Introduction to Wearable Computers

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Dr. Bradley Rhodes Ricoh Innovations

# Science Is Beginning to Look Like Science Fiction

- Science fiction writers are paying attention and provide good scenarios/motivation based on current research
  - Fast Times at Fairmont High (recent Vinge)
  - Historical Crisis (Kingsbury) in Far Futures anthology (Benford)
  - The Diamond Age, Snowcrash (Stephenson)
  - Islands in the Net (Stirling)

# Georgia Tech/MIT Cyborgs: a living experiment



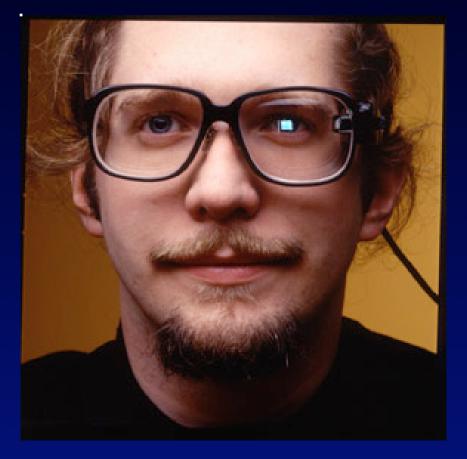
#### Outline

- What are you wearing?
- Comparisons to past and current technology
- A bit of history...
- Current state of industry
- Wearable computing visions and definitions
- Just-in-time information systems and fun demos
- Four major challenges
- Some lessons
- Resources

# The Toys

## Miniature Head-up Displays

#### MicroOptical prescription display eyeglasses





#### Teleprompter



# Keyboards

- Twiddler
  - Chording
  - In 5 min. alphabet
  - In 1 hr touch typing
  - Speed of 60 wpm
- Half QWERTY
- Embroider in a jacket



### CharmIT Wearable Computer

• 266MHz Intel Pentium or 800MHz Transmeta Crusoe



(www.charmed.com)

#### Questions About Hardware...?

- How can I see with that thing in front of my eye?
- Eye strain?
- Isn't it socially interruptive?
- Why do they cost so much?
- Isn't that bad on your hands?
- Why do you tuck the display into your shirt pocket?
- • •

Comparison With Old Technology

#### Human-computer evolution

- Mainframe -> mini -> PC -> wearable
- Initially lose on features
  - Less CPU capacity
  - Lower bus speed
  - Less disk storage
- Gain on interface
  - Personalization
  - Interactivity

(Starner PhD 1999)

# Why not a PDA?

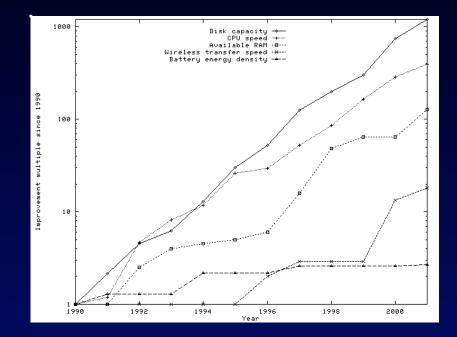
- Too much cognitive load
  - Augment, not replace task
  - Two hands, both eyes
- Socially awkward
- Low functionality
  - Input speed
  - Data storage
  - "Hot sync" effect
  - Applications

# Quick Survey

- How many people
  - Own one?
  - Have it with them?
  - Why is that?
- If we were to schedule an appointment with you right now, what would be the procedure?

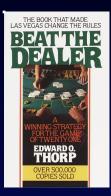
### Why Not a Thin-Client?

- 100X RAM
- 400X CPU
- 1200X disk (>Moore's Law)
- 20X wireless speed
- 3X battery

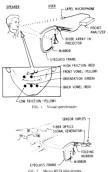


#### Exponential improvement in mobile tech since 1990

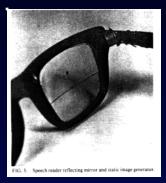
# Brief History







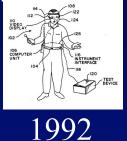


















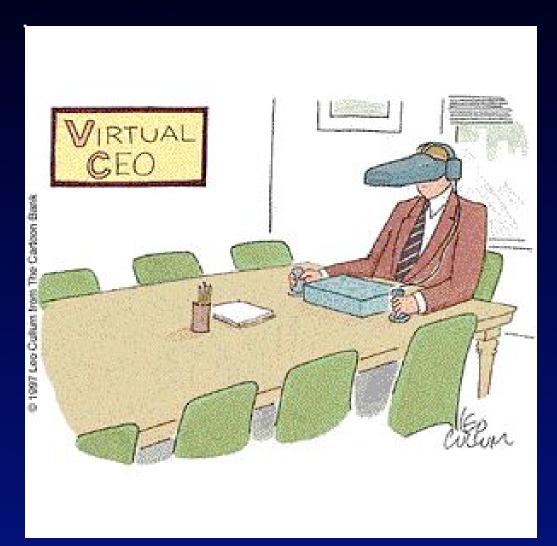
# Current "General Purpose" Commercial Systems

- CharmIT & CharmIT Pro (R&D)
- Hitachi WIA/POMA
- Via series
- Xybernaut MA series
- •
- Mentis?

