

Remarks for Special Issue on C&C User Forum & iEXPO2005



The C&C User Forum & iEXPO2005 was held over the three days from Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th December, 2005, at the Tokyo Big Site. The event is widely recognized as a leading one for IT and networking, and this year there were more than 82,000 visitors. Now that the Ubiquitous society is taking shape on a large scale, society in general is also changing rapidly just like business and private life styles. Against this background, we set the theme of “Ubiquitous:Facilitating power for your business Success! U can change.” We aim to promote our technologies and solutions in the forum and exhibition (iEXPO) in order to succeed in becoming leaders in the Ubiquitous age. These special issue pages are intended to introduce the advanced solutions, products, technologies and services that were exhibited on this occasion.

Senior Executive Vice President
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1 Purpose of the Event

The C&C User Forum & iEXPO2005 is an event for introducing the rapid progress and new trends in IT and networking as well as the management and IT strategies based on them. It is composed of forum and exhibition (iEXPO). The forum consists of lectures in which the top managers of leading businesses talk about their corporate ideas and business strategies from a management viewpoint and also includes workshops that serve to advance customer case studies. The exhibition (iEXPO) demonstrates the latest technological developments and offers solutions enabling customers to understand tips on the future management styles that will be brought about by introducing IT into future management strategies.

The previous event focused on the Ubiquitous society and acquainted visitors with the progress that the NEC Group is achieving in the domains of IT and networking. The significances of the event lay in enabling visitors from various backgrounds to experience the new society and the content of the Ubiquitous Age as a tool for assisting reforms in their management functions and job contents and to understand the solutions, products, technologies and services provided by the NEC Group for contributing to their business activities. While the previous eight events have focused on enterprise activities, this ninth event has extended its aims in order to deal with the lifestyle of

society as a whole as well as of individuals. The event theme was set as the Ubiquitous Society in order to influence enterprise changes to benefit individuals as well as society in general and also to influence the promotion of effective business strategies.

2 The Idea Underlying the Event Theme “Ubiquitous: Facilitating power for your business Success! U can change.”

Currently the convergence of information communications is underway in all regions of the world, including those between the optical and IP networks, mobile and fixed communications, and between information and communication technologies. As these convergence technologies help promote the evolution of the Ubiquitous environment, new services for consumers are going to appear based on convergence in such forms as broadcasting, communications, finance, new information contents and network commerce, etc. It is expected that in the future these new services will expand on a big scale and bring greater changes to the consumption habits and the lifestyles of people (Fig. 1). At the same time, efforts for enhancing international competitiveness by advancing the internal processes and value chains of enterprises and organizations using ubiquitous technologies are also becoming more active. Since the speed of business activities can be increased significantly by making full use of IT and networking in the Ubiquitous environment, man-

