

Study Group on Intelligent Home Appliance Networking
Summary of Third Meeting Proceedings

1. Date and Time: June 24, 2005 (Fri) 15:00-17:00
2. Location: Hall B, Zenkoku Choson Kaikan
3. Attendees (Honorifics omitted): Chairman Ishii, Vice-chairman Murakami, Okinaka (proxy for Yoshimitsu), Koriyama, Kokuryo, Seki, Takebayashi, Chiba, Tsuga, Tokuda, Tokoro, Nohara, Hashimoto, Fujimoto, Furukawa (proxy for Mano), Muraki
4. Agenda: Future Vision of Intelligent Home Appliance Network
5. Proceedings:
 - (1) Chairman Ishii gave opening remarks.
 - (2) Tokoro, Okinaka (proxy for Yoshimitsu) and the Secretariat described the above agenda based on the references:
 - ① Expectations for a new age of integrated digital appliances, broadcasting and telecommunications: From the user perspective (Tokoro)
 - ② Fixed network and mobile network platforms in the age of intelligent home appliances (Okinaka (proxy for Yoshimitsu))
 - ③ Interview results (Secretariat)
 - ④ Proposed interim report by “Study Group on Intelligent Home Appliance Networking” (Secretariat)
 - (3) The members voiced the following opinions:
 - As the interview results mostly refer to the industry perspective, I would like to present an opinion from the user perspective. It still seems to be difficult to carry content around. As for video content, a big industry barrier, or the DRM barrier, seems to exist because users are not provided with product recommendations based on their purchase history. Experiments should be conducted in order to offer products that consumers want to see, buy or possess as well as connectivity of devices. We should set a high goal.
 - Experiments should seek business models by defying the stereotypes. For example, we should review how money flows around the media for entertainment, medical care or education.
 - Services seem to be limited to content and monitoring. As our lifestyles are changing in conjunction with the changes in the social environment, we may need living support services as well. Enterprises should be involved in the demonstration experiments from the side of service providers.
 - It is important to steadily solve the three issues: compatibility, scalability and connectivity.

One of the real problems is that we need to have many devices around a switchboard because each company uses a different gateway. This situation must be resolved.
 - Mobile phones are used because of the synergy between mobility and terminal

functionality, but we should focus on the point that they can have additional value in service offerings. Demonstration experiments should make the world's first challenges and show what carriers or manufacturers can do, such as access home servers with mobile phones.

- The ultimate goal is to provide sophisticated services to consumers. For demonstration experiments, all possible services, other than entertainment and device operations, must be listed and integrated before we consider what we should implement. We also need a scheme that allows easy movement between indoors and outdoors.
 - We need to design a scheme that can be adopted in Asia or around the world in addition to services in Japan. Tokoro's presentation identified three phases, and I think experiments for Phase 1 should be considered based on Phase 3. An environment where we can connect to the platform easily and use it instantly should be developed. When such a "platform" is established, some people will come up with interesting businesses.
 - Intelligent home appliance networks have a difficult issue; network development while also securing compatibility, scalability and connectivity is required. Especially important among the three factors is scalability. We need to develop an infrastructure that allows us to put devices in easily.
 - Audio-visual devices seem to have very complicated wiring due to interface issues. Critical points for in-home networks over IP are whether users can easily use them at home and whether they are unified. As for the issue of carrying content around, one option would be downloading an image on a mobile device by degrading the image quality to see it on the road.
 - We need a platform that does not depend on applications or services. Once it is established, many enterprises will enthusiastically try to provide new services. Standardization to some extent is essential.
 - We need to develop a platform that enables terminal manufacturers to connect devices safely and service providers to provide services safely. Meanwhile, demonstration experiments should serve as opportunities to attract the attention of users and enterprises. Although it is difficult to draw a line between what is to be subject to competition and what is to be open, it is important to improve the platform as home appliances advance.
 - For demonstration experiments, it is important to identify the division between home gateways installed in buildings and devices such as mobile phones and PDAs, and the responsibilities of each element in order to allow users to try them freely. Killer applications will be found through such steps. How content is handled is also important. The handling of DRM in demonstration experiments, which is stated in the interview material, is a very important point. Due consideration should also be given to security of the outdoor networks.
- (4) The secretariat explained the schedule of the fourth meeting, to be held from 9:30 am to 10:30 am on Friday, July 15.