

# ConnectedHearts: A Distributed System for Viewing the Human Heartbeat

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## Abstract

We present a physical distributed system for viewing the human heartbeat. We modified a medicine cabinet by embedding 13 light bulbs around the frame, as well as by replacing the cabinet's glass with one-way mirror. When a person stands in front of the mirror, a webcam hidden behind the mirror measures their pulse. The 13 bulbs, each a virtual machine, run leader election via Bully. The leader starts pulsating with the captured pulse, and then instructs neighboring virtual machines to pulsate as well. Finally, we ensure the synchronization of the bulbs through a distributed gossip algorithm.

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## 1. Introduction

[SERENA: TO DO]

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<sup>☆</sup>We, Serena Booth and Michelle Cone, affirm our awareness of the standards of the Harvard College Honor Code.

### *1.1. Artistic Inspiration*

### *1.2. As a Distributed System*

## **2. Physical Creation**

## **3. System Design**

### *3.1. Bully: Leader Election*

### *3.2. Inter-bulb Communication*

### *3.3. Realtime Synchronization via Gossip*

#### *3.3.1. Layout*

As the layout of our system is predetermined, we are able to adjust the gossip algorithm for synchronization in order to ascribe neighboring processes with scores of trustworthiness. As the leader bulb initiates the heartbeat pulsation, the leader is the single most trustworthy bulb. This has implications for all other bulbs, however: as bulbs increase in distance from the leader, a known measure based on the system's fixed layout, their trustworthiness decreases. Thus when a bulb is receiving contradictory gossip from its two neighboring bulbs, it prioritizes the message which was sent by the bulb closer to the leader.

## **4. Synchronization Testing & Analysis**

## **5. Conclusion**