

Smart Clothing Research

After our first round of interviews, we have discovered that our initial value proposition was not as desired by the traveler customer segment as we had hoped. In an effort to generate a new value proposition we are now exploring smart clothing, and smart travel accessories. This document details research on the latest smart clothing.

1) Clothing-aided Navigation

A design company called “Wearable Experiments” has developed a new line of clothing aimed at allowing people to explore cities hands-free. The fashion oriented jackets (separate for men and women) contain a small vibrational device on the upper back, that slightly extend to the shoulders. By connecting the jacket’s vibrational capabilities to your phone (and map), one can walk through the city to a specific destination by only taking directional queue’s from the jacket.

This technology has possibilities for the world traveler customer segment, with the limiting factor being mobile phone internet access in foreign countries. However, if this obstacle is proven easy to overcome, a small vibrational device could be fitted in the traveler’s backpack to achieve the same effect as the city jacket-navigation device.

wearableexperiments.com/navigate/

2) Temperature control

A group of MIT students have started a company around a wristband that is able to control your temperature. The device has been described by them as analogous to putting a warm or cold (wet) towel on your forehead – that is to say that the device does not directly regulate your body temperature, however it effectively heats/cool the temperature sensitive parts of your wrist that can convey comfort to the rest of your body.

Not only is this technology very new, the company at the forefront is still in its prototyping and development stage. Short of creating our own version, this technology is not available to us.

<http://www.embrlabs.com/#the-wristify>

3) Energy Generating Clothing

Researchers in Japan are looking into clothing that helps generate electricity for low-energy devices (such as car-keys) through static-electricity. In one of their videos, they demonstrate that by tapping on the special receptor fabric sleeves of their clothing, they generate enough energy to unlock their car door.

Similar to the MIT temperature controlling wristband, this technology is very new and not on the market.

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/04/21/energy-generating-clothes-and-smart-lights-join-the-internet-of-things/>

4) Smart ID/Bank Card Protection

According to this vest company, pick-pockets are more conniving and tech-savvy than you think. They no longer need to even pick your pockets to get your credit card information, or steal your identity through your passport. Due to the electronic components (RFID) within your passport and bankcard, these thieves can simply scan your documents to gain their information.

In response to this, the Scott e-Vest has been created, with clothing that has RFID lined pockets that prevents your cards from being scanned & read.

Though this technology does not lend room in the area of smart connected devices, it does seem necessary in any sufficiently advanced travel accessory. If our EID group is to make a smart travel accessory, this feature should be implemented as a secondary addition.

<http://www.scottevest.com>