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Collab: gadgINTERATION

Fall 2014

Maker Faire Experiences

A wonderful afternoon that I spent at the Maker Faire on last Saturday made me feel impressive and it gave me a lot of great experiences. I have been there last year for our major studio assignment as a visitor, but this is the first time I attended to the Maker Faire as a real maker of gadgINTERATION. The challenge is I need to answer many questions about principles, functions, software, coding. This makes me realized many details I have never found. People came to the Maker Faire from anywhere with different backgrounds and roles, including students, educators, creators and so on.

I meet a lot of different people as a volunteer at gadgINTERATION table. I was a little surprise because a lot of kids and teenagers loved to play with our projects. It is a happy thing to see so many people are interested in the Noisemaker projects. They may bring some interesting questions. For instance, a boy, aged about 11 or 12, played with the human circuit of the Noisemaker and kept asking questions about how it works. Most of the little kids loved to play the Noisemaker because of the beautiful LED light and electronic sound. The most impressive thing is that a woman and her little kid played with our Human circuit function. The mother set her nose as a button that can close circuit. When the little girl touched her nose, the light and music turned on. People were so happy with the human circuit function of the Noisemaker. I heartily agree with the core of our gadgINTERATION program. Actually, it is a great program for kids and teenagers to play and learn.

3 hours passed so quickly. We were a little tired, but we were very happy. After being a

volunteer, I went to look around other projects. I saw many fancy stuffs of 3D printing like 3d printing pen. People may use it just draw in air. Then they will get a real 3d object. A creative program got my attention. The designer made an interesting toothbrush. The arduino kits were implanted in the bar of the toothbrush to connect with a screen. When someone brush his tooth by using this toothbrush, he can see his tooth on the screen even the back one. It looks a little weird, but it is a good way to clean our tooth.

In addition, the valuable experiences that I got by the Maker Faire make me think deeply about the relationship between makers and stakeholders. I realized that a website for the gadgINTERATION should be clear and attractive. More important thing is the function of navigation and the layout of website. It should attract the audience attention the moment they start browsing it. Overall, the process of being a volunteer at the maker faire is beneficial of widen my view and gain knowledge.