Health & Well-Being

49. Socially adaptive apps

Although social applications such as Twitter, Foursquare, Life360 and Facebook help to connect people, they can conflict with important personal values like privacy, independence and freedom. For example, when parents use GPS-tracking to know where their children are 24/7, this may be beneficial for family security, but it negatively impacts children's privacy and independence.

We have developed two mobile apps for increasing social participation of people in the neighbourhood while at the same time supporting users' privacy, independence and freedom. The first app is designed for children between nine and twelve years old, to support them in their everyday activities (going to school, making new friends, etc.). The second app is designed for elderly people and their social network to make them feel safer and less dependent on others.

ICT science question
Can the use of norms in social applications promote user values like independence better than the basic settings of existing applications like Facebook? How can social applications be designed to make them more usable to the special needs of vulnerable people such as children and elderly?

Application
The application for children allows parents and children to 'check-in' at geographical locations they define and share these check-ins with selected family and friend groups. The app provides the ability to create customized agreements between users concerning the behaviour of the application, based on a normative model. Parents can for example agree with their children under which conditions check-ins are shared.

The application for elderly allows them to define the social network and to choose what information (e.g. location) will be shared and via which medium (e.g. SMS). The app also provides the possibility to set up a scenario. For instance, in case of emergency, the elderly can send out an alarm to the social network that automatically alarms the relevant persons, depending on the rules that the elderly has defined.

Alternative Application
The concepts of both our apps can be applied to other demanding target groups. For example, elderly citizens can use the app designed for children to organize events and find caregivers closest to their location. The concept of the social network alarm for elderly can be used by other target groups as well, e.g. people living on their own.

Nice to know
The company LG is gearing up to launch a wristband that plots a child's every move via a built-in GPS sensor. The wristband is expected to launch this year in South Korea, and in Europe and the United States one year later. The British newspaper The Guardian says that this sort of technology will "edge us closer to a dystopian future".

Smart social applications for wellbeing of vulnerable people such as children and elderly.

Applications that can adapt to users' values, promoting, e.g., safety and social connectedness, without harming others such as privacy and independence.

Making mobile social platforms smarter through novel adaptive technology to better support people in their daily lives.

Socially adaptive context-aware applications to provide personalized support to people in their daily lives.

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www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaAkU2MemQ4&feature=youtu.be

COMMIT/ project
VIEWW Virtual worlds for well-being