• • •

• Past systems: Reddy Systems, Park Engineering,

# Applications



# **Application Areas**

- Warehouse picking
- Inspection
- Maintenance
- Repair
- "Line-busting"
- Security
- Military (Land Warrior/Pacific Consultants)

# **Controlled Studies**

- CMU VuMan3 (Siewiorek/Smailagic)
  - Military inspection task
  - 2:1 savings in personnel
  - 40% faster
  - Custom design (many design generations)
- Georgia Tech Task Guidance (Ockerman)
  - Small airplane inspection by pilots
  - Basic manual emulation– no feedback
  - Wearable interface hindered expert!
    - Similar to checklist?
    - Providing context helped

#### Vocollect Series





# Symbol Technologies WS series





## Symbol's Success

- \$5 million development costs
  - People sweat
  - Body armor
  - Plastic wears
  - Wearer buy-in through demonstration
- >100,000 units; \$3500-\$5000 list
- Unique differentiator
- New markets

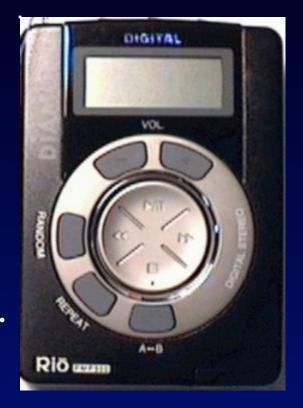
# CharmBadge

- One of the simplest wearable computers
- Exchange business card information between attendees at conferences
- Allows attendees to sort conference contacts by length of conversation
- Similarly, product information can be remembered and sorted based on interaction time

(www.charmed.com)

#### Portable Entertainment Systems

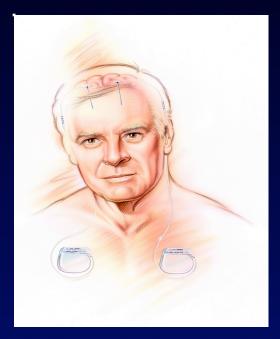
- MP3 players
  - Rio: 10,000/week
  - Wearables or not?
  - \$3 billion/year
- Video
- Portable phones/games/...



#### Medical and Fitness Systems







#### Medtronic

#### FitSense

#### Fashion



# Music Jacket (MIT)

Galvactivator

#### The Vision

## Wearable Computing Vision

- Pocket or clothing based computing
- Peripherals distributed around the sensors and actuators of the body, connected wirelessly
- Runs entire day

# Interaction (Life)Style, Not Hardware

- Rhodes [Rhodes97]
  - Portable while operational
  - Enable hands-free or hands-limited use
  - Capable of getting user's attention
  - Always "on"
  - Sense the user's context in order to serve him better
- Starner [Starner99]
  - Persists and provides constant access
  - Senses and models context
  - Augments and mediates
  - Interacts seamlessly

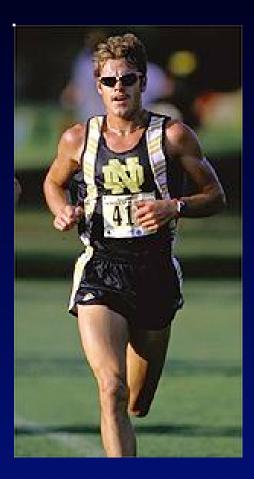
# **Everyday Applications**

- Consumer devices (CD, movies, cell)
- Instant messenger (zephyr)
- Instant reference (webster, google)
- Remote monitoring (telnet)

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# Man-Machine Symbiosis

#### Intelligence Enhancement



- "Strengthen" the mind
- Train how to use the mind more effectively

Smart foods, brainstorming techniques, memory tricks, etc.

#### Intelligence Augmentation



- Support mental task
- Constrain thinking
- Maintain flexibility

#### Not a New Concept

- Douglas Engelbart (1962)
  - Intelligence augmentation
- JCR Licklider (1960)
  - Man-computer symbiosis

#### Intelligence Augmentation

- Human Intelligence (normal thinking)
- Artifacts (autonomous systems)
- Combination (intelligence augmentation)

## Man-Computer Symbiosis JCR Licklider, 1960

"Man-computer symbiosis... will involve very close coupling between the human and the electronic members of the partnership."

"[A person could] in general interact with [a computer] very much as he would with another engineer, except that the 'other engineer' would be a precise draftsman, a lightning calculator, a mnemonic wizard, and many other valuable partners all in one."

"[In his self-study] Much more time went into finding or obtaining information rather than digesting it"

# Software Agents



- Personalized
- Autonomous
- Sense the environment
- Act on your behalf

## **Communications Filtering Agent**



Your computer will know who is prestigious in your eyes and buffer you from a demanding world.

[JCR Licklider, "The computer as a Communications Device," Science and Technology, April 1968]

# Nomadic Radio



(Sawhney, MIT Media Lab)

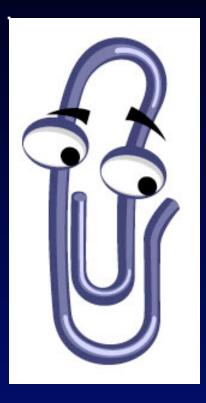
• Audio interface

- Voicemail, news, email
- Dynamic interruption
  - Importance of info
  - Personal profile
  - Conversation detection

# Software Agents

- Effective
  - Well defined task
  - Necessary information available to agent
- Break down
  - Open-ended task
  - Require "mind reading"

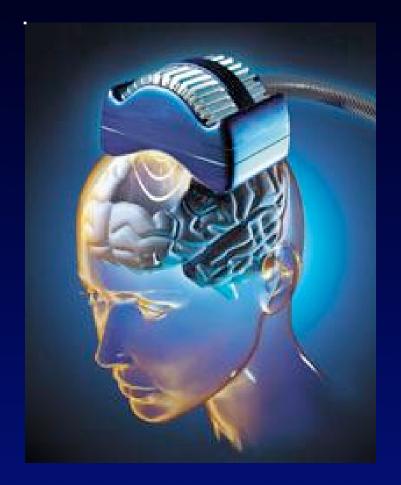
# The Annoying Intern



- Help task too open-ended
- Need to know user's intent

Communication between user and agent is too distracting!

