

# General Challenges for a computing continuum

Michael Fritz - Fraunhofer Cluster of Excellence Cognitive Internet Technologies CCIT

The Claridge – Brussels, Belgium | 10-11 May 2023

**Concertation and Consultation on Computing Continuum:** From Cloud to Edge to IoT

## **»FICATION«**

IT landscape (infrastructure, technology and development methodologies) is becoming a commodity!

## »CLOUDIFICATION«

### »EDGIFICATION«

## »IOT-FICATION«

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IT landscape (infrastructure, technology and development methodologies) is becoming a commodity!



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# **Continuum – Big picture**



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# **Continuum – Big picture**



»ANY-TO-ANY-Infrastructure«

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## Conclusion

Policy-driven, Al-enhanced automated middleware

- ✓ Extended infrastractual base from digital sensors to quantum based cloud services »OPEN & EXPLAINABLE«
- Highly automated, autonomous system of systems for multidimensional optimizations

 Inherent enforcement of resilience, safety, security, sovereignty and trust

eroTouch Cognitive System of Systems«

Based on principles of openness and traceability





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# Privacy and Compliance in the Cloud-to-Edge Continuum

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# Privacy in Cloud-to-Edge (Today)

### **Current Situation**

- AI is a key driver for innovation in cloud capabilities
- Ease of development can lead to inadvertent oversight of privacy and compliance
- Heterogeneous environments can lead to increased exposure of privacy risks
- Increasing costs of compliance (up to 30%<sup>[1]</sup>) when dealing with data heavy applications

### Complexities

- AI is inherently statistical which makes it challenging to establish standards
- It is essential to ensure interoperability across services as infrastructures tend to be diverse

<sup>[1]</sup> <u>https://www.accenture.com/nz-en/insights/consulting/compliance-risk-study</u>



## **Essential themes for next round of calls**

- 1. Equip the cloud continuum to help combat security and privacy risks of AI solutions
- **1.** Standardise the use of Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs) within a computing continuum to assist regulatory compliance
- 1. Foster equitable and accountable development of capabilities in the continuum







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# A Vision for the Future of Research in the Cloud-Edge-IoT Domain

## **Martel Innovate GmbH**

Massimo NERI, CTO

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## Our Evolutionary Vision for the Cloud-Edge-IoT Domain



### Current phase:

### Generative

- Exploratory
- Preliminarily structured
- Targeting low TRLs

### • Next phase (2025-2027):

- Targeting medium+ TRLs
- As we will get closer to commercialization, there will be an evolutionary selection of the best and most effective solutions at scale
- Will be ready to become a commodity
- **Critical success factors** 
  - Validated in real use cases
  - Consolidated and structured technology
  - Enabled by Open source and recognized in Open Standards
  - Al-orchestrated and ready to scale
  - Availability of a solid DevSecOps toolset
  - Achieving medium-high TRLs and ready

to support commercial apps

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## **Specific Research Directions and Challenges: AI**

### Al for Continuum

- Al-powered Resource Management
  - Dynamically adapting to changing conditions
    - Real-time decision-making
    - Handle heterogeneous environments
    - Incorporate adaptive learning algorithms
  - Research should prioritise
    - energy efficiency
    - fault tolerance
    - resilience (while ensuring scalability)
  - Research should integrate
    - Privacy-preserving techniques
    - Secure communication protocols
    - Robust access control

### Continuum for Al

- Continuum Infrastructure Support for
  Trustworthy AI
  - Al support should be offered at the infrastructure level
  - Trustworthy edge intelligence
  - Should enhance European values
  - Infrastructure support for AI will
    - lower barriers for SMEs and other players to smoothly develop and introduce their own AI models
    - increase competitiveness of European SMEs through business differentiation



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## Specific Research Directions and Challenges (continued)

### Metaverse@theEdge

- Will require lower latency, improved scalability, and better security, enabling efficient bandwidth usage and real-time processing for dynamic experiences.
- Semantic communications will likely play a key role as an enabling technology.

### Integrated Smart City Infrastructure

- Address research challenges in integrating IoT, edge computing, and 6G networks for smart cities through communication protocols, security, energy efficiency, and collaborative regulatory frameworks.
- Edge-to-Cloud Interoperability and Standard Interfaces
  - Achieving seamless Cloud-Edge-IoT integration requires developing **standard** protocols for interoperability, efficient data transfer, and application-level integration.
- End-to-end Software Engineering for the Cloud-Edge-IoT Continuum
  - Research and innovation on programming models, languages, and design **tools** are needed for application-level development, considering industry-specific use cases and network topologies, with connections to open source and European digital autonomy.





