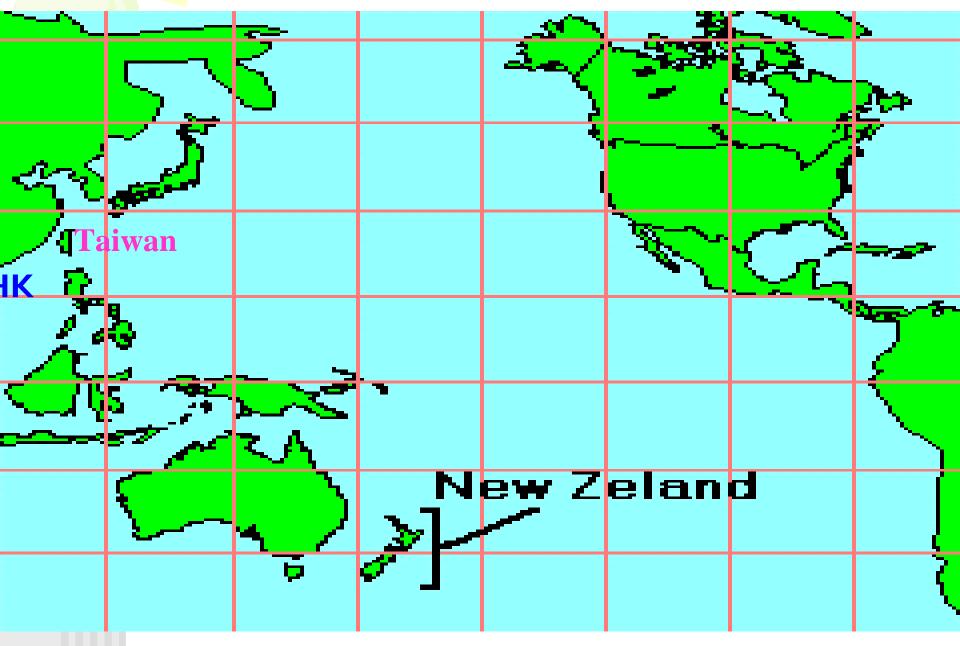
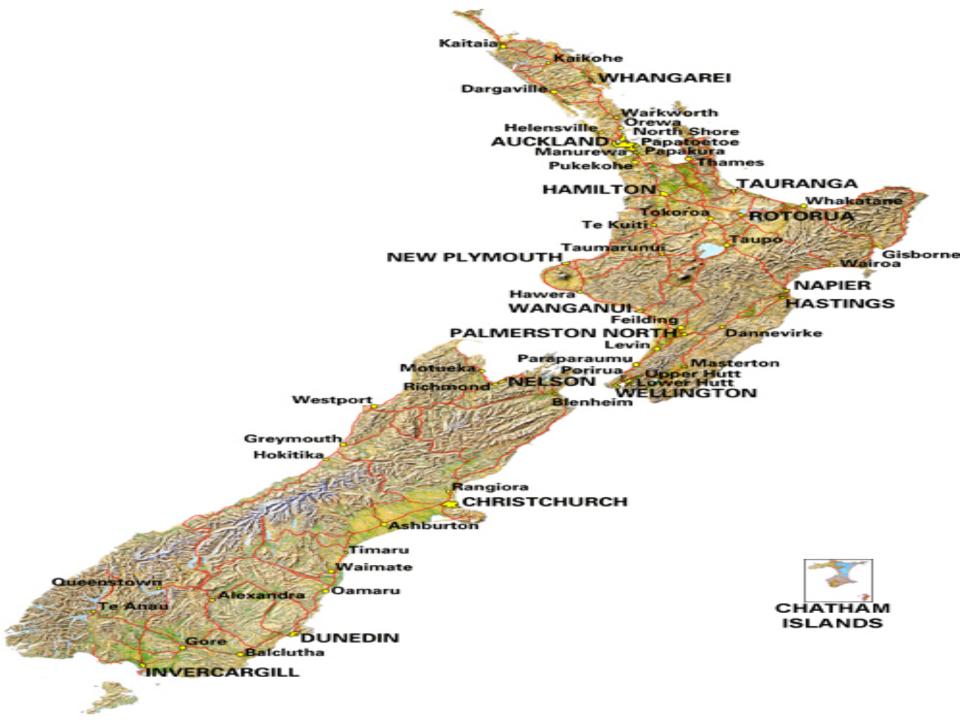
Wireless Sensors Network Based Smart Home to Care Elder People

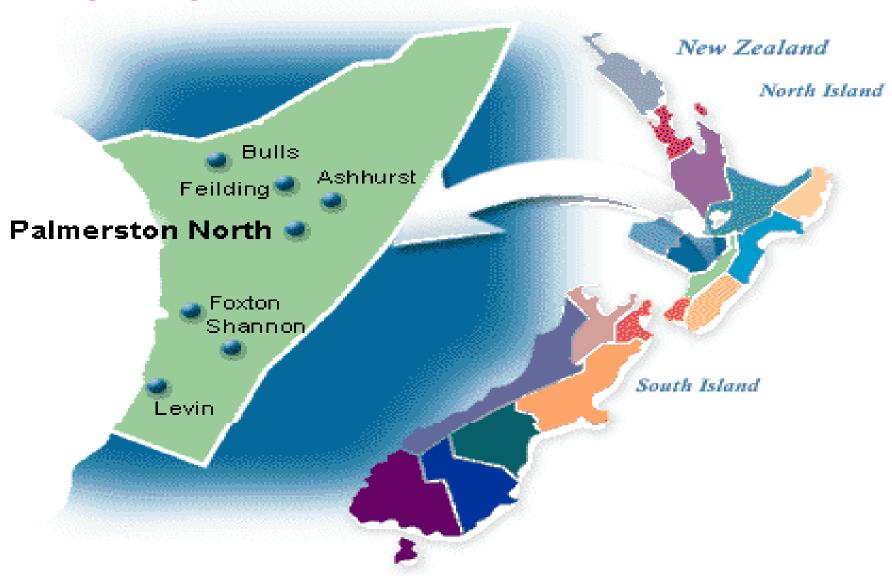
Subhas Mukhopadhyay Massey University New Zealand

Where is New Zealand?





My city is Palmerston North











Massey University Registry Bldg PN Campus Wellington Albany

2010

www.ieee.org/sensors

SIEEE HOME SEARCH IEEE SSHOP SWEB ACCOUNT SCONTACT IEEE

Membership Publications Services Standards Conferences Careers/Jobs

IEEE Sensors Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- <u>IEEE SENSORS 2010: The 9th IEEE Conference on Sensors</u> November 1-4, 2010, Waikoloa, Big Island, Hawaii
- Call For Nominations for Council Awards
 The Call for nominations for four Sensors Council awards is open. The
 deadline is August 15, 2010. Nominations are to be sent by email to Dr.
 Vladimir Lumelsky, <u>humelsky@ieee.org</u>. For more detail and for
 nomination forms, see here
- <u>1st IEEE International Conference on Smart Grid Communications</u> October 4-6, 2010, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, (co-sponsored by IEEE Sensors Council)
- Impact factor: The Sensors Journal's Reputation keeps Growing!
- New tutorial <u>Terahertz Sensing Technology</u>
- NEW member society joined the Sensor Council, <u>IEEE Antennas and Popagation Society</u>, 2008.
- IEEE Sensors Journal Announces Sensors Letters
- IEEE Sensors Journal Subscription Information
- IEEE Sensors Jorunal Issues Table of Contents, Abstracts, Full Papers
- IEEE Committee on Earth Observation, ICEO

 Please Visit the ICEO home page: www.ieee-earth.org and the ICEO online
 magazine,www.earthzine.org

IEEE SENSORS COUNCIL

- IEEE Sensors Council Member Societies
- 2010 Sensor Council Committee members
- IEEE Sensors Council Constitution
- IEEE Sensors Council Bylaws
- IEEE Sensors Council Policies and Procedures
- IEEE Sensors Job Descriptions

IEEE Sensors Council Publications

- Sensors Journal
- Proceedings of IEEE SENSORS
- IEEE Constitution
- IEEE Bylaws
- IEEE Policies
- IEEE Finance Operations Manual
- IEEE Code of Ethics.

Sensors Council

Sensors Journal

Conferences

2010 Adcom Meeting

Newsletter

Tutorials

Distinguished Lecturer Program

SC Awards

About Council

Purpose

Member Societies

History

External Links

IEEE Sensors Council

- Distinguished Lecturer from May 1, 2010
- IEEE Sensors Conference 2009
- IEEE Sensors Journal AE
- Guest Editor for special issues
 - > Intelligent Sensors
 - Sensors Systems for Structural Health Monitoring
- > Cognitive Sensors Network

Outline of the presentation

* Sensors

- * Smart Sensors
- Sensor Interfaces
- Introduction to Wireless Sensors
 Network based Home Monitoring for
 Eldercare

Sensor

A **sensor** is a device that measures a physical quantity and converts it into a signal which can be read by an observer or by an instrument.

A sensor generates an electrical signal related to a physical, biological or chemical parameter.

