

Thesis Overview

Content for Christina Lidwin (clidwin@vt.edu)

Thesis Committee:

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Goals

To answer the question "To what extent can ambient displays enhance an environment by utilizing components of a quantified self?" through research (on the topics of pre-attentive processing, ambient displays, and design methodology) and application (in the design and implementation of an ambient display).

To complete the department and graduate school requirements for an MFA thesis by the 2015 Summer II deadlines.

Components

The following components are intended to satisfy and compliment the requirements for an MFA thesis based on the subject of ambient displays and the quantified self:

Thesis Document: Contains at minimum the following written content: abstract, context, problem, purpose, research questions, hypothesis, literature review, methodology, discussion, conclusion, and an annotated bibliography

Ambient Display: A deliverable application accessible through a web browser (Google Chrome at minimum) that showcases aspects of a quantified self.

Information Aggregate: Provide a way to both view and modify what raw data (or services providing data) is (are) being supplied to the ambient display. It is possible that this could be a part of the ambient display or provided as a separated component (such as an Android application).

Copyright Licensing: PDF of licensing information for both the thesis and any copyrighted material used in the thesis (required by the graduate school for the ETD)

Website: A unified portal to all thesis content.

Deadlines & Meetings

March 6th at 2pm - Thesis Committee Meeting (Mid-Semester Check In)

May 7th at 12pm - Thesis Committee Meeting (End of Semester)

July 13th at 2pm - Thesis Committee Meeting (One Month Before Defense)

August 1 - Grad school deadline to apply for degree in HokieSPA

August 12 at 3pm - Thesis Defense

August 14 - Grad school deadline for defense

August 28 - Grad school deadline for ETD submission

Timeline Outline

The following provides an overview of the timeline and phases for this thesis project and is based on Moritz Stefaner's project work flow (*the functional art*, 318):

Clarify What and Why (December 2014 to February 2015)

Define high level constraints (thesis components and topic), goals, deadlines, etc., write context, problem, purpose, question, hypothesis

Explore & Sketch (February 2015 to April 2015)

Experiment with different data sets, explore visual possibilities based on real data, create functional prototypes, write literature review

Define & Produce (April 2015 to June 2015)

Iron out visual and interaction design, integrate real data, test application, write methodology section

Clarify What and Why (June 2015 to August 2015)

Conduct and analyze user tracking/studies, update and extend application, write abstract, discussion, and conclusion