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The year 2011 has been an exciting and very successful year for us. Now I would like to take the forthcoming festive season as an opportunity to look back on this year's highlights at our Multimedia Communications Lab (KOM) and the httc.

78 publications: The results of our research have been appraised and approved internationally by a wide-ranging professional audience. Among other things, we are especially proud of having been invited to present our research work at 58 excellent scientific conferences and workshops, including for example the International Conference on Web Services (ICWS) in Washington, the International Conference on Service-oriented Computing (ICSOC) in Paphos, and the European Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning (EC-TEL) in. I would also like to mention eight papers which were published in distinguished journals like Springer's "Multimedia Systems", the "ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications", Elsevier's "Performance Evaluation" as well as several articles for books and technical reports.

11 new projects: We are very happy about the eleven new projects which have been approved in 2011. We now head the consortium of the new EU project "ADVENTURE", which aims at enhancing the collaboration of small and medium-sized businesses in order to increase the efficiency of their business processes. We do so by improving the information exchange and making it more transparent through a service-oriented platform. We are also responsible for the scientific and technical coordination of the joint project "inDAgo" of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. Within this project, a mobility system is developed which supports the mobility of elderly people during their daily routine and their leisure time and guides them from place to place in a personalized way. In the project "Genius" funded by Hessian we are doing research on a technology platform to connect computer games and social networks. Within the framework of the project "TexSaS" we plan to offer together with three companies a novel software service for semantic and statistic text analysis. In the project "Mobile Learning", which is supported by the state of Hessian, we develop and test technologies for learning scenarios that would integrate the students making them participate.

9 successfully completed projects: On the other side, we were also able to bring ten projects to a successful end; these allowed us to gain many new research results. These projects include the EU project "SmoothIT" (Development of an Economic Traffic Management System for the Internet), PROWIT (Development of a Process Collaboration Service platform for Web 2.0-applications in the Area of Business Management) and VirtuRama (Development of new Technologies for the Future Internet) as well as the balance-training-project, which is supported by the "Thoss-Stiftung" and has managed to develop a game-supported balance training for elderly people.

6 doctorates (PhDs): I am very proud that six academics completed their PhD in 2011: Dr.-Ing. Doreen Böhnstedt, Dr.-Ing. Sebastian Kaune, Dr.-Ing. Michael Niemann, Dr.-Ing. Konstantin Pussep, Dr.-Ing. Andreas Reinhardt and Dr.-Ing. Philipp Scholl.

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6 exhibitions at congresses and workshops: In 2011 we participated in a total of six exhibitions, congresses and workshops, which in part were organized by ourselves. At the CeBIT we could present the audience our main research in the areas of e-learning, serious games and peer-to-peer at different stands. Our spin-off "wer-denkt-was" was also present. The Learntec provided a platform for our project CROKODIL. At the DeLFI we were responsible for a workshop on mobile learning; at the GI conference we were in charge of the workshop on IT governance in distributed systems (GVS). In September we organized the GameDays 2011, which took place in the conference center "darmstadtium" in Darmstadt. Since 2011 we also have a new fixed annual appointment: our alumni event "Perspectives on Multimedia Communications" that will be held every second Friday and Saturday of May, therefore next time on the 11th and 12th of May 2012.

5 awards: Five of our research contributions have been awarded for their outstanding results: The section KuVS (Communication and Distributed Systems) of the GI/ITG (German Association for Informatics and for Information Technology) choose Dr. Nicolas Liebau the prize for the best dissertation in the area of communication and distributed systems for his dissertation from 2009. Melanie Siebenhaar, graduate in business informatics, was awarded an IBM PhD scholarship. The contribution by Johannes Konert, graduate in computer science, and Dr.-Ing. Stefan Göbel at the IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies was awarded a Best Paper Award. Dr.-Ing. Michael Niemann, et al. received the IGI Global's "Fourth Annual Excellence in Research Journal Award – Best Articles from the 2010 Volume Year". And last but not least, Melanie Siebenhaar and Sebastian Zöller, both graduates in business informatics, got the Best Demonstration Award for their presentation at the IEEE Conference on Local Computer Networks.

5 contributions as service to the scientific community: I was reelected as member of the board of the ITG (the German Association of Information Technology) for the term of office 2012 to 2014. Also, the rector's office of the University of Vienna appointed me for another period of four years to be part of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Computing Faculty. I was reappointed as president of the foundation IMDEA Networks in Madrid. In 2011 I was elected as member of several boards of the TU Darmstadt.

3 new professorships: Since 2011 two assistant professors started their research associated to our lab: In May, Prof. Dr. David Hausheer from the University of Zürich joined the TU Darmstadt working in the area of Peer-to-Peer Systems Engineering. Prof. Dr. Silvia Santini from the ETH Zürich started her scientific career as assistant professor in October at the TU Darmstadt in the area of Wireless Sensor Networks. In order to further strengthen the Research Cluster "Future Internet", Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Effelsberg from the University of Mannheim accepted the appointment as first cooperation professorship of the TU Darmstadt..

2 best student thesis: Maxim Babarinow received the award for his bachelor thesis "Conception and prototypical implementation of a pattern matching approach for the creation of computer games for visually impaired people", Sebastian Schmidt for his master thesis "Language-Independent Semantic Relatedness of Web Resources using Wikipedia as Reference".

As we focus – in our daily work – on the development of seamless multimedia communication, we attach special importance to frequent person-to-person interaction.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year filled with peace, health and success!

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