

D2.4.1

SOCIAL CONNECTED TV PLATFORM SECOND RELEASE FOLLOWING EXPERIMENTATION. FIRST APPLICATION PROTOTYPES FOR 2ND EXPERIMENTATION CYCLE

June 2014

ABSTRACT

This document keeps record of the development of the Social Connected TV Platform. Implementation of scenarios as defined in D2.1 and platform specific enablers are documented. The state of maturity is estimated on the basis of the fulfilment of functional requirements for each of the scenarios and specific enablers.







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document keeps record of the development of the first release of the Social Connected TV Platform. Implementation of scenarios as defined in D2.1 and platform specific enablers are documented. The state of maturity is estimated on the basis of the fulfilment of functional requirements for each of the scenarios and specific enablers. The following scenarios are part of the second release of the Social Connected TV Platform:

- Rich Content
- Multi-Screen Experience
- Search and Discovery
- Personalized Media

The following platform Specific Enablers are part of the second release of the Social Connected TV Platform:

- Audio Fingerprinting
- Audio Mining
- Content Optimisation
- Second Screen Framework
- TV Application Layer
- Content Enrichment
- Content Similarity



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ABBREVIATIONS

AKSW Agile Knowledge and Semantic Web
API Application Programming Interface

Apple HLS Apple HTTP Live Streaming

AWS Amazon Web Services

CE-HTML Consumer Electronics-HyperText Mark-up Language

DLNA Digital Living Network Alliance

Dow Domain Name System

Dow Description of Work

DRM Digital Rights Management
EPG Electronic Program Guide

GE Generic Enabler

GUI Graphical user interface

HbbTV Hybrid Broadcast Broadband Television

HTTP HyperText Mark-up Language
HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol

laaS Infrastructure as a Service

iOS Mobile operating system developed and distributed by Apple Inc.

IPTV Internet Protocol Television

MySQL My Structured Query Language

NER Named-Entity Recognition

NLP Natural Language Processing

NSD Network Service Discovery protocol

QoE Quality of Experience

QR-code Quick Response code

REST Representational State Transfer
SCTVP Social Connected TV Platform

SDK Software Development Kit

SE Specific Enabler

SEO Search Engine Optimization

SME Small and Medium Enterprises

SML Service Modelling Language

SOAP Simple Object Access Protocol

Solr Open source enterprise search platform from the Apache Lucene project



TAL TV Application Layer

UGC User Generated Content

UK United Kingdom

UPnP Universal Plug and Play
URL Uniform resource locator

VoD Video on Demand

XML Extensible Mark-up Language



1 - Introduction

1.1 - Overview

The Social Connected TV Platform is a toolbox offering powerful instruments to enhance connected TV services and TV-related services for second-screen devices. This document keeps record of the development of the first release of the Social Connected TV Platform. It describes the implementation of the platform's Specific Enablers and provides further information including a development roadmap.

Please be aware that this document is generated from the Flcontent Wiki [1]. Thus the document may sometimes still refer to the Flcontent Wiki. All information in this document is also available online. We suggest using the online version of this deliverable [2] for an advanced reading experience.

1.2 - Terminology

The following table contains terms, which are used in multiple deliverables. Therefore, we provide their shared definitions to ensure consistency across several documents.

Term	Definition
Application or Application software	Software layered on top of one or several platforms for realizing various useful tasks for end-users
Architecture	A structure of functional elements organized in a given way and presenting well defined interfaces
Capability	The ability of a component to satisfy a requirement
Conceptual Model	A set of view with written description of the organization of the Flcontent infrastructure to offer services
Enabler Software	Module or web service providing well-specified functionality, accessible and usable by application developers through clearly-described APIs (Application Programming Interfaces)
Experiment or Experimentation	Concrete test with actual users of one scenario in one of the experimentation sites in a given time frame
FI-WARE Tools	The tools put in place by FI-WARE to send requests for Generic Enablers are based on a backlog list in the frame of an agile methodology
Functional requirement	Either calculations, technical details, data manipulation, processing or other specific functionality that define what a system is intended to accomplish
Generic Enabler	An enabler realized by the FI-WARE project or its follow-up sustainability project
Platform	A comprehensive combination of technology infrastructure and Generic Enablers as well as Specific Enablers capable to host and to support development of application software
Point of Interest	A POI is a place, an area or a journey (short distance) which are geo-located. For example: a place (a restaurant, etc.), an area: a public garden, a journey (a hiking trail, etc.). A POI has possibly features such as: static features (opening hours, address, name description, etc.), dynamic features (price, menu, number of available places, the delay before the next bus, etc.), event features (a beginning and an end)



Scenario	Description of foreseeable interactions of users with one or several applications
Specific Enabler	An enabler realized by the Flcontent project. Specific Enablers may be layered on top of, or otherwise make use of, Generic Enablers. Please refer to the definition of a Flcontent Specific Enabler from deliverable D6.1 Architecture specification [3]
Interface	The connections between domains (or sub domain or functional elements) serving the actor's actions by exchanging information
Interoperability	The capability of two or more networks, devices, applications to exchange and use information
Technology	A standard or industry specification that has the capability of addressing requirements



2 - SOCIAL CONNECTED TV PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE

The figure below illustrates the Social Connected TV Platform architecture. In the figure four layers are depicted. These are:

- Layer 1 (red): Scenarios
- Layer 2 (yellow): Applications
- Layer 3 (blue): Specific Enablers (SEs)
- Layer 4 (green): Generic Enablers (GEs)

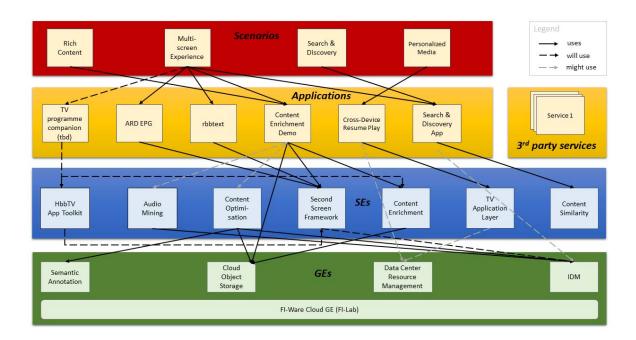


Figure 1 High-level architecture of the Social Connected TV Platform

Scenarios describe what users will be able to do with the Social Connected TV Platform. Scenarios are defined in **Deliverable D2.1 Scenarios**, **functional and technical specifications**. SEs and GEs are technological components that are used to implement the functional requirements of the scenarios. GEs are provided by the Core Platform of FI-PPP developed by the FI-WARE project. SEs are developed by Flcontent in order to complement GEs where domain specific features are needed. SEs are exposed to 3rd party developers and SMEs via the Social Connected TV Platform API.