#### Prosthesis For The Brain



- *Less* autonomy
- Constant, low-load communication
- Tight integration with environment and task

# Information Retrieval

# Just-in-time Information Retrieval

- Automatically provide information
- Based on local environment
- Do it without driving people nuts

#### Remembrance Agent

#### \subsubsection\*{Criteria for Evaluation (Relevance vs Usefulness)}

For the IR field, algorithms are typically evaluated based on whether the documents returned are relevant to the given query. It is assumed that the query is a good indication of the user's interests, though queries are often still represented in natural language. Remembrance agent queries are automatically created, so relevance isn't good enough. To evaluate the information retrieval algorithm of an RA, one needs to show that the hits returned are useful to a person given his current task. While relevance may correlate with usefulness, the two are not the same. For example, a citation from the INSPEC database could be relevant to a paper a researcher is writing but still be useless if the suggested document is already well known by the researcher.

#### \subsection{Interface Design}

The most important design constraint for remembrance agents is that reading suggestions be a secondary task for a user. Unlike users of a search -:-- ibm-systems-ra.tex 12:16AM 0.02 (LaTeX Fill)--L209--24%------1 + Rhodes Star March 1996 Remembrance Agent: a continuously running autom\$ 2 + Rhodes Star April 1996 Remembrance Agent: a continuously running autom\$ 3 + Wildemuth Dec. 1995 Oc Defining search success: evaluation of searcher\$ 4 Spink Greis May 1997 Partial relevance judgments and changes in user\$ -:%\* \*remem-display\* 12:16AM 0.02 (Remembrance Agent)--L1--All------

# Margin Notes

File Edit View Go Communicator	Help
Choosing A Cell Phone Provide By J.A. Hitchcock Are you considering getting a cell phone, but have a cell phone but want to switch providers	"Re: cell phone question" (rich) hackers-archive May 24, 1999
advantage of their latest promotion (usually get that was it. Today, not only do you need to de	g a cell phone you went to your local provider, took ting the phone for free with an annual contract), and cide whether you want an analog or digital phone or provider that can provide analog and/or digital service.
What's the difference?	
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### JITIR Interfaces

- Progressive disclosure (Ramping interface)
  - Low-cost false positives
  - Lots of opportunities to bail out
  - Allow control over when information is viewed
- Follow *proximity compatibility* principle
   Use local environment as part of interface
- Two-second rule (Miller, 1968)

# **Controlled Evaluation Results**

- Essay-writing experiment with news articles
- Subjects read three times as many articles using the RA as with a search engine
- RA use was in addition to search engine use, not a replacement

Ease-of-access changed behavior

# Value of JITIRs

- Provide new material
  - Answering questions as they're asked
- Provide supporting material
  - "I write opinions, the RA gives me the facts"
- Contextualize
  - "...nice to see how other people talked about this."
- Help with another (related) task

# Jimminy (Wearable RA)

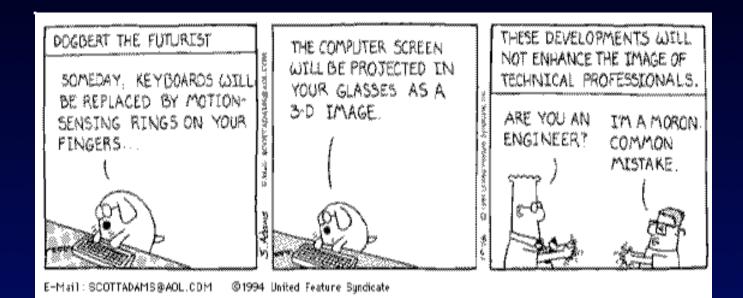




# Jimminy

- Environment automatically sensed
  - Location
  - People in area
  - Time
  - Topic
- Physical context not good marker for "useful information"
- Output too dense for conversational speeds

#### Augmented Reality



# What Is Augmented Reality?

- Uses real world (context) as part of message
- Information where needed most

# Columbia University Augmented Reality (1993)

- Applications
  - Instruction
  - Mobile information
- Focus on graphics, speed
- Good evaluation
- Wired ultrasonic sensors

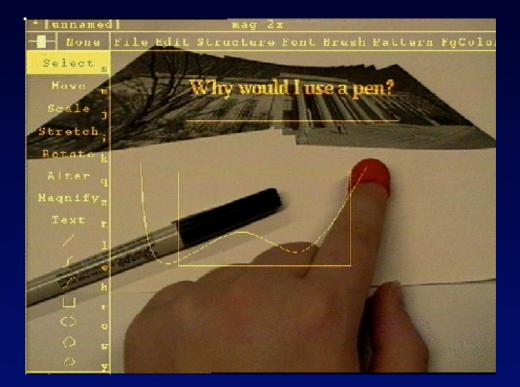








# Vision-based AR: finger as mouse (1995)





# Repair/Inspection/Maintenance



# Other Examples



Wiring AR System (Mizell, Boeing)



