



Time for the Summer Tunes

Summer is back on stage and as you consider holiday destinations and get ready for the summer break take a read of the articles in our Summer Newsletter and give an ear to the tips and sunny tunes it brings on board.

The Issue contains Part 2 of the article on Identity Theft – a new frontier for hackers and cybercrime, by *Claudio Cilli*, University of Rome (Vol. 15, no.1, Spring 2017).

Earlier this year, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) established a new Workshop on Big Data. We are very pleased that *Dudley Dolan*, Chair of this newly established forum and member of the NL Advisory Board, was available to present the WS on Big Data to our readers.

“Creating a Future of Opportunities” was the slogan of SSI’s conference 2017 held on 11 and 12 April. This slogan is so catchy that we could not resist inviting the SSI President *Niko Schlamberger* to share some thoughts on the outcome.

There is much more offered by this Issue, not least the fine tips *Dorothy Hayden* provides in the MultiCulti section.

Take the Journey!

Plamen Nedkov

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Letters to the Editor

“Thanks for the very interesting Spring issue of IT STAR’s Newsletter. I’ve shared it by e-mail and on Facebook.”

Saulius Maskeliūnas
LIKs President (Lithuania)

“Congratulations for the Spring Issue”

Balint Domolki
Honorary President, JvNCS (Hungary) ■

Summer Greetings from the Editor



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Ex officio: IT STAR MS representatives (see page 1)

EDITORIAL POLICY

This Newsletter maintains a world-class standard in providing researched material on ICT and Information Society activities from the perspective of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe (CESE) within a global context. It facilitates the information and communication flow within the region and internationally by supporting a recognized platform and networking media and thus enhancing the visibility and activities of the IT STAR Association.

The stakeholders whose interests this newspaper is addressing are

- IT STAR member societies and members
- ICT professionals, practitioners and institutions across the broad range of activities related to ICTs in government, business, academia and the public sector in general
- International organizations

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Special arrangements for the production and circulation of the Newsletter could be negotiated.

The newsletter is circulated to leading CESE ICT societies and professionals, as well as to other societies and IT professionals internationally. Everyone interested in CESE developments and working in the ICT field is welcome to contribute with original material. Proposals for articles and material for the Newsletter should be sent two months before the publication date to info@starbus.org.

Cyber-war, Social Media and Identity Theft

The new threats to our privacy and to the education of our adolescents

Claudio Cilli



Claudio Cilli is Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Rome "La Sapienza".

The finest trick of the devil is to persuade you that he does not exist.

Charles Baudelaire, "The Litanies of Satan"

Cyber Attack

The Prussian philosopher Carl von Clausewitz observed: "Every age has its own type of war, with its limitations and its specific preconceptions." Today we live in the era of the war of information, with its peculiar technologies. A Cyber Attack has been defined as a "computer-to-computer attack that undermines the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of a computer or information resident on it".

The history is full of examples of real conflicts and cyber-attacks where the distinction is even harder: the conflict Pakistan/India, the conflict Israel/Palestine, the conflict between the former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and NATO in Kosovo, the incident between an US air surveillance and a Chinese jet in 2001. All of them targeted critical infrastructures, which include systems for production and distribution of gas, energy and water, banks and finance, transport and communications. All depend to a greater or lesser extent on the computer systems.

These seem large-scale events confined to governments, sometimes perceived as science-fiction, not for common people, but... think for a moment ...what would happen if the Internet does not operate for a day, a week, one month! No eMail, no BlackBerry, no eCommerce. The opposite is the disinformation, an over-flooding of information, mostly fake without a mean to distinguish the truth.

Drown in a sea of bits?

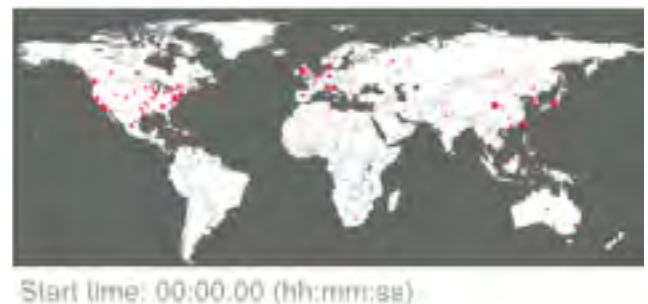


Imagine the psychological impact on viewers who attended this joke. The TV channel CT2 claimed to have received so many dramatic calls from tele-viewers who thought that a new nuclear war had started.

Social Networks

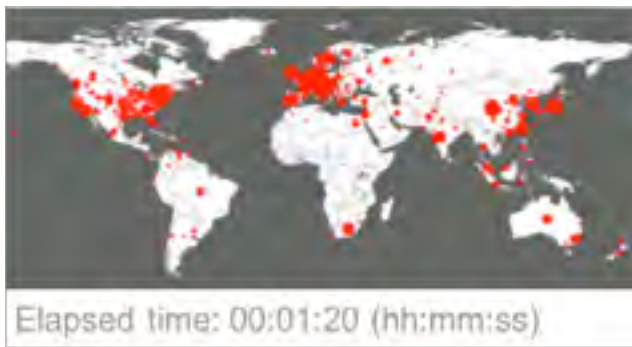
A Social Network consists of a group of people, connected to each other on the same network, that have in common the various affinities. In the data processing field, social sites are these, which offer users the possibility to share online news.

