



**Contract No. IST 2005-034891**

## **Hydra**

**Networked Embedded System middleware for  
Heterogeneous physical devices in a distributed architecture**

### **D13.1 Project Website**

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**Integrated Project  
SO 2.5.3 Embedded systems**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose, context and scope of this deliverable

The deliverable D13.1 Project Website is provided as the project website at <http://www.hydra.eu.com>. The type of the deliverable is P (Prototype) and it is submitted in electronic form on the above url.

This document supplements the electronic deliverable. It briefly outlines the technical solution chosen and provides a short description of the main content elements of the initial project website.

Since the website is continually being updated, this deliverable only describes the initial setup and population of the website.

## 1.2 Background

The HYDRA dissemination strategy is to progressively increase dissemination efforts as project results are obtained, in order to assure a wide awareness of the HYDRA project and favourable conditions to facilitate exploitation after the end of project. The dissemination strategy is intended to optimise dissemination of project knowledge and results to companies and organisations, which share an interest in the scientific results and the applications or are potential service providers of HYDRA.

The dissemination of the results of the project will take several forms and use a variety of media. To ensure that dissemination objectives are met in a form agreeable to the Consortium and beneficial for the business interests of individual participants, the Consortium will approve a detailed dissemination plan before dissemination starts.

Independently of the creation of the dissemination strategy, dissemination effort for the project will begin from day one with the establishment of a rich web site for publicity purposes.

The web site will need to store technical developments, events and invitations to join a dedicated mail group/interest group. The site will also display any papers and presentations given by consortium members, whether at European conferences or workshops. The members of the project will also write academic and technical papers, to be presented at conference and trade shows, and published in leading academic and technical journals.

## 2. Technical solution

### 2.1 PHP Fusion

PHP-Fusion is an Open Source CMS (Content Management System) coded in PHP (a server side scripting language) with a MySQL database running the backend. A CMS is a system which integrates a lot of functions usable for establishing and maintaining a homepage on the internet in such a way, that all the functions are part of the same solution and so that all maintenance of the homepage is done via a web-browser.

PHP is a scripting language capable of establishing connections with a database and retrieving and presenting data from this database in the form of a HTML page. This means that all the information necessary to form the pages that the users will see, is stored in the database and the pages are created dynamically as the user requests them.

PHP-Fusion includes the most common features one would expect to see in a CMS package and is fully capable of handling all of the requirements of Hydra dissemination. It should be born in mind that other workgroup tools like bscw, wiki, etc. are being used for inter-project collaborative working.

PHP-Fusion distinguishes itself from other CMS packages by being very compact, very effective and very flexible. PHP-Fusion is under constant development, and behind the system there is a very active community and a constantly growing network of users – experts and others.

There are numerous modifications and new components available on official sites across Europe. All new modifications are carefully tested and registered.

The Hydra website is based on PHP-Fusion version 6.01 released under the terms and conditions of the GNU General Public License (Version 2). Further info is available on [www.phpfusion.org](http://www.phpfusion.org)

### 2.2 Accessibility

The Hydra website is accessible by the general public for general information. More specific tasks such as download of public deliverable, participation in news forum, signing up for project events, etc. requires registration.

PHP-Fusion works with three basic role-definitions for users: Guests, members and administrators.

Ordinary users can access general information, news, calendar of events, etc as *guests*. Guests are encouraged to register as *members*, to be able to access more specific project information.

Members can have very different access-profiles because PHP-Fusion has support for different user groups. In Hydra, two member groups have initially been created. Ordinary members are users, who have registered and provided identification in terms of their e-mail address. A special user group consisting of project partners have been created. The purpose of the *partner* user group is to have some functions, such as certain forum and internal project documents, reserved for the partners only.

For the Hydra website it has been decided that only the web master has administrator rights.

## 2.3 Security

The security features are relatively standard for this type of web site. Members need to log in using the selected user ID and password. User registration is open to all guests directly from the web site. The user is asked to manually validate the registration to avoid automatic registration by web crawlers. upon registration, the user automatically receive a generated admission mail, to which they have to confirm their registration. The transmission is not encrypted.

A standard backup function is implemented in PHP-Fusion. The administrator can access this facility. Backups are stored outside the server environment for security purposes.

### 3. Website content

The Hydra website contains the following separate components:

- A news archive with news articles
- An article archive with technical articles and notes
- A links repository with relevant links to technical sites, applications and related projects
- A download site for downloading documents, presentations, graphics, etc.
- An event calendar with relevant events, both internal and external to the Hydra project
- A forum for members and partners for discussion on relevant technical topics (all members) and matters relating to the execution of the project (partners only)
- Polls for user inquiries on various topics
- A photo gallery with pictures from consortium meetings
- Links for partners to collaborative working environment (bscw, JIRA, wiki)

Further components have been planned for the future:

- A glossary with acronyms and frequently used terms
- A newsletter for registered members
- RSS feed for immediate news update to subscribers
- An updated event calendar with the possibility for the users to upload their own events and to register for announced events

#### 3.1 News archive, articles and other information

Members (including partners) can submit articles, news clips, and images. The submission will not be shown on the site until the administrator has validated and approved the submission.