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# **Continuum Al**

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## Status: Computing Continuum

## **Computing Continuum**

+

### Edge Intelligence

Cognitive Computing Continuum



## However...

- How can AI models be seamlessly connected across the cognitive computing continuum?
  - How do you train and use them, and manage their workflows?
  - How do you manage the resource usage of connected AI models?
  - Can connected AI models, in turn, help orchestrate resources in the continuum continuum?
  - How do you cross administrative boundaries?
  - How do you map between different semantic models?
  - How do you ensure security and privacy?



## Status: Foundation AI

### Large language models:

- OpenAl: GPT-x
- Meta: LLaMa
- Google: PaLM, LaMDA, Bard
- OS: Alpaca, Vicuna, GPT-J, etc...

+ Image, video, speech generation, ...

+ Agent ecosystems (e.g. LangChain, Hugging Face)





## Status: Foundation AI

A strong foundation for:

- Execution of complex tasks
- Model aggregation
- Autonomous operation





## However...

- How can AI models be seamlessly connected across the cognitive computing continuum?
  - How do you train and use them, and manage their workflows?
  - How do you manage the resource usage of connected AI models?
  - Can connected AI models, in turn, help orchestrate resources in the continuum continuum?
  - How do you cross administrative boundaries?
  - How do you map between different semantic models?
  - How do you ensure security and privacy?



## However...

- How can you integrate foundation model training, fine-tuning, deployment, and use in the cognitive computing continuum?
  - How do you ensure the alignment of the models?
- How do you decide on the level of autonomy of AI agents in the computing continuum?
  - How loose should agent coupling be?
- How can AI agents from different administrative domains be seamlessly connected to each other?
  - How do agents from different administrative domains negotiate for co-operation and resource usage?
  - How can co-operating agents orchestrate resources in the continuum continuum?
  - How do you ensure the security of co-operating agents?







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# Thank you!

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# Reinforcement Learning Across Computing Continua

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## Context

- In a cloud/edge context, **guaranteeing** the **performance** of mission-critical applications is extremely challenging:
  - distributed nature of computing
  - ever-increasing **complexity** in terms of heterogeneity and dynamicity of the components
  - limited capacity of the edge layer

- **Reinforcement Learning** (RL) techniques have recently attracted increasing attention:
  - **autonomously learn** the optimal behaviour with little or no prior knowledge
  - most promising approach to cope with computing continua





### observation



Image taken from: <u>https://becominghuman.ai/</u>

## **Research proposal**

- Current cloud-based/edge systems implement basic policies for resource management:
  - adaptation actions **triggered** by **threshold violations**
  - **no performance** guarantees neither providing costs nor energy consumption minimization
- Development of novel runtime management solutions based on RL:
  - trade-off application performance and energy consumption
  - guarantee reliable execution even under edge-cloud network partitioning
  - transfer learning of design time knowledge









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# AlOps, Data at the Edge, Hybrid & Green Computing as Drivers for the Continuum

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## Slide 1 of 2



## Motivation

- The connected world has brought an explosion in data generation
- Pillars for digitization are data and computational models/infrastructure
- Secure and smart exploitation of the data is the final goal of developing new and sophisticated computing paradigms (e.g. edge computing, MLOps)
- CC combined with advanced technologies allows a powerful data exploitation

## **Research Challenges**

AlOps

Extend DevOps to the CC with intelligent tools for automated deployment and operation

- Next version of the **self-adapting Cognitive Cloud** = sensing + learning + adapting
- Intelligent assistant for the operation in the Cloud Continuum
- NLP to accelerate solutions in the cloud continuum



## Slide 2 of 2



### **Research Challenges**

Data at the edge

- Edge data quality (new algorithms and metrics)
- Data virtualization at the edge

### Hybrid computing

- New architectures to combine different paradigms (e.g. classic-quantum computing)
- New patterns and models to implement and deploy hybrid apps/services/processes
- Additional security and performance requirements for secure distributed processing (e.g. MPC or homomorphic encryption)

### Efficient & green computing

Tools for the efficient use of computing resources with a focus on sustainability

- Transfer computing to devices
- Embedded AI + 6G networks
- Computational load sharing, device energy management





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## **Semantic Web of Things**

### Synergy within Standards, Alliances, Technologies, Projects, and Concepts (Semantic Web, IoT, and Data Spaces)

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## Synergy among Standards, Alliances, Technologies, Projects, and Concepts (Semantic Web, IoT, and Data Spaces)

