

# The **Mobile Phone** as a Window into **Human Behavior**



Jon Froehlich

@jonfroehlich

PhD Candidate

Computer Science and Engineering  
University of Washington

**data** is fundamental to any science

*collecting data on human  
behavior is often hard and  
expensive*



**data** is fundamental to any science





in the lab



out in the wild





# ethnography





# ethnography



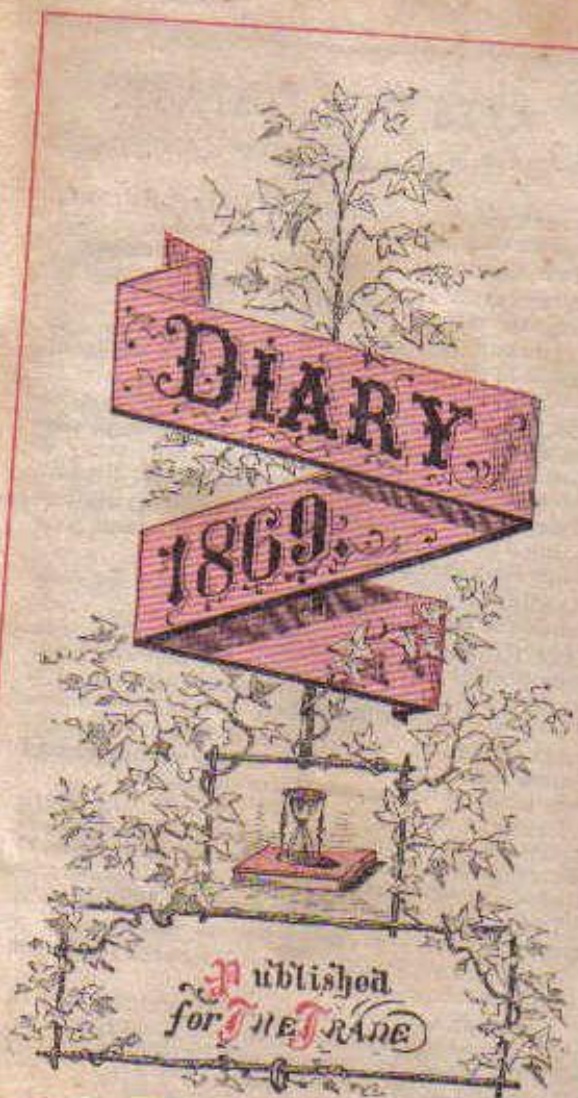


# interviews





00  
el



# experience-sampling method

Figure 1. The Rochester Interaction Record

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ AM LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ HRS \_\_\_\_\_ MINS \_\_\_\_\_  
PM \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ IF MORE THAN 3 OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ # OF FEMALES \_\_\_\_\_ # OF MALES \_\_\_\_\_

INTIMACY: SUPERFICIAL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 DEEPENING

I DISC: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

QUALIT: \_\_\_\_\_

SATISF: \_\_\_\_\_

INITIAT: \_\_\_\_\_

INFLUE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAT URE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether/when this event was:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Extremely	Very	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately	Moderately
	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant	Unpleasant

How important was this event to you? Not important = 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 = Very important

To what extent will you associate this event in the future? Not at all = 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 = Very Much

Describe immediately after this event, in what context did you feel:

	Neutral = 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
--	-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

How did you feel about yourself immediately after the event?

very bad = 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 = very good

very bad = 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 = very good

How much did you control the outcome of this event? Not at all = 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 = A lot

(Random Beeps)





# experience-sampling method



# other ESM sampling techniques

- Interval-contingent sampling
  - Sample on experiences at fixed times
  - Good for time series data
  - Typically less burdensome to subjects
    - They begin to expect prompts
- Event-Contingent sampling
  - Report on experiences based on event of interest
  - Subject must be “cognitively-engaged” into own actions

# immediacy

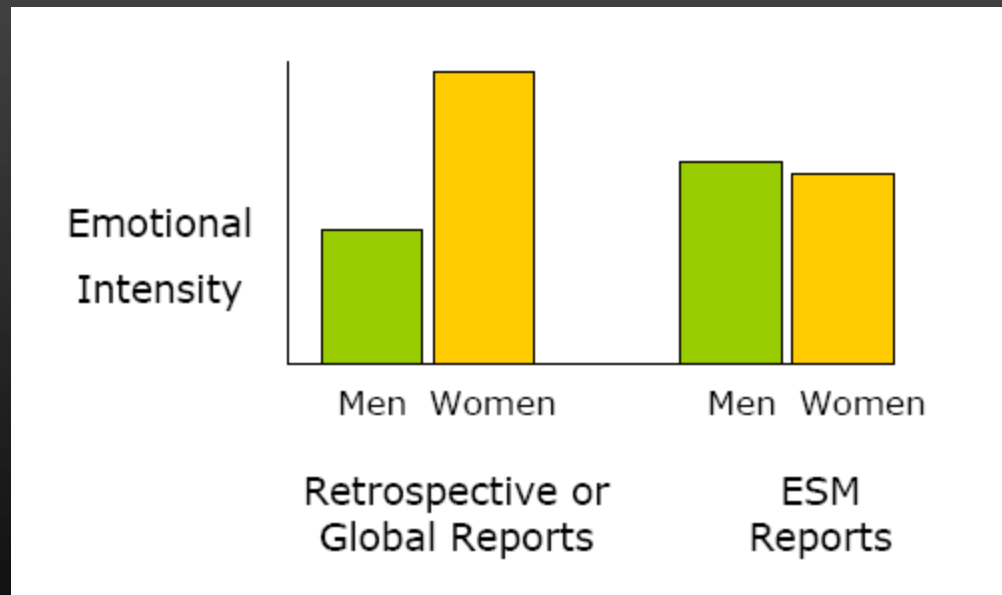
- Reduce recall memory bias
  - Important for qualitative data [Barrett 1998]
    - Difficult to remember mood, feeling, thoughts of particular events retrospectively





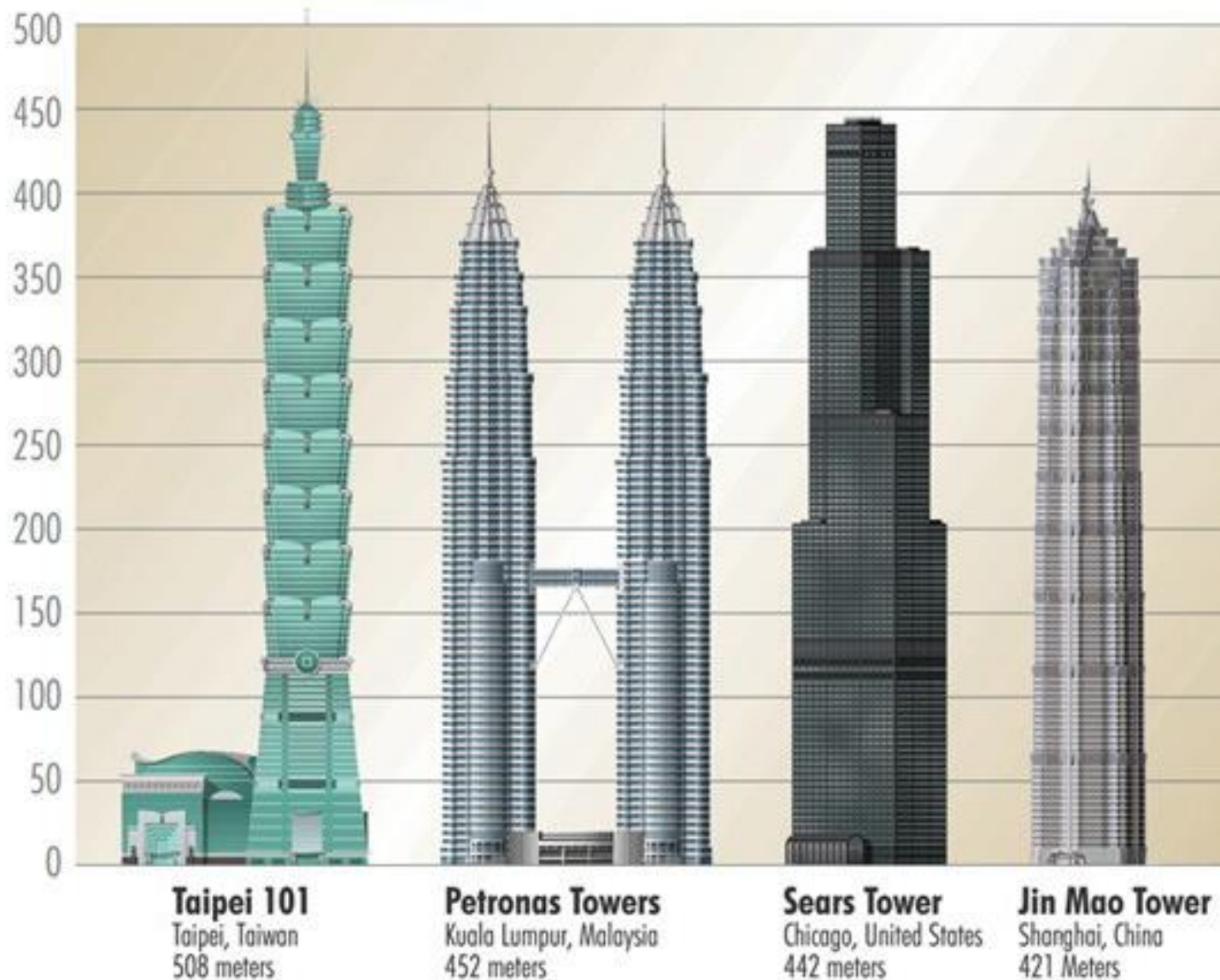
# immediacy

- Reduce recall memory bias
  - Important for qualitative data [Barrett 1998]
    - Difficult to remember mood, feeling, thoughts of particular events retrospectively



# multiple assessments

- Multiple assessments over time allows for studying within-person processes [Conner 2004]
  - Time-series data
  - Observe patterns
  - Look for correlations between elements
    - Medication taken
    - Perceived pain
  - Calibrate responses per subject