Applications are pieces of software built on top of SEs and GEs that make certain scenario features available to end-users. There are two kinds of applications. The first group is built on those applications that are implemented by Flcontent partners with the goal of validating the scenarios and the SEs and GEs. The second group is built on those applications that are developed by third parties that are involved through the Open Call, Competitions and Phase 3 of the FI-PPP programme.

The arrows in the diagram indicate dependencies between scenarios, applications and Enablers:

- a solid black arrow indicates that a certain link is already implemented, e.g. the ARD EPG is currently used for testing the Multi-Screen Experience scenario, and the application integrates the Second-Screen Framework SE.
- a dashed black arrow indicates a planned usage, e.g. the Second-Screen Framework will use the IDM GE in order to allow application developers creating a personalised second-screen experience, but the GE is not yet (fully) integrated.



 a dashed grey arrow indicates that the use of a component is under consideration, e.g. we are considering the use of the IDM GE to implement authentication mechanisms in the Search & Discovery App.

There is one GE in the diagram that has no arrow-connection, the FI-Ware Cloud GE (FI-Lab). This GE is used by almost all SEs and a number of applications for web hosting. We did not explicitly indicate the dependencies for this enabler to avoid the picture ending up as a dense mesh of arrows. A detailed overview on the use of the FI-Ware Cloud GE (FI-Lab) is given in Deliverable D6.5.

2.1 - Architecture Description

Experiments conducted on the basis of the Social Connected TV Platform aim to gain findings on four major topics. These are:

- Rich Content
- Multi-Screen Experience
- Search & Discovery
- Personalised Media

This section introduces how the components of the Social Connected TV Platform are used to augment TV services with features of the above mentioned domains. Moreover we provide a more detailed description of the Specific Enablers (see Section 3).

2.1.1 - Rich Content

The goal of the Rich Content scenario is to gain information on the consumption, annotation and sharing of interactive TV content and related additional media.

Media/Text Annotation (Content Augmentation) is handled by the Content Enrichment SE [4]. The implementation covers the HbbTV-enabled TV set as well as the second-screen application, which allows the user to edit and receive content related supplementary information. We are currently focussing on TV implementation to allow the display and utilization of enriched content via the HbbTV application based on the Content Enrichment metadata model. This includes the time-synchronized display of additional information for objects in the video scene and enables user interaction with them. Functions for receiving and editing and content on the companion device will be implemented later in order to extend the interactive content experience across multiple devices.

Object database and storage functions for additional information as video, text, images, are handled by the Object Storage GE [5] as provided by FI-WARE. The GE is installed on a XIFI node based in Berlin.

The Audio Mining SE [6] and the Content Optimisation SE [7] can be used to pre-process audio-visual data and to automatically generate corresponding metadata. The Audio Mining SE detects speech segments in a video and then transforms the spoken words of these segments into text (speech-to-text). The generated text can then be used to either search for themes and identify specific locations within the video, or to link keywords with additional content using the Content Optimisation SE. This Enabler allows users to perform a Named Entity Recognition (NER) on the generated text transcripts and to store the linking information in an object database.

2.1.2 - Multi-Screen Experience

The Social Connected TV Platform supports the creation of TV-programme-related companion applications on connected mobile devices such as tablets, PCs or smartphones.



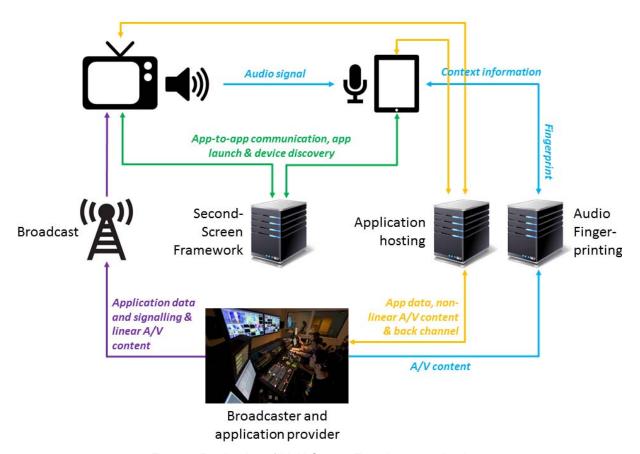


Figure 2 Realisation of Multi-Screen Experience applications

The Second-Screen Framework [8] SE allows the creation of web apps for mobile devices able to exchange information with a web application running on a connected TV. Connected TVs that implement the HbbTV standard can interpret application data that is sent with the broadcast signal. This allows broadcasters to provide connected TV applications to accompany programmed content. The bi-directional communication path and the mechanism for automatic application launch ensure that the second screen is in contextual sync with the hybrid TV application.

The development of the Audio Fingerprinting [9] SE, which was part of previous platform releases, will be discontinued following the recommendation of the commission. However, this Enabler will be released as Open Source software in the coming weeks and will be available for Phase 3 projects.

The above described set-up allows broadcasters to offer interactive programme-accompanying content on second screens to a broad audience. It enables them creating a comprehensive multi-screen experience.



