



Review

A framework for awareness maintenance

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a systematic literature review to gain insight into the growing area of awareness maintenance. A systematic review of papers from 1970 to 2010 examines the background and trends of research in this area. The results establish a framework for awareness maintenance and demonstrate trends, gaps, and potentially fruitful areas for future research. In particular, based on 131 papers, the present work proposes a four-phase framework for awareness maintenance that shows promise for real-world applications.

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1. Introduction

People increasingly work and live in cooperative environments, and as such they are often overloaded by irrelevant or loosely relevant information (Leinonen et al., 2005). In addition, cooperative environments have to deal with information uncertainty (Rennecker, 2005), which often requires adaptation as new certain

information comes to the fore. Adaptation is important for governments, public agencies, and non-governmental organizations worldwide to overcome the inherent uncertainty in cooperative environments. Research and design practices in Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) emphasize the role of *awareness* in adaptation where awareness is defined as understanding the relevance of information to one's goal (Daneshgar and Ray, 2000a; Gross et al., 2005). The dominate view in the literature favours the use of information technology to assist individuals in becoming aware and understanding relevant information (Hong et al., 2009), e.g. with machine learning, visualization, and data mining methods.

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There exist a number of reviews of technology-centric awareness in the literature (Sarma, 2005; Storey et al., 2005; Bricon-Souf and Newman, 2007; Omoronyia et al., 2010), where five types of awareness are defined: (1) workspace awareness (Gutwin et al., 1995), (2) common-sense awareness (Gutwin and Greenberg, 2007), (3) group awareness (Gutwin and Greenberg, 2007), (4) social awareness (Acquisti and Gross, 2006), and (5) context awareness. Context awareness is defined as non-ignorance of an internal or external entity that causes change in a situation (Gross et al., 2005), whereas Dey and Abowd consider context as information about the entity (Dey et al., 2001). Further, Ray et al. (2005a, 2005b) define context awareness as an understanding of relevant information that is required for an individual to carry out tasks. We note that on this view, the notion of context awareness focuses on the relevance of the context rather than knowledge about the context.

The technology-centric view in CSCW has recently evolved to embrace complexity-based paradigm (Zacarias et al., 2010a). This paradigm replaces deterministic perspectives of the internal and external views of systems by agency principles (Magalhães, 2004). Zacarias et al. (2010a, 2010b) define agency relationship as interactions between individuals and software agents to perform tasks on individuals' behalf. Therefore, CSCW tends to agree that the following characteristics of software agents make them useful to assist individuals (Woolridge and Wooldridge, 2001): *Autonomy*: an agent can operate without intervention of individuals. *Social ability*: an agent is able to interact with other agents and individuals. *Reactivity*: computing power of agents makes it possible for them to react on the changes of the environment in a timely fashion (however, this is heavily dependent on the computing power). *Pro-activity*: an agent tries to achieve what it has been initiated for. There are also bodies of work (Ray et al., 2005b; Ulieru and Worthington, 2006) that propose use of software agents to assist individuals achieving context awareness. One of the major questions in CSCW is how to utilize intelligent software agents to maintain contextual awareness (Ray et al., 2005b). *Awareness maintenance* is defined by Riemer and Haines (2008) as a process in which one becomes aware of a context and further shapes one's behavior to know the context and to decrease any contextual uncertainty.

This paper conducts a systematic literature review of current research in awareness maintenance. The present study develops a framework for maintaining awareness that is derived from the methodologies proposed in the literature. The results help us to determine gaps and trends in the existing body of knowledge in awareness maintenance.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the research method used in our study. Section 3 presents the results of the review, including an awareness maintenance framework, a trend analysis and a gap identification. Section 4 supports the findings of this paper by existing theories in CSCW for awareness maintenance, discusses the contributions of the paper and recommends a direction for further research.

2. Research method

The study was undertaken as a systematic literature review based on the original guidelines proposed by Kitchenham (2004) and Kitchenham et al. (2009) and applied in several systematic reviews such as Ghapanchi and Aurum (2011). In this case, the goal of the review is to come up with a framework for awareness maintenance by reviewing the work in this field. The steps for this study are as follows: (1) identification of resources, (2) selection, (3) data extraction and synthesis, and (4) data analysis.

2.1. Identification of resources

In order to identify the resources, the first step is to recognize the relevant keywords. For this purpose, we adapted an experimental strategy given by Dieste et al. (2008). In this strategy, an optimum search is performed by keywords that retrieve articles in which 20–25% (i.e. precision rate) of them are related to the topic. Taking the objective of this review for investigating the literature of awareness maintenance, the term “awareness” was searched in Google scholar for publications between 1970 and 2010 in the field of “Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics”. The first 100 papers found in the search were considered and in each of the related terms to “awareness” were identified. Therefore, “context” with a precision rate of 23.7% and “situation” with a precision rate of 20.9% were decided to be considered. Subsequently, “maintenance” was searched in combination with each of these terms, that is, “awareness maintenance”, “context maintenance”, and “situation maintenance”. Additionally, “create” with a precision rate of 22.6%, “sensitive” with a precision rate of 20.6%, “obtain” with a precision rate of 23.3%, “identify” with a precision rate of 24.1%, and “develop” with a precision rate of 24.8% were also being recognized. However, the limitation of systematic reviews is that they are heavily dependent on the chosen keywords that have been admitted in the literature of this research method (Kitchenham et al., 2009).

