achieving *more personal* personal information management

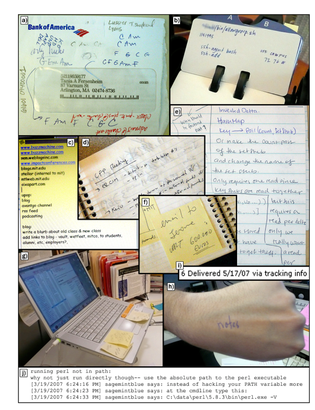
why?

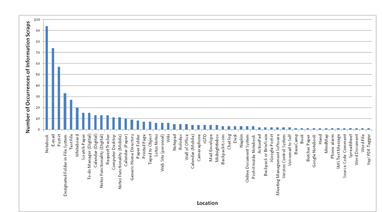
INFOSCRAPS: A STUDY OF EVERYDAY PERSONAL INFORMATION PRACTICE

WE CONDUCTED A 32 PARTICIPANT INTERVIEW/ARTIFACT STUDY IN JUNE '07, STUDYING COMMON INFORMATION PRACTICES THAT REVEALED RECURRING PROBLEMS WITH TODAY'S PIM TOOLS:

I. PEOPLE CAN'T FIND WHAT THEY NEVER SAVED (CAPTURE TOO DIFFICULT)
II. PEOPLE CAN'T FIND WHAT IS SOMEWHERE ELSE (FRAGMENTATION)
III. PEOPLE KEEP TRACK OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONAL DATA TYPES WHICH NO APPLICATION WILL BE ABLE TO ANTICIPATE IN ADVANCE
IV. PEOPLE RELY ON CONTEXT CLUES THROUGHOUT THE PHYSICAL WORLD WHICH ARE UNAVAILABLE IN PIM TODAY

PLEASE SEE *Information Scraps: How and Why Information Eludes our Personal Information Management Tools*, ACM TOIS SPECIAL ISSUE ON PERSONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, ACM PRESS 2007-2008 FOR FULL DETAILS.

