Milia (AppleTree), a space for storytelling
http://www.media.uoa.gr/medialab/milia

The Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media, with the support of University Research Institute of Applied Communication (URIAC), presents Milia (AppleTree), an open platform for social interactive digital storytelling. The Milia platform aims to support the representation, presentation and collaborative creation of any sort of stories in digital format. Applications of the platform can be found in storytelling per se, in education, in publishing and, more generally, in the publication of collaborative digital works.
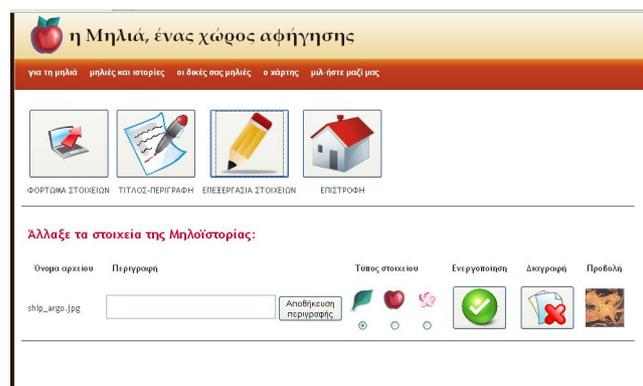

Storytelling has largely to do with the narration of a series of incidents that take place in space and time. The sequence of these incidents, as well as their potential overturns, is what makes storytelling different from other forms of speech. Development of the Milia storytelling platform has been based on the vision of offering to everyone interested the means to "plant" a story and see it grow up into a fruitful tree. Every apple tree holds a story, and the tree elements represent the story's structure and contents.

The objective of the Milia project is to offer an online space where creators can make stories by planting their own trees, in digital fields or in their own digital gardens. In this way the Milia platform can enable creation of a data bank of interactive stories, which readers will have the right to extend and enrich with their own ideas and alternative versions. The Milia platform aspires to offer itself as a new instrument at the service of free expression, knowledge and creativity.

Milia can at the same time serve as a useful educational tool. Students can use it, for instance, to create their own stories or read and amend the stories of their classmates. Within this process they have the opportunity to practice and develop their language skills (grammar, syntax, vocabulary, expression), to become familiar with the art of story making and storytelling, to learn and appreciate the teamwork that will be necessary for creating and uploading their stories, and at the same time profit from hands-on experience with computers, the internet and interactive multimedia applications.

Last but not least, apart from its educational and creative aspects, Milia can also serve as a medium for preserving stories and narratives from the past, thus safeguarding the collective creations and memories of a community.

The Milia platform is developed by an interdisciplinary team of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media of the University of Athens, including Alexandros Douros, Electra Galani, Nikolas Perdikares, Manolis Spanoudakis and Evagelia Vardalachou. Dimitris Gouscos, Assistant Professor with the UoA Faculty of Communication and Media Studies coordinates the Milia development team and Professor Michalis Meimaris, Director of the Laboratory of New Technologies, is scientifically responsible for the Milia project.