



## **“The Neubot project has been included in M-Lab platform”**

<http://nexa.polito.it/neubot-in-mlab-en>

**NEXA Center Twitter :** <http://twitter.com/nexacenter>

**Neubot project Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/neubot>

**NEXA Center Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/nexa.center>

**Neubot project Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/neubot>

Turin - January 11th, 2012. The NEXA Center for Internet & Society (<http://nexa.polito.it/>) at Politecnico di Torino (DAUIN) is pleased to announce that the Neubot project (<http://www.neubot.org/>) on network neutrality has been **officially included in the distributed measurement platform M-Lab** (Measurement Lab - <http://www.measurementlab.net/measurement-lab-tools#tool8>). The free, opensource Neubot software can, therefore, now use over 60 M-Lab servers to perform neutrality measurements and to save raw results, pending publication on the project website. Until now, only eight other projects have been accepted on the M-Lab platform, which was launched in 2008 by a consortium of think tanks, businesses (including Google) and academic researchers.

"It's an important achievement", says prof. Juan Carlos De Martin, co-director of the NEXA Center and scientific director of the Neubot project, "an achievement that rewards years of work and will allow to reach a larger number of users, improving the quantity and quality of the data produced by the project. Network neutrality is one of the crucial issues for the future of Internet and we are glad to be able to contribute with help of thousands of Internet users throughout the world."

The opportunity to use M-Lab servers will allow for **more accurate measurements**, serving a larger numbers of users in a larger number of countries. "Until now, Neubot measurements were performed using a unique central server, hosted at the **Top-IX** (Torino Piemonte Internet Exchange - <http://www.top-ix.org/>) **Consortium** in Turin", recalls Simone Basso, PhD student at Politecnico di Torino, fellow of the NEXA Center and lead developer of the Neubot Project. "As a consequence, non-Italian Neubot users were typically too far away from the server to get very reliable measurements. Now, instead, the availability of over 60 alternative servers, placed in North America, Europe, Oceania and Japan, will allow to automatically redirect users to the closest server, improving measurements quality and providing a benefit to both the users and the project."

### **Neubot project data**

**The current version of the Neubot client, 0.4.5**, contains two tests, which emulate respectively the HTTP (the standard protocol of the Web) and the BitTorrent protocols (used in many peer to peer connections) and which measure the delay between server and client as well as download and upload speeds. **From the date of the first release (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010), Neubot has been downloaded about eleven thousands times.** On the project site (<http://www.neubot.org/>) 1,613,176 HTTP and 207,445 BitTorrent test results gathered from June to November 2011 are available. Currently, Neubot is actively used by about **300 persons every day**. Results are published under the Creative Commons Zero license (<http://creativecommons.org/choose/zero/>), a result made possible thanks to the contribution of the NEXA Center's legal experts, who solved the potential legal issues of the project and helped to write the project's privacy policy.

<http://nexa.polito.it/contact>

## Future Neubot developments

"Future Neubot developments", Simone Basso says, "include a modified client release, which will use the same privacy policy of M-Lab. Now, indeed, only those users who have provided the permission to publish their IP address can use M-Lab. All others use just Neubot's central server, because their settings are not compatible with the platform's policy. Clearly, it is our interest that all users always use M-Lab, given the tremendous advantages, so we are going to harmonize the privacy policy of Neubot with M-Lab's one. In the next Neubot releases we're going to improve the robustness of the algorithm for measuring 100 Mbit/s connections; to write code to evaluate the impact of user activity on the measurements; to automate the collection, publication and analysis of results; to develop a test that emulates Skype."

## About Neubot project

**Neubot** (the Network Neutrality Bot - <http://neubot.org/>) is a research project on network neutrality of the NEXA Center for Internet & Society at Politecnico di Torino. The project is based on a free software program that users can download and install on their computers. The purpose of Neubot is to measure the quality and neutrality of Internet broadband connections, and share the results with the Internet community, in order to balance the information asymmetry between users and service providers.

## About the NEXA Center for Internet & Society

The **NEXA Center for Internet & Society** (<http://nexa.polito.it/>) is born from the activities of an initially informal interdisciplinary group – with expertise in technology, law and economics – that grew up in Torino from 2003 and that has conceived, designed and implemented a number of initiatives: **Creative Commons Italia** (2003-present), **CyberLaw Torino** (2004), **Harvard Internet Law Program Torino** (2005), **SeLiLi**, free legal advice on open licenses for creators and programmers (2006-present), **COMMUNIA**, the European Commission-funded thematic network of 50 partners aimed at studying the digital public domain (2007-2011) and **LAPSI**, the European thematic network on legal aspects of public sector information (2010-2012). The NEXA Center for Internet & Society has a collaboration agreement with **Berkman Center for Internet Society** at Harvard University. The two research centers organized, among other initiatives, the international Conference "**University and Cyberspace**" <http://university-and-cyberspace.org> (Turin, 28-30 June 2010).

## About M-Lab

**Measurement Lab** (M-Lab - <http://www.measurementlab.net/>) is an open, distributed server platform for researchers to deploy Internet measurement tools. The goal of M-Lab is to advance network research and empower the public with useful information about their broadband connections. By enhancing Internet transparency, M-Lab helps sustain a healthy, innovative Internet. Measurement Lab was founded by New America Foundation Open Technology Institute, PlanetLab Consortium, Google Inc., and university researchers. The founders constitute the steering committee and guide the development of organizational policies and structure of the platform for the future.

NEXA Center for Internet & Society Press Office

**Giuseppe Futia**

Tel: +39 011 564 7219

[giuseppe.futia@polito.it](mailto:giuseppe.futia@polito.it)

<http://nexa.polito.it>

<http://nexa.polito.it/contact>