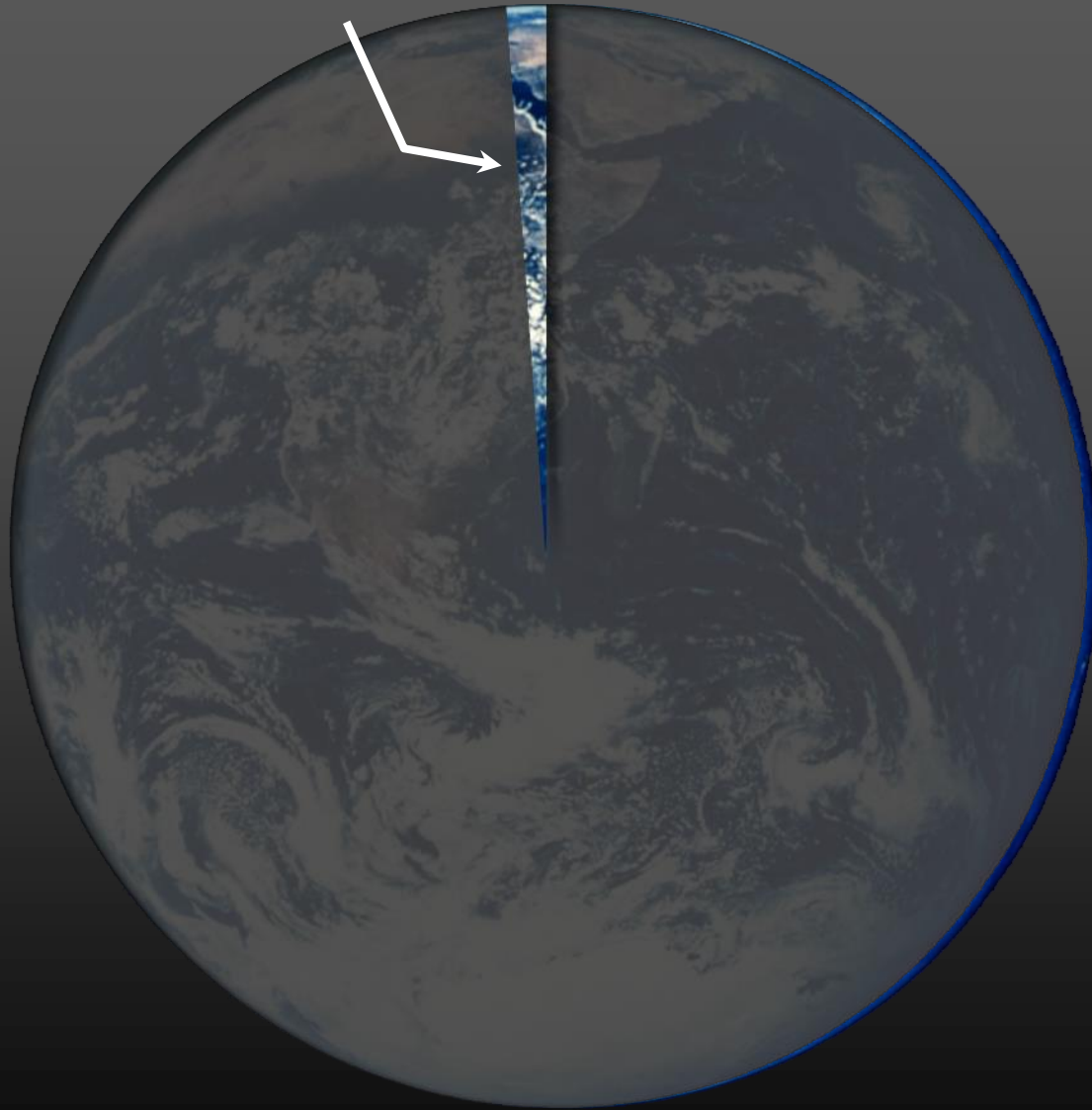








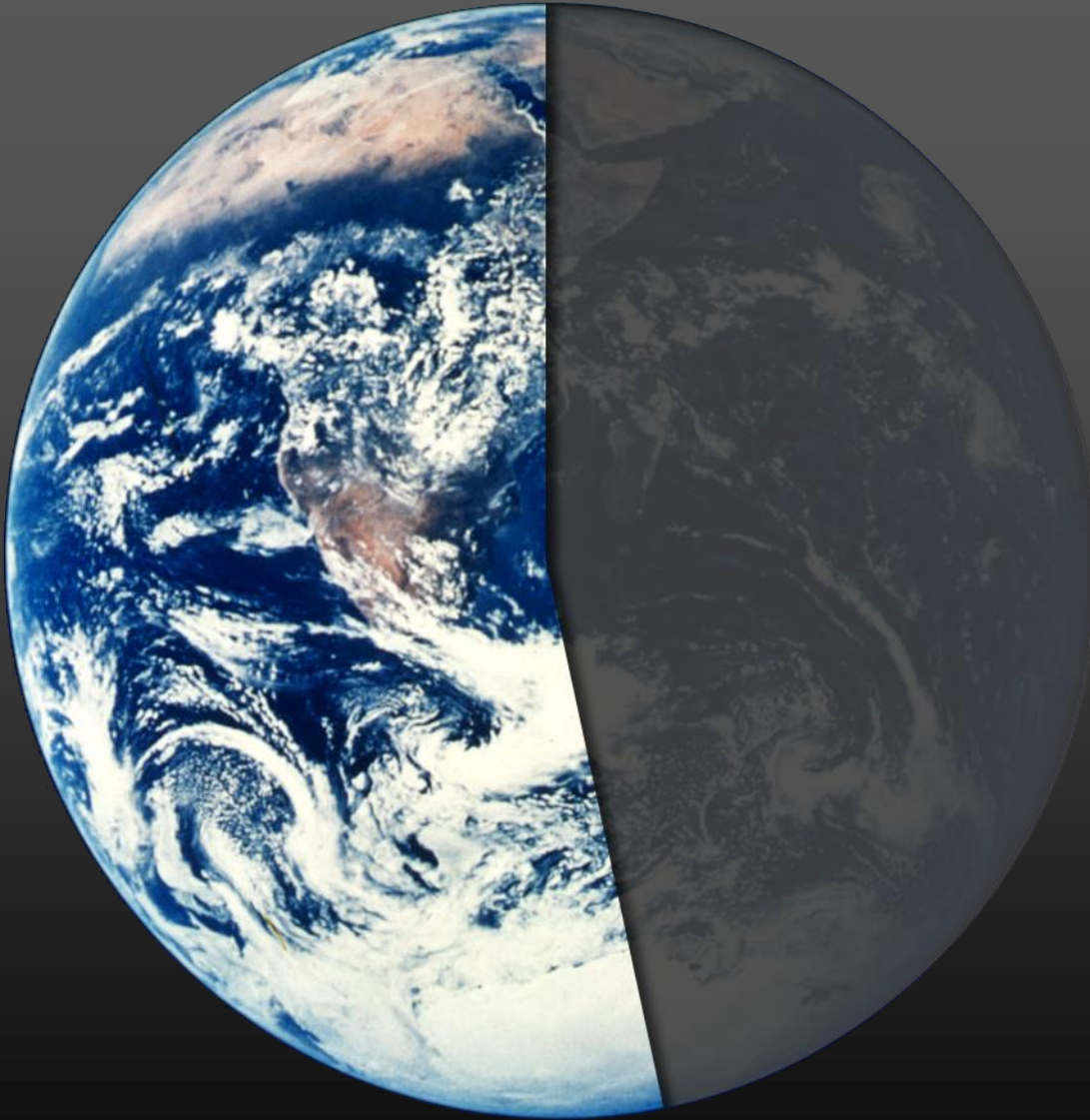
# Mobile Phone Subscribers Worldwide 1995



1.7%

# Mobile Phone Subscribers Worldwide 2010

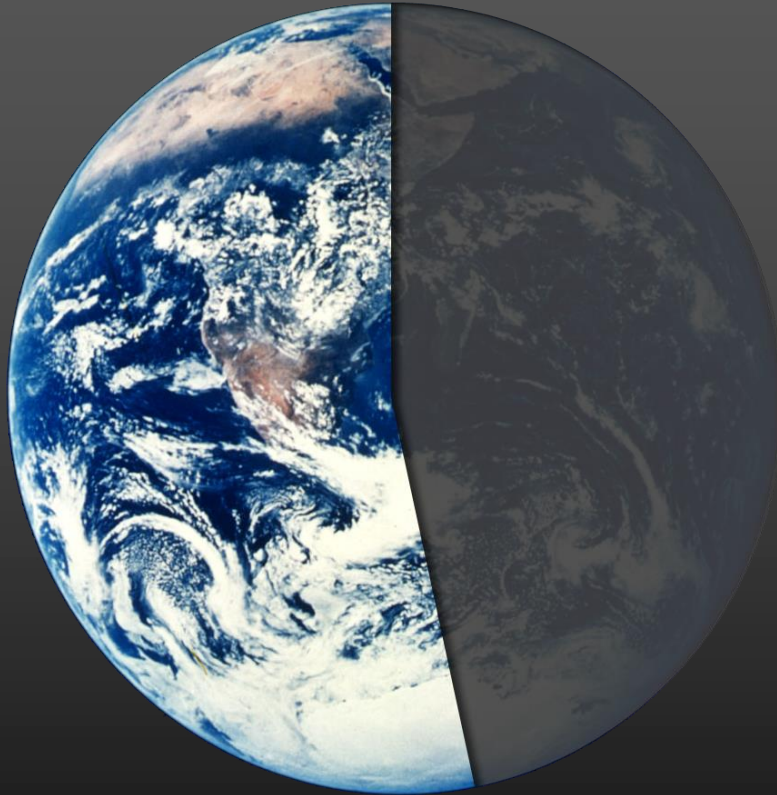
51.5%



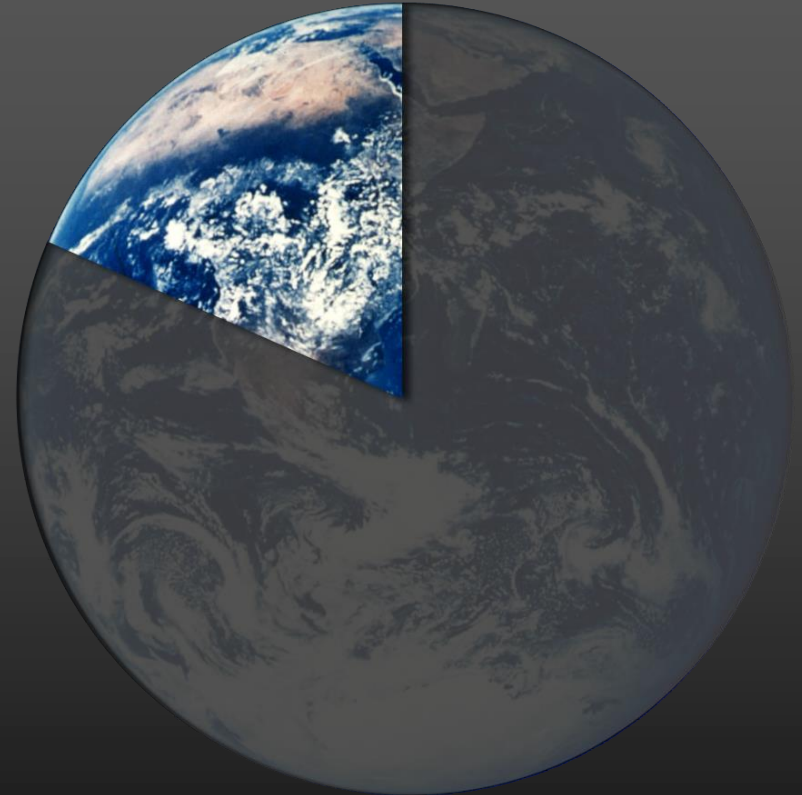


# 2010 Worldwide Projections

51.5% Mobile Phone Subscribers



19.12% PC Users



The mobile phone is positioned to revolutionize the way we can collect data about people, their behavior and the environment.