A good sensor obeys the following rules:

Is sensitive to the measured property
 Is insensitive to any other property
 Does not influence the measured property



Many Sensors

Measurand Transduction Principle

Physical Properties

Pressure Temperature

Humidity Flow Piezoresistive Thermistor, thermo-mechanical, Thermocouple Resistive, capacitive Pressure change, thermistor

Motion Properties

Position Velocity Angular velocity Acceleration

Contact Properties

Strain Force Torque Slip Vibration E-mag, GPS, contact sensor Doppler, Hall effect, optoelectronic Optical encoder Piezoresistive, piezoelectric, optical fiber

Piezoresistive Piezoelectric, piezoresistive Piezoresistive, optoelectronic Dual torque Piezoresistive, piezoelectric, optical fiber, sound, ultrasound

Presence

Tactile/contact Proximity Contact switch, capacitive Hall effect, capacitive, magnetic, seismic, acoustic, RF

Distance/range

Motion

E-mag (sonar, radar), magnetic, tunneling

E-mag, IR, acoustic, seismic (vibration)

Biochemical Identification

Biochemical agents Biochemical transduction Personal features Vision

Personal ID

Fingerprints, retinal scan, voice, vision motion analysis

Sensor Output

Analog

Digital

- 4-20 mA current loop
 +- 10V DC
- +- 100 mV
- +5 V, +10 V
- Audio (0-20 kHz) AC
- Ultrasonic (20 kHz-1 MHz) AC

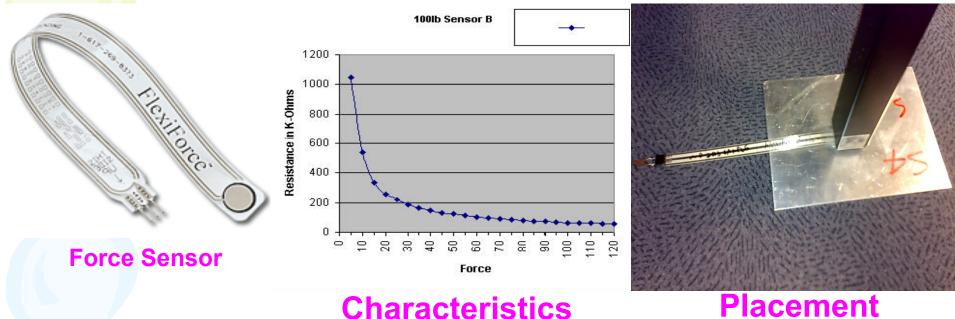
-Parallel (bytes, words with hand- shaking), TTL, Open collector Tristate, line driver/receiver interface devices Discrete (5V, 24 V, differential

line driver logic)

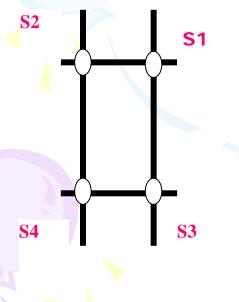
- RS-232C
- RS-422
- **RS-4**85
- IEEE-488 (GPIB)
- Ethernet
- USB
- Firewire
- FieldBus

Sensing System

Force Sensor vs Bed Monitoring System



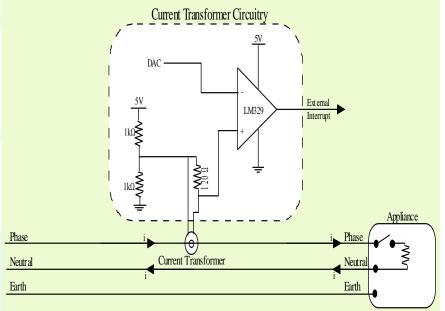
Characteristics





September, riesentation, 2010

Current Sensor vs Electrical Appliance Monitoring System



Intelligent Sensor Unit

- Power Supply
 - Current Transformer
 & circuitry
 - Microcontroller
 - RF Module

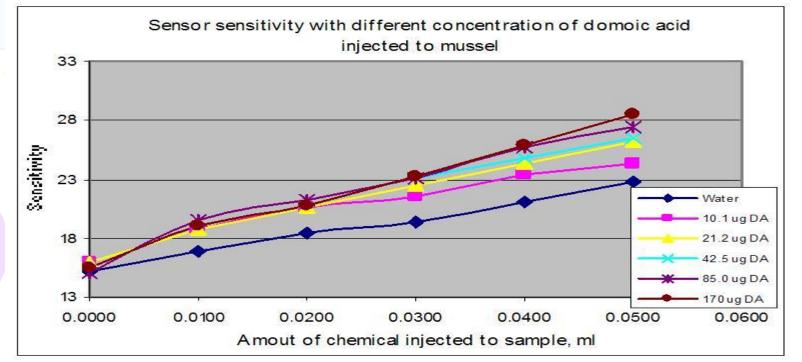
DL cum Ke

15

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Interdigital Sensor vs Domoic Acid Detection System





16

Smart Sensors:

Smart sensors are an extension of traditional sensors to those with advanced learning and adaptation capabilities. The system must also be re-configurable and perform the necessary data interpretation, fusion of data from multiple sensors and the validation of local and remotely collected data. Smart sensors therefore contain embedded processing functionality that provides the computational resources to perform complex sensing and actuating tasks along with high level applications.

The functions of a smart sensor system can be described in terms of compensation, information processing, communications and integration. The combination of these respective elements allow for the development of smart sensors that can operate in a multimodal fashion as well conducting active autonomous sensing.

Smart Sensors: Market situation

According to *Global Industry Analysts, Inc.*, the world smart sensors market is projected to reach US\$7.8 bn by 2012.

Even though the economic crisis is dominating, the demand for "smart sensors" is continuously increasing in all areas (BizAcumen, Inc).

Intelligent Sensors

Intelligent sensor is the sensor that has one or several intelligent functions, such as self-testing, self-identification, self-adaptation etc.

What does it make a sensor to be intelligent?

Very often it means a presence of microprocessor or microcontroller

Survey on Smart / Intelligent Sensors Definition:

Functional definition: Sensor with any intelligent function as self-identification, self-validation, self-testing, selfadaptation etc.

Technological definition: Combination of sensing element, analog interface circuit, ADC and bus interface

Self-checking definition: Sensors with only self-checking (self-calibration, self-validation) function

IEEE 1451 definition: IEEE 1451 compatible sensor

Survey results on Smart / Intelligent Sensors



 $\frac{9}{2}$

6%

7%

7%

Functional definition
Technological definition
All definition is OK
Other definition
Self-cheking definition
IEEE 1451 definition

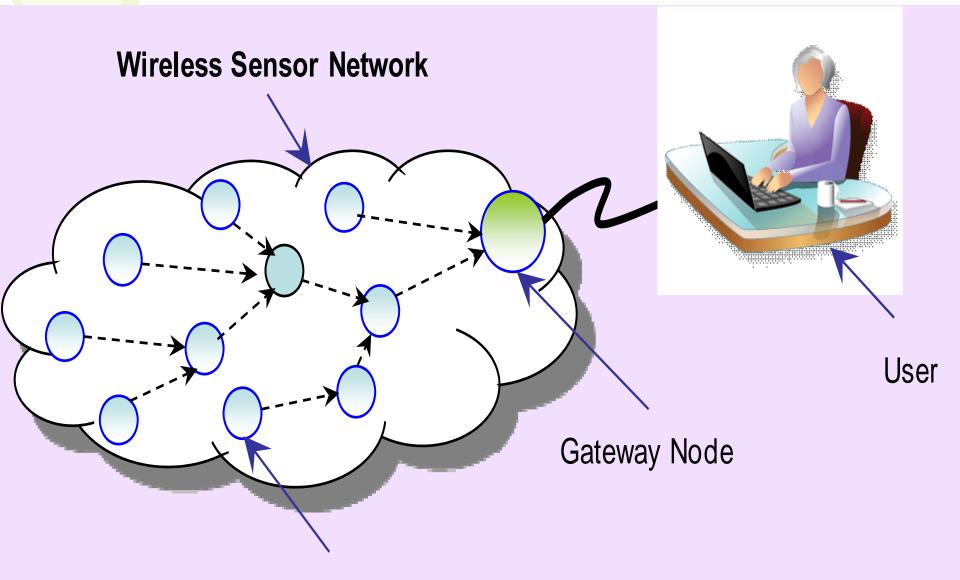
Another survey

What is your topic of interest in Sensors related research?

Ans: Smart sensors and systems

An integrated smart sensor and system containing all sensing elements along with wireless communication and power management.

