

What to program for a gadget that can deduce what I'm doing? The ultimate life-hack? [closed]

Asked 16 years ago Modified 7 years, 4 months ago Viewed 503 times



5



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This question does not appear to be about programming within the scope defined in the [help center](#).

Closed 7 years ago.

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This isn't really a programming question, more of an *ideas* question. Bear with me.

My sister gave me a well-used Nokia N95. I don't really need it, but I wanted it to do some programming for it. It supports a few languages, of which I can do Python.

My question is this: what to do with it? If I think about it, it has a lot to offer: i can program the GPS, motion sensor, wireless internet, sound and visual capture; it has a lot of hard disk space, it plays sound and video and so on.

The combinations seem limitless. The way I see it, it is a device that is easily always on me, has access to a huge data repository (the internet, and my personal data in it) and can be aware if I'm sitting at home, at work, or moving about somewhere. It could basically read my google calendar to check if I *should* be somewhere I'm not -- perhaps give me the bus schedule to get to where I should be. It could check if it's close to my home and therefore my home PC bluetooth/wifi. Maybe grab my recent work documents from my desktop computer, along with the latest Daily Show, for the bus journey to work. It could check my library account to see if any of my books are due, and remind me to take them with me in the morning. Set up an alarm clock based on what shift I have marked in my google calendar.

Basically I have a device that can analyze my movements in time (calendars with my data etc) and space (gps, carrier cell ids). By proxy, it could identify context situations -- I can store my local grocery store gps coordinates or cell mast ids and it could remind me to bring coffee.

Like I said, the possibilities seem limitless, and therefore baffling. Does anyone else have these pseudofantastical yearnings to program something like this? Or any similar ideas? How could this kind of device integrate into -- and help -- your life?

I'm hoping we could do some brainstorming.

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edited Aug 16, 2017 at 8:43

[Vadim Kotov](#)

8,274 ● 8 ● 50 ● 63

asked Dec 12, 2008 at 23:33

[Tuomas](#)

385 ● 5 ● 12

6 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default)

**11**

"Gotta Leave" - A reminder that figures out the bus time, how far you are from a stop on your bus and shows a countdown till you "Could" leave (green), "Should" Leave (yellow), "Must" leave (orange), and "Gotta Run to get there" (red).



As inputs it needs what bus number you want to ride. You turn it on, it finds you, finds your closest few bus stops, estimates your walking speed at 2/mph and calculates when you need to leave where you are to get to the bus with 5 minutes waiting or less.

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answered Dec 12, 2008 at 23:43

[MrChrister](#)

3,595 ● 5 ● 24 ● 34

You should just pick any one and implement it.



2

It doesn't matter where you start, more that you actually do start. Don't concentrate on the destination, take a step and see what the journey holds.



Do it for a laugh to start and your expectation will be set right for both when you do find your killer app and when you don't.



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answered Dec 13, 2008 at 0:06

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[Simon](#)

80.6k ● 26 ● 92 ● 119



2

"Phone home" - an interface to report home if you send a message to your phone that it is lost / stolen. Must be a silent operation from the phone holder's perspective



Options:



- Self destruct mode to save your data from prying eyes
- Keep calling with it's location every 10 minutes until an unlock is sent indicating the phone is found.

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answered Dec 13, 2008 at 0:26

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[MrChrister](#)

3,595 ● 5 ● 24 ● 34

Cool! This is a continuation on what was done (a few years back) in a program called Guardian. Though, Guardian became "active" if someone swithched the sim card. This

could be the activation point for this idea too. – [Tuomas](#)

Dec 13, 2008 at 0:40

Or turn it around — make it so that it loads a particular page on your home system every ten minutes. If the page says OK, nothing happens. If you ever lose it, change that page to LOST, which causes the phone to display a "please return" message when turned on. Add behaviors for BURN, REPORT, ... – [Ben Blank](#) Dec 20, 2008 at 0:17



This is the same problem I face with the android (albeit java instead of python). The potential is paralyzing :)

1



I'd recommend checking out what libraries have already been written for doing cool stuff on that phone, and then building off of them- It's a system that provides inspiration, direction, and a good head start. For instance, on the android side, I'm fooling around with "zxing", a library that lets you read barcodes via the cellphone's camera. That's it's own sub-universe of possibilities, but at least it gives me a direction to go. "do cool things with information about products physically nearby"



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answered Dec 12, 2008 at 23:53

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[callingshotgun](#)

773 ● 2 ● 8 ● 17



0

"Late for Work" - Determines if you are not at work, buzzes you with a reminder and preps the phone to call into the sick line. Could be used if you are going to be late as well.



Inputs: Your sick line number. Time you should be at work. Where your home is, where your work is



Optional:

- Send a text message
- Post to an online in/out board
- If you are still at home, sound an alarm
- If you are still at home, call in sick, if you are not at home sent a "I'm going to be late" message

Comedy Option: - If you don't respond to ten alarms, dial 911

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answered Dec 13, 2008 at 0:23

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[MrChrister](#)

3,595 ● 5 ● 24 ● 34

Except don't do it, you can get in big trouble for calling 911 if it wasn't an emergency, and you just *know* that'll be the one time there's a bug where it starts rebooting itself and calling 911 constantly. – [Mark Allen](#) Dec 13, 2008 at 1:16



0

To add on to what others have said, come up with some kind of office-GPS (via WiFi maybe? Does it *have* WiFi?) and tell you when you need to go to a meeting.





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answered Dec 13, 2008 at 1:18

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Mark Allen

1,215 ● 1 ● 15 ● 17
