

**TF-VVC “pre” meeting
26 August 2004
Via H.323 video conference**

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Participants:

Pantelis Balaouras	GRnet
Marcello Barbieri	CINECA
Erik Dobbelsteijn	SURFnet
Franca Fiumana	CINECA
Avgust Jauk	ARNES
Baiba Kaskina	TERENA
András Kovács	NIIF/HUNGARNET
Tamas Maray	NIIF/HUNGARNET
Mihály Mészáros	NIIF/HUNGARNET
Jan Ruzicka	CESNET
Harri Salminen	CSC / Funet-TV
Christian Schlatter	SWITCH
Philippe Van Hecke	BELNET
Egon Verharen	SURFnet
David Vrtin	ARNES

Apologies:

Ben Teitelbaum Internet2

1. Welcome and roll call

Egon welcomed the participants of the meeting and noted that this should be the last meeting of the group before the official start of the Task Force (TF). He thanked Andras and HUNGARNET for hosting this meeting.

He emphasized that this meeting should be focused on defining some concrete projects and naming the project leaders. Other issues could be reviewed after the discussion on the activity areas.

The roll call was made later during the meeting.

2. Discussion of Activity areas and projects

Egon proposed to discuss each activity area which was mentioned in the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and to identify the proposed projects. The list of the activity areas could be complemented from other topics mentioned during the BoF in Rhodes.

A. Various guides relating to providing voice, video and data collaboration services.

The importance of this activity area was emphasized and Egon thought that each project should produce some guidelines and best practice documents related to these areas. The following project was identified:

- How to set up video conference rooms, leader - Rui Ribeiro, FCCN

B. Content Delivery Infrastructures for Video-on-Demand.

Egon mentioned Alessandro's project about the open content delivery network (OpenCDN) and proposed to include it as one of the projects under this area. This project would produce the open source software for the CDN and instructions on how to participate.

Possible projects:

- Content Delivery Network – open source software and instructions on how to participate, leader - Alessandro Falaschi, University of Rome

C. Content Access Portal

It was doubted that in the framework of TF-VVC a separate portal could be created. Instead Egon proposed to focus on collaboration with similar initiatives around the world in order to gather information about the existing content and to investigate other CAP related questions. He mentioned The Internet2 Research Channel Global Initiative and offered to be a liaison for it. This initiative was coordinating effort with groups from USA, Brazil, the Netherlands, Australia and South Korea.

Possible project:

- Coordination effort with the Internet 2 Research Channel Global Initiative to extend their portal with European content and links, leader - Egon Verharen, SURFnet

D. Metadata.

Egon reminded that in the framework of TF-Netcast the deliverable about the metadata was produced, but it needed more marketing. Harri told the group about the deliverable and described the major metadata related problems. Egon proposed to bring the discussion about the metadata to the TF-VVC mailing list and to make some marketing effort for the report from TERENA side.

E. Academic Netcasting Channel (Live Streaming Infrastructure).

The TF-Netcast Announcement Portal was mentioned regarding this activity area and Egon described its features. He also said that Michal Krsek from CESNET would like to work on the electronic programme guide delivery. The group could also investigate the portal's possible extension to the Academic Netcasting Channel.

Possible projects:

- Electronic programme guide delivery, leader - Michal Krsek, CESNET.

F. Global Dialing Scheme.

Egon explained the situation with the existing Global Dialing Scheme (GDS) and challenges for the new GDS. He thought that the TF should contribute to discussions on international dial- and numbering plans for videoconferencing and VoIP services (independent of protocol) and make recommendations to the members how to set up interconnected systems. He proposed to lead this project and produce the "New GDS recommendations". Christian informed the group about SWITCH activities in this area and offered his help for this project.

Possible projects:

- New GDS recommendations, leader - Egon Verharen, SURFnet
- Update VC services information, leader – Baiba Kaskina, TERENA

G. Integration of conferencing, streaming and data collaboration systems.

Christian proposed to change the title for this activity area from "Protocol interoperability of conferencing, streaming and data collaboration systems" to "Integration of conferencing, streaming and data collaboration systems", because that would describe the field better. Egon welcomed this proposal and asked for related projects. Later a few projects were named:

- Best practice report on integration of VC, IM, Presence and data sharing components, leader - Erik Dobbelsteijn, SURFnet
- How to stream video conferences (integration of streaming and video conferences), proposed leader - Christian Schlatter, SWITCH
- Best practice document on archiving video conferences, leader - András Kovács, HUNGARNET

H. High-end/quality systems.

Egon expressed his interest in this area and told the group about the high-end/quality systems workshop which was held in Scotland. He would like to organise another workshop for specialists in the area to exchange the information.