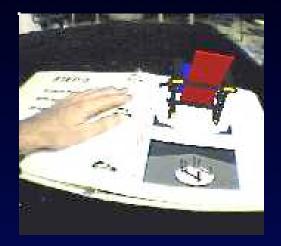
Billiards Assistant (Jebara, MIT Media Lab)

### Physical World Wide Web



video

# ARToolkit (Billinghurst)







video

# Perception

#### Sensors



ASL translator

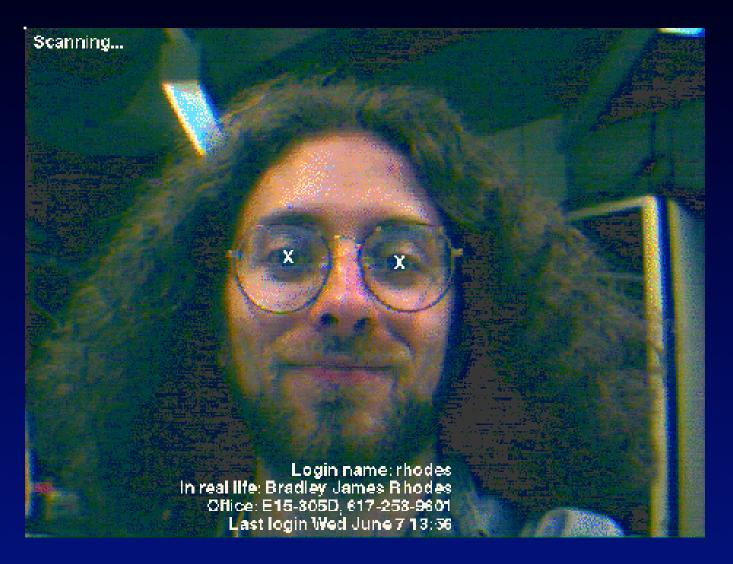




Blood pressure sensor earing (MIT)

Sensate Liner (Georgia Tech)

# Face Recognition



# **Recognizing Gesture**

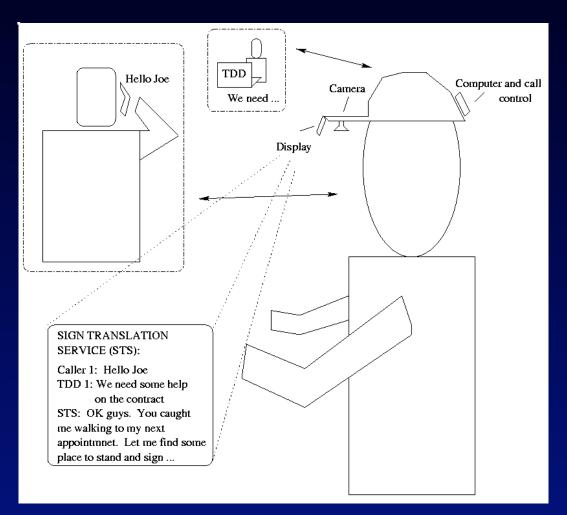
• Wearable American Sign Language recognition: 97% accuracy





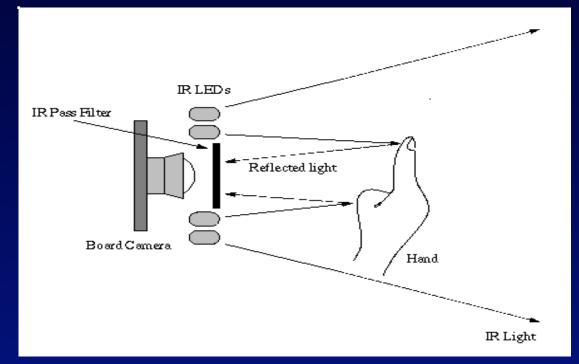
video

# Current effort: Cellular Phones for the Deaf



#### Gesture Pendant

- Home appliance control
- Medical monitoring







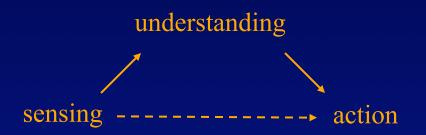
# Challenges

Human/Machine Interface Bottleneck (HCI)

- Progressive disclosure
  - Easy to use
  - Easy to ignore
- Use context
  - Disambiguate instruction for the computer
  - Explain output for user

# Machine Understanding of Context (AI)

- Sensors are easy, mind-reading is hard
- Proxies for context
  - "in my office" implies I'm working
  - "talking" implies not to be disturbed
- Proxies can only go so far



# Integration With The Task (Activity Theory)

- The details matter
- Need to combine
  - Cognitive
  - Ergonomic
  - Social
  - Practical
  - Environmental
- Can we be integrated and still general?

#### Wearable Trade-offs

- Power and heat (mips/watt)
- On and off-body networking (bits/joule)
- Privacy
- Interface (additional capability vs. load)
  - User Interface (cognitive load)
  - Machine understanding of context
  - Ergonomics/human factors (weight, heat, etc.)

