created a metadata-focused free media archive system. <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-madek.pdf>

MAdeK is a web application that supports archiving of art projects and enables collaboration on and sharing of digital media in education and research community. It is designed to remove software obstacles and add quality obstacles instead. The basic implementation principle was to maximize tool and standard support through flexible metadata mappings. Nothing is hardcoded in the system; metadata mappings can be changed and viewed on the fly. Technical metadata can also be fed back to the file. The original file is always kept, only a copy is modified. There is a guideline available helping installation of the software.

Ramón demonstrated MAdeK in action. It is based on HTML5 and JavaScript, no Flash! It is free software published under the GPL: GNU General Public License 3.0. Source code is available here: <http://code.zhdk.ch/projects/madek>

There was a question about media formats. Currently, MAdeK is only for pictures but the audio/video content support is on the roadmap. Transcoding to open formats is also planned in the future. Frans Ward (SURFnet) recommended to pull at least one copy to open format. The

backend solution could be MediaMosa, Frans commented.

3) Øystein Torbjørnsen (Fast/Microsoft) gave a presentation about indexing of and search in multimedia content. Slides are available here:

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-fast.pdf>

Øystein introduced FAST Search Designer for Developers that is a commercial product developed and sold by Microsoft. It has a focus on efficient search and not on multi-vendor support. User can use the platform components to build own software solution.

One example of usage was a development of a university media portal. Having the basic concept in mind, university students were able to implement a media portal without deep knowledge in search. Other use case was the FP6 project PHAROS that aimed to develop technologies in order to provide contextually relevant, integrated, and scalable access to distributed and heterogeneous collections of audiovisual contents essential for the technologically-competitive future of Europe.

There was a question about the support of national federation schemas. Federations are not supported but security restrictions can be added, of course. There is no information on various language supports, but there is an on-going research project on that topic, Øystein said.

4) Open discussion on metadata issues chaired by Jose-Maria Fontanillo (RedIRIS)

Frans Ward (SURFnet) explained the basic problem that the metadata format chosen by a media platform upon some design considerations is practically not the one that users eventually need. That is why MediaMosa supports many metadata formats so the users can choose. Moreover, mapping between various metadata formats is an issue. If metadata is automatically harvested by software, that may lead to change or loss of information. As many metadata as possible should be inserted when the content is created (but not more than 2-3 fields can be achieved in practice).

Øystein (Fast/Microsoft) commented that metadata can automatically be extracted later based on the content.

All agreed that metadata is important and common templates can help to fill them out. For instance Matterhorn is trying to agree on a metadata schema with Steeple project. Shall we forget about metadata schemas? Actually there is no correct metadata schema. All schemas follow the logical way what they have been created for.

There was a theoretical discussion about the distinction between metadata and content. Metadata was made for archives. YouTube is not an archive so there is no metadata there only content. Ingrid Melve (UNINETT) noted that everything is metadata that is extracted from the content by e.g., face or speech recognition. Metadata is for setting up the context! Petr Holub (CESNET) commented that any extraction from the content just create more content and not real metadata. Metadata may change in time while content is static.

Discussions concluded that metadata (whatever it is) is important and as many metadata as possible should be created automatically together with the content itself.

Liaison with EUNIS ELTF and potential media admin trainings:

5) Mikkel Godsk (Aarhus) presented EUNIS ELTF's survey on media archives, case studies/good practices, and motivation of teachers. Slides are available here:

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101008-eunis.pdf>

The mission of EUNIS E-Learning Task Force is to foster virtual collaborations on projects, surveys, and publications with project-oriented, efficient exchange of information. The task force is currently led by Gill Ferrell. The list of actual work items can be found on the slides.

ELTF has created surveys on; which web-based systems are available at European universities, and what motivates the teachers to use web-based media in teaching practice. The detailed survey results can be found in the presentation.

In summary, 93 % of teachers have access to one or more media systems and 81 % of the teachers are using web-based media oftentimes or occasionally. Most common systems used for media are: Moodle, Blackboard, Sakai, DSpace, Fedora, Ilias, home grown/national, and external solutions. The main circumstances to foster motivation are: easy access to existing and relevant material, time for production, easy access to publication and upload, easy access to production facilities -equipment and software, acknowledgement by students, and easy access to technical support.

The survey has led to clear requirements on several integrated systems including:

- Web TV
- Live streaming solution
- LMS with media repository
- Media archive (for press materials, etc.)
- Lecture capturing system (e.g. Matterhorn)
- Integration with external channels; YouTube EDU, iTunesU, Vimeo...

There was a question about creating open access media repositories at European scale. Rui Ribeiro (FCCN) said that this idea might be supported by NRENs if the repository is easily accessible with open API and AAI federations including multi-lingual search features.

6) The presentation was followed by open discussion chaired by Peter Szegedi (TERENA)

Peter (TERENA) asked the question whether TF-Media participants see the benefit of having practical training courses (like the form of EuroCAMP) for NREN and/or higher education institute "media administrators/personnel" about technical and non-technical aspects of lecture recording, multi-media management and distribution topics.

