

MyPlace Locator: flexible sharing of location information

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Abstract

Pervasive computing research makes it feasible to model people's location. However, there are challenges in effective sharing of location information, with support for user control, enabling people to choose the location information available, at the same time, providing information that is useful. We describe our exploration of these issues, in our MyPlace Locator, an interface to people's location within a closed community. First, we surveyed how people use MyPlace Locator. Then we created an interface for controlling personalised displays of location information and we studied its use. We conclude that the preferences people chose for releasing their own location information were generally consistent with support for the uses valued by the participants in our use study: to facilitate meeting people and contacting them, for awareness of others and to check the accuracy of their own information.