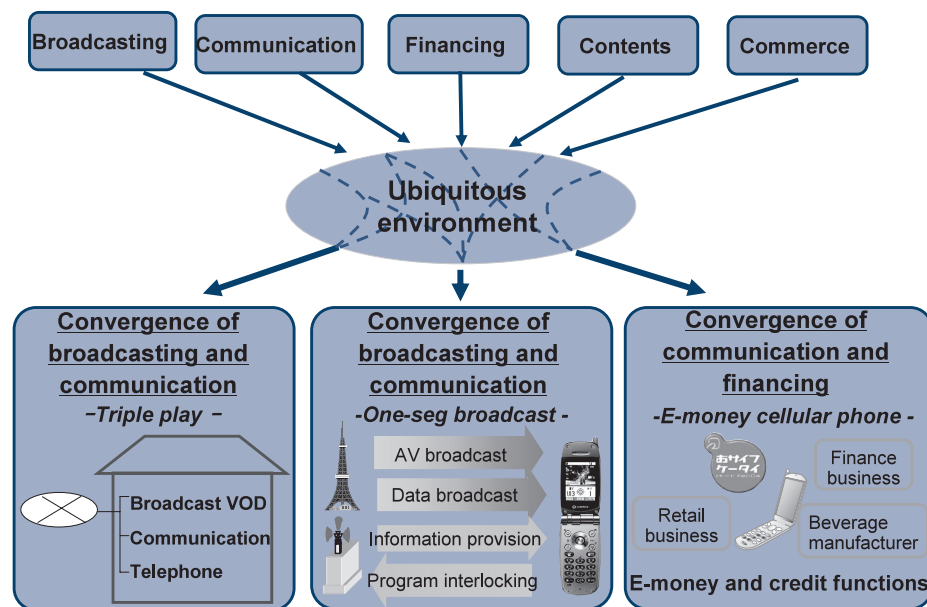


Fig. 1 Creation of new convergence-based services.

aging the chains inside and between enterprises carefully and accelerating them as value chains will improve the competitiveness of businesses. This is the realtime management. The key to the growth of businesses and the increase in its value lies in dealing flexibly with the changes in the market by accurately identifying information on the rapidly changing fields of logistics, physical distribution and market sales, and by quickly making decisions. On the other hand, however, the problems with the Ubiquitous society are emerging with increasing risks for businesses. Emerging issues are related to the need for measures to be taken to deal with emergencies and disasters and in the pursuit of social responsibility and risk management as a

suitable means of dealing with them. There is also the issue of lifecycle management, which is a viewpoint for making it possible to deal flexibly with various changes. Management of enterprise lifecycles and of information and IT covering the internal control and cost management will promote optimum decision making and overall IT optimization systems.

As reviewed in the above, realtime management, risk management and lifecycle management are important viewpoints for the new forms of management in the Ubiquitous age and the effective use of IT and networking solutions in support of the above three management keyword areas, will provide the force for winning business in the Ubiquitous age. This is the concept that underlies the theme of the event (**Photo 1, Fig. 2**).



Photo 1 Lecture scene at C&C User Forum.

3 Outline of the iEXPO2005 (Exhibition)

The advent of the Ubiquitous society makes information collection and intelligent production activities possible anytime and anywhere and these are rapidly becoming standard business tools. At iEXPO2005, we introduced advanced technologies and solutions that are expected to expand business domains in the future as well as enhancing existing businesses. In addition to the Theme Stage, the exhibition hall was roughly divided into four zones. These included the zone for the NEC Group booths, the NEC Group pavilion, the zone for middle-scale enterprise solutions and the zone for the collaborating businesses booths.

- ▶ Changes in environments surrounding enterprises
⇒ Opportunities for value increases
- ▶ Prediction of changes is the key for the growth of business and increases in its value.

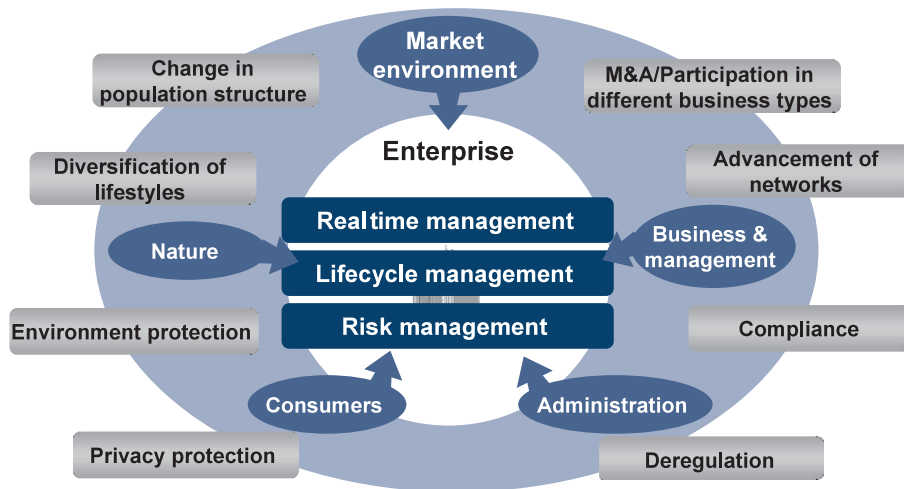


Fig. 2 New management attitudes in the ubiquitous age.

