



4th TF-Media meeting
Wednesday-Thursday, March 30-31, 2011
Utrecht, The Netherlands

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Minutes

1. Welcome

The fourth TERENA media task force (TF-Media) meeting was held on 30-31 March, 2011, hosted by SURFnet in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The meeting was attended by 25 people in person and at least 3-8 people followed the live streaming on-line (see the list of participants enclosed). TERENA secretary was Peter Szegedi.

The task force meeting was preceded by a SURFnet Workshop on MediaMosa, weblectures & open video. For more details, please visit: <http://mediamosa.org/content/march-29-31-mediamosa-tf-media-conference-agenda>

The TF-Media participants were welcomed by Erwin Bleumink, Managing Director of SURFnet, who gave an introduction to the Dutch NREN and talked about the situation of the Dutch research and education sector focusing on the power of collaboration facilitated by SURFnet.

The TF-Media task force meeting presentations and AV recordings are available on the TERENA website: <http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/programme.html>

2. Introductions

Andy Zbinden (SWITCH), the chairman of the task force, also welcomed the meeting participants and talked about the potential for educational market, the universities and knowledge in Europe. He gave a case for lecture recording services of NRENs in a rapidly changing educational environment where there are more and more students, less and less university staff, and ICT (including multi-media services) becomes much more difficult and complex task for universities.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/1-intro-andy.ppt.pdf>

Peter Szegedi (TERENA), the task force secretary, talked about the actual status of the TF-Media community, its participants, and the outstanding actions.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/2-actions-peter.pdf>

3. Review of outstanding actions

Reference	Who	Action	Status
Action Tsec(10)045-5	Work Item leaders (TF-Media)	Reconsider the on-line NREN Questionnaire issue	DONE , the survey has been finalised and made available on- line. See the new action Tsec(11)019-4
Action Tsec(10)045-7	Jose-Maria Fontanillo (RedIRIS)	Invite someone from Europeana to the next coming TF-Media meeting	Considered to be DONE , Europeana has been presented by various speakers. TF- Media ca follow up with them, if appropriate.
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	POSTPONED to the next term of TF-Media (if any).
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	DONE , see the new action Tsec(11)019-3
Action Tsec(10)067-3	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	Clarify the logistic details of the next coming TF-Media meeting	DONE

4. Presentations and discussions

1) Bas Zoetekouw (SURFnet) talked about HTML5 and its new features with video. HTML5 integrates multimedia (e.g., 2D & 3D drawing, audio and video playback, native SVG support), uses new semantic elements, and has lots of other useful features. Most importantly, it has the inbuilt support for playing video directly from the browser.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/3-hlml5-bas.pdf>

Bas noted that most of the browsers support HTML5 video but not Internet Explorer 8. Unfortunately, almost 50% of the SURFmedia visitors use IE8 at the moment. The major issue with HTML5 though is the lack of a single format. Video/audio codec support depends on the browser/platform and there is lots of politics involved (i.e. Apple supports QuickTime in OSX/iOS, Microsoft supports WMV in Windows). There are 3 cross-platform formats:

- H.264 (MPEG-4/AVC) is even supported in HW in mobiles, excellent codecs, but licence has to be paid.
- Ogg is a Theora VP3-based open source codec, but not widely supported.
- WebM is the one that Google open sourced a year ago to address the issues above. It uses VP8 video and Vorbis audio but less advanced than H.264.

Despite these formats, Digital Right Management is still missing and plug-ins are still needed in some cases. All in all, HTML5 is a nice, clear, and standard way of doing things. Developers should get rid of the proprietary formats and support Ogg and WebM.

Otto (UNINETT) mentioned that UNINETT is looking into HTML5 too. They are expecting upgrades with new features as time goes by. Frans (SURFnet) noted that MediaMosa is compatible with HTML5 with Flash fallback option (just in case). Vicente (UVigo) said that OpenCast has an interest in creating a HTML5 working group especially dealing with lecture recording. TF-Media should follow up with OpenCast on this in the framework of the liaison statement between the two groups.