2.1.3 - Search & Discovery

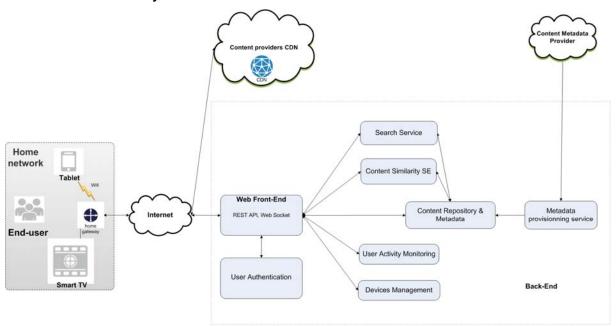


Figure 3 Realisation of Search & Discovery applications

Today, searching for interesting content to watch is time-consuming for the majority of commercial VoD offers. This scenario intends to explore several ways to explore, search and discover new interesting content for users. This scenario includes the following functionalities running on a tablet:

- An advanced search, with auto-completion, handled by "search service" component.
- A discovery function based on similarity, handled by the "Content Similarity" component. Starting
 from a movie a user likes, he is able to navigate inside a graph to discover other movies with
 common aspects, such as same actors, same director, or similar movies proposed by a content to
 content recommendation engine.
- A discovery function enabling movie selection by indicating multiple criteria such as genres, people, countries, production years, handled by "Content Repository and metadata" component.
- A discovery function based on the combination of genres, handled by both "Content Similarity" component and "Content Repository & metadata" component. A predefined list of cocktails are proposed to the user. User is also invited to create his/her own cocktail by combining its favourite genres.
- A discovery function based on screenshot, handled by "Content Repository and metadata"
 component: five lists of screenshots are proposed to the user without any additional information.
 Each list proposes screenshot of a single movie. When the user selects a list he/she gets the movie
 detail page and discovers which movie was behind these screenshots.
- A discovery function enabling movie selection for a group of users: each user can enter its own
 criteria and tastes, the application is helping the group to find a good compromise and to choose an
 adequate movie for the group.

Ingest of the VOD catalogues are handled by both the "Metadata provisioning service" component and the "Content Repository and Metadata" component.

The "Content Similarity" component has been introduced as a Content Similarity SE [10] with the June release (Release 06/14) of the Social Connected TV Platform. The development of the Content Atmosphere SE has been discontinued following the recommendation of the Commission.



2.1.4 - Personalised Media

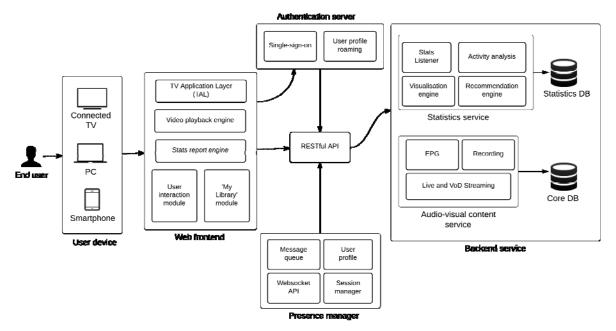


Figure 4 Realisation of Personalised Media applications

Our goal in this scenario is to explore some of the different possible added values of personalised media in the context of an interactive IPTV service. We plan to introduce a series of features that allows users to manage their usage via different devices, and also to combine their consumption with that of others. One such feature is the Pause-Resume feature that allows users to view their watching history and resume playback regardless of the current or previous devices used. This is not only limited to devices capable of rendering the rich web interface, such as desktops, laptops, tablets, and smart phones), but also gaming consoles and smart TVs. This is made possible through an application we developed using the BBC's TV Application Layer (TAL) SE [11] along with the DataCenter Resource Management (DCRM) GE [12].

The IPTV system provides programme information, live and on-demand TV/Radio streaming as its core service. Users can log in to the IPTV system on desktop, laptop, smartphone or tablet and view their TV [and radio] history including any programmes part-watched [and flagged for resume viewing], regardless of which device they last watched on. The single-sign-on and user profile roaming features of the authentication server support the log in function. The Stats report engine of the web frontend keeps track of play back position of a user session using heartbeat mechanism. Statistics service at the backend receives user stats reports from user devices via RESTful web service and provides features such as user activity analysis, visualisation and recommendation. After playback is paused on one user device (through the User interaction module), users can then resume play on a different device from the point at which they stopped viewing, [or from any other point]. Presence manager maintains user session, user profile and interacts with user devices for session transfer and synchronisation. A DCRM-based infrastructure is used to host the Presence manager, gathering their session information and watch history to facilitate seamless cross-device functionality. This provides tailored user experiences and allows the infrastructure to scale by creating a distinction between video content and user-specific data. TAL is used as a common framework to build applications for divergent platforms, such as smart TVs and gaming consoles. Suitable metadata is made available using the My Library module to the user about programmes displayed in this way so they can quickly identify what to watch [or listen to]. Users are also able to delete items from their history.

2.2 - Specific Enablers

We will provide the following Specific Enablers through the Social Connected TV Platform.



- Audio Mining SE [6] (Release 06/14)
- Content Optimisation SE [7] (Release 06/14)
- Second Screen Framework SE [8] (Release 09/13)
- TV Application Layer SE [11] (Release 09/13)
- Content Similarity SE [10] (Release 06/14)

We utilise the following common Specific Enablers for the Social Connected TV Platform.

• Content Enrichment SE [4]

2.3 - Generic Enablers

We take advantage of the following Generic Enablers from FI-WARE within the Social Connected TV Platform.

DataCenter Resource Management (DCRM) GE [12]

We already actively use the following Generic Enablers as part of the Social Connected TV Platform.

- Identity Management GE [13]
- Semantic Annotation GE [14]
- Object Storage GE [5]



3 - Social Connected TV Platform - Release 06/14

The Social Connected TV Platform is a toolbox that offers powerful instruments to enhance connected TV services with:

Multi-screen interaction

- Intuitive interaction for advanced TV services
- More versatile content presentation across screens

Personalized TV experience

- Connected TV services tailored to single and multiple users
- Social interaction between users
- · Search and discovery of content

User tracking and privacy

- Visualizing personal content consumption
- Tracking implicit and explicit user interaction
- Providing users with simple control over personal data

The features of the Social Connected TV Platform SEs address developers as well as providers of connected TV services. The following Specific Enablers are included in the September release of the Social Connected TV Platform.

