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SIMPLICITY for a mobile world

Brussels, Weßling – Making mobile access more simple is the goal of a partly EU funded initiative starting off today. Simplicity (IST-2004-507558) is a research project (a so-called STREP) in the EU-funded IST "Systems Beyond 3G" initiative. The project is coordinated by Radiolabs (Italy) and involves 11 partners from 6 European countries, including DoCoMo Communications Laboratories Europe, Siemens AG (Germany), Siemens Business Services (Germany), Telecom Italia Learning Services (Italy), TriaGnoSys GmbH (Germany) and VTT (Finland), as well as university partners in Greece, Germany and the U.K.

About SIMPLICITY

Simplicity's strategic goal is to make it easier to access and provide services based on advanced telecommunications.

As technology develops, people are using an ever broader range of ICT devices and network-based services. New areas of research, such as pervasive computing, will further increase the diversity of the devices and services with which they have to deal. The result is an enormous burden of complexity on the shoulders of users, service providers and network operators. Excessive complexity, in turn, creates obstacles to effective exploitation and acceptance of beyond 3G systems, such as ambient intelligence, context-aware services and novel access technologies. The goal of the Simplicity project is to build a system ("Simplicity") that reduces this complexity,

The ultimate goal of the project is to allow users (e.g. mobile workers) to move from terminal to terminal (e.g. from a mobile phone, to a laptop to a PDA) and from network to network (e.g. from a UMTS to a wi-fi network) while maintaining access to the same data and the same services and without the need to continually reconfigure terminals and services. At the same time Simplicity seeks to make services easier to operate for Telecommunications Operators and for Value Added Service Providers.

To achieve these goals Simplicity will:

- Automate user access to services and networks
- Customize access in line with user preferences (e.g. in terms of cost and QoS)
- Automatically adapt services to terminal characteristics and user preferences;
- Orchestrate network capabilities, to provide guaranteed QoS

The two key components in Simplicity are the Simplicity Device (SD) and the Brokerage Framework.

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The SD is a plug-in physical device (e.g., Java card, enhanced SIM card, USB pen, etc.) or a functional entity (e.g., a software agent) that securely stores user identity information and user preferences, allowing automated access to and customization of terminals and/or services, including, for example the policy-controlled selection of network interfaces. As shown in Figure 1 the device will be compatible with a broad range of different terminals (e.g., laptop computers, PDAs, mobile phones).In one of the planned implementations the SD will be incorporated in a Blue-tooth equipped mobile phone. Owners of such phones will use the SD to "bootstrap" terminals in which Simplicity is not installed, to identify themselves to the Simplicity system and to customize the terminal and any required services.

The Brokerage Framework provides easily extensible, policy-based mechanisms, making it possible to orchestrate network capabilities (e.g., mobility support, QoS, security) and to adapt these to user preferences and to the characteristics of user terminals. The same mechanisms can be used to re-configure terminals via policy-controlled SW downloads.

The Simplicity project is now at the end of its first year. Focus groups have shown positive user feedback to the Simplicity concept; requirements and system architecture have been defined; design of key components is proceeding ahead of schedule. An early demonstrator system will be shown at the Mobile Summit in Dresden in June 2005.

Project web site: www.ist-simplicity.org .

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