Notes from an emerging Mobile SIG at OUCS

ICT Forum Conference 2008
16 July 2008

Paul Trafford

Computing Services

A symbol of Mobility

" ***Mobility*** *has become the key characteristic of our period. Social and physical mobility, the feeling of a certain sort of freedom, is one of the things that keeps our society together, and the symbol of this freedom is the individually-owned motor-car..* "

Alison and Peter Smithson c. 1962

The new symbol?

" *Mobility* has become the key characteristic of our period. Social and physical mobility, the feeling of a certain sort of freedom, is one of the things that keeps our society together, and the symbol of this freedom is the individually-owned *mobile phone*.. "

Poetic license c. 2008

*What do we mean by **Mobile?***

1981: Portable Computer

- *5" greyscale screen*

- *64K RAM*

- *External keyboard*

- *Office software*

- *Optional modem*

- *Optional battery pack*

2007: Handheld Computer

- *1.5" colour screen*

- *128MB RAM*

- *Touch screen*

- *Groupware, Multimedia*

- *Bluetooth, GPRS*

- *Built-in battery*

*What do we mean by **Mobile?***

1981: Osborne 1

2007: MyMobile M500

- *Weight: 11Kg*

- *Weight: 60g*

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Mobile Projects Around the University

Comlab
Theory of
Mobile Processes (1990s),
Ubiquitous Computing
(2007 –)

Mobile Projects Around the University

C [obscured]

T [obscured]

Mobile Pr [obscured]
Ubiquit [obscured]

Soc. Sci.
Development of Handheld
Computing in the UK:
New Technology,
Uncertain Uses (1997 - 9)

Mobile Projects Around the University

Med. Sci.
Mobile phones,
magnetic fields and cancer,
(2003, 2006)

Mobile Projects Around the University

C...
T...
Mobile Pr...
Ubiquit...

Soc. Sci.
Develop...
Comp...
New...
Uncerta...

Med. Sci.
Mobile phones
magn...

OUCS
M-Learning review,
McLean (2003),
JISC RAMBLE Project
(2004 – 5)
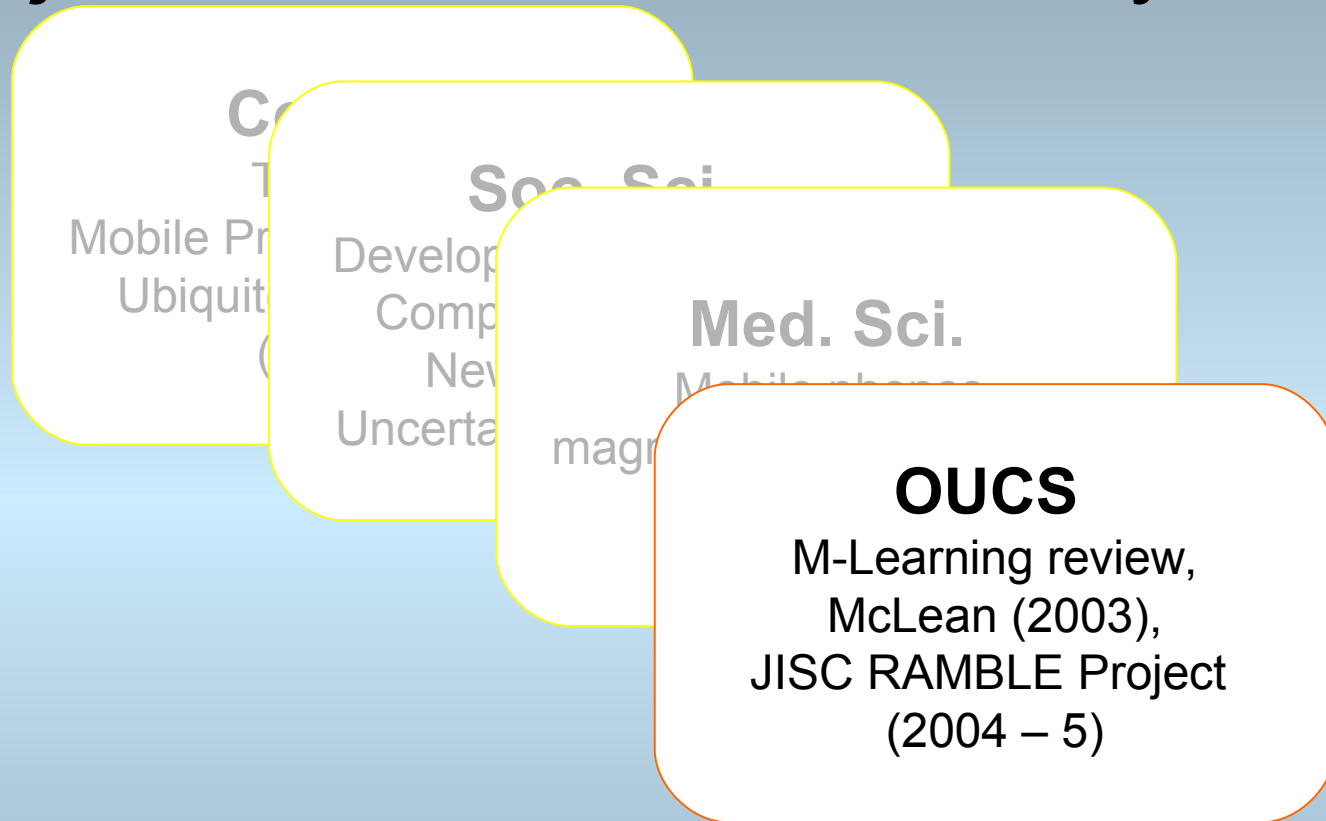
Mobile Projects Around the University

