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Movie streaming for 3G cell-phones

By K. SUTHAKAR

PENANG: Users of 3G cell-phones can soon watch movies up to three hours and view recorded lectures via a multimedia streaming technology, touted as the first of its kind in the world.

The solution, called the J-MCS (Java-Multimedia Conferencing System), is expected to be marketed early next year.

MLabs Systems Bhd chairman Associate Professor Dr Sureswaran Ramadass said that users could follow recorded lectures under a tree or while travelling.

"The current 3G technology does not allow movie streaming, it only allows loading of video clips into cellular phones which are then played back," he said after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Universiti Sains Malaysia and TM Research & Development (TM R&D) here recently.

He said the company was interested in talking to RTM to allow users to watch the channels.



Dr Sureswaran Ramadass

Dr Sureswaran, who is the director of Internet Protocol version six (IPv6) Centre, said users could access the services through a server transparent of the network provider.

"It took MLabs and Universiti Sains Malaysia about a year to undertake the research into the prototype software using internal funding. We hope TM R&D would provide some funding for the commercialisation of the project under the MoU agreement," he said.

He said the MLabs was discussing with TM R&D over intellectual property rights.

"TM R&D can hold the intellectual property rights while we will be the development centre," he said.

TM R&D chief executive officer Dr Shahrudin Muslimin said the constraint of the movie streaming was the short battery life of cellular phones.

He said the MoU would only allow TM R&D to collaborate with USM on the J-MCS application and also promote co-operation on utilisation of research facilities, consultancy, training and industrial attachment, post-graduate studies and fellowships.

Dr Shahrudin signed the MoU on behalf of TM R&D while the university was represented by its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak.



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