Department of Computer Science Distinguished Lecture Series in Human-Computer Interaction: Fall 2020

Monday, October 5, 2020
3:00pm CDT

Chris Harrison, CMU

Truly Responsive Environments

Host: Pedro Lopes

Abstract

Truly smart and responsive environments rely on the ability to detect physical events and social context, such as appliance use and human activities. Currently, to sense these types of events, one must either upgrade to "smart" appliances or attach aftermarket sensors to existing objects and infrastructure. These approaches are expensive, intrusive and inflexible. Furthermore, even "smart" appliances are often very dumb – a smart speaker sitting on a kitchen countertop cannot figure out if it is in a kitchen, let alone know what a user is doing in a kitchen. In my talk, I will review my lab's efforts over the past few years to bring the promise of smart environments much closer to reality.

Bio

Chris Harrison is the A. Nico Habermann Chair and an Associate Professor of Human-Computer Interaction at Carnegie Mellon University, directing the Future Interfaces Group (www.figlab.com). He broadly investigates novel sensing and interactive technologies, especially those that empower people to interact with small computing devices in big ways. Dr. Harrison has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed papers and his work appears in more than 40 books. For his innovations, Harrison has been named as a Top 30 Scientist by Forbes, a Top 35 Innovator by MIT Technology Review, and a World Economic Forum Young Scientist. Harrison has been named a fellow by the Packard Foundation, Sloan Foundation, Google, Qualcomm and Microsoft Research. He is also co-founder and CTO of Qeexo, a CMU spinoff working at the intersection of interactive technologies and artificial intelligence. His website is www.chrisharrison.net

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