

Call for Participation

Agentlink Network Agents TFG
Agent Technology Deployment Survey
Rome Italy, 30th June – 2nd July, 2004
<http://x-opennet.org/netagents/>.

In recent years Agent technology has become highly relevant to new generations of Internet systems and technologies such as Web Services, the Semantic Web, GRID systems and e-Business – in particular for applications which aim to enable the dynamic composition of services, business processes or other software components across large-scale open environments such as the public Internet.

To realise this promise however, researchers and developers still face huge challenges in how to take theories, knowledge and experiences into these new worlds, prepare them for deployment and develop understanding of large-scale open environments populated by agents:

- How to choose between the plethora of tools and standards available?
- How can Agent technologies best be applied to emerging Web Service, Grid and other environments?
- How to make research relevant in a fast moving technology landscape?
- How to move beyond laboratory experiments to large-scale cross-organizational development and deployment?

In order to help answer some of these questions and provide input to many of the organisations and projects working in this space the *Agentlink Networked Agents Technical Forum* is organising an in depth survey of technology and application challenges in deployment of agent and related technologies – seeking inputs on:

- Research and Development activities working in areas such as e-Business, e-Government, the Semantic Web, Grid computing and others which are engaged in deployment and are either already applying agent technology or are considering doing so.
- Organisations developing tools, solutions and services (both agent and non-agent based) which could be used to support deployment of such applications in large-scale open environments (including development toolkits, libraries, modelling and simulation tools etc.)

The results of the survey will be discussed at a public symposium to be held in Rome, Italy on the 30th of June and 1st July, 2004 together with the other Agentlink Technical Forum groups (see <http://www.agentlink.org/>) and subsequently compiled into a number of publicly available reports.

All respondents to the survey are welcome to participate both in the Rome event (please email Steven Willmott / steve@lsi.upc.es) details of the mailing list will be provided at <http://x-opennet.org/netagents/>.

Request for Input

Contributions to the Technical Forum are solicited in the following three forms:

- The blue survey: a general survey on agent deployment challenges (recommended for all participants). Participate on-line at <http://x-opennet.org/netagents/>.
- Project descriptions: short descriptions (2-3 page) of research, development and deployment activities – in order to raise awareness of ongoing activities and generate requirements. Templates are available online at:

- Microsoft Word: http://x-opennet.org/netagents/projects_template_v1.1.doc
- OpenOffice.org: http://x-opennet.org/netagents/projects_template_v1.1.sxw
- Tools/Solution descriptions: short descriptions (2-3 pages) of tools, services and solutions – in order to raise awareness and generate take-up / re-use. Templates are available online at:
 - Microsoft Word: http://x-opennet.org/netagents/tools_template_v1.1.doc
 - OpenOffice.org: http://x-opennet.org/netagents/tools_template_v1.1.doc

Depending on your interests and position you are welcome to complete one or more of these submissions. The results of the survey will be summarised into an overview report which identifies major trends and issues (note that the summary will contain aggregate data only – individual responses will not be made public without the authors' permission).

Project / Solutions descriptions will collated in an online registry of tools for dissemination as well as in the Symposium working notes. The information requested in the templates is designed to match that which will shortly be used in the Agentlink.org web pages – to enable authors to re-use the same data when disseminating information about their systems/projects.

Participation in the Rome Symposium

Participation in the Technical Forum group meeting is open to all respondents to any of the elements of the survey although you must:

- Contact the symposium chair to signal your intention to attend.
- (There may also be an additional Agentlink registration process.)

All those submitting Project or Solutions summaries should indicate whether or not they would be willing to give a short presentation about their submissions and a final selection – the program committee will organise the final agenda for the symposium accordingly.

Important Dates

- **11th of June:** Deadline for project and solution descriptions
- **20th of June:** Announcement of Final Program for Rome Symposium
- **18th of June:** Deadline for survey submissions
- **30th of June – 1st July:** Rome Symposium
- **End of July / August:** Finalisation of Technical Forum reports for participants
- **End of August/September:** Public release of Technical Forum results

Related Activities

The Networked Agents Technical Forum is organised in conjunction with two other technical fora:

- Programming Multi-Agent Systems (PROMAS)
- Agent Oriented Software Engineering (AOSE)

Both of which will also co-locate meet at the Rome Agentlink event. Results will also be used as input to the development of the Agentlink Agent Technology Roadmap (<http://www.agentlink.org>) and the further development of the openNet testbed (<http://x-opennet.org>).

Organising Committee

- **Steven Willmott**, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain, (Main Contact)
<http://www.lsi.upc.es/~steve/>
- **Omer Rana**, Cardiff University, UK,
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- **Peter McBurney**, University of Liverpool, UK, <http://www.csc.liv.ac.uk/~peter/>
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Program Committee

- Chris van Aart, Acklin B.V. The Netherlands
- Fabio Belifemine, Telecom Italia Laboratories, Italy
- Monique Calisti, Whitestein Technologies, Switzerland
- Massimo Cossentino, Italy, ICAR/CNR
- Hendrik Heimer, Navus, Germany
- Rainer Herler, Univ Wuerzburg, Germany
- Wouter Jansweijer, UvA, The Netherlands
- Paul Krause, University of Surrey, UK
- Antonio Moreno, University Rovira i Virgili, Spain
- Jens Nemis, Univ Karlsruhe, Univ. Karlsruhe
- Julian Padget, University of Bath, UK
- Lin Padgham, RMIT University, Australia
- Agostino Poggi, University of Parma, Italy
- Simon Thompson, BTEExact, UK
- Amund Tveit, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- Laszlo Varga, SZTAKI, Hungary