The most important are Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Netlog, etc.

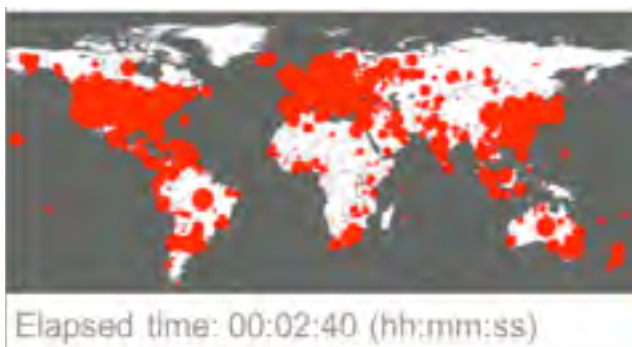


The speed of propagation of the news on the Internet is frightening.

The Internet network has memory, as our brain, and every news item inserted remains permanently stored, by modifying the characteristics of interconnection between the various nodes. A user of a social network (e.g.: Facebook) with friends scattered around the world enters personal information (a picture) that his friends immediately receive.



After 1.2 minutes 4,920 computers (the “friends of friends”) have the information that it remains stored in their PC.



After 2.4 minutes - 341,015 computers have the information and it is now impossible to keep it under control, and especially to delete it from the network.

Facebook



The world Facebook is in a continuous updating, inside each account we can find tabs carrying data, contacts, images and videos related to the owner of the account, all shared, and also the likelihood for one or more groups of thoughts constituted within the online community. Among the latter there are several groups, including those exalting violence, as for example the group violence, the group alcoholic violence, the ultraviolent group, the group of gratuitous violence, the group yes to violence, group eulogy to violence etc., other exalting the bullying, such as the group “W bullies”, the group the school bullies, the Everyone group

teaching how to become bullies, and those directed toward murder and insanity such as the group of psychopaths maniacs murders for those who have murder instincts at least once a day. The characteristic of the groups of thoughts of the Facebook community is that they can be either open (everyone can access them all), or closed (only these who have been invited are allowed).

The ways to connect with Facebook are different and very simple. To do this just have a PC (usually the type or model has little importance) or through a smartphone with an Internet connection ADSL/WIFI or, in the case of cellular phones, a portal depending on carrier. An interesting fact relates to the changes in the composition of the users. It has evolved from a predominance of 19-24 year-olds to a more balanced representation of all age groups. In fact, both groups of young people up to 18 years and the over 46 years old have been very much increased. Perhaps, this can be induced by the excessive media attention that intrigues people. It is important to know this, because the dangers that a user can meet on Facebook, such as on any other social network, for example online fraud or acts of pedophilia and stalking, are dramatically increasing. This is possible because even if protected by our privacy policy or by the limits to which the user places to access his account, these rules can be circumvented. There is also the risk of communication with people with false identities and personal data.

Addiction Disorder

The user of these sites can undergo unpleasant consequences. In Italy, like in the USA and Japan, dependency from Internet is spreading, which in the most severe cases can truly become a pathology named “Internet Addiction Disorder”. A typical example is the victim staying for an extremely prolonged length of time in front of the computer or other devices for navigation. According to the experts, a pathological use of web causes physical symptoms like those exhibited by drug addicts in crises of abstinence: anxiety, depression and fear of losing control.

This problem is serious and should not be underestimated since at least two Facebook users of every 10 show these symptoms and are easily recognizable. For example, among many Facebook friends that each of us may have, there are some that “stand” because we find them always connected. These stay hours and hours, if not the whole night, in front of the computer, ready to share and comment every picture, post, etc.... To deal with this type of pathology appropriate psychiatric clinics specializing in «Pathological Addictions» were activated in some specialized centers, (i.e. everything that creates a sort of psychological dependence so strong to become a real alteration of the psychological balance of the person).

YouTube



YouTube is a website that allows video sharing among its users. YouTube makes use of the technology of Adobe Flash to play its contents, as well as Google Video. The purpose of YouTube is to accommodate only videos made directly by those who upload them, but very often contains material of third parties, loaded without authorization, as TV shows and music videos. Compliance with the regulation of the site, which prohibits the uploading of material protected by copyright if not owned, is based on an ex-post verification of what is uploaded by users.

YouTube allows the incorporation of video in other web sites, and it takes care of generating the required HTML code. First of June, 2006 the evening news of the ITV News had reported that YouTube and other similar sites encourage violence and bullying among young people, who record fights with their mobile phones (see “happy slapping”), and then upload them on YouTube. While the site has established a function to report excessively violent content, the reportage stated that communications with the community were difficult.

