



## Workshop on eInnovation and ICT Interoperability 19 & 20 January, 2007 -- Weissbad (St. Gallen, Switzerland)

# Agenda

### January 19

#### 5:00 pm **Welcome and Informal Introduction**

- Leads: John Palfrey, Urs Gasser

Introductions of participants  
Overview of workshop context and objectives  
Establishing, and discussing, the frame of the research project  
    What do we mean by interoperability?  
    What are we hoping to achieve through this work?  
    What are the functions of the case studies?  
    What is the output of the research project?  
Presentation of initial findings and initial discussion

#### 7:30 pm **Reception and Dinner**

### January 20

#### 8:30 am ***Segment 1: Real-Life Scenarios and Primary Case Studies***

##### **Case I: Digital Media**

- 60 minutes  
- Moderators: Mikko Välimäki, François Lévêque

Suggested discussion issues:

- *DRM and digital music*: What are the incentives for the players in the value chain of digital music distribution: who has an interest in interoperability, who has not?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of interoperability, and of different approaches to it? Is the music industry different from other areas in that (non-interoperable) DRM protects legally monopolized information?
- To what extent is it technically possible and (in Europe) legally allowed to develop physical playback devices and playback software that can play DRM protected music? Have these possibilities been used?

- *Interoperability and open standards in optical disc storage media format ("digital video")*: What are the effects of the current lack of an open file format on policy goals such as access to content, diversity, etc.?
- Is there a need for open file formats, or is the possibility to reverse engineer and thus develop freely available playback/editing software sufficient for pursuing the policy goals identified?

## **Case II: Digital Identity**

- 60 minutes

- Moderators: John Palfrey, Colin Maclay

Suggested discussion issues:

- *User-centric ID*: What were the (economic) incentives for the key industry players to join forces in creating an interoperable ID environment?
- How interoperable will the various ID metasystems be, and will they reach a sufficient degree of interoperability from a normative perspective?
- What are the drawbacks of an interoperable ID system with respect to privacy and data security?
- *ID in Virtual Worlds*: What are the theoretical economic benefits of a merger of virtual and real-life identities?
- What are the business implications of a greater portability of digital identities?

**10:30 am**

*Coffee break*

**10:45 am**

## **Discussing Candidates for Case III**

- Moderators: Colin Maclay, John Palfrey, Richard Staeuber

For the final case study discussion, we are seeking input in terms of which third primary case study to undertake as part of this project. Currently, we consider three candidates: e-communications, web services, and office applications. We will not go into depth on any of these potential cases, but would like to raise them as possibilities and to gain a sense from the participants about which one or ones would be most promising as the "third case" for the project.

### **Possible case #1: e-Communications (40 minutes).**

Suggested discussion issues:

- *Consumer instant messengers*: Why have we seen a number of IM networks existing in parallel?
- What are the driving forces behind the current emergence of multi-platform IM clients, such as GAIM? To what degree of interoperability will this lead?
- What scope of interoperability is socially desirable, and what options are there for achieving it?
- *Content on mobile devices*: To what extent is there a need for interoperability?
- What are the ways to achieve interoperability?
- To what extent are the benefits and drawbacks of interoperability different compared to generative devices?

- To what extent is there competition between industry standards, and is this likely to foster innovation?
- *Web syndication*: How can it be explained that RSS, which is generally believed to be a technically inferior specification which is very hard to interoperate around, has gained a huge market share, and Atom, which is believed to be a better specification which is easy to interoperate around, does not?
- What does the current aggregator market look like? Are the most popular aggregators those that can read the most standards, or are other features such as the ease of use or functionality more important for users?

**Possible case #2: Web Services** (25 minutes).

Suggested discussion issues:

- So far, web services are all about interoperability. If this is a next layer of the web, what needs to be done to ensure that the ecosystem remains a broadly interoperable one?

**Possible case #3: Office Applications** (25 minutes).

Suggested discussion issues:

- *Interoperability between office suites*: To what degree are the most popular office suites interoperable, and by what means is this interoperability achieved?
- Does the current state meet end users' expectations in terms of interoperability? If it doesn't, what are the benefits and drawbacks of various approaches to interoperability?
- What is the role of intellectual property (software patent and copyright) in the field of office application software interoperability?

*12:30 pm      Lunch*

**1:30 pm**      *Segment 2: Cross-Sectional Issues*

**Issue I: Definitions, frameworks, and methodologies**

- 30 minutes
- Moderator: Daniel Haeusermann

In this session, we will come back to some of the definitional, methodological, and conceptual topics that we started with.

Suggested discussion issues:

- Do we need to revisit our assumptions about definitions in light of these cases?
- Have we established a workable, understandable, and useful framework to produce research of value?
- What are well-suited methodologies for the research project? How to deal with limited availability of empirical research?

**Issue II: Drivers and inhibitors of interoperability**

- 60 minutes

- Moderators: Mira Nenova, Peter Brown

Suggested discussion issues:

- What are the driving and inhibiting forces that have led to the status quo in the different areas examined?
- How does the level of interoperability (and the method by which it is achieved) vary in relation to e.g. business models, customer needs, nature of a product (platform or stand-alone), product maturity, market maturity, type of technology, political and regulatory environment and other relevant factors?

**3:00 pm**      *Coffee break*

**3:15 pm**      **Issue III: Approaches to interoperability: Benefits and drawbacks**

- 45 minutes

- Moderators: Kamiel Koelman, Cornelia Kutterer

Suggested discussion issues:

- What does the full range of approaches to interoperability look like? For instance, unilateral design for interoperability, IP licensing, technical collaboration, standards, hardware, individual and peer group approaches, mandatory standards, subsidize the development of standards, reverse engineering, mandating the disclosure of interoperability information, market power in procurement decisions?
- What are the characteristics, benefits, and drawbacks of these approaches? Especially, what is their respective impact on e-innovation?
- How can these approaches work together? Or is there an either/or type of choice in this context?

**4:00 pm**      ***Segment 3: Towards (Policy) Recommendations***

- 45 minutes

- Moderators: Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Urs Gasser

In this session, we will give an overview of next steps for the research. We will describe the plans for continuing with this inductive approach and the goals in terms of where we hope it will lead, with respect to policy recommendations. Most important, we will seek guidance on how the participants think we ought to make these leaps.

Suggested discussion issues:

- What types of recommendations can (and shall) be derived from the case studies and the workshop discussions?
- What are areas of agreement regarding recommendations addressed to the private sector?
- Are there any areas of agreement regarding regulatory strategies and approaches (e.g. labelling requirements; governmental promotion of industry initiatives, ...)? How do potential areas of agreement relate to ICT interoperability proposals and recommendations set forth by WIPO, UNCTAD, OECD, among others?

**4:45 pm**      **Workshop ends**