3.1 - Audio Fingerprinting

Important: The development of this Specific Enabler is discontinued following the recommendation of the Commission. It will be released as Open Source software in the next release of the Social Connected TV platform.

3.1.1 - What you get

The Audio Fingerprinting SE consists of an indexing component (adding/removing media to/from a fingerprint database) and a matching component (testing unknown fingerprints against a database). Furthermore, a mobile SDK/software library for Android and iOS is available, which can be linked into a mobile application. It takes care of recording the audio signal, calculating an acoustic fingerprint (while also encrypting the data), sending the fingerprint to a server and passing the results back to the application.

The algorithm works independently of the spoken language and is robust towards regular background noises and distortions. Synchronisation will work for compressed data and in lively living rooms. It was also successfully tested during presentations with larger crowds and over laptop speakers. Furthermore, the algorithm can be tuned to trade off speed against accuracy.

3.1.2 - Why to get it

The Specific Enabler 'Audio Fingerprinting' targets at second-screen scenarios like 'Multi-Screen Experience'. Therefore, the SE recommends matching content for second screen devices: It analyses an incoming audio signal (e. g. from a TV or a VoD stream), computes a fingerprint and checks that fingerprint against a database potentially containing the analysed content data. Finally, the service returns matching content either as links to a repository or as the content itself. The service can be implemented into Android-based applications.

3.1.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the Audio Fingerprinting SE [9]



3.2 - Audio Mining

3.2.1 - What you get

The Audio Mining SE is based on Fraunhofer IAIS' Audio Mining software and consists of a number of analysis services (called iFinder services), a media asset management framework including a persistence layer, a search engine and a SOAP/REST interface. The component is a backend application, without having end-users interacting directly with the system. Tests have so far been conducted with German-language video/audio content.

iFinder services

- Structural analysis: The audio is segmented according to speaker changes or variations in the
 acoustic environment. Afterwards, every segment containing human speech is subject to further
 processing.
- Speaker identification: For every segment containing speech, the most probable speaker is determined based on features derived from the voice's sound.
- Speech recognition: Uses optimized models for previously detected speakers to ensure highest accuracy.
- Keyword Extraction: The final step is a keyword extraction to identify the most significant, distinctive and important terms from the speech recognition transcript.

3.2.2 - Why to get it

The Specific Enabler "Audio Mining" targets multimedia indexing and search scenarios such as "Rich Content". Therefore, the SE analyses a given audio/video file and returns textual information for indexing. Speech and speaker segmentation as well as speech recognition are performed in order to turn speech into text. It delivers segments, characteristic keywords and various metadata. Finally, the SE builds an index enabling multimedia search.

3.2.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the Audio Mining SE [6]

3.3 - Content Optimisation

3.3.1 - What you get

The Content Optimisation SE consists of various modules that can be used to enrich textual content. Currently two modules are implemented: Firstly, the recommendation module can be used to generate recommendations for textual content such as audio transcripts. Secondly, the enrichment module can be used to perform Named Entity Recognition on textual content. The recognition module uses the Semantic Annotation GE and DBpedia-Spotlight to find and link entities.

3.3.2 - Why to get it

The Specific Enabler "Content Optimisation" targets at scenarios in the context of Multimedia Mash-ups. Therefore, the SE processes incoming textual content (e. g. from Audio Mining SE) and extracts characteristic keywords. Afterwards, a semantically enrichment based on NLP (Natural language processing) will be performed to connect the transcripts and keywords with contextual information. Therefore, the SE integrates and harmonises additional content from disperse sources. The SE is intended for SMEs which want to build Second Screen Applications, e. g. for TV documentaries.

3.3.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the Content Optimisation SE [7]



3.4 - Content Similarity [NEW]

3.4.1 - What you get

Content Similarity enabler is a software solution to provide content-to-content recommendations based only on content metadata. The object is to offer a solution that allows a list of similar movies to be obtained from an initial movie request. The technology is based on a Technicolor algorithm that computes distances between movies. The target customers for this solution are content providers and cinema Information providers in order to offer VOD discovery services.

3.4.2 - Why to get it

The Content Similarity specific enabler targets a scenario of VOD discovery. This SE is a component that analyses metadata of a VOD catalog to compute weighting genre of each movie. Then thanks to this weighted genre, the SE computes distance between all movies. This enabler can enrich a VOD portal application by offering a "similar movies" feature.

3.4.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the Content Similarity SE [10]

3.5 - Second Screen Framework

3.5.1 - What you get

The Second Screen Framework SE provides web applications which are running on a TV with all the crucial functionalities to establish a persistent bi-directional communication path to a web application running in the browser of any second-screen device. This includes the possibility to launch applications from one TV on the second screen. All functionalities are provided via a slim JavaScript API and can thus be easily integrated into any web application.

3.5.2 - Why to get it

Since the solution is fully compliant to the HbbTV standard it enables content providers to create fully interactive applications with direct programme relation potentially targeting millions of already deployed devices on the market. Thus, the concept can be implemented without modifications of hardware and only minimal extensions to existing applications.

3.5.3 - Documentation

- Technical Documentation of the Second Screen Framework SE [8]
- Developer Guide of the Second Screen Framework SE [15]

3.6 - TV Application Layer

3.6.1 - What you get

The TV Application Layer SE (TAL) is an open source library for building applications for Connected TV devices. TAL works to abstract device functionality variations. The bulk of the development can be done on a desktop browser that is built on the same origins as TV browsers.

3.6.2 - Why to get it

There are hundreds of different devices in the marketplace and they all use slightly different technologies to achieve the same result. The purpose of TAL is to allow you to write an application once, and be confident that it can be deployed to all HTML-based TV devices.



