

LoL@ - A Prototype of a Network Independent Wireless Internet Service

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In this paper we introduce LoL@, the Local Location Assistant, a mobile tourist guide for the inner city of Vienna. The project was carried out by several industry and research partners including Vienna University of Technology and the Telecommunications Research Center Vienna (ftw). Since upcoming mobile services are likely to utilize Internet technology in addition to existing telecommunication infrastructure, our vision was to create such a wireless Internet service prototype. We designed and implemented a proof-of-concept demonstrator of a flexible service architecture for network-independent wireless Internet services. LoL@ offers the look and feel known from the Internet combined with additional network functionality like location determination and call control. We will show that a functional split between network operator and service provider allows a simple utilization of different IP-bearers like LAN, WLAN, GPRS, or UMTS. LoL@ features interactive map based navigation by guiding a visitor along a tour through Vienna's inner city, offers terminal positioning, an automatic tour diary and the provision of multimedia information related to the sights. We show a concept to present this information with special regard to challenges like different devices capabilities (e.g. small display size), frequent disconnection or low bandwidth.