

Design brief

Human -robot interaction for seniors

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User Group

Our user group is the elderly, specifically those who live in their own homes and maintain their own relative independence from others. Many seniors wish to remain self-sufficient but may lack the physical ability, energy or simply worry about harming themselves in daily tasks. In order to overcome these problems, robot assistance is an effective way for seniors to receive aid but not become reliant upon others.

Project Description

Our project is a part of the MECS (Multi-sensor Elderly Care Systems) - project. The MECS -project seeks to find out if there are tasks robots can do for seniors living at home, and how robot-technology can be tailored to be accepted by the senior users. Our part in this project will be to investigate the relation between the elderly and robot technology and to improve the interaction between them.



Examples of robots for home use

Our research issue for this project will be:

Which tasks can robots help the elderly with, and how can robots best be designed to perform these tasks while not being too intrusive?

Because of the open ended nature of this project and our personal unfamiliarity with the user group, we think a user centered design process will be most effective in familiarising ourselves with the group and obtaining the information we need.

Challenges posed by this project includes:

- Ensure that the elderly users are motivated to use the technology.
- Design an interface that is intuitive and leads to efficient human -robot interaction.

Project schedule

Week	Task
36	Insight and brainstorming
37	Data gathering
38	Low-fidelity prototype
39-40	High-fidelity prototype
41	Presentation of prototype
42-45	Evaluating prototype
46-48	Finalizing report