Articles contain major project achievements, technological discussions and project relevant descriptions. Articles are a major source of project integration activities and dissemination.

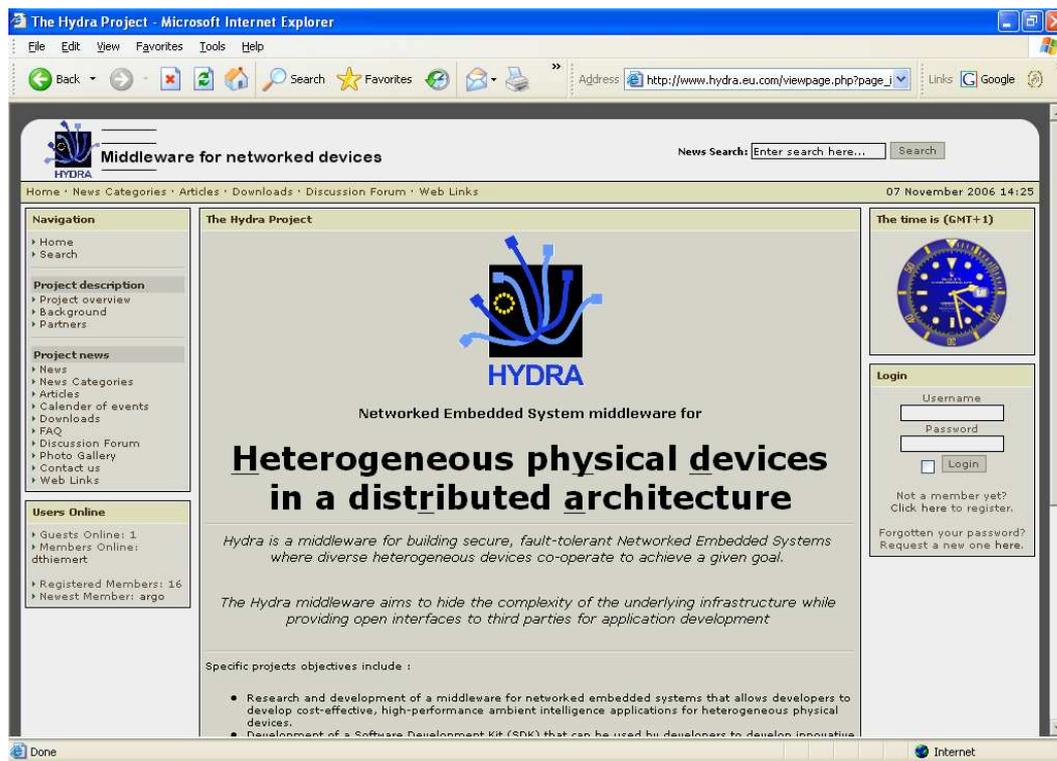


Figure 1 Opening screen of the Hydra web site

News, articles and photos can be commented on and rated by members. It may be necessary to edit comments, so the administrator has the ability to edit (or delete) all comments.

A link repository with relevant links to technical sites, applications and related projects is included. All users can access the links collection, which is organised in self explanatory groups.

A download site for downloading documents, presentations, graphics, etc. has also been included. Available for download is project dissemination material and public deliverables. The latter is (for the time being) only available to registered members.

### 3.2 Calendar of events

An event calendar with relevant events, both internal and external to the Hydra project has also been included. The purpose is to inform about upcoming events and allow project partners to prepare their own dissemination activities. Submission of calendar events is not operational in the initial version, but will be added later.

