TRILOGY project initiates Internet overhaul

TRILOGY, the three-year EU-funded collaborative research project, is developing a radical new architecture for the Internet. Designed from the foundations up, this architecture will give all stakeholders the flexibility to control the outcomes they experience from the network.

Matthew Ford, TRILOGY project co-ordinator and principal researcher in BT’s Networks Research Centre, says; “Evidence that the Internet is out-growing its original design is widespread, and as a result, stakeholders are affected in numerous ways. End-users are plagued by spam and security worries, operators are spending more and more effort to mitigate the effects of address space depletion, enterprises face complex trade-offs when trying to ensure resilience through multi-homing or protection from distributed denial-of-service attacks, and developers have a mountain to climb in order to ensure their applications work seamlessly on today’s Internet. Now is absolutely the right time to develop a new design for the Internet that is mindful of the competing technical, economic and social demands that must be met by a revitalised network.”

Two design principles have enabled the ubiquity and robustness of the Internet: simplicity and transparency. It has been simple to link any new network to the Internet, providing instant benefits from the interconnectivity with a huge range of communicating peers. The transparency of the Internet has facilitated the deployment of successively more complex applications and services. Together, these two attributes characterise the “hourglass” approach to network architecture. For the Internet, this hourglass approach has led to a virtuous circle of increased network reach enabling new styles of usage and vice versa. Unfortunately, this hourglass picture omits the mechanisms needed for control. TRILOGY therefore seeks to design an hourglass control architecture for the Internet supporting extremes of commercial, social and technical control.

“The key is to allow the Internet to be different things in different places without hindering interoperability,” says Lars Eggert, Internet Engineering Steering Group member, from Nokia Research Center. “By enabling tussles to play out within the architectural framework, Trilogy will enable differentiation and a greatly increased communication heterogeneity that allows for
future devices with capabilities that are very different from today's computers to become first-class citizens of a Future Internet.

About TRILOGY
TRILOGY is an Integrated Project co-funded by the European Commission under EU Framework Programme 7. It is a three-year project running from January 2008 to December 2010. TRILOGY will deliver a coherent set of changes to the Internet architecture that solve technical and commercial problems together: a unified control architecture for the Internet that can be adapted in a scalable, dynamic, autonomous and robust manner to local operational and business requirements. The interdisciplinary project consortium consists of 11 partners from industry and academia.

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TRILOGY website including full list of partners: http://www.trilogy-project.org

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