



Proposal bachelor thesis

Title: Improving Our Love/Hate Relationship with Email

Promotor: Prof. Dr. Beat Signer

Includes preparation course: No (Select the correct option)

Context

Daily users struggle with organising and re-finding their stored documents, photos or emails. Personal Information Management (PIM) investigates the opportunities to provide the user with an alternative to the Desktop Metaphor where we step away from the classical file hierarchies used to store our information. Our Cross-Media PIM system is a solution which unifies various organisational structures such as email, bookmark and file hierarchies but also includes physical classification structures such as bookshelves or piles of papers on a desk. This approach to PIM makes it possible to construct our own personal cross-media information space with less information fragmentation. By providing a tool for centralising all these possible ways of storing our information, we allow the user to re-find their information no matter where or how the information has been stored.

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In this thesis, you will investigate how we can improve email clients such as Outlook to organise personal information. First, you will identify shortcomings and issues with existing email clients. Based on these findings, you will design extensions for Outlook and integrate these with our Cross-Media PIM system. The overall goal is to be able to link emails and parts of emails to documents in the file system as well as to physical documents. During this thesis you will also learn more about user-centred design and evaluation methodologies. It is advised that you have some experience in C++ and Java.

Preparatory course bachelor thesis
(only if applicable)