The articles were searched using eight online databases. Depending on the search services offered by the databases, the titles, keywords, and the abstracts were searched for papers that have been published during (including) years from 1970 to 2010. In each database, the search was repeated three times by the following phrases:

- AND [(awareness) (OR (create sensitive obtain identify develop))]¹
- AND [(context) (OR (create sensitive obtain identify develop))]
- AND [(situation) (OR (create sensitive obtain identify develop))]

For example, the first phrase means all the articles that have the keyword “awareness” and any of the keywords “create”, “sensitive”, “obtain”, “identify”, and “develop” in their titles, abstracts or keywords. For each search result, Google scholar and Citeseer were searched to see the papers that have cited the found paper. For the papers indexed by these two search engines, those with less than five citing papers, were not included into the list.

The articles were searched in a comprehensive list of subjects. The names of the databases, the subjects, the number of the found articles, and the number of repeated papers are listed in Table 1. 14,699 articles were found in total while 5692 papers were repeated. The selection process excluded the repeated articles from the archive and came up with 9073 papers.

2.2. Selection

The objective of this step is to find the articles and exclude the papers that are not relevant to the topic of “awareness maintenance”. Fig. 1 depicts the selection process. This process had two iterations.

In the first iteration, aforementioned keywords were searched in the 8 databases. Then, steps 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 excluded 8511

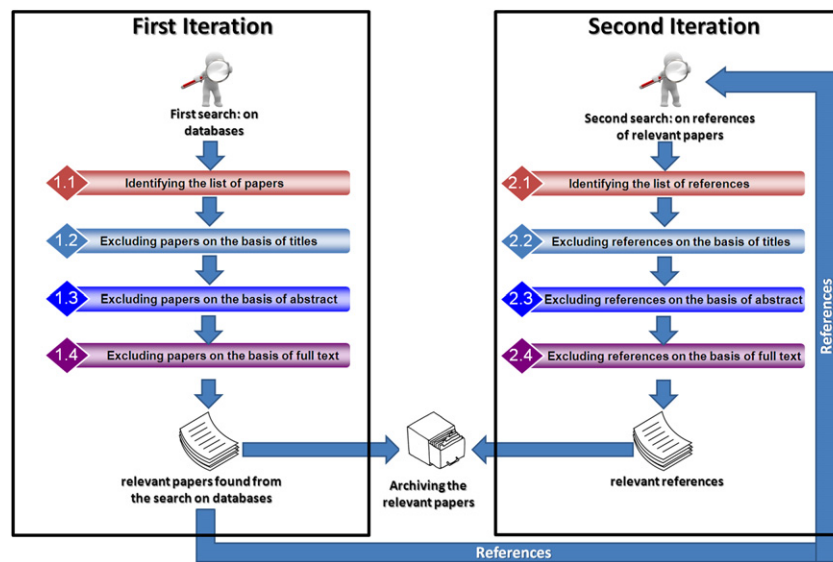
¹ Operators come prior to keywords.

Table 1

The online databases and research fields.

Name of database	Subjects	Number of found articles	Number of repeated articles
SpringerLink	Computer Science, Engineering	1385	–
Wiley InterScience	Computer Science and Information Technology	1013	–
ScienceDirect	Business Management and Accounting, Computer Science, Decision Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Psychology, Social Sciences	1503	–
Scirus ^a	Computer Science, Economics, Business and Management, Mathematics, Psychology, Social and Behavioral Sciences	291	49 articles from the above databases.
IEEE Xplore	Computing and Processing, Communication Networking and Broadcasting, General Topics for Engineers (Math, Science and Engineering), Robotics and Control Systems	6023	3007 articles from the above databases.
ACM Digital Library	Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Social Sciences	1287	892 articles from the above databases.
CiteSeer	Computer and information science	1089	379 articles from the above databases.
Google Scholar	Engineering Computer Science and Mathematics	2108	1365 articles from the above databases.
Total		14,699	5692

^a This database does not provide any service for search abstracts. Therefore, we only searched the titles and keywords.

**Fig. 1.** Selection process.

articles based on their titles, keywords, and full texts. These steps excluded articles that:

- did not focus on maintenance of awareness.
- did not focus on methodological aspects of awareness maintenance.
- focused only on applications of awareness maintenance.
- were not in the relevant fields or could not be used in the relevant fields.
- were in languages other than English.
- were not peer reviewed.

After the exclusion steps, the 91 remained articles went to an archive in Zotero Research Tool (Zotero Co., 2010) for storage and organization.

In the second iteration, the references were retrieved from the papers that had come out of the exclusion process in the first iteration. In step 2.1, the keywords were searched on the list of references and those references that are matched with the keywords were chosen. Step 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 examined the references against the above exclusion criteria and based on their title,

keywords, and full text. Then, the 40 remaining references were added into the archive.

Finally, the systematic review resulted in 131 relevant papers (91 from iteration 1 and 40 from iteration 2).

2.3. Data extraction and synthesis

The data extraction and synthesis process aims to extract the key details from the 131 papers. Two types of data were extracted from the studies: (1) methods, where data is synthesized to recognize the different methodological aspects of awareness maintenance and (2) demographics, such as year of publication.

2.4. Data analysis

Fig. 2 shows the analysis process for the final list of the publications. The terms and definitions in the articles formed a primary list of categories for the methods. At this stage the different problems that the different methods in the articles were trying to solve were discovered (see Table 2).