Rui (FCCN) remarked that although different formats are supported by different browsers on the media platform's server side one single stream is preferred. So, at least two things have to be checked at the users' browser side; if HTML5 is supported and if the given video format is supported. Rui suggested that a Wiki page to collect scripts or other practices on how to check browsers/platforms would be useful. We can start collecting working codes first.

Peter (TERENA) added that the group has already heard about open formats (by Ostfold University College), licence schemas (by MPEG LA), and legal issues (by JISC). UNINETT, FCCN and SURFnet expressed their interest in to create a new TF-Media work item dealing with "media formats". The details of a potential new work item will be discussed at the next coming TF-Media meeting in Porto, Portugal.

Action TEC(11)019-1 on Peter (TERENA) to prepare for a discussion on creating a new TF-Media work item dealing with "media formats" in Porto.

2) Frans Ward (SURFnet) talked about the technology scan that SURFnet did last year. Two platforms have been investigated; Opencast Materhorn and MediaMosa. The main questions were how the two platforms can be compared and if they can co-act with each other.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/4-mediamosa-frans.pdf>

In the test scenario Matterhorn can be used to record lectures in such a way that these web lecture recordings are saved in MediaMosa automatically so that they can be accessed via an end-user application such as SURFmedia. The first laboratory demonstrations validated this scenario. In conclusion it can be said that various steps are needed to be taken in order to get Matterhorn to operate in conjunction with MediaMosa in the desired manner; with Matterhorn utilising the delivery workflow and MediaMosa utilising the AtomPub API. For MediaMosa the necessary steps are; to create a REST interface for the AtomPub specification and to make it possible to authenticate users with OAuth. MediaMosa 3.0 release will incorporate these recommendations.

Wladimir Mufty (SURFnet) talked about the technical details of the test scenario, hardware configuration, etc. The key components for interworking/interfaces have been identified. One of the non-technical issues of the interworking is the different licence models applied for the two platforms. OpenCast Matterhorn 1.0 release was used in the first tests, the same release that is used by UNINETT, UVigo, and planned to be used by ARNES. After the new software releases (in case of both platforms) a real-life test will be performed by University of Groningen.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/5-mediamosa-wladimir.pdf>

3) Johan Oomen (Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision) talked about the Dutch national audiovisual archive. They are expecting 15PB data by 2015 (e.g., the daily production from broadcasters is all stored there). He stated that if the content doesn't spread it is dead.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/6-archive-johan.pdf>

Johan talked about Europeana's mission and its technical background. More than 15 million objects are available in Europeana via its openAPI. Europeana is talking to search service providers to rank Europeana content higher in their results. Beside Europeana Johan talked about two related projects; EUscreen and OPENimages.

Johan is the technical coordinator of the EC funded project (2009-2012) EUscreen that is responsible for TV heritage. 19 major European archives are part of the aggregation work. All content will be available via Europeana. The workflow to get the content on-line was presented. An important detail is the structure of metadata; the metadata mapping tool was demonstrated.

OPENimages is an open media platform for online access to audiovisual archive material, available for free (creative) reuse. All elements of the platform are open source. HTML5 video stack allows the video to be saved in browser. All the content of OPENimages are available on Wikipedia coping with the strict Wikipedia rules in e.g., open licence, open format, short in time, neutral point of view, etc. Everyone is invited to refine e.g., monuments' locations adding proper geotags to content. Geotags are stored in the video as semantic information.

Vicente (UVigo) asked about the procedure for universities to publish lecture recordings via Europeana. Johan answered that Europeana is for cultural heritage. Only those lectures can be published there that have relation to culture, history, etc. Portuguese cooking recopies were mentioned as an example for possible content. It is up to the university to pick the relevant content.

Zenon (GRNET) asked about the budget distribution between preserving the content (storage, hardware) and making it available (publish on the Internet). Johan replied that about 90% of

the available budget of Sound and Vision is reserved for hosting and maintaining the content, the development of e.g., mobile applications for distribution is not that costly exercise. They are expecting that the infrastructure is getting even more expensive.

