PROJECT RESULTS

Collective decision-making simplified

Towards a standards-based collaborative business solution for Europe

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More and more enterprises and administrations have to collaborate in order to make appropriate business decisions or avert crises. The collapse of the 'new economy' has led to a renewed interest in software that can help companies to recover their business revenue streams and rapidly seek new opportunities. The European economy can benefit from decision-support facilities based on the LASCOT technologies.

This is caused largely by the use of partial information and the absence of standard interoperability mechanisms to underpin key business decision-making.

The LASCOT project contributes to a standards-based solution by defining, developing and demonstrating a set of concepts and technologies for collaborative decision support in networks of large organisations.

Sharing is vital
The wide range of applications for which the LASCOT decision-support technologies are relevant occur in large enterprises, public institutions and ministerial organisations involved in the management of risk, change and crisis. There is also potential in the health domain, especially with respect to the collection and sharing of patient data in special cases of sickness or emergency where speed is essential.

LASCOT offers real opportunities for a more advanced secured web service orchestration in which there is no central coordination, as in WS-BPEL (web services business process execution language) – but rather a network of autonomous and asynchronous services, as supported via the WS-Addressing standard – acting on sensitive information.

The clustering of information originating from the web or document databases without the need for a time-consuming document pre-processing dramatically increases the efficiency of people looking for knowledge, and represents a growing market.
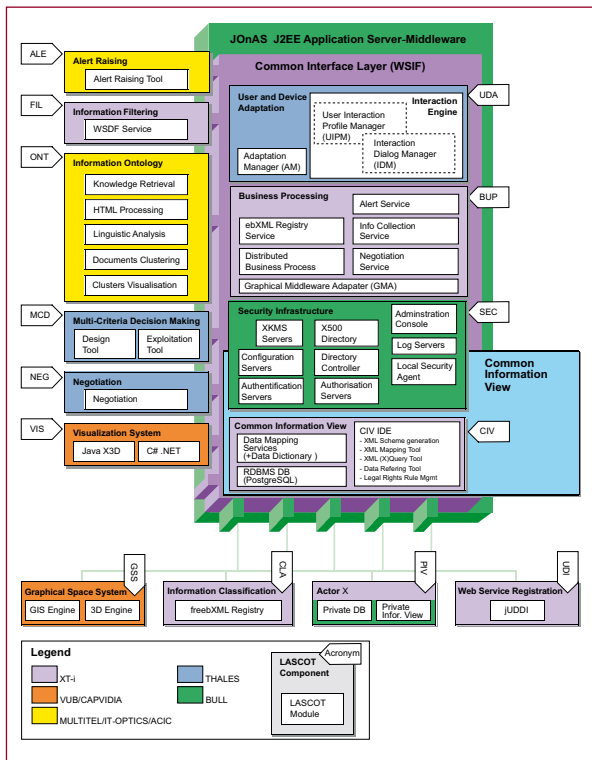
LASCOT software logical architecture

Many of today's enterprises attempting to work together to form collaborative businesses face significant barriers to the efficient sharing of information.

PROJECT RESULTS

Complementary results and prototyping

The two-year ITEA initiative specified, developed and validated a set of components for this purpose. It went on to produce an intermediate mock-up of an air traffic application, followed by a final demonstrator prototype dealing with oil spill pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

- **THALES** developed advanced software tools for collaborative decision-making and for the adaptation of various supplied information.

- **XT-i** developed a common information view (CIV) widely integrated in the demonstrator, and experimented distributed business processing.

- **Capvidia** extended the ROAD graphical information system with a thin client application and a '.Net' web-service.

Major project outcomes

Dissemination
- 4 publications
- 10 presentations at seminars/ workshop

Exploitation
- 4 new potential products (BXSS Security, CIV Designer/Web Service Generator, LIRIC)
- 1 product enhancement potential (ROAD)
- 6 new services (negotiation, MCDM, user profile, information adaptation, graphical middleware, clustering)
- Call 7 ITEA project SERKET (use of LASCOT technical results)

Standardisation
- 5 standards studied and implemented (XACML, WS-BPEL, X3D, CAP)
- Follow-up of the OASIS standardisation organisation work
- Contribution to the standardisation body W3C

Commercial agreement
- Bull and XT-i have a commercial agreement to push their respective results in the next technical proposals

- **VUB** produced a server-side graphical middleware component and visualisation application, both based on the ISO standard X3D.

- **Multitel** developed the LIRIC software package to perform in-context speech recognition, and adapted its Natural Language Processor to carry out the linguistic text analysis used in the clustering engine.

- **IT-Optics** and ACIC finalised the clustering engine.

- **Bull** achieved the BXSS (Bull XML Security Suite) component based on the SAML, XACML, XKMS and WS-security standards. It also performed the integration of the components provided by the various partners, in order to build the LASCOT demonstrator.

Immediate exploitation
- BXSS is used as the basis for a commercial middleware suite to be provided by Bull.

- The secured CIV is being included in Bull's technical proposals for its forthcoming commercial tender bids.

- The CIV environment will be used by XT-i in a number of commercial and new R&D projects.

- THALES' major technical results are being widely disseminated both within and outside the group; their immediate exploitation is envisaged in collaboration with several operational units.

- Walloon partners (Multitel, IT-Optics, ACIC) identified several possible uses of the results in future projects – and, based on the knowledge acquired, Multitel plans to enlarge the scope of its training programmes.

- Capvidia achieved a number of important developments extending its current products and proving the applicability of some innovative technologies.