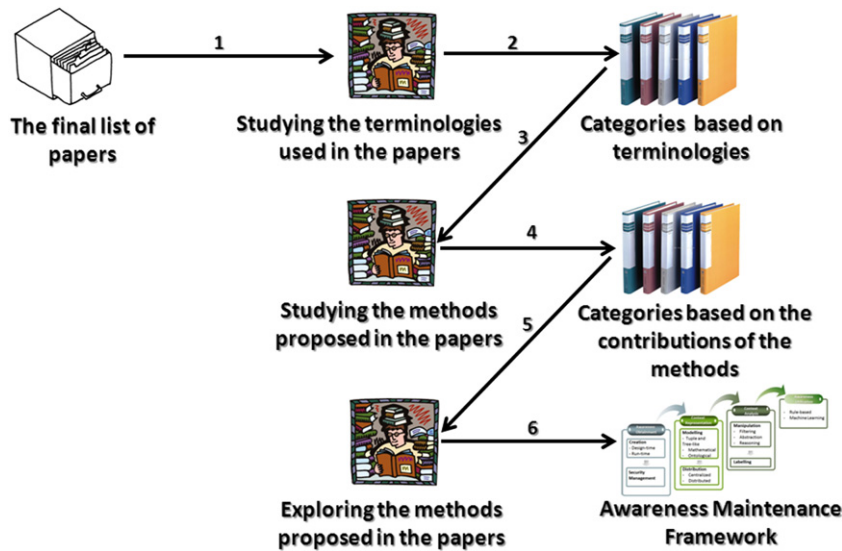


Fig. 2. Data analysis procedure.

Table 2
Problems identified by exploring the terminologies and methods in the articles.

Categories identified by exploring the terminologies used in the articles	Categories identified by exploring the methods proposed in the articles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness Creation • Context Modeling • Context Distribution • Inference • Labeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness Creation (in design time, in run-time) • Security Management • Context Modeling (tuple and tree-like, mathematical, ontological) • Context Distribution (Centralized, Distributed) • Context Filtering • Context Abstracting • Context Reasoning • Context Labeling • Awareness Utilization (Rule-based, Machine Learning)

Having put the methods in the different categories identified by exploring the terminologies used in the articles, the following points were discovered (see Table 2):

- Awareness creation can happen in design-time or in run-time.
- There are methods that they address the security issues in awareness maintenance.
- Context Modeling has different types of methods: tuple and tree-like, mathematical and ontological.
- Context Distribution has different types of methods: Centralized and Distributed.
- Inference has two steps: First, context filtering, abstracting, reasoning and labeling. Second, Awareness Utilization that concerns with shaping the behaviors by rule-based or machine learning methods.

The last stage was to form the category-subcategory classifications. In this stage, by looking at the different methods, the following were proposed:

- The first step in awareness maintenance is Awareness Obtainment that involves Awareness Creation and Security Management.
- The second step in awareness maintenance is Context Representation that involves Context Modeling and Context Distribution.
- The third step in awareness maintenance is Context Analysis that involves Context Manipulation and Context Labeling. Context Manipulation includes Filtering, Abstracting and Reasoning. Labeling is related to artifacts, persons, time or location.

- The fourth step in awareness maintenance is Awareness Utilization.

Finally, taking the above points into consideration, a classification of methods in awareness maintenance, i.e. *Awareness Maintenance Framework* was derived.

3. Results

The results include (1) an Awareness Maintenance Framework and (2) a trend and a gap analysis based on demographic data collected from the final list of papers.

3.1. Awareness maintenance framework

Based on 131 papers, awareness maintenance is categorized into four categories; awareness obtainment, context representation, context analysis, and awareness utilization. Fig. 3 shows this classification framework. The following sections provide detailed explanations for each category.

3.1.1. Awareness obtainment

Awareness obtainment is a process in which an individual becomes aware of relevant information. The review shows that there are two types of work in this area; those that focus on creation of awareness and those that highlight the security issues in obtaining awareness.

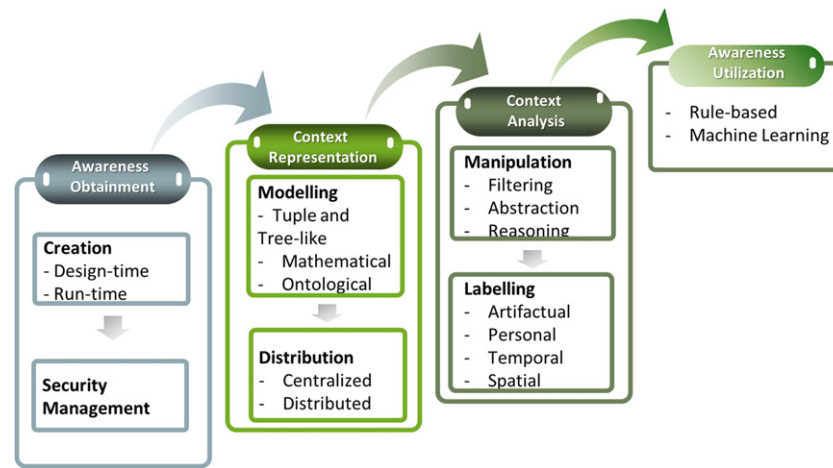


Fig. 3. Awareness maintenance framework.

Awareness creation is a process whereby one matches actual information with what one requires or desires to be aware of. The methodologies in this area usually define a dispatcher to match the required awareness with an information driver. The driver is attached to the information source to provide interfaces for dispatcher. Research in awareness creation can be classified further in regard to objectives. There are methodologies that look at how to create awareness in design-time and there are bodies of work that provide technologies for awareness creation in run-time. Table 3 summarizes these findings.

Awareness security involves traditional security concerns. Security in awareness obtainment cannot be isolated from awareness creation either in design-time or run-time. Where security support has appeared in awareness obtainment, it often covers the following topics: Confidentiality, Trust, and Identity. Confidentiality secures the relationship between individuals as they become jointly aware of information. Trust illustrates the degree of reliability of the created awareness and Identity gives access control and authorization to the created awareness. Table 4 summarizes these findings.

