MATCH Newsletter

MOBILISING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR CARE AT HOME

http://www.match-project.org.uk

Issue 1: Sept 2007

Welcome to the MATCH Newsletter

We are a research project looking at the issues and challenges surrounding designing and implementing technologies for the home that can support or enable health or social care. As an applied project we work with technology manufacturers, social and health care partners and potential end users of the technology. We are very user centred and are always on the lookout for people receiving or involved in care in the home. If you would like to be on a user panel or contribute to the newsletter please get in touch with us at the contact details below. We look forward to contributions from our readers.

Live Theatre Event a Success

The University of Dundee held an exciting theatre event in their purpose built theatre, bringing together older people, carers, care providers and academics. The purpose of the event was to explore some of the issues affecting the acceptability of home care technologies and to try to find more effective ways of exploring these issues with the various stakeholders.

Including Stakeholders in the Design of Home Care Technology

UNIVERSITY
of
GLASGOW

The University of Glasgow are holding a workshop on Tuesday 23rd October on "Including Stakeholders in the Design of Home Care Technology". If you are living at home and receiving care, a formal or informal carer, a health or social care professional, or a researcher, designer or manufacturer of technologies for care at home then you could take part in this unique workshop. You will get the chance to share ideas with the different people involved in home care and inform the future design of technology. Please get in touch with our project manager or visit our website if you want to find out more.

http://www.match-project.org.uk/events/workshop.html

Contact: Louise Bellin
Mail – news@match-project.org.uk
Post – MATCH Office, Computing Science and Mathematics, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA.
Tel - +44 (0)1786 467429

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MATCH TV Celebrity

Iain Murray, University of Dundee was spotted in early September appearing on Mastermind. He did very well indeed and MATCH is proud of their first TV celebrity. Although some of us were wondering……why wasn't his specialist subject Home Care Technology?

Making State-of-the-Art Computer Voices Usable for Older Users

Although quite a few researchers have looked at how well older people can understand speech that has been generated from a computer, almost none of these studies have used state-of-the-art technology. This is a problem, because computer voices based on recent technological advances sound far more natural, and are easier to understand. In our study, we looked at how well people could recall reminders that were spoken by a computer voice versus a human voice. We found that most people could remember the content very well, especially if the reminders used straightforward language.

We are following up this study with two further experiments. In the first study, we want to find out which type of voice smart homes should use. In the second, we are evaluating sixteen computer voices that represent the latest advances in speech synthesis technology. Both experiments are web-based. This means that they can be completed in the comfort of your own home, whenever you wish. If you are interested in taking part, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Dr. Maria Wolters, mwolters@inf.ed.ac.uk, for further information.

MATCH Project Uses OSGi

The MATCH project is making use of the latest technologies in order to deliver a home-care solution that is up-to-date, reliable, and can be upgraded and modified to keep up with changes in technology and the requirements of the system.

We use OSGi to link together the components of our home care system. We have designed a framework that makes it easy to integrate a diverse range of individual components into one system, and also to maintain them flexibly and remotely. Components can be added, upgraded, started and stopped without having to restart the system.

OSGi has already been put to good use by car manufacturers such as Volvo and BMW, various phone companies, and in the iPronto, a wireless universal remote control for the home.

Visit **http://www.osgi.org/** for more information.

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