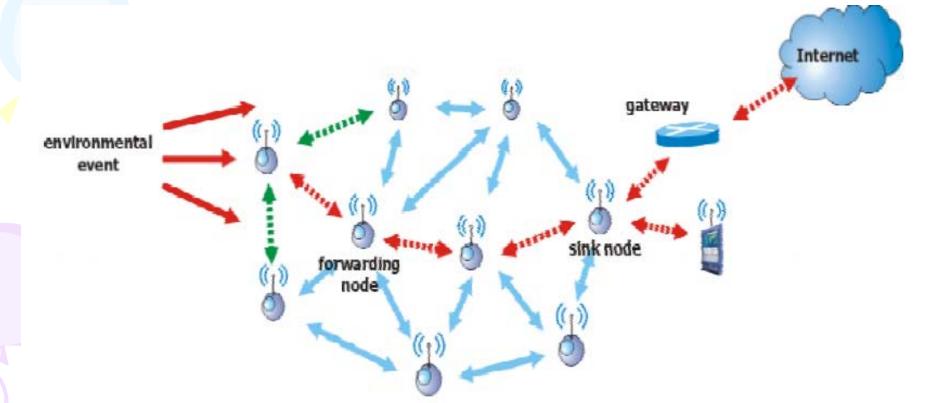
Wireless Sensors Network - WSN



Wireless Sensor Node

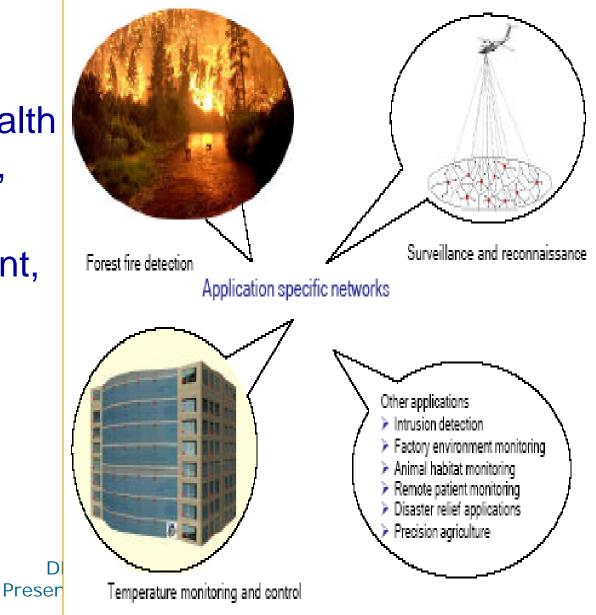
What are WSN?

- Large number of heterogeneous Sensor devices spread over a large field.
- Wireless sensing + Data Networking. Group of sensors linked by wireless media to perform distributed sensing tasks



Applications of WSN

 \succ Military, Environmental, Health (Scanning), Space, Exploration, Vehicular Movement, **Mechanical stress** levels on attached objects etc.



- Precision agriculture
- Environment comfort & efficiency
- Smart homes
- Alarms, security, surveillance.
- Disaster management
- Health Care
- Traffic Management
- Transportation safety
- Land mine Detection



Earthquake Response



Applications (contd.)



Sensor Augmented Fire Response





Wind Response Manufacturing cum Keynote Presentation, September,

2010

Elder₂Care

Characteristics of wireless sensor networks Networks of typically small, battery-powered, wireless devices. On-board processing, Communication, and Sensing capabilities. Sensors Ρ \mathbf{O}

W

Ε

R

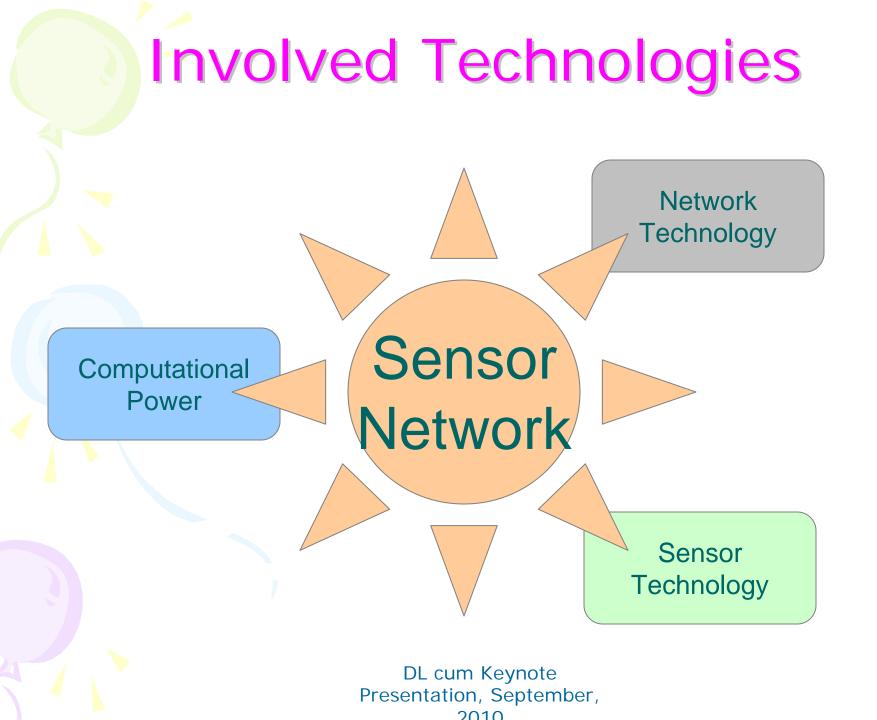
WSN device schematics DL cum Keynote

Processor

Radio

Storage

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Challenges in WSN's

>Energy **Computation Communication** ➤Scalability **Fault Tolerance** Power Consumption

Current research problems in WSN

1. Network lifetime maximization

- 2. Energy efficient routing
- **3. Reliable event detection and transfer**
- 4. Optimization among multiple, conflicting objectives
- 5. Bringing flexibility into the applicationspecific design of WSNs

Summary of Wireless Protocols

Standard	ZigBee (IEEE 802.15.4)	BlueTooth (IEEE 802.15.1 WPAN)	WiFi (IEEE 802.11 WLAN)	WiMax (IEEE 802.11 WWAN)
Range	100 m	10 m	5 km	15 km
Data rate	250-500 kbps	1 Mbps-3 Mbps	1Mbps-450 Mbps	75 Mbps
Band- width	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz	2.4, 3.7, and 5 GHz	2.3, 2.5 and 3.5 GHz
Network Topology	Star, Mesh, Cluster Tress	Star	Star, Tree, P2P	Star, Tree, P2P
Applicatio ns	Wireless Sensors (Monitoring and Control)	Wireless Sensors (Monitoring and Control)	PC based Data acquisition, Mobile Internet	Mobile internet

Overview of our research

- Why Do We Concern About Elder Care?
- Overview of existing research
- Underlying Research that Makes Things Work
- Do Elderly People Accept This Technology?
- Where Do We Go From Here?

A few recent news headlines (taken from New Zealand newspapers)

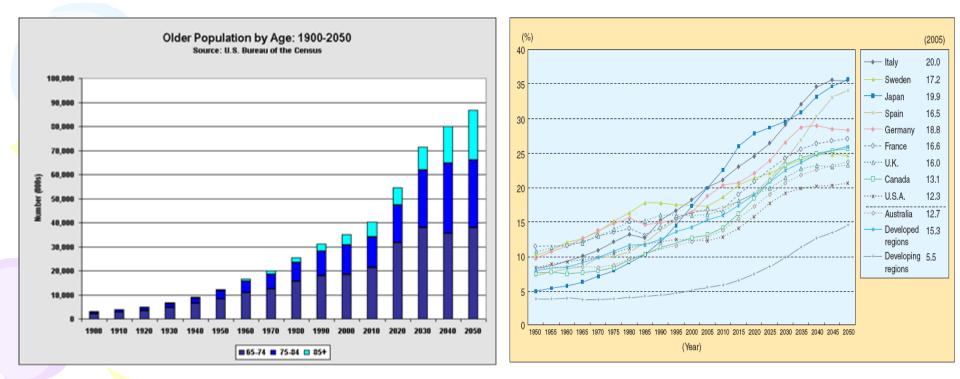
- Dead couple lay in home for 13 days
- Old tenant lay dead in flat for more than 10 days
 - Elderly man lay dead for days
- Old woman found starved in flat

 Neighbours' concern lead to body find (Dead body found after 9 days)

Population Ageing

There are currently 510,000 people over the age of 65 yrs in New Zealand.

In the United States alone, the number of people over age 65 yrs is expected to hit 70 million by 2030, almost doubling from 35 million in 2000.



Consequences Are

- Expenditures of the US for health care will project to rise to 17.9% of the GDP (\$2.9 trillion) by 2015.
- Many elderly people are forced to consigned to expensive retirement homes.
- Many elderly people choose to stay at home also for privacy/dignity issues.







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Why Do We Concern About Elderly Care?

Because our parents are the next in line to be qualified as elderly, and then we are next to the next in line.

 Can advances in sensing cum instrumentation technology, embedded controller, wireless communications

– enable elderly people to regain their capability of independent living?

We believe the answers are Yes!

Current on-going research

- * University of Missouri-Columbia (Tiger Place – Smart Home for the Elderly)
- University of Virginia (Assisted Living Oriented Information Systems)
- University of Alabama in Huntsville (Patients Monitoring Using Personal Area Networks)
- UC Berkeley (Great Duck Island on Environmental Monitoring)



A few patents on the topic

[1] Cuddihy PE, Weisenberg JM, Ganesh M and Graichen CM, "System and method for determining periods of interest in home of persons living independently", US patent No. US7091865, 15th August 2006.

[2] Yoshiike N, Hattori A, Morinaka K, Inoue S and Tanaka S, "Home monitoring system for health conditions", European Patent No. EP1071055A1, 24th January 2001.

[3] Yoshiike N, Hattori A, Morinaka K, Inoue S and Tanaka S, "Home monitoring system for health conditions", European Patent No. EP1071055B1, 22nd December 2004.