3.1.2. Context representation

Context representation involves techniques for modeling and distributing information that a system is aware of, where *modeling* refers to awareness research that gives context structures while addressing the following problems: distributed vs. centralized awareness, validation of awareness, quality of awareness, uncertainty in awareness, formal representation of awareness, and the implementation of awareness. The review shows that research in awareness supports three categories of context modeling techniques: (1) Tuple, tree-like modeling, (2) Mathematical modeling, and (3) Ontological Modeling. Table 5 summarizes these findings.

According to what we have explained above, awareness ideally is desired to support distributed computing. However, this lacks the central control, it arises opportunity to provide highly dynamic structures for context. *Distribution* refers to methods that represent context in centralized or distributed processing. Table 6 summarizes our finding in different techniques for distributing context.

3.1.3. Analysis

In computer supported cooperative work, an individual becomes aware of multiple types of context from variety of sources. The relevance of information to the individual can be meaningless, ambiguous, or imprecise. *Analysis* is the process in which one combines and scrutinizes the relevance of information

Table 3

Creation step of awareness obtainment.

Category	Methods
Design-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daneshgar and Ray (2000a) proposes the process of cooperation enhancement based on awareness creation. They define awareness net (tree) where information in each node is attached to drivers. Once an individual is required to be aware of a piece of information, the associated node creates a dispatcher. They argue if there is dispatchers that can be connected to its appreciated driver, then this connection enhances the cooperation by creating awareness in the node dispatcher. • Ray et al. (2005b) extends the cooperation enhancement process by Daneshgar and Ray (2000a, 2000b) measuring the required awareness as a fuzzy attributes. • Riemer and Haines (2008) is a conceptual paper that proposes a theory for the dynamic creation of awareness in mediated settings using metaphor of pools fed by streams of communication. "Pools of awareness are held within users and gradually filled via signals from others. Users desire [require] different pools and direct the streams of interaction to feed those pools first." • Zacarias et al. (2010b) argues an importance of agent perspective to align individual and organizational views. This work proposes an ontological method to conceptualize awareness while designing an agent-based CSCW application for an organization.
Run-time	<p>More: Frößler et al. (2007), Daneshgar et al. (2006), Ray and Chattopadhyay (2009), Kaiser et al. (2005), Lieberman and Selker (2010), and Ranganathan and Campbell (2003).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context Tailor (Davis et al., 2003) provide a well-defined service called context service. The Context Service has well-defined dispatcher and driver. • SOCAM (Gu et al., 2005), Gaia (Román et al., 2002; Yiqiang et al., 2009; Salem and Rauterberg, 2004; de Freitas Bulcao Neto and da Graca Campos Pimentel, 2005; Oh and Woo, 2009; Borovoy et al., 2010) provide a service called context provider. This service interacts with the available contexts and creates awareness in the run-time. • Dey et al. (2001), Dey (2009), and Eddy and Pei (2010) in a similar way as SOCAM and Gaia provides widgets as driver and aggregators as dispatchers to create awareness in run-time. • Merino (Kummerfeld et al., 2003; Chen et al., 2010; Little, 2010; Gellersen et al., 2002) propose methods for creating awareness at the lowest level by interpreting historical references.

More: Keiser and Kriengchaiyapruk (2008), Biegel and Cahill (2005), Lalbakhsh et al. (2009), Taconet et al. (2009), Müller et al. (2010), Wustmann et al. (2010), Baladrón et al. (2010) and Chitchebina and Franz (2003).

Table 4
Security management step of awareness obtainment.

Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sliman et al. (2009) proposes a framework that collects and generates policy-based security in cross-organizational scenarios. In addition to catering to specifications of security and business policies, the framework integrates contextual information to make the role-based framework flexible and express confidentiality requirements of users. • MeCoCo (George and Lekira, 2009; Khedr and Karmouch, 2005a; Gu et al., 2005) propose a fairly generic user's awareness framework for mediated communications. However, this work argues that the awareness cannot be totally generic, as it may harm the confidentiality requirements. As such, MeCoCo gives some classes based on the domain ontology which satisfy the confidentiality. • CASPER (Chow et al., 2009; Khungar and Riekkki, 2005; Katsiri and Mycroft, 2006; Barbosa et al., 2008) propose a modeling-based method for awareness confidentiality. It models the world by nested containers. The hierarchy of containers provides abstraction in the model. • Cosmos (Kim et al., 2008a) provides an integrated awareness framework over the network sensors. The framework consists a security manager that provides Trust, Authorization, Authentication and Confidentiality services to the awareness engine. • Sheikh et al. (2008), Shabtai et al. (2010), and Griswold et al. (2003) provides labeling (explained in Section 3.1.3) to the awareness. This method uses generic quality attributes. Two of these attributes are Trust and Identity. • Solt et al. (2009) provides a method to classify awareness (in case of this paper, it is classification of diseases) using security policies covering Trust and Confidentiality. This paper lacks looking at Identity. • Shand et al. (2004), Biegel and Cahill (2005), Patrikakis et al. (2009), Butler (2001), Sharifi and Naghavian (2010) and Moura et al. (2009) use human notation of Trust for awareness in collaborative environments. • Nugent et al. (2008), Xirouhaki et al. (2002), Chang et al. (2008), Kühn et al. (2010), Baladrón et al. (2010) and Hong and Landay (2004) apply access control and authentication policies in its defined awareness obtainment process. • Gaia (Román et al., 2002), COCON (Wang et al., 2004), (Munnelly et al., 2007), and (Şensoy et al., 2009) provide access control for awareness. <p>More: Robinson and Beigl (2004), Hoffmann (2005), Hoffmann and Stotz (2005), Bhatti et al. (2005) and Moore et al. (2010).</p>

in order to interpret the awareness and manage uncertainty of acquired awareness. Analysis includes manipulating contexts to give them meaning while labeling them with meta-data.