#### Resources

- Charmed Technologies (www.charmed.com)
  - Inexpensive wearables for prototyping
- IEEE Wearable Information Systems Technical Committee (computer.org)
- www.cc.gatech.edu/~thad
- www.bradleyrhodes.com
- Research mailing list: wearables@cc.gatech.edu

## Bonus Material

# Calendar Study

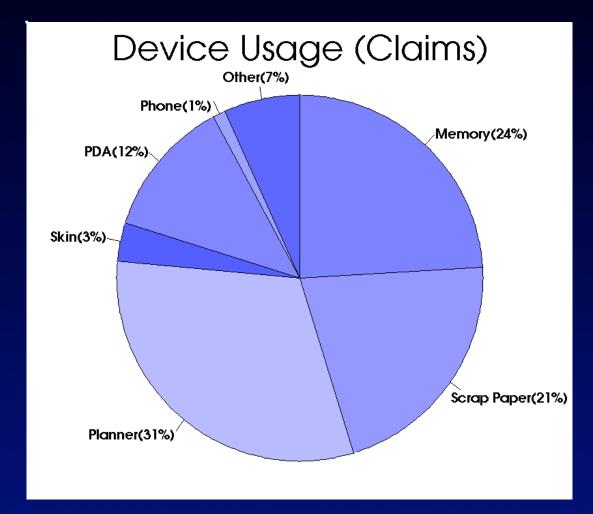
# Attention and Access: Scheduling Device Survey

- What sort of devices are used for scheduling/ remembering appointments while mobile?
- What are the user's perceptions of that device?
- Why do not more people use these devices/have them with them?
- •
- (Georgia Tech GVU TR #02-17 with Ben Wong and Robert Maguire co-authors; submitted to Trans. Computer Human Interface)

# Scheduling Device Survey (2)

- 158 subjects
  - Georgia Tech student center
  - 90% students; 88% age 18-25; 70% male
- What is your primary scheduling system while mobile?
- 8 Likert scale questions on effectiveness, ease of use, speed, and reliablity
- Open response questions

## What People Say They Use



## Satisfaction

- For every device, with moderately positive results, subjects thought that their device was
  - Appropriate
  - Sufficient
  - Somewhat necessary

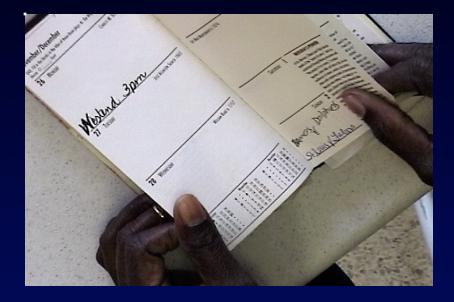
## Satisfaction (2)

- For every system, subjects thought their system was
  - Easy to use
  - Fast to access
- Curiously, many subjects admit to delaying entering appointments

## What Really Happens

- After taking survey, subjects scheduled appointments with the experimenter
  - Could we meet sometime next Monday?
  - Could we schedule a time to meet in the second week of February (three months in the future)?
  - Could we schedule a time to meet tomorrow?
  - Could we reschedule our appointment in February from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>?

