TC 6 – A Sailboat in the Wind

30th Anniversary celebration

On a sunny July 8 in 1497 the court of King Emmanuel I of Portugal sent Dom Vasco da Gama on a distant mission to discover a sea route to India. The expedition rounded the Cape of Good Hope and reached Calicut on May 20, 1498. This discovery opened the sea route to India, then the principal market for trade in spices, precious stones, and pearls, and established a sea-link between the Arab, Indian and European civilizations.

Some 5 centuries later on, the IFIP courts of Dorodnicyn and Zemanek prepared a new expedition, this time to Virtualand, by establishing TC 6 and its first WG on "International Packet-Switching for Computer Sharing" chaired by Vint Cerf, the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocol.

So far, the Captains of the IFIP TC 6 Armada come from 6 countries:

- K. Uncapher, US (interim), 1974 - 1975
- L. Pouzin, FR, 1975 - 1978
- A. Casaca, PT, 1998 - 2003

We were recently reminded by a past President of the early TC 6 years and first-time-ever demonstrations in South Africa and Brazil, based on the Arpanet. These demonstrations incorporated technological concepts that were the precursor of the Internet. Today, TC 6 on Communication Systems [http://www.ifip.or.at/bulletin/bulltcs/memtc06.htm] is a strong team of some 40 delegates representing most of IFIP member societies.

This team guides the activities of 10 working groups with a total membership of some 300 experts:
The technical committee and its working groups organize annually some 25 international conferences and workshops in their subject areas. The conference organization follows a stringent paper review process with proceedings normally published by IFIP’s principal publisher. A list of TC 6 books is available at [http://www.ifip.or.at/publications/booksTC6.htm](http://www.ifip.or.at/publications/booksTC6.htm).

TC 6 runs tutorial programs and its members are actively involved each year in delivering lectures in Latin America, Asia and elsewhere. The committee has its own Best Paper Awards and assists financially students and representatives from developing countries to participate in its conferences.

The IFIP Executive Director was invited by TC 6 to join them for their regular meeting and the 30th Anniversary of the Committee on 5-6 October 2002 in Lisbon, Portugal. As guest, he was offered the possibility to address their meeting and to contribute to the discussions. During the celebrations and at the opening of the 2nd E-Commerce, E-Business and E-Government Conference on 7 October he was extended a warm welcome and hospitality by the TC Chair, A. Casaca, the Portuguese GA representative J. Granado and the TC 6 community.

As a token of appreciation, the Delivery Co. produced this short account of the events hoping it would be of interest to the wider IFIP community.

On 5 and 6 October 2002 TC 6 celebrated its 30th Anniversary in the land of Vasco da Gama, in Lisbon, in a hotel overlooking the Parque das Nacoes, near the Torre Vasco da Gama and the 17 km Vasco da Gama bridge over the river Tejo.

The venue was well chosen and symbolic of the link between the great discoveries of the 15th and the 20th centuries.

The 30th Anniversary, stage managed by Messrs. Boyanov [BG] and Spaniol [DE], consisted of a formal ceremony, a Dinner and a sight seeing tour of Lisbon.

**The Formal Ceremony**

The “First 30 years of IFIP TC 6” ceremony was moderated by Kiril Boyanov who with fine humor and good memory made a short introduction to the historical developments related to TC 6. Jose Granado [PT, GA representative and former TC 6 member] and Alexandre Cerveira [PT, former TC 6 member] addressed the meeting and welcomed the participants on behalf of API, the Portuguese Informatics Association, member of IFIP.

Gert van der Veer [ZA], Andre Danthine [BE], Otto Spaniol [DE] and Augusto Casaca [PT] talked about the developments in TC 6 from the early years until today. Tibor Szentivanyi [HU] also contributed with his recollections on pleasant and hard times for the TC. Ron Uhlig [US] was unable to come to Lisbon but had sent a long letter on the occasion.
The IFIP President, Klaus Brunnstein [DE], delivered greetings and congratulations to the TC 6 Community on behalf of IFIP. Then, Louis Pouzin [FR] made a presentation on “The Internet DNS: An Absolete Logjam in a Multi-Cultural World (Present Situation and Alternative Solutions)” which gave “food for thought” about the future of the Internet.

