

August 27th, 2009

An elderly lady is about to go to bed. She goes into her room, sits down on the bed, takes off her slippers and turns off the light. Suddenly, before getting into bed, a small alarm goes off and a mobile device reminds her that she has not taken her tablets.

The system recognizes the everyday actions of the users by means of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) labels. These labels are discreetly placed on the objects that the individuals touch most often, in such a way that, when they do so, a signal is sent to a computer or mobile device situated in the house itself or at an assistance centre some distance away.

In order to evaluate the system, the scientists have designed a Tagged World, an intelligent space which simulates the rooms of a house, with [sensors](#) embedded in the environment which help to recognize the behaviour of its occupants. The researchers monitored each user so as to obtain an individualized database. They later verified with a test the reliability of the system and the degree of intrusion felt by the participants.

More information: Miguel Delgado, María Ros, M. Amparo Vila. "Correct behavior identification system in a Tagged World". *Expert Systems with Applications* 36 (6): 9899-9906, 2009.











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2.5

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The biggest problem is we are still 10 years or so from a generation of old people who are so familiar with computers that even as they lose mental functions, computers will still seem normal and be easy for them to use. I started my folks as early as I could, but mostly they just use computers for email and other writing. Anything else throws them.

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