Explorations and Experiences with Ambient Information Systems

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GRAPHICS VISUALIZATION & USABILITY CENTER

Ambient Trolley

- When will the trolley be down at the stop?
- Do I have to rush to catch it or can I go to the bathroom?

702

SCRANTON RAILWAY CO.
403
8

Ambient Trolley
Brian Dorn
Chris Plaue
8
4
0
SEATTLE
WASHINGTON D.C.
SEATTLE

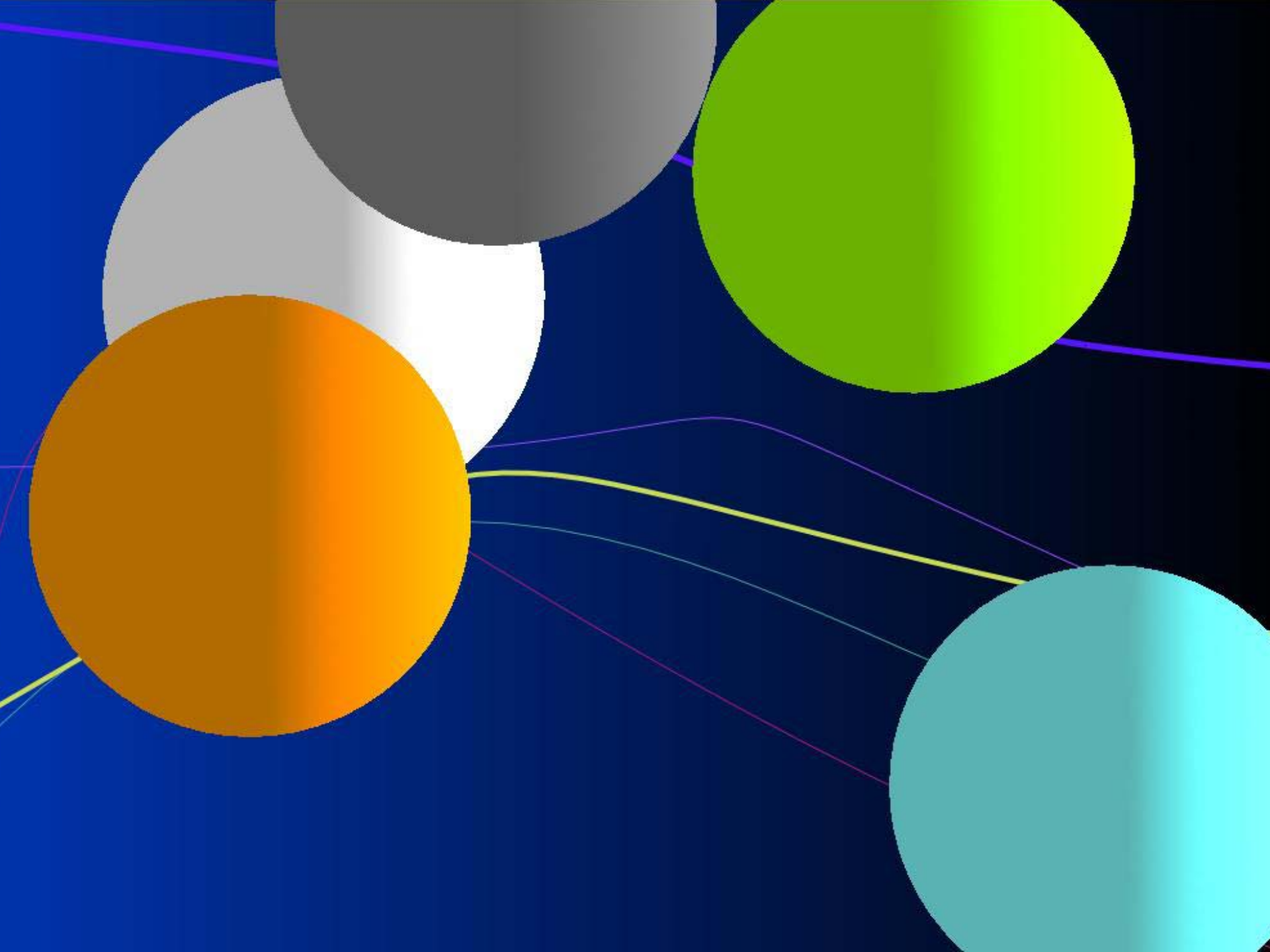
Pirate Island

