InfoCanvas: A Highly Personalized Elegant Awareness Display

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Personal Information

- Examples: news, financial, weather, traffic, personal communication, ...
- Desire to maintain a level of awareness
- Information varies from person to person
Our Goals & Design Principles

- Peripheral – Calm and not disruptive
- Personalized – Highly customizable
- Consolidated – Integrated view of all desired data
- Secure – Obscure personal data
- Elegant – Enhance a person’s environment
The InfoCanvas

- “Information Art”
- An ambient LCD display
  - Like picture on desk or hung on wall
- Presents an eye-pleasing picture
- Elements of picture represent data and subtly change
- Allow the user to define both the information and its representation

Shannon Bauman, Julie Isaacs, Jehan Moghazy, Chris Plaue, Zach Pousman
Parents’ weather
Email from Christy
San Diego airfare
$400
$150
Current System

• Do canvas design informally
• Hand-implement mappings
• Full-featured run-time system
Canvas Themes
User Study

- Purchased second monitors and video cards
- Working with three initial participants
- They choose
  - Data to monitor
  - Canvas theme
  - Data representations and positions
Temperature

Today’s weather

Coke stock

Tomorrow’s weather

Mexico fare <$300

“Evolution” on NY Times Sci page

Today’s weather

Tomorrow’s weather
Email volume

Email from husband
Troops locked in fierce battles with Republican Guards

News headline

Temperature

Traffic

Weather

Email total

Stocks

Email from list
Today’s forecast

Analysts’ View: Where Is Saddam’s R

Tomorrow’s forecast

Email

Mutual fund price

News headline

Email

Time
Ongoing Efforts

• “Glanceability” study
  – In ~7 seconds, do I get more info from
    InfoCanvas
    MyYahoo
    Pure text
    Sideshow

• Design tool