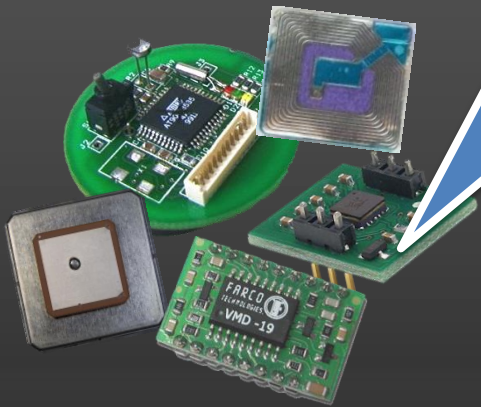
# challenges

- How do we collect the data?
- How do we incentivize people to contribute data?
- How can we sustain participation over time?
- How do we handle privacy issues?
- How do we analyze/filter the data?

# the myexperience tool

<http://myexperience.sourceforge.net>

sensors

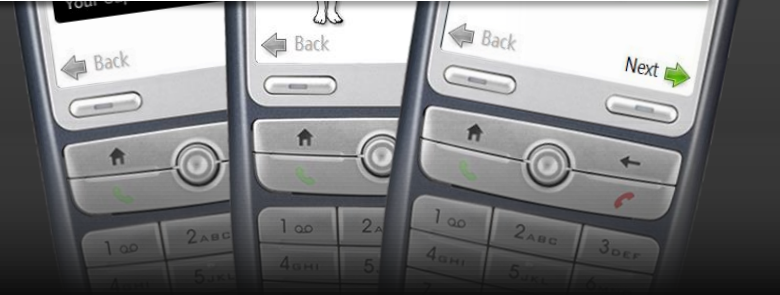


Device usage and context states (e.g., GPS) of mobile devices automatically sense

- + Technique scales
- Cannot capture perception, response

Users respond to short context-triggered surveys on their mobile device.

- + Can gather otherwise imperceptible data (both qual. and quant.)
- Lower sampling rate than sensors (increased user burden)



context

self-report

myexperience

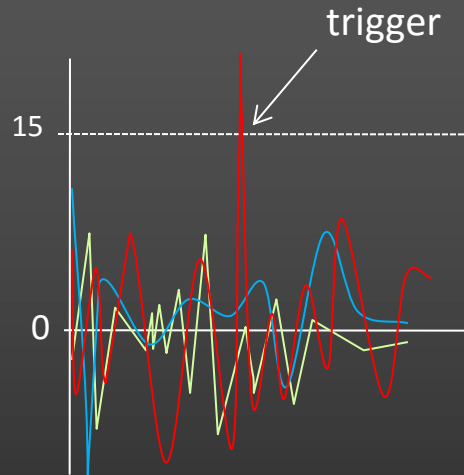
MyExperience is open source software under the BSD license

# sensors, triggers, actions

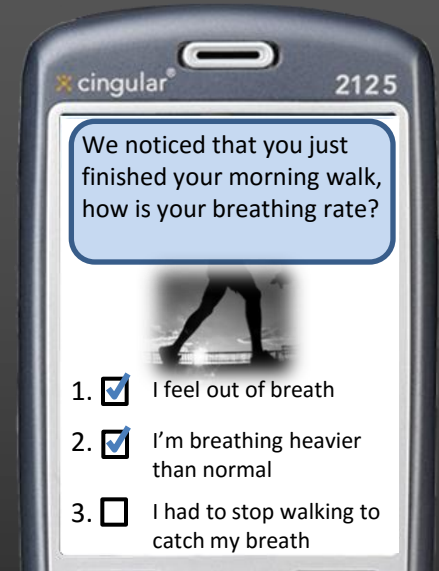
## Sensors



## Triggers



## Actions



### Example Sensor:

DeviceIdleSensor  
PhoneCallSensor  
RawGpsSensor  
SmsSentSensor  
HumanScaleActivitySensor

### Example Triggers:

DeviceIdle > 15 mins  
PhoneCall.Outgoing == true  
Gps.Longitude == "N141.23"  
SmsSent == true  
Activity.StateExited == Walking

### Example Actions:

ScreenshotAction  
VibrationAction  
SmsSendAction  
DatabaseSyncAction  
SurveyAction



# hardware sensors



## GPS Sensors

GpsLatLongSensor  
GpsRecordSensor  
GpsSpeedSensor  
GpsSpeedWindowSensor  
GpsSustainedSpeedSensor



## GSM Sensors

GsmCommonCellRatioSensor  
GsmCellSensor  
GsmMotionSensor  
PhoneSignalStrengthSensor



## MSP Sensors

ActivityProbabilitySensor  
MspConnectionSensor

# software sensors

## Device Usage Sensors

ButtonSensor  
ActiveApplicationSensor  
ForegroundWindowSensor  
DeviceIdleSensor  
MediaPlayerSensor



## Device State Sensors

StorageCardFullSensor  
PhoneProfileSensor  
PowerLineSensor  
PhoneRoamingSensor

## Communication Sensors

IncomingCallSensor  
OutgoingCallSensor  
SmsSentSensor  
SmsReceivedSensor

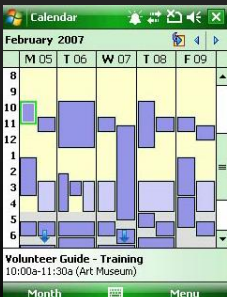


## Meta-Sensors

ActionCompletedSensor  
ActionStartingSensor  
GlobalsSensor  
MyExpStartingUpSensor  
MyExpShuttingDownSensor

## Calendar Sensors

CalAppointmentSensor  
CalAppointmentLocationSensor  
CalAppointmentSubjectSensor





Action Type	Summary Description
CreateProcessAction	Launches an additional process (this can be any executable that is local to the device).
KillProcessAction	Kills an existing process.
MessageAction	Displays a message in a dialog box to the user.
NotificationAction	Displays a notification in a dialog box to the user with a sound and/or vibration alert. User may respond “OK” or “Dismiss.”
PlayerAction	Plays a sound, vibrates the device, and/or flashes the device’s LEDs.
RecordAudioAction	Records audio in the background using the device’s microphone.
RestartDeviceAction	Restarts the device.
ScreenShotAction	Takes a screen shot of the current screen on the device.
SendSmsAction	Sends an SMS to a specified address.
SqlReplicationAction	If SQL Replication is setup, this action invokes a data replication with the master web server.
SurveyAction	Displays a survey to the user.

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Surveys do not necessarily have to ask simple closed form questions (e.g., Likert scale questions)



# xml / scripting interface

- XML : Declarative

- Define sensors, triggers, actions, and user interface
- Set properties
- Hook up events

```
<sensor name="Motion" type="GsmMotionSensor">  
  <prop name="PollInterval">00:00:01</prop>  
</sensor>
```

- Script : Procedural

- Create fully dynamic behaviors between elements specified in XML
- Interpreted in real time
- New scripts can be loaded on the fly

```
<trigger name="Motion" type="Trigger">  
  <script>  
    motionSensor = GetSensor("Motion");  
    if(motionSensor.StateEntered = "Stationary"){  
      ... do some action ...  
    }  
  </script>  
</trigger>
```



# mobilephoneusage



**Jon Froehlich<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike Y. Chen<sup>2</sup>, Sunny  
Consolvo<sup>1,2</sup>, James Landay<sup>1,2</sup>**



design:  
use:  
build:

<sup>1</sup> university of washington

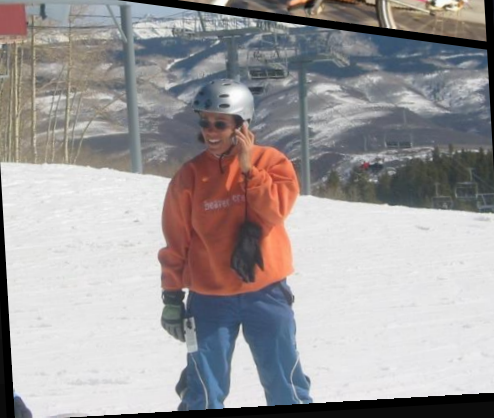
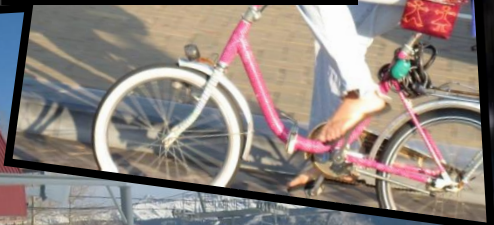
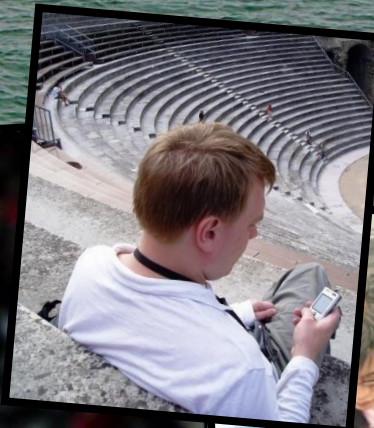
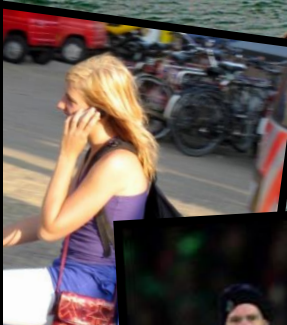


<sup>2</sup> Intel Research, Seattle





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# our goal

Collect data about *real* device usage & context *in the field* in a scalable fashion



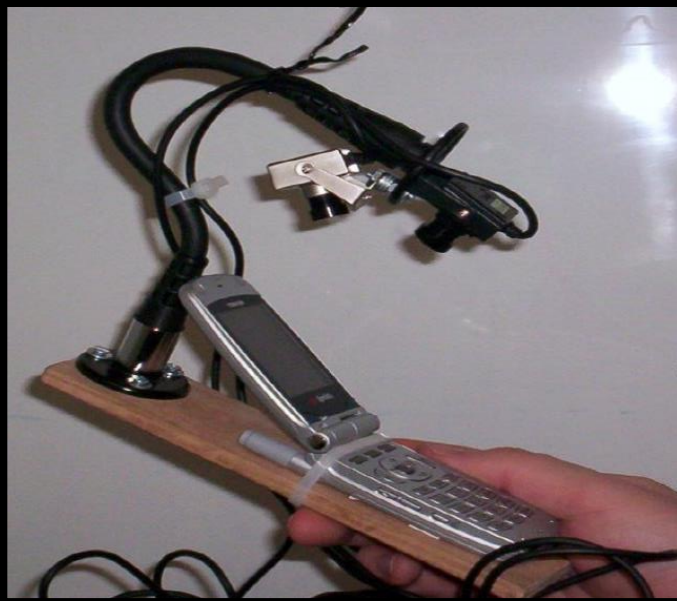
Data can be used to

- Better understand actual device/system usage
  - E.g., how mobility patterns affect access to WiFi
- Inform the design of future systems
  - E.g., optimize battery utilization algorithms based on learned charging behaviors



Kjeldskov, J. and Stage, J. *New Techniques for Usability Evaluation of Mobile Systems*. IHCS2003

Schusteritsch et al. *Towards the Perfect Infrastructure for Usability Testing on Mobile Devices*. CHI2007.





