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UbiComp 2002: Ubiquitous Computing

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Proceedings



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Preface

Ubiquitous computing is coming of age. In the few short years of the lifetime of this conference, we have seen major changes in our emerging research community. When the conference started in 1999, as Handheld and Ubiquitous Computing, the field was still in its formative stage. In 2002, we see the Ubicomp conference (the name was shortened last year) emerging as an established player attracting research submissions of very high quality from all over the world. Virtually all major research centers and universities now have research programs broadly in the field of ubiquitous computing. Whether we choose to call it ubiquitous, pervasive, invisible, disappearing, embodied, or some other variant of computing, it is clear that Mark Weiser's original vision has only become more and more relevant since the term was coined over 10 years ago.

But, most important in our context, the interest in the field can be gauged from the rising number of full-paper submissions to the conference: from about 70 in both 1999 and 2000, to 90 in 2001, to this year's record-breaking 136! Counting technical notes, workshops, poster and video submissions, there were over 250 original works submitted to this year's conference. This is an impressive effort by the research community, and we are grateful to everyone who took time to submit their work – without this, the conference would simply not exist.

There are 15 full papers in this year's volume, which were selected from the 136 paper submissions. There are also 14 technical notes: 9 were drawn from the 59 technical note submissions, while 5 were adapted from full paper submissions. These papers continue to cover the wide range of topics that is the hallmark of the ubiquitous computing community: mobile and context-aware systems, user studies and design, perceptual interfaces and responsive environments, sharing and accessing information (including privacy aspects), location models and systems, and sensors and applications.

In addition to the papers and technical notes, this year's conference included several other elements. The keynote speech by science fiction author and journalist Wil McCarthy offered a vision of the “ultimate alchemy” promised by recent research in so-called programmable matter. Nine workshops were held during the conference covering a wide variety of topics, ranging from conceptual models and privacy concerns, to user evaluation and emotional interaction. New additions to the program this year included a doctoral consortium for graduate students and a video demonstrations session. Posters, receptions and a panel on ubiquitous computing in domestic environments rounded out the program. The intention was to give an illuminating, thought-provoking, and also entertaining overview of the many facets of this vital research field.

The Ubicomp 2002 conference was hosted by the Viktoria Institute and was held at the Draken Cinema and Conference Centre in Göteborg, Sweden from September 29 to October 1, 2002. Technical society sponsors included ACM SIGCHI, ACM SIGMOBILE and ACM SIGSOFT. Extensive industry and institutional sponsorship helped ensure a high-quality event. Full sponsors included: Intel Research, Nokia, HP Labs, Springer-Verlag, and the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research. Contributing sponsors were: Business Region Göteborg, Microsoft Research, Philips, and the Ambience project. Through an arrangement with the European Union's Disappearing Computing Initiative, this year's Ubicomp conference was colocated

with DC's annual "Jamboree", where the 16 projects that constitute the DC community exhibited the results of over one and a half years of research involving almost 200 people. The Göteborg IT University also collaborated by arranging a special event. We were impressed by the level of commitment offered even in these financially difficult times for the industry, and would like to thank all organizations for their interest in and support for this conference.

We would also like to thank the numerous reviewers who offered invaluable comments on the paper and technical note submissions. The program committee (and those that helped them) were even more heavily loaded this year as the number of submissions increased significantly from last year. Yet, the committee worked diligently, with all submissions receiving four independent reviews. Most impressively demonstrating their dedication, almost all the program committee members attended our meeting distributed between Seattle, Washington and Göteborg, Sweden and helped make numerous difficult decisions. Finally, we must extend a special thanks to Scott Rose, the UW/CSE webmaster, who provided the finest possible development and support of our web-based submission management system, and to the local administrators who supported us at the Viktoria Institute.

July 2002

Gaetano Borriello
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Table of Contents

Mobile and Context-Aware Systems

Context-Aware Computing: A Test Case	1
<i>Jenna Burrell (Intel Research), Geri K. Gay (Cornell University), Kiyo Kubo (Cornell University), Nick Farina (Cornell University)</i>	
ComicDiary: Representing Individual Experiences in a Comics Style	16
<i>Yasuyuki Sumi (ATR Media Information Science Laboratories), Ryuuki Sakamoto (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), Keiko Nakao (ATR Media Information Science Laboratories), Kenji Mase (ATR Media Information Science Laboratories)</i>	
Mobile Reality: A PDA-Based Multimodal Framework Synchronizing a Hybrid Tracking Solution with 3D Graphics and Location-Sensitive Speech Interaction	33
<i>Stuart Goose (Siemens Corporate Research), Heiko Wanning (University of Saarland), Georg Schneider (Fachhochschule Trier)</i>	
*Rememberer: A Tool for Capturing Museum Visits	48
<i>Margaret Fleck, Marcos Frid, Tim Kindberg, Eamonn O'Brien-Strain, Rakhi Rajani, Mirjana Spasojevic (Hewlett Packard Labs Palo Alto)</i>	

