

Novática, founded in 1975, is the oldest periodical publication amongst those specialized in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) existing today in Spain. It is published by **ATI** (*Asociación de Técnicos de Informática*) which also publishes **REICIS** (*Revista Española de Innovación, Calidad e Ingeniería del Software*).

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Novática: Reaching beyond International Borders

Since the first appearance of *Novática* in 1975 its publisher (ATI - *Asociación de Técnicos de Informática*) made the decision of keeping the contents of this journal evolving permanently at the pace of the times.

Thus, if you look at the issues published in the initial years¹, you could observe a special emphasis on the dissemination of the knowledge about the then young information technologies, as well as the training of new professionals and the creation of a community of IT professionals in Spain. This is in contrast with later and current issues, whose main aim is the dissemination of scientific and technical advances in the IT field as well as the analysis of high-level contemporary social and business debates related to Information Technologies.

¹ See <<http://www.ati.es/novatica/indice.html>>.

The same happens in relation with the scope of our journal. In its infancy, *Novática*, which is published in Spanish, was essentially local and now it is essentially global speaking in terms of authors, subjects and even readership. The main proof of that is our successful partnership with CEPIS, the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies, to create and edit its journal *UPGRADE*, published in English, which lasted from 2000 to 2011.

For that reason, ATI has decided to publish an English edition of *Novática*, at least on a yearly basis. These editions will include a selection of articles published in Spanish in the last months. I would like to point out that this is the reaffirmation of our international vocation which we intend to reinforce in the near future.

It is my pleasure to announce to you that for this 2012-2013 Selection of Articles we have made the choice of publishing an, in our opinion, highly interesting monograph on "Privacy and New Technologies" whose articles have been published in Spanish during 2012 and 2013.

As our Chief Editor's article states, this monograph deals with a very important subject which gives rise to a widespread social, legal and even philosophical debate in which Information Technologies and their evolution play an essential role.

On behalf of ATI and its thousands of members thank you very much to everybody who has contributed to make it possible.

Dídac López Viñas,
President of ATI

From the Chief Editor's Pen

Privacy: Our Contribution to a High-Level Debate in the Digital Age

If someone asked about a paradigmatic concept to illustrate how IT contribute to social changes a very likely answer would be "privacy".

Indeed, I would say that this is a social concept that remained relatively static for ages, even in the first stages of the new digital era.

It has been since the Internet boom that the old ideas, habits, laws and regulations have been shaken up and somehow forced to evolve. As a consequence new models of privacy can be considered as a 21st century issue which is giving rise to a dynamic, vigorous and exciting debate. With special mention to the dynamism of this process as the power of new technologies is continuously growing and technology within reach of people is spreading in a seemingly unstoppable way.

Two of the most influential factors in this pervasive environment are communication technologies and surveillance technologies. Nowadays as almost everybody in the developed world can spend all his/her

time connected both at work and at home, governments and regulators feel the need to control those processes to prevent potential dangers.

In the meanwhile offenders and privacy abusers both private and public (let's remind the recent "Snowden case") have taken advantage of the increasing sophistication of the aforementioned technologies and the lack of technical knowledge of the average citizen for perpetrating their misdeeds.

As a consequence, the dichotomy between privacy and safety is setting up one of the most exciting, thrilling and widespread debates in the digital age whose participants range from governments, regulators and judges to businesses, individuals and ad-hoc associations.

In this context, we consider fully justified our choice of the "Privacy and New Technologies" monograph for the "2012-2013 Selection of Articles", a special edition of *Novática* in English which is based mainly on the monograph on the same subject

published in Spanish by our journal in 2012.

The work accomplished by the guest editors of the monograph, **Gemma Galdon Clavell** and **Gus Hossein**, prestigious scholars and active privacy advocates has been outstanding, as well as the articles written by authors with very high expertise on the subject matter. Many sincere thanks to all of them.

We also kindly thank our English Editors (**Arthur Cook**, **David Cash**, **Roger Shlomo-Harris** and **William Centrella**) for their contribution to this issue as well as the other English Editors who have been regularly assisting us with our publications in English.

We expect that our readers will find the articles interesting and hope thus to make our contribution to this exciting debate.

Llorenç Pagés Casas,
Chief Editor of *Novática*