Roto et al. *Examining Mobile Phone Use in the Wild with Quasi-Experimentation*. HIIT Tech Report 2004



Backup recording for camera 4



Reichl et al. *The LiLiPUT Prototype: A Wearable Lab Environment for User Tests of Mobile Telecommunication Applications*. CHI2007



# research challenges

1. Coverage: collect rich information about features of interest
2. Scale: collect large amounts of data over long periods of time
3. Extensible: easily add new data collecting capabilities
4. Situated: collect *real* usage data in its natural setting
5. Robustness: protect or backup data collected in the field



# case study 1: charging behavior



## Motivation

- Battery life has long been a challenge in mobile computing
- Dependent on usage:
  - WiFi, video, length of calls

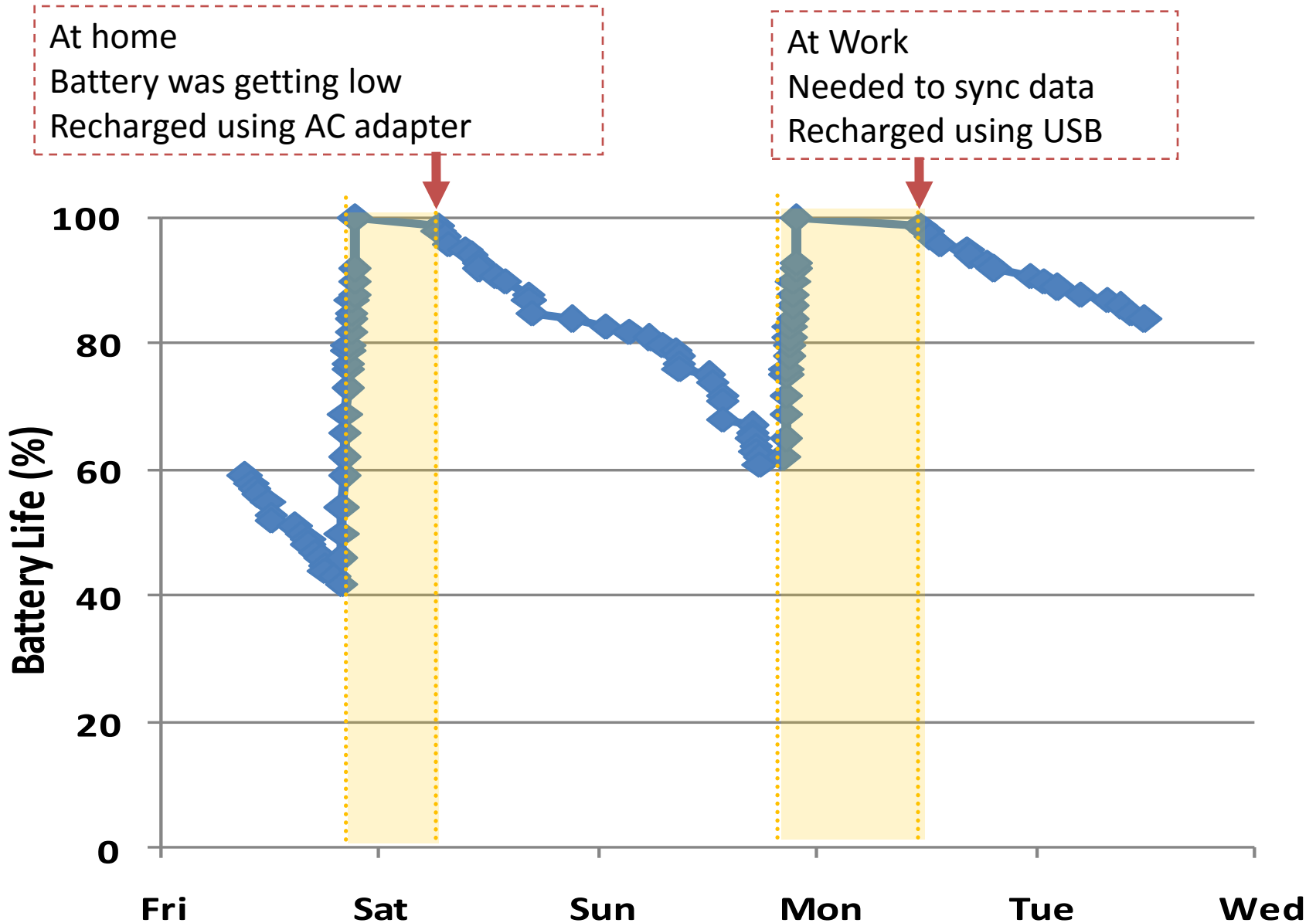
## Study



- 2 week pilot study with 4 people
- Log device usage (e.g., phone calls, WiFi, active applications)
- Actively track battery life
- Survey at moments of charging



# battery life & user response



# case study 2: sms usage



## Motivation

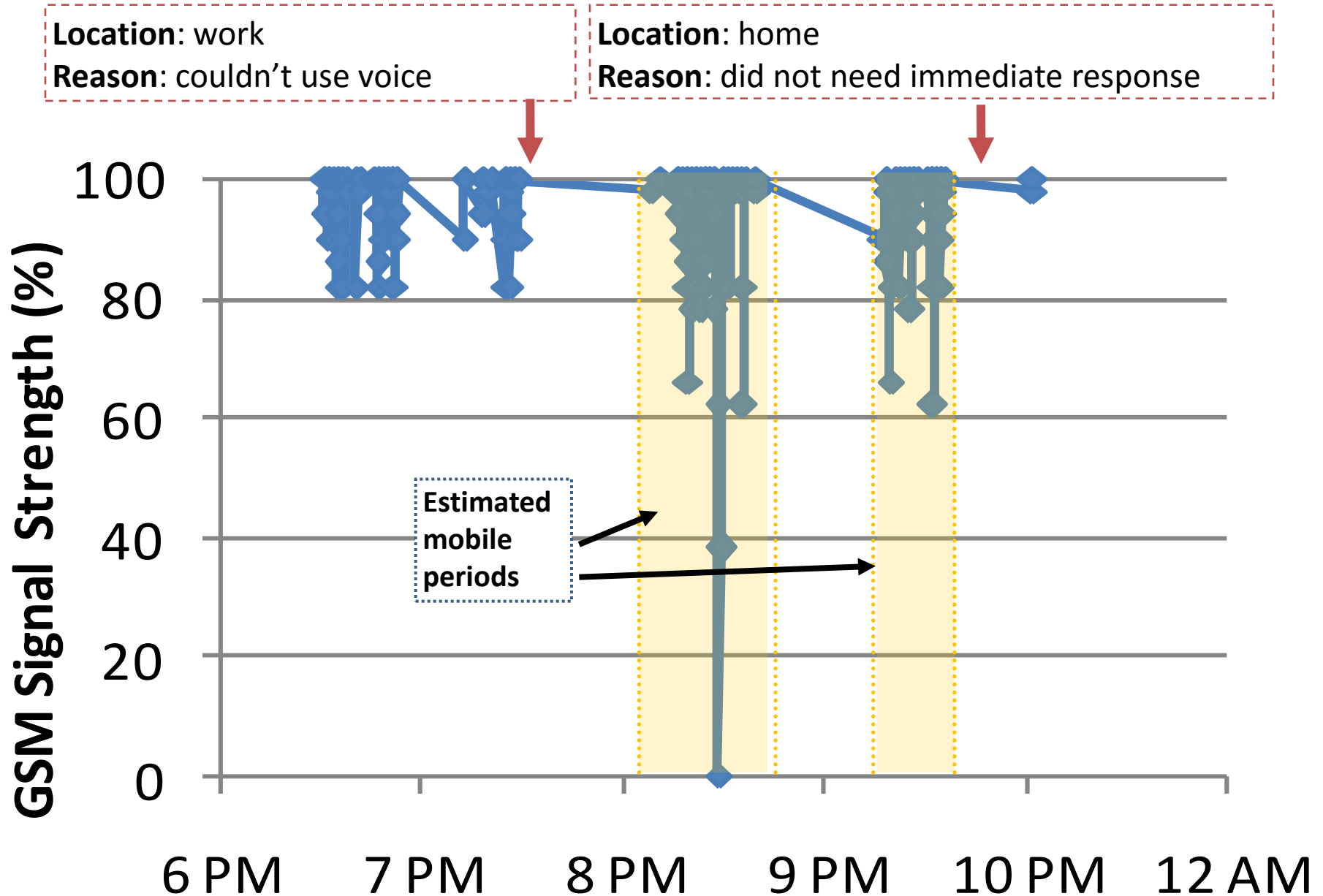
- 1 trillion SMS messages sent worldwide in 2005
- Explosive growth begs research questions:
  - Why SMS vs. voice?
  - Where do people use SMS?



## Study

- Similar setup as before
- Asked questions after SMS sent
  - User's location
  - Reason for using SMS

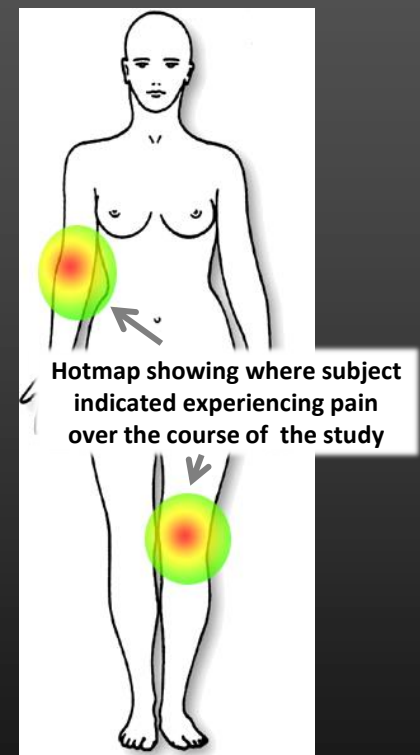
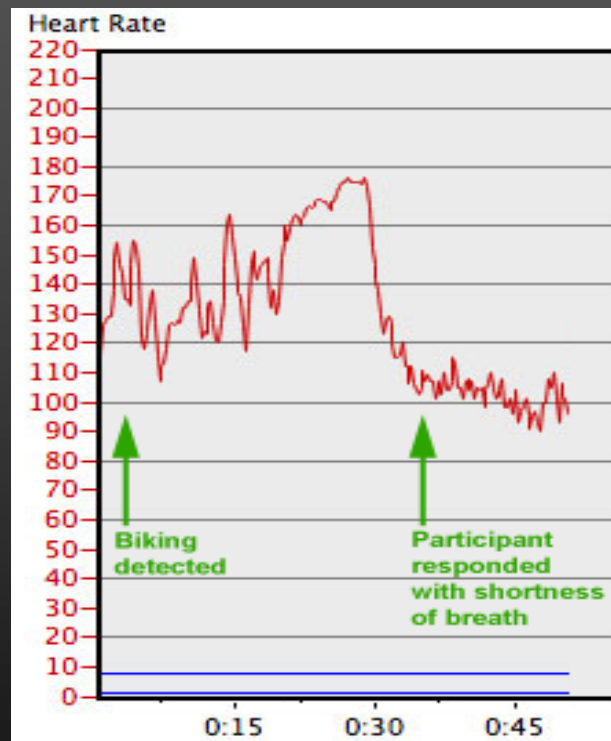
# sms usage, mobility & self-report





# analysis tools

How can we analyze gigabytes of sensor data per participant plus contextualized self-report data?



