



Euro Innovations Monthly Newsletter from Pulvermedia

Edited by Bob Emmerson, European Editor of [von magazine](#)

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Euro Innovations • Volume 2 • Issue 1

Euro Innovations Newsletter

Welcome to the new year of Euro Innovations, the publication that focuses on areas where Europe occupies a leading position. This is not a flag-waving exercise, but innovation in these areas means that Europe is well poised to take a lead in the strategies, services and applications that will shape the way we communicate and collaborate and access information and entertainment content in future.

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Ovi Does Three-Screen Synchronization

Ovi was unveiled at Nokia World in December along with Ovi.com. Ovi is Finnish for door and it's an apt term because it does open up a new and simpler way of linking and personalizing Web communities, feeds and content. As illustrated, Ovi works in three environments: mobile devices, PCs and online Web environments. And the concept was based on consumer research into the way people share content with their friends using Web sites such as flyker, Facebook, MySpace.



Ovi enables people to connect, manage, and share their mobile and online activities. The same icons are used when you connect through a PC or a mobile. This creates a familiar way for people to navigate across services.

Ovi.com is the dashboard to Nokia and other web services. It can be set up so that there is a single entry point to all the Web services, i.e. it eliminates the need to make multiple logons. Users can therefore follow all their media streams and contacts from one place. And of course it will also provide access to Nokia's own services, which currently include music and maps. However, Ovi.com is currently in internal beta and will be open to the public during the coming months.

You can synchronize your data and content between a Nokia N81 and N95 by clicking the 'one click sync' button. This is done over the airwaves, so media content such as photos can be posted to one or more Web communities. This is done by dragging and dropping the content to the 'share online' box.

Once content is on the PC, you can see all your photos, music, videos and messages in the 'Explore' view. This view is based on a neural network that calculates the connections between the items. It can link photos, videos and music together based on time or place. They can also be viewed in the regular linear way.

Vertico Makes VoIP Simple ... But Not Simpler

Einstein is supposed to have said “make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler.” Think about it. We have so much technology that it’s easy to over-engineer an IP communications solution: to load it with so much functionality that it doesn’t solve anything. At the end of the day all you really want is to make and receive calls in an intuitive way ... a way that saves time and makes you more productive.



STARFACE comes from vertico software. The UI is an unobtrusive toolbar that has nine primary functions. From left to right: Call, Redirect, Call List, Addressbook, Voicemail, Keys, Conference, Preferences and Logout. Click and you get the drop down menus. They're not flashy: they're effective. The menu on the left shows the presence status of colleagues; an operator uses the other two.

The company targets SMEs, defined as companies having from five to five hundred employees and the solution can be deployed in three ways: (1) as a hosted PBX; (2) as an IP PBX; and (3) as an appliance. The deliverable for the second way is a CD that installs the Linux operating system and all the requisite software on a commodity server. The SIP phones autoconfigure and a wide range of models is supported, but vertico have partnered with snom (check out the interview in this issue) in order to deliver “smart product bundles”. These allow the entire solution to be up and running in a matter of minutes. The appliance is basically a pre-configured, closed server.

STARFACE has multiple interfaces that enable seamless integration into existing IT landscapes. For example, there is support for VoIP, T1, E1, PRI, FXO, FXS, analog, GSM, and ISDN. Users can employ WLAN cell phones, headsets and browser-based soft phones or real telephones of any brand.

The client is browser-based, so it can be used immediately from anywhere, regardless of the operating systems and without installing any additional software on the client computer. Features include: ad-hoc conferences or moderated conference calls with unlimited number of participants: PIN codes control access. Mobility: users can stay on the system by using the follow-me function. Voicemail Management: unlimited number and size of voicemail boxes with individualized greetings.



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Wireless Leapfrogs Wireline (for now)

Nokia Siemens Networks has completed a multi-user field trial in an urban environment using LTE, a new technology that offers mobile data rates up to 173 Mbps. That's around seven times faster than a good DSL service, but don't get too carried away: LTE services won't be available before 2010 and by then wireline rates will be higher and of course air interfaces are a shared resource, so end user rates will be lower. Nevertheless, this is a huge increase over HSPA (High Speed Packet Access), which maxes out at 3.6 Mbps right now but is set to increase to 10 Mbps in 2008. The higher rate will come from I-HSPA: that's I as in Internet.

LTE stands for Long Term Evolution. Interworking and handover to legacy GSM and WCDMA/HSPA networks is an integral part of this 3GPP standard, so it is positioned as being the natural "evolution" of these networks toward high-speed mobile broadband applications.

LTE employs a new OFDM (orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing) air interface and it is used in conjunction with MIMO (Multiple Input / Multiple Output) antenna technology. The trials were conducted using the new 2.6 GHz spectrum, which is one reason why the rates are so high. Another is the optimum use of the OFDM and adaptive multi antenna technologies, as well as the intelligent algorithms used to schedule user traffic to the radio resources in multi-user environments.