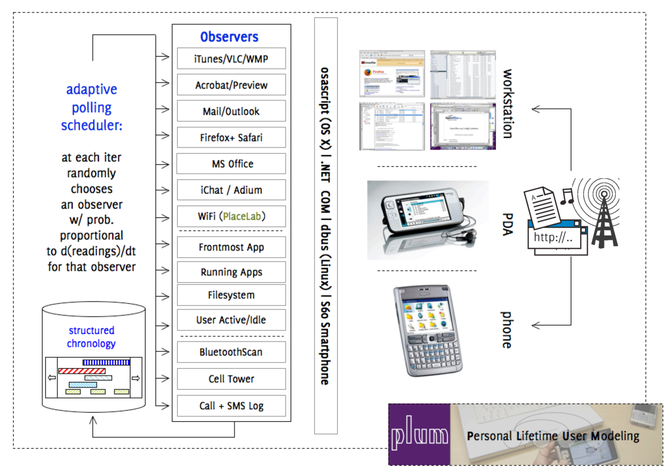


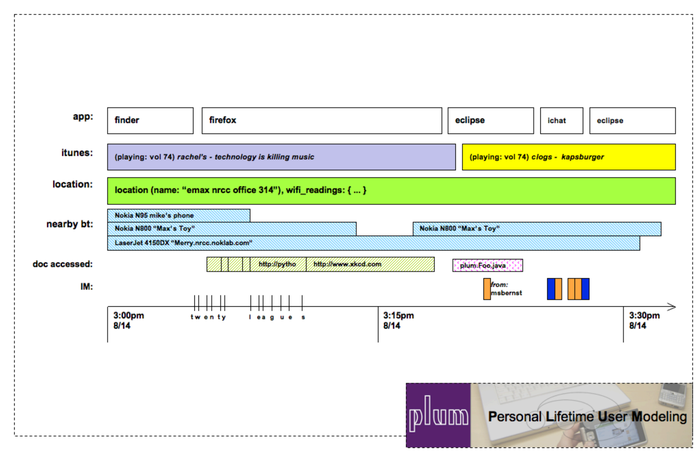


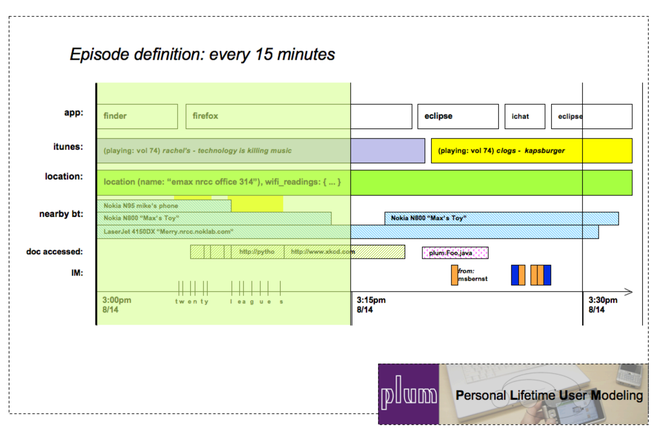
1. FREQUENCY OF COLLECTED SCRAPS BY TYPE
2. USERS OFTEN RELIED ON PHYSICAL AND SITUATIONAL CONTEXTS TO REMIND THEMSELVES OF THEIR INFORMATION SCRAPS

