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Study Group on Communications Terminals in the IP Era
Draft Summary of Minutes (5th Meeting)

1. Date

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Location

Special Conference Room 1, 8th floor, Central Common Government Offices No. 2

3. Attendees (Last names in Japanese alphabetical order; honorifics omitted)

(1) Members

Hitoshi Aida (Chair); Mutsuya Asano (alt.: Yoshikazu Kobayashi); Ryuichi Inagaki; Hiroshi Ezaki; Mashashi Oshima; Takemitsu Kunio, Mikio Goto; Hiroshi Kondo; Yoshiyuki Sukemune (alt.: Hirokazu Shimizu); Nobuko Takahashi; Yoshiyuki Takeda; Miwako Doi; Takashi Hanazawa; Toshiki Hayashi; Susumu Hirano (Acting Chair); Hiroshi Fujiwara; Akira Maeda (alt.: Yujiro Iizuka); Yuichi Matsushima (alt. Tatsuya Yamazaki); Makoto Miwa (alt.: Hirotada Yaginuma); Akira Murakami; Suguru Yamaguchi; Toshio Yamada; Tetsuya Yuge; Makoto Yokozawa; Fumio Watanabe

(2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Mori, Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau; Sakurai, Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department; Taniwaki, Deputy Director of the Telecommunication Consumer Policy Division; Takahashi, Director of the IT Security Office; Naito, Deputy Director of the Telecommunications Consumer Policy Division; Watanabe, Director of the Telecommunication Systems Division; Nakamura, Deputy Director of the Telecommunication Systems Division

4. Agenda

(1) Presentations

(2) Report on the status of summarizing the questionnaires

(2) Others

5. Outline of proceedings

[Presentations]

○ Presentations by members

- Mr. Yamada (member): "Future Vision of Terminals"
- Mr. Yokozawa (member): "User Platform and its Social Nature"

○ The main comments of members in the question and answer session are as follows:
  - A view on the responsibility allocation was expressed that the providers' side should establish a situation where measures can be taken based on the clear allocation of responsibility. Could you let us know your concept and ideas concerning the image and methodology of the allocation of responsibility?
  - This concerns how, under the circumstances where different operators, service players, terminal suppliers and others coexist, the "group of these providers" can properly accept their respective responsibilities to meet the requirement on the consumer side.
  - The situation where users are merely introduced to another party, and in the end are not taken care of due to unclear allocation of responsibility, must be avoided. An organization taking responsibility as a representative one will be necessary for services in the future, such as patchwork.
  - There needs to be some party that exercises leadership in organizing the allocation of responsibility, and it is desirable that the allocation of items such as insurance be determined by a specialized third party.

  - Smart electricity meters were referred to in the presentation. Is there any possibility that they may advance one step forward and control electricity consumption in conjunction with home appliances, such as air conditioners?
  - In foreign countries where the demand for electricity is rapidly growing, measures are taken in some cases to allocate electricity in a planned manner and/or to notify the event of a power cut in advance. However, the control of electricity due to a tight supply and demand situation does not exist in Japan.
  - Even in Japan, if electricity is consumed in excess of the contracted electricity volume, the rate is increased. Therefore, monitoring electricity consumption may be considered based on the needs, not of electric power companies, but of users.
  - The electricity charge consists of a basic charge based on the contracted electricity volume, and a volume charge for electricity used in excess. In fact, services such as energy management, whereby energy and heat consumption is always monitored in households, factories, schools, and other facilities in order to promote efficient use, have already been established.

  - In societies with IP terminals, infrastructure for charging for electricity use will be important. Is a new method using the IP network being studied for the new business model and the billing

model for the charging of electricity?

- With electric vehicles becoming more widely used, stations or the like may become available. In service areas at nighttime, services providing an electricity source for air conditioners in trucks are already available.

- The increase in the number of devices that can be connected to the network is described as compared to their number at the stage immediately following the network becoming available. Changes in the circulation of information and the global relationship during the period will be the significant effects of IP.
- This portrays a user-centric picture and scale. In consideration of the kinds of devices and network infrastructures are available close to them, their combination is described. On the other hand, if seen from a global perspective, they will be expressed in terms of forming a layer structure.