#### Videotaped Interactions

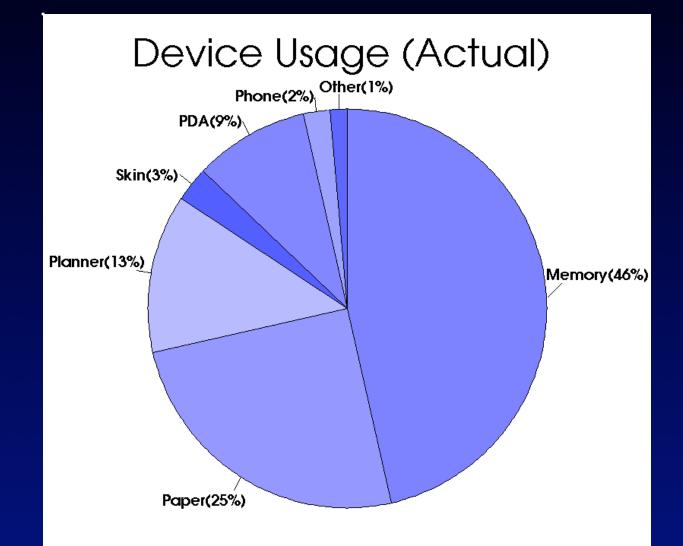




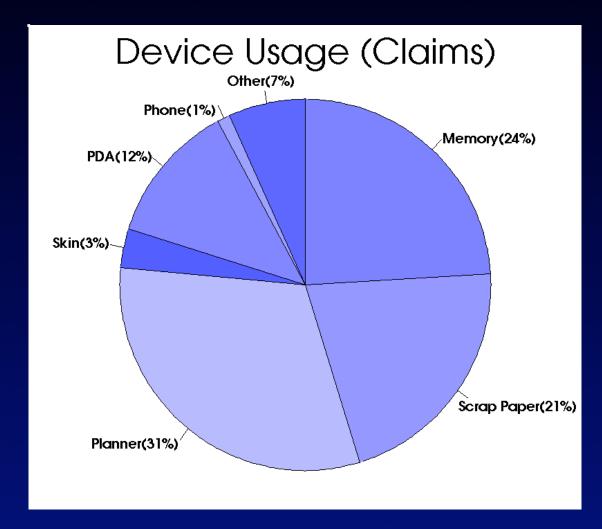
#### Scheduling device

#### Subject view

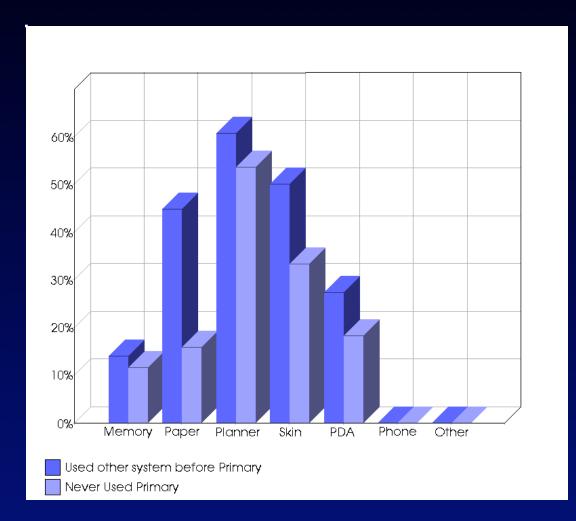
## Actual Device Usage



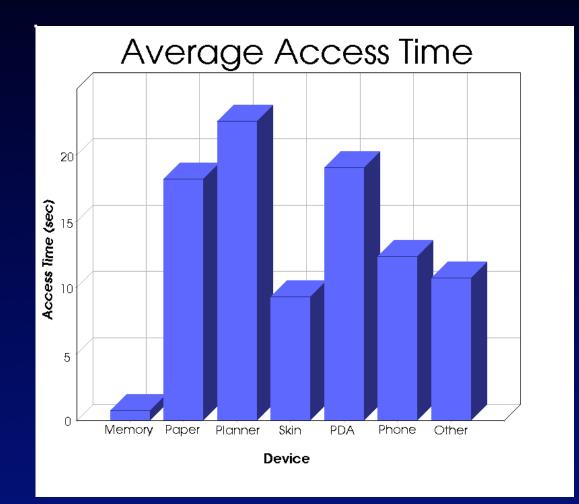
## What Subjects Say They Use



#### Disuse



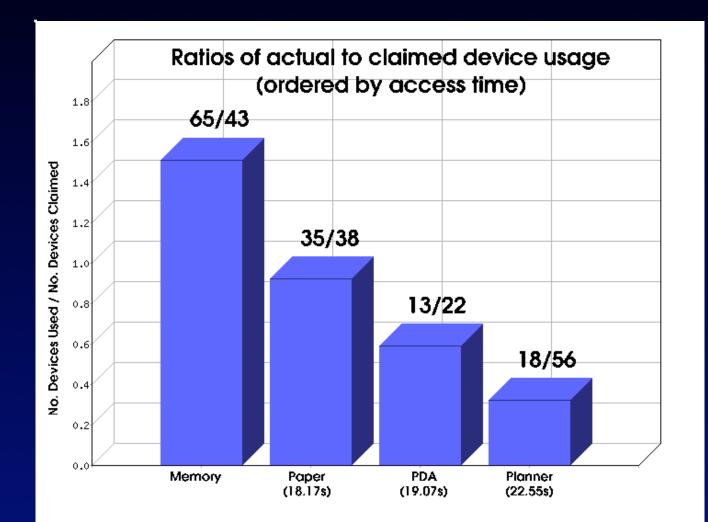
# Access Time for Scheduling Systems



## What Did We Learn?

- People are bad at introspection:
  - Access time is actually significant
  - Often don't use what they say they use
- Once subjects learn a system, they make themselves (somewhat) satisfied with it
  - Hard to introduce new devices
  - Subjects suffer from shortcoming blindness

## Access Time vs. Disuse



### Access Time Predicts Use!

- Related to the 2-second rule
- If something takes longer than 2 seconds to do, its use will go down exponentially or linearly depending on the type of task
- Informal verification in the literature
- Multitasking (Miller)
- Web links (Shneiderman)
- Agents (Rhodes)
- Implications for wireless service providers

# Cognitive Load an Issue?

- Scheduling appointments very interruptive; people tend not to multitask
- Subjects in study showed evidence of delaying cognitive load of navigating interfaces until later (using memory or scratch paper as a stop-gap method)
- Brain imaging surveys
  - Show conflict between memory encoding and multitasking with the phonological loop

(Schacter01)

## New HCI Question?

- How do we create interfaces where the computer task is NOT the primary one?
  - Conversations
  - Maintenance/Repair
  - Inspection
  - Touring physical reality
- Similar domains
  - Automobile interfaces
  - Head-up displays/interfaces for aircraft

# Perceptive Agents

## Perceptive Wearable Agents

- See what the user sees; hear what the user hears
- Use new generation of sensors to recover context
- Monitor interaction with traditional user interface
- Exploit user's "natural" behaviors
- Pro-actively perform tasks for the user

# How Not to Do It: The Jane Experiment

- Continuous audio-based agent
  - Inspired by Card's "Ender's Game"
  - Access to user's e-mail
  - Internet search engines
- Wizard of Oz experiment failed:
  - "Agent" could not respond quickly enough
  - Audio output was interruptive
  - Not enough context to be pro-active
  - Context could not accumulate due to experimental