Use of mobile phones

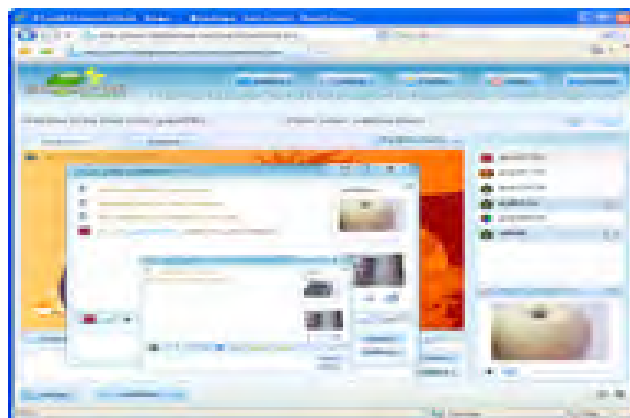


Young people make a continuous use of phones and keep them running 24 hours a day, some sending as much as 100 SMS per day. Almost always, the handsets are not

kept off during school lessons and it often happens that the phones ring in class during lessons. Mobile phones are still the more popular social networking sites, because almost all persons possess at least one.

Also for the excessive use of mobile phones the pathologies from dependence are affirming. Young people are accustomed to say that this is their only way to communicate, making them paradoxically lonelier.

Chat



The term chat is used to refer to a wide range of services, both telephone based and via the Internet. These services, quite different between themselves, all have in common two fundamental elements: the fact that dialogue takes place in real time and that the service can easily put in contact perfect strangers, generally in essentially anonymous form. The “place” (the virtual space) wherein the chat takes place is usually called chatroom (literally “Room of the chats”), also called channel, often abbreviated “chan”.

Among computer scientists, the most important chat service with history and tradition is certainly the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) basically based on the exchange of text messages. This technology, which still today connects millions of users every day, is associated with a whole subculture (diversified in dozens of “under-subcultures” for the main server).

From this context derives most of the terminology that also other chat systems on the network have inherited. IRC, a single time chat service on the Internet, is now flanked by webchat (often in Java) hosted by autonomous servers and by numerous other technologies; they are widely used. Instant messaging applications such as ICQ or MSN Messenger, generally also integrate email (and then asynchronous communication) and multimedia interaction. There are also very popular (perhaps not so utilized) Web-based services like applets for chat offered by many portals, typically in support of virtual communities formed around forums or

message boards.

The several chat services can be categorized under two main types:

- 1-on-1, like the instant messaging
- Group chat

To the first category belongs to the chat services that mainly allow users to chat with one person at a time. The contacts of this kind of chat are personal and contained in an address book, often stored online so that it is accessible from any terminal connected to the Internet network. The conversation windows are one for every contact with which you are chatting. With respect to Group Chat, the 1-on-1 chat has advanced multimedia capabilities, such as the sending of audio and video, audio clips and personal animations, and sharing folders. Among many, the most widely used services of this type are MSN Live Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger, Google Talk and Skype. Usually the nicknames in these services are linked to an email address or to an account ID. The group chats have the potential to put in communication hundreds of people at the same time because messages are sent to all people who in that moment are connected to the group (usually called channel or room). Channels can be distinguished for their thematic content and for the language used by users. The conversation window is one for each channel. There is however the possibility of sending messages, like instant messaging, in a “private” conversation between two individual users (also known as query). The group chat IRC-like are primarily textual, and multimedia elements are reduced or absent. The user nicknames are not always linked to an email account thus allowing a greater anonymity.

Safety measures

Young people need the ethical training and a minimum of technical knowledge that goes beyond the simple manual dexterity. It serves to no purpose knowing how to replace a video card, when you do not know even the meaning of the term “protocol”. The ethical training is even more important, whereas the market sometimes proposes playful software often of extreme violence and brutality and specialized press (as well as internet sites) that invite young men to become potential crackers (or better “Script Kids” since many “malware” softwares are distributed already packaged and ready for use).

In substance, try not to use complex technologies only to send unnecessary email messages or MMS. These instruments are potentially dangerous even for operating systems on board of mobile phones, and this phenomenon unfortu-

nately also afflicts far higher ages. Also avoid email messages absolutely useless, vulgar and perhaps containing elements that often unconsciously compromise the security of the recipient’s PCs.

Brief consideration of the spam phenomenon and of social engineering



The use of spam, for which there is no reduction of trend in relation to previous years, refines techniques aimed to deceive users and steal their information focusing on the good faith of people. Even the great tragedies that the world community has suffered in recent years have been used in this context.

News relating to the Hurricane Katrina were taken as a cue to generate messages of Spam and Phishing, at least one of which containing a link to a site that exploited a known problem in IE, downloaded and installed a Trojan on the victim’s PC. A few months before, similar attacks exploited the motion of solidarity toward the tragedy of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Conclusions

It is of fundamental importance trying to overcome the computer illiteracy encountered from two fronts: no knowledge of the correct use of the network and the lack of knowledge of the dangers we can encounter while surfing the Internet.