- Research Challenges:
  - RC1: Knowledge Extraction using Natural Language
    Processing (NLP) techniques
    - Ontology catalog for IoT
  - RC2: Synergies within standardization
  - RC3: Synergies within data space
  - RC4: IoT/Edge/Cloud Computing Semantic interoperability

Robotics ACCRA IoT/Edge/Cloud Adra TEHDAS AIOTI **Data Spaces** EHDS2 (e.g. Health IEEE domain) NIST BVDA Legend: Gaia-X Etc. ISO IDSA ITU Standards Standards ETSI **Data Spaces** Etc. EU project Data Space IEC Support Center OpenDei Alliance/ W3C (DSSC) Initiatives European Linked Interoperability Data Technologies Framework (EIF) Artificial Intelligence Knowledge (AI) Graphs Concepts Open Source (e.g., Semantic Web) Ontologies Etc. NKED OPEN DATA On the web BPEN Machine-readable da Non-proprietary form RDF standards Linked RDF VOUR DATA 5 I. Organized by: Open Continuum

Source: https://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html

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# Appendix

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ISO/IEC 5392 Knowledge Engineering Reference Architecture (KERA)

A Semantic Engine for Internet of Things: Cloud, Mobile Devices and Gateways. Gyrard et al. 2015.



## Appendix: Semantic Web of Things Can Sensors Sense Emotion?

- <u>Motivation</u>: Approximately 280 million people in the world have depression. Depression can be caused by stress and lack of motivation. Simon Sinek says "Working hard for something we don't care about is called **stress**: Working hard for something we love is called **passion**." <u>https://www.who.int/newsroom/fact-sheets/detail/depression</u>
- <u>Current Status:</u>
  - Example: ACCRA (H2020, 2016-2020, <u>https://www.accra-project.org/</u>) with the French Buddy Emotional Robot
  - Information available on the Web, representing the World, and machineprocessable, that can be exploited such as ontology catalogs.

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- <u>A Semantic Engine for Internet of Things: Cloud, Mobile Devices and Gateways</u>. Gyrard et al. 2015

# **Appendix: Simon Sinek**

 <u>Why</u>: Approximately 280 million people in the world have depression. Depression can be caused by stress and lack of motivation. Simon Sinek says "Working hard for something we don't care about is called **stress**: Working hard something we love is called **passion**." <u>https://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/depression</u>



### Why - Your Purpose

What is your cause? What do you believe?

### How - Your Process Specific actions taken to realise your Why.

What - Your Process





# Meta-Intelligence for the Meta-Continuum

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## From Clouds to the Cognitive Continuum



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## Meta-Intelligence for the Meta-Continuum



Meta-Intelligence enabling the Meta-continuum

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# A Vision of an Al-enabled Cloud-Edge Continuum

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## Architectural Challenges for an AI Enabled Cloud-Edge Continuum



## Technological Challenges for an AI Enabled Cloud-Edge Continuum

## SDN-enabled MEC environment as a key enabler for IoT and mission-critical, vertical solutions

IoT orchestration, data collection and decentralized analytics
 Latency-aware dynamic resource allocation

## Efficient Edge to Cloud data localization and cognitive processing offloading

To increase the adaptability of future frameworks based on devices' demands and preferences

#### Federated Learning & Distributed Model Personalisation

- Distributed Model Optimisation and Synchronisation
  - Refinement of next-generation global models

## Al-powered IDPS systems avoiding data collection and offering decentralized analytics, privacy by design and data protection

• To enhance fault tolerance, privacy, and controllability of distributed data

· To avoid misuse and secure the user's identity

### Attestation modelling, Distributed and Decentralized Blockchain

• To automate the offering and acceptance of user data, and

exchange

• To verify learning model updates



## Social and Ethical Challenges for an AI Enabled Cloud-Edge Continuum



### **Self-regulation frameworks**

Societies must establish *selfregulation frameworks* to **detect and mitigate ethical and social risks** associated with NG-IoT by design.



The NG-IoT requires the design and deployment of unbiased AI systems to prevent undesired <u>discrimination</u> of vulnerable groups.



**Green MetaOS** 

Sustainable solutions for *charging batteries* and *daily charging routines* need to be explored to **reduce greenhouse gas** <u>emissions</u>.



**Tactile IoT & AR/VR** 

Contextual frameworks for supporting cutting-edge AR/VR tools are needed to support modern loT applications, while opening new business opportunities.





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