Real-time communications, media, e-learning and culture

WebRTC, OER, eduCONF, NRENum.net, NPAPW

GÉANT has captured an increasing interest in the research and education networking community in serving users in the areas of arts, humanities, cultural heritage, real-time communications and e-learning. Several activities address these areas and provide services, training and support.

WEB-RTC
Videoconferencing is a key collaboration technology that enables distributed research teams to work together more effectively. However, communicating across the Internet, for instance, through proprietary systems, can have technical issues. Web real-time communications (WebRTC) keeps it simple, and strives to offer high quality capabilities to anyone with a web browser. GÉANT is at the forefront of developments in this area.

TF-WebRTC
In 2014 a new task force, TF-WebRTC, was established. It will organise the community and be the public place for discussing the development of integrated web-based, real-time communication applications and services. The first TF-WebRTC meeting was held in December 2014.

WebRTC task in GÉANT Project
From 1 May 2015, a WebRTC task was launched within the GÉANT (GN4-1) Project’s ‘Real-time Applications and Multimedia Management’ activity (SA8). It will create a roadmap for deploying WebRTC in research and education and produce a demonstrator.

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE PORTAL
Investigation into a European-level Open Educational Resource (OER) portal began in (former) TF-Media in 2012. The primary aim was to create a one-stop-shop (or broker) for national learning resource providers, with each of them managing and/or federating one or more learning object repositories within their country, and the OER as a link with global repositories.

With community involvement, a service development pilot project was started in 2014. By December, preliminary results and deliverables were published, and GÉANT sent a positioning paper to the European Commission, showing the important role of GÉANT NRENs in the open education space. Further development is taking place in the GÉANT Project’s ‘Real-time Applications and Multimedia Management’ activity (SA8).

REAL-TIME APPLICATIONS
The real-time applications task within the GÉANT (GN4-1) Project’s ‘Real-time Applications and Multimedia Management’ activity (SA8) looks after the eduCONF service. It will broaden its portfolio in the near future.

EDUCONF
The eduCONF service provides tools for a pan-European video-conference infrastructure, including tools for locating, validating and certifying rooms, and managing and monitoring a video-conferencing network. It provides a validated directory of videoconferencing systems across Europe, allowing users to find and use VC rooms quickly and easily.

educonf.geant.net

FIND OUT MORE
You can find more information online about all GÉANT activities in this area:
www.geant.org

Or you can email us at:
info@geant.org
Network Performing Arts Production (NPAP) Workshops

GÉANT collaborates with Internet2, GARR and other NRENs in organising workshops about performing arts production over advanced networks. These allow academics, artists, technology professionals and arts administrators to discuss artistic endeavours that use advanced networking applications; learn about and use cutting-edge distance-education technology; and explore new ways of incorporating audio and visual technology in performances.

The most recent event in the series was hosted by the Royal College of Music in London, UK, on 4-6 May 2015. For the first time ever, around 350 members of the public joined the workshop participants for a ground-breaking evening performance by students from the Royal College of Music, where the workshop was also held.

The workshop attracted more participants than any of the previous events in this long-running series. A record number of technologies used, performances given, use cases discussed, and artists and networkers involved were also achieved in the three day event.

www.terena.org/activities/network-arts/