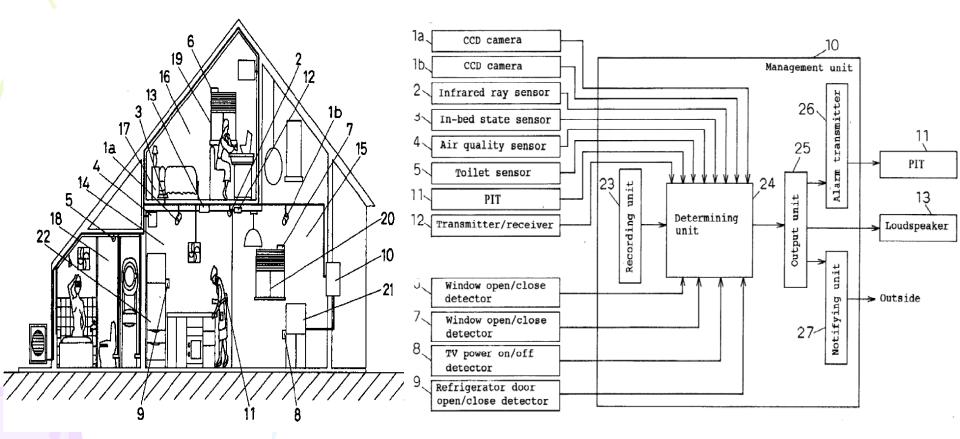
[4] Yoshiike N, Hattori A, Morinaka K, Inoue S and Tanaka S, "Behavior determining apparatus, care system, care residence and behaviour information specifying apparatus and system", US patent No. US6796799, 28th September 2004.

[5] Kiluk C, "Method in alarm system, including recording of energy consumption", US Patent No. US4990893, 5th February 1991.

[6] Lane SS, Chadbourne C, Buller WT and Steiger SA, "Method of user monitoring of physiological and non-physiological measurements", US patent No. US6002994, 14th December 1999.

[7] Monroe DA, "Multimedia surveillance and monitoring system including network configuration", US patent No. US6970183, 29th November 2005.
 [8] Davis-Havill JR and Walley JL, "Biomechanical monitoring apparatus". World Intellectual Property Organization, WO05320348A1, 22nd December 2005.

Figures from one reported patent



Commercial situation

Is there any commercial system available so that you can buy and use to monitor elderly people?

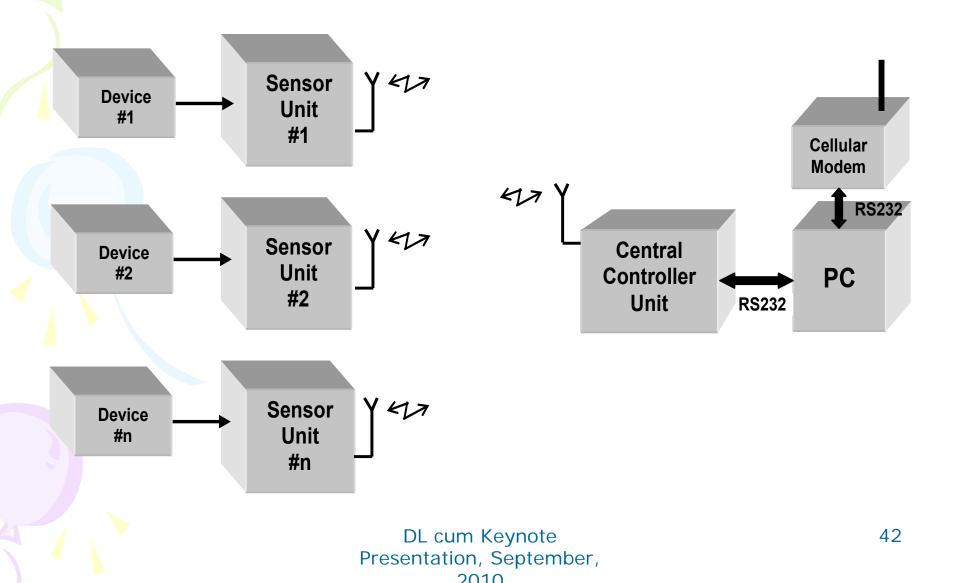
 Part of the system available such as panic button, text message for a particular event and so on.

 Expensive system under special order may be possible.

Objective of our research

- **1. Design of a SMART Home for the elderly**
- 2. A SAFE, SOUND and SECURED Living Environment
- 3. No camera or vision based system
- 4. A low-cost system that can be affordable by almost everyone.

Functional Block Diagram

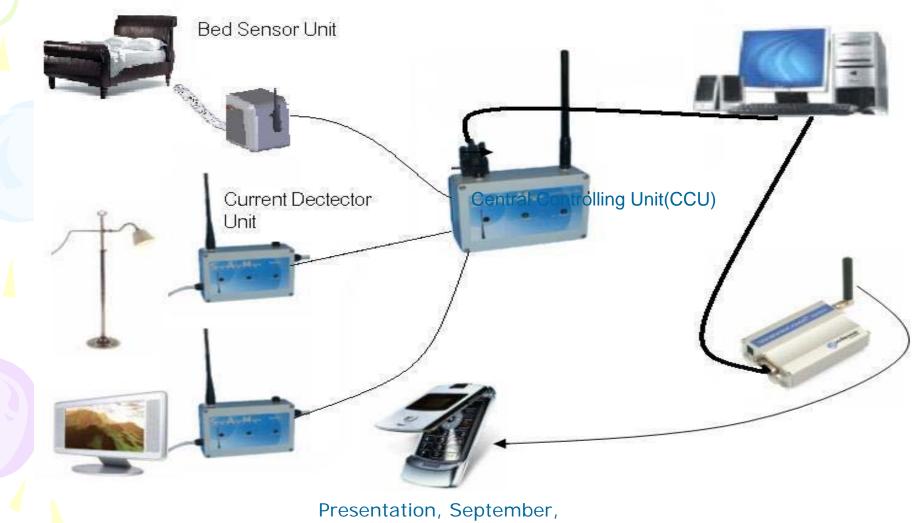


The Initial System



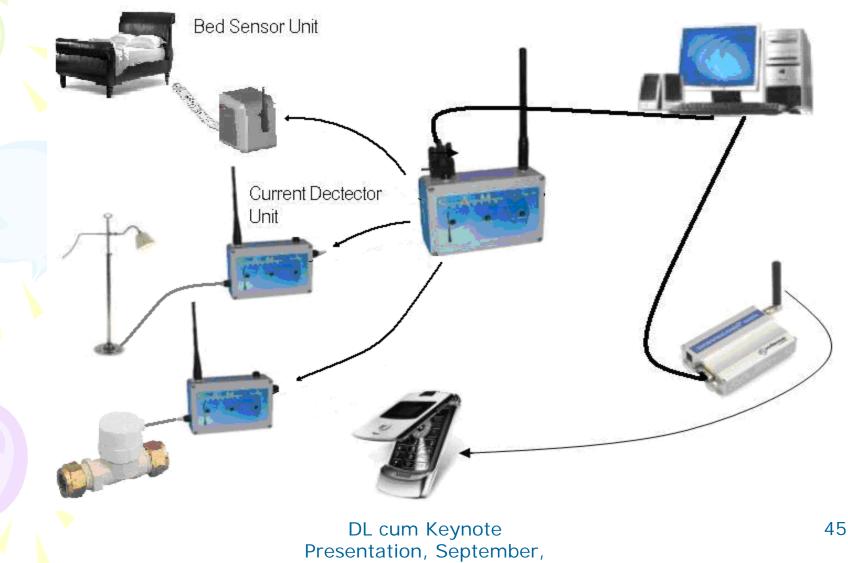
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Addition of non-electrical appliances