# Calendar Navigator Agent

- Interface used in parallel during conversation when scheduling an appointment
- User's speech performs dual roles: social communication and direction of interface
- Might someday be faster than human secretary
  - High resolution screen for feedback
  - Not restricted to linear presentation like speech
- Only works because of
  - Limited vocabulary and grammar
  - Push-to-talk (variation)

(GVU Technical Report #02-17)

## Calendar Navigator Agent

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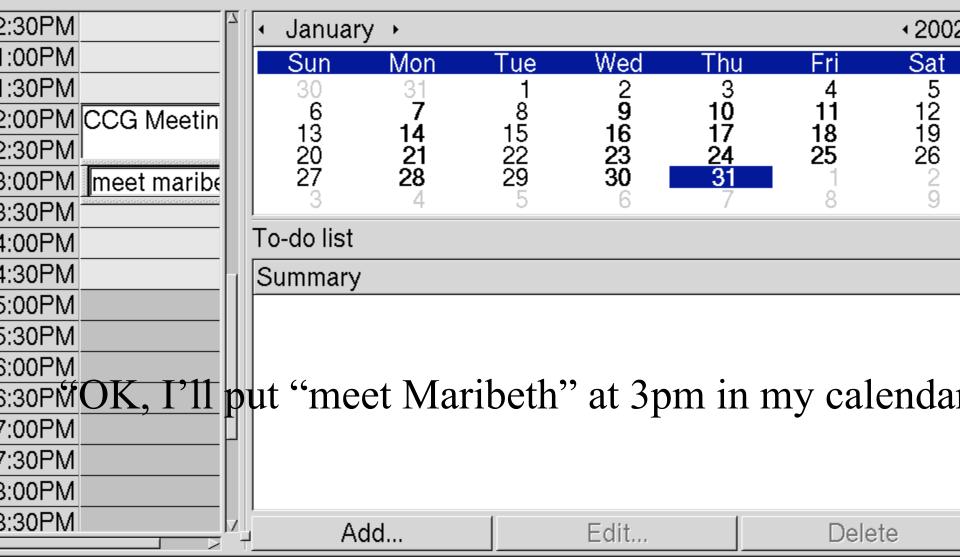
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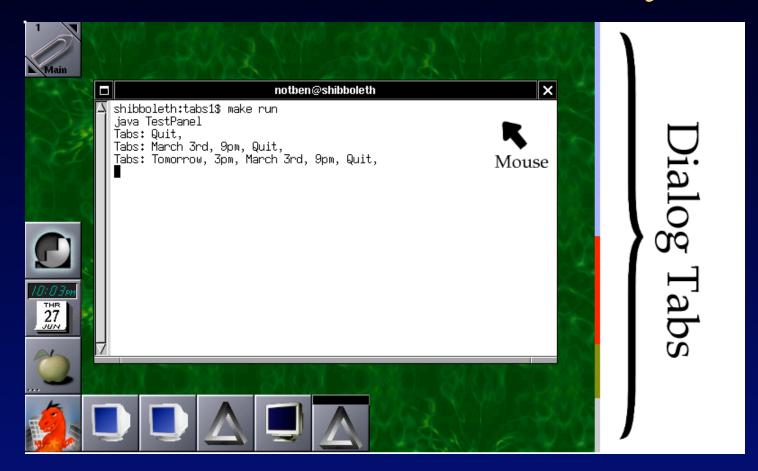
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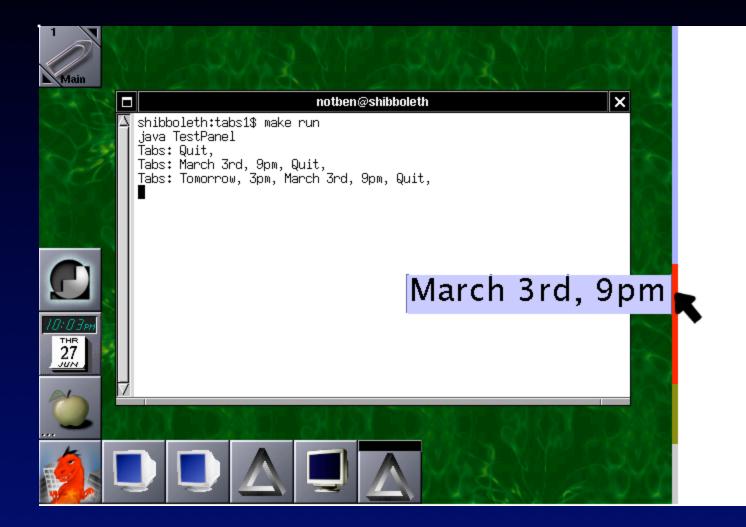


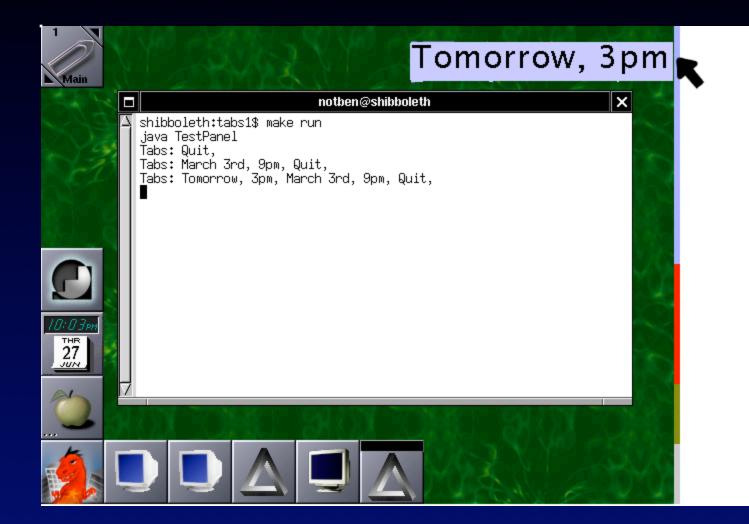
# Dialog Tabs: Augmenting Conversation Memory