Manipulation describes methods that involve processing a set of contexts to remove unnecessary context, add abstract context, and infer available context. This includes filtering, abstraction, and reasoning. Filtering are techniques dedicated to address the problem of validating the relevant information. These methods generally address the problem of awareness overload by identifying redundancy and contradictions in a set of contexts. While filtering removes some information from the set of relevant information, abstraction and reasoning can make the context increasingly meaningful, by raising the abstraction level of the context and relating it to the lower level abstraction. Reasoning involves the discovery of relations among data one is aware of. Table 7 shows the methods proposed in literature for these elements of analysis and manipulation.

Labeling refers to tagging relevant information to emphasize the quality of a context. Labeling refers to the additional information on the context used for utilization. There are several dimensions of labeling such as artifactual, personal, temporal, and spatial (what, who, when, and where). Table 8 shows the methods proposed in the literature for Context Labeling.

3.1.4. Utilization

When Riemer and Haines (2008) define awareness maintenance, they use the term “shape of behaviors”. This means in their point of view, the last step for awareness maintenance is when an individual changes her/his behavior based on the obtained

awareness to information that has been represented and analyzed in previous steps.

Utilization is the process of adapting the behavior of a system in response to changes of the context that the system is aware of, i.e. it shows the change of the system behaviors by the change of the relevant contexts in the environment. However, many awareness maintenance methods such as Dey et al. (2001), Schmidt et al. (2004), and Bardram (2005) do not support utilization; infrastructures that provide utilization usually are based on rule-based or machine learning techniques. Table 9 shows the different approaches in the literature for utilization.

3.2. Evaluation of methods

A four-step framework for awareness maintenance has been represented. However, how to evaluate the methods in respect to a particular application has not been addressed yet. The first step in any evaluation should be to clearly state the criteria. This section aims at providing a set of evaluation criteria for each of these steps, which allows us to evaluate existing methods for a particular purpose. It also provides a means by which the advantages and disadvantages of methods for a certain type of applications can be illustrated.

In order to extract such criteria, the cited studies in Table 3 to Table 9 were studied. In regards to the objectives and contributions of methods, the criteria proposed in Hong et al. (2009) are adapted and the relevance and applicability of certain criteria to each particular step is presented in this section (see Table 10).

Neale et al. (2004) state that contextual dependency involved in the methods of awareness applications makes the evaluation highly dependent on the nature of applications, which is difficult to address. This highlights two main effective factors in evaluation of awareness applications. First, it is important that what would be the criteria for a particular application becomes clear. Therefore, Table 10 gives the criteria that need to be considered while choosing methods in each step. Second, what is expected from each of the selected criteria should be also known. This requires paying a great attention to the application domain. These two factors should then be mapped to methods using a matrix to show awareness maintenance method is related to which criteria and their expectations. Mapping the awareness maintenance methods to the criteria and expectations alleviate issues associated with problem domain dependency of evaluation of methods.

3.3. Trend analysis

In this section, a demographic analysis of the 131 articles is presented. Fig. 4 shows the distribution of the papers over year of publication. It shows that there is an increase since 2000 of researchers' contributions to awareness maintenance. Further, the number of articles published between 2005 and 2010 has radically increased.

Fig. 5 demonstrates the distribution of the proposed methods in each phase of awareness maintenance framework on the year of publication. This figure illustrates that awareness obtainment has been the most cited phase of the framework since 2000. However, again, the number of the publications may not be an absolute indicator to the fact that awareness obtainment is more problematic; it can be taken as the current trend in the literature.

3.4. Gap analysis

The awareness maintenance framework can be used to identify limitations of existing approaches by using the evaluation table given in Section 3.2. One of the open questions in the framework that needs further research is how to identify awareness. Although the existing methods in the literature have addressed the problem of

Table 5
Methods for modeling context awareness.

