

Urban Tapestries Catalogue of Ideas

Rachel Murphy, Rudegirl Designs

6th December 2003

Urban Tapestries Catalogue of Ideas

Rachel Murphy, Rudegirl Designs

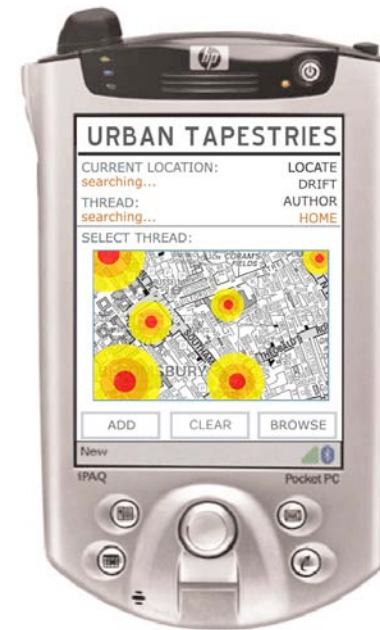
Urban Tapestries explores new technology that will allow people to 'attach' electronic messages, pictures, sounds and stories at particular physical locations via devices such as mobile phones or PDA's (personal digital assistant). We call this interaction with the city "Public Authoring" which we feel makes the project unique. Anyone who is logged into the system will be able to receive these stories, messages, images or sounds when they pass by the location where this content has been attached to. Urban Tapestries aims to bring out the richness of community histories into the street, while also providing a public resource for local information similar to the internet.

This Catalogue explores different ways in which users of Urban Tapestries can view, interact and author digital content. This exploration is shown through different technologies that will or already have connectivity capabilities. Not only does this catalogue explore the types of technologies people may use with the Urban Tapestries system but it also looks at the different types of content that people will be viewing and authoring. We believe that data will be both created and accessed by the same type of device, appropriate to that data.



Map Information

As an over view to the system users would be able to view statistical information about digital files that have been left in locations. For example a user could see a layer on top of the map showing popular places to leave messages or could view clusters on the map that represent recent files that have been added to the system



Wireless LAN diviner

The wireless LAN diviner is a device that allows users to find wireless LAN hotspots similar to the way a person may divine for water. The device could also have force feedback by using a gyroscope like technology to simulate the way a water diviner works. This device could be interpreted as a function that could currently be developed for the off the shelf technologies that the project is currently using.



Camera Overview Interface.

The interface on this Smart wirelessly connected digital camera would allow amateur photographers to access statistics about the kind and amount of photography that has been done in an area.



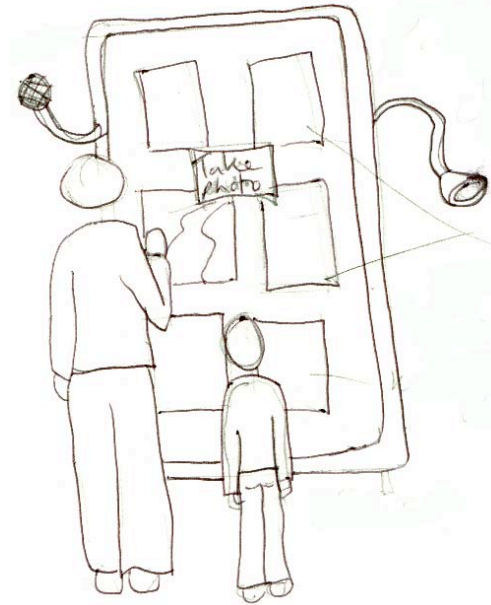
Wireless LAN Angel

The wireless LAN angel is a person that provides a service where they walk around the streets to give Urban Tapestry users wireless internet connection.