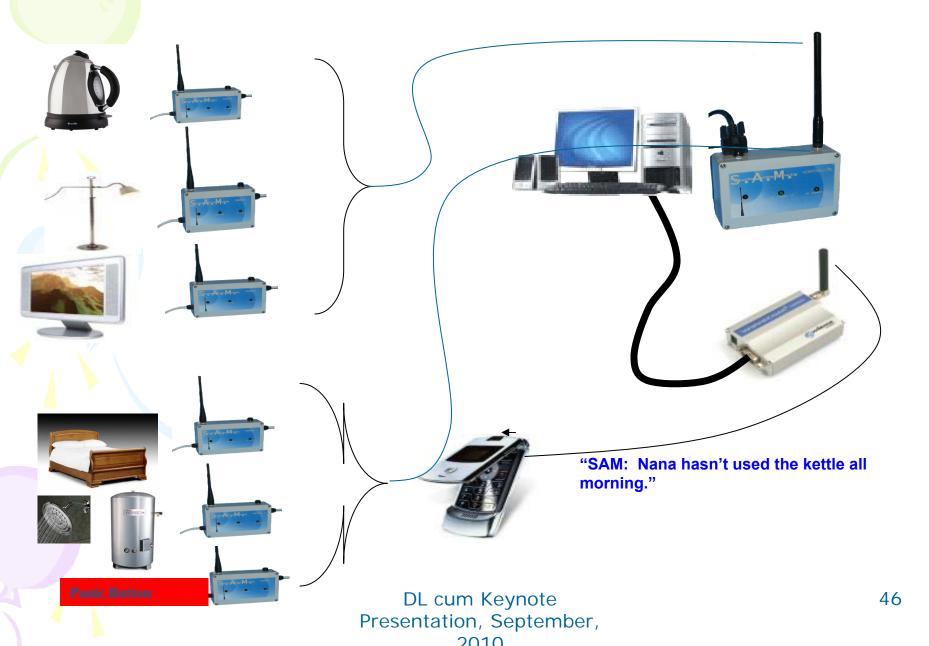


²⁰¹⁰

Addition of Flow sensor for water use monitoring



The Fabricated System

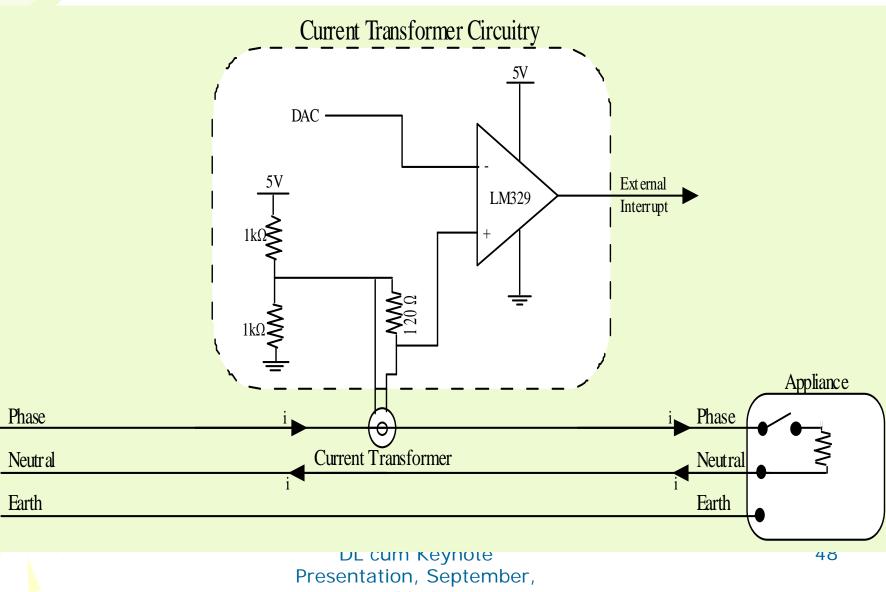


Electrical Appliance Monitoring Unit

 Sensor Unit (SU) -Power Supply -Current **Transformer &** circuitry -Microcontroller -RF Module -LED Display

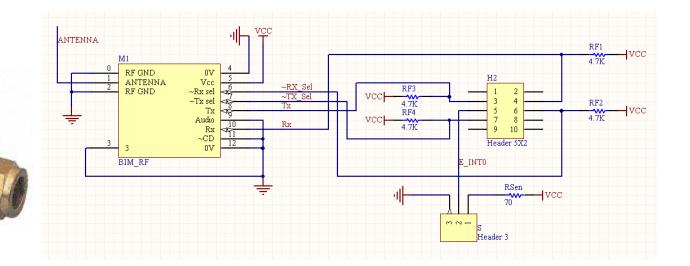


Current Sensing circuit



2010

Water-use Monitoring Unit based on Flow Sensor



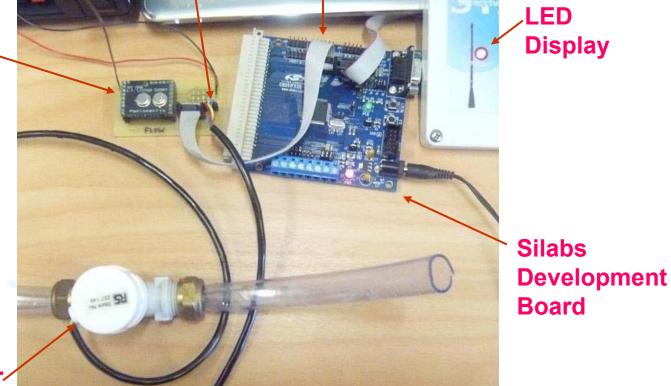
 Flow sensor used to measure the flow of water

 Schematic showing circuit of module with flow sensor

Fabricated Prototype

Flow Sensor connected to module connected to development board

Wireless Module ~



Flow Sensor

Bed Monitoring Sensor

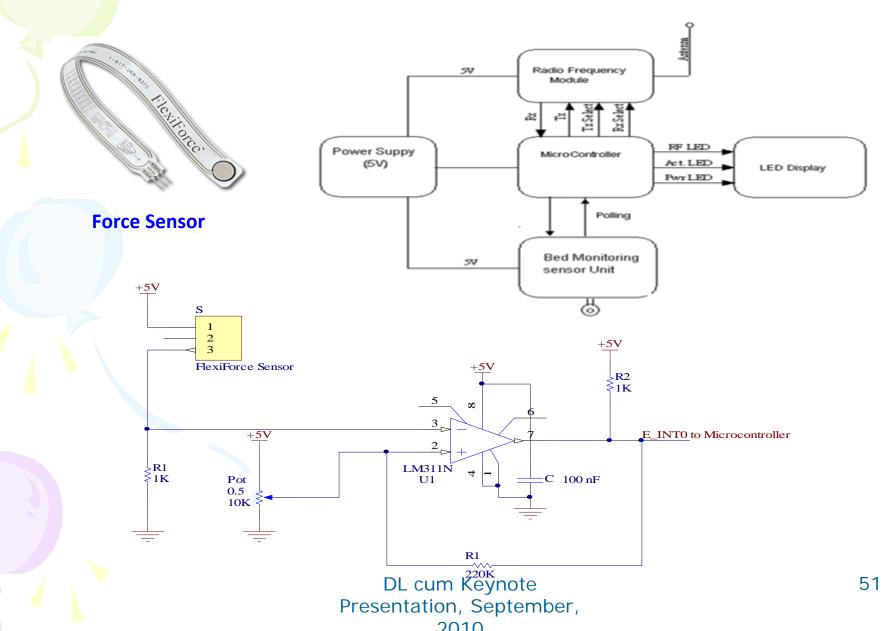
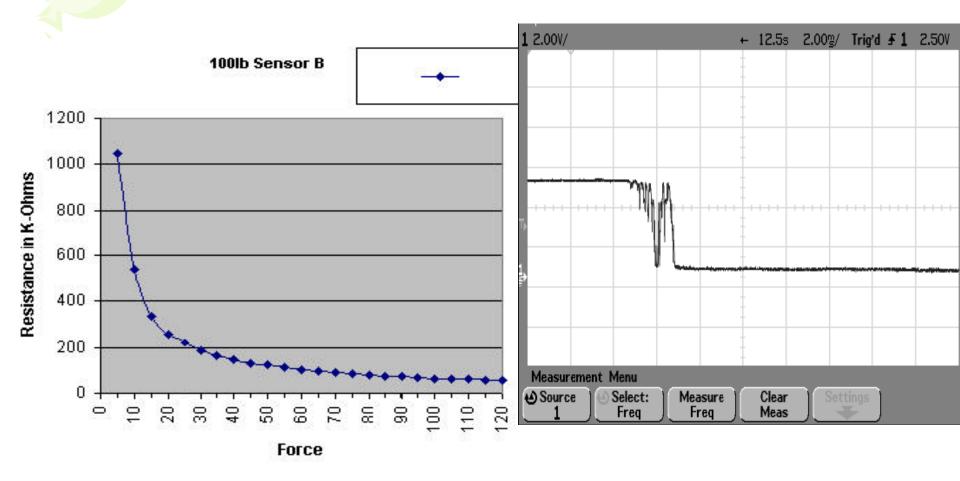
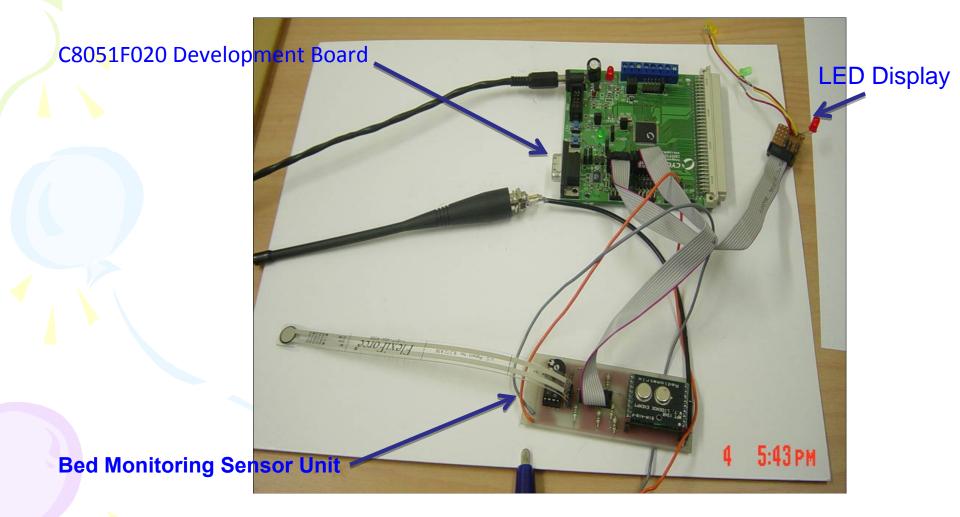


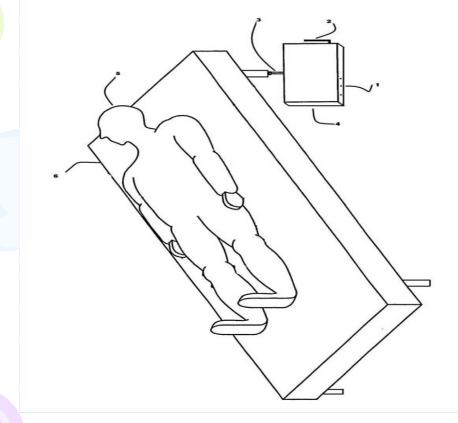
Fig. Characteristics of the force sensor



