FH JOANNEUM (University of Applied Sciences)

**WebRTC**

Development of a browser based real-time peer-to-peer remote support application

**Bachelor Thesis**

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Michael Stifter Graz, 30.01.2016

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Abstract

# Introduction

Assistive technology has been in use in factories for a few years now. Also known as remote support applications, they enable on-site personnel to repair malfunctions under support of experts, while they are connected via audio and video stream. For companies, this brings the substantial advantage that disruptions can be repaired significantly quicker, without the necessity of an expert having to be physically present.

# Concept

# WebRTC

## Overview

## API components

WebRTC consists of three main components, which developers have to implement and connect together in order for the application to work as intended. These components are called MediaStream, PeerConnection and DataChannel. The functionality and details of all three will be explained in the following section.

### MediaStream

To broadcast audio and video streams over the Internet, *MediaStream* objects are used. They enable the developer to interact with the streams, like displaying it in the browser window, taking snapshots or sending it to other users (Loreto & Romano 2014, p. 6).

Before using a MediaStream object, it is necessary to get access to a media stream from a local media-capture device. This could be a camera from a laptop or a smartphone or a microphone. Developers can request access to these *LocalMediaStreams* through the function *navigator.getUserMedia()*. It is possible to specify the type of LocalMediaStream to be requested, audio, video or both. (Loreto & Romano 2014, p. 6).

In JavaScript, the access to local media-capture devices is handled via opt-in approval from the user. When developers call the navigator.getUserMedia() function for the first time, a pop-up window asks the users if they want to grant the application access to the specified media-capture devices. This approval can be revoked by both users and developers at any time so the application will no longer have access to the camera or microphone.

In November 2015, Google Chrome removed the possibility to use navigator.getUserMedia() on web pages that do not support HTTP Secure (HTTPS). With HTTPS, all data transfer around the web page connection is encrypted with Transport Layer Security (TLS), thus ensuring that the data is not transferred in plain text. (REFERENCE?)

### PeerConnection

Instances of *PeerConnections* allow users to communicate with each other peer-to-peer, i.e. directly from one browser to another, without any web servers involved. It has to be noted, however, that a web server is always necessary for setting up a PeerConnection between two users, in order for them to find each other. This normally happens when both users visit the same web page, running on a web server which handles the peer connection setup between users. Typically, the coordination of the connection setup is handled with XMLHttpRequests or WebSockets (Loreto & Romano 2014, p. 7).

### DataChannel

While the two previous components were mandatory for a successful WebRTC connection, the third one, *DataChannel*, is optional. It offers the possibility to send arbitrary data between users connected via a PeerConnection. The DataChannel API was modeled after the WebSocket API, with similar function calls (REFERENCE). Like WebSockets, DataChannels also offer a bidirectional connection. Developers can open an unlimited number of DataChannels within one PeerConnection, as long as each DataChannel is specified with a unique name (Loreto & Romano 2014, p. 8f).

## Connection setup

# Prototype

## Management server

## Web interface

## Remote support drawing feature

# Evaluation

# Conclusion

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Bibliography

Loreto, S. & Romano S. P. 2014, *Real-Time Communication with WebRTC*, 1st edn., O’Reilly, Sebastopol.