Rural HCI
Distributed Interaction on a landscape scale

Full day Workshop at OzCHI, 29 November 2011, Canberra Australia

Call for papers, proposals, installations and presentations

Rural HCI is about distributed interaction and the notion of UbiComp stretched to a rural and landscape scale. The workshop's aims are to investigate the implications of HCI on such a scale, and establish heuristics, insights and theoretical frameworks specific to this theme. Due to Australia's geography and particular inhabitation rural HCI is particularly relevant. Although the majority of Australia's population lives in urban areas, most of the country consists of rural areas and this is a defining element of the Australian culture. Applying design approaches of distributed interaction and UbiComp paradigms to rural situations can lead to many new insights and open up new solutions.

Organisers:
Bert Bongers (University of Technology Sydney, School of Design)
Jon Pearce (University of Melbourne, Department of Information Systems)
Stuart Smith (Neuroscience Research, Sydney, Australia)
Tarsha Finney (University of Technology Sydney, School of Architecture)
Elise van den Hoven (Eindhoven University of Technology, Dept. of Industrial Design)

Possible topics:
agriculture, distributed energy generation, permaculture, sub-urban scale interaction, landscape design and art, remote presence, distributed energy storage, sustainability, pollution, tele-health, remote rehabilitation, social and cultural issues related to rural and outback, gardening, bushfire prevention, water management, remote sensing and actuating, multimodal interaction paradigms, social networking, energy harvesting, technical factors: long range wireless and mesh networks, national broadband network (NBN), geographic information systems (GIS), navigation (including GPS), mapping, information representation, indigenous cultures attitudes and knowledge relating to the land, artistic practices and responses to sustainability.

Preparation:
Participants are expected to submit a position paper and/or another contribution in the form of an installation, a manifesto, or a prototype. See the web site for more details.

Timeline:
7 October Paper proposals / position papers due
4 November Notification of acceptance
18 November Final papers / submissions due
Tuesday 29 November: workshop at the OzCHI, Conference on Human-Computer Interaction

Workshop web site: www.educ.dab.uts.edu.au/interactivation/RuralHCI/

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