Prototype Unit



Setting Up The Sensor Unit

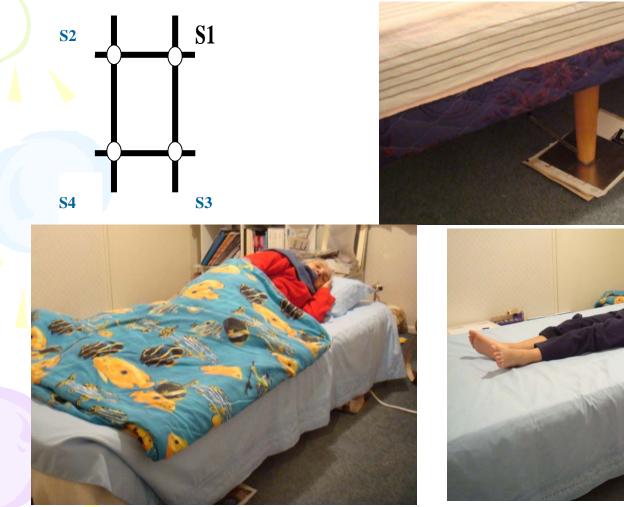




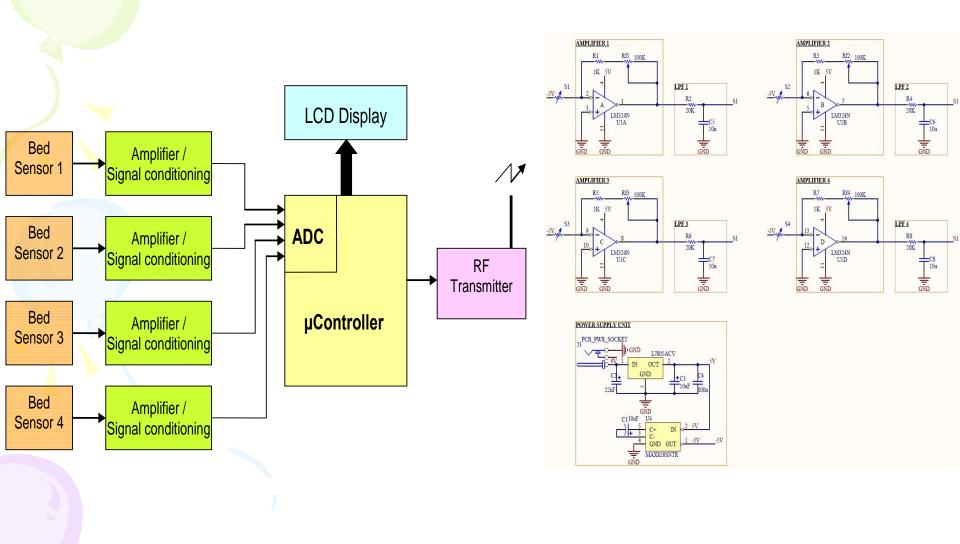
Computer Aided Design of the Bed Monitoring Sensor Unit

The Sensor Unit is strategically placed in order to eliminate the temporary loading effects

Experimentation and Determination of Sleep Quality



Interfacing of sensors to microcontroller



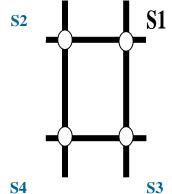
Experimental results with human

Test con-dition	Reading S1	Reading S2	Reading S3	Reading S4	Total weight
Only Bed	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.5	41.2
Elderly in the middle	18.4	15.2	23.6	26.9	84.1
Elderly on one side	19.3	16.5	26.2	22.2	84.2
Elderly on another	14.0	21.3	18.5	30.5	84.3
Child in the	13.5	14.3	16.9	17.0	61.7
Child on one	14.6	10.5	21.6	15.1	61.8
Child on another	12.2	13.4	13.7	22.4	61.7
Adult on middle	18.7	20.8	36.7	33.8	110
Adult on one	25.2	14.2	45.5	25.3	110.2
Adult on another	13.7	22.5	25.8	48.1	110.1
Adult lying diagonally (S4-S1)	17.2	20.5	28.2	44.3	110.2
Adult lying diagonally (S3-S2)	21.5	17.4	44.8	26.5	110.2

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Analysis of results at steady state condition

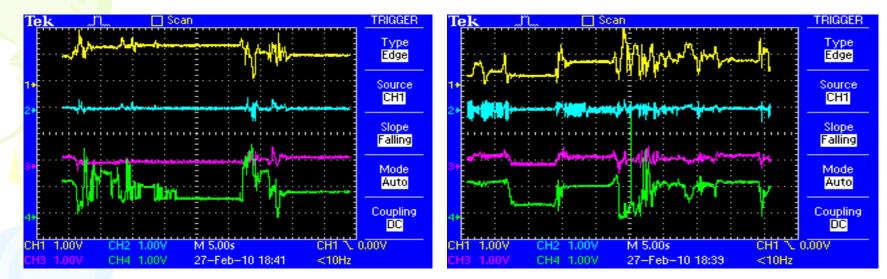
S1 : Signal from Sensors#1.S2 : Signal from Sensors#2.S3 : Signal from Sensors#3.S4 : Signal from Sensors#4.



Savg = (S1 + S2 + S3 +S4)/4; Savg is the average signal.

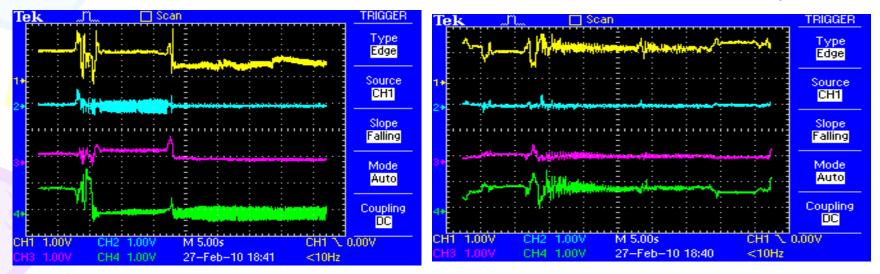
If $(S1 + S2) > 2^*$ Savg; the head is at (S1, S2) side. If $(S3 + S4) > 2^*$ Savg; the head is at (S3, S4) side. If (S1 + S3) = (S2 + S4); the person is sleeping in the middle of the bed. If (S1 + S3) > (S2 + S4); the person is sleeping in the right side of the bed. If (S1 + S3) < (S2 + S4); the person is sleeping in the left side of the bed.

Transient response



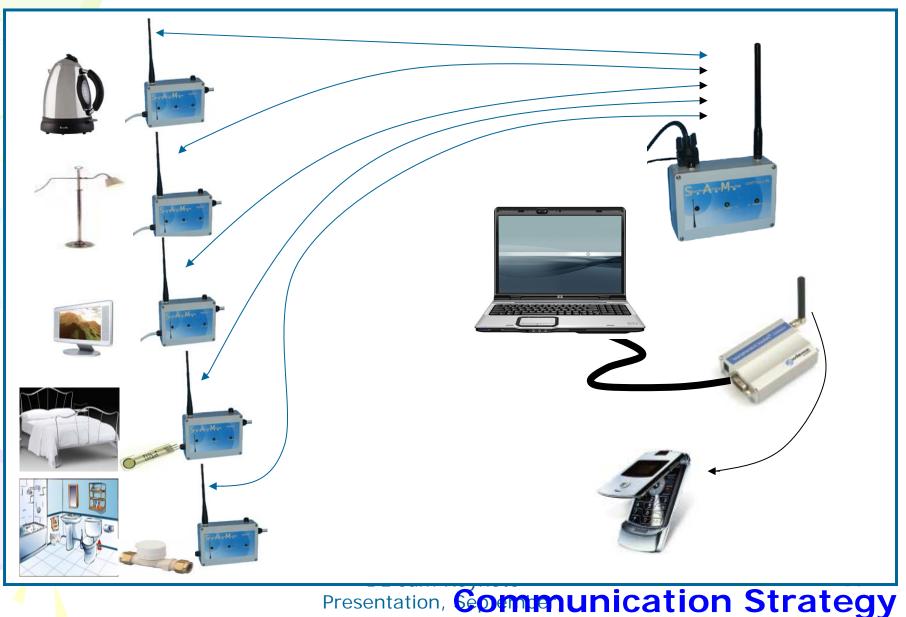
Person sleeping on the bed is having some movement

