CITP – Introduction to Project Portfolio

This is a brief description of the theme for the Complex IT Systems Practice course. The course is a "practice" course, in that it will be dominated by three pre-defined and connected subprojects that combine into a whole. Problems and challenges are related to issues covered in the three corresponding sections of the Complex IT systems Theory course. We indicate here the domain and the problem to work with. Additional details will be revealed in "requirement specifications" to be published later during the semester.

The common goal of the project portfolio is to build a tool to search for, browse, rate and compare movies and actors. The tool should be developed as a multi-user web-application and, apart from search/browse functionality, it should also keep track of search history and support various database updates including rating and bookmarking of interesting movies.

The project portfolio includes three subprojects that will relate to areas covered in three corresponding sections of the CITT course. In brief, the three subprojects will aim at, respectively, building a data repository with embedded functionality for unified access, developing services to access the repository and developing one or more applications utilizing the provided services. For each subproject the project group must submit a project report. The final report must also include so-called individual reflections. Each group member must write two pages that include own reflections discussing one or more concepts from the course and relate these to the group's product design and/or product implementation.

A key to a successful result is obviously to draw on a source of useful information within the domain – movies, casting and actors. For this purpose, we have chosen a primary source which is the Internet Movie Database **IMDb**.

IMDb is an online database of information related to mainly movies and TV Series, but IMDb also stores information about other types of published material including games and documentaries. It is the largest and most comprehensive movie database on the web and it includes close to 20 million titles and more than 13.6 million personalities. IMDb was launched in 1990 and is now owned by Amazon.com.

In the Portfolio project we will use data downloaded from IMDb that includes details about titles such as movies and TV-series and the actors playing in these. We will use a reduced version of IMDb's dataset.