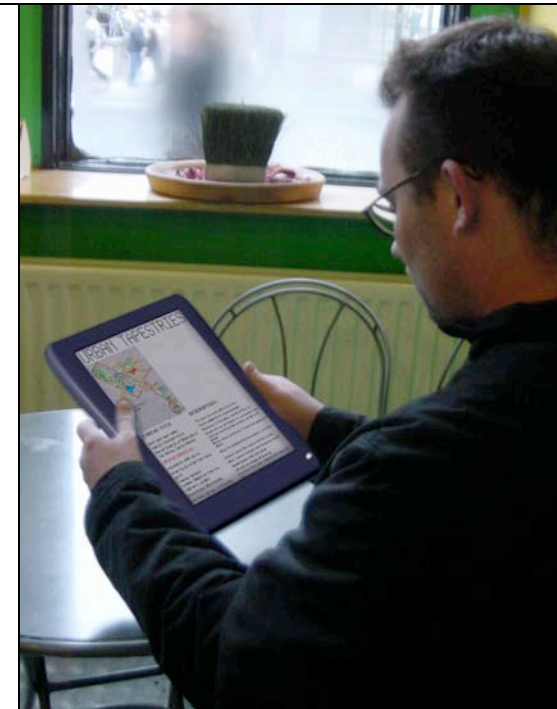
Display sharing

Display sharing would be a network of large organic LED display placed around the city that would allow multiple users to organise, create and view content. These Displays could come with attached technologies such as microphones for sound/voice recording and video cameras for filming and photography.



Rent-a-Tablet

Authors who captured information on the move and want to see it on a larger screen could use PCs in cafes, bars and libraries to view and organise their information. The author/viewer would be able to capture information on the move and then download it onto these screens using technology such as Bluetooth.





Good Photo Camera

Some people have problems deciding on the best way to take a photo, with the “Good Photo” camera users would be able to select an option that would alert them when they past through a place that is a good photo opportunity. Not only would the user be able to access other peoples good photos, but they could also leave their own by taking a photo and uploading it to that location with perhaps a few pointers and tips on times of day and specific angles to point the camera in.



Camera guided tour

A user with a smart connected camera would be able to leave a photo thread. These threads would be linked to certain subject areas such i.e. “nice places to take pictures of the river” or “attractive bridges”.





Electronic Geoglyphs

Like the Geoglyphs at Nazca in Peru, E-Geoglyphs are similar apart from the fact that they exist in the digital world. These digital Geoglyphs could be created by smart footwear which would leave a coloured electronic trail wherever the artist walked or by creating a new thread with empty pockets on their viewing client device.



Architects drawings

As a user looks at a building they are able to use their PDA to access drawings made by the architects. This content could be good for regeneration projects and encouraging local communities to express their opinions and feelings about local buildings.



Artist work archive

Artist would be able to leave their digital copies of their art work at the place where it was created. As Urban Tapestry users arrived at these views they would be able to access these digital images of the paintings, allowing the user to look upon the view and make comparisons to the artist's impressions.





Blow device

Like blowing bubbles or the seeds from a dandelion head, the blow device allows the author the ability to release their finished content into the air by blowing at the fan like device at the top of their PDA.



E-book/audio story

Remember the Games Workshop books that you had to roll a dice for to help you to decide what chapter to read next. Imagine a device and service that allows the reader/listener to dictate the direction of a story they are listening to on their device by walking a different route through the city. This storytelling archive would also be a place to encourage new stories to be written by budding authors.



Memorial - Place a flower

Just as a person may leave a flower in memory to a friend or member of ones family who has passed away at a significant location; So too could some body leave a digital flower or meaningful note to somebody special who has passed away at a special location.



MP3 Player – music with narrative

This device would be similar to an MP3 Player but with wireless connectivity to 802.11 and it would also know its location by using GPS. As the listener moved around the streets of Bloomsbury they would be able to tap into tunes made by music artists that mix seamlessly into one another as the listener chooses where to walk. So for example one tune may be linked to one street and depending on the direction that the listener then chooses to walk will depend on what kind of tune they will listen to next, hence creating a location based mixing method. This idea would be a perfect use for the automated DJ system being developed by HP.



Shape shifter

Imagine a device that changes shape depending on the type of content that can connect to. The device would have a screen, but it would also have a series of actuators and moving parts that allow the appliance to change shape in your hand. The exterior would have a rubber skin that would flex and change as the user walked around the city.



Jogging paths

For those fitness fanatics among us may be interested in using a client device similar to a wirelessly connected watch to create good jogging threads. Other peoples jogging paths would also accessible. These routes may be created by wearing smart footwear that can document the path of the jogger.

