

8th TF-VVC meeting

4 April 2006

Videoconference meeting

Author: Catalin Meirosu – Issue 3

Participants

Valentino Cavalli	TERENA
Alessandro Falaschi	University of Rome
Franca Fiumana	CINECA
Geir Olav Jensen	UNINETT
Andras Kovacs	NIIF
Catalin Meirosu	TERENA
Janos Mohacsi	NIIF
Dan Mønster	UNI-C
Harri Salminen	CSC/FUNET
Fabio Vena	SWITCH
Egon Verharen	SURFnet
David Vrtin	ARNES

Apologies

Michal Krsek	CESNET
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1. Welcome

Egon welcomed the participants to the eighth TF-VVC meeting.

Valentino introduced Catalin, the new TERENA PDO that will support TF-VVC. Catalin worked for the Networking Team of the ATLAS at CERN, where he carried on the research for his PhD. At CERN, he developed traffic generators, was involved in long-distance experiments with 10 Gigabit Ethernet technology and participated in the studies for real-time use of remote farms in the ATLAS experiment.

2. Agenda Bashing

Egon presented the agenda and the goal of the meeting.

3. Wrap-up to TNC

Egon mentioned that although there is no formal requirement to write a final report of the task-force activities, he wants to combine all deliverables and presentations given by the activity leaders in a “package” to be submitted to TERENA. His intention is to

merge the presentations of activity leaders about what was achieved in the last two years and deliver this as a final report on the task force. The activity leaders should be present (either in person or by video conference) at the meeting that will be held in Catania on Thursday 18 May 2006 (in the afternoon) after the TERENA Networking Conference. They are asked to prepare a presentation on what happened in their activity area during the last two years. Each presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes and be accompanied by 3-4 slides maximum.

Egon asked each activity leader to provide some details about plans for TNC.

B: Content Delivery Infrastructures for Live Streaming

Alessandro agreed to prepare the presentation for TNC. He announced that he has completed the development of the content distribution optimisation based on the best choice of the edge relay. The selection is made by minimising the RTT among the topological neighbours of the requesting client. Then, he said that he is writing a content provider kit based on VideoLan, offering a web GUI which will ease contributions from independent sources. Also, he will work at the development of a new Adaptation Layer for OpenCDN nodes, in order to allow the use of VLC as an OpenCDN Relay. He is very interested in implementing a topological optimisation of the distribution in the middle of the network path. A way of solving this problem would be to equip OpenCDN nodes with a BGP listener implementation that would query routers on the path about their location. However, such a solution would need endorsement from network operators (in view of allowing access to the BGP protocol running on their routers) before the actual development could start.

G: Integration of conferencing, streaming and data collaboration systems

Egon asked Fabio, Andras and Erik to coordinate with each other in preparing their presentations. Fabio and Erik gave a talk at the ViDe conference the week before the TF-VVC videoconference. With respect to TNC, Fabio will have a presentation in the regular TNC programme on how to stream lectures and events. Egon suggested that the presentation should not be repeated during the TF-VVC meeting, but a pointer should be sent instead to the mailing list.

At the ViDe conference there were groups from Portugal Telecom, SURFnet, Funet – but most of the people were from the US. Fabio's impression is that Europe is well positioned with respect to video. He thinks it would be interesting to organise a similar event in Europe. He would like to see more events as the workshop on high-end quality videoconference that took place last year for an open exchange of ideas. Egon asked Fabio to prepare a Breeze room for the TF-VVC meeting at TNC.

D: Metadata

Harri had no updates to report on the metadata activity.

E: Academic Netcasting Channel

Michal sent apologies for not being able to participate in the videoconference. He circulated an idea for an EU project about a search engine for video conference repositories (video-on-demand archives).

Harri considered the deadline for submitting a proposal as being too short of a notice. CSC/Funet could join, but they could only bring a very limited contribution to the writing.

Dan said UNI-C does not have such an archive for now. However, they received funding for one and are considering support for metadata harvesting via OMH.

Fabio announced that SWITCH has just started with an archive. A search engine would be perhaps interesting when the archive grows. He was aware of people in Poland using OAI-PMH for libraries. Egon also knew about this project in Poland, and said SURFnet has also implemented it in the Netherlands.

HUNGARNET has a video archive for three years now. They will have to check what resources would be available for such a project and might be interested.

Conclusion: the current call is too soon for writing a proposal. As people seemed to be interested, it would make sense to look for a call in about 6 months for a project on this topic. Egon said he would talk to Michal about his interest in coordinating this.

