

the Aware Home

Digital Family Portrait

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About this Project

By denying the informal daily contact that naturally occurs between long distance between extended family members makes close contact impossible.

There is technology that reconnects long distants between extended family members by allowing them to remain aware of each other in a manner so aging family members can age in place.

The Digital Family Portrait reconnects family members by providing a qualitative sense of a distant relative's well-being while striking an acceptable compromise between the need for privacy and the need for information.

Like a traditional portrait, the Digital Family Portrait is designed to be hung on the wall or propped on a mantle. The digital frame changes daily, reflecting a portion of the person's life. From general measurements of activity to indications of the weather, the portrait attempts to capture the observations that would naturally occur to someone living next door or in the same home.

Next Steps:

We are conducting field trials with the Digital Family Portrait, seeking to discover ways to use this data to improve health and well-being for elderly family members.

We are also deploying a generic set of technologies (called DFP in a Box) to monitor and analyze motion activity in the home as a tool for other research projects and industrial collaborations.