■

Member Society News

Bulgaria



The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences will host the next batch of IT STAR events, on 29 September 2017 in Sofia.

These include a half-day IT STAR WS on **Data Processing and Management**.

Topics will include:

- *Big Data*
- *Open Data*
- *National and EU policies*
- *Business Strategies*
- *Education and Research*

In view of the forthcoming Bulgarian EU Presidency, plans are to involve the European Commission in the WS.

In conjunction with this event, IT STAR will convene an Extraordinary Business Meeting (BM), called by its members during the last BM in Milan, on 29 October 2016.

IT STAR does not collect membership fees to support its operations, which is exceptional for international professional organizations. Its activities, however, have increased and its current model has to be reviewed, without necessarily introducing membership fees, so as to properly address the needs of an active organization.

In April and May 2017, consultations with representatives of IT STAR were carried-out and the main issues for discussion during the Extraordinary BM in Sofia will include activities generating income from ongoing and new projects, as well as possibilities for involving further stakeholders in IT STAR's activities. ■

Hungary

Smart City Forum in CEE

15 members from 7 CEE countries took part in the Smart polis workshop, organized by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) on 3 May

2017 as Horizon 2020 Teaming proposal aiming to establish a Smart City Centre of Excellence with the objectives to provide services within CEE (<http://smartpolis.eit.bme.hu>).

IT STAR was represented at this event by Dr. Balint Domolki, Honorary President of JvNCS and Hungary's representative to IT STAR.

Prior to this event, IT STAR's Chief Executive was on a visit to Budapest and was invited by the leaders of this initiative to a dinner, on 3 April 2017, to consider possibilities for cooperation.



Romania

Early Digital Computing in Central and Eastern Europe
Cluj Napoca, Romania, 28-29 November 2017
<http://bit.ly/earlydigit> ■

Czech Republic

Federated Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems
Prague, 3 – 6 May 2017
<https://fedcsis.org/> ■

IT STAR

29 September 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria - Extraordinary IT STAR Business meeting and Session on Data Processing. ■

International



The World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) 2017 is the largest annual event on ‘ICT for development’. It facilitates concerted actions in advancing sustainable development and is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO¹, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations.

WSIS Stakeholders wishing to participate remotely can do so via the Webcast Service or the Adobe Connect platform.

For all details regarding the 2017 Forum, including agenda and participation, you are welcome to check <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2017/>.

European Union



White paper on the future of Europe - https://ec.europa.eu/commission/white-paper-future-europe-reflections-and-scenarios-eu27_en

¹ The Editor of this Newsletter served on various UNESCO task groups during the period 2002-2003, established to prepare UNESCO's input to the first edition of WSIS.



<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/news/enisa-news/cyber-europe-2016>

Cyber Europe 2016: the pan-European exercise to protect EU Infrastructures against coordinated cyber-attack

Safeguarding Europe's Digital Market through cyber security (Published on October 20, 2016)

Partner Publication



<http://mondodigitale.aicanet.net/ultimo/index.xml>

DAYS OF SLOVENIAN INFORMATICS 2017

11-12 April 2017, Portorož/Portorose¹

<http://dsi2017.dsi-konferenca.si/>

Niko Schlamberger



N. Schlamberger is President of SSI. He has served the international community in various capacities including as President of CEPIS, IFIP Vice-President and IT STAR Coordinator.

President Schlamberger at Opening

The Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA organises annual informatics conferences for some time now. The venue is traditionally the Adriatic setting of Congress Centre Bernardin in Portorož/Portorose. This year's conference was the 24th in a row, which is a proof in itself that such gathering of information technology professionals, users and scientists is needed and welcome. The idea is to provide a broader perspective of actual trends in informatics and also to offer an insight into what is likely to become of interest in everyday practice and business. Authors are invited regardless of where they come from, as it is important that they share their experience and findings. For that reason contributions of researchers are also important. The theses of today are candidates for prototype solutions in laboratories and are very probable to become commodity of tomorrow available to all. Each year a slogan is defined to summarise the content, which is also helpful to potential contributors of papers for finding a suitable content to present at the conference.

This year's conference slogan was *Create a Future of Opportunities*. In the Call for papers three content directions were proposed so as to cover practically all aspects of information technology: informatics, trends, and best practices. A further consideration was to get subjects interesting also for decision makers as the conference is more than just a professional event. An indication of suitable overall conference program is that 250+ participants registered. It was hoped that the submitted papers would cover issues that are not only technical but also closely related to informatics. Indeed, submissions also included security, knowledge and digital competences. As usual, a call for papers is one thing and the actual contribution is another so there is always a compromise how to combine papers into comprehensive programme units. The result were nine tracks of which

¹ Slovenian and Italian name of the place is provided as the Italian minority is by law entitled to use their language in official matters.

four were running in parallel: *Innovation, Business Processes and Project Management, Document management, Operating of IT, Digital Transformation, Security, Knowledge and Competences, Informatics in Public Sector, and Health*. Altogether 43 papers were accepted and presented 42 of which are published in the proceedings but the overall number of presentations is considerably larger as invited speakers were not required to present a paper. A special track was Students' Projects, which is a contribution of SSI to highlight the importance of professional excellence already in young age. The winning entry was [Smart Home Assistant](#) developed by students of Maribor University. The idea of the project is to connect various devices and sensors of various providers to control home remotely. Needless to say is that all entries are also business opportunities be it for an established company or a start-up.



