

The Equator Component Toolkit: Managing digital information flow in the home

EQUATOR 

Stefan Rennick Egglestone, Jan Humble, Chris Greenhalgh, Tom Rodden and Alastair Hampshire
{sre,jch,cmg,tar,axh}@cs.nott.ac.uk



Motivation	Specifying the problem	Our solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The amount of digital information accessed from the home is increasing rapidly – many people regularly access email and other information sources over a broadband or modem connection, for example•Yet routines constructed around such information are can be inefficient, with residents wasting time <i>polling</i> remote services for information, and frequently finding nothing interesting to consume•One solution may be to <i>push</i> concise summaries of newly arrived information onto small displays that are situated in the home. Residents can then examine information in further detail at their leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The technological vision of situating multiple displays around the home is becoming easier to implement.. Small LCD devices are already available, and many people carry blue-tooth enabled mobile phones to which messages can be sent without incurring the cost of an SMS•Completing this scenario requires the creation of an interface that allows home residents to configure the information that should appear on different displays•Such a mechanism might have to support the easy specification and modification of configurations by non-expert computer users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Building on top of an existing distributed architecture, we have developed the display editor, a touch-screen-enabled interface that allows a user to establish connections between sources of digital information, and devices onto which it can be displayed•We have integrated a wide variety of information sources, including email accounts, SIM cards (through a GSM modem), RSS feeds and sampled environmental information•This system is currently being installed into a number of homes for testing purposes

Sources of information that might flow into the home



SMS sent from mobile phones

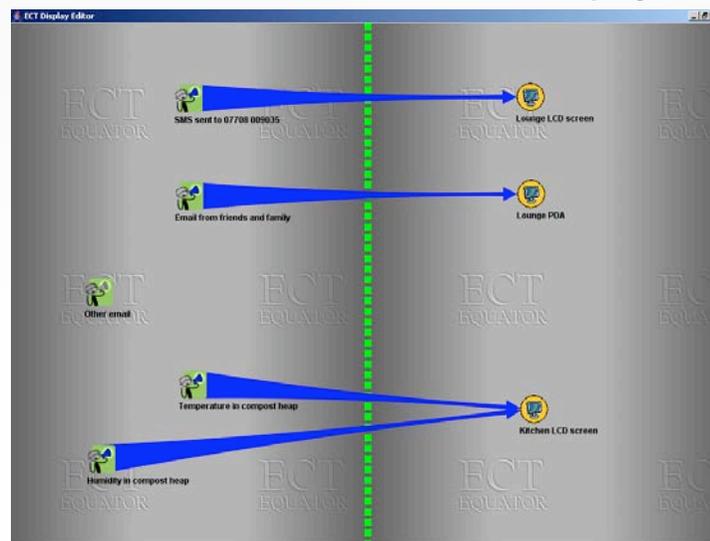


Email from friends



The augmented compost bin?

Using the display editor to configure associations between information sources and displays



Digital information displayed on ubiquitous devices

