

Explorations and Experiences with Ambient Information Systems

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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?





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aue



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Ambient Trolley
Brian Dorn
Chris Plase



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Pirate Island

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



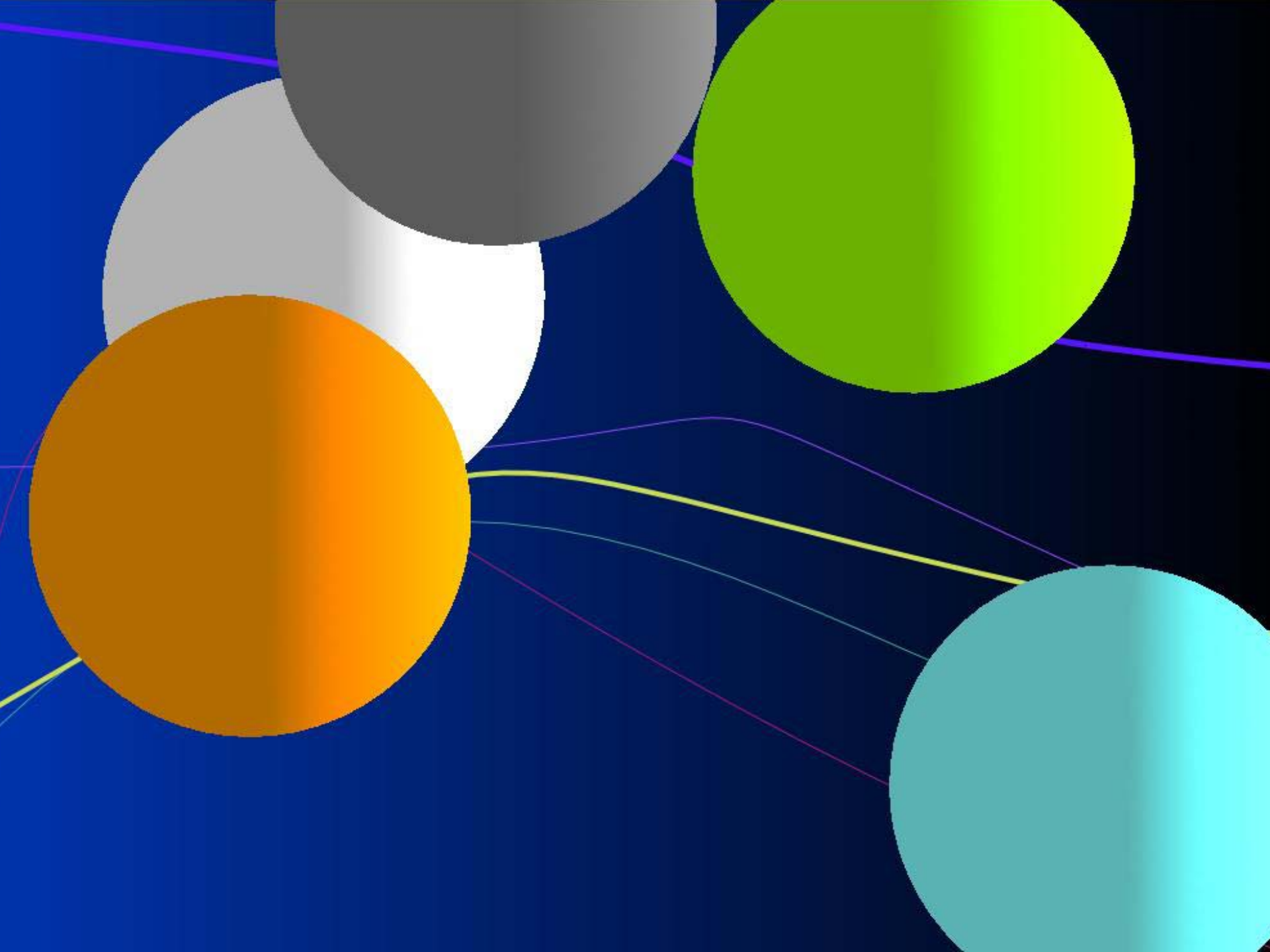


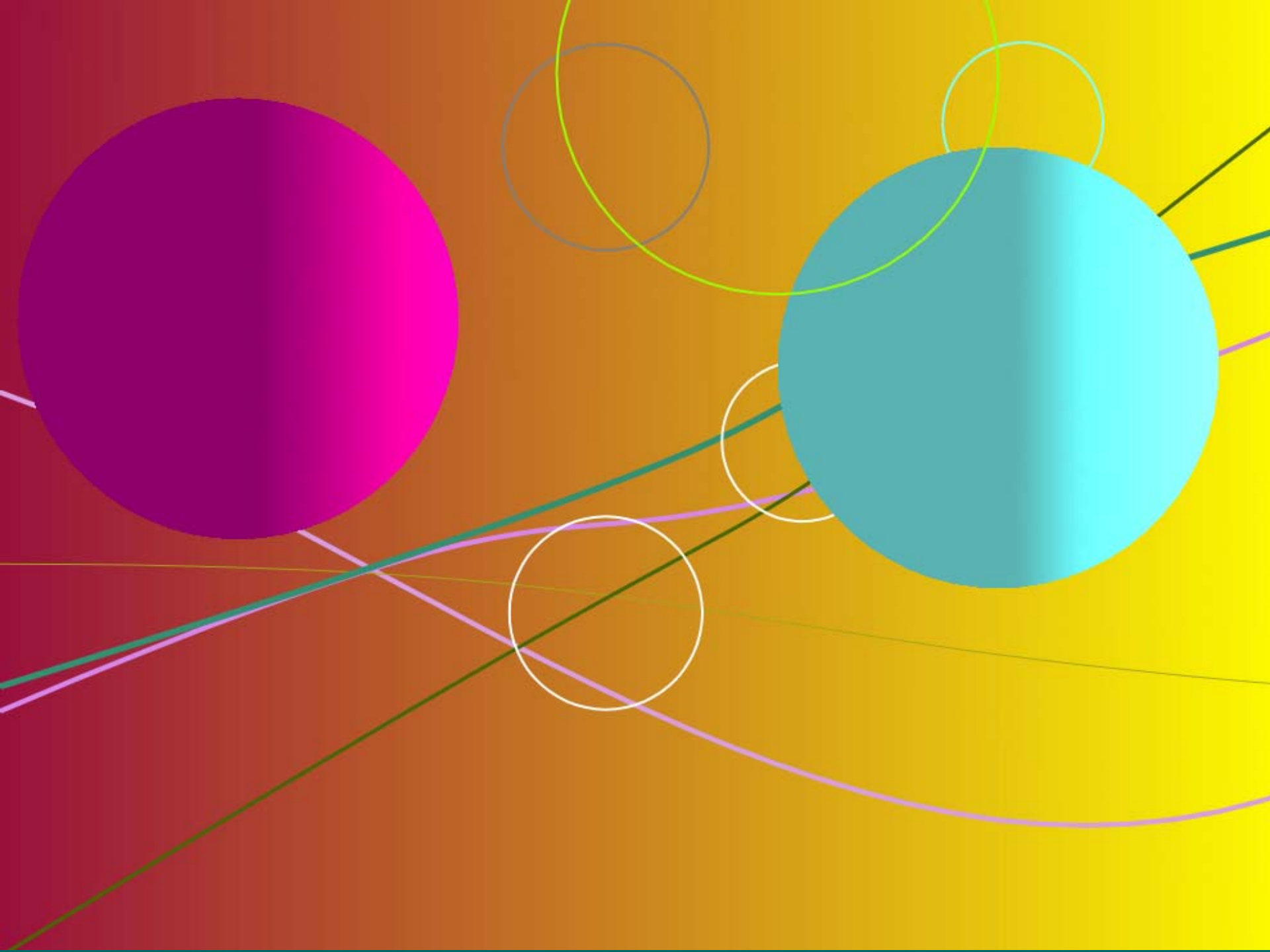
AuraOrbs

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









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?

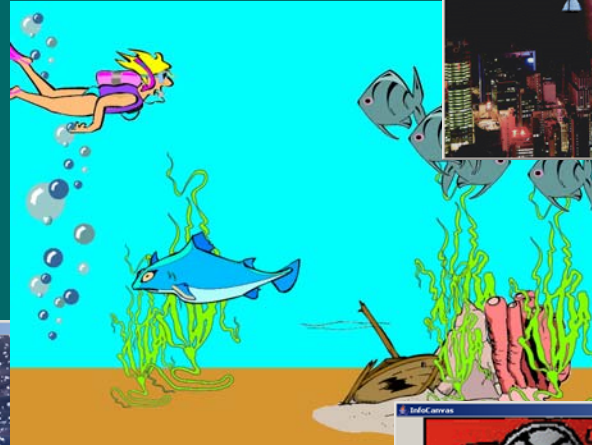


InfoCanvas





Canvas Themes





Hardware



LCD – bezel + picture frame





84 5th Street NW

GREAT CLIPS

BIBO in BOUTIQUE

BICYCLE

BICYCLE

ARROW

ARROW

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







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!

Research supported in part
by NSF IIS-0118685 and
IIS-0414667



A screenshot of a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the Information Interfaces Research Group. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/i'. The website has a blue header with the 'information interfaces' logo. The main content area includes a navigation menu on the left with links for 'About', 'People', 'Projects', 'Publications', 'Resources', 'Talks', and 'Videos'. The main text describes the group as an HCI research group at Georgia Tech. There are several project listings, each with a small image and a description. For example, 'InfoCanvas' is described as 'Developing Information Art: Virtual paintings that peripherally convey information to people.' and 'Talking Heads' is 'Exploring the use of anthropomorphic interface agents who assist people with daily tasks.' A 'Hot News' section on the right contains several short news items, including one about a new HCI faculty member and another about a paper and videos appearing at the IEEE InfoVis Symposium. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the 'Internet' icon.

www-static.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/i