Participants echoed that a series of training courses can be very useful and doable for this community if NRENs are supporting that. Media system admins/personnel can be trained on both to solve the technical issues as well as to answer to basic legal and copyright questions raised by end-users. Even some students can be involved in as "cheap labour" for lecture recording stuff.

There was a debate on the basic concept of such training organisation. One group of people thought that it should be a physical event where experts can come to local media admins' place and teach them in person, while others thought that it should be an on-line event because if we cannot use these teaching tools properly how can we convince others to do so...? This debate seemed to be endless, but eventually the meeting attendees agreed to try and combine on-line tutorial with physical hands-on workshop.

The potential trainings should be coordinated at European level. A group of TF-Media people is willing to work on training materials, define a basic programme, find potential experts/teachers, etc.

Action Tsec(10)067-1 on Peter (TERENA) to identify and coordinate a group TF-Media people who are willing to work out the details of a potential training programme for NREN/HEI media admin people.

Unassisted lecture recording solutions:

7) Petr Holub (Masaryk University) introduced 3-4 generation of lecture recording systems at the Faculty of Informatics at Masaryk University. Starting from the manual recording, through the various custom dedicated room systems, up to the latest mixed H.323 and dedicated solutions all the possibilities and drawbacks were discussed. More details can be found in the presentation: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101008-petr.pdf>

Petr mentioned that Masaryk University shares lectures with Louisiana University in the US using lecture recording solutions. There was a discussion about recording practices. Petr mentioned that whiteboards can be recorded better than the traditional chalkboards because of the better contrast ratio. Petr also shares his experiences with transcoding files in parallel chunks using computing grids. It works fine for AVI files but in case of other formats the cutting and merging takes more time than the saving on the parallelised process.

Finally, Petr concluded that open-source based software is needed for the community and the service and tool developments should be done in a coordinated way. This could be the role of TF-Media.

8) Matteo Bertazzo (Cineca) introduced and demonstrated Cineca's Live to e-Learning (L2L) service. L2L service performs a semi-automatic transformation of live lectures into e-learning activities ready for the publication and delivery through an e-Learning platform. For details see: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101008-l2l.pdf>

L2L service has been designed to match with specific requirements and the nature of the consortium. It was requested by 5 universities (2 distance learning universities). The L2L service consists of a recorder module, a storage and Media Management Platform (MMP) module, and a delivery module. The MMP is based on MediaMosa and Moodle integration. Cineca provides both hardware and software for the universities with the L2L service. L2L also includes ConceptMapper that was developed by Cineca in the context of the European project Papyrus. ConceptMapper (built on top of Wikipedia Miner) exploits Wikipedia information to automatically identify and disambiguate relevant concepts in texts (it, en, de, fr).

Matteo demonstrated the live service. He showed the PowerPoint plug-in that extracts text from PPT and put it in XML database. The position of the timeline is also kept. Petr Holub (CESNET) noted that only the 30% of users use PPT, so support for other formats is also needed in the future. Frans Ward (SURFnet) acknowledged the use of MediaMosa and called for collaboration.

9) Brian O'Hagan (Columbia University) introduced the web media initiative and media support at Columbia University. His slides are available here:

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101008-ccnmtl.pdf>

Brian stated that the situation in the US and the major challenges are pretty much the same as in Europe although Columbia University is already on YouTube.edu and iTunes U. The integration of various media projects and information services at institutional level, as well as the integration of enhanced delivery platforms (i.e., iTunes U, YouTube, Web/Media servers, etc.) at national and global scale are the major challenges for the near future.

Answering the questions from the audience Brian mentioned that they provide multi-media production workflow support for lecturers at the university. That practically means human assistance for better production, publication, etc. Ingrid Melve (UNINETT) asked how quickly HTML5 will come to students' pocket. Brian said that there is a lot of action to it but it is not the primary set now just an option.

5. Joint TF-Media/TF-CPR sessions

One of the main objectives of this meeting was to get together with TERENA TF-CPR task force participants in order to discuss the communication and PR related issues regarding multi-media services. The second half of the first day was dedicated to the joint discussions in small breakout sessions (marked in yellow in the agenda):

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/programme.html>

1) The joint meeting was opened by Ingrid Melve, the CTO of UNINETT, who gave an overview on UNINETT's systematic on campus activities (called eCampus) in Norway. The slides are available here: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-intro-ingrid.pdf>

2) The plenary speaker was Jørgen Yri (NTNU), a Spanish language teacher at NTNU, who very well illustrated the value of lecture recordings in day-to-day teaching practice and the efforts required. See his presentation:

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting3/slides/101007-jorgen.pdf>

Jørgen concluded that using multi-media applications teachers can easily upgrade their lectures and make it more enjoyable even for them!

3) After the plenary the TF-Media/CPR joint group splitted up to mixed sub-groups in order to discuss and understand the requirements of the various target market segments such as: students, academic staff, and HEI media administrators.

Academic staff:

The discussions in this group concluded that the main marketing message should be: multi-media is a "tool for better teaching"!

