



Press Release

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Technical and Scientific Forum -
Forum TWF

Fraunhofer FOKUS unveils its new Mobile Widget Runtime as a platform for mobile Web 2.0 at the IFA 2008

Web2.0 goes mobile – the new platform brings Web services to the mobile phone and telephony to the Web!

The Mobile Widget Runtime from Fraunhofer FOKUS is a rapid, easy, and efficient way to bring Web applications – or ‘widgets’ – to the mobile phone while also equipping them with all the functions of modern telephony. With FOKUS Mobile Widget Runtime all classic telephony functions can be used on Web2.0, while at the same time Web technologies can be run on the mobile phone. This solution can be deployed as a stand-alone platform for complete applications or be embedded in existing applications as a basis for further extensions. New functions can now be added to running Web operations without any need to know all the technical details of the base application.

As David Linner, a research scientist at the Fraunhofer Institute FOKUS, says describing the challenges, “Shared user experience, at any time, mobility, and location-dependency are all key features of the Web 2.0. On top of this comes the fact that Web 2.0 services generally must be rapid to implement and easy to change –in moves that frequently turn the user into a provider. This is precisely the situation our Mobile Widget Runtime is designed to take account of – as demonstrated by our model applications for ‘Mobile Car Sharing’ and ‘Location-based Digital Notepads’ – Users are on the move and have to engage with a service from where they are, and also need to communicate and so on. The solution here is to create close intermeshing of the Web and the mobile phone.”

The basis for mobile Web 2.0 applications are compact, self-contained Web applications, better known as ‘widgets’. A special feature of these kinds of Web applications is that they can provide users with useful services without the need for permanent Internet connectivity.

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Fraunhofer FOKUS brings these widgets to the world of the mobile phone whilst also equipping phones with all the functions of modern telephony. This means that Web applications now can use such functions as Bluetooth, satellite navigation, MMS, Instant Messaging or telephone conferencing.

“With its integration of Web and telephony, our solution has attracted interest from different quarters,” says David Linner talking about its possible fields of application. “On the one hand it enables extended use of the mobile phone as an access point for location-based services, which is just what telephone and network providers want to see. On the other browser providers are also showing interest in the new platforms even though they know that today’s Web applications can’t be realized on a one-to-one basis on mobile end devices. And then the rapid implementation of business ideas our solution offers also means that completely new services can be created for market niches as the Web has already shown us.”

The FOKUS Mobile Widget Runtime offers a wide variety of support for mobile Web 2.0 solutions. It can be used as a stand-alone platform for complete applications or be embedded in existing applications as the basis for small extensions. This means that mobile Web 2.0 services can now be enriched with new functions whilst still in operation. What’s more, third parties also have the chance to offer their own extensions without needing to know all the technical details of the base application.

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