Towards a safer Internet: The European and Cypriot perspective and reality

Ημερίδα για το Ασφαλές Διαδίκτυο

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The success of the Internet

- In our days Internet has become the prevalent medium of communication and information exchange, bringing tremendous advantages in all aspects of life.
- The broad use of Internet continues to spread. In 2004:
  - Every second European (49.8% – EU-25) had used the Internet in the last 12 months;
  - Close to 54% of European Internet users linked up to the Internet every day or almost every day.
  - More than 82% connect to the Web at least once a week.

Source: Eurostat, 2004

The success of the Internet

Table 1: Share of individuals who accessed, in the last 3 months, the Internet on average at least once a week, (in %) - 2004

	Retired	Employees	Students	Unemployed
EU-15	10.6	:	68.3	:
CZ	1.3	:	:	:
DK	29.2	77.0	89.4	56.3
DE	18.0	60.5	84.0	41.7
EE	3.3	52.4	88.6	26.7
EL	0.8	25.2	45.7	11.5
ES	3.7	:	:	:
IE	5.8	:	42.2	:
IT	4.3	34.8	61.8	23.7
CY	6.7	31.3	73.0	39.1
LT	0.9	29.8	76.9	6.2
LU	1	:	90.4	:

The use of new media by children will be an important part of their lives – positive, but there are considerable concerns.

Eurostat, 2004

Risks

- Illegal, harmful and unwanted content and conduct on the Internet is a continuing concern.
- Several risks arise from the availability and communication of inappropriate or harmful content:
  - Pornography (adult content, and illegal content including child pornography)
  - Some interactive services, e.g. chat-rooms, which expose children to meeting exploitative, bullying or predatory adults
  - Music & videos with adult content
  - Unsolicited Email (Spam)
  - Games with violent or sexual content
  - Gambling
  - Some premium rate services (090)
- Other issues: privacy, financial pressure…

New challenges arise

- In quantitative terms due to the sheer size of the Internet:
  - At present time there are more than 8 billion Web pages
  - "Illegal" content continues to grow.
- In qualitative terms with new platforms and products:
  - the ever-increasing processing power and storage capacity of computers
  - the wider penetration of broadband
  - the convergence of media technologies (video, audio) with ICT
  - peer-to-peer file sharing, real-time and mobile communication

  enhance the atomised production of content, secrecy assurance, the production and hosting of video-on-demand anywhere.
- Criminals will use new media for carrying out their activities.

New challenges arise

- The mobile phone has become an entertainment instrument for minors who rarely use it to place traditional phone conversations. It is mainly used to play, take/send pictures, etc.
- SMS has proven to be the option mostly used by minors to communicate, creating their own language.
- Minors are becoming important consumers of products related to mobile phones (terminals, melodies, screen savers, etc).

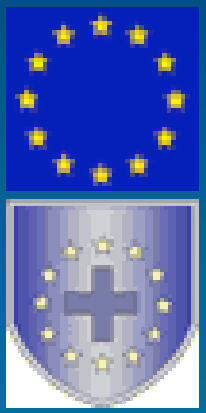
Addressing the problem

- There are no easy solutions or quick fixes.

- Different players need to be involved, taking responsibility and creating synergies towards a Safer Internet:
  - Parents, Teachers, and the Educational System
  - Internet Service Providers, Content providers, and Telecom. Operators
  - The Police and the judicial system
  - Telecommunication Regulators & Data Protection Authorities
  - The Government and Law makers
  - Media and the press
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - Technology experts and research organizations

The Safer Internet Initiative of the E.U.

- Promoting safe use of the internet and online technologies
- Particularly for children
- Fight against illegal and harmful content and content unwanted by the end user
  - Illegal – non-regulatory approach
  - Harmful – cultural differences
  - Unwanted – spam
  - Content – but also conduct
  - Internet - and new technology



Safer Internet Evolution

- Action Plan
  - 1999-2002
  - *25 M euros*
- Extension
  - 2003-2004
  - *13.3 M euros*
- Safer Internet Plus
  - 2005-2008
  - *45 M euros*

- **16 hotlines in 14 countries +** INHOPE
- **Rating and filtering - 13 projects**
- **Awareness - 12 projects**

138 partners from 17 countries

- **20 hotlines** + INHOPE + 1 under negotiations
- **19 Awareness nodes** + INSAFE and AWAREU + 2 under negotiations
- **1 MEDIA**
- **1 QUALAB**
- **2 SELFREG** under negotiations

Towards a Safer Internet workshop

- Introduction of the Cypriot Hotline SafeWeb
  - Mission-Target-Activities and Operations

- Present Local/International activities, aiming at promoting internet safety.

- Trigger a discussion on Internet safety issues among local authorities, organizations, associations, industry.

Workshop schedule

"Towards a Safer Internet The European and Cypriot perspective and reality "

AGENDA

09:45-09:55	Welcome Address, Prof. Marios D. Dikaiakos, University of Cyprus
09:55-10:00	Welcome Message, Mr. Ioannis Efthimiou , Ministry of Education
Part I "The International Experience"	
10:00-10:20	INHOPE Presentation, Ian Brown, INHOPE
10:20-10:40	IWF Overview, Frank Glenn, Internet Watch Foundation
10:40-11:00	The SAFELINE Experience, Stavros Markopoulos, FORTHNET
11:00-11:30	*Coffee Break*
Part II "The Cyprus Perspective"	
11:30-12:00	SafeWeb, Michalis Ellinas, University of Cyprus
12:00-12:20	Secondary Education Perspectives, Mr. Tassos Tassou, Ministry of Education
12:20-12:40	An industrial perspective, Mr. George Lakkotrypis, Microsoft
12:40-12:50	Discussions and Questions
12:50-12:55	Closure of Event
13:00-14:00	Lunch

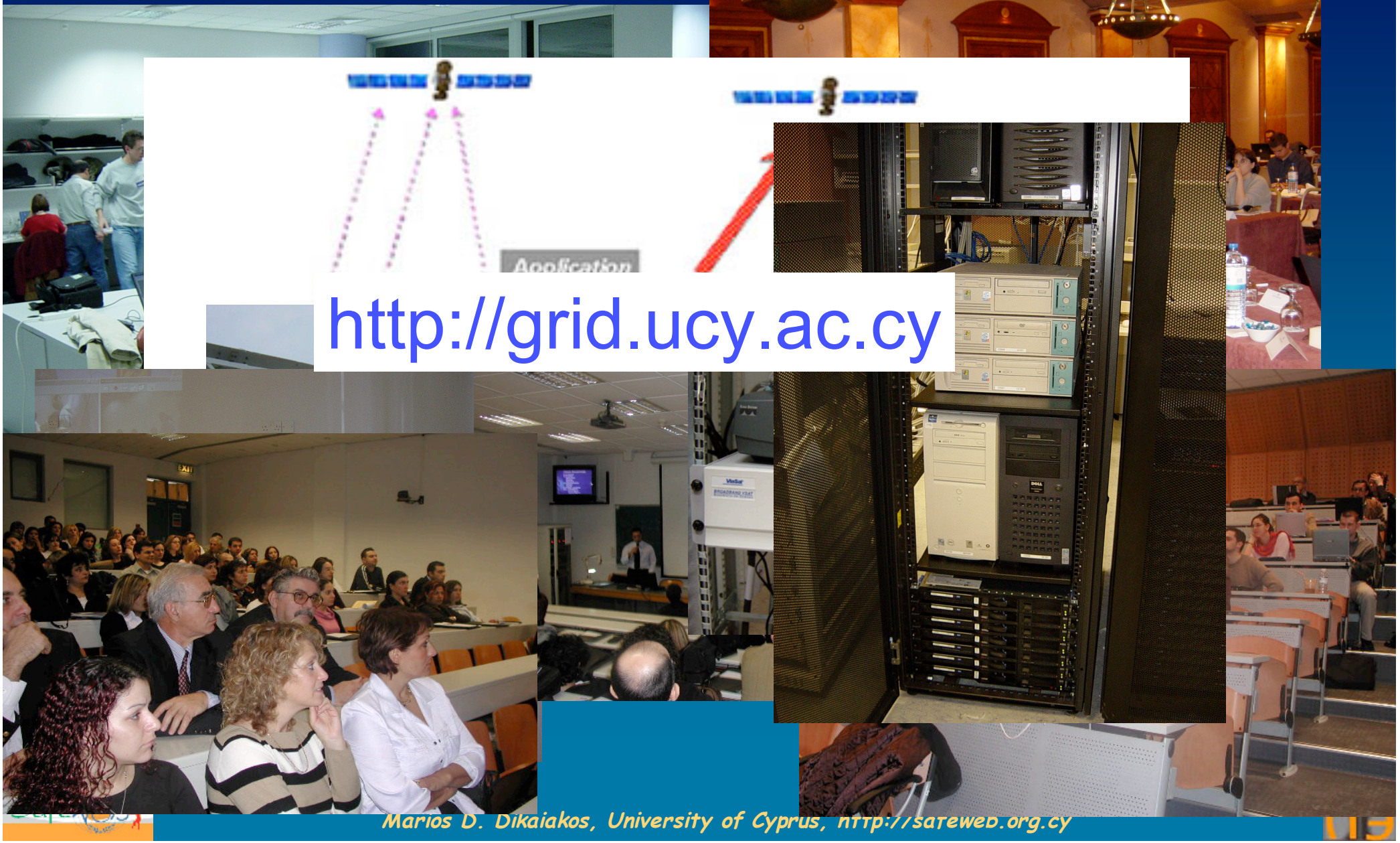
A few words about us: High-Performance Computing Systems Lab

- Established in 2001-2002.
- Funded by the University of Cyprus, the European Union, and Republic of Cyprus, and the (FP5, FP6, RPF).

HPCL Mission

- Conduct research and promote the scientific and technological knowledge in Internet and World-Wide Web technologies.
- Support University courses in Internet technologies (at an undergraduate and graduate level).
- Supervise undergraduate (B.Sc.) and post-graduate thesis work (M.Sc., Ph.D.).
- Promote applications of Internet and High-Performance Computing and Networking in Cyprus through support and technology-transfer actions.
- Develop, support, and exploit a high-quality research infrastructure.

HPCL Activities



Acknowledgements

- All our speakers and especially Mr Ian Brown, INHOPE, and Mr Frank Glenn, IWF.
- Cyprus Telecommunications Authority.
- Ministry of Education.
- Microsoft Cyprus.
- Other participating institutions:
  - Telecommunications Regulation Authority.
  - Most major cypriot ISPs: AvacomNet, Cytanet, LogosNet, OteNet, Spidernet.
  - Attorney General's Office.
  - Parents Association.
  - Intercollege.
- National press and Media and especially Philelefttheros and CyBC.
- The European Union