Students celebrating during the conference

In the start of the opening ceremony HE European Union Commissioner Violeta Bulc addressed the audience. Her address offered a welcome indication of possible developments and opportunities for those that are looking after new markets and products and was perfectly aligned with the conference slogan. The ceremony proceeded with awarding recognition of SSI to a fellow of *Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts* Dr. Ivan Bratko for his contribution to developments in the field of artificial intelligence. Another recognition – eNagrada² – was awarded to CREA plus d.o.o. for development and implementation of medical portal *Consultation Service* for joint prosthetics and related infections. The ceremony was followed by an invited speech by Dr. Bratko who provided an outline of development of AI, which had its ups and downs but presently seems to show a strong upward trend. Through both days of the conference those interested were offered a possibility to try their digital skills by undertaking a demo test of their digital competences based on standard ECDL³ modules. A round table was dedicated to considerations about digital future. Other invited speakers presented informatics as a basis for digital healthcare and Gartner key forecasts for 2017 and beyond.

² eAward

³ European Computer Driving Licence



Commissioner Bulc's Address

A special track dubbed CIO/CEO Conference Slot is there for the third year and intended for decision makers. This was a major change in the scheme of the conference based upon awareness that informatics is too important an issue to be left aside by directors. Obviously the track contents should not contain highly technical or even scientific topics but rather information that will be useful and important for strategic decisions. Decision makers are not necessarily experts in technical matters but their decisions influence future of organisations they manage so they should better be consistent with what is likely to happen in the future. This is also the main concern for the choice of the topic for this audience. Access to this conference track is granted only based upon a personal invitation and without a conference fee. This year the red line was digital marketing which obviously has to do with information technology as it is impossible without it, but at the same time provides an insight of importance of new and technology-wise modern approach to marketing. Presentations included a bit of theory and a lot of cases and good practices. It is worth noticing that the conference is of interest also for providers of services and technology so they take part as sponsors who see in the conference a business opportunity.



CIO-CEO Round Table

The above is a brief overview of the conference, which offers a picture of the event but not of its importance. The author of this contribution is probably not the most suitable person to put forward such evaluation as, however objective he is trying to be, some bias may be there nevertheless for two reasons. Firstly, he was a member of both

programme and technical committee and secondly, he was active in such or similar capacities in the past. However, the survey that has been carried out after the conference provides for an objective representation of the conference. On the other hand it is important to be aware of the history. First and foremost it must be noticed that the Days of Slovenian Informatics is an independent event open to all that are aware of importance of information technology. The ambition of Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA is to encourage professionals to share their accomplishments with their peers and their users but also provide a broad and solid platform for decision makers to turn business strategy the right way. Based on experience of past conferences and the survey some directions can be identified for the future. One is for sure promoting professional excellence by awarding recognitions to professionals and students. Next is inviting more speakers from abroad. Only by doing so can domestic achievements be put in a true perspective and appropriately evaluated. One issue that has been debated several times is if there is also a place for research papers. It has been heard several times that the conference is too academic but the reality could not be more far away from the truth. Scientific conferences are of completely different format but also at professional conferences academic contributions are welcome for the reason explained at the beginning of this article. What could be also practised in the future is to invite Slovenian experts that live and work abroad, to share their knowledge. The smaller the country the more important is to keep relations and besides, knowledge is a resource that does not depend on the size of the country and its wealth. Also the cultural importance of the conference must not be neglected. While it is in a way limiting that apart from contributions by invited foreign speakers it is carried out in Slovenian language it is also encouraging that Slovenian professionals prepare papers in Slovenian language and in this way enrich and develop Slovenian terminology of informatics. Also of the language it is true that the smaller the country the more important is the care for the language.

