

Study Group on Communications Terminals in IP Era Draft Summary of Minutes
(9th Meeting)

1. Date:

Thursday, May 31, 2007, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

2. Location

Special Conference Room 4, 4th floor, Mita Kaigisho (Conference Hall)

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

(1) Members

Hitoshi Aida (Chair); Mutsuya Asano (alt.: Yoshikazu Kobayashi); Ryuichi Inagaki; Masashi Oshima; Takemitsu Kunio (alt.: Naoki Sato); Mikio Goto (alt.: Akira Miwa); Hiroshi Kondo; Yoshiyuki Sukemune; Nobuko Takahashi; Yoshiyuki Takeda, Miwako Doi; Takashi Hanazawa (alt.: Hiroshi Hamada); Toshiki Hayashi; Susumu Hirano (Acting Chair); Hiroshi Fujiwara (alt.: Satoshi Shida); Akira Maeda (alt.: Hiroyuki Mano); Yuichi Matsushima (alt.: Noritaka Shigeno); Makoto Miwa (alt.: Hirotada Yaginuma); Akira Murakami; Suguru Yamaguchi; Toshio Yamada (alt.: Yoshiaki Kobayashi); Fumio Watanabe

(2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Mori, Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau; Sakurai, Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department; 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) Others

5. Outline of proceedings

○ Main comments of members are as follows.

- Considering that IP applications need telecommunications engineers to provide technical support, examinations for telecommunications engineers will be increasingly focused on the IP field.
- There is room to review telecommunications engineering qualifications in response to the changing times.

- Those items that benefit or become an issue for users of telecommunications terminals in the IP era will be applicable not only to consumers but also to carriers. There will also be a group of measures to protect carriers, who are also users of terminals. The issue of responsibility, for example, involves not only responsibility to consumers but also to carriers, who are users.
- From the perspective of consumers there is the issue that “the selection of appropriate services is becoming increasingly complicated due to the huge amount of information available.” In some situations “complicated” is an understatement, and selection is almost impossible in some cases. Therefore, measures must be taken, taking into account the fact that such services are being provided to those who cannot make appropriate selections from among them. The “problems” listed among the issues should be specified, such as in cases where consumers cannot use the device or personal information is leaked.
- It is necessary to recognize that carriers that deal with information and communications are responsible for this issue since the principles of the Consumer Fundamental Act cover not only consumers’ rights but also carriers’ responsibilities. Consideration should be also given to the principles related to the progress in IP, such as appropriately dealing with the development of an advanced information and communications society, ensuring international cooperation and being conscious of issues related to environmental conservation.
- To develop an environment that is comfortable for users, what has and has not been completed so far must be clarified. Particularly for the dispute settlement system, a single contact point for inquiries should be established, from which specific matters are assigned to relevant parties so that settlements can be reached.
- Awareness-raising and educational activities should be clearly classified into those for schools and those for the general public, and “what should be done where” should be specified.
- The issue of IP terminals is closely related to the safety and security of society and the nation as a whole. Therefore, for a proposal to be realistic it would have to be wide-ranging and classify tasks into those that can be done independently, those that require the cooperation of other parties and those that other parties should be commissioned to do.
- Information and communications are increasingly regarded as issues to be dealt with in a cross-sectional manner by ministries and agencies. It is necessary to increase exchanges with consumers and further reflect consumer opinion so that measures can be promoted in a way that is easier for the general public to understand.
- To ensure interconnectivity and interoperability and promote international cooperation, the degree of perfection of standards created by the forum and others is important. It will also be

important to have a feedback mechanism available, whereby verification can be made and the standards can be brought closer to perfect through various processes, including revision.

- With regard to the scale of the test bed, the cost will vary depending on the degree of verification required. The test bed must be similar to the real-life network. As well as confirming the connection of terminals, load should be imposed on it. If each telecommunications carrier creates an NGN in the future, a network capable of at least supporting various simulations will be needed.

- With regard to terminal portability, if various items are included in card slots, it will be necessary to standardize operability and safety in order to protect consumers.

- It is important to promote standardization so that various terminals have good practical operability. For household appliances, consumer seminars are continuing to be held, and there are expectations for similar actions to be taken in the case of information and communications terminals.

- To protect personal information and prevent information leakage, it is necessary to technologically incorporate a mechanism for personal authentication. The terminal side should also be able to ensure the authenticity of the network used and the provider connected to the network.

- The relationship between personal and internal company information and terminals is important in regard to the standardization of terminals. The idea that terminals proactively respond to the requirements of society can be adopted. For example, in cases where internal company data is taken out of the company, the data should be first categorized into company data and personal data. Next, terminal standards should be established, whereby the company can securely manage the company data. This will technologically resolve the issues related to the security burden created when internal company data is taken outside of the company.

- The security of devices used by people working from home should be managed through the establishment of standards.

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