



Much of 2013 has been dedicated to “Future Internet” research with the German research council funded collaborative research center (DFG Sonderforschungsbereich) “MAKI – Multi-Mechanism Adaptation for the Future Internet” progressing at high speed. In October, 44 researchers actively involved in MAKI met in the Kleinwalsertal for an interdisciplinary workshop focusing on research issues related to the Future Internet. In order to facilitate and manage the rapidly increasing data traffic the Internet will require structures more adapted to the challenges of the changing user requirements, applications and devices. Within MAKI we explore innovative methods, which exploit a multitude of mechanisms that can be seamless exchange according to the communication environment, context and user requirements. The aim of our research is to satisfy the growing demand for bandwidth through more efficient and adaptive networks and distribution mechanisms and as a consequence will make better use of network resources. To put it simply: people are going to have access to a reliable Internet connection wherever or whenever they are using a smart phone. Even in the information age, however, an “offline” exchange during a seminar or over dinner remains essential. In this way the official launch of MAKI in November has been one of the absolute highlights of 2013, providing for exciting and fascinating presentations, conversations and new contacts.

Within our research domain we have also identified a range of exciting new topics and have managed to attract new projects. For example, Urban Health Games are “digital city games” which make use of mobile terminal equipment. These games are capable of considering and responding to the urban environment through position, movement and image recognition and can consider user’s vital parameters such as pulse or stress level and make it part of the game. Areas of application for such games include health, recuperation and leisure. Our game „ErgoActive“ is on board of the MS Wissenschaft, a ship that is going to be anchored in more than 40 cities during the course of 2014. We are looking forward to a visit from you!

Many of us are “always on”. A newly established project funded through the Hessian LOEWE initiative aims to preserve and improve the work-life

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balance by using innovative communication technology rather than prohibiting its usage. Here, the smartphone is capable of evaluating the context of occurring events and passes on only information relevant to the user's current context. This technology could lead to further improvements in the separation of personal and professional communication. To that end, we are collaborating on an interdisciplinary level with psychologists, economists and lawyers from Darmstadt and Kassel.

In the context of our project CROKODIL (concerned with the development and evaluation of self-regulated learning solution) we organized the final conference earlier this year. Attended by more than 60 participants it provided the opportunity to introduce and discuss different mechanisms and an online learning platform developed during the last few years. As reported by colleagues from Siemens, CROKODIL has already been successfully utilized in one of their dual study programs. In the age of information technology, self-regulated learning will continue to gain relevance and allow both employers and employees access to more flexible methods of education and training.

We are proud for recognition we received for our academic achievements this year. Numerous publications and innovative technologies are evidence of our excellent research results. Best paper awards have been presented to Sebastian Schmidt et. al for their contribution to "i-know 2013", one of the most important international conferences in terms of knowledge management and knowledge computing, as well as to Johannes Konert et. al. at the interdisciplinary e-learning conference "DeLFI". In addition, Dr.-Ing. Apostolos Papageorgiou, now employed by NEC in Heidelberg, was awarded the *Vodafone Förderpreis für Natur- und Ingenieurwissenschaften* for his exceptional research results in "mobile use of web services". For his AlarmApp, Frank Englert won the first prize in the European Satellite Navigation Competition in Hessa. KOM would also like to congratulate Renato Domínguez García, Christian Gottron, Florian Mehm, Ulrich Lampe, Dieter Schuller and Johannes Konert on completing their PhDs.

A lot has happened this year. Too much to acknowledge everything in a single letter. Our websites www.kom.tu-darmstadt.de, www.multimedia-communications.net and www.maki.tu-darmstadt.de provide further comprehensively information relevant to our students, alumni and partners from science, industry and politics. In addition, our newsletter, which provides information regarding new and current topics, is published quarterly at www.multimedia-communications.net.

As always, we value your opinions regarding our work and research, please feel free contacting us any time by e-mail, phone or in person. We look forward to your feedback.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a successful 2014!

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