F: Global Dialing Scheme

Egon reported that the University of North Carolina will stop running the GDS system (both gatekeeper and directory), and the Ohio State University, running the Internet2 Commons, has agreed to take over running the gatekeepers and most likely the directory too. Fabio, Erik and Kewin had discussed about connecting different VoIP islands via ENUM. They had still to reach an agreement on whether this would be good enough as a GDS replacement or not. Fabio thought that the system should distinguish between H323 and SIP based conferences.

4. Future of the TF

The mandate of TF-VVC ends on the 1st of September 2006. The last face-to-face meeting will be held in Catania immediately after TNC. Egon suggested starting now discussions on the future of the task force. A potential topic of interest could be connecting national VoIP deployments, for instance using ENUM. The goal would be to have universities dial each other on VoIP via their respective NRENs. This may be an interesting area for people to collaborate on a common goal with a more focused remit than the current task force.

Dan asked how the future video over GÉANT2 service would be related to the activity of a successor to TF-VVC. Egon thought this service is a spin-off of TF-VVC, and due to the fact that it's included in GN2 it should no longer be a topic for

this task force. Valentino agreed that video services by themselves should not be a topic for the future task force, in order to avoid duplication of effort. On the other hand, not everyone in TF-VVC participate in GN2, so perhaps it would be interesting to have some video theme in the future TF-VVC. In general it seemed that people want a more focused approach, even though it might limit the information exchange.

Fabio thought there should be one or two activities in the TF. Maybe creating more TFs would be a solution that would allow addressing a broader scope while only including the people that are really interested in each of the TFs. He agreed with Egon that it would be good to have a TF on VoIP deployments. The potential results of such a task force would be unifying EU-wide VoIP deployments in the NRENs. Also, another TF could address the creation of a European-wide video archive which is not covered by GN2.

Egon asked Valentino what is the process for creating a new TF. Valentino answered that the TERENA TTC is the only body that can approve the TF. In order to submit a proposal to the TTC, the interested people should define the “terms of reference” and submit these as a document to the TTC, which will feedback to the proposal writers. Egon asked whether the terms of reference could be prepared before and discussed during the TNC. Valentino pointed out that the TTC will not meet during the TNC, but if produced a first draft could be discussed and agreed by the TF-VVC at TNC. Valentino announced that the first TTC meeting will be on the 7th of June, but the terms of reference should be submitted in advance by about one week before the meeting. Hence the deadline for finishing the proposal would be at the end of May.

5. EU-wide video conferencing service as a GN2 SA

Several NRENs showed interest in such a service. A proposal was developed and will be submitted to the GN2 Executive Committee. Janos presented a first proposal at a GN2 year-3 planning meeting earlier in the week. A formal proposal has to be ready to be submitted to the GN2 Executive Committee by June. Egon suggested that Janos and Andras should circulate the presentation on the TF-VVC email list.

Andras described the proposal as using a free MCU and a central reservation portal to provide a scalable European video conferencing service. Users will be authenticated and an XML-based interface will be developed for committing the reservations. A secondary work item would address potential improvements to the service. The activity could start in September 2006 and be extended in the 4th year of GN2. Pilots of the service should be available by the end of 2006.

Janos at the GN2 meeting received both positive and negative feedback on the current incarnation of the proposal. Some people suggested to just use skype for video-conferencing. The project proposal should contain better arguments on why such a service is good for the academic community and for GN2.

The system should be able to support failover (for example, if an MCU is not available, the video conference should be redirected). Integration with VRVS seemed to be a requirement as well. The following NRENs have responded positively and

want to contribute to the project: CARNET, FCCN, UKERNA and CESNET. A definitive answer is expected from DFN.

Andras thought that a central MCU ran by GN2 is probably not needed.

All the issues about the proposal have to be settled by the end of April. The month of May should be used for further discussions. Formal approval from GN2 should be obtained by the end of June. The funding from GN2 could only be at the level of 50%, the rest should be brought by the NRENs themselves.

Dan would be interested to find out more about the proposal. David said ARNES does not have resources to participate to such a project.

Valentino asked who the leader of the proposal is and who is writing the draft to be submitted to GN2. Egon answered that the proposal is a collective work. The chapters are written by the participants.

Fabio promised to work on the proposal. He agreed with Valentino on the fact that a formal leader is needed. Andras (who has already sent the presentation to the TF-VVC mailing list) also agreed on the need for a leader.

Egon will ask Erik-Jan and Janos to find who are the MCU managers (or product managers) that are responsible for the video and send the contacts.

6. AOB

At Valentino's question, Egon answered that he skipped on purpose the open action items from the previous meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18th, after the TNC conference.