24 years ago when the idea was put forward to start the conference the main question was, Do we need yet another IT conference. The answer was, we don't, but Slovenia does. So the name was born and Days of Slovenian Informatics have started to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and views, a platform for presentations of achievements, a possibility to promote importance of information technology, an overview of what is at the leading edge of information technology, and a vehicle to relate local activities with the global ones. Those objectives were reached or the conference would not have lasted that long. We are confident that it will justify its mission also in the future. ■

CEN Workshop on Big Data

Dudley Dolan



Dudley is member of the Advisory Board of IT STAR's Newsletter

Chair Dudley Dolan with Vice Chair Prof. Ricardo Gonçalves at the kick-off meeting in Brussels, Jan. 2017

CEN is the European Standards Body. “Comité Européen de Normalisation”

The core purpose of CEN is to develop European Standards (EN) and other publications, including Technical Specifications (TS), Technical Reports (TR) and Workshop Agreements (CWA). The European Standardization System has made a significant contribution to the creation of a common European market, embedded in a global economy, and in disseminating the knowledge incorporated in these publications through its network of CEN (national) Members. There are 33 national members of CEN. There is one member per member state of the European Union plus members for Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Standards are produced in CEN through Technical Committees populated by delegates from the members of CEN. In innovative markets there is often a request for a best-practice document to be developed as a stepping-stone to further standardization deliverables, to facilitate interoperability and compatibility and facilitate further innovations in the market. However, if a project has not yet achieved a sufficient degree of stability, a European Standard may not be the best way of meeting this need, because of the nature of the standardization process and the requirement that all CEN (national) members adopt the resulting standard.

A CWA (CEN Workshop Agreement) is a document agreed by the participants of a Workshop, which is designed to meet an immediate need and form the basis for future standardization activity. The stakeholder involvement limits itself to those directly interested in the subject. The direct participation of interested parties and the rapid development opportunities offered by a CWA are particularly attractive for European research projects (Horizon 2020), which have to deliver within the duration of their project lifetime.

Although a CWA is developed outside the normal CEN

technical body structure, it is important to ensure the coherence of all the different CEN deliverables in order to protect the credibility of European standardization. Therefore, a CWA shall not conflict with a European Standard.

In order to create a CWA a CEN Workshop must be initiated. This must be done on the proposal of a CEN Member. The basis for the proposed Workshop is set out in a Project Plan. CEN provide a template for the development of a Project Plan for a new Workshop. The template includes the following headings;

- Status of the Project Plan and Background to the Workshop
- Workshop proposers and Workshop participants
- Workshop scope and objectives
- Workshop programme and Workshop structure
- Resource requirements and related activities and Liaisons
- Contact points

The NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland) submitted a Project Plan on behalf of the AquaSmart Project (a H2020 funded project) to initiate a CEN Workshop on Big Data. The ICT Standards Consultative Committee of NSAI approved the Project Plan, and it was submitted to CEN Technical Board and approved.

Part of the approval process is to ensure that the activities of the Workshop do not duplicate the work of any existing CEN activity and also to ensure that it does not duplicate activities in ISO (International Organisation for Standardization). ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 163 national standards bodies. Together with IEC (International Electro-technical Commission) ISO has established a Joint Technical Committee generally known as ISO/IEC JTC 1. JTC 1 is the standards development environment where experts come together to develop worldwide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standards for business and consumer applications.

ISO/IEC JTC 1 established WG 9 in early 2015. Under U.S. leadership, WG 9 on *Big Data* serves as the focus of JTC 1's big data standardization program and identifies standardization gaps. It develops foundational standards – including reference architecture and vocabulary – that guide the way for other big data efforts both within WG 9 and throughout JTC 1. Wo Chang, digital data advisor for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), is Convenor of WG 9.

In order to ensure cooperation with ISO/IEC JTC1 WG 9 Dudley Dolan met with Wo Chang and agreed that the CEN

Workshop on Big Data would look at sectoral areas and provide “Use Case” scenarios for WG 9. This ensured that there would be no duplication of effort and that the formation of the CEN Workshop on Big Data could proceed.

The CEN Workshop on Big Data contributes to reaching policy objectives under the Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe which sets out that “maximizing the growth potential of our European Digital Economy requires investment in ICT infrastructures and technologies such as Cloud computing and Big Data, and research and innovation to boost industrial competitiveness as well as better public services, inclusiveness and skills.” “Big data, cloud services and the Internet of Things are central to the EU’s competitiveness”. The challenge for large enterprises is determining who should own big data initiatives that straddle the entire organization. However, in spite of the relevance of Big Data today, there is a clear need for regulation concerning its reference Architectures, Technologies, Methods and Application.

The kick-off meeting for the CEN Workshop on Big Data was held in the CEN Meeting Centre in Brussels on 24th January 2017. Dudley Dolan was appointed as Chairman at this meeting and Professor Ricardo Goncalves was appointed as Vice Chairman. The project plan was approved and the draft CEN Workshop Agreement for Aquaculture was presented and discussed.



Group at the kick-off meeting, CEN Workshop on Big Data

The CEN Workshop on Big Data will concentrate on three sectors initially. These are Aquaculture, Healthcare and Manufacturing.

Aquaculture

Big Data Standards will enable innovation in the aquaculture sector, turning the available local and heterogeneous large volumes of data into a universally understandable open repository of data assets, globally accessible through

the services of the cloud and semantically interoperable. Thus, users in this industry can innovate taking the novel capabilities for seamless and holistic access of multilingual data products and services in the Aquaculture value chain, bridging across borders, languages, industries and sectors, removing barriers both technical and organizational. This brings a set of capabilities never achieved before in this sector, which addresses a capability for data access in cross-sectoral domain, centred in the Aquaculture industry and embracing transportation, logistics and food retailers in a cross border and cross-lingual setting.