# myexperience studies

Studying  
Activity Recall

Stress, Behavior  
Change and  
Heart  
Monitoring

UbiFit

Activities  
and Mobile  
Phone Usage

Mobile Heart  
Health Study

Vote with  
Your Feet

UbiGreen

Obesity, Activities  
and Geography

Pain/Fatigue  
Management  
in Multiple  
Sclerosis  
Patients

# votewithyourfeet



**Jon Froehlich<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike Chen<sup>2</sup>,  
Ian Smith<sup>2</sup>, and Fred Potter<sup>1,2</sup>**

**dub**

design:  
use:  
build:

<sup>1</sup> university of washington



<sup>2</sup> Intel Research, Seattle



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In Stock  
Publication Date: November 21, 1995


**Our Price: \$68.00** [Used & new](#) from **\$47.92**

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Explicit  
Implicit

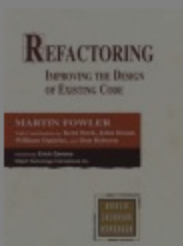
2.  **[The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception](#)**  
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Average Customer Review: ★★★★★  
In Stock  
Publication Date: January 1, 1987

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In Stock  
Publication Date: June 28, 1999

**Our Price: \$46.79** [Used & new](#) from **\$27.99**

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# TiVo's Suggestions

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 1 That '70s Show           | Mon 4/10 |
| 2 Saturday Night Live      | Sun 4/9  |
| 3 Oscar                    | Mon 4/17 |
| 4 The Drew Carey Show      | Sun 4/9  |
| 5 Back to School           | Sat 4/15 |
| 6 The Owl and the Pussycat | Sat 4/15 |
| 7 Innerspace               | Wed 4/12 |
| 8 Senseless                | Sun 4/9  |

# Can we view place visit behaviors as an implicit form of expressing interest?



→ I like Pagliaccis Pizza?

→ I like Pizza?

→ I like Italian food?

## Visits to more Italian restaurants

→ Make stronger claims?



# explicit vs. implicit indicators



VS.

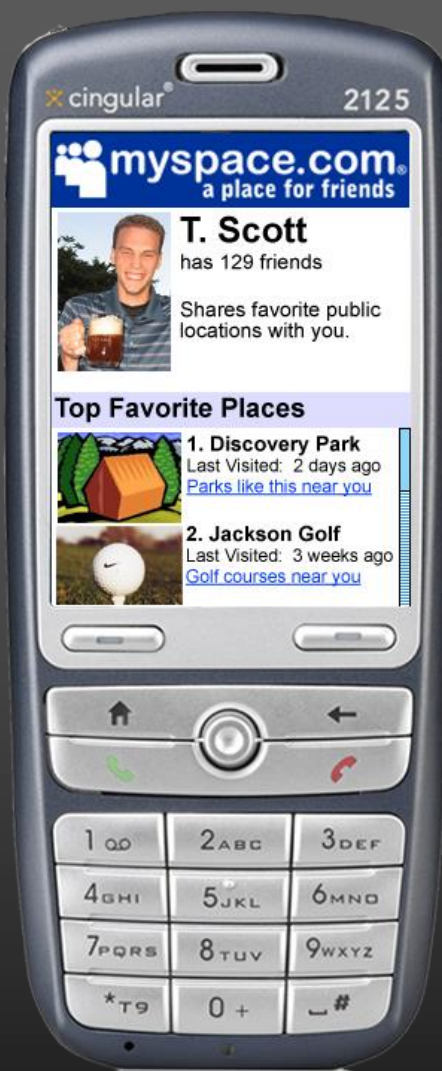
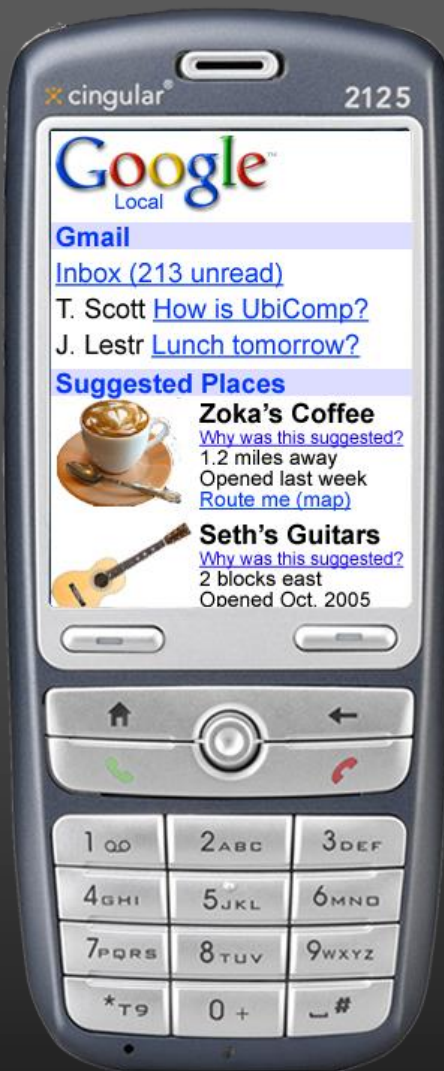


## Explicit Indicators

- Move about the world → Supply rating “tags”
- Requires device interaction

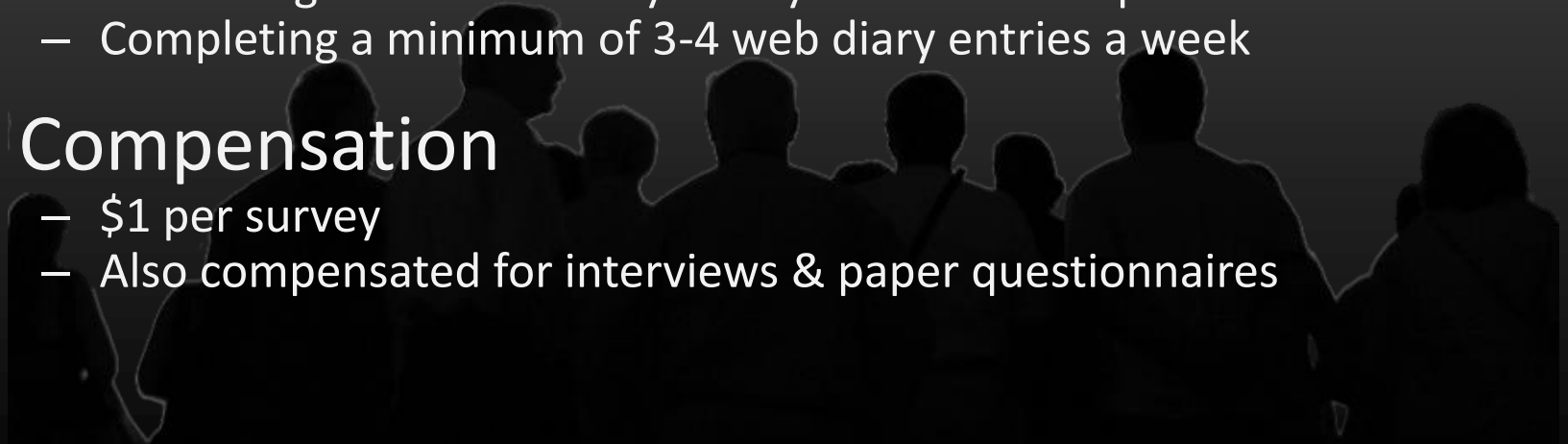
## Implicit Indicators

- Location aware device → Observe travel patterns
- No device Interaction



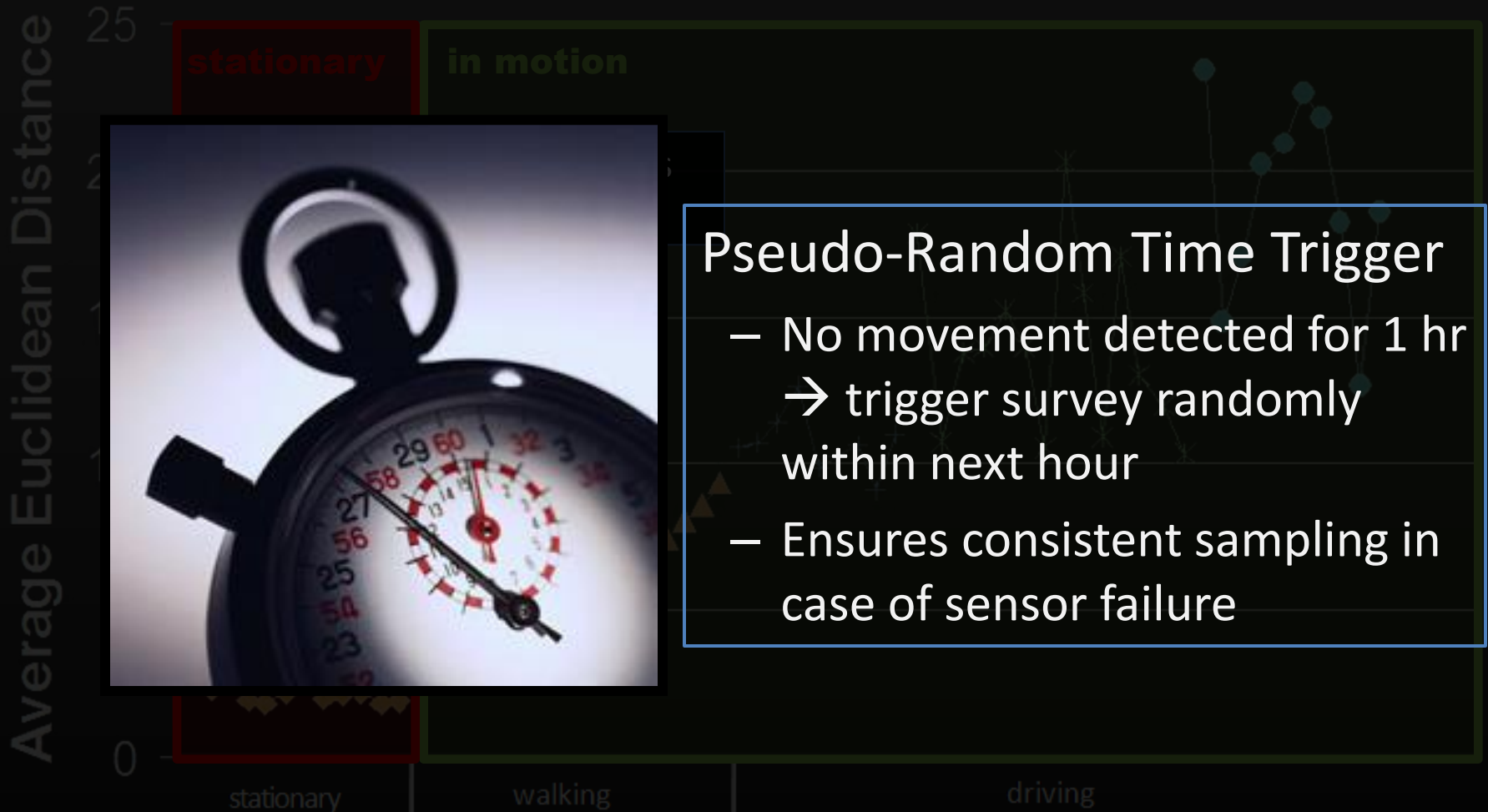
# study overview

- Four week study
- Participant profile
  - 16 Participants
  - Gender balanced (8 male / 8 female)
  - Ages: 22-56 (median 29)
  - Various professions
    - Furniture designer, political consultant, bookseller, translator, ...
- Tasked with
  - Carrying mobile phone for four weeks
  - Answering 11 *in situ* surveys a day about current place
  - Completing a minimum of 3-4 web diary entries a week
- Compensation
  - \$1 per survey
  - Also compensated for interviews & paper questionnaires





# survey triggers

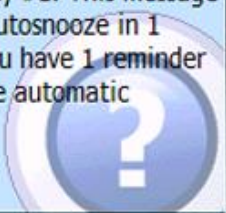


AUDIOVOX



## Survey #1

Please click the OK button to take Survey #1. This message box will autosnooze in 1 minute. You have 1 reminder left before automatic dismissal.