User Studies and Design

Issues in Personalizing Shared Ubiquitous Devices	56
<i>Jonathan Trevor, David M. Hilbert, Bill N. Schilit (Fuji-Xerox Palo Alto Laboratory)</i>	
User Study Techniques in the Design and Evaluation of a UbiComp Environment	73
<i>Sunny Consolvo (Intel Research Seattle), Larry Arnstein (University of Washington), B. Robert Franza (University of Washington)</i>	
Change Blind Information Display for Ubiquitous Computing Environments	91
<i>Stephen S. Intille (MIT)</i>	
*Supporting Human Activities — Exploring Activity-Centered Computing	107
<i>Henrik Bærbak Christensen, Jakob E. Bardram (University of Aarhus)</i>	

Pereceptual Interfaces and Responsive Environments

Perceptual Components for Context Aware Computing	117
<i>James L. Crowley (INRIA), Joëlle Coutaz (Université Joseph Fourier), Gaeten Rey (Université Joseph Fourier), Patrick Reignier (INRIA)</i>	
Face-Responsive Interfaces: From Direct Manipulation to Perceptive Presence	135
<i>Trevor Darrell, Konrad Tollmar, Frank Bentley, Neal Checka, Loius-Phillipe Morency, Ali Rahimi, Alice Oh (MIT AI Lab)</i>	
*Vision-Based Face Tracking System for Large Displays	152
<i>Yasuto Nakanishi (University of Electro-Communications – Tokyo), Takashi Fujii (University of Electro-Communications – Tokyo), Kotaro Kiatjima (University of Electro-Communications – Tokyo), Yoichi Sato (University of Tokyo), Hideki Koike (University of Electro-Communications – Tokyo)</i>	
*The FindIT Flashlight: Responsive Tagging Based on Optically Triggered Microprocessor Wakeup	160
<i>Hongshen Ma, Joseph A. Paradiso (MIT Media Lab)</i>	
*‘ForSe FIElds’ – Force Sensors for Interactive Environments	168
<i>Lisa McElligott (University Of Limerick, Media Lab Europe), Michelle Dillon (University Of Limerick, Media Lab Europe), Krispin Leydon (University Of Limerick), Bruce Richardson (University Of Limerick), Mikael Fernström (University Of Limerick), Joseph A. Paradiso (Media Lab Europe, MIT Media Lab)</i>	

Sharing and Accessing Information – Public and Private

Approximate Information Flows:	
Socially-Based Modeling of Privacy in Ubiquitous Computing	176
<i>Xiaodong Jiang, Jason I. Hong, James A. Landay (University of California, Berkeley)</i>	
The Personal Server: Changing the Way We Think About Ubiquitous Computing .	194
<i>Roy Want, Trevor Pering, Gunner Danneels, Muthu Kumar, Murali Sundar, John Light (Intel Research)</i>	
*QueryLens: Beyond ID-Based Information Access	210
<i>Shin’ichi Konomi (University of Colorado)</i>	
*Pin&Play: Networking Objects through Pins	219
<i>Kristof van Laerhoven, Albrecht Schmidt, Hans-Werner Gellersen (Lancaster University)</i>	
*Social Aspects of Using Large Public Interactive Displays for Collaboration	229
<i>Daniel M. Russell, Clemens Drews, Alison Sue (IBM Almaden Research Center)</i>	
*A Privacy Awareness System for Ubiquitous Computing Environments	237
<i>Marc Langheinrich (ETH Zurich)</i>	

Location, Location, Location

A Hybrid Location Model with a Computable Location Identifier for Ubiquitous Computing.....	246
<i>Changhao Jiang, Peter Steenkiste (Carnegie Mellon University)</i>	
A Novel Broadband Ultrasonic Location System.....	264
<i>Mike Hazas, Andy Ward (University of Cambridge)</i>	
Location of Mobile Devices Using Networked Surfaces	281
<i>Frank Hoffmann, James Scott (University of Cambridge)</i>	
*SmartMoveX on a Graph – An Inexpensive Active Badge Tracker	299
<i>John Krumm (Microsoft Research Redmond), Lyndsay Williams (Microsoft Research Cambridge), Greg Smith (Microsoft Research Redmond)</i>	
*A Generic Location Event Simulator	308
<i>Kumaresan Sanmugalingam, George Coulouris (University of Cambridge)</i>	

Sensors and Applications

PlantCare: An Investigation in Practical Ubiquitous Systems.....	316
<i>Anthony LaMarca (Intel Research Seattle), Waylon Brunette (University of Washington), David Koizumi (Intel Research Seattle), Matthew Lease (Intel Research Seattle), Stefan B. Sigurdsson (Intel Research Seattle), Kevin Sikorski (University of Washington), Dieter Fox (University of Washington), Gaetano Borriello (Intel Research Seattle and University of Washington)</i>	
Context Acquisition Based on Load Sensing	333
<i>Albrecht Schmidt, Martin Strohbach, Kristof van Laerhoven, Adrian Friday, Hans-Werner Gellersen (Lancaster University)</i>	
*Proactive Instructions for Furniture Assembly	351
<i>Stavros Antifakos, Florian Michahelles, Bernt Schiele (ETH Zurich)</i>	
*WearNET: A Distributed Multi-sensor System for Context Aware Wearables	361
<i>P. Lukowicz, H. Junker, M. Stäger, T. von Büren, G. Tröster (ETH Zurich)</i>	
*Using Low-Cost Sensing to Support Nutritional Awareness	371
<i>Jennifer Mankoff, Gary Hsieh, Ho Chak Hung, Sharon Lee, Elizabeth Nitao (University of California, Berkeley)</i>	

Author Index.....	379
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* Indicates a technical note.