[Messrs. Danthine, Spaniol and Pouzin have agreed to prepare their presentations in written form for the Delivery Co. and we will provide links. Augusto, as TC 6 Chair, is expected to contribute to the Project “Visions from the IT Engine Room”. The WG Chairs were requested to produce a short forecast on possible breakthroughs within the scope of their WGs and this would complete the report.]

TC6 commemorative pins and certificates were presented to all TC 6 members and guests and that evening everyone was invited to Dinner.

**The Dinner**

The Dinner was held in the restaurant on top of the Vasco da Gama tower. Port and other fine Portuguese wines and dishes prepared the atmosphere for a tombola in which everyone was a winner.
Then came something very special — **Fado**!

Some of the IFIP veterans may remember Luis Penedo (the Portuguese GA representative to IFIP for the period 1983 to 1991, succeeded by Jose Granado). Mr. Penedo had retired and had founded an Academy to promote authentic Fado. He entertained TC 6 and guests for nearly an hour. Luis played the guitar and was joined by another musician, one male and two female singers whose performance was remarkably professional and genuine. And all along, Luis kept explaining in his excellent English which he qualified as “a bit rusty after having left IFIP” the origins of the songs and the meanings they convey.

**The Conference**

The 2nd I3E conference [http://www.siweb.info/ifip](http://www.siweb.info/ifip) sponsored by TC 6, TC 8 and TC 11, had its opening ceremony on Monday 7 October. The General Conference Chair, Prof. Luis Valadares Tovares, spoke first and said there were participants from over 20 countries. He informed the audience that the Portuguese Prime Minister had personally shown interest in the Conference and expects a conference report.

H.E. David Justino, Minister of Education, addressed the Conference, thanked the participants for choosing to come to Lisbon and said:

“I have always on my mind Daniel Bell’s words, written in the 1976’s prophetic forecast of the Information Age and how it would radically alter the social structure of our societies. Property and goods gives place to Knowledge and Information. ‘Codification of theoretical knowledge and new relation of science to technology’ becomes the key question on the new societies, but the traditional difference and opposition between the Have and the Have Not, nevertheless remains identical and perhaps more profound.

That’s why we must build the digital societies on the idea of the learning societies, where the primacy of knowledge acquisition gives place to the ability of thinking and solving problems, where routine and standard solutions give place to a more human answer to contingent challenges.

There is no technological innovation without social and cultural changes that sustain it. That’s why we must prepare the new generations for the benefits but also for the contradictions of the new societies.”
The Minister’s speech was followed by a musical intermezzo with a septet performance of Portuguese pieces and love songs. Then, Prof. K. Bauknecht, IFIP Past President and General Chair of the 1st I3E Conference in Zurich in October 2001, talked about IFIP.

[Please visit http://www.ifip.or.at/mail/msg00181.html for the conference proceedings.]

I3E Opening ceremony

Thanks to the organizers of the 1st and the 2nd I3E conferences, this new series of IFIP conferences is becoming well established. The 3rd Conference will have its premiere outside Europe – in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 8 to 10 October 2003 http://www.cenpra.gov.br/noticiaseeventos/I3E_conference/index.htm. Plans are to convene the 4th Conference within the format of IFIP WCC 2004 in Toulouse.

Fine Impressions

It is always a pleasure to be in a friendly society in which hosts and guests mutually care for each other. In Lisbon, our hosts were exceptional! The Portuguese representative to IFIP and the TC 6 Chair were always available to TC 6 and to the IFIP guests both during the celebrations and at the conference. It was rewarding to observe that the President of API and many other API officials were at the Conference along with senior representatives of the Portuguese IT community, industry and government. This made us hopeful that all IFIP member societies are as supportive in popularizing IFIP and its activities within their countries.

On Tuesday morning, looking out of the hotel room window for the last time, the Torre Vasco da Gama appeared as a sailboat in the wind on the way to new discoveries.

Torre Vasco da Gama

We wish good luck and fortune to TC 6!

The Delivery Co.
Lisbon - Laxenburg