Category	Methods
Tuple and Tree-like Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-granularity model (Niu et al., 2010) uses tuples to exploit the relationships among different attributes of awareness, together with the corresponding multi-granularity management approach to strengthen the flexibility and context of dynamic service composition. Schilit et al. (1994) models the context of application by pairs of tuples expressing the attributes^a and their values. This approach emphasizes on dynamism of context by changing the value of attributes in the tuples. Schnaitter et al. (2009) uses tuple-based modeling of context and proposes estimation for giving value to the attributes. Dey (2009) provides a tree-like hierarchical context modeling technique for ambient systems CASPER (Chow et al., 2009) builds containment trees to model context. The objective is to provide a model-based confidentiality method. The tree represents nested containers to model the abstraction of entities. Markup languages typically are built upon a generic “profile” that represents context. The markup languages represent awareness using both tuple and tree-like approaches. The basic schema for these languages is Standard General Markup Language. Some of these approaches are as following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A category of these languages is based on Composite Capabilities/Preferences Profile (CC/PP) such as DELI (Butler, 2001) and CSCP (Held et al., 2002) or User Agent Profile (UAProf) such as (Hinz et al., 2007). These approaches are based on RDF expressiveness structure and XML serialization. They normally extend the standard CC/PP or UAProf approach to address complexity and dynamism problems as popular challenges in this area. CC/PP Context Extension (Indulska et al., 2003) extends both CC/PP and UAProf by number of component-attribute trees related to some aspect of context awareness. Pervasive Profile Description Language (PPDL) (Chtcherbina and Franz, 2003) that models the context with emphasis on their dependencies while the different contextual aspects and artefacts remain limited. Only few parts of this language are available to public. Another category of markup languages is based on Usage Environment Description (UED) such as (Capra et al., 2001) and Digital Item Adaption (Vetro et al., 2006) or (Barbosa et al., 2008). This XML-based language covers context about four categories of information: (1) the user characteristics and her/his preferences, (2) Hardware, (3) Network, and (4) Environment. Awareness Net (Danesghar and Ray, 2000b; Ray et al., 2005a) proposes to model context during cooperation with a tree structure. Information in each node is attached to drivers. Once an individual is required to be aware of a piece of information, the associated node creates a dispatcher. <p>More: Bhatti et al. (2005), Citron (Yamabe et al., 2005), Confab (Hong and Landay, 2004), Context Shadow (Jonsson, 2001; Sharifi and Naghavian, 2010; Sharifi et al., 2009).</p>
Mathematical Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McCarthy Model (McCarthy, 1993) avoids giving an explicit definition for context. Instead, the model presents context as an abstract mathematical entity with relevant properties to the situation. The significance of the model is to lifting the truth of a property from one context to another. McCarthy model supports in heritage. Extended Situation Theory (Akman and Surav, 1997) uses first-class objects of situation theory to represent context related to a particular point of view. They model context by a parameter-free expressions supported by situation types which corresponds to the context. And et al. (1998) uses formal first order predicate logic representation to facilitate the composition of context of individuals into more complex sensed context. Gaia (Román et al., 2002) implements context using First Order Logic operations such as qualifications, implications, and conjunctions. Ghidini and Giunchiglia (2001) although is more on reasoning about goal using context, it defines context as individuals' perspective subjective for the current situation. Logic of General Awareness (Fagin and Halpern, 1988; Sillari, 2008b) models awareness as a set of relevant information to a situation and develops logic to change implicit knowledge to the explicit knowledge using awareness. Zhang and Li (2007) describes awareness with dynamic fuzzy logic. In order to handle errors in the sensors, the system models robustness using awards. Liu (2010) uses fuzzy logic to model context in image processing. The significance of the model is to improve the accuracy of texture classification. Sakhanenko and Luger (2010) models context about change of context using a first-order logic-based probabilistic modeling language called Generalized Loopy Logic (GLL). <p>More: Katsiri and Mycroft (2006) and Bannon and Hughes (1993).</p>
Ontological Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strang and Linnhoff-Popien (2003) proposes Aspect Scale Context (ASC) model to provide a uniform model for model core concepts as well as arbitrary amount of sub-concepts. This allows us to model context awareness. ASC implements monolithic Context Ontology Languages (CoOL). CONON (Wang et al., 2004) provides upper context ontology for context. This approach models general concepts about basic context, and also provides ability to add hierarchical domain-specific ontology. Kofod-Petersen and Mikalsen (2005) divides context in the following five categories integrated to form domain ontology: task, social, personal, spatio-temporal, and environmental. SOCAM (Gu et al., 2005) provides two-level ontology to model context: domain independent and domain specific. ACAI (Khedr and Karmouch, 2005b) provides ontology for context-aware applications. KAD (Evangelou et al., 2005) provides context ontology by interweaving concepts from the Knowledge Management, Argumentation Theory, Decision Making, and Multicriteria Decision Aid disciplines. PLIB (Pierra, 2008) provides conceptual ontology for awareness in industrial manufacturing. Segev and Gal (2007) provides a formal mathematical framework that delineates the relationship between contexts and ontologies. The main purpose of this framework is to manage awareness uncertainty. DEN-ng policy structure (Strassner et al., 2009) provides ontology to model context using policies. Pereira et al. (2009) provides an ontological model of context to facilitate information retrieval. (Stojanovic et al., 2010) discusses the use of ontologies as a high-level, expressive, conceptual modeling approach for describing awareness. CAUCE (Tesoriero et al., 2010) is a model-driven development approach based on 3-layer ontology to implement context-aware application. <p>More: Ejigu et al. (2008), De Leenheer et al. (2007), Castano et al. (2006), Soyulu et al. (2009) and Hervás et al. (2010).</p>

^a These attributes some times are called variables. In some logic-based systems a propositional sentence can be presented by a set of tuples of variables and values.

Table 6
Methods for distributing context awareness.

Category	Methods
Centralized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranganathan et al. (2004) uses spatial centralized database to persist context models. • SOCAM (Gu et al., 2005) includes a context database that stores ontological context models. • PACE (Moon et al., 2007) stores context, application, user data, domain knowledge and behavior in a centralized database. • LORE (Chen et al., 2010) addresses the aspects of building location-aware centralized services, including positioning, location-dependent query processing, tracking, and intelligent location-aware message notification. Three key components of the infrastructure are the location server, a moving object database, and a spatial publish/subscribe engine. <p>More: Baladrón et al. (2010), OLLAF (Garcia and Granado, 2009).</p>
Distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaiser et al. (2005) provides a distributed event-based context representation. It considers the quality requirements, COSMIC also supports event channels with different timeliness and reliability classes. • Khungar and Riekk (2005) is a distributed physical storage that uses distributed servers to store context models. • Malik et al. (2009) estimates individual preferences by distribution of their context models. • Smart-Context (Moore et al., 2010) stores personalized context models. It uses OWL for communication between different nodes. <p>More: WBLS (Moura et al., 2009; Liu, 2010).</p>

awareness creation in the obtainment phase, they have not answered a fundamental question of what should be aware of. This open question has been pointed out by some researchers in CSCW (Ray et al., 2005b; Daneshgar et al., 2006) as well as in intelligent agents (Halpern and Pucella, 2010). Therefore, our framework lacks the methods for a step before awareness creation in the obtainment phase, which can be called awareness identification. *Awareness Identification* would be a process in which an individual identifies the relevance of information to its situation.

