User Profile:

The iShare project is target towards many different communities of users. We can categorize these into 2 separate categories; a community of peers, and a family community. The iShare project should be tailored to fit either type of community. An example of a community of peers is a roommate arrangement. Neither person has precedence over the other, they are considered equal. And a family community is that which a parent may have control over the children and what resources are used and when. Recent studies show exactly that, the children between the ages of 5 and 16 have access to resources, but the parents can always take precedence.

In one case study we discovery some of the resources/devices that are important to a child. These include things like the TV, a household computer, or a game console. In this study, there were multiple TVs and only a single computer. We have taken these results in to heavy consideration, as we learned there is a primitive type of conflict control already in place in this type of community. Parents have the ability to override a request to use some device when a task with higher priority (deemed by the parent) comes up. This includes things like homework takes priority over playing computer games, and therefore the person wanting to do homework would get to use the device; even when permission to use the device was asked beforehand.

This poses some interesting design challenges for the iShare project. There must be some kind of access control when scheduling resource usage. When a child asks permission to use something, they will have the naïve expectation that everyone will adhere to their request. Alternatively, the iShare should encapsulate a basic informative architecture. A child who can’t drive isn’t going to mind when his/her Mom goes to the grocery store, however it could prove to be very useful to know that information.

In the second scenario, a community of peers between the ages of 18 and older, where neither person should have precedence over the other (setting aside owner versus tenant) should the system be based on respect of the other person’s calendar, how should it handle conflicts? Recent observations show that currently, most conflicts are handled verbally, and in some situations with aggressive language and contact. The iShare would provide a way of communication that could minimize the amount of conflict. By giving roommates the ability to easily schedule resource usage, conflicts can be found and resolved early. Therefore the iShare encapsulated conflict between peers by having user logins that are easily accessible, and resources can be scheduled when they don’t conflict with other peers. Finally, in this scenario the informative aspect of the iShare can be very useful when trying to find out where another person is and when.

The iShare is targeted towards multiple people living together of all ages. It is simple enough for a child to use, and robust enough for a parent to administer.