Person sits down on the bed from sleep



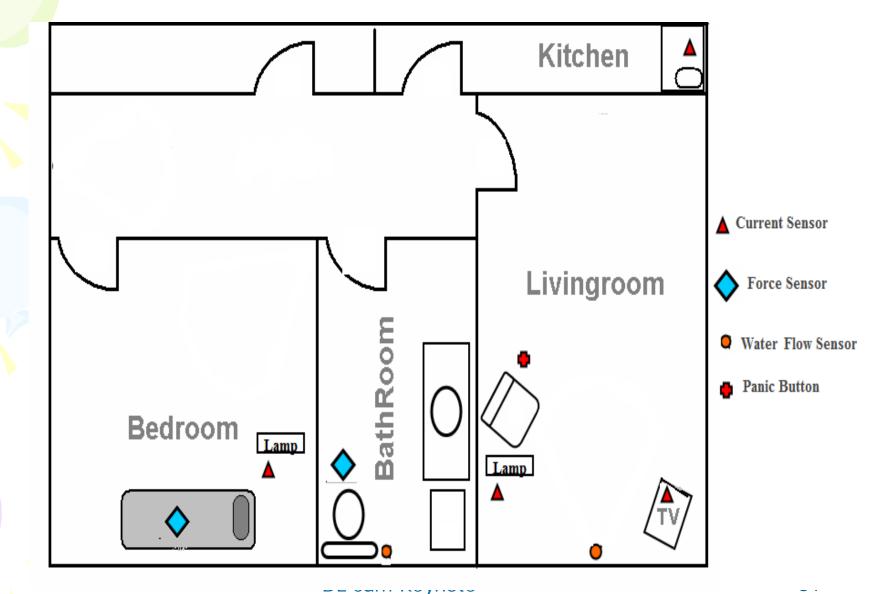
Person gets down from the bed from sleep DL cum Reynolder some shivering feeling while sleeping on the bed Presentation, September,

Communication



2010

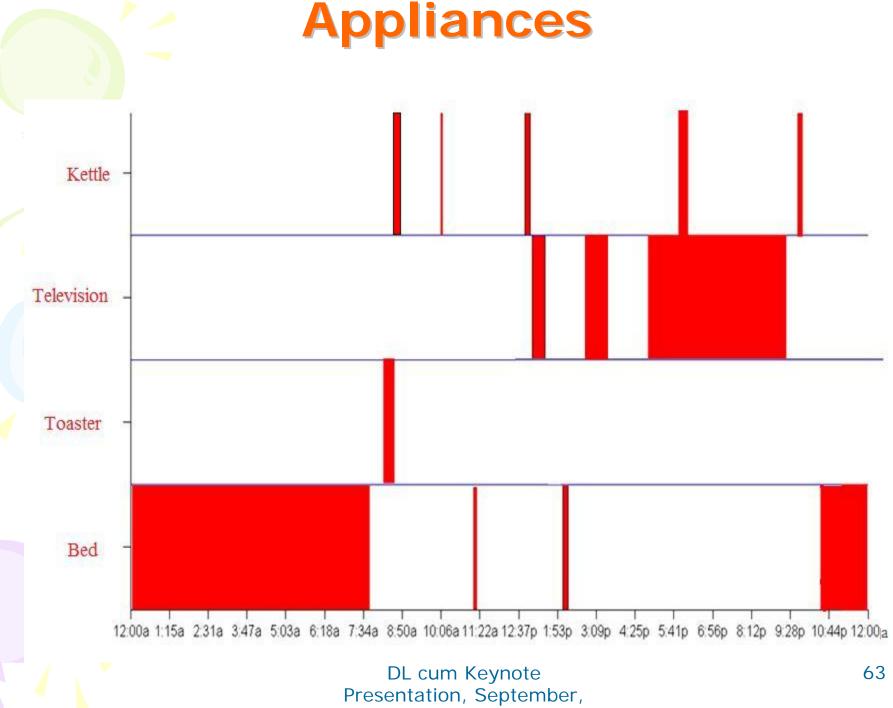
Sensor's placement in a typical house-hold



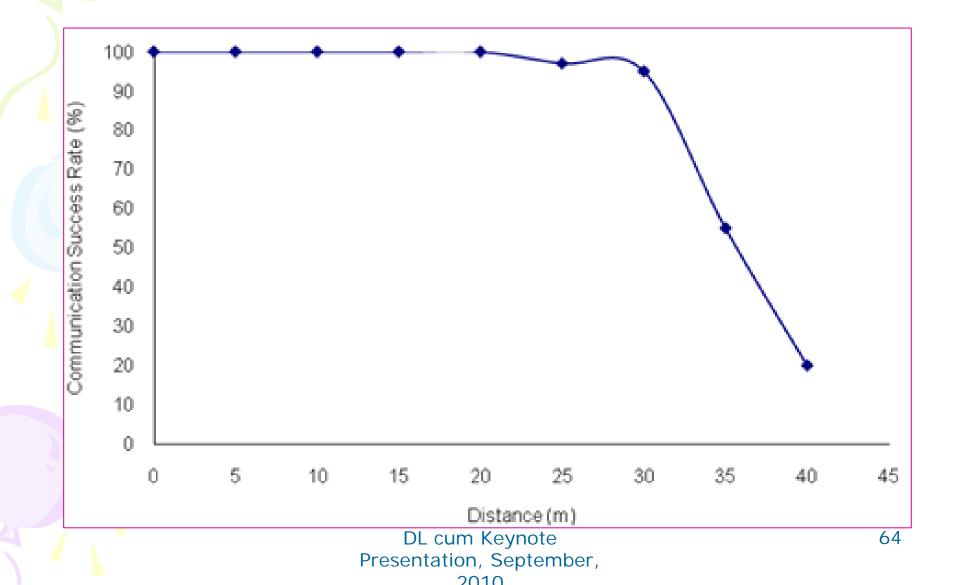
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Monitoring the appliances

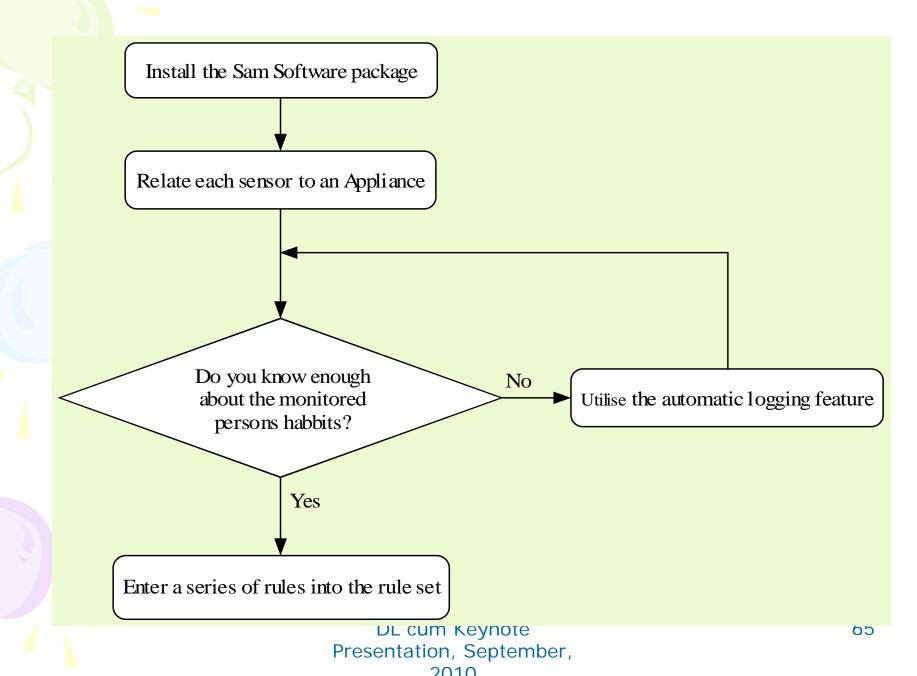
S	ectivAtivit	Mnitorin	9			
Monitoring	S <u>e</u> nsor Setup	<u>R</u> ule Set	<u>Conections</u>	About		Save All
Appli	ance Status		onitored ive at			
Kettle TV Lamp Bed Water Active Sens Kettle		52754	d between 7:00am a	and 8:00am th	hen txt 0211231234.	Start Monitoring Stop Monitoring View Log
Monitoring						
						3 ⁶)



Communication success rate as a function of distance in home environment



Abnormal Behavior Detection



GUI for Senor Setup

	Sectiv Ativit Maitoria	19	
Monitori	ng <u>Se</u> nsor Setup <u>R</u> ule Set	<u>Conections</u> <u>About</u>	Save All
Sensor Ir	nformation		
Enter se	nsor information:	Number of Sensors:	
Sensor 1	Radio		
Sensor 2	Microwave	1 2 3 4 5 6	
Sensor 3	Toaster	Update Sensors	
	For example sensor 1 could be a microwave, toaster, TV etc.	Undo Changes	
		DL cum keynote	66

Presentation, September,

Rule creation wizard

Rule Creation Wizard

Welcome Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Step 4 Step 5

Step 1

The first step is to select the appliance you wish to create a rule for. You should have already configured the appliance / sensor detail under the sensors tab. If you haven't please cancel this wizard and do so.

You have selected the Reading Lamp, this appliance is configured as sensor 2

please ensure this information is correct before continuing.