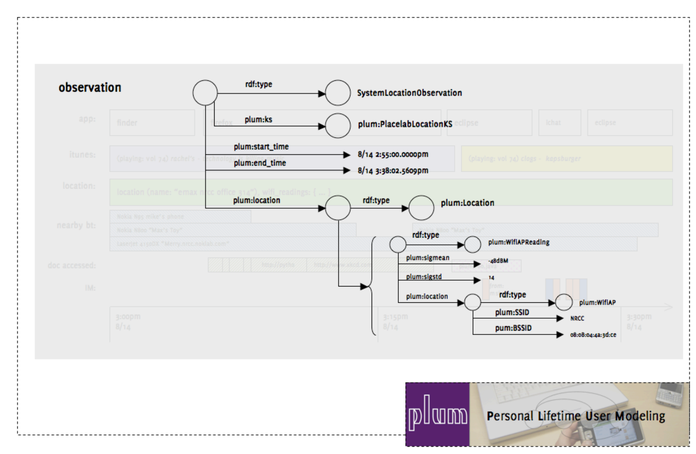
activity + context capture

KEEPS TRACK OF YOUR LIFE USING YOUR OWN DEVICES, TO GIVE YOU PERSONALIZATION WITHOUT SACRIFICING YOUR PRIVACY



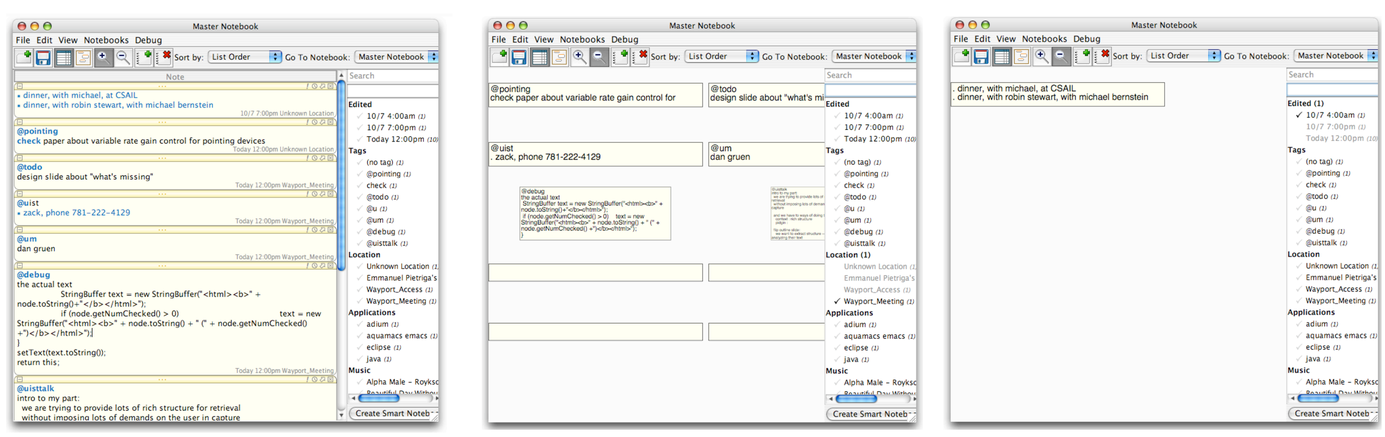






jourknow

STORE IT QUICKLY, BUT GET IT BACK THE WAY YOU WANT IT: A NOTEBOOK TOOL FOR SEMI-STRUCTURED "MESSY" INFORMATION

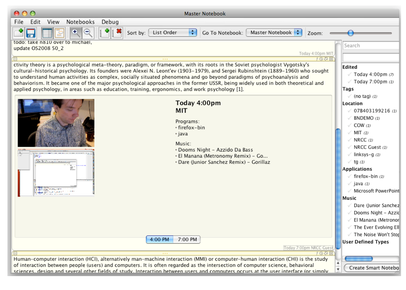


KEEP RELATED STUFF TOGETHER - jourknow lets you mix heterogenous structured and unstructured data items, to let you keep coherent chunks of information together in one place instead of splitting things up by type

WHAT DID I WRITE WHEN I WAS .... ? lets you find things by context -- e.g., when, where you wrote them, so you can find notes without even remembering what you wrote in them

BE UNIQUE: CUSTOMIZE YOUR DATA TYPES - jourknow uses simple structured input languages to let you express any type of structured data you want to create, so you can use it to categorically organize + collect information about your favorite insects or fantasy football lineup, for example.

	description	example
tame pidgin	Hand-written grammars for common domains, with open lexicon, support for nested expressions. *Pros*: Hand-crafted grammars can be natural-seeming *Cons*: Not (easily) user-extensible or re-orderable.	Meet with Jane phone 617-123-4567 tomorrow at diesel cafe about SWUI submission
clay pidgin	User-defined N3 macro language using "means" templates written by the user. Support for nesting. *Pros*: User-extensible to new types. *Cons*: No support for optional or re-ordered clauses.	*Template:* "meet when with whom at where about what" means [a :Meeting; xcal:start "when"; xcal:attendees "whom"; plum:location "where", xcal:about "what"]. *Example:* meet 3pm with jane at diesel cafe about swui.
n3+res pidgin	N3 with entity and property and value resolution. Uses a colon or dash to delimit multi-word properties from their values, and semicolons to delimit clauses. *Pros*: Can encode new arbitrary data without pre-defining templates or ontologies. *Cons*: Resulting structures need to be aligned to ontologies; requires property and value resolution.	swuimtg; *starts*: **3pm tomorrow**; *with* **jane**; *at* **diesel cafe**; about **SWUI submission** - album; *by*: **Rachel's**; *called* **The Sea and the Bells**; *label* **Quarterstick**; genre **post classical**; *release date* - **Jan 1996**; *best track* - Lloyd's Register .
sloppy pidgin	"sloppy parsed" to allow out-of-order matching, omitted properties, and recursive nesting of typed templates. *Pros*: Might figure out "what you mean"; no need to be explicit; provides maximum syntactic flexibility. *Cons*: Requires handling with ambiguous cases, not (yet) user-extensible or re-orderable.	jane 617-123-4547 3pm diesel cafe



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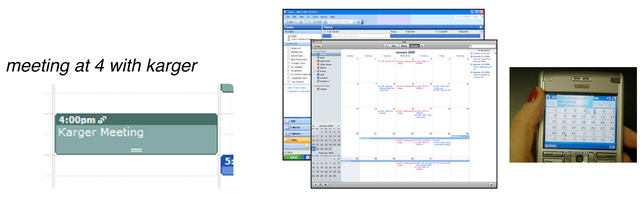

PUTS IT WHERE YOU WILL LOOK FOR IT LATER - automatically syncs common data items into your PIM apps so that, for example, events end up in your calendars, URLs in your browser bookmarks, and contact info in your address book

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PART OF THE NOKIA-MIT VIRPI PROJECT AND THE WEB SCIENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE (WSRI)

NOKIA Connecting People

CSAIL MIT COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY