



HomeNet2Run Bridges Heterogeneity Gaps for the 'Interconnected Home'

The HomeNet2Run consortium announced that it is able to demonstrate a range of solutions that turn the "Interconnected Home" vision into reality. At the IFA 2003 in Berlin the consortium has showcased a demonstration.



After two and a half years of dedicated work addressing some complex challenges, it can truly be said that a milestone has been reached in the quest to realize the 'Interconnected Home' vision. Philips Research heads the HomeNet2Run project that is backed by consortium members who include prominent names in the world of electronics and research.

The huge Europe-wide effort to close the major gaps created by heterogeneous solutions and thus move a step closer to the interconnected home, has now come to fruition. HomeNet2Run has successfully built bridges between different wired network (e.g. Ethernet and IEEE 1394), wireless network (e.g. IEEE 802.11 and HiperLAN2) and middleware (UPnP and HAVi) clusters, enabling room-to-room and home-to-home connectivity of the PC and consumer electronics worlds. The collaboration places European companies in the consumer, telecommunications and IT industries in an enviable position to exploit the many opportunities presented by combining the previously distinct areas of broadcast, Internet and telecommunications services.

HomeNet2Run has proved that heterogeneity in digital home networks, which we will live with for some time

to come, need not necessarily lead to complex system behavior and handling, but can be made invisible to consumers by appropriate bridging technologies that effectively glue together the world's most popular standards in the wired and wireless domains. In successfully developing an interconnected home architecture that supports innovative user scenarios, the project looked critically at various European standards, for instance, HiperLAN2, DVB (Digital Video Broadcast), and MHP (Multimedia Home Platform), and contributed significantly to their improvement. Other standards, such as IEEE 1394, HAVi and UPnP, were all extended appropriately.

Anywhere in the home

Mobility is a major benefit resulting from the project. For example, any content can be moved around the home without being limited to the device in any particular room. Within the interconnected home, audio/video streams will be transferred via wireless links to portable devices such as web pads and personal digital assistants. Currently you can only listen to sound from your CD-player or watch video

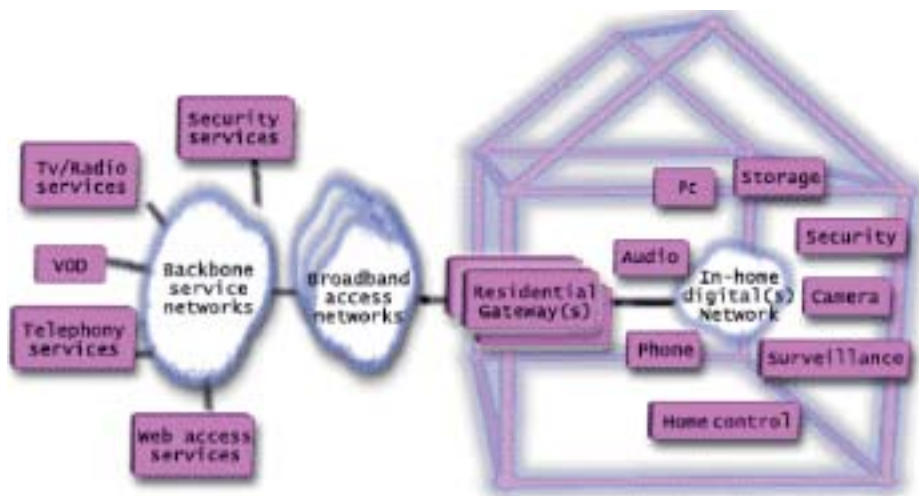
on your recorder in the same room. Today it can be demonstrated that home devices enable people the freedom to roam around their homes. You can watch TV in one room and continue watching the same program in another room on a different device. Moreover, we are able to show how the home network lets people control devices from anywhere in the home.

At any time

In anticipation of broadcast-quality TV becoming available in homes over broadband IP networks, people can watch TV programs at any time, and can interrupt (pause and resume) a live TV broadcast, to take a phone call for example, without having to miss anything. You can also get assistance in selecting your favorite TV programs and other content from the past, present or future, while accessing them from either a PC or other consumer devices. The project even demonstrates a version where the TV programs are automatically cached in the access network so that people don't have to remember to record programs on their local recorders anymore.