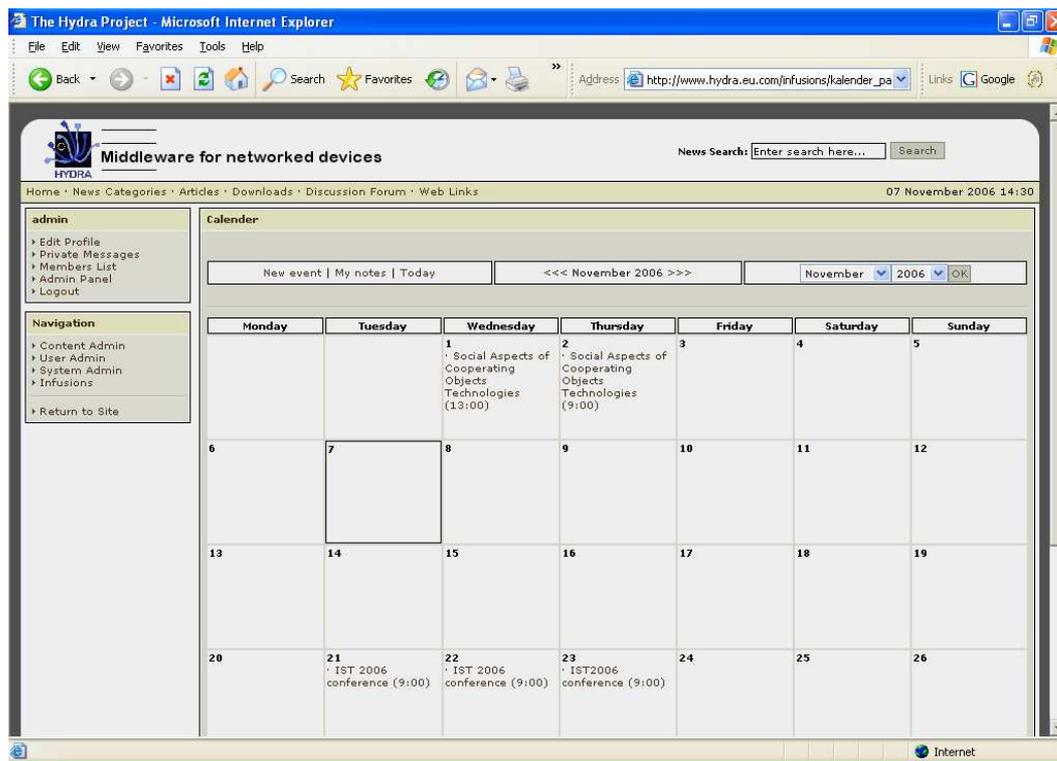


Figure 2 Events calendar

### 3.3 Forum and user interaction

An important vehicle for user interaction is the members forum for discussions on relevant technical topics. The forum is only open for registered members. Further fora are available for discussions within each workpackage. The benefit of this media is that it provides a common platform for the discussions and a repository and tracking system for earlier decisions and viewpoints.

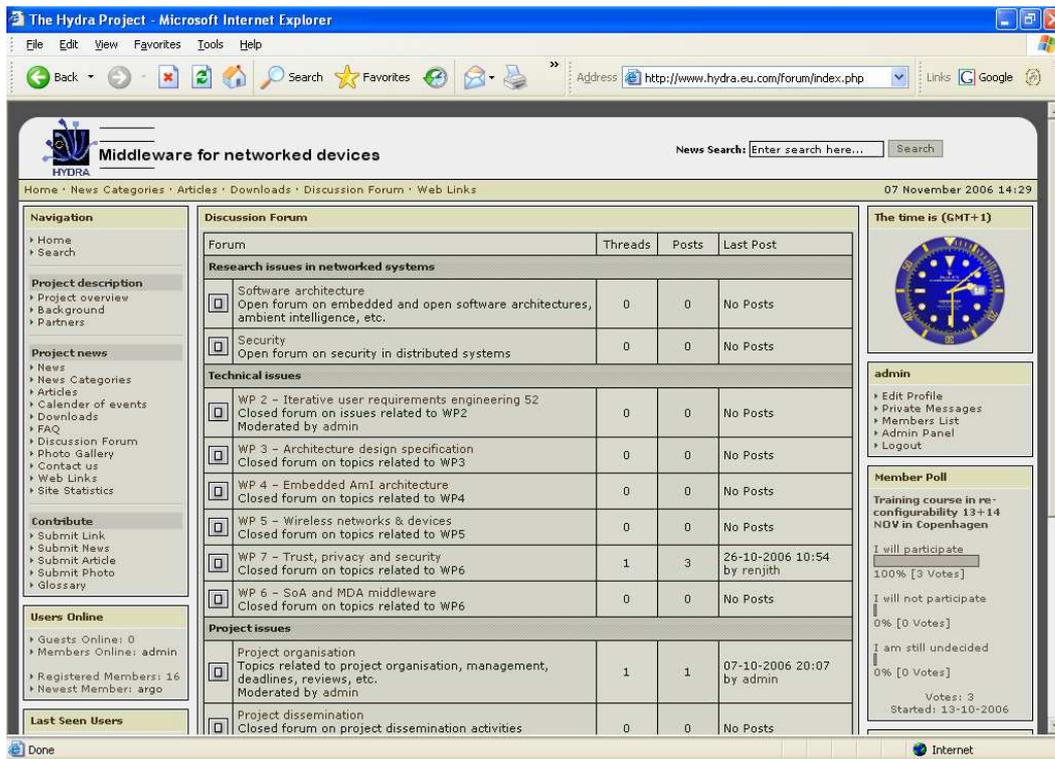


Figure 3 Hydra forum

PHP-Fusion also has a built in facility so that individual users can send messages to one another without the use of e-mail. The messages can be viewed, replied to or deleted in the users (members) private message box.