Reading Lamp

Cancel Back Next DL cum Keynote 67 Presentation, September, 2010

Immediate rule creation window for rule type 1

S	ectivAtivit	Monitoring			
<u>M</u> onitoring	S <u>e</u> nsor Setup	<u>R</u> ule Set <u>Conections</u>	About	Save	All
Rule Set					
Enter or Edit	rule here:	Rule Type 1 C Rule Type 2	2		
If the 🚺	👻 has not beer	n used between 7:30 am 💌 an	d 10:00 pm 💌 then	n send the following txt message to 0211231234	
TV Readin	n Lamp				
Enter N Kettle]
					2
				Update Options Cancel	
		DL cum	Keynote		68
		Presentation			
			10		

appliances

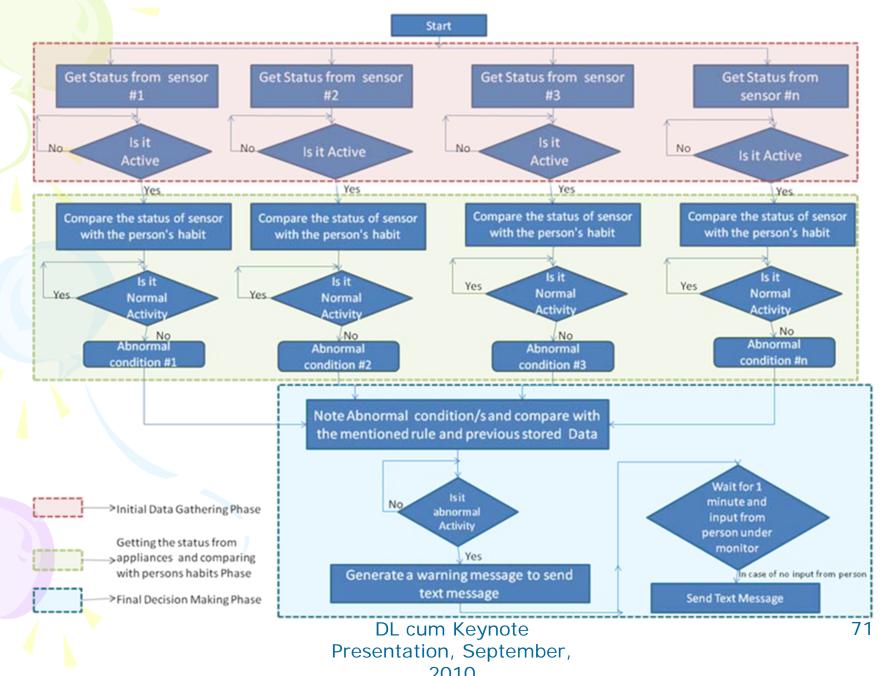
<u>School Secup</u>	<u>Rule Set</u> <u>Conections</u> <u>About</u>	Save All
iance Status	Last Monitored Active at	
Active	07:02 AM	Start Monitoring
Inactive		Stop Monitoring
and the second sec	3	View Log
sors Active	Rules	
	Rules has not been used between 7:00am and 8:00am then txt 02112312:	34
		34.
		34.
		34.
		34.
		34
	Active Inactive	Active at Active Active Active O7:02 AM Active O7:07 AM Inactive 09:15 PM Inactive 06:48 AM

Activity Log viewer

S.A.M - Log

Activity Log Viewer	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:14.54AM.	^
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:15.18AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:15.24AM.	
Current Log (Log From File	Nothing was inactive at 11:15.28AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:15.34AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:15.38AM.	
Please select the day you wish to	Nothing was inactive at 11:15.43AM.	
view the log for.	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:18.42AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:18.46AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:18.51AM.	
12/08/08	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:18.56AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:19.1AM.	
Open	Nothing was inactive at 11:19.6AM.	
Open	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:19.12AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:19.16AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:19.21AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:19.26AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:19.30AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:19.36AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:19.42AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:19.46AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:19.51AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:19.56AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:20.0AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:20.5AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:20.12AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:20.16AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:20.21AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:20.36AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:20.41AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 11:21.47AM.	
	Lamp was inactive at 11:21.51AM.	
	Nothing was inactive at 11:21.56AM.	
	Heat Gun was inactive at 4:48.50PM.	(200)
	Heat Gun was inactive at 4:53.13PM.	

Detection of daily life pattern and abnormal behavior



Do Elderly People Accept This Technology?

A survey (with related questionnaire) has been conducted among many elderly people in New Zealand and India

Using camera and vision based system : NO

Using unobtrusive sensors : YES

Trial has been conducted in New Zealand, both in retirement home and as well as at personal home.

Possible Commercialisation

 Currently one Auckland based company has shown interest for pilot testing and is undergoing

 One US company has contacted and would like to get our prototype

 One Indian company would like to get our design to manufacture it.

Where do we go from here?

- Improve the Instrumentation System
 - Smart Measurement System to reduce the size of the sensing system
- Building on the present system
 - Incorporate additional household sensor
 - Optimum Number of Sensors selection
- Integrating the cellular modem into the Controller
- Making the whole system COGNITIVE

Future Sensor Concept



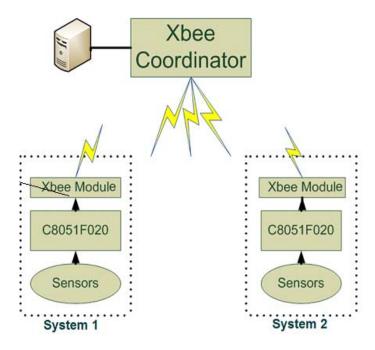
Future work: Zigbee Protocol



C8051F020 and PC connected with XBee through Serial Interface

Performance Specification:

School of Engineering and Advanced Technology (SEAT)



XBee	XBee-PRO	Performance Specification (contd.):
Power Output: 1 mW (0dBm)	10 mW (+10 dBm)	Supply Voltage: 2.8 – 3.4 V
Indoor range: 30 m	90 m	Transmit Current: 45 mA @ 3.3 V
Outdoor range: 90 m	1.6 km	Receive Current: 50 mA @ 3.3 V
Operating frequency: 2.4 GHz	DL cum Keynote	Power Down Sleep Current: ₇₆
Interface Data Rate: Up to 115.2 Kb	esentation, Septembe	e ^r < 10 μA at 25 °C

A Discussion on Wireless Power and EM Radiation

Power Output: 1 mW (0dBm) [XBee)] 10 mW (+10 dBm) [Bee-PRO]

Radiation Thermometry: All surfaces at room temperature radiates infrared radiation at frequencies of about 30 Thz and at rates of 500 W/m2.

We would freeze to death without this radiation.

Photon Energies: Electromagnetic radiation is absorbed one photon at a time. To do damage to a molecule, such as DNA or a protein, the energy must be sufficient to break chemical bonds. UV radiation is dangerous.

Energy E = h v; h is the Planck constant = 6.626 * 10⁻³⁴ J-s

The energy of RF photon at 1 GHz = 6.62×10^{-25} J

The energy of RF photon at 1 THz = 6.62×10^{-22} J

The energy of a visible photon (555 nm) ~ 4 * 10⁻¹⁹ J

The energy of a UV photon (250 nm) $\sim 8 \times 10-19 \text{ J}$

Photon energies are 10,000 to 1,000,000 times smaller than those of visible DL cum Keynote 77 lights. Presentation, September,

CONCLUSIONS

• A smart home to care elderly people based on wireless sensors.

 The system doesn't use camera or vision based system and thus acceptable to elderly community.

• The integrated system is able to support people who wish to live independently.



Digital Signal Processing Creative Design Contest

. Award

November 16,2007

2007

This is to certify that

Anuroop Gaddam Massey University, New Zealand

advised by Subhas Chandra Mukhopadhyay and Gourab Sen Gupta



has gotten THE FIRST PRIZE in the 2007 Digital Signal Processing Creative Design Contest.





教育部 部長

Cheng-Sheng Tu Minister Ministry of Education, TAIWAN

Smart monitor for elderly



d

Sensors and computers are coming close to doing what good neighbours used to do - checking that elderly people living alone have turned the TV off at night and cleared the letterbox daily, and calling for help if they notice a problem.

A team at Massey University's school of engineering and advanced technology is completing refinements to its SAM (selective activity monitoring system) that will send a text message alarm if a home's occupant doesn't do what they normally do.

The prototype has already won an award, the Digital Signal Processing creative design contest, judged in Taiwan in November last year.

The challenge now, says associate professor Subhas Mukhopadhyay, is to find a volunteer to test the smart digital home system in a real situation, and an aged care housing or home support group to get involved.

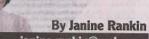
"Quite often we are appalled by news headlines such as 'Elderly man lay dead for days in his home' or 'Woman found starved in flat'."

But the reality is that more and more elderly people are choosing to live privately and independently even though they and their families know there are risks, he says.

SAM aims to use microtechnology to manage the risks non-invasively.

The SAM technology has been developed to monitor use of household appliances and call for help if use patterns change. It's launched graduate student Michael Sutherland into a career with Fisher and Paykell's medical division, and now provides doctoral student Anuroop Gaddam with a specialist topic.

SAM sensors can be fitted inside wall sockets where the toaster or electric kettle is plugged in, or to the



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been turned on to boil water for a hot drink by a certain time in the morning, if the television isn't turned on and off again in the evening, or the person doesn't get out of bed in the morning.

Dr Mukhopadhyay says the system will be more acceptable to elderly people who value their privacy than movement sensors or blatantly intrusive cameras.

There is no one person constantly monitoring the occupant's movements, just the software, that will only text for help if patterns change and the audible alarm isn't overridden.

Another advantage is it doesn't depend on a person being conscious, recognising a problem, and being physically able to push a button for help. The text will be launched even if the person has fallen and is unconscious.

It's then up to the caregiver or family member on the receiving end of the text to respond.

The sensor units look likely to cost \$40 to \$50 at the moment, but that price would come down with mass production.

Computer science professor Hans Guesgen is already working on ways to further refine the system to make sense of complex behaviours that are demonstrated by elderly people experiencing some degree of cognitive impairment.

The "ambient intelligence" would he able to alart sensetiments



Questions or Comments?