

## News from TERENA 129

### TERENA Networking Conference and CARNet Users Conference 2003 highly rated by conference participants



23 May 2003

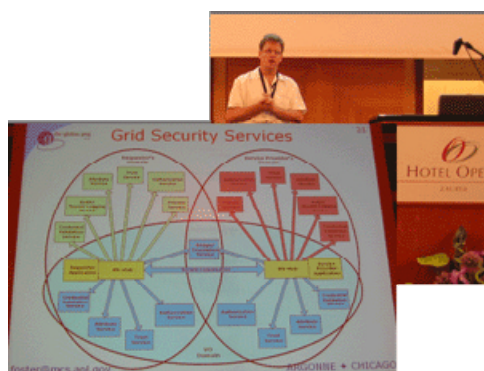
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The TERENA Networking Conference 2003 and the CARNet Users Conference 2003 were organised as a joint event in Zagreb, Croatia on 19-22 May 2003. Participants rated the event to be highly successful, thanks to the quality and scope of the conference programme, the variety of other events surrounding the conference and the excellent services provided by CARNet's technical staff. More than 460 participants from 34 countries in Europe and worldwide attended the conference; the host country Croatia was well represented with more than 130 participants. The conference theme "User Opportunities – Network Challenges" reflected the dual view on the conference topics and the current phase in the history of research and education networking: presently technical developments offer great opportunities for new networking applications while at the same time the need to interact with the end-users is a greater challenge to network service providers than ever before.

The conference programme was organised in four parallel tracks over four days, with a plenary session to open each of the first three days and a closing plenary on the final day.

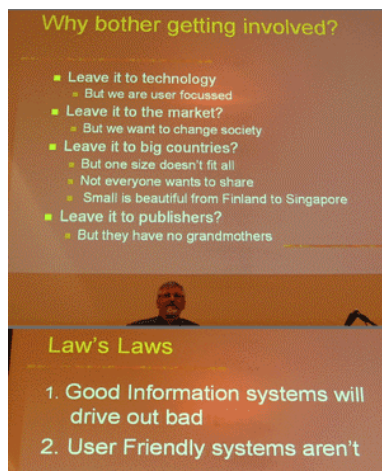
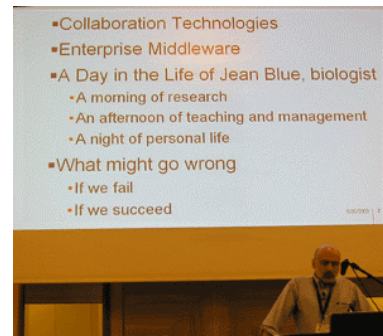
After introductions by the co-chairs of the Programme Committee, Shirley Wood and Miroslav Milinovic, and a welcome by Prof. Ignac Lovrek, President of the Managing Council of CARNet, the conference was officially opened by Prof. Gvozden Flego, the Croatian Minister of Science and Technology. As the keynote speaker in the opening session, Kim Veltman of the Maastricht McLuhan Institute presented some fascinating projects and ideas to use Grid technologies to make works of literature and art accessible, to re-create ancient buildings and other works of art, and to create virtual galleries to display old and new masterpieces.

The plenary session on Network Challenges heard presentations on two of the most timely subjects for research and education networking: Grid technologies and middleware.



Ian Foster of Argonne National Laboratories explained about Grids as tools for resource sharing and co-ordinated problem solving in dynamic, multi-institutional virtual organisations. He presented the Open Grid Services Architecture, middleware for establishing, managing and evolving multi-organisational federations and mechanisms for creating and managing workflow within such organisations.

Ken Klingenstein of Internet2 presented new trends in collaborative technologies and enterprise middleware that will manage all of our information and accessibility in the electronic world of the near future.



The plenary session on the third day focused in particular on User Opportunities. Stephen Heppel of ULTRALAB, the learning technology research centre of Anglia Polytechnic University presented a creative and innovative, while at the same time realistic vision on new opportunities for effective on-line learning.

Derek Law of the University of Strathclyde explained his ideas about the role of libraries and librarians as agents in building and supporting user communities with common interests and practices.

In the closing plenary session, Tony Bates of the University of British Columbia described an ongoing project to develop a totally integrated Internet communications system that uses state-of-the-art technology to provide new and innovative services for university campuses.

The parallel sessions offered a very wide range of presentations. Speakers on user issues presented practical organisational tools and methods, user services and unique applications in fields like distance education, the organisation of national research and education networks, bridging the gap between networks and users, virtual worlds, videoconferencing, multimedia services, mobility and information exchange. The more technical sessions included presentations on advances in network technologies, Quality of Service, security, optical networks, peer-to-peer technologies and applications, and Grid technologies. There were two sessions of short presentations on recent results, and two sessions devoted to current and future TERENA activities.

Several meetings of TERENA task forces and projects and a large number of special meetings were organised before, during and after the conference. Egon Verharen of SURFnet and Ted Hanss of Internet2 led a full-day hands-on training workshop on the provision of H.323 videoconferencing services. In parallel to the conference, TERENA organised on one day a 6NET workshop and a SCAMPI birds-of-a-feather session. Several equipment vendors organised open meetings back to back to the conference: a Research and Education Summit by Juniper Networks, birds-of-a-feather sessions by Tellium, CIENA and Extreme Networks, and a Next Generation Internet Symposium by Cisco Systems. Other birds-of-a-feather sessions were organised by the TERENA PR Initiative and the Croatian CRO GRID project.

The conference was jointly organised by TERENA and CARNet, the Croatia Academic and Research Network, with local support from Generalturist.



The CARNet team of 24 technicians made unparalleled achievements, enabling the high-quality streaming of four parallel sessions throughout the conference as well as interactive videoconference presentations from as far a field as Wales, England, the United States and Brazil. They also provided extensive wireless Internet connections throughout the conference venue to a record number of users.

Individual videoconferencing booths allowed participants to keep in close contact with their offices, using equipment provided by Radvision and Tanberg.

The conference was made possible by the sponsorship of CIENA, HT (Croatian Telecom), Cisco Systems, IBM, Juniper Networks, COLT, Extreme Networks, Logical, T-Systems, COMPUTECH, Tellium, perpetuum mobile and ECS.

Papers and presentation slides from the conference are available from the Programme section of the conference website at

<http://www.terena.nl/conferences/tnc2003/>

The archive of the live stream is available from

<http://tv.carnet.hr/tnc2003/>

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