Possible projects:

- Workshop on high-end/quality systems, leader - Egon Verharen, SURFnet/

I. Usability – improving user interfaces.

Egon thought that this should be a very important topic, but he did not know about any project initiative in this area so far. He proposed that the TF should promote the discussion about the user needs, to gather them and contact equipment vendors to ask for these improvements. Christian agreed with that but doubted that the group could have any impact on vendors. He thought that only open source projects could be impacted. Egon added that the TF could unite views of all the NRENs and their customers and then contact vendors as the representatives of all the educational and research community of Europe. Maybe such representation could put some more pressure on the vendors. Others agreed with this idea.

J. Access control to video resources.

Egon said that this activity area should work on middleware requirements for the control access portal and streaming. People have worked on this task in the other groups, i.e. TF-AACE, TF-Mobility, and therefore TF-VVC should mainly collaborate with these groups. Baiba reminded that people from RedIRIS were involved in other groups and suggested to contact them regarding the collaboration details.

Possible projects:

- Collaboration with TF-AACE and TF-Mobility, leader - Jose Maria Fontanillo, RedIRIS

K. IP telephony deployments.

Egon said that many people in the TF-VVC group were active in this area and one of the goals could be to connect many different IP telephony islands. Baiba reminded the efforts of Saverio Niccolini. That could create first two projects in this area, i.e. the user survey and description on how to connect different nodes. Egon mentioned another initiative – Internet2 SIP.EDU project. He said that Ben Teitelbaum from Internet2 would be very keen to collaborate with Europe in this project. From European (TF-VVC) side Erik Dobbelsteijn from SURFnet could coordinate the effort.

Possible projects:

- Survey about the existing IP telephony deployments, leader - Saverio Niccolini, EIVD
- Recommendations on how to connect different nodes, leader - Saverio Niccolini, EIVD
- How to join the SIP.EDU project, leader - Erik Dobbelsteijn, SURFnet

It was decided that the activity area ‘Peering between different NREN’s IP Telephony “islands”/numbering plans’ was already included in the activity area K.

The other projects and activity areas mentioned in the BoF in Rhodes were discussed too. The SIP.EDU project was already mentioned under the activity area K. Project “How to stream video conferences” would go under the activity areas A and G. “GDS in national level, open gateways to the public telephone network” would be related with the activity area K. “How-Tos” should be produced as a result of every project, Egon specifically emphasized the importance of such kind of deliverables. Regarding the collaboration with similar activities in the US (Internet2), Egon thought that they should be mentioned explicitly in the ToR. He volunteered to be the liaison person between TF-VVC and Internet2. Baiba proposed to include that in the point number 2 of the ToR.

The area “Multimedia, Instant Messaging and Presence (Jabber)” was related to the activity area G. Erik emphasized his interest in this area and proposed to work on producing best practice report on the integration of components. Christian also agreed to contribute for this project.

Christian proposed another project “how to stream video conferences”, but he doubted whether he could be the leader of the project. He said he had to check the available resources with his manager. Egon encouraged people to speak with their management and to convince them to allow them to spend some effort for the TF. He warned people not to overstate the needed effort, but also not to under-estimate it. It was decided that Egon and Baiba should produce a document describing the formal part of the starting a new project within the framework of TF-VVC. This document should contain information on what would be expected from the project leader.

Andras proposed another project, i.e. to write the “Best practice document on archiving video conferences”. Egon welcomed this initiative.

Egon summarised the discussion and thanked all the participants. All the discussed topics would be reflected in the new version of the Terms of Reference which would be presented to the TTC for approval on 15 September 2004.

3. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting (the first official TF-VVC meeting) will be held on 16 November 2004 at 14:30 CET via H.323 video conference. It was suggested to hold meetings in the afternoon to make it possible for people from the US to participate.

The backup dates for this meeting were suggested 23 November 2004 and 18 November 2004 in case many of those who did not participate in this meeting would not be able to attend on 16 November.

4. Any other business

Some technical issues were discussed, including multimedia end to end testing, and experiences were exchanged. From this discussion another activity area emerged, i.e. end to end measurements. Task Force would investigate and write recommendations on how to measure end to end performance of real-time conferencing applications.