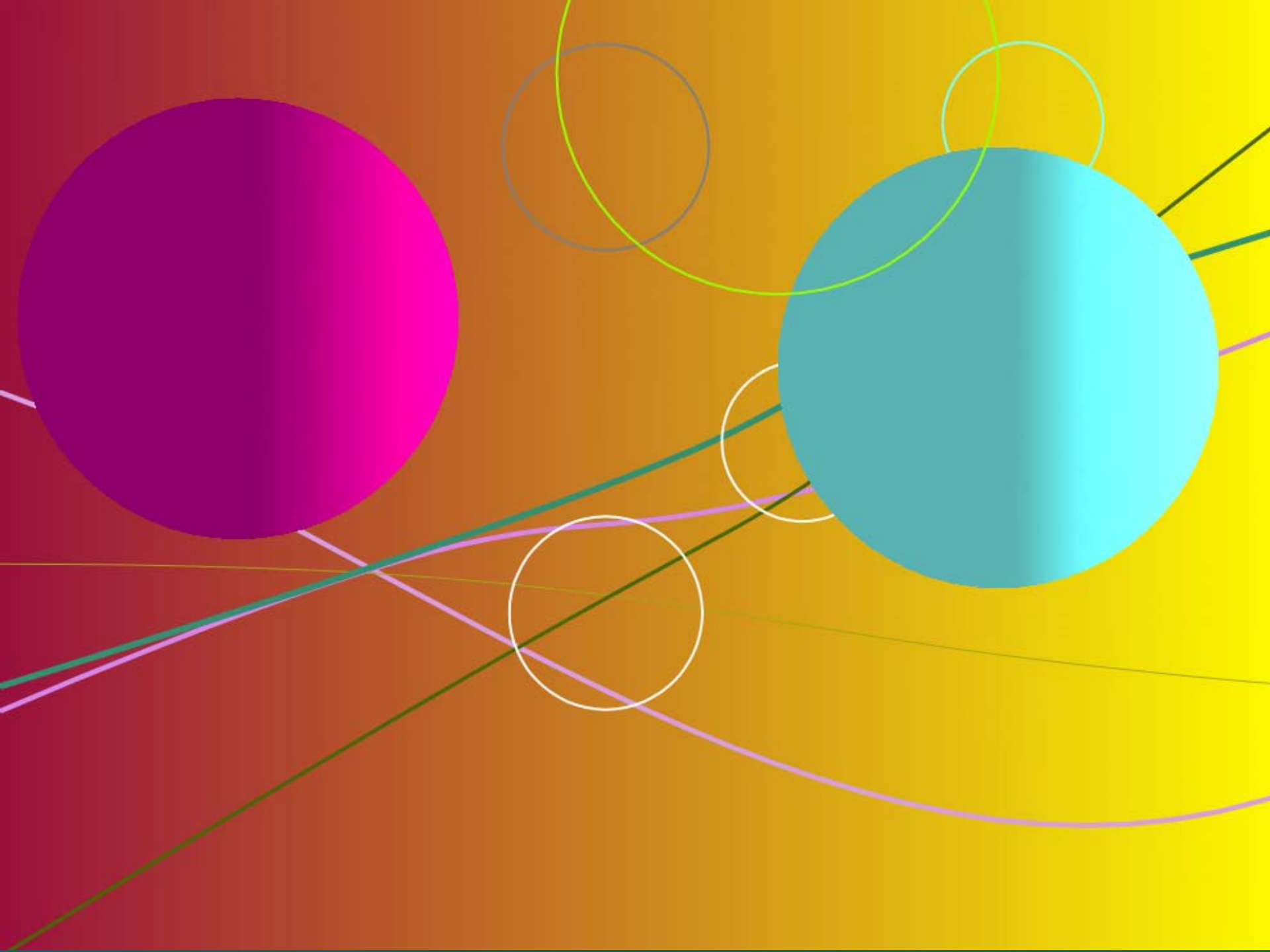
- What time is it?
- What's the temperature outside?
- Is it raining?
- How's the traffic heading home?

AuraOrbs

- Who has been in the lab today?
- How long ago did James leave?

Office DEPOT





InfoCanvas

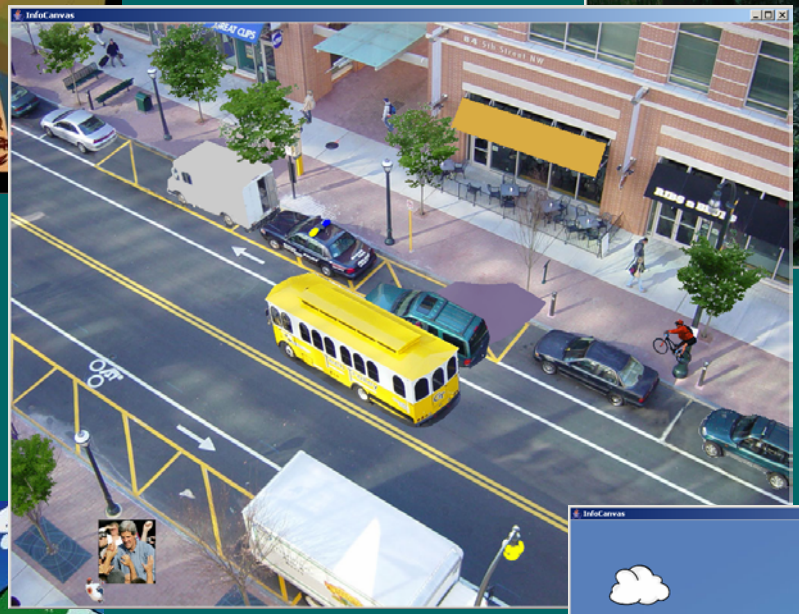
- What's the best price on a roundtrip flight to Toronto?
- How are my stocks doing?
- What's the weather like where my parents live?
- What's tomorrow's forecasted high temperature?