- Record user speech
- Create small bars at corner of the screen whenever an "interesting" conversation heard
- Tabs remind user to process the information later (delaying cognitive load)
- Use (limited) speech recognition to provide cues as to content of tab – similar to Whitaker's SCANMail

# Dialog Tabs: Augmenting Conversational Memory





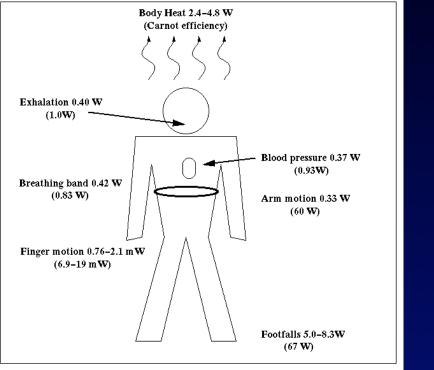


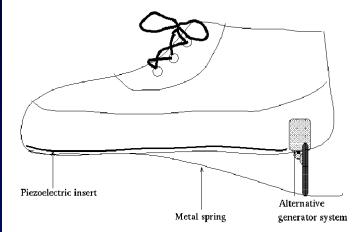
#### Power and Heat

#### Power

- Where do you put the batteries?
- What is the minimum battery life?
  Tie recharging with normal life activities
- How distributed can the power be?
  - Replacing batteries
  - Wired/wireless power distribution

## A Different Perspective





# Locust: Environmentally Powered Location/Messaging

- PIC microcontroller
- IR xmit/receive
- >6m range
- Location beacon
- Upload location-based messages
- 300 deployed
- Next version: AM radio powered

(Starner97 ISWC "The Locust Swarm")



#### Alternative "Batteries"

- Compressed air tanks (5.75 Whr/kg)
- Ultracapacitors (3-30 Whr/kg)
- Fuel cells (548Whr/kg)
- Superflywheel (385Whr/kg)
  - Buckytubes give 10x this amount!
  - (Michael Johnson aries@media.mit.edu unpublished)

#### Small Nuclear Sources

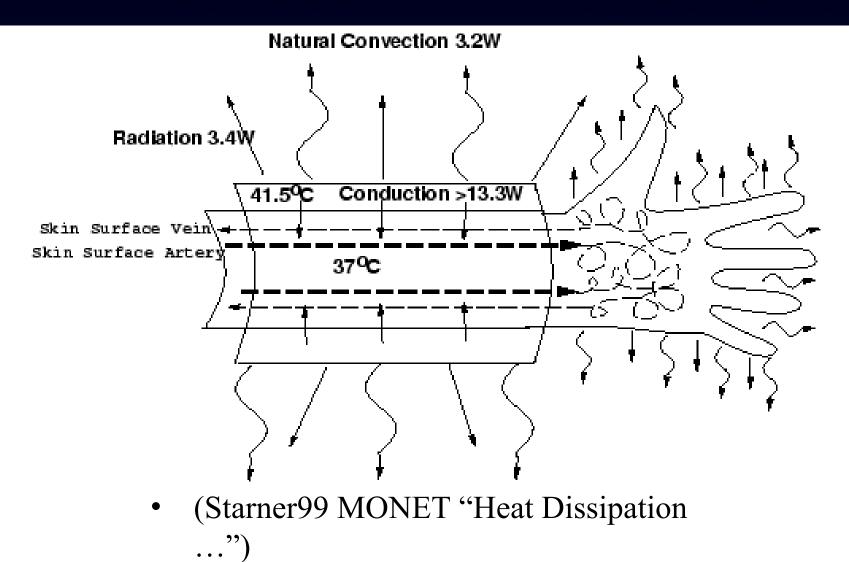
•	Material	Half Life	Energy density
•	Po210	0.38 years	134W/g
•	Pu238	87 years	0.39W/g

- •
- 6.6% conversion efficiency
- \$1500/g Pu238
- Chinese have used Po210 on space program
- Plutonium used in pacemakers (1989)

#### Heat

- #1 limiter in current laptop computers (23W)
- Methods of removing heat
  - Convection
  - Conduction
  - Evaporation
  - Radiation
  - Storage

## Case Study: Forearm Wearable



# Networking, Privacy and Community

## On and Off-body Networking

- Personal Area Networks (Zimmerman)
- Bluetooth and 802.15
- 802.11, 3G, software radios
- Power issues Mbps/J not Mbps

## Privacy

- Langheinrich's tutorial (Pervasive & Ubicomp Summer School 2002)
- Foner's PhD thesis: Yenta
- Computers, Freedom, and Privacy conference

# University of Oregon Wearable Communities

- What to do when Cyborgs meet?"
  - Game theory of task trading (WALID)
  - Reputation mechanisms (DIOGENES)
  - P2P middleware (PROEM)

http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/wearables/