4) Andy Zbinden (SWITCH) talked about how ZHdK records TV contents, archives them and uses them for educational purposes. This use case led to the idea to provide TV-feeds via SWITCHcast in general. This initiative is in a very early stage at the moment and the plan is to run a pilot first. The main issues already identified are on long-term access/accounting (currently 99% is copyright material) and compatible metadata tagging. More experience can be shared after the pilot.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/7-tv-feed-andy.pdf>

5) Jose Maria Fontanillo (RedIRIS) gave an update on ARCA, RedIRIS's federated audiovisual repository. ARCA is a metadata repository only; it does not contain the content and excludes the production and distribution functions. The architecture is similar to Europeana but ARCA uses RSS to harvest metadata (although both platforms handle DublinCORE). ARCA has a brand new social plug-in. It allows users to "like" the content and post comments just like in Facebook. RedIRIS currently has no plan to interact with Europeana at the platform level.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/8-arca-josemaria.pps>

6) Paul van Dijk (SURFnet) introduced SURFconext, the new SURFnet collaboration infrastructure. SURFconext creates new opportunities to collaborate online based on a combination of applications from different providers. Researchers, educators and students wish to select the tools that best fit their online collaboration needs. Institutions and virtual organizations struggle with the integration of self-hosted services with commercial cloud services and service providers seek for ways to make their services easily accessible for users in higher research and education. SURFconext offers interesting clues to facilitate these needs. The SURFconext service is a flexible and open standards based collaboration infrastructure that connects a number of basic building blocks for online collaboration. The core building blocks of the SURFconext infrastructure are: SURFfederatie SAML, SURFteams (group management), OpenSocial, and Collaboration tools. The prototype tool was demonstrated live.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/9-surfconext-paul.pdf>

The grouping tool (team management itself is a federation service) is open source, available at Internet2. People can be invited via e-mail even from outside the federation (as guest). The guest profile facilitates the better/broader collaboration but, of course, the guest account rights are limited. The applications that are available for the user at the given institution can be used from the portal as gadgets. Practically all gadgets can be used that are known from iGoogle. The gadgets are context and group aware thanks to OpenSocial.

Zenon (GRNET) asked about the integration with MediaMosa. The OpenSocial plug-in to MediaMosa is coming, so MediaMosa gadget can be put on the platform e.g., to transcode a video for the user. Rui (FCCN) found SURFconnext very important and relevant tool. It is a nice and fast way to create group of users for media applications. These functions should be taken up by SWITCHcast too. Andy (SWITCH) noted that the SWITCH tool box does something similar but it is not yet integrated with SWITCHcast. Matjaz (ARNES) added that it would be practical to pull in existing groups (e.g., LinkedIn groups).

7) Rui Ribeiro (FCCN) talked about FCCN's HD video studio setup. It has a professional technical infrastructure that supports the creation of production quality multimedia content in-house. The studio can be used for demonstration of products, services and equipments, audio visual training, teleperformance, and research (e.g. on Video, HD, HDoIP, 3D, etc.). FCCN is seeking for international collaboration, if appropriate.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/11-studio-ruir.pdf>

Rui also talked about Banco De Video, the broadcast video archive of FCCN. The hardware installation of the platform is finished and a standard software installation is running at the moment. A customised version is being developed that will be piloted first then put into production by September 2011.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/12-blancorui.pdf>

FCCN has some ideas for collaboration on the area of international asset sharing and metadata schema definition. Peter (TERENA) asked if FCCN collaborates with Latin-American countries on these. Riu replied that there is no cooperation on content production side but on Zappiens. Frans (SURFnet) asked if some best practice documents (if any) on studio hardware setups can be shared. At least, SURFnet has some experiences with AV setups and would learn from FCCN and others on similar installations. Peter (TERENA) noted that the GN3 project Campus Best Practices activity has produced/translated some best practice documents related to TF-Media. They are available here: <http://www.terena.org/activities/campus-bp/bpd.html>

Action TEC(11)019-2 on Frans Ward (SURFnet) and Rui Ribeiro (FCCN) to start collecting and/or preparing simple best practices (docs, photos, videos) related to AV studio/laboratory hardware, cabling, mounting, etc. setups. The available documents will be shared on the TF-Media Wiki.