Lecturers need not just technical assistance on how to record lectures but they need extensive support in order to become their own multi-media producers at the end. Guest lecturers can be organised to show how lecture recording works in practice. Teachers unions and their peers should be targeted. In smaller countries a roaster among universities can be organised to visit them in person, in larger countries a series of podcasts can be produced to discuss the opportunities and benefits.

Students:

The discussions in this group concluded that the students should demand teachers to record lectures. A bottom up pressure from student should be achieved! In general, students have no high expectations (e.g., video might be better than audio only).

Interesting idea was to organise a battle of concepts for university students (i.e., asking them to produce small video/cartoon/postcard/etc. about lecture recording promotion and have a contest). The best stories can be collected and spread at the end. TERENA Networking Conference could be used as a target event for this contest.

HEI media administrators:

The discussions in this group concluded that NRENs should raise awareness of available MMP platforms, open formats/standards, and federated solutions. Media admins should be trained.

The detailed action plan could include the:

- identification of "HEI media admin" staff hidden in the institutional structure somewhere
- collection of available platforms/systems
- aggregation of use cases and best practices
- information on platforms/systems usage
- agreement on a common terminology
- support of admin staff to answer simple legal and copyright questions
- production of multi-media asset to show and demonstrate it
- and eventually the transformation of TF-Media into an advisory network of individuals

Peter Szegedi (TERENA) asked the meeting attendees who would be interested in a joint work with TF-CPR in order to develop these ideas further. Otto Wittner (UNINETT), Andy Zbinden (SWITCH), Vicente Goyanes (UVigo), Michal Krsek (CESNET) and Zenon Mousmoulas (GRNET) expressed their willingness to follow up on this.

Action Tsec(10)067-2 on Peter (TERENA) and Otto Wittner (UNINETT) to coordinate the potential follow up with TF-CPR on the multi-media communication and promotion issues.

6. Date of next meeting, aob, and close

The meeting participants tentatively agreed to hold the next coming TF-Media meeting in April-May 2011 time frame. SURFnet volunteered to host the meeting in Utrecht, The Netherlands (has to be confirmed).

Action Tsec(10)067-3 on Peter (TERENA) to clarify the logistic details of the next coming TF-Media meeting.

During the TERENA Networking Conference 2011 (on 16-19 May, 2011, in Prague, Czech Republic) there won't be official TF-Media meeting but a panel discussion about TF-Media related topics will be organised as part of the regular conference programme. The autumn TF-Media meeting will be held in September-October 2011 time frame, most likely in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by FCCN (has to be confirmed). Further meetings will be agreed later on.

Finally, Andy and Peter thanked the participants for the fruitful discussions. The task force meeting was closed on time.

Action list

Reference	Who	Action	Deadline
Action Tsec(10)045-5	Work Item leaders (TF-Media)	Reconsider the on-line NREN Questionnaire issue	Next meeting
Action Tsec(10)045-7	Jose-Maria Fontanillo (RedIRIS)	Invite someone from Europeana to the next coming TF-Media meeting	Next meeting
Action Tsec(10)067-1	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Identify and coordinate a group TF- Media people who are willing to work out the details of a potential training programme for NREN/HEI media admin people	Next meeting
Action Tsec(10)067-2	Otto Wittner (UNINETT), Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Coordinate the potential follow up with TF-CPR on the multi-media communication and promotion issues	Next meeting
Action Tsec(10)067-3	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Clarify the logistic details of the next coming TF-Media meeting	Next meeting

List of meeting participants

Name		Affiliation
Brian	O'Hagan *	Columbia University
Carl Morten	Karterud	Hihm
Carlos	Turro	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
Claudia	Cordova *	CLARA
David	Vrtin *	ARNES
Dubravko	Penezic *	Srce
Elise Østbø	Jansen *	USIT
Frans	Ward	SURFnet
Frode	Gether-Rønning	Oslo School of Architecture and design
Inge	Tøgersen	IT-department, University of Bergen
Ingrid	Melve	UNINETT
Jan	Meijer	UNINETT/eCampus
Jose Maria	Fontanillo	RedIRIS
Kristian	Salcedo	Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo
Magnus	Hovland	Universitetet i Oslo, USIT
Magnus	Strømdal	UNINETT
Matteo	Bertazzo	CINECA InterUniversity Consortium
Michal	Krsek	CESNET
Mikkel	Godsk	Aarhus University
Miroslaw	Czyrnek	PSNC
Olav	Kvittem	UNINETT
Otto J	Wittner	UNINETT
Peter	Szegedi	TERENA
Ramón	Cahenzli	Zurich University of the Arts
Rui	Ribeiro	FCCN
Rüdiger	Rolf	Universität Osnabrück
Sally	Hanford *	The University of Nottingham
Samuel	Martins	University of Porto
Trond	Bakaas	Hedmark University College
Vesa	Savolainen *	FUNET
Vicente	Goyanes	University of Vigo
Zenon	Mousmoulas	GRNET
Andy	Zbinden	SWITCH
Ivo	Reints	SURFnet
Øystein	Torbjørnsen	FAST Search and Transfer/Microsoft
<i>Apologised:</i>		
Emmanouil	Zouraris	University of Crete
Justin	Hourigan	HEAnet

* on-line participant