3.1 Theme Stage

The theme stage housed the event theme exhibition “Ubiquitous: Facilitating power for your business Success! U can change..” which was introduced in an easy to understand presentation. We proposed the resolution of the three critical issues of business management in the Ubiquitous age that are described above using IT and networking methods. These issues are realtime management, risk management and lifecycle management (**Photo 2**).

One demonstration showed the realtime collection and utilization of information by consumers and businesses (stores) by taking a typical supermarket shopping situation as an example. From the technical viewpoint, this system displayed informa-

tion on each corner of the store on the monitor of each customer’s cart by pinpointing it according to the information ID from IR transmitters with an information transmission capability that are installed in the store fluorescent lamps. RFID technology (wireless IC tags) is also employed. The system also runs real-time information communications between the RFID tags on the products, sensors on the shelves, the store server and the PDA of the store manager. It was thus demonstrated that the sales management, inventory management and information sharing with producers and suppliers enables a value chain connecting the producer to the consumer and enables the store to adopt the next needed action speedily.

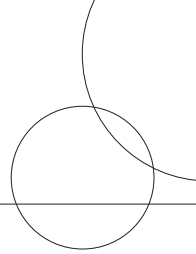
Another demonstration dealt with an information management system that allows business managers to utilize the collected information in real time, by taking the example of a solution called the “Management Cockpit.” The Management Cockpit collects information in real time by making use of IT and networking methods and analyzes it automatically in order to create a management strategy based on a consideration of the image analysis results. When this function is interlocked with a web conferencing system, etc., it becomes possible to take management level decisions instantaneously.

3.2 Exhibitions at the NEC Group Booths

This zone housed the NEC and the NEC Group companies introduced by business type and field. These included advanced



Photo 2 Demonstration scene of the theme stage at iEXPO2005.



solutions, products, technologies and services using IT and the networking technologies of the Ubiquitous society. Details of the various exhibitions are reviewed in the following in connection with the relevant papers and reports that are contained in the special issue pages.

(1) Industry/Common to different industries business solutions

These include advanced solutions for management issues with regard to each job and a variety of solutions for supporting a range of businesses using IT and networking by means of demonstrating business and interdisciplinary business types. The special issue pages include papers introducing the Route Builder, which is an IT-based route guidance system for handicapped persons designed for use by public institutions and local governments and a fixed assets change judgment system which detects construction, renewal and loss of houses automatically by 3D analyses of aerial photographs.

(2) Broadband & mobile

The rapid progress of broadband and mobile technologies is helping to realize an office environment in which innovative work styles are created by realtime communications for “anywhere,” “anytime” use in various business environments. NEC’s UNIVERGE Solution, which connects IT and networking technologies, is a tool for implementing such a broadband office. It was demonstrated by showing specific solutions enabling an enhancement of sales force support services and planning/development strategies for enterprises (**Photo 3**). The papers contained in the special issue pages introduce solutions linked with FOMA® and PDA as well as advanced solutions for innovating office communications via knowledge management and web conferences.



Photo 3

Demonstration scene of the iEXPO2005 Broadband & Mobile zone stage.

(3) Platforms

“Platform Optimization” reduces the maintenance/management costs of a system by integrating different platforms and unifying their operations. It will enable new IT investment and help enhance enterprise competitiveness. The special issue pages introduce platform optimization solutions proposed by NEC via; the “WebSAM Ver.6” integrated operation management system, which features autonomy and integrated operation, the “ActiveGlobe Process Convergence”, which is a highly reliable service infrastructure that supports the Ubiquitous technology and the client integration solution enabling improved client environment, security and the reduction of TCO. The papers also cover the “SIGMAGRID,” which is a next-generation integrated platform capable of building an optimized, flexible system environment, the “i-PX9000” multi-OS platform and the VersaPro UntraLite business PC that features an extremely light weight.