3.6.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the TV Application Layer SE [11]

3.7 - Content Enrichment

3.7.1 - What you get

The Content Enrichment enabler provides the following capabilities

- Media & Text Annotation allows any type of media (e.g. video, audio, photos or text) to be
 enriched with user-generated video content, add or edit comments, notes, enrich the media with
 custom drawings. Also to create custom mash-ups of media content and enable the retrieval of
 related information (e.g. via access to external resources, location & content sensitive metadata,
 object tracking etc.)
- Object-based Media Discovery enriched media content contains metadata information on available objects within the media. Referenced information on available objects can be used to discover other object-related media content
- Cross-Video Navigation Allows user interaction to jump back and forth in-between video content

3.7.2 - Why to get it

To create, distribute and play interactive content video content across platforms and devices. It provides interfaces to incorporate web 2.0 capabilities and community functionalities as well. Thus the enabler acts as a common building block in future video and multimedia infrastructures, to allow seamless, platform independent and convenient enrichment of any type of video content using any type of device for a plurality of application cases covering UGC, professional content as well as edutainment.

3.7.3 - Documentation

Technical Documentation of the Content Enrichment SE [4]



4 - SCTV PROTOTYPES AND APPLICATIONS

Based on the SCTV platform and their enablers, the following set of prototype applications have been build to demonstrate the capabilities of the SCTV platform:

4.1 - Interactive multi-screen content

The prototype shows an implementation of interactive multi-screen content for HbbTV. The application is based on RBB catchup TV content and takes advantage of the Second Screen Framework SE as well as the Content Enrichment SE to enable an interactive content experience. The HbbTV application extends the TV experience to the second screen device by adding additional content with which the user can interact. All additional information and interactive video objects are available on the TV screen via the HbbTV app as well as on the second screen device. The second screen offers enhanced the user features such as the ability to browse through a list of tagged interactive objects attached to the TV content while the content is displayed on the TV. Using the Content Enrichment SE, such additional media as pictures, related videos, websites and social media can be retrieved on the second screen and pushed to the TV, thanks to the synchronisation of the devices via the Second Screen Framework.

4.1.1 - Screenshots



Figure 5 Main and second screen devices

4.2 - Second Screen Synchronisation

Audio Fingerprinting provides an easy and user-friendly solution for synchronisation of first and second screens in non-HbbTV environments. It is a robust solution for developers implementing synchronised Second Screen applications.

Our application demonstrates how the synchronisation mechanism works and which use cases are possible. It is an Android application that allows the user to sync with one of the demo videos that are available through a website. When the synchronisation is finished, the application displays the current video, the playback position in the video and relevant keywords that were found in the video.



4.2.1 - Screenshots



Figure 6 Second screen device

4.3 - Full-text search in audiovisual content

This application demonstrates the capabilities of the Audio Mining Enabler. The user can access a video archive using a full-text search interface allowing him to search within the spoken content. If one of the search results is interesting, she can then decide to share it with friends via Social Media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter. Additionally, the demonstrator offers a sharing functionality for editors or journalists reporting from live events: each search hit can be shared via ScribbleLive, a platform very commonly used for this type of sharing.

4.3.1 - Screenshots

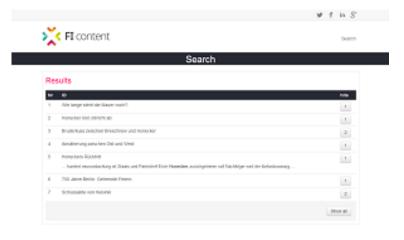


Figure 7 Audio mining: full-text search





Figure 8 Audio mining: results



Figure 9 Audio mining: Scribble Live

4.4 - Vision platform

Vision is an IPTV platform that delivers both live and on-demand (VoD) content from 30 TV and 20 radio free-to-air channels to students and staff on the Lancaster University campus. Vision manages the full content lifecycle, starting from ingestion via satellite and terrestrial broadcasts through to HTML5-compliant video streams. By mid-June 2014, Vision had 1360 registered users.

Vision provides universal and easy access to content regardless of user device or locality (as long as it is within the boundaries of licensed content). Vision content is primarily delivered through its web interface. Further delivery options are available: an interface for smart TVs and gaming consoles is developed using the TAL enabler, and an iOS app is under development (currently in beta release).

With its large content library and user base as well as its fully managed ecosystem, Vision offers a unique opportunity to carry out large-scale experiments to evaluate future TV technologies. One recent feature introduced was the Semantically-Enriched Social Annotation. This feature enables users to socially interact about media content and its events where messages are displayed to other users viewing the same content item, but only at the playback time at which the message was made. Furthermore, links to semantic entities in the media are automatically identified from the content speech, and added to the social discussion. This enables users to explore relevant links extracted from the media content.



4.4.1 - Screenshots



Figure 10 Vision IPTV platform

4.5 - VOD Search & Discovery

The application demonstrates a method of using the Content Similarity SE to display movies similar to a given movie, based on analysis of the genre/s. An ingest of two French VoD catalogues has been made with a preprocessing of metadata.

4.5.1 - Screenshots



Figure 11 Integration of Content Similarity SE

4.6 - rbbtext

rbbtext is an HbbTV application offered as part of the regular broadcasting services delivered by German public broadcaster rbb. It builds upon the classic teletext service and uses the functionality of the HbbTV standard for navigation and presentation of content and information. It provides an enriched version of information presented by teletext and is connected to the same content management system. Unlike teletext, users can navigate directly to a menu item by using the arrow keys on the remote control. Furthermore the improved graphical presentation of content with the help of HTML accesses the potential of today's high-resolution TV displays.



Using the Second Screen Framework Enabler, the second-screen version of the rbbtext HbbTV application contains a menu item which offers the option of connecting to a second device. Once the companion application is launched, the user can either choose synchronised navigation – what happens on one screen happens on the other screen as well - or can choose to use the application on the second screen only. This allows the user to continue watching the broadcast while browsing through additional accompanying information on the second screen.

A further use-case is the possibility of opening URLs on the second-screen in order to show content which is beyond the scope of HbbTV on the TV screen; rbbtext editorial staff include such links in the HbbTV application.

4.6.1 - Screenshots





Figure 12 rbbtext in action

4.7 - ARD-EPG

The ARD EPG is an HbbTV application offered by the German public service broadcasting network ARD. The application provides information about current and upcoming TV programmes aired on channels of the ARD network. It offers a full text search to find specific programmes. In addition, the ARD EPG enables users to access previously-broadcast content. For all shows available in the ARD VoD catalogue, direct links to catch-up content are presented.

