

Christmas time: an opportunity to pause and to reflect upon this year's highlights at my chair of Multimedia Communications Lab and the htmc.

2010 has been a „year of doctorates“: I am very proud and particularly pleased that nine of my staff members - Dr.-Ing. Sonja Bergsträßer, Dr.-Ing. Kálmán Graffi, Dr.-Ing. André König, Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kropff, Dr.-Ing. Lasse Lehmann, Dr.-Ing. André Miede, Dr.-Ing. Parag Mogre, Dr.-Ing. Stefan Schulte and Dr.-Ing. Farid Zaid – have finished their PhD's this year. Dr. Ing. Patrick Mukherjee and Dr.-phil. Sandra Siebert also completed their doctorates as staff members of two of my colleagues in Darmstadt and Mainz.

Dr.-Ing. Aleksandra Kovačević has been awarded the advancement award 2010 by the Association for Information Technology (ITG) of the VDE for her excellent dissertation „Peer-to-Peer Location-Based Search: Engineering a Novel Peer-to-Peer Overlay Network“ from 2009. Dipl.-Ing. Apostolos Papageorgiou et al. got a Best Paper-Award for their article “Enhancing Availability with Self-Organization Extension in a SOA Platform” at the *Fifth International Conference on Internet and Web Applications and Services (ICIW 2010)*. In November, Dr. Robert Lokaiczky won the first prize at the *IT-SLAM* at the *iTEC 2010*

The best research papers by students in 2010 were honoured, too. These were Markus Migenda for his bachelor thesis “*Analysis of Calendar Information to Determine the Level of Interruptibility*”, Johannes Grimm for his master thesis on the topic “*Calculation of Semantic Similarities Between Text Fragments With the Aid of Wikipedia*” and Melanie Siebenhaar for her term paper „*Matching of Modelled Business Processes for Application in the Operational Process Analysis*“. The honour for the best diploma thesis was awarded to Max Graubner for his work on the topic „*QoS Assessment and a Perceptually-Driven QoS Optimization Model for Audio Contribution over IP*“.

We also had the honour to welcome the Humboldt-award recipient Prof. Klara Nahrstedt, PhD, as very special guest at our chair this year. Mrs Nahrstedt is one of the worldwide leading scientists in information technology. Within the framework of her Humboldt research stay in Darmstadt, we had the possibility to work together on unusual movement profiles and reliable mechanisms of social networks for mobile devices. Prof. Dr. Dr.-Ing. h.c. mult. Nicolas Georganas was also awarded the Humboldt prize; unfortunately, he won't be able to assume his research stay in Darmstadt in 2011. Our globally highly appreciated colleague and friend passed away absolutely unexpectedly. The fugacity of life became once more evident to us.

2010 was a year of research: At TU Darmstadt the Future Internet Cluster, one of five research fields on which the TU is going to concentrate its interdisciplinary research efforts, was established. As one of the three heads of the cluster I have been responsible for its coordination this year and have assumed the role of the speaker in 2010.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralf Steinmetz



Institut für Datentechnik

Fachbereiche
Elektrotechnik und Informationstechnik
Informatik (Zweitmitglied)

Rundeturmstr. 10
64283 Darmstadt

Tel. +49 6151 16 - 6151
Tel. +49 6151 16 - 6150 (Sekretariat)
Fax +49 6151 16 - 6152

Ralf.Steinmetz@KOM.tu-darmstadt.de
www.kom.tu-darmstadt.de
www.multimedia-communications.net

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We also had the opportunity to make a successful start on numerous projects. Between TU Darmstadt, the company *NEC* and the research institution *IMDEA* in Madrid an arrangement was settled according to which the exchange regarding content and staff could be increased. A research cooperation between various chairs of TU Darmstadt and the Korean research center ETRI - a project we had been planning for quite a while - could be started in April. The aim of the pilot project SOCIAL IPTV, which is scheduled for a three years period in a first instance, is to investigate the combination of social networks, peer-to-peer technologies and multimedia applications with different terminal devices such as television, mobile phone, computer or iPad. In November, the company "Motorola" provided us with several smart phones for this purpose.

Furthermore, we participate in the group project CROKODIL of the BMBF as lead managers, a project for which a high-ranking consortium of prestigious academics and agents of industry is meeting since this spring to investigate for the first time the phenomenon of knowledge acquisition through internet resources. In the HMWK project "*Support of the Locally Based Construction and Application of Learning Units in Mobile Learning Scenarios*" the mobility of the users in the new learning environment is exploited. Within the frame of the BMWi project *IP-KOM-ÖV*, which was launched this autumn, we deal with the development of points of intersection in the communication of the local public transport. The launching of the project SWINNG took place as part of the new BMBF top cluster. Finally, we have various projects in the area of "Serious Gaming" which focus on education, sports and health. For example, we get support from the Wilhelmine Thoß foundation in a project which, in collaboration with the Klinikum Darmstadt, proves the increase of strength and coordination of elderly people through ludic exercises.

The results of our research were presented at numerous scientific conferences and workshops as well as pioneering fairs. The projects *80Days* (EU, Technology-enhanced Learning) and *StoryTec* (LOEWE Hessen model project) on ludic learning and cost-efficient production of learning games were presented at the congress *Zuse 2.0* of the *CeBIT*. In addition, the topic of Serious Games was introduced to the public in various speeches, for example within the framework of the *Serious Games Conference 2010* and in a panel discussion in the *Future Parc* of the *CeBIT* together with Nintendo. At the *Campus Innovation* the htcc featured as exhibitor with the network of excellence e-learning hessen. Furthermore, the project *Green Mobility* (THESEUS Mittelstand) was presented at the *iTEC 2010*. At the *Innovation Days* of the Deutsche Bank we presented our research results in the area of service-oriented computing.

We also organized several events: In March we put on the sixth *GameDays* at the TU Darmstadt. In April, the colloquium "*Development and Significance of Unbroken Communication in the Age of the Omnipresent Internet*" followed. For the first time we had the opportunity to present the research demonstration areas which are installed in our new rooms and which everyone very much appreciated. Shortly afterwards, an event of the foundation initiative StartUpFactory, which was founded three years ago, took place. There, the five projects by students that have been supported so far were presented and a successful closing balance was made up. At the conference *Informatik 2010* we were responsible for the workshop *IT-Governance in spread systems (GVS)*. The workshop *E/Learning 2.0* at the *DeLFI 2010* took place for the fourth time under our direction. We also were responsible for the contents of the contributions of the ITG at the *VDE-Kongress* in Leipzig, where more than 1500 participants assisted.

Although, or maybe we should say, precisely because we focus on the development of unbroken communication in our daily work, we attach great importance to a personal and long-lasting interaction.



Sincerely yours,
Best regards,

Ralf Steinmetz

Ralf Steinmetz,
Professor (Dr.-Ing. habil.)
Fellow of the IEEE and Fellow of the ACM
Director, Multimedia Communications Laboratory, Technische Universität Darmstadt
Chairman of the Board - htcc - Hessian Telemedia Technology CompetenceCenter – Germany