8) Andy Zbinden (SWITCH) talked about the collaboration between SWITCH and FCCN on SWITCHcast. SWITCHcast is a closed sourced platform, it is monolithical and there is no documentation of the interfaces (mainly because of the initial short time to market constraint).

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/10-collab-andy.pdf>

The collaboration with FCCN has been started to share efforts and workload. Usually it takes at least one full week to install and get it running but not in production. The MoU is basically that one has to offer work to get the source code. FCCN offered that work and translated the platform to Portuguese. The FCCN's Educast platform was built on SWITCHcast.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/13-eduicast-ruir.pdf>

9) Pål Halvorson (University of Oslo) gave a presentation about experimental systems (DAVVI and vESP) for doing search in multimedia collections. Multimedia search and delivery systems still lacks precision and flexibility.

With DAVVI users can find and select events (matching with the search criteria) from multiple sources, played out as one video (given the total length). With audio-video analysis it is difficult to find the proper content segments. DAVVI uses a semi-automatic live-text crawler and parser (many online TV-stations and newspapers provide live text commentaries) to improve the automatic annotations. vESP creates a custom video presentation (based on the search criteria) combining slides from various talks/lectures given by various teachers. It is integrated with social features e.g., the search results (play lists) can be shared with others

interested in the same topic.

DAVVI and vESP are scalable prototypes that create a new way to access video content. They integrate video streaming, search, personalization and other recommendations (with social networking potential). Both solutions are well evaluated by subjective assessment groups as it was demonstrated during the meeting. University of Oslo's next generation systems aim for 3D and free-view video experiences.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/14-davvi-vesp-pal.pdf>

10) Andras Kovacs (NIIF/HUNGARNET) give an introduction to their new portal called Videotorium. It is NIIF's own development launched in June 2010. The details of the hardware and software components can be found in the presentation:

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/15-videotorium-andras.pdf>

The platform is focusing on federated access (eduID) and proper multi-language metadata. Search and live streaming function are integrated too. Slides and additional documents can also be uploaded to the video. There is collaboration with Europeana. EUscreen project has been contacted by NIIF to publish Videotorium content via Europeana.

Zenon (GRNET) asked how AAI is integrated with the live streaming server. The streaming server has a plug-in and the portal has an authentication service. The server asks the portal about the user rights before starts playing back the content to the given user. Frans (SURFnet) asked why the platform was developed in-house. Andras answer that when the development started there was no other platform available so they had to start from scratch. It took a lot of effort. The code is not open source and there is no plan to make it open.

11) Otto Wittner (UNINETT) gave an update on the service promotion issues. Some NRENs proceed with PR video for lecture recordings. The plan is to collect the available PR materials on the Wiki and based on what is available figure out what can be done jointly.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/16-pr-otto.pdf>

Andy (SWITCH) mentioned that some of the Swiss universities have promotional videos. It is expected that the videos will soon be ready to use and share by SWITCH. TF-Media will follow up with TF-CPR on this issue.

<http://www.terena.org/activities/media/meeting4/slides/17-promotion-andy.pdf>

Action TEC(11)019-3 on Otto Wittner (UNINETT) and Andy Zbinden (SWITCH) to start collecting promotional videos on the Wiki for further consideration.

5. TF-Media survey and Compendium questions

The TF-Media meeting participants went through the structure and questions of the TF-Media survey proposed. All the questions and technicalities with the on-line survey have been finalised. TF-Media thanked for the hard work especially to Otto Wittner (UNINETT), Zenon Mousmoulas (GRNET), Frans Ward (SURFnet), Michal Krsek (CESNET), and Andy Zbinden (SWITCH).

The purpose of the survey agreed is as follows:

The TF-Media community would appreciate to know more about who's got what lecture recording or multi-purpose (multi)media management platform and services, or who's developing one, or who's planning to have one in the near future. Of said platform, we would like to know what technical parameters are relevant in case of access and authentication, formats, and usage. We also want to know if and how collaboration with other such platforms is thought of or in practice, be this in knowledge, technology or content.

The survey is anonymous, can be filled in by all type of organisations (e.g., NREN, university, etc.). Some parts are service oriented, some parts are more technical, others are about the future plans and visions. That is why the survey can be interrupted (automatically saved) at any time and can be continued later on (even by someone else) until it's not submitted.

