

What's Happening? The Community Awareness Application

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The Problem

- Large real-life community
- Geographically separated
- Need to promote awareness and communication
- Information-overloaded
- Choosing the right channel: periphery



The “What’s Happening” Application

- Automatically collected content
 - Community events reminder
 - News, weather, stock monitor
- User contributed content
 - Notes and chat-rooms
- Unobtrusive and simple
- Multiple levels of detail



Live Demo



Interface

What's Happening?

Menu  **Distance Matters**   


Post GUV Distinguished Lecture Series: Gary & Judith Olson,
University of Michigan.
12-1pm MiRC Room 102

What's Happening?

Menu  **Tennis this afternoon?**   

Post The weather outside is perfect!
(Posted by quartz@gvu on Mon 01/17 01:17PM-EST)

What's Happening?

Menu  **Tennis this afternoon?**

Post quartz: Forgot to ask: anybody has the # for the tennis
center? Better reserve a court now... 1:18pm

Add: |



Status

Initial pilot deployment

- November 1999
- Unix, Windows, Mac
- 20-25 regular users, ~ 20 casual users
- User suggestions led to several revisions
- Data gathering:
 - Logs
 - Participatory observation



Observations

- People use multiple levels of detail to gauge what the current blurb is about
- It is fairly unobtrusive
- Different types of user contribution
- Different styles of interaction
- Passive-use most common



Future Directions

- Full-scale deployment
- Content generation
- Evaluation

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii/community/>

