
Ritchie the DeskBuddy

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Abstract

TODO

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Introduction

There are a wide variety of resources available to people to keep track of events and activities, remind them about these, and to make them more productive. Two approaches are commonly used: 1. using physical reminders such as post-it notes and diaries. The drawback here is that the user is physically constrained. For example if the user has post-it notes at home, these notes aren't accessible when she is in the library; and 2. using software reminders, such as Google Keep and Google Calendar. Although they are available to use for free, these are easy to ignore as they only exist virtually (only provide simple notifications) and are not reflected sufficiently enough in the physical world.

This project attempts a new approach to this application.

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What if it were possible for a physical object in a user's space that could draw attention and spark user reaction in a more effective manner? What if there could be an object that can play the role of a friend that reminds a person about the occurrence of an event? Wouldn't it be great if someone were to tell you to stop what you were doing and keep up with your new year resolution of running 5K every-day?

Ritchie the DeskBuddy is just the device for the role. Ritchie is a 3D printed robotic tiger that sits on a user's desk and reminds them of events or activities that need to be done. As an internet-connected device, Ritchie can be of great utility when provided with pertinent data sources. To be clear, Ritchie is not an AI robot. It cannot tell you what you need to do, or tell you about the weather. Nor can it specifically remind you to buy some eggs on your way back home. What Ritchie can do is wave its arms and move around to get your attention about something important. The rest is upto the user to check on the topic of concern. The events can range anything from small everyday events to more important things that demand immediate action.

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