

effMeet: peripheral interaction design for meeting management

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In an office environment, people tend to have full agendas with many meetings. Therefore increasing time awareness, by knowing your personal and other people's agendas in meetings, could be helpful. We want to achieve this through the use of peripheral interaction design, inspired by Weiser's vision on Calm Technology [4].

We present effMeet, a peripheral interaction design that aims at increasing time awareness in meetings. effMeet subtly informs people of the remaining meeting time and communicates the users' availability statuses to participants in other meetings by using their business cards as tokens.

effMeet is a concept design based on the theory of peripheral interaction and is inspired by e.g. StaTube [3], CawClock [1] and the physical tokens for peripheral interaction on Tangible User Interfaces [2].

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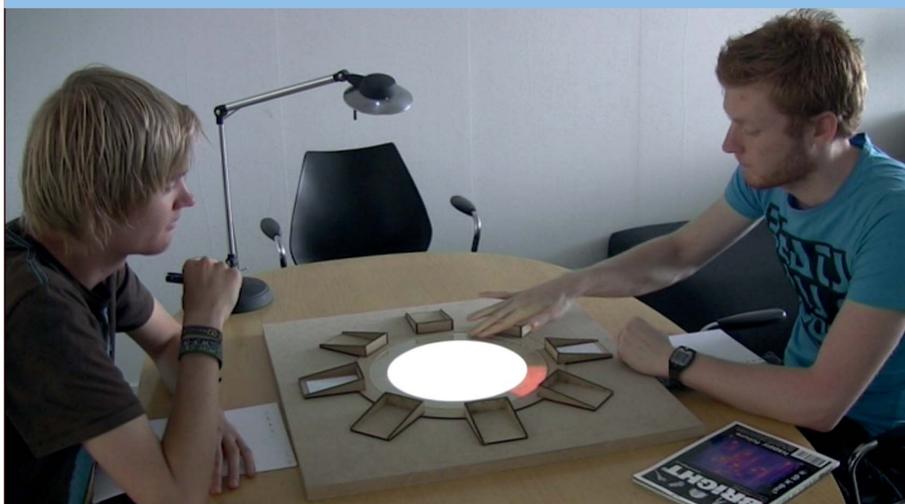


effMeet is a tangible device that can be used by eight people. It has a round shape and provides the space for eight tokens. When entering the room, employees put their RFID-tokens on effMeet. These tokens contain personal agenda information. effMeet now recognizes the agenda of the participants.



effMeet is located in the center of a meeting table. The meeting time is displayed in a circular red bar which descends as time passes. This time bar starts illuminating as soon as a minimum of two meeting participants have put their RFID-tokens on effMeet. Also, the meeting agenda is displayed on the middle of effMeet.

When the meeting is finished, participants wrap up, take their tokens and leave. However, participants are given the opportunity to extend the meeting by turning the ring on effMeet. This enables them to determine the time with which they want to extend the meeting.



As can be seen in this close-up image, participants can turn the ring manually in order to determine the amount of time with which they want to extend the meeting. The meeting extension is only applicable for the employees that have left their tokens on effMeet. The interaction required to extend the meeting is designed to be quick and straightforward so that it might be performed in the periphery of the attention.