Policy-based Awareness Management Talaie-Khoei et al. (in press-a) – as an alternative for the problem of awareness identification – proposes the use of existing policies as a source to identify awareness and employs software agents to assist individuals for this purpose. Talaie-Khoei et al. (in press-b) also published a case study of the application of their proposed method in wireless communications at hospitals. However, Policy-based Awareness Management is one of the pioneer studies on awareness identification and has been proposed after the period of time that is being reviewed by the present paper.

4. Theoretical support

The concept of awareness has been borrowed from the field of CSCW. In this section, the implications of the awareness maintenance framework in the theory of situation awareness (Endsley 1995), and the theory of pools and streams (Riemer and Haines, 2008) are discussed.

Endsley (1995) introduces the theory of situation awareness, which concerns with the developing information technology solutions for information overload and uncertainty. The theory addresses how people process information to arrive at a behavior that removes a perceived uncertainty. The theory of situation awareness provides a conceptual model to the process of awareness maintenance. This theory states that once an individual captures the context (in our framework, it is called awareness obtainment), there are three levels of awareness; Level 1—perception (context representation). Level 2—comprehension (context analysis). Level 3—projection of future

Table 7
Methods for manipulating context.

Category	Methods
Filtering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOCAM (Gu et al., 2005) filters the context in order to remove conflicts and have higher degree of consistency. • Pinheiro et al. (2010) filters the context based on preferences. • Sentient (Biegel and Cahill, 2005) filters the context in order to ensure the certainty. It uses Bayesian networks. • I-Gaia (Xirouhaki et al., 2002) validates relevance of information to filter the context. This method can be used by fuzzy logic or First Order Logic. • Hong et al. (2009) and Şensoy et al. (2009) use ontology to filter redundant context. <p>More: CARISMA (Capra et al., 2003), MoCoA (Senart et al., 2006; Chang et al., 2008; Kirsch-Pinheiro et al., 2005).</p>
Abstracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaia (Román et al., 2002) provides logic-based abstraction. • Serral et al. (2010) provides a meta-model to abstract the context. • Kühn et al. (2010) presents a concept for the knowledge-driven opto-acoustic scene analysis based on an object-oriented modeling approach to recognize the required level of abstraction for the available context. • Shabtai et al. (2010) uses temporal concepts to abstract the context. • Hightower et al. (2002) uses a method based on probability to recognize the relations between contextual entities and create the higher level of abstraction. • EnviroTrack (Krishnamurthy et al., 2004) abstracts the context based on the network infrastructure. <p>More: Chang et al. (2008), de Freitas Bulcao Neto and da Graca Campos Pimentel (2005), Griswold et al. (2003), Munnelly et al. (2007), van Kranenburg et al. (2006), CASPER (Chow et al., 2009).</p>
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demetriou and Kazi (2006) manipulates context by reasoning about tasks. • Logic of General Awareness (Fagin and Halpern, 1988; Sillari, 2008b) is a classical model First Order Logic that provides a method to manipulate the awareness by reasoning about awareness to others' knowledge or awareness. • Agostini et al. (2009) reasons about context using ontology techniques. • Cheng and Marsic (2001) reasons about context using Fuzzy Logic. • Zimmermann (2003) reasons about context using case-based reasoning techniques. • Julien et al. (2004) provide a state-based formal reasoning technique about location-aware mobility. • CARE (Agostini et al., 2009) using hybrid reasoning supports context awareness in web services. • Halpern and Rêgo (2009) provides awareness by reasoning about the knowledge of not-being-aware (i.e. unawareness). • Guesgen and Marsland (2010) provides awareness by reasoning in temporal and special aspect of context. • Ghidini and Giunchiglia (2001) uses awareness to reason about goals. Similar to partial theory of Worlds, it takes individuals' perspective subjective for the current situation to reason about the goal. <p>More: And et al. (2001), Halpern and Pucella (2010), Sillari (2008a), Cummins et al. (1991), (Wustmann et al. 2010), Ma et al. (2009), and Kofod-Petersen and Mikalsen (2005).</p>

(awareness utilization). The theory emphasizes on the change of behaviors in respect to the above three levels of mental attitudes. However, as it is discussed in Section 3.4, the theory of situation awareness lacks the step for awareness identification. In the theory of situation awareness, once an individual wants to capture a context, there should be a way to identify which context is relevant to capture, otherwise the individual will suffer from the problem of information overload.

The hypothesis given by Riemer and Haines (2008) provides metaphors of pools and streams to explain the process of awareness maintenance. The metaphor "pools of awareness" refer to relevant contexts that are identifiable albeit to some extent uncertain.

Table 8

Category	Methods
Artifactual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WS-Café (Little, 2010) provides standards for labeling contextual artifacts. ● Aura (Ge et al., 2008) supports quality attributes for context. <p>More: Bailey et al. (2002), COSMIC (Kaiser et al., 2005).</p>
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oh and Woo (2009) is specified for mobile applications and enables users to share their experiences in the format of labels and labels on the context. <p>More: Sheikh et al. (2008).</p>
Temporal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time-Frames method (Koen and Bender, 2000) provides labeling based on temporal attributes of context. ● MUPE [Citation] labels context using temporal and certainty attributes. <p>More: Cattuto et al. (2010) and Alduncin (2009).</p>
Spatial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LoSeCo (Yiqiang et al., 2009) proposes a method to tag location context in pervasive computing. <p>More: Zhang and Li (2007), Borovoy et al. (2010), COSMIC (Kaiser et al., 2005).</p>