- As an index for measuring the user platform instead of the number of network users, the number of network users multiplied by the time spent should be used. Isn't the quantity, such as the number of bits, taken into consideration?
- While the information content is an ideal index, the issue of measurability exists. There is also the question whether the number of bits or the like is proportionate to the value.
- The index of total networking time may be to some extent opposed the user-centric concept in the case where excessive time is spent due to low transmission efficiency. From the user-centric perspective, it would be better to think of using as an index obtained using the network and/or how widely activities are expanded.
- Since the time used for activities is limited, how users utilize their limited time to use the network is considered as an ideal index. However, when measurability is taken into account, it will be appropriate to use the time of usage for which statistical data are available. This index could show the link to (1) an end to the age of measuring based on the number of people, (2) the limitation of the increase in usage time, and (3) the consideration of time passively used.

- Under circumstances where there are many people concerned in planning, operating and maintaining the system, what kind of framework is currently available for controlling and taking overall responsibility, including summarizing multiple requirements for development, managing the budget and results, and dealing with the measurement of effects and the issues?
- One division is responsible for a whole system in principle. Due to the large-scale system, cooperation is made with many other divisions; however, one division undertakes overall coordination.

- It is understandable that one division must take responsibility in companies.

- Future issues are taken up, such as who should take responsibility and how the contact points should be configured, and the discussion is directed towards the standardization of requirements concerning the allocation of responsibility and contact points. However, what is lacking is the viewpoint of who creates requirements and who certifies the applicability of these requirements.

- Have manufacturers and/or venders ever experienced the case of a framework being made to obey a court order, rather than leading to a court dispute once requirements to take responsibility apply? Under the law, there are arbitration contracts in the case of dispute, where the parties concerned obey the order of the arbitrators.

- In fact, in the case of oil fan heaters in the year before last, old products more 10 years old were not exempted from such responsibility. There is an argument concerning who will be held responsible if damage is caused when gas fittings become controllable by IP. From the standpoint of manufacturers, it is desirable that the guidelines for exemption of responsibility be visualized.

- The role of the government will change. Infrastructure and technology will change and the scenario, incorporating issues of responsibility, suitability of technology, and social development, will be complex.

- A flexible mechanism will be required, such as an ADR function, with highly flexible technical standards that can be updated as required.

- While legal issues are limited to domestic matters, systems themselves have become global ones. Proper attention shall be paid when enacting a law. Otherwise the law may possibly cause unexpected restrictions. The law needs to flexibly respond to requirements brought about instead of unnecessarily binding them.

- Domains will be roughly classified into two categories: completely free domains, and those required to protect users through regulations. Furthermore, there will also be an intermediate domain, incorporating usage of ADR, as well as certification, which represents a standard for and/or a norm of credibility.

- A body responsible for making proper judgment on technology and responsibility based on the timing and situation should be established, such as a Privacy Commissioner system.

- The framework required will be one entrusted with overall responsibility for many functions that have never been imagined and that can be used by all on a basis of trust.

- With regard to services provided, no one seems to have any information about on what they are depending, and to what extent. Research activities are necessary regarding what kinds of stakeholders are involved in information and services.

- In reviewing an event following its occurrence and discussing its mechanism and allocation of responsibility, no measures can be taken unless the necessary information is retained. If information that helpful for the allocation of responsibility is retained in terminals and/or the network, it will function as one of the elements of trust.

- There is question as to whose judgment shall be trusted. Even with the standardization of standards, who certifies compliance with such standards, and who gives reliable authorization regarding technology? Traditionally, it was the government or the administration that vested with social trust. However, in the private sector, by whom, and in what kind of mechanism, can trust be vested?

- With changes based on ICT, the basis of an absolute trust, which used to exist, is now defunct. Classification will be necessary in the case of depending on an absolute trust and the case of coordinating a new trust relationship, such as a mutual trust. In either case, data are required to vest with trust.

- Everyone will agree on the point that data need to be obtained; however, if the obtaining of such data is forced, it may possibly impose unexpected restrictions on the parties concerned. The private sector's voluntary initiative will be a sound method when data are required for trust.

- The scenario of trusted computing and a trusted platform is not a direct mapping of the formation of social trust. It is a limited trust, and in a space which is defined clearly from the technological perspective, differing from a general social trust.

- It takes time to form trust. Under rapidly changing circumstances, no one knows what to trust.

- Important points are that areas giving rise to social trust are emerging, and that discussion is beginning to touch on the issues of what to do with trust as a whole, and how to handle the relationship with ICT.

- While in management systems there is a trend to use existing deep wells of knowledge ahead of laws, Corporate Law exists quite independently of such a trend, resulting in a split situation. The global viewpoint is important, needless to say, but discussions on global issues while ignoring the Japanese situation are meaningless.

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