InfoCanvas
GROCERY
PROFESSOR

GROCERY
Outta Lunch
OP

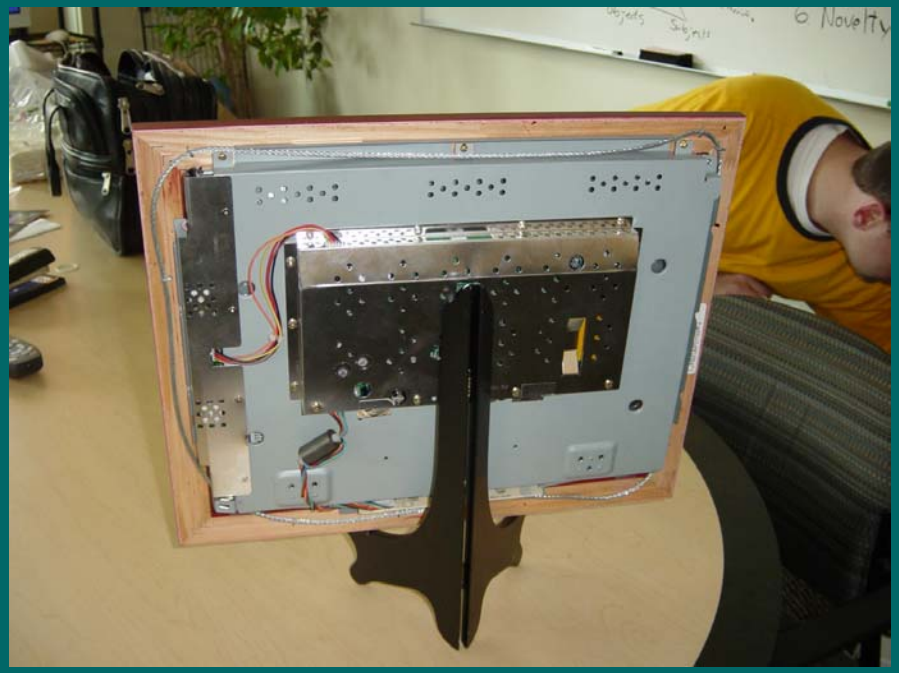
Canvas Themes

information interfaces



information interfaces

Hardware



LCD – bezel + picture frame

GREAT CLIPS
84 5th Street NW

Evaluation – User Study

- Eight trial users ran system for a month
- Selected own information to monitor and designed own scene from an existing theme
- We implemented the view
- Picture frame monitor deployed in office

Stasko et al
GVU TR

LAB
COATS

Results - General

- 6 themes chosen
- 6 – 17 visual elements
- Participants easily remembered mappings
- Swapper, slider, and image display were primary transformations
- More direct than abstract mappings, but significant amount of each
- Felt it was useful and fun

Usefulness

P1: “I could just glance over and check out something without searching for it like going to Yahoo weather. It saved me time. It was quick. It was easy to learn for me, what things meant, kind of quick.”

P6: “I like the fact that I can look at it in one quick glance and get it OK, then return to what I'm doing. With a website, I can take a half hour there.”

P4: “It’s useful without being irritating…this doesn’t feel heavy. Now of course one of the reasons it doesn’t feel heavy is because it’s sort of out of my normal line of sight. It’s in a sort of natural place where when I lean back and I’m staring off so I can kind of get it. So my eyes kind of drift there through the natural course of things when I’m not particularly concentrating on something else. So it’s been positive—it’s been useful without being terribly distracting. It hasn’t been distracting at all. It’s there when I need it, but doesn’t require me clicking and mousing.”

Questions

- Are they more than cute toys?
- How do we evaluate these things?

The Buzz

- Opportunistic discovery of community and general information of interest
- Delivery platform
  - Screen-saver (original conception)
  - Display background
  - 2nd or 3rd monitor
  - Large, public display
- http://www.gvu.gatech.edu/ii/buzz

Eagan & Stasko

Thanks for your attention!

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www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii