

PROJECT EVALUATION

Project overview

The InDiCo project aims to provide a framework to manage conferences and their multimedia material. It supports conference organization and running, as well as archival and end-user access by means of filtering and power-user tools.

MaKaC (part of InDico project) is an application which allows organizers to manage the whole life cycle of a conference, workshop, or a seminar. Especially it concerns the management of data, metadata and all multimedia documents related to these kinds of dissemination activities.

Regarding the state of the art and the several existing commercial products such Eveni (<http://eveni.com>), Suvisoft (<http://suvisoft.fi/>), and Softconf (<http://softconf.com>), etc., MakaC offers an **open, flexible, powerful** and **extensible** tool. These advantages are due to several strong points: an open and well designed architecture, an interoperable data exchange format, and powerful programming languages.

Business and scientific objectives

From a scientific and business point of view, MakaC presents in our opinion, a set of strong key issues:

1. *Multimedia support*: MakaC offers a flexible gateway allowing the addition of external analysis modules. This approach grants an optimal future evolution by offering :
 - More precise indexing results
 - Adapted and personalized diffusion of multimedia objects
 - Flexible displaying on different mobile devices
2. *Integration capabilities*: the architecture of MakaC is designed to allow the easy integration of the application with other existing legacy systems. This approach provides an excellent way to connect all conferences data managed by MakaC with existing archiving systems in organizations.



3. *Multi-conferences handling*: in against with existing tools and products on the market, the application provides a multi conferences management system. This feature presents a big economical advantage especially for those industries which are specialized in conference organization.
4. *Standard based solution*: the choice of XML standard to ensure the interconnection with different existing archiving system present a real advantage in terms of data interoperability.

Technical background

The technical work is divided into two main parts: the first part concern the implementation of different databases, web applications, and the second part concern the web design by creating user friendly interface with an appropriate search fields and document representations based on end user requirements.

Based on available documentations and prototype testing, we can observe the following:

- A very good technical documentations (completeness and conformance with UML), which facilitates the future development or some additional functionalities.
- The use of standard XML which offer an interoperable way to manage data and multimedia metadata.
- A very good external documentations and user manuals
- A productive prototype, which is already used to manage several conferences
- A user friendly interface with a professional appearance

Conclusion

MakaC, in our opinion, is a complete application offering a set of functionalities in the domain of conferences management (creation, diffusion and archiving). It is a good answer to the absence of a leading product in this area, and it has a lot of advantages in term of the cost, the flexibility of adaptation, and mainly in term of long-term electronic preservation of the conference material.

Due to the very good specification and documentations, the application will be very easily evolved to deliver an excellent product in order to answer to the large market demand in this field.

We were especially impressed with implemented web-based solution. Moreover the provided documentations are very complete and allow an easy shifting from prototype status to a fully commercial product.

Prof. Omar ABOU KHALED

EIA-FR