There are 39 questions in the survey (maybe fewer depending on the answers) that should not take longer than half an hour to complete. It is open at least until the end of May 2011.

The survey is available here:

<http://mam.uninett.no/limesurvey/index.php?sid=38324&lang=en>

Action TEC(11)019-4 on TF-Media to participate in the on-line survey. The survey will run until the end of May 2011. Preliminary results (potential time extension) will be assessed at TNC2011. Survey results will be presented in the next coming TF-Media meeting in October.

Andras Kovacs (NIIF/HUNGARNET), as member of the TERENA Compendium panel 2011, requested TF-Media to review the compendium questions related to media production, management and distribution. The questions have been discussed by the meeting attendees. The modified questions will be sent to the TF-Media list for any final comment.

6. Date of next meeting and close

Instituto Politecnico do Porto (IPP) and FCCN have offered to host the next coming TF-Media meeting on 12-14 October 2011 in Porto, Portugal. The two-day meeting will be held in conjunction with a one-day national workshop as usual. The meeting will be an important milestone since the 2-year mandate of TF-Media will expire at the end of the year and the community has to think about re-chartering the Terms of Reference.

Action TEC(11)019-5 on TF-Media to think about future directions and potential topics for new work items for the next term (if any) of TF-Media. Ideas will be discussed at the next coming TF-Media meeting in Porto, Portugal.

CARnet tentatively offered to host a TF-Media meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia. That might be the kick-off meeting of the next term in 2012.

At the end of the day, 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 TEC(11)019-1	Peter Szegedi (TERENA)	to prepare for a discussion on creating a new TF-Media work item dealing with "media formats" in Porto.	October 2011
Action TEC(11)019-2	Frans Ward (SURFnet) and Rui Ribeiro (FCCN)	to start collecting and/or preparing simple best practices (docs, photos, videos) related to AV studio/laboratory hardware, cabling, mounting, etc. setups. The available documents will be shared on the TF-Media Wiki.	ASAP
Action TEC(11)019-3	Otto Wittner (UNINETT) and Andy Zbinden (SWITCH)	to start collecting promotional videos on the Wiki for further consideration.	ASAP
Action TEC(11)019-4	TF-Media all	to participate in the on-line survey. The survey will run until the end of May 2011. Preliminary results (potential time extension) will be assessed at TNC2011. Survey results will be presented in the next coming TF-Media meeting in October.	May 2011
Action TEC(11)019-5	TF-Media all	to think about future directions and potential topics for new work items for the next term (if any) of TF-Media. Ideas will be discussed at the next coming TF-Media meeting in Porto, Portugal.	October 2011

List of meeting participants

Name	Affiliation
Matjaz Batic Finzgar	ARNES
Henny Bekker	SURFnet
Jose M Fontanillo	RedIRIS
Daniel Frankovic	CARNet
Vicente Goyanes	University of Vigo
Pål Halvorsen	University of Oslo
Jocelyn Manderveld	SURFnet
Samuel Martins	University of Porto
Luka Mlinaric	CARNet
Zenon Mousmoulas	GRNET
Johan Oomen	Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision
Rui Ribeiro	FCCN
Vesa Savolainen	CSC
Peter Szegedi	TERENA
Paul van Dijk	SURFnet

Frans Ward	SURFnet
Otto J Wittner	UNINETT AS
Andy Zbinden	SWITCH
Dietmar Zenker	University of Kaiserslautern
Tom Kuipers	University of Amsterdam
Alexander Blanc	SURFnet
Wladimir Mufty	SURFnet
Michel van de Ven	Medcap
Arjen Klop	Medcap
Bas Zoetekouw	SURFnet
Andras Kovacs*	NIIF
Erik Lint*	SURFnet
Maarten van den Broek*	SURFnet
Pantelis Balaouras**	Univ. of Athens/Greek Academic Network
Gytis Cibulskis**	Kaunas University of Technology
Justin Hourigan**	HEAnet
Samuel Kelvin Bright**	University of Algiers
Lucio Pileggi**	Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa

* on-line participant , **registered but not-confirmed on-line participant