Healthcare

Big Data Standards in Healthcare will ensure that information generated by electronic health records, payer claims, pharmacy data and mobile health technologies will offer intriguing possibilities to utilise “big data” technologies in the service of health care. Entities of all types are actively integrating and analysing disparate streams of data to improve the efficiency of everything from drug R&D to care coordination. The ultimate success of both predictive and preventive healthcare resides within this ability to build and analyse large repositories of genetic, phenotypic, prescribing, health outcomes, population and other types of data. There is a massive opportunity to extend the use of modern technologies in healthcare and deliver real benefits to patients, staff and healthcare organisations. With the introduction of Electronic Health Records and e-Referrals, patients can see their medical records on their phone or tablet in addition to their caregivers, enabling patients and clinicians to access and update medical records remotely across all settings.

Manufacturing

Big Data standards will play an important role in the development of the European Manufacturing industry. This will facilitate the expansion of this sector across borders and will lead to greater efficiency and productivity.

The next Plenary Meeting of the CEN Workshop on Big Data will take place in Madeira on 27th June 2017. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the 23rd ICE IEEE ITMC Conference, which will take place in Madeira from 27th to 29th June 2017.

The details for the workshop are at: <http://www.ice-conference.org/Home/Conference-Program.aspx> and the details for the conference are at <http://www.ice-conference.org/Home/Registration.aspx> ■

MultiCulti

Kvarner Gulf

Dorothy Hayden



Rabac, April 2017

We published in previous articles of the MultiCulti column visits to Venice, Grado, Piran and Lovran. I would like to take you this time on a journey to Kvarner Gulf, another fine destination along the Adriatic coast.

The gulf is situated between the Istrian peninsula and the northeastern littoral of Croatia. The largest islands are Cres, Krk, Pag, Rab and Losinj – all tourist magnets! Water quality is excellent – around Cres and Losinj alone there is a colony of some 200 dolphins. Cres itself is a natural reserve with over 70 pairs of vultures, a pristine lake, and ... some 30,000 free grazing sheep.

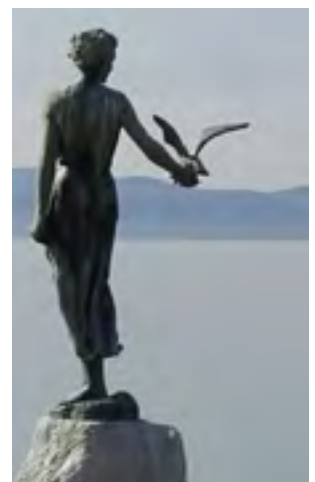


We kick-off our trip from Rijeka, the third largest city and Croatia's principal seaport. The town was historically contested by many countries including Austria, Croatia, France, Italy and Hungary. In 2020 Rijeka will be the European Capital of Culture.

Moving west of Rijeka we reach Volosko, a suburb of Opatija, with excellent conditions for sailing and windsurfing. It is the starting point of the famous 12 km "Franz Josef" Lungomare, the spectacular pedestrian sea-promenade, which takes us to Opatija, Ičići, Ika and Lovran, with stunning views over Kvarner Bay.



Opatija is the primary summer and winter tourist destination in the region, at the foot of Mt. Učka, a national park. The city offers many landmarks and sites such as Villa Angiolina and St. Jakob's Park, the Fountain of Helios and Selena, the Maiden and the Seagull, Hotel Kvarner and other.



My tip would be a stroll along the Carmen Sylva forest trail above Opatija, named after the literary name of Elisabeth, the wife of Romania's King Carol I.

In April 1896, King Carol and his wife were here, and during a horse ride in the surrounding woods the King got lost. He complained to the District Principal about markings for directions. The excuse the Principal offered was the poor city finances. King Carol made a donation and the path was founded.

We stroll further along the Lungomare to Lovran, a place I took you previously (*see Vol. 9, No. 3., Autumn 2011*).

South of Lovran is Brestova, offering ferry services to Cres. We skip this settlement and head forward to Labin.



Labin boasts to be the oldest town on the Istrian peninsula. With its 300 m. above sea level, the old town commands some spectacular sights over Kvarner Bay.

From Labin we drop down to Rabac on the waterfront, some 5 kms away. Rabac is another great vacation destination, with excellent conditions for water sports. Its cove offers great entertainment possibilities.