OK

Menu

AUDIOVOX



1. Place name:

3 Pigs Bar-B-Q Bellevue

Key Arena

Kona Kitchen-Seattle

LexisNexis-Applied D...

Loews Theaters - Al...

McGrath's Fish Bar - ...

My House

Net Desk - Seattle

Back

Next

AUDIOVOX



2. Place category:

Restaurant

3. Please rate how much you like this place:



Back

Next

AUDIOVOX



4. How did you get here?

Car

5. How long did it take you to get here?

6 - 15 minutes

Back

Next

1. What was the primary reason for your rating?

2. How did you find out about this place?

3. Why did you go to this place?

4. Would you recommend this place to others? Why or why not?

5. If you were with a group, how did the group decide to go to this place?  
If you were not with a group, type "N/A"

**Timeline for 09/08/2005**

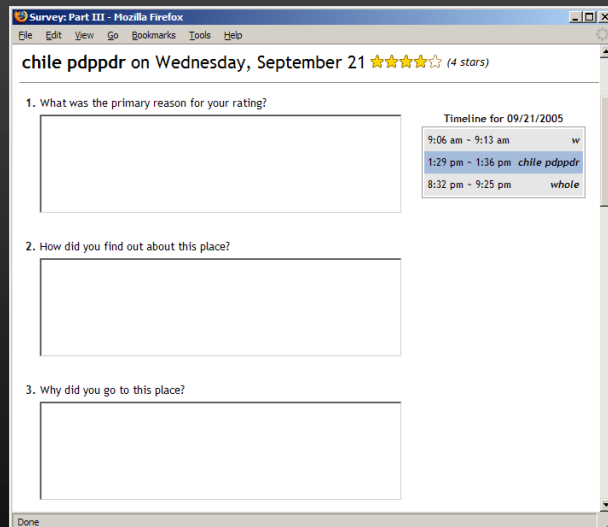
5:32 pm (Wed) ~ 8:23 am	<i>My House</i>
8:30 am ~ 8:38 am	<i>Car</i>
9:12 am ~ 12:09 pm	<i>Net Desk - Seattle</i>
12:17 pm ~ 12:28 pm	<i>Walk</i>
12:28 pm ~ 12:46 pm	<i>Chez Dave - Union Square</i>
12:55 pm ~ 2:20 pm	<i>Walking</i>
2:20 pm ~ 3:48 pm	<i>Net Desk - Seattle</i>
3:48 pm ~ 3:50 pm	<i>Walking</i>
4:42 pm ~ 4:44 pm	<i>Rock Bottom - Seattle</i>
4:51 pm ~ 5:01 pm	<i>Walking</i>
6:35 pm ~ 6:39 pm	<i>Elephant and Castle</i>
6:46 pm ~ 7:34 pm	<i>Walking</i>
8:07 pm ~ 9:16 pm	<i>Fox Sports</i>



# data collection stats



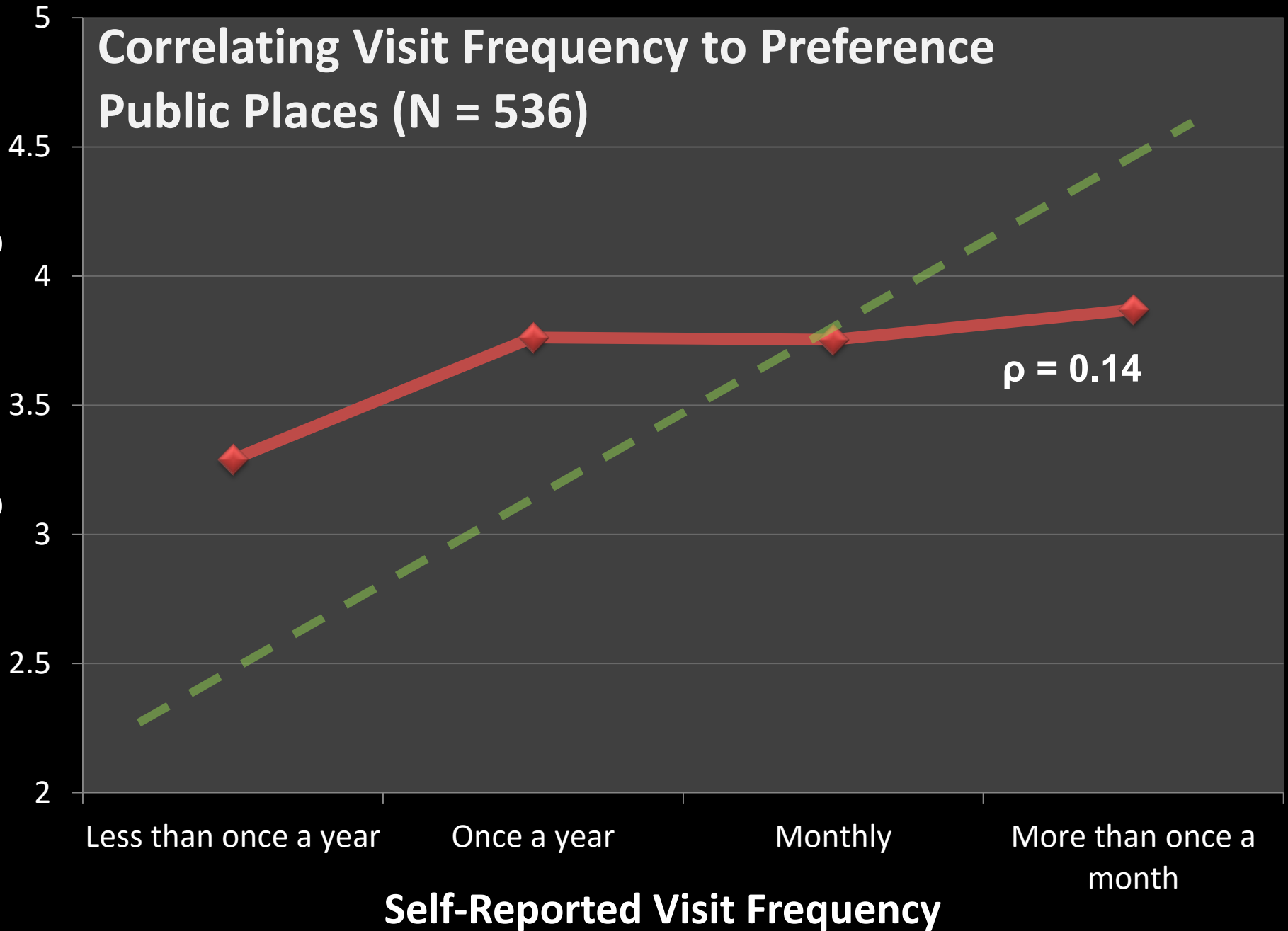
- ESM
  - 3,458 completed out of 4,295 (80.5%)
  - 216 surveys completed per person
  - 28 days average
  - 1.5 minute average completion time
- Web Diary
  - 368 web diary sessions completed
- Places
  - 1,981 individual place visits logged
  - 862 of which were public
    - ~2 a day per participant



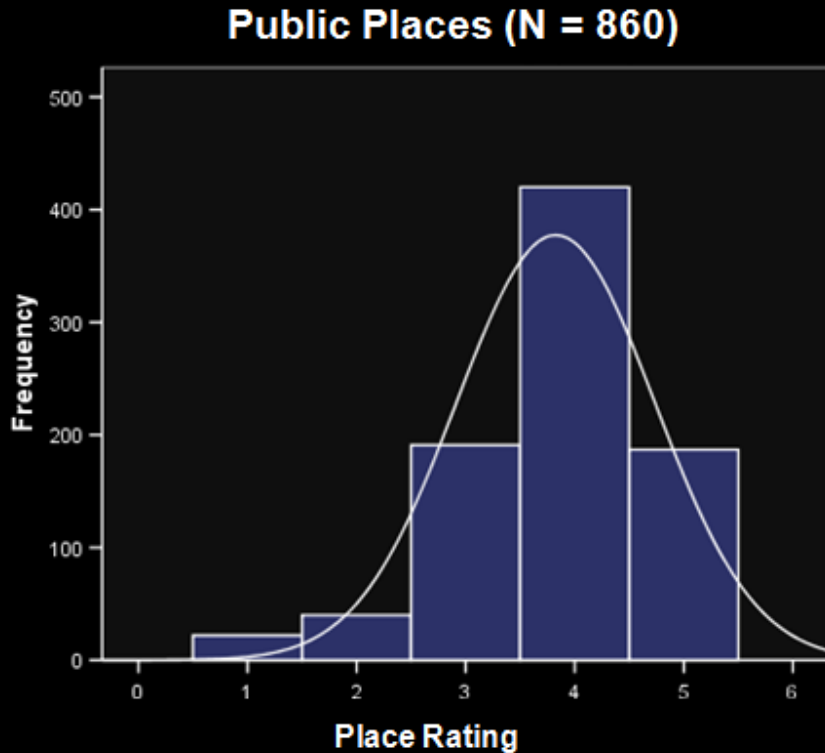
# Correlating Visit Frequency to Preference

## Public Places (N = 536)

Average Place Rating



# skewed distribution of ratings



*...by and large I go to places I've been to before and I already like.*

-Participant #1

*Most of them get pretty good ratings, 4's or 5's because I scrupulously avoid places that I've known I don't like and I always go back to the ones I do like.*

