

Foreword: A Fruitful Cooperation

It is a pleasure to introduce the results of the Workshop on Law and Web 2.0, organized and conducted by Professor Antoni Roig.

It is usually stated that the term *Web 2.0* emerged from a 2004 brainstorming session among officials of O'Reilly Media, Inc. and MediaLive International.¹ Actually it was used a bit earlier as a label or a way of speaking.² It is currently referred as “the social web”, the opening of the web to people participation. Flickr, YouTube, Wikipedia, Facebook... are well known and universally praised examples of it.

However, even a celebrated technological advance such this one is not free from side effects. Sensitive data, privacy, safety and the possibility of misconducts on the Web seems to be the issues at stake.

The Workshop held on September 18th at the UAB addresses these fundamental issues in a new way. It seems to me that the fruitful cooperation between IDT researchers and DerechoTics members fostered by professor Roig has a worthwhile feature: instead of focusing on regulation alone, or on the legal aspects of privacy, Dr. Roig opens up the field to the straight entrenchment of law and technology.

Therefore, the reader will find out in the following pages useful information on technical protocols, computational problems, and upcoming software. This is an added value to the legal knowledge and ethical issues addressed in the next three sections on privacy, free speech and ISP accountability.

Thanks to all the participants for their good work and well oriented efforts.

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1. D.E. HARMON, “The ‘New’ Web: Getting a Grip on the Slippery Concept of Web 2.0”, *Lawyer’s PC*, vol. 23, n. 1, 2006, pp. 1-5.

2. *Cfr.* E. KNORR, 2004 – *The Year of Web Services*, *IT magazine CIO*, December 2003, p. 90, at http://books.google.com/books?id=1QwAAAAAMBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbssummary_r&cad=0_0#PPA90,M1 (accessed 12 May 2009).