Using the Second Screen Framework Enabler, the companion app allows users to navigate the EPG on the second screen. Users can choose to use the app either on the main screen or on the second screen only, browsing EPG content using the more convenient touch interface of the tablet computer while simultaneously viewing the current broadcast on the TV screen. Users can also use the second-screen app to switch between channels of the ARD network and to initiate the playback of video clips from the VoD catalogue displayed on the main TV screen.



4.7.1 - Screenshots





Figure 13 ARD-EPG in action



5 - Interaction and Cooperation with other Ficontent Platforms

The Social Connected TV Platform uses the Content Enrichment SE [4], which was originally introduced by the Smart City Platform [16] and has been promoted as a Common Specific Enabler in Flcontent. The Content Enrichment SE enables the creation, distribution and play-back of augmented interactive video content. The original target runtimes for the playback of enriched A/V content were browsers of desktop and mobile devices. During the course of the project the enabler has been adapted to requirements of the Social Connected TV Platform. Since the Release 09/13 of the Social Connected TV Platform the Enabler allows the playback of enriched content on HbbTV devices.

Moreover lab trial applications have been developed on the basis of the Content Enrichment SE and the Second-Screen Framework SE to investigate how media experience can be enhanced with richer content and technology that allows making use of end-user devices core assets – namely the TV's large display for the presentation of content and the touch-gesture support of second-screen devices for the interaction with additional content.



6 - Social Connected TV Platform - Upcoming Releases

For the upcoming releases of the Social Connected TV Platform, we will enhance our existing Enablers considering feedback gathered from third party developers and (large scale) trials. Moreover we will release new Enablers, that are crucial for realising our upcoming content experimentations and might also be of interest for other developers. These planned Enablers as well as significant changes in existing enablers are described below.

6.1 - Audio Fingerprinting SE

The development of this Specific Enabler is discontinued following the recommendation of the Commission. However, it will be released as Open Source software in the next release of the Social Connected TV platform. This will allow Phase 3 partners to use and adapt the software without licensing restrictions.

6.2 - HbbTV App Toolkit SE

The HbbTV standard provides a powerful set of APIs for the creation of programme-related interactive TV applications. However, there are only few applications available today that exhaust the full potential. The existing applications are rather static TV-tailored websites, e.g. VoD portals or weather apps. They do not have a real contextual relation to a running TV show and do not provide much additional information on the currently running programme, although these kinds of applications are great media for viewer engagement.

The main reason for this shortage is that the development of HbbTV applications is still quite demanding due to the lack of proper tools for content creators and developers. Creating an HbbTV application just for one single show is simply too expensive.

The HbbTV App Toolkit SE aims to enable a fast and easy creation of programme-related HbbTV applications. It will provide a CMS with a set of GUI templates that can be filled with content via an easy to use user interface. A REST-API to the content model of the HbbTV App Toolkit SE's CMS will allow its integration into the CMS used by content creators in their production environment. In addition to the CMS the HbbTV App Toolkit SE will support HbbTV developers by providing a library with solutions for recurrent tasks for developers, e.g. navigation through a button list, scrollable elements, channel change, etc.

Moreover the HbbTV App Toolkit will facilitate the integration of features provided by other Social Connected TV Platform enablers, such as the Second-Screen Framework SE and the Content Enrichment SE, into HbbTV applications. This integration will support exploitation of project results.

The development of the SE will not open a new field of research within Flcontent. The approach is rather to harvest the insights gained during the development of the Flcontent trial applications and allow other developers and content creators profiting from these findings.

First tests will be conducted with RBB content in Q4 2014.

6.3 - New SEs and prototypes introduced by new beneficiaries selected via the Open Call

6.3.1 - Fincons

Fincons will develop two applications (Interactive Football Match Application and Interactive Car Advertising Application) in order to offer an interactive multi-screen content experience extending the FI-CONTENT "Content Enrichment" scenario. In the area of the "Social Connected TV platform" the solutions are targeted at:

- Enriched Content sharing: starting from TV screen content, users can create enriched content on their second screen devices and share it with their friends in an interactive way;
- Video Advertising: based on TV content, the second screen offers additional information like recommendations, comments, related video content: this content can be presented to users' second screen devices for interactive advertising purposes.



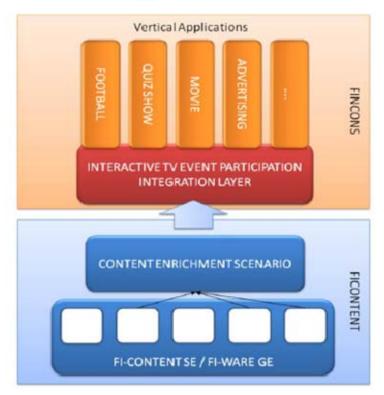


Figure 14 FINCONS system overview

6.3.1.1 - PreConditions

In order to visualize the content enrichment it is necessary to:

- establish the communication between the Smart TV and the second device;
- receive a television transmission that presents an enriched content with a defined metadata that can
 be recognized and managed by the two applications. The content enrichment is managed through a
 dedicate console in which the user can insert the information according a defined Template and
 store them in the Cloud Object Storage;
- have a Social Network account that can be associated to the Second Screen App.

6.3.1.2 - Scenario 1 - Second Screen Connection

The user will click on Smart TV menu with the remote controller in order to visualize the QR code. The user will initialize on the device the QR code recognition app in order to start the Second Screen Apps on the TV and on the device according the Second Screen Framework. After the recognition the connection between the two elements is established. Since this moment communication between STV and connected device is enable and can be used to display extended information on second screen. The two Apps will be in running on Smart TV and Second Device respectively.

6.3.1.3 - Scenario 2 - Augmented Content Distribution

If the connection is established the Smart TV App will receive the extended content and provide the information to the second device with a predefined template. The information in the template are retrieved from the Cloud Object Storage. The user will be able to explore and consult the enriched content on the second device (audio, video, text, images, animation, PDF, contact information, links).



