

Dr. Lambros Lambrinos
Lecturer
Dept. of Communication and Internet Studies
Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

Attn: Dr. Burkhard Stiller, University of Zurich, IS0605 COST Action Chair
Mrs. Selene Droy, COST Secretariat, COST Office

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Short Term Scientific Mission Host Report

STSM Period: 20.03.2011 – 26.03.2011

Guest: Dr. D.Trcek, University of Ljubljana

Host: Dr. L.Lambrinos, Cyprus University of Technology

To foster collaboration between the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) and University of Ljubljana (UoL), in the context of Econ@Tel, an STSM took place between the 20th and 26th of March 2011.

Researchers at the host institution (CUT) carry out research work in Location Based Services (LBS) whereas researchers from the guest's research group are primarily concerned with privacy / trust management. The aim was to investigate ways in combining the knowledge and expertise of the two parties as the two subjects are in the forefront bearing in mind the current trend towards a multi-access, multi-service environment with inherent ubiquitous connectivity. The integration of sensors and RFID devices that can also provide location-related information-readings makes the environment quite complex.

It is widely recognized that the first wave of LBS applications did not have the impact initially predicted; the fact that many end-user devices are nowadays capable of identifying their location using various means (e.g. GPS receiver) provides application providers with a "second chance".

In the urge to develop successful applications, the issue of privacy and trust management is often neglected. It is important to assess various applications of LBS with regards to their privacy and trust requirements. These could range from simple discovery of nearby places of interest and route tracking to prepaid parking facilities and emergency services assistance and management.

Users are becoming increasingly concerned with the potential implications of data access abuse and data misuse; such concerns may be a factor that determines whether a LBS application becomes successful. Through extensive literature search it was identified that privacy and trust management in LBS has not attracted the attention it should; the two researchers immediately involved (Dr.Lambrinos and Dr. Trcek) have decided to investigate this area further.

As an outcome of this STSM there are plans for a joint research project proposal as well as a joint paper outlining an architectural design and considerations on this critical topic.



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