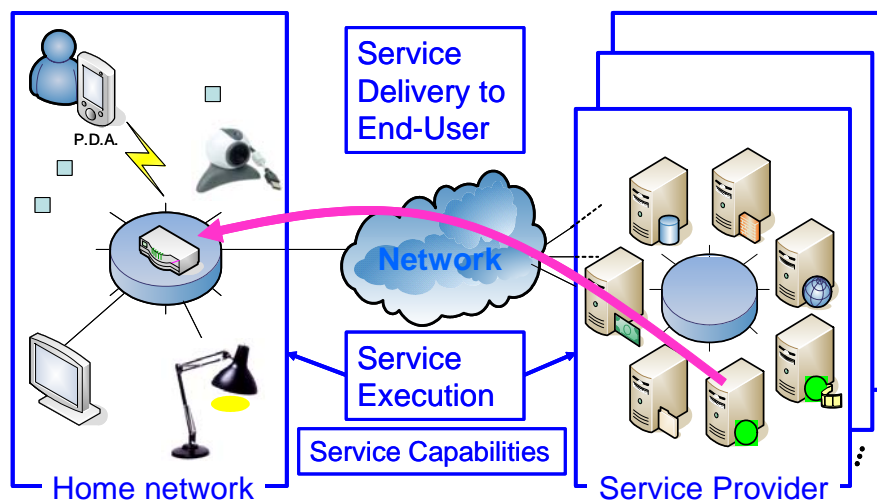


T-CASE Technologies and Capabilities for Service-Enabling

The Context

The ICT infrastructure and services market is forecasted to expand with double-digit yearly growth rates over the coming 5 year. Drivers for innovation in the ICT service space can be captured along three axes: introduction of user-centric services to residential and business customers, operational excellence in the service provider environment, and competitive differentiation.

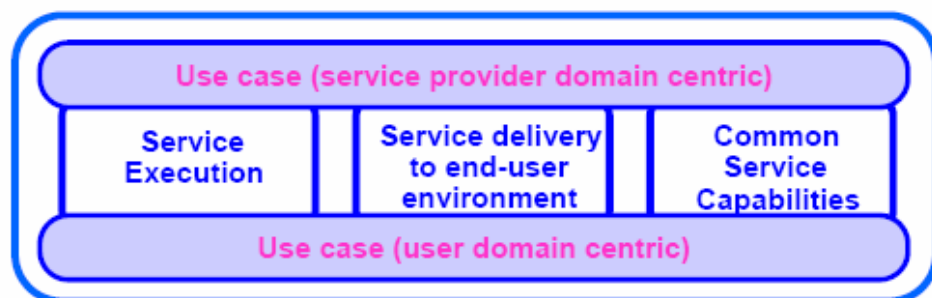
This project focuses on three areas: service delivery to the end-user environment, the service and business logic execution environment and common service capabilities. Advancements in these areas can significantly impact the three business drivers.



Service Enabling Platforms

In order for a service provider to offer services, there is a need for a service environment, in which the communications and business logic is executed. Emerging environments adhere to Service Oriented Architecture principles where coarse grained, loosely coupled services are assembled into applications. This environment interacts with the OSS/BSS for business processes such as service provisioning, activation and assurance. This environment is often referred to as a service-enabling platform.

Several technologies for building the service enabling platform components (in the service provider domain as well as in the customer domain) are being investigated and their interoperability is studied.





Service Enabling Capabilities

Following core service enabling capabilities and software techniques are essential for offering the envisaged services to users and are analyzed in detail in this project (both by means of prototype implementations and conceptual studies):

- Federated data management: a generic system to make sure that the data which is spread over different applications and databases is managed in a consistent way;
- Security enforcement on the level of a Service Enabling Platform concerns assuring all levels of security, including user- and component level authentication/authorization (e.g. single sign on) and secure communication between components;
- Policy enforcement concerns allowing administrators and/or end-users to enforce dynamic rules expressing for example SLAs, privacy concerns and/or user and device preferences;
- Capabilities to support location based and context aware services: to track users' locations, user preferences, maintain location information and adapt the services accordingly.

Summary

This project investigates technologies for ICT service platform middleware and innovative concepts for service enabling in both the service provider domain and end-user domains.

Important challenges are: (i) which security (e.g. electronic Id card), policy enforcement and federated data management techniques are most appropriate for service enabling platform design, (ii) how to integrate location and context awareness into a service enabling platform and (iii) which technologies in the user centric and network centric domain are best suited for service deployment.

Several proof of concept implementations are being built in order to evaluate the feasibility and performance of the various aspects under study.

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