- Participant #12

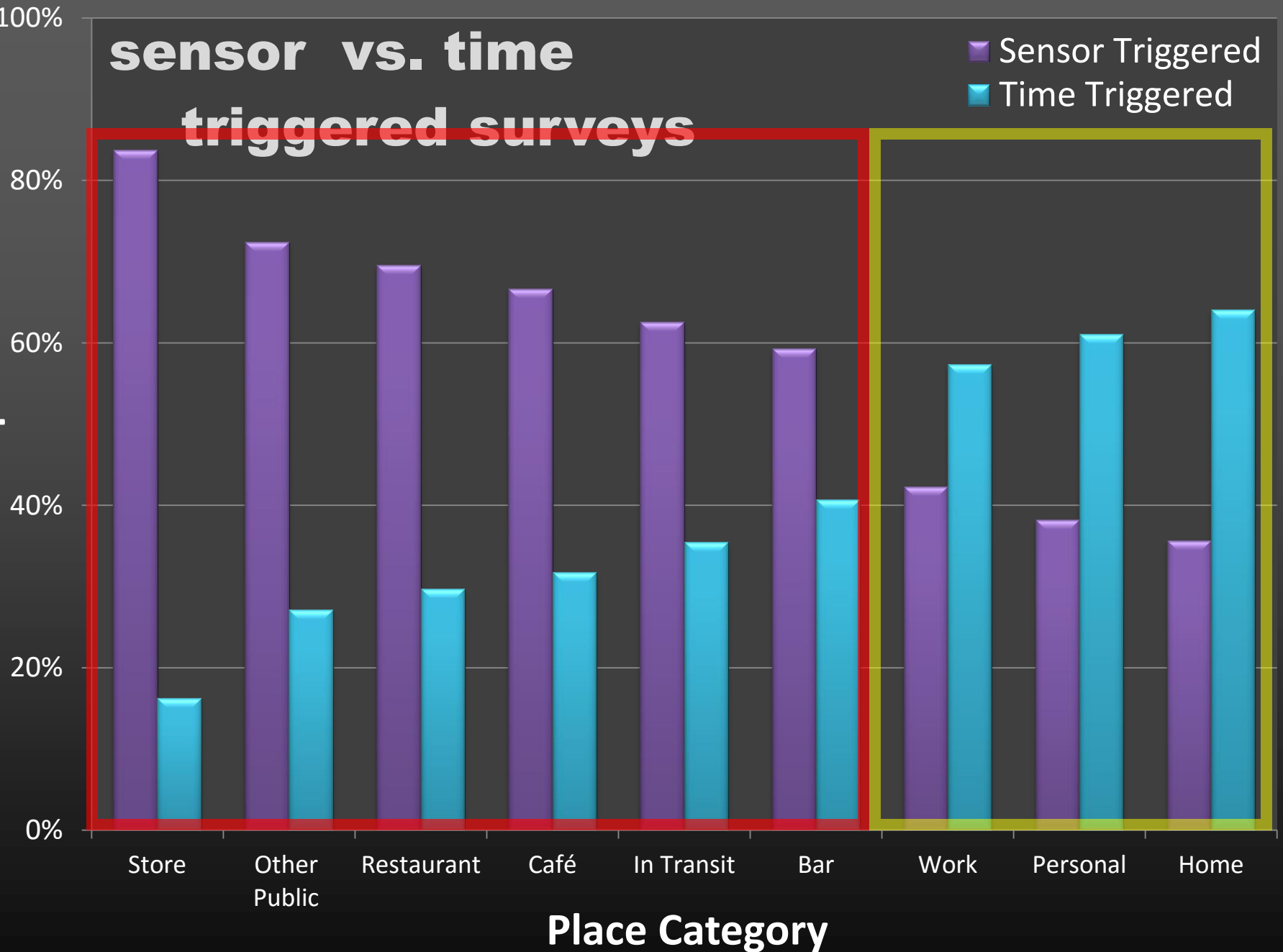
Distribution of ratings indicates that people tend to go where they like



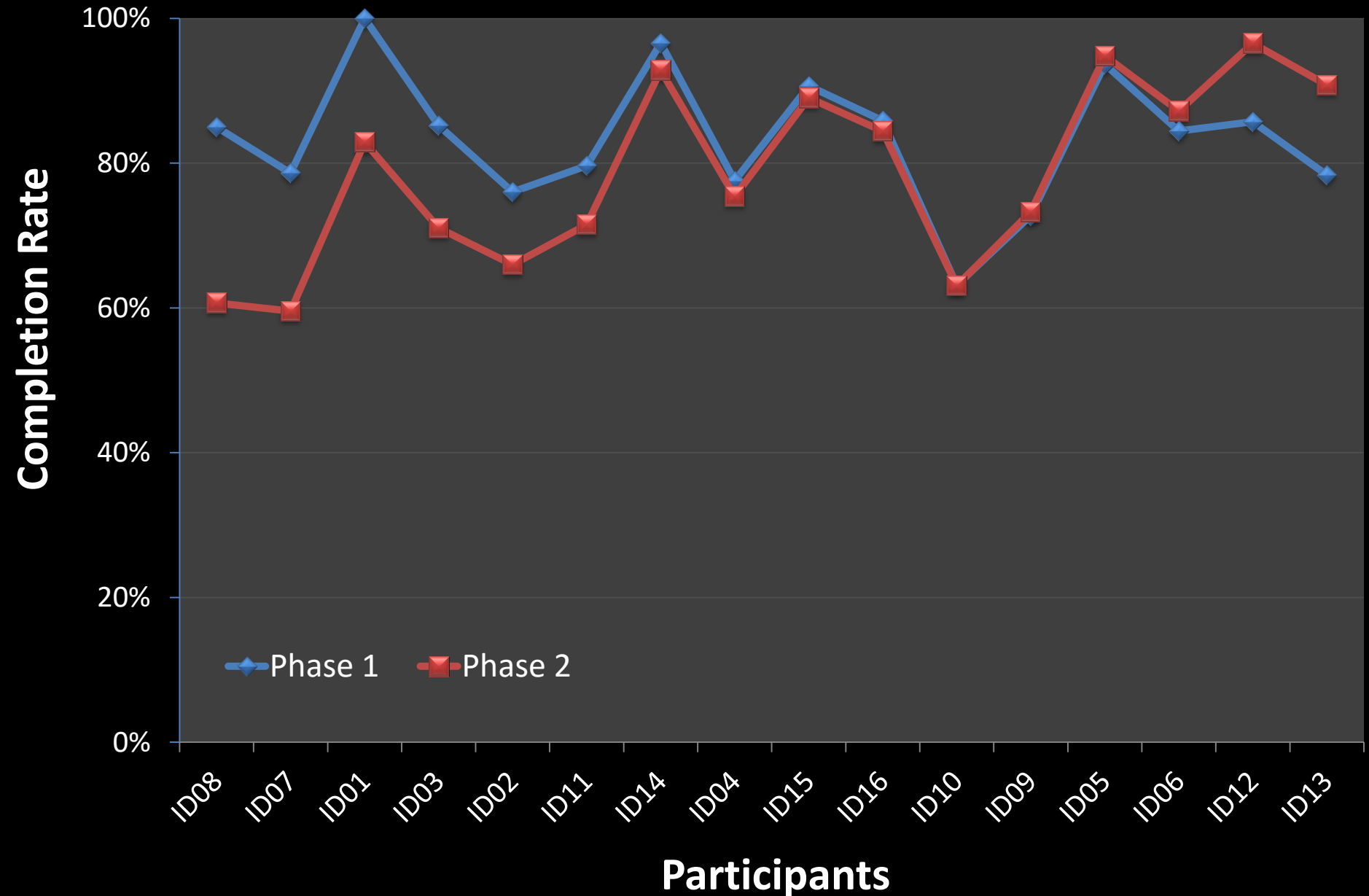
# sensor vs. time triggered surveys

■ Sensor Triggered  
■ Time Triggered

% Completed



# Survey Completion Rates For Phase I and II



# ubifit



**Sunny Consolvo<sup>1,2</sup>, Jon Froehlich<sup>1,2</sup>, Beverly Harrison<sup>2</sup>,  
Pedja Klasnja<sup>1,2</sup>, Anthony LaMarca,<sup>2</sup> James Landay<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Louis Legrand<sup>2</sup>, Ryan Libby<sup>1,2</sup>, David McDonald<sup>1</sup>, Ian  
Smith<sup>2</sup>, Tammy Toscos<sup>2</sup>**



design:  
use:  
build:

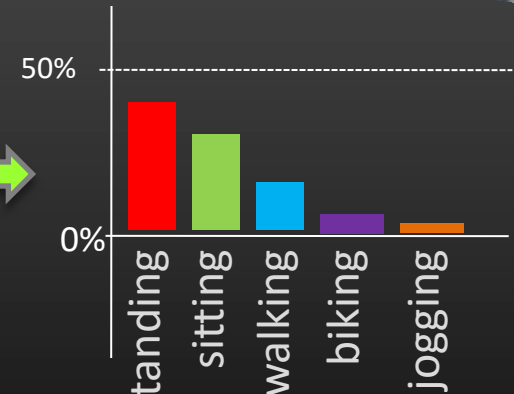
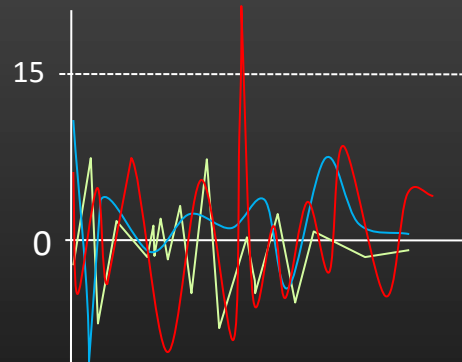
<sup>1</sup> university of washington