(4) Security

An enterprise attempting to adopt information security measures should first assess its own internal weak points and find a suitable starting point to initiate countermeasures in an integrated manner. The special issue pages introduce the integrated security management solutions offered by the NEC Group, which include physical security enhancement using IC cards, information protection solutions, quarantine solutions, cyber attack countermeasures and an authentication solution based on biometric methods. It also covers the “WebSAM Incident Guard,” which performs the centralized surveillance of network security equipment and network equipment and, in case of an important incident such as virus or worm infection, isolates the infected terminal from the network in order to prevent spreading of the infection.

(5) Embedded solutions

Integration technology is actively used in technologies familiar to our daily lives, such as automobiles, cellular phones and IT home appliances. The NEC Group supports this trend and promotes “MONOZUKURI(manufacturing)” in Japan with its integration solutions, which combine its excellent IT, network and device technologies. The Event Mini Stage exhibited the NEC’s personal robot, a product of its integrating solutions platform “PaPeRo”(**Photo 4**), thus providing an easy-to-understand explanation of integrated solutions. Among them, the special issue pages introduce the “Integrated Camera Solution” and “Verification Tool for the FlexRay Vehicle-Mounted Communication System.”



Photo 4

Demonstration scene of the iEXPO2005
Embedded Solutions zone stage exhibited with "PaPeRo".

(6) Service provider solutions

The latest technology systems for use in the construction of broadband & mobile networks were exhibited together with services and solutions featuring maximum use of networking, such as content distribution, web conferencing, authentication and high-speed document reading. The special issue pages introduce an IP-based notification solution for local governments and service providers. This system can improve the efficiency of information transmission for a specific district or area in the case of an emergency or disaster, and a content distribution solution based on the Peer-to-Peer technology.

(7) Environmental solutions

Under the concept of "Ecology through IT," the NEC Group promotes the integration of environment management with business management through IT solutions that can contribute to the environment and IT equipment that is environmentally aware. The event exhibited environmental information solutions and environmentally aware products in this context.

Also, the papers in the special issue pages introduce a vehicle drive management system supporting EcoDrive and safe driving, and an environmentally-friendly PC "VALUESTAR."

(8) Advanced technology and Research and Development

The NEC Group conducts the Research and Development (R&D) of advanced technologies in a globally competitive economic climate, and also develops solutions that utilize the

results of R&D for the innovation of the businesses of the next generation and to improve the lifestyles of customers. The event therefore exhibited the IT/Networking technologies for realizing the ubiquitous society where humans can become their own leaders. Device technologies to support the above technologies were also exhibited. The special issue pages introduce a solution for supporting the SLA (Service Level Agreement) conformance management for the corporate operations of mobile carriers, and a service in which the operators can remotely support the operations of cellular phone users by means of a remote web operation synchronization technology for use between a cellular phone and a PC.

4 Organization and Contents of the Special Issue Pages

In the Special Issue pages we introduce the efforts being made by NEC for the ubiquitous society as outlined in the NEC lectures in the C&C User Forum and at the Theme Stage of iEXPO2005. In addition, we also introduce papers and reports describing the details of advanced solutions, products and technologies among the solutions, services, products and R&D results presented or exhibited in the workshops and booths of iEXPO2005.

The papers and reports are introduced under the categories of "Business Innovation" and "Realizing the Safe Society." The former category covers advanced business solutions that are optimized for solving the problems of business management, as well as IT and networking solutions, products and technologies that can enhance the management foundations of businesses by solving their problems in the fields such as "cost reduction," "work style innovation" and "information asset protection." The latter category covers the technologies, services and products of the NEC Group that can support a "safe and secure society" and "a life worthy of oneself" by meeting the expectations that have been rising on the basis of the advances of the ubiquitous environment, for a society in which everyone can live in a safe and secure environment.