



Farcast application: NewsFacts

Direct from the content creator to the mobile reader

The Farcast NewsFacts application distributes content with the latest news in text, images, audio and video files to subscribers via a mobile client. Content that was intended for the Internet, e-mail or RSS will be repurposed by the Farcast platform and adapted automatically to the mobile device used. The content provider can create an unlimited number of news channels which can be changed dynamically by the provider.



FARCAST - THE NEXT GENERATION CONTENT REPURPOSING PLATFORM

Structure

The Farcast NewsFacts application resides on a mobile terminal and uses back-end functionality on the Farcast platform. It allows mobile users to receive multimedia content in one or more channels in an application on their phones. The multimedia content can consist of text, images, audio or video and can be location-tagged. The Farcast platform fetches, transcodes, stores, and distributes the multimedia content. The content can be fetched via a mechanism which suits the content owner: RSS, e-mail, direct connection to a content database, NewsML over FTP, etc.

Demonstration: Step by Step

1. Start the application
2. Application checks with Farcast server whether there is new multimedia content available matching user preferences
3. Application fetches relevant new multimedia content from Farcast
4. Multimedia content is stored on the mobile terminal and the connection with the Farcast server is closed.
5. The multimedia content can be navigated without the need for a network connection.

Provisioning

Provisioning takes place either by user download, via a website or via despatch of a premium SMS.

Variations

Farcast NewsFacts can be customised as follows:

- application look and feel - splash screen, colours, logo etc.
- NewsFacts website look and feel - colours, logo, etc.
- application and website content structure – listed by timeline, geolocation, and/or subject.

Channel Management

The user can manage channel subscription settings via the Farcast NewsFacts mobile application or via a personal Farcast NewsFacts website.

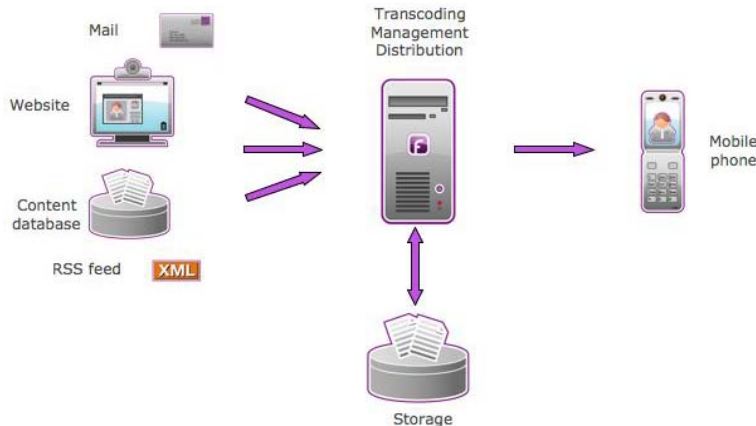
- mobile application: the user can see current channel subscription settings. If changed, the user will receive a confirmation message that will appear in the Farcast NewsFacts mobile application.

Future proof

In the Farcast Labs the NewsFacts application has been tested using SIP Push enabling a new breed of IMS ready applications.

Potential customers

All time-critical content owners.





Farcast of TNO is a next generation content repurposing platform. It supports services that let content owners and users create, share and publish multimedia content whenever and wherever, regardless of format or device. Farcast takes care of the compatibility between the originating and target device. This allows customers of TNO to define multimedia content services that will fit best to the specific wishes of their customers, end-users or employees. TNO implements and hosts the service on the Farcast platform in order for TNO's customer to brand, use and/or sell the service.

Content can be delivered to the Farcast platform in a variety of formats and via several protocols. Farcast will manage, store and distribute the content in the correct format. The Farcast platform incorporates functionality for subscription, security, transcoding, application distribution, user management and a business logic manager for flexible service creation. Farcast, set up as a fully distributed architecture, can also be seamlessly integrated into IMS or SIP-based architectures, generating a new breed of rich media applications which encourage the creation and sharing of multimedia content.

Farcast Platform Specifications

The Farcast platform is set up as a fully distributed architecture in order to handle network and functionality changes gracefully; each component is built as a service that can be started or stopped without service interruption.

Operating systems

The Farcast platform runs on the Java platform and is therefore Operating System independent. Current implementation is on Linux Debian.

Retrieval Formats

Content can be pulled by or pushed to the platform in a number of formats and via several ways:

- Various XML formats including RRS 2.0, Atom 1.0 and NITF
- MMS, SMS
- Email
- Via a web based interface
- Via a mobile application (e.g. Farcast Reporter)
- HTML, WML, XHTML
- upload via FTP and SCP
- Multipart MIME format

Publish Formats

After repurposing, the content can be made available in a number of formats and via several ways:

- Various XML formats including RRS 2.0, Atom 1.0, and NewsML
- Mobile application
- XML-RPC to blogsites
- Email
- HTML, WML, XHTML
- WAP Push, SMS, MMS
- (mobile) SIP clients
- Instant Messaging clients

Supported Image Formats

- image/jpeg
- image/png
- image/gif
- image/vnd.wap.wbmp

Other image formats can be optionally supported

Supported Audio Formats

- audio/amr
- audio/mpeg1 (layer 3)
- audio/aac
- audio/pcm (wav)

Other audio formats can be optionally supported

Supported Location Types

Cell-ID
GPS coordinates

Transcoding of Images

Automatic transcoding for various device types. Image transcoding includes adaptation of:

- image format
- resolution
- color scheme
- color depth
- size limit
- quality factor (limited by image format)

Transcoding of Audio

Automatic transcoding for various device types. Audio transcoding includes adaptation of

- audio format
- bit rate (restricted by codec)
- sampling rate (restricted by codec)
- sampling resolution (restricted by codec)
- size limit

Farcast NewsFacts application client

The client runs on phones that support Python J2ME MIDP 2.0. For support of streaming audio also J2ME MMAPI has to be supported.

Other Farcast applications

- Reporter – *from the mobile journalist to the newsdesk*
- AudioLink - *always access to the latest audio news*
- Podcaster - *podcast from the mobile to the web*
- FeedMe! - *feeds weblogs into your mobile*
- ScreenCast – *narrowcasting for the masses*

More information can be found on www.farcast.nl