6.3.1.4 - Scenario 3 - Augmented Content - Social Sharing

The user that received an item of enriched content (according Scenario3) can share with a set of friends extended contents through the Share Icon according different social network (Facebook, Twitter, FiSocial...). The list of friends can be chosen from the FB friends. The content will be published on Social Network wall in order to share it with the selected "friends". A notification message will appear on the second device of the selected "friends" that have the Second Screen App in running, to inform about a new shared content. Only the friends that are looking the same event will see the notification. A message will appear on Smart TV in the screen corner of the selected consignees to inform about a new shared content, The Smart TV app should be in running in order to manage the incoming messages.

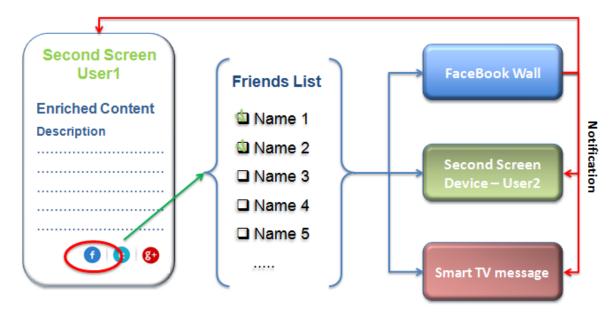


Figure 15 Social sharing

6.3.1.5 - Scenario 4 - User Generated Content

During the streaming the user can create an user content that can be shared. The Second Screen App will provide to the user a compilation form in which he will be able to enrich the event with comments, notes, custom drawings and captured frame from stream. The user will share it with selected friends according to the logic exposed in the Scenario 3.

6.3.1.6 - Scenario 5 - Content Enrichment Submission

The user can enrich the transmitted event with user-generated-content by tapping the button "ENRICH" on the Second Screen. The Second Screen will return to the user a compilation form in which he will be able to add comments, notes, enrich the video with custom drawings, insert links to other pages. The UGC, retrieved from the Storage, will be disseminated to other users following the same event (Scenario 2).

6.3.1.7 - Scenario 6 - Interactive Advertising

The Smart TV App will receive the extended Advertising content and provide the information on the second device with a predefined template. The information in the template are retrieved from the Cloud object storageIn the bottom section of the second screen a banner will be visualized and the user can expand it in order to visualize the advertising details. The Second Screen App will return on the second device the Advertising Template in which the user can explore and consult the enriched content (audio, video, text, images, animation, PDF, contact information, links) that are structured according a defined template. The



content enrichment is managed through a dedicate console and store in the Cloud Object Storage. The users can add their comments in the form of text, pictures on top of relevant element, and share them with other users (both using the Application or other social media platforms) according the Scenario 4.

6.3.2 - BitTubes

BitTubes will contribute to upcoming releases of the social connected TV platform by introducing a multichannel cloud application (VideoCloud) for sharing and exploring of interactive videos. It is planned to use and potentially enhance the specific enablers Content Enrichment and Second Screen Framework for an interactive video experience across devices.

6.3.2.1 - Scenario description: VideoCloud

Users of the VideoCloud service will be able to share their own videos with the world by uploading them to the VideoCloud infrastructure where they will be automatically transcoded to a proper H.264 and WebM format and then copied to a CDN for later distribution to the audience. The BitTubes VideoCloud frontend will be able to adaptively stream the videos from the CDN through HLS and DASH if available and fall back to progressive download and RTMP if necessary. The uploader can publish the new video directly or choose to add comments and interactivity to parts of the video. Interactivity can be added to a section of the video in general or specific objects within the video, which are then turned into clickable areas within the video. The user can add images, textual information and links to other web content. It is also possible to link to other possibly interactive videos that were previously added to the system or create chapter and pause markers. The required functionality will be made available on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers through BitTubes' web-based Tagging Tool. TVs will only be able to display the results but cannot be used for the actual enhancement.

While enhancing the video, the uploader can also choose to select meta-data from open encyclopedias like e.g. Europeana or Wikipedia. Choosing these databases as the source comes with the advantage of automatically updated information within the video and also tags the video to be relevant to the topics discussed in the database's article.

The video-timestamps of comments and interactive areas are used to automatically create a preview timeline with e.g. images of the corresponding video frames. This preview timeline shows viewers what parts of the video were enhanced and what to expect in these scenes both video-content wise and enhancement wise. Users can click on the previewed sections to either jump right into the video scene or get a detailed list of the added comments and interactive zones.



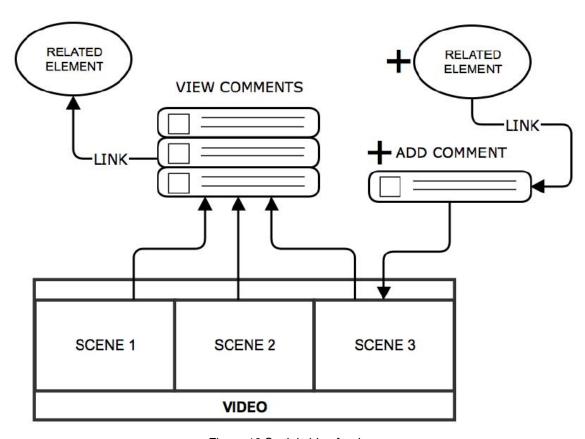


Figure 16 Social video feed

While watching the video, viewers will be able to share content to other social networks, mark the video as a favourite and comment on the currently seen scene. The new comments will be automatically integrated into the list of previously made comments to the same scene. A new comments list is created and the corresponding preview image is added to the timeline if no comments exists. Optionally, video content can be displayed on TV screens through an additional TV app (e.g. HbbTV compliant) while the main controls and information layers remain on the mobile / desktop application. Only basic controls for video such as Play/Pause will also be available through the TV's remote control. First tests are planned to be conducted at the Berlin experimentation site in Q3 2014.