In addition to high data rates, this new technology provides high spectral efficiency, and low latency (round trip delays of about 10 ms). NTT DoCoMo has agreed to build a LTE network by 2009 and Verizon recently announced that they will deploy LTE as their next radio technology.

Why is snom so Successful?

snom does one thing and it does it amazingly well: the company designs, manufactures and markets SIP phones. That's it. It's a relatively small outfit, around 40 employees, headquartered in Berlin with a sales and support office in the US. The devices come in any color you like as long as it's black and they don't have fancy features like touch screens. Nevertheless the company is successful in a very competitive market that includes heavy hitters such as Cisco and Polycom. So how do they do it?

To find out I interviewed the founder and CEO, Dr Christian Stredicke. He started the company 11 years ago and the first products were H.323 devices. The switch to SIP came in 2000, so snom has been there from the very beginning and that beginning involved crazy things like creating a SIP proxy server so that the phones could actually be used to make calls. snom is now marketing third generation devices, the 300 series, which indicates that the company has racked up a lot of experience.



The snom 370 is the top of the range model. Features include: 12 programmable function keys, a high-res display, power over Ethernet and a dual-port connection, an additional keypad with another 42 programmable function keys and wideband audio.

The phones are well engineered, they're what you would expect from a German company, but what sets them apart is "back-end" functionality. Interoperability tests have been conducted with virtually all mainstream IP PBXs and this process is on-going. Functionality that appeals to IT departments includes SIP traces, PCAP traces, and diagnostics, but the list is headed by SIPS/SRTP and TLS, i.e. high-level security mechanisms.

According to Christian, VPNs are a good way of solving a lot of the privacy problems. Many of the popular IP-PBXs do not support TLS and SRTP yet, but the packets can be tunneled through VPN to the IP-PBX. Most businesses today use VPN for many remote users, so that the equipment and know-how for VPN are already available. Support for these security protocols is embedded in the phones. TLS makes sure that the signaling traffic stays private and that there is nobody pretending to be the server (man-in-the-middle attack). And SRTP encrypts the voice packets, without having too much overhead that would eat the bandwidth.





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Short Takes

Cicero Networks (www.ciceronetworks.com) has announced that Mobilna Telefonia Internetowa (MTI), an international telecommunication company based in Poland, has selected the company's FMC solution to power LoVo Converged VoWi-Fi, Vo3G and GSM Service. LoVo targets the corporate / SME market and delivers converged wireless VoIP and cellular services on both Nokia E Series and Microsoft Windows Mobile phones. MTI will initially provide services in Poland and plans to expand its reach across Central and Eastern Europe during 2008.

Irdeto (www.irdeto.com) has signed an agreement for two million smart cards from China's Jilin Provincial Network. These cards will support the cable TV operator's digital migration project.

Recently the EU Commission announced plans to set DVB-H as the single European Union standard for mobile TV broadcasting by the end of February 2008. However, several EU states have said that they would try to oppose the move. No surprises there: it is going to be something like five years or so for digital to really take off.

However, **Telegent Systems** (www.telegentsystems.com) has a solution. The company's hybrid chip solution enables mobile TV on mobile phones and other portable devices using either analog or digital spectrum. Telegent is currently shipping around 1m chips a month and the technology is currently available in 40+ handsets.

French operator Free (www.free.fr) says it is the first operator in the world to deploy IPv6. This new generation of IP simplifies the configuration of devices when connected to the Internet: it also improves data security and supports quality of services. This connection system is backward compatible with the current fixed IPv4. This deployment is the first to use the 6to4rd technology, which was designed by Rémi Després, one of the technical founders of the French Transpac network in the 70s.

Ivo Software (www.ivosoftware.com) has unveiled Jennifer, said to be the "Perfect English Voice". It is shipping on all products based on Ivona TTS, which this Polish company says is one of the best Text-To-Speech (TTS) systems in the world. In addition Expressivo (www.expressivo.com), the popular reading software, features the new voice. Lukasz Osowski, the President of Ivo Software: "With Jennifer's latest version we are approaching the moment when it becomes practically impossible to tell a voice generated by our system from a natural voice. We drew on the experiences acquired during the international Blizzard Challenge, where in 2006 and 2007 our text to speech system received the highest scores."

OnRelay (www.onrelay.com) has been granted a patent for its MBX software in Europe, adding to existing patents in the United States, Singapore and Australia. This "protects the innovation that has made MBX the only known system that allows a mobile phone to completely replace a deskphone." The core technology is the underlying Telephony Internetworking Protocol (TINP), which is based on end-to-end separation of telephony signaling and transport across multiple standards, operators, and network boundaries.

Starhome (www.starhome.com) has been granted a patent from the European Patent Office for the core technologies of its Intelligent Preferred Network (IPN) solution. IPN allows mobile operators to manage the registration process of its subscribers as they roam in visited mobile networks. Basically it allows operators to steer their outbound roamers to preferred roaming partners.

Streamezzo (www.streamezzo.com) has announced that SFR, a 3G mobile operator in France, has partnered with Streamezzo to provide the software infrastructure for Vodafone live! 2.0 – its newly designed, rich media portal interface.



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