

Energy-efficient sensing with Android smartphones.

Description, Objectives, Ethics and Resources

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1 Description

Mobile-sensing applications consume significant portions of battery life. This energy usage, however, could be optimized without neglecting the sensors' data accuracy. This project will provide an energy-efficient sensing library for Android smartphones. The energy saving algorithm will be tested and evaluated against baseline implementation. The project could help in understanding energy costs of different sensors and reduce the energy consumption of context-aware mobile applications.

2 Objectives

This project aims to create an energy-efficient sensing library, which will provide an API for mobile applications. As a proof of concept, we intend to develop a test mobile application, which will make use of this API. Moreover, the project should satisfy a following set of requirements:

(a) Primary requirements

- All software components of the project will work on the Android mobile operating system.
- Energy efficiency and accuracy of the library should be tested against a baseline implementation.
- The project should empirically determine energy costs of different sensors.
- The library will be integrated with Tristan's experience sampling method (ESM) mobile application.
- As part of the project, a study with real users should be conducted.

(b) Secondary requirements

- The library will calculate energy costs of different sensors in real time.
- Software components should work on a variety of Android devices.
- The energy saving algorithm should be adaptive according to current battery life.
- The library intends to manage mobile applications' contention for sensor usage.

(c) Tertiary requirements

- The energy saving algorithm should improve its performance by learning from user behaviour.

3 Ethics

The project raises ethical concerns related to user's privacy. In the study with real users, a testing mobile application will be installed on participants' devices. The application will collect all sensors' data including sensitive information e.g., localization or activity (which applications a participant is running). Those data, however, will not be extracted out of participant's device. Instead, only one number indicating algorithm's accuracy will be copied. If requested, a participant may also intentionally share the whole set of gathered data. To face project's ethical concerns, we submitted a full ethical application form to the University Teaching and Research Ethics Committee (UTREC).

4 Resources

To complete the secondary requirements, the project needs to be tested on Google Nexus 7. Being enrolled for CS4303 Video Games, we will have an access to this device in the first semester. If possible, we would like to keep this tablet for the rest of the academic year. All of other variety of Android devices are provided by Tristan.