

in the last year, more than 1.4 million e-mails have been sent and received at the Multimedia Communications Lab in order to bring forward projects, discuss open research questions, or to coordinate publications and meetings. In my opinion, this great number of e-mails as well as the various other Internet services and online networks that we use every day makes it evident that a world without Internet is no longer imaginable. But there is still need for further fundamental and applied research.

This is the reason why we have been reflecting on new internet technologies for several years, with a special focus on self-organizing overlay and peer-to-peer networks. From 2013 on, we will investigate this “Future Internet” together with leading scientific partners within the recently granted DFG Collaborative Research Center MAKI. Ideally, future communication systems should adapt at runtime to the manifold and constant changes in a way that not only guarantees the service quality, but even allows for its improvement. The way to the approval of MAKI was a strenuous effort for everyone involved and required a strong commitment by all participants. We are very proud of the successful outcome and look forward to the new challenges.

I am also very pleased with this year’s achievements of the different research groups and staff members at the Multimedia Communications Lab. It is due to their effort that events like the 8th GameDays 2012 took place, focused on the field of serious games and their possible application within socially relevant areas like education, sports, and health. Our research on context-aware mobile learning will also be continued in a newly granted project funded by the BMBF.

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In October 2012, a new and exciting EU project has started: Here we are looking for new service-based communications systems to offer traffic participants relevant information. We are also investigating new energy information networks and intelligent distributed energy systems that make use of information provided by sensors, so that energy consumption in buildings can be automatically optimized.

Last but not least: We are happy to congratulate Dr.-Ing. Apostolos Papageorgiou and Dr.-Ing. Osama Abboud to the successful completions of their doctoral degrees.

We have presented our project and research results in various publications and leading scientific conferences. You are cordially invited to visit our websites www.kom.tu-darmstadt.de and www.multimedia-communications.net in order to browse our archive where you can find further detailed information.

Although digital communication and the “Future Internet“ are our main research focus, we do not only write e-mails or messages in social networks. Personal contact is of great importance to us. We are always happy about feedback and new ideas, either by e-mail, phone, or from the personal discussion at our lab. We are looking forward to it!

I wish all of you – also on behalf of my colleagues –
a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Ralf Steinmetz

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