

MAPS Project – 4 month recap

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1. Catching up on research

In order to start working on the project, Stefan started me out learning a bit of background of both our individual MAPS project, as well as the L3D and Clever groups themselves. I looked over the Clever website, familiarizing myself with the other projects, and began attending L3D and Clever meetings. I also did some reading about Assistive Technology to find out anything there was about it out there. I watched the Visions video, which gives the viewer a good idea of how it works. This helped put our project in perspective by comparing it to similar technology. I assessed the good and bad parts of it, which helped focus me on the goals of the MAPS project.

2. Learn the software/equipment

While I was in the process of learning about assistive technology, I also was learning about the software and equipment that we were going to be working on. I did a few Palm Pilot tutorials and also learned Code Warrior. I also adopted the Handspring Visor as my own to learn (and then become addicted to) its technology. Up until the beginning of September, we had planned to implement the MAPS technology on the Handspring Visor Palm Pilot. However, after spending a lot of time trying to figure out how we were going to do what we wanted to do, including displaying pictures and playing sounds at the same time, we had to switch to the Compac IPAQ running Windows CE. Although unfortunate that we could not work on the Palm OS, the limit of one attachment was just not going to meet our needs and was hindering our progress. I also spent a good amount of time trying to learn about the Sybase database, which hopefully we will continue to use with our project.

3. Continue research

Over the last four months I have also been doing research on Prompting systems and user interface design as well as trying to get to know more of the L3D jargon and people.

4. Design the UI

Towards the end of the summer, Aaron, Audrey, Stefan and I all brainstormed some User Interface design ideas for the caretaker side of our project. I took ideas from several websites that I think are easy to navigate, as well as Windows programs.

5. Present the project

This past month [October] I have spent the majority of my time re-organizing the MAPS website, and will continue to clean it up and improve it.