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TERENA holds first Voice-over-IP workshop

The first TERENA workshop on Voice over IP (VoIP) took place in Poznań, Poland on Sunday 5 June 2005. More than 50 technicians from research and education networking organisations and universities in Europe heard presentations by expert tutors from Europe, Australia and the United States.

The workshop gave an overview of relevant VoIP and videoconferencing technologies from an application point of view, with the objective of making a contribution to the wider deployment of VoIP and videoconferencing in the research community by spreading the relevant knowledge. The event was organised by Bartłomiej Idzikowski (PSNC), and Erik Dobbelsteijn and Egon Verharen (SURFnet) with support from Baiba Kaškina (TERENA Secretariat).

The workshop programme addressed five scenarios:

- Replacement of PBX (Private Branch Exchange) systems

When legacy PBX systems have been depreciated, there is an opportunity to build an IP telephony service from scratch. Some of the issues involved were presented by Wojciech Nawrot, Wojciech Śronek and Krzysztof Turza of the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC).

- SIP.EDU deployment

SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) was introduced in a tutorial by Stephen Kingham (AARNet, Australia) and Saverio Niccolini (NEC Europe). Ben Teitelbaum (Internet2) and Dennis Baron (MIT) presented SIP.EDU, a project of Internet2's VoIP working group aimed at increasing the number of SIP-reachable users, extending email identities to voice services, and supporting academic communities by developing and deploying SIP services.

- Integration of VoIP and videoconferencing

In his presentation on this subject, Saverio Niccolini made the point that IP telephony and videoconferencing are basically the same H.323 services. He presented examples of VoIP and videoconferencing integration that are already in place in the SURFnet offices and in NEC's Network Laboratories.

- Integration of H.323 and SIP protocols

João Pereira (FCCN) presented the Portuguese experiences in bridging the H.323 and SIP worlds.

- Future developments

A view on future development was presented by Stephen Kingham. One of the issues is how to integrate value-added services like presence and instant messaging in the various scenarios.

The workshop was rounded off by a hands-on experience session, which gave participants an opportunity to use equipment from different vendors installed for this purpose by PSNC.

The initiative for the VoIP workshop grew from the activities of TERENA's task force on Voice, Video and Collaboration (<http://www.terena.nl/tech/task-forces/tf-vvc/>). It was seen as an opportunity to actually show some of the features discussed in the IP Telephony Cookbook that was published by TERENA in 2004 (<http://www.terena.nl/library/IPTELEPHONYCOOKBOOK/>).

The programme and presentations of the workshop can be found at:

<http://www.terena.nl/tech/task-forces/tf-vvc/voip-wsh/>

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