MATCH is moving into a new Phase

The primary goal of MATCH is to develop and encourage the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to support independent living and care at home. In its initial phase, MATCH had funding to research and develop new technologies to meet this goal. With the initial research funding completed, MATCH is moving into a new phase. The continuing objectives of MATCH are:

- to enable further research and development by helping its members gain new research funding from funding bodies or companies
- to encourage the use of MATCH technologies by companies and user groups, and to allow those who need it to make use of these technologies.

These are the benefits that MATCH will bring to its members. The aim is also to expand the membership of MATCH so that as many organisations as possible have the chance to benefit.

How to be involved in the MATCH Consortium

To provide existing and new members with a focal point, a new web portal has been launched. This allows you to:

- join MATCH free of charge and start benefiting from our activities
- describe your activities and interests in home care by adding pages to the portal
- contact other members to find out more about their work and perhaps to collaborate
- check the MATCH calendar for interesting upcoming events, and add your own relevant events for other members to see
- post questions and search for answers on the MATCH forum, including topics on technology and funding amongst others.

To join the forum, go to our web site and follow the portal link (e.g. under Contact or Resources):

www.match-project.org.uk

We are asking users for feedback on the new portal, so please feel free to comment. You can email comments to use, but in the spirit of the new forum, there is also a discussion topic on the message boards page where you can comment on the site. This on the Message Boards tab, and it is called "Feedback".

In the coming year we will be organising events to support MATCH activities. We plan to grow a strong community at these meetings as well as on the portal.

MATCH News

Testing MATCH Technology in Homes
Evaluation of a Multimodal Activity Monitor

In 2009, Tony McBryan and Marilyn McGee-Lennon completed a trial of the MATCH 'Multimodal Activity Monitor' (MAM) system in older people's homes. Two homes in Glasgow and two homes in Perth were equipped with an ultra-mobile computer that supported the MAM system. This allows users to send and receive messages to a group of friends and relatives. The users (all over 65) could configure the system themselves or, with help, via a user-friendly interface. This allowed them to choose how they received different messages. For example, messages from Mum might appear on the screen, while messages from Jim are spoken via the loudspeakers on the device. The system also allows different types of input. As well as providing a basic text messaging service (via the internet), the webcam on the device can detect motion and let someone you selected receive a message when you are 'in the room, or near the device.

The devices were set up and left in the four homes for between 8 and 16 weeks. User attitudes towards the system were very positive despite some of the features of the system being complex enough that they were not tried in practice. The users were healthy, active, older people. Overall, people could see the real potential for such a system, especially as they and their friends and family get older and perhaps less mobile. Importantly, people felt strongly that the ability to be able to choose different ways of sending and receiving messages was crucial to the success of the system. In particular, when hearing is poor then the visual display can be exploited, and when sight is deteriorating then the speech and audio functions of the system can be used.

For more detailed results of this study please email Tony McBryan – mcbryan@dcs.gla.ac.uk or Marilyn – mcgeemr@dcs.gla.ac.uk.

The Wellness and Health Innovation project (WHI) is Scottish Enterprise's way of encouraging and helping businesses in Scotland to capitalise on the growing market for home care products. MATCH is working with WHI to ensure that the Scottish research base in this area is accessible to companies looking for new research and development in technologies for care at home.

If you would like to meet companies that may have a use for your existing work or your team's research capacity, please contact MATCH.

MATCH News

MultiMemoHome is a team of researchers from the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh and Queen Margaret University. The team is investigating technologies to help people remember important things in their daily lives at home. The aim is to develop multimodal reminder systems that are usable by people of all ages, and that are accessible to people with sensory impairments. It is hoped that this will help to provide a higher standard of living, reduce stress on carers and family, and allow people to live independently in their own home for longer.

To reach this goal we are currently researching how different people live, identifying the things people forget, and the methods used to remember things in and around the home. In addition, we are investigating the different sensory modalities that can be used to present the reminders in the home. We are currently looking for people who would like to share their views and experiences using questionnaires, interviews and group discussions. You do not need to have any technical expertise to take part. We will support and help you with any technology we show you, and often we will only be showing pictures or videos. We are especially interested in older users, and people of all ages with hearing or visual impairments.

To fill in our short questionnaire on reminders. please visit:

<p style="text-align:center">www.multimemohome.org/get_involved</p>

If you would like printed copy sent to your home instead, please contact Marilyn (see below).

Focus Groups:
- Edinburgh University: Tuesday 2nd Feb 2010 (14:00–15:30)
- Falkirk Sensory Services Centre: date and time to be confirmed

To take part in one of these discussion groups, or if you have any questions, please contact:
    Dr. Marilyn McGee-Lennon
    Department of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ
    Tel: 0141 330 6034
    Email: mcgeemr@dcs.gla.ac.uk

MATCH News

Left to Our Own Devices

Claire Maternaghan and Ken Turner at Stirling have been extending the range of devices supported by MATCH. It is now possible to monitor the home environment, e.g. the temperature or humidity in various rooms. This can be used to control heating or air conditioning. A weather forecast service supports tasks like turning the heating on if frost is predicted. Domestic appliances like TVs and DVDs can now be controlled using infra-red. You never need to miss your favourite programme again!

Various cyberpets such as Internet 'rabbits' and 'penguins' have also been added. These offer user-friendly interfaces to the MATCH system. For example, they support speech output and use of RFID (radio) tags to identify objects.

The Nabaztag 'rabbit' communicates in a variety of ways including sound, light and movement.

The Tux Droid 'penguin' is similar but has a different repertoire of tricks up his sleeve (or should that be flipper?).

Goodbye Louise, Hello Kevin

Louise Bellin left the project in July 2009 to take up a position with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Kevin Swingler took over from that date as project manager. He has a solid research background that includes healthcare applications.