Table 9

Category	Methods
Rule-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context Tailor (Davis et al., 2003) provides an API containing contextual, temporal, and statistical components for specifying rules. These APIs are called patterns. The pattern activator triggers an action if the context of the service matches with the context of the pattern. CARISMA (Capra et al., 2003) defines intra i.e. external and inter i.e. internal policy rules. The awareness utilization happens once the inter and intra policy rules conflicts in a given set of awareness. Korpipää et al. (2005) the awareness rules are defined in XML. The rule engine triggers a rule by matching the condition clauses in rule with the retrieved context. DEN-ng (Strassner et al., 2009) policy structure used event-condition-action model to utilize awareness by different policy rules. CASPER (Chow et al., 2009) provides a policy model. It uses ponder policy language for specifying its policy rules. The policy editor, policy specification interface, policy manager are components of the framework. CASPER utilizes a given set of awareness by a given set of policy rules when the retrieved aware context matches the rule. <p>More: Ejigu et al. (2008), Sánchez et al. (2008), Kim et al. (2008b) and Eddy and Pei (2010).</p>
Machine Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaia (Román et al., 2002) supports Bayesian, neural network and clustering for machine learning for utilization. Context (Kofod-Petersen and Mikalsen, 2005) uses case-based method for utilization. The significance is to retrieve a learnt case to decide what action to take in the current context. Lieberman and Selker (2010) proposes a design methodology to use of machine-learning techniques for utilization. <p>More: Ranganathan and Campbell (2003) and Korpipää et al. (2003).</p>

To remove this uncertainty, an individual directs streams to the pool, which results in increased contextual knowledge and removes some uncertainty. Therefore, when one becomes aware of a relevant context, one creates a pool. Consequently, when one adapts one's behavior to gain more knowledge about relevant context, one directs streams to the created pool. The theory of pools and streams also lacks to address the process in which the individual identifies

Table 10
Evaluation of Methods.

Concepts			Network Infrastructures					Middleware					
Algorithm	Developing Guides	Schema	Context Data Mng.	Security Mng.	Protocol	Sensing	Network Requirements	Network Implementation	Autonomy	Reflectivity	Ontology	Adaptively	Goal-orientation
Awareness Obtainment													
Creation	×		×			×		×	×	×	×	×	×
Security Mng.	×	×	×	×	×			×	×	×	×	×	
Context Representation													
Modeling	×	×	×	×							×	×	
Distribution	×		×	×	×		×	×					
Context Analysis													
Manipulation	×		×						×	×	×	×	×
Labeling	×		×						×	×	×	×	×
Awareness	×			×			×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Utilization		×						×					

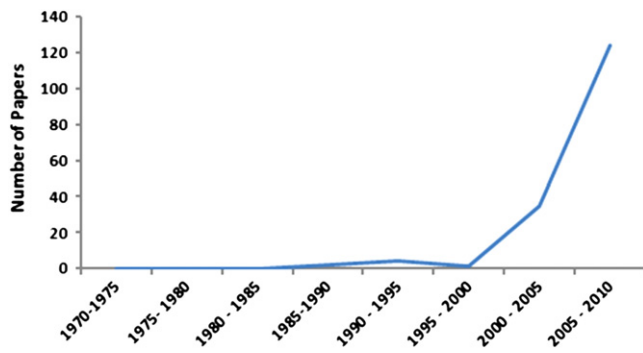


Fig. 4. The year distribution of articles.

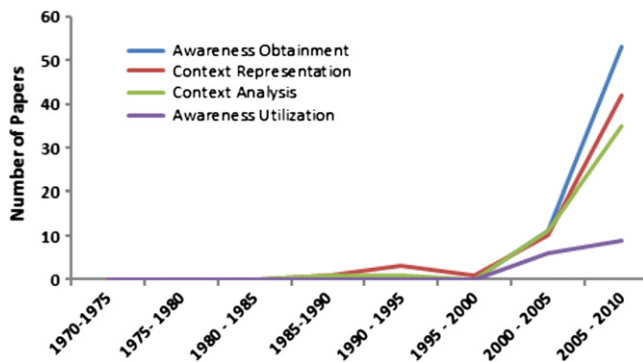


Fig. 5. The year distribution of the papers related to each phase of the awareness maintenance framework.

awareness. As we discussed in this paper, an individual who wants to remove some uncertainty may be overloaded by the irrelevant or loosely relevant information, if she/he is not able to identify awareness of relevant information. This refers to the lack of the awareness maintenance framework for awareness identification.

5. Summary and outlook

Researchers in CSCW and intelligent agents have been long interested in awareness. Although there have been several comprehensive literature reviews in awareness and context-sensitive systems (Sarma, 2005; Storey et al., 2005; Bricon-Souf and Newman, 2007; Omoronyia et al., 2010), the integration of proposed methods as a classification framework for awareness maintenance is new with this work. The review provides a four-phase framework for awareness maintenance and provides a clearer understanding of different phases in awareness maintenance.

An additional contribution of the paper is to corroborate the theory of situation awareness and the hypothesis of Pools and Streams regarding the proposed methods of awareness maintenance in the literature. However, these two theoretical perspectives are conceptual models; the study presented in this paper uncovers four clear phases for employing intelligent agents to assist in awareness maintenance.

The awareness maintenance framework can be used to identify limitations of existing approaches. The evaluation criteria given in Section 3.2 illustrate the expected requirements expected for a particular type of applications. Table 10 customizes the proposal of Hong et al. (2009) for the steps given in the awareness maintenance framework. Therefore, this table provides a means by which the expectations of awareness applications for introduced criteria can be mapped in a particular domain. This, therefore, demonstrates the limitation of methods. One of these limitations concerns with

awareness identification that is pointed out in the literature of CSCW (Ray et al., 2005b; Daneshgar et al., 2006) as well as in intelligent agents (Halpern and Pucella, 2010). Recently, Talaee-Khoei et al. (in press, 2011b) have proposed a policy-based awareness management that makes use of existing policies for awareness identification.

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