Press release

RICOH – MTA SZTAKI Collaboration Supports the Office of the Future

The modern office has changed the dynamic of how we use and share information as knowledge is more widely shared across teams and projects and multiple locations within an organization. In view of this, between 2007 and 2009, Ricoh Company Ltd. and MTA SZTAKI research and development teams have been collaborating to research and develop software that will support the office of the future. The aim of the DONAU project was to conduct basic research in collaborative systems and develop new paradigm of computer supported collaborative work via integration of document authoring (CMS), discussions and agile tasking with strong context-awareness support.

The research project has contributed to the state-of-the-art information technologies in the following domains:

- Next generation of information sharing systems as an alternative to email, for knowledge workers who usually work in several contexts parallel, managing various information.

- Integration of context-awareness and real-time web-based collaborative systems and services, with optimal awareness information handling.

Developing new technical solutions within the areas of

- Handling of information that is scattered all over in a globally distributed environment, such as integrated collaboration systems and web-based loosely-coupled architectures.

- Working group work control, agile and ad-hoc control of joint work of flexible organizations.

The results of this Japanese-Hungarian collaboration are highly promising for providing new state-of-the-art values for knowledge creation and productivity improvement and fine granularity of monitoring in offices. RICOH is proceeding with this collaboration and

communication research towards more practical application and solution for producing RICOH's new IT solutions.

Organizations across the world were studied in depth before the new prototype software systems were developed and to ensure that the new software will improve the effectiveness of knowledge workers who are collaborating in globally distributed teams and in different time zones. The research teams also trialed the software to ensure the challenges of time, distance, culture and languages were overcome.

About RICOH

A global leader in digital office solutions, RICOH (http://www.ricoh.com) creates new value at the interface of people and information, offering a broad range of digital, networked products, including MFPs, printers, fax machines, semiconductor related products and digital cameras. With 108,500 employees worldwide, and $21 billion in revenue, RICOH is also one of the world's leading environmentalist companies, committed to sustainable business everywhere.

About MTA SZTAKI

MTA SZTAKI - the Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, (http://www.sztaki.hu), member of ERCIM and a Center of Excellence of the EU performs basic and application-oriented research in an interdisciplinary setting of computer sciences, engineering, information technology, intelligent systems, process control, wide-area networking. The Institute also performs contract-based target research and development, and provides training and expertise for domestic and foreign academic, industrial, governmental and other partners.

The Department of Distributed Systems (http://dsd.sztaki.hu) at MTA SZTAKI conducts research and development in the field of distributed computer systems, applications and middleware including World Wide Web-based software systems, groupware applications and services, digital library and archive systems, and mobile computing.