Even between homes

People who want to share content with those who are in different homes will not be disappointed either, because audio and video content can



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be shared between homes using interconnected home devices such as TV sets and IP phones in combination with a high-speed Internet connection. Suppose you just came back from holiday and you want to show your pictures to your best friend. The HomeNet2Run consortium has worked out a practical solution that links your home devices via public networks to devices in another home so that you can share audio and video content and view it simultaneously.

HomeNet2Run now demonstrates key aspects of the interconnected-home architecture, including: HiperLAN2-based wireless connectivity, broadcast and on-demand video over IP, and bridging across Ethernet and 1394 networks, where the achievement of vendor interoperability means complete freedom of choice regarding equipment suppliers. ■

About HomeNet2Run

HomeNet2Run was launched in 2001 under the auspices of the ITEA (Information Technology for European Advancement) program within the EUREKA (Europe-wide Network for Market-Oriented Industrial R&D) framework. Consortium members include leading names in the worlds of electronics and research: Philips, Thomson, Sony International, Grundig, Canon, Deutsche Telekom, ATLINSK, STMicroelectronics, dZine, IMEC, PIMC, Jabil Circuit Belgium, CiaoLAB Technologies, CEFRIEL, Fraunhofer IIS,

Technical University of Eindhoven. The website is located at www.homenet2run.org.

Five of the DSP valley members contributed to the Eureka ITEA project HomeNet2Run: Philips Technology Campus Leuven (PTCL), STMicroelectronics-Belgium, IMEC, PIMC and Jabil Circuit Belgium. In Flanders this project has been funded by the IWT, the Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders.



ACUNIA and Computer Support deliver Fleet Management Solution to Securis (Securitas AB)

Telematics specialist ACUNIA and IT support specialist Computer Support, announced that they are working with security specialist SECURIS on advanced fleet management solutions. Remotely managed in-vehicle terminals will bring increased efficiency, better customer service and an overall safer workplace for mobile workforce of SECURIS in Belgium.

Marketing Director Computer Support.

ACUNIA has been leading the development of beneficial telematics infrastructure and services, promoting open standards on every level of the value chain. By combining the integration capabilities of ACUNIA OTF and the excellent power/price ratio of our vehicle terminal CarCube™, ACUNIA is able to offer an Open and Extendable, off-the-shelf and cost-effective fleet management solution for smaller and larger fleets or mobile communities", says Frank Verbist, Business Unit Manager, ACUNIA Telematics Solutions. ■

About ACUNIA

ACUNIA is a leading provider of software and hardware solutions for fleet management and telematics. ACUNIA's core technology is at the origin of open platform standards-based telematics infrastructure and services. For more information, see www.acunia.com/fleet. ACUNIA released ACUNIA OTF 2.0, presenting an industry-validated service management and provisioning tool for OSGi-compliant gateways and devices based on OSGi Service Platform Release 3.



As a security specialist, SECURIS wants to deliver the highest level of security for both customers and employees. The fleet management solution by ACUNIA is offering all tools to navigate SECURIS' agents as fast as possible to any site of alarm. Upon arrival, agents can access encrypted customer's files, site plan and alarm status via the in-vehicle telematics terminal. Extra alarms or info automatically result in real-time updates. Upon completion, all event information is logged and processed in a Central Control Room for reporting and quality control.

"By using advanced technologies like GPS and wireless communication we

are able to speed up our call out services and improve the quality of our operations. Now, by knowing the exact position of all cars at the Central Control Room, we can efficiently dispatch and navigate the right agent to the Call Out location. Moreover, by having encrypted files available in their car, our agents have the possibility to access up-to-date customer data on a need-to-know basis. All this will result in better services and quality for our customers," says Kris van den Briel, COO of SECURIS.

Computer Support is fully committed to deliver cross industry solutions to help customers manage their fleets of vehicles on the move and at the same time improve cost effectiveness and usability. This is one example of our activity in the Telematics environment, says Dirk Leemans, Sales and