

Geneva, May 28-31, 2000

ISCAS (IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems) is an international conference about the emerging technologies for the 21st century. The presentation of the papers was complemented with tutoring sessions and exhibitions of companies working on MPEG-related developments.

Among other results, CSELT presented at their booth the development that took place in the NexTV project in collaboration with other companies outside the project, and in the AIC-I group (Advanced Interactive Content Initiative) to which the project is actively participating.

The project showed the prototype of a real application that enhances traditional broadcast DTV with interactive content, and the satellite based set-up. A traditional News program was enhanced with interactive subtitles and headlines using the following formats:

- MPEG-2 Audio/Video is multiplexed into the MPEG-2 Transport Stream (TS), that was read from file or satellite
 - MPEG-4 BIFS and elementary streams are multiplexed in the MPEG-2 TS according to Amendment 7 and are streamed together with the MPEG-2 A/V, synchronised and composed with MPEG-2 video
- MPEG-2 TS has been tested for backward compatibility with commercial equipment (Optibase Fusion) which correctly ignores the enhancement. The MPEG-2 A/V can be fully controlled by the MPEG-4 scene (move, resize, etc.) in an enabled receiver.

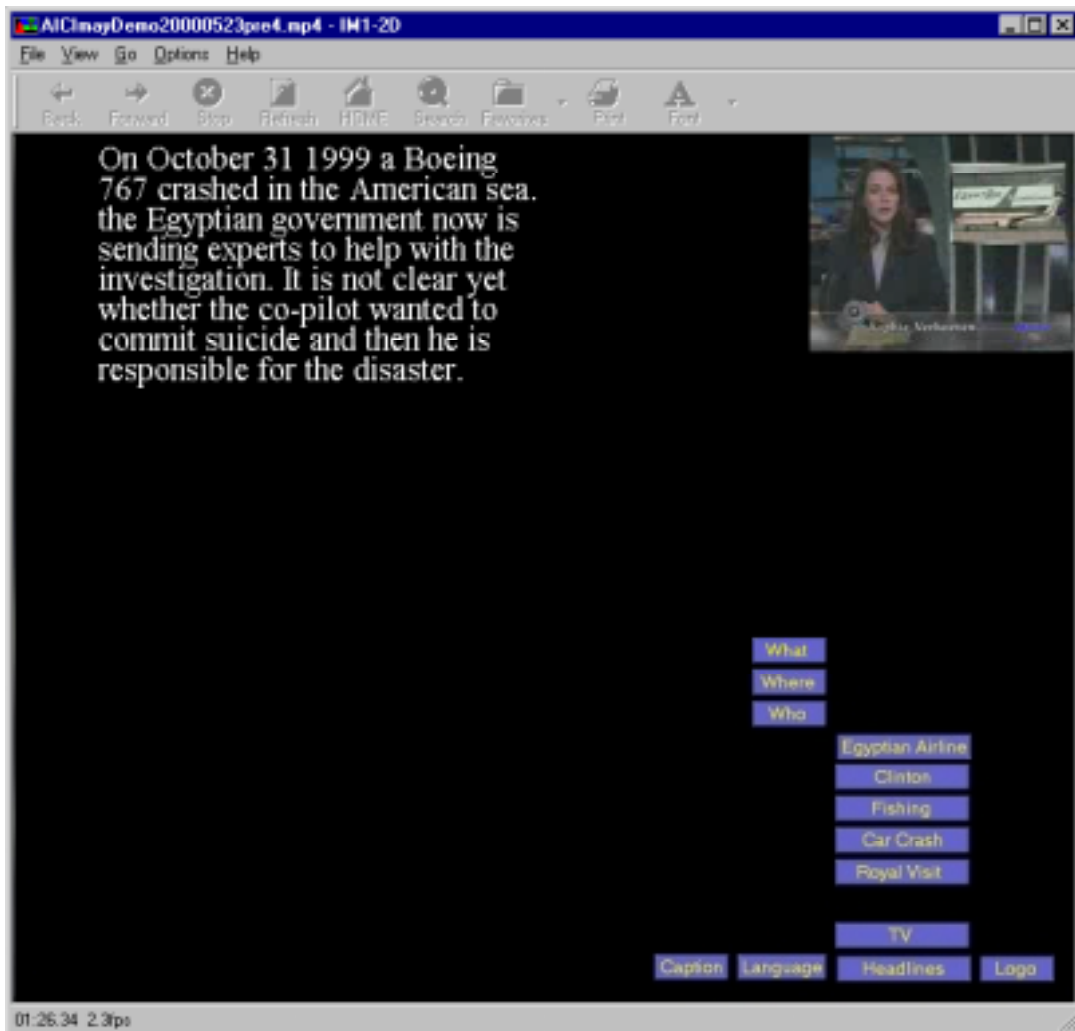


Figure 1 - Screenshot: for each news you can know what happened, get a map of where it happened, and who is involved.

During the demonstration the prototype was still lacking of the integration of the carousel of the BIFS and the JPEGs, that allows the continuous streaming from the satellite, and the injection of the MPEG-4 into MPEG-2 TS.

The MPEG-2 news has been created by NOB (NL), the MPEG-4 by IBM (USA), the conversion and editing tools by ENST (F), the BIFS carousel by Optibase (IL), the player mainly by CSELT (I).

More can be found at: <http://drogo.csel.it/ufv/aici/>