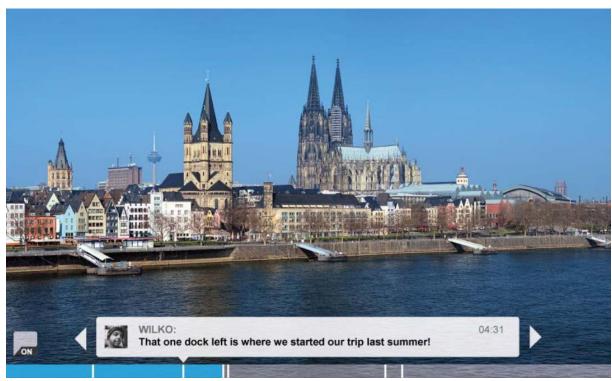


Figure 17 UI Mockup of video cloud application

6.4 - Skipped SEs

The development of the following Enablers will be discontinued following the recommendation of the Commission.

- Audio Fingerprinting SE [6] (Release 06/14). This Enabler will be available for Phase 3 as Open Source software.
- Content Atmosphere SE. After internal first year evaluation, it has been decided not to conduct second year experimentation for this component.



7 - DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOCIAL CONNECTED TV PLATFORM

The figure below illustrates where the Enablers of the Social Connected TV Platform are located, i.e. where they are installed and running. On the left side we list the cloud services that mostly have a RESTful API to be used by clients or other services. The centre line indicates Enablers that run code on both the client and the server side. The right side shows Enablers that are running exclusively on the client side.

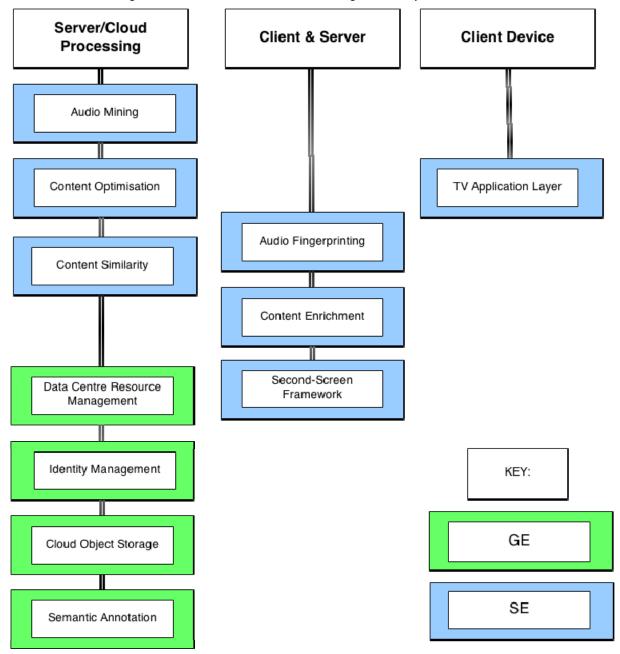


Figure 18 Deployment locations of the Social Connected TV Platform Enablers

7.1 - Client Side Enablers

Some Specific Enablers of the Social Connected TV Platform are exclusively deployed on the client side. They consist of libraries, installation packages or standalone applications. Client Side Enablers will be made



available through download links via the Flcontent catalogue ('where to get') but the files will be hosted usually by each responsible partner to allow easy updates. Client Side Enablers are:

• TV Appication Layer SE (see Section 3.6)

7.2 - Server Side Enablers with a Shared Instance

Some GEs and SEs hold data that is used by multiple applications. These Enablers are provided as a single instance that is shared by different applications. These Enablers are:

- Identity Management GE [13]
- Object Storage GE [5]
- Semantic Annotation GE [14]

7.3 - Server Side Enablers with One Instance per Application

Some Specific Enablers are web services that are specific for the application making use of it. These Enablers need to be installed on web servers or PaaS environments by the application provider. These Enablers are:

- Data Center Resource Management GE [17]
- Audio Mining SE (see Section 3.2)
- Content Optimisation SE (see Section 3.3)
- Content Similarity SE (see Section 3.4)

For most server side Enablers we use the XIFI FI-LAB testbed infrastructure. Three notable exceptions exist where dedicated servers might be used at the respective test sites:

- Latency-critical message handling for multi-user applications
- · Ethical requirements regarding user data
- CPU computing power for high performance computing if not available on the XIFI FI-LAB testbed infrastructure

For these cases, the respective experimentation site provides its own server infrastructure for local experiments.

7.4 - Enablers on Both Client and Server Side

Some Enablers have components that are deployed on the client and on the server side. These Enablers are:

- Audio Fingerprinting SE (see Section 3.1)
- Content Enrichment SE [18]
- Second-Screen Framework SE (see Section 3.5)

7.5 - Infrastructure used in the 1st Experimentation Cycle

7.5.1 - Berlin Experimentation Site

The Infrastructure used for testing on the Berlin Experimentation Site is described in the wiki and in the chapter "Technical Infrastructure" in Deliverable D7.1.2.

7.5.2 - Lancaster Experimentation Site

The Infrastructure used for testing on the Lancaster Experimentation Site is described in the wiki and in the chapter "Technical Infrastructure" in Deliverable D7.1.2.



7.5.3 - Brittany Experimentation Site

The Infrastructure used for testing on the Brittany Experimentation Site is described in the wiki and in the chapter "Technical Infrastructure" in Deliverable D7.1.2.



8 - CONCLUSION

In this document, we present a technical description of the Social Connected TV Platform. We have presented the overall architecture of the platform, listing the groups of Specific Enablers and Generic Enablers that are involved, as well as describing how they interact with each other. We also present a development roadmap which includes a description of what is available in the first platform release and also in upcoming releases. Finally, we discuss the deployment of the platform and note the diversity of environments hosting the platform components.

In the course of the Flcontent project, technologies provided through the Social Connected TV Platform will be improved in an iterative approach. Information and feedback on the usability of developed applications and scenario concepts and the state of maturity of Enablers with regard to stability/security etc. are being collected via experimentations. Insights feed back into the implementation of scenarios and platform-specific Specific Enablers and ensure high quality of the development of future releases of the Social Connected TV Platform.



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