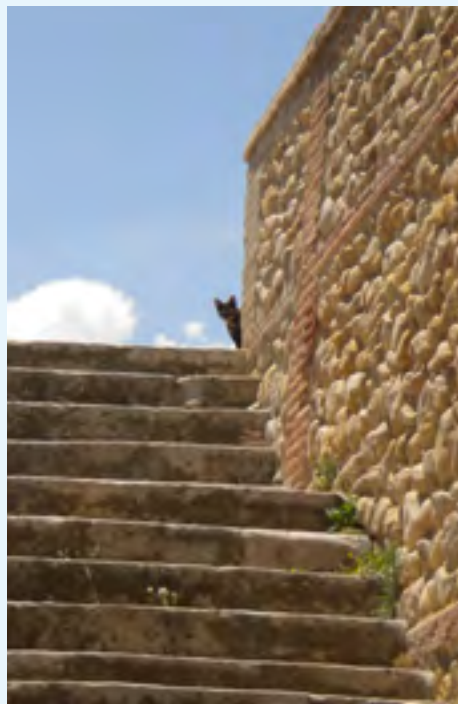


To end our journey, I invite you to an Aperol spritz at a seaside café of your choice, hoping you enjoyed the trip.

Until next time,

Dorothy

■



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SNAPSHOT

REGIONAL ICT ASSOCIATION IN CENTRAL, EASTERN & SOUTHERN EUROPE



Type of organization

Regional non-governmental and non-profit professional association in the ICT field.

Date and place of establishment

18 April 2001, Portoroz, Slovenia

Membership

Countries represented (*see next page for societies*), year of accession, representatives

- Austria (2001) G. Kotsis, E. Mühlvenzl, R. Bieber
- Bulgaria (2003) K. Boyanov, I. Dimov
- Croatia (2002) M. Frkovic
- Cyprus (2009) P. Masouras
- Czech Republic (2001) O. Stepankova, J. Stuller
- Greece (2003) S. Katsikas
- Hungary (2001) B. Domolki
- Italy (2001) G. Occhini
- Lithuania (2003) E. Telesius
- Macedonia (2003) P. Indovski
- Poland (2007) M. Holynski
- Romania (2003) V. Baltac
- Serbia (2003) G. Dukic
- Slovakia (2001) I. Privara
- Slovenia (2001) N. Schlamberger

Mission

“To be the leading regional information and communication technology organization in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe which promotes, assists and increases the activities of its members and encourages and promotes regional and international cooperation for the benefit of its constituency, the region and the international ICT community.”

Governance

IT STAR is governed according to the letter of its Charter by the Business Meeting of MS representatives:

- 2016 Milan, **Italy** (October)
- 2015 Warsaw, **Poland** (October)
- 2014 Szeged, **Hungary** (September)
- 2013 Bari, **Italy** (May)
- 2012 Bratislava, **Slovakia** (April)
- 2011 Portoroz, **Slovenia** (April)
- 2010 Zagreb, **Croatia** (November)
- 2009 Rome, **Italy** (November)
- 2008 Godollo, **Hungary** (November)

- 2007 Genzano di Roma, **Italy** (May)
Timisoara, **Romania** (October)
- 2006 Ljubljana, **Slovenia** (May)
Bratislava, **Slovakia** (November)
- 2005 Herceg Novi, **Serbia & Montenegro** (June)
Vienna, **Austria** (November)
- 2004 Chioggia, **Italy** (May)
Prague, **the Czech Republic** (October)
- 2003 Opatija, **Croatia** (June)
Budapest, **Hungary** (October)
- 2002 Portoroz, **Slovenia** (April)
Bratislava, **Slovakia** (November)
- 2001 Portoroz, **Slovenia** (April)
Como, **Italy** (September)

Coordinators

- 2015 – Marek Holynski
- 2010 – 2015 Igor Privara
- 2006 – 2010 Giulio Occhini
- 2003 – 2006 Niko Schlamberger
- 2001 – 2003 Plamen Nedkov (cur. Chief Executive)














Major Activities

- 10th IT STAR WS on IT Security
<http://www.starbus.org/ws10>
- 9th IT STAR WS on ICT Strategies and Applications
<http://www.starbus.org/ws9>
- 8th IT STAR WS on History of Computing
<http://www.starbus.org/ws8>
- 7th IT STAR WS on eBusiness -
<http://www.starbus.org/ws7>
- 6th IT STAR WS on Digital Security -
<http://www.starbus.org/ws6>
- IPTS - IT STAR Conference on R&D in EEMS -
<http://eems.starbus.org>
- 5th IT STAR WS and publication on Electronic Business - <http://starbus.org/ws5/ws5.htm>
- 4th IT STAR WS and publication on Skills Education and Certification - <http://starbus.org/ws4/ws4.htm>
- 3rd IT STAR WS and publication on National Information Society Experiences – NISE 08
<http://www.starbus.org/ws3/ws3.htm>
- 2nd IT STAR WS and publication on Universities and the ICT Industry
<http://www.starbus.org/ws2/ws2.htm>
- 1st IT STAR WS and publication on R&D in ICT
<http://www.starbus.org/ws1/ws1.htm>

Periodicals & Web-site

The IT STAR Newsletter (nl.starbus.org) published quarterly.
www.itstar.eu

IT STAR Member Societies

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