

# PHENOM - browsing and sharing personal memories in a perceptive home environment



As the amount of information and entertainment that people have access to is increasing dramatically, there is a rapidly growing need for intelligent systems that help their users to find the right content instantly at any time or place. The PHENOM project investigates how Perceptive Home Environments can help people to comfortably find or browse valuable personal memories, and to enjoy sharing them with others.

People make significant efforts to record their memories, increasingly in the form of digital photos. A first feature of the PHENOM system is to take the effort out of retrieving photos, by providing users with easy access to these anywhere in the house. They can e.g. stay comfortably seated on the couch in the living room, while the data remain on the home server (PC hard disk or other storage device) upstairs. The home server is wirelessly connected to portable touch screens (Sepia's). →

face contains a continuously moving photo roll showing thumbnails of those photo albums and photos in the home server that are available to the user. Photos can be viewed on the Sepia by simple drag and drop gestures. Additional display devices available in a room, like TVs or photo frames, automatically appear as icons in the interface when the Sepia is carried into that room. The user can now drag photos to

of the object then appears in the interface, as are the photos associated with that object.

Besides providing a wireless interface to photos on a central storage device, a Sepia provides a storage buffer of its own. This enables users to take a sub collection with them when leaving the house, or e.g. to receive photos from other Sepia owners in their vicinity. A novel data management



these icons for immediate display on the associated screens. The Sepia's and other devices determine their location by means of an in-home positioning system.

Instant access to particular photos or photo albums can be obtained by means of a graspable object. This can e.g. be a holiday souvenir, to which a small RFID tag is attached. Its identity and location are determined when it is placed on a table or other surface fitted with an appropriate detection loop. An icon

system (Memory Safe) is being developed, that can handle the file conflicts that emerge in such multi-user multi-device systems. These occur when copies of photos or other data on different devices are re-synchronized after being independently renamed or otherwise modified. Future versions of the PHENOM system will include a conversational interface to allow also less structured searching, and other features aimed at enriching memory sharing experiences. ←

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