

■ Remarks for Special Issue on REAL IT PLATFORM

On behalf of NEC, I would like to preface my remarks by expressing our heartfelt gratitude for your continued reliance and trust in our solutions and platform products. As a result of the explosive growth and penetration of the Internet, today it is virtually impossible to imagine how society and our economy could function without using networks. In the value chain from manufacturing to distribution and sales, throughout the broad scope of corporate activities including research and development, marketing and management, and in everything from various public sector services such as government and hospitals to routine activities that comprise our daily lives, we are witnessing the advance of IT and networks into every facet of life. In the “Ubiquitous Society,” IT and networks will connect every imaginable thing, facilitating the real-time flow of financial instruments, commerce, goods distribution and information. In short, IT and networks will be the indispensable infrastructure for a new socio-economic paradigm. In order to promote the shift to the new business and management models that will support the coming “Ubiquitous Society,” a new IT platform will be necessary.

In addition, one factor accelerating the transition to the “Ubiquitous Society” is the NGN (Next Generation Network), which is being aggressively advanced by telecommunications carriers. Based on IP technology, the arrival of the NGN, which aims at realizing unprecedented levels of performance, security and reliability, will serve as a huge foundation on which the further translation of IT and networks into social infrastructure will be propelled. The advent of NGN is expected to accelerate the shift to networks, and give birth to diverse service domains arising from the convergence of broadcasting and telecommunications and the fusion of fixed and mobile networks.

The advance of the “Ubiquitous Society” and its acceleration by NGN will lead to dramatic changes that will be evident not only in the networks themselves and a new socio-economic model but also in the IT platform which serves as social infrastructure and supports business. First and foremost, it is necessary to develop a response to the explosive growth in traffic volume. The required IT platform must possess not only expanded processing capacity, but also the flexibility to grasp the signs of shifts in demand and instantly allocate the needed resources.

It will also be important to respond to the qualitative changes in both data and its processing. As broadcasting and telecommunications continue their convergence, the rapid increase in opportunities to store and utilize high-definition video and other large-volume content cannot be avoided. And with the advance of NGN and the consequent increase of services accessed by millions or even tens of millions of users, there will certainly be an extremely large expansion of content provided by the services, customer data and historical data. The capability to respond to data processing and search/retrieval demands on such a large scale and on a timely basis will be critical the success of future IT platforms.

As infrastructure for the “Ubiquitous Society” and as a platform for evolved styles of business and management that can meet the needs of the “Ubiquitous Age,” the next-generation IT platform will be required to meet the demands of highly sophisticated services. From this perspective, the focus will be on satisfying several points in particular: “Flexible,” “Dependable” and “Simple.” Believing that these 3 qualities are essential to the next-generation IT platform, NEC announced “REAL IT PLATFORM,” an ambitious vision for the IT platform of tomorrow, in July 2006. “REAL” expresses NEC’s commitment to both the REALization of IT solutions that satisfy the needs of customers optimally and on time, and the pursuit of a REAL (true) next-generation IT platform.

In this issue’s feature article, we would like to describe the cutting-edge technologies that will enable our REAL IT PLATFORM to satisfy the 3 key requirements and introduce the innovative products that represent our first step toward realizing our vision. Based on the REAL IT PLATFORM vision, NEC will set new standards for “Flexible,” “Dependable” and “Simple” and advance the development and commercialization of innovative technologies that will drive the freedom of the evolution of business in the “Ubiquitous Age.”

As our vision steadily becomes a reality, I hope that you will continue to lend us with your valuable support and encouragement.



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