S-38.042 Seminar on Networking Business, Autumn 2004
Miikka Poikselkä's comments to Mikko Heikkinen's paper on Mobile positioning vs. privacy presented on 03.11.2004

Relevance: This topic is in line with the scope of the seminar. Issue is emerging as all mobile operators in EU and in the US are mandated to support positioning as part of emergency call handling. Some Finnish operators have launched commercial positioning services such as Elisa Paikannin. However, commercial location services have not been widely deployed.

Form: The article is nicely formulated consisting of introduction, overview of legislation and a brief glance to enhanced privacy technologies. I found the article easy to read and understand. The table 1 could have included an extra column(s) about the needed position mechanism and price of technology to meet the mass acceptance.

Substance: The article is good and informative especially in area of legislation. The legislation chapter answers one of the pre-set question what is the difference between Europe and US. The author has nicely combined two issues positioning and children's online privacy protection. I have some doubts about the situation in US –is it really so open that leaves some room for operators or service providers? The second pre-set question "who is the owner of user's position" is also answered although the answer was that there is no answer yet.

Also some vendor specific solutions for positioning are mentioned. Maybe, a general description about a required mobile network configuration for positioning (Gateway Mobile Location Center, Privacy Profile Register) would have been better than the existing figure 1?

The role of MobileIP was not clearly explained. I agree that an IP address may provide some rough information about user's location but is not enough for services presented in the table 1.

Several technologies for enhancing privacy are explained. In some extent this part has a big role in the article while the very basic mechanism of the mobile networks is not explained. Maybe, the author was not aware of 3GPP work or this issue was considered to be out of the scope. I was expecting to see few words about it.