<sup>2</sup> Intel Research, Seattle

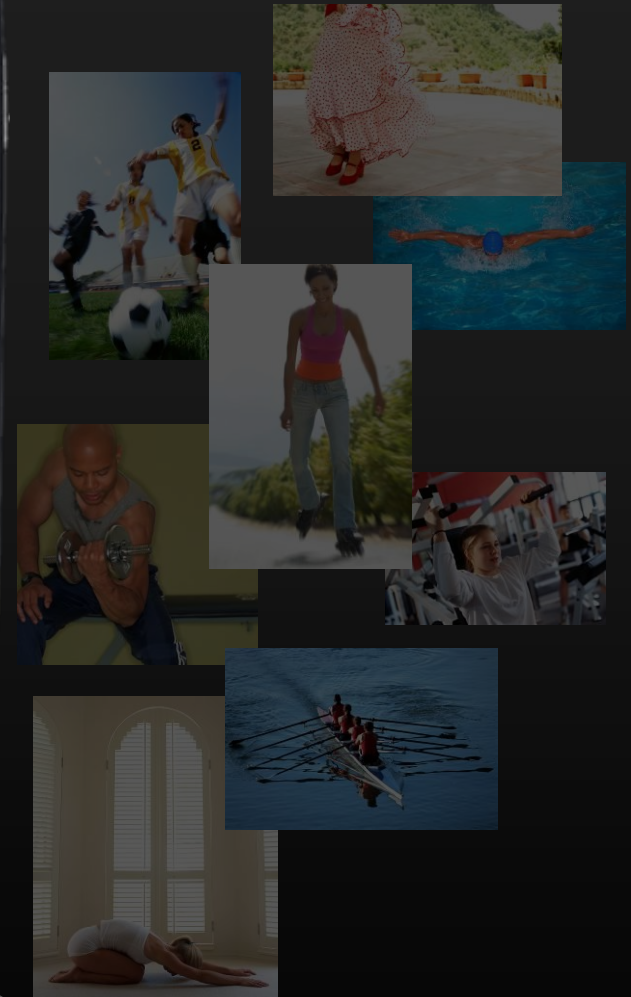
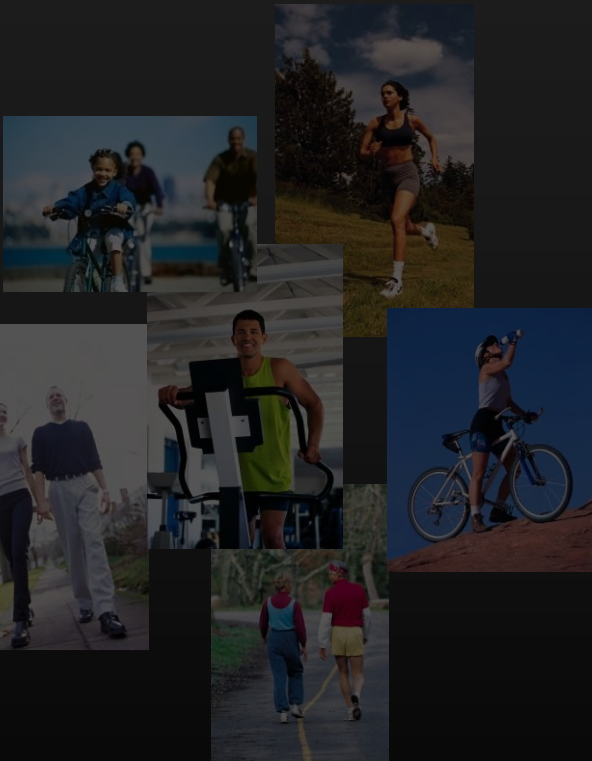
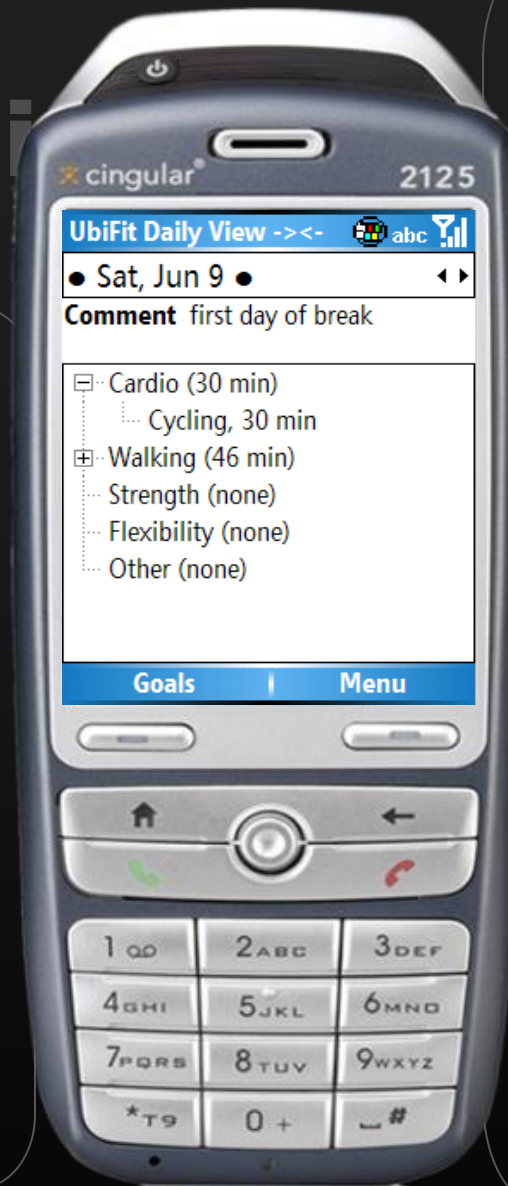


# mSP & myexperience

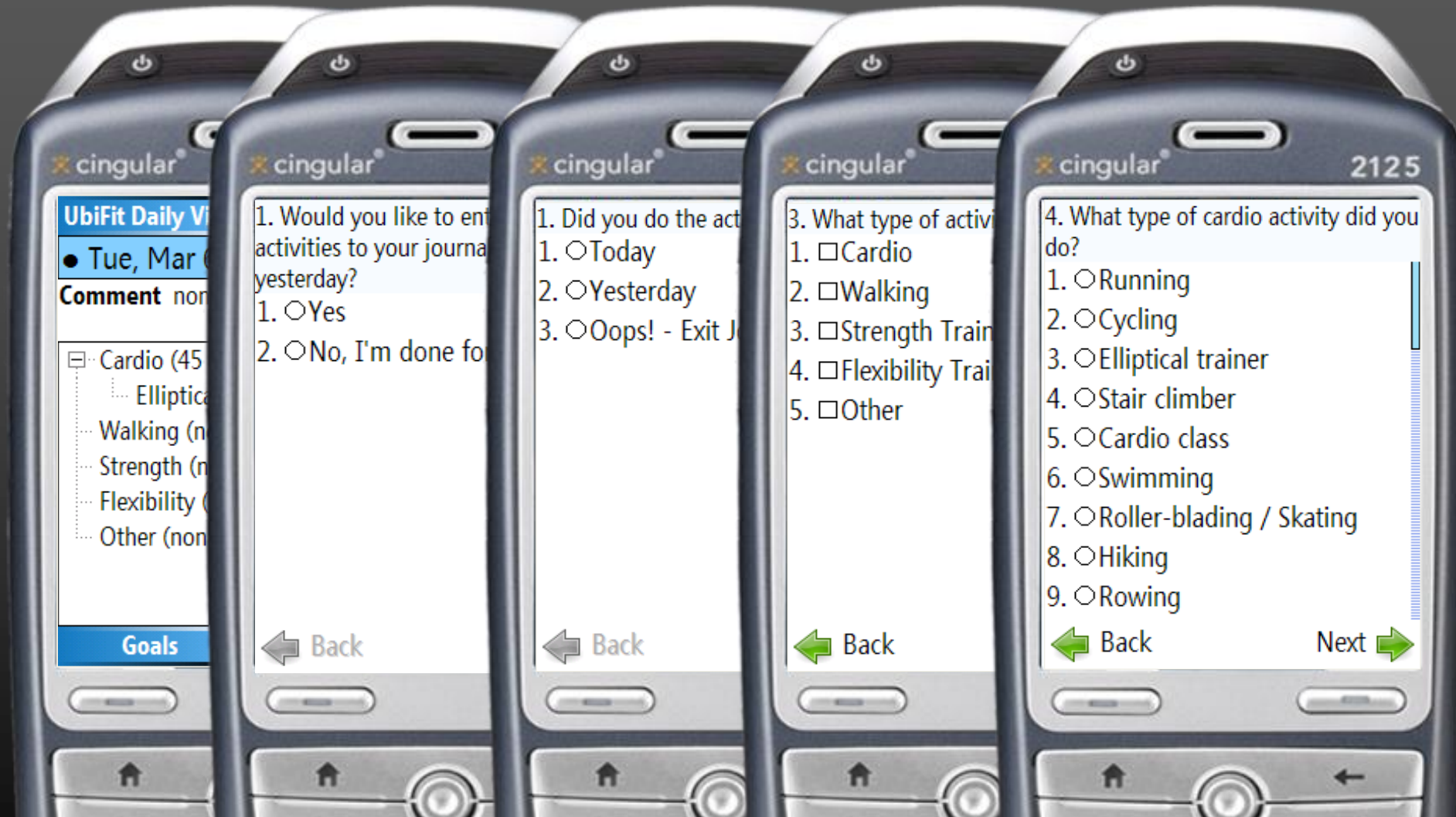


# activity journal

any physical activity including  
those not inferred by the  
fitness device



# manual journaling





# subset of ubifit triggers

## Journal reminder

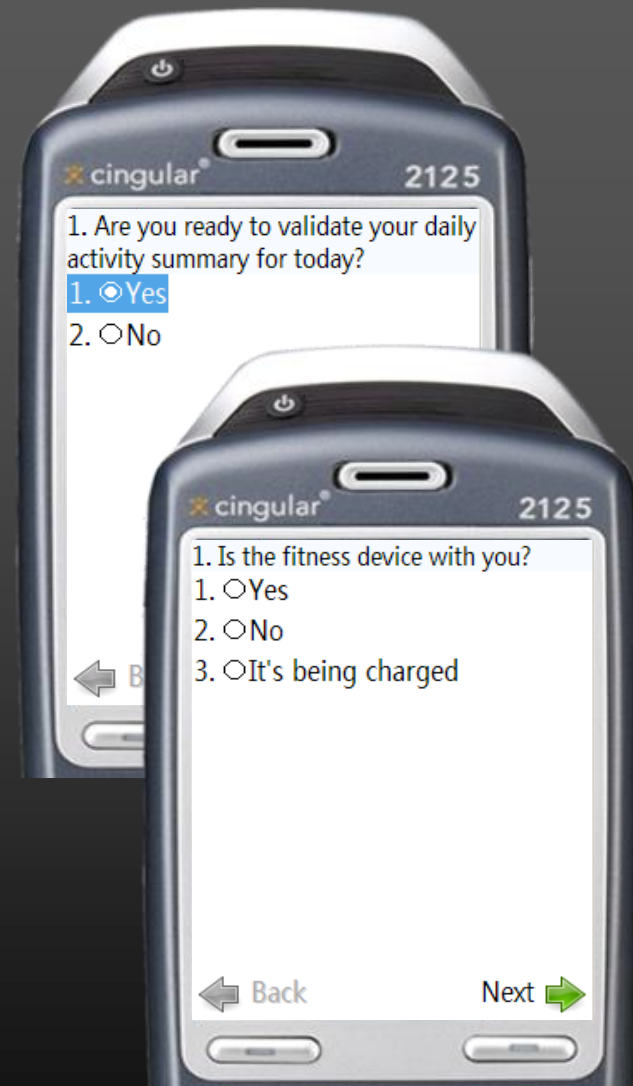
- If journal has not been used in ~2 days and it's past 8PM, launch journal reminder

## Uncertain activity occurred

- If the system *knows* an activity occurred but couldn't determine the exact activity, a survey is launched

## MSP troubleshooter

- If the MSP hasn't been seen in ~2 hrs and it's after 10AM, launch a troubleshooter



# glanceable display

*runs on the background screen of mobile phones, so it's frequently seen by the individual*

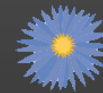


at-a-glance determination of:

- active or inactive week,
- variety in routine,
- this week's goal met
- recent goal met



day view



strength



cardio



flexibility



walk



this week's goal met



recent goal met



# the glanceable display in action



walk



cardio



strength



flexibility



this week's goal met



recent goal met



# ubigreen



**Jon Froehlich<sup>1,2</sup>, Beverly Harrison<sup>2</sup>, Pedja Klasnja<sup>1,2</sup>,  
James Landay<sup>1,2</sup>, Jen Mankoff<sup>3</sup>**



design:  
use:  
build:

<sup>1</sup> university of washington



<sup>2</sup> Intel Research, Seattle

# ubigreen



# myexperience

# thankyou!

home

download

docs

source

contact



Quick Download

Release 2007-10-11

Recent SVN Commit Activity

Revision 130

Date: November 8, 11:07 am  
Recency: 6.0 days ago  
Author: jonfroehlich  
Files: 0 add | 0 del | 2 mod  
Message: updated the MyExperience Logger cab installer so that a shortcut is copied into WindowsStartUp (more)

Revision 129

Date: November 8, 11:07 am  
Recency: 6.0 days ago  
Author: jonfroehlich  
Files: 0 add | 0 del | 2 mod  
Message: updated the MyExperience Logger cab installer so that a shortcut is copied into WindowsStartUp

# download myexperience @ <http://myexperience.sourceforge.net>

**MyExperience** is a context-aware data collection platform for capturing objective and subjective data *as it's experienced*.

**email: [jonfroehlich@gmail.com](mailto:jonfroehlich@gmail.com)**

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Webpage designed and developed by Jon Froehlich, Copyright (c) 2007



**backup slides**