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Med. Sci.

Mobile phones
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M-Learning review,
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Soc. Sci.
EICN working group
on child protection
and mobile phones (2004 - 5)

Mobile Projects Around the University

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Mobile Pr...
Ubiquit...
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Develop...
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Med. Sci.
Mobile phones
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M-Learning review,
...3),
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oc. Sci.
...working group
...ild protection
... phones (2004 - 5)

Eng. Sci.
Telemedicine: self-management
of diabetes through
mobile phones
(2005)

Mobile Projects Around the University

Cont. Ed.
Mobile Telecoms:
Next Generation
Mobile Applications Panel
(2004 - 5)

Soc. Sci.
Develop...
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Med. Sci.
Mobile phones...
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...(2005)

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...phones (2004 - 5)

Mobile Projects Around the University

Physics
Computer Virtualisation in Java emulator for Nokia N95
(2007)

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Develop...
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Mobile phones
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Next Generation
Mobile Applications Panel
(2004 - 5)

...g. Sci.
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...working group
...ild protection
...phones (2004 - 5)

Mobile Projects Around the University

Soc. Sci.
Urban Informatics:
The internet, locative media
and mobile technology
for urbanites (2007)

Soc. Sci.

Med. Sci.

OUCS
M-Learning review,

Computer Virtualisation in Java
emulator for Nokia N95
(2007)

Next Generation
Mobile Applications Panel
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Eng. Sci.
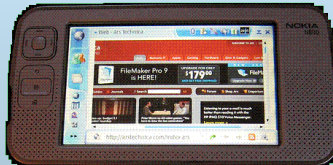self-management
through
phones
(2005)

Soc. Sci.
working group
child protection
phones (2004 - 5)

Mobile Projects Around the University

Soc...
Urban In...
The internet,
and mobile...
for urbanite...

Others?

<Please enter details here>

Med. Sci.
Mobile phone...
imag...

Computer Virtualisation in Java
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OUCS
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Rationale: Why a SIG?

- Growth in connectivity (OWL, Eduroam etc)
- **Convergence** of services through smartphone
- Groupware survey and mobility
- Increase in help desk queries
- Need some coordination and a strategy (see *OxMobile* document)

Who?

- 20 members from OUCS covering 4 groups (Networks & Telecoms, Information and Support, Learning Technologies and Technical Services)

- Co-ordinator (today only!): Paul Trafford

- Co-ordinators (from tomorrow):

  - **Rowan Wilson**

  - **James Partridge**

Purpose

Remit:

" *The 'OUCS Mobile' SIG has been set up to address handheld, mobile and ubiquitous computing in broad terms - the infrastructure, services, devices and tools that extends the University's activities beyond the usual physical confines of offices, lecture rooms, laboratories, etc*"

Objectives

"The overall objective of the Mobile SIG is to contribute to making ICT truly pervasive across the University through the development of a mobile-specific strategy and a number of mobile projects."

i.e. two foci: **services** and **projects**.

Work Carried Out So far

- Set up in January 2008, following OUCS staff meeting (No specific funds!)

- SIG Wiki
- SIG blog: http://oucsmobilesig.blogspot.com/
- OUCS Web: info on wireless access, E-mail instructions for herald

- mailing list
- fairly regular meetings

- e-mail contact mobile@oucs.ox.ac.uk -> mobile RT queue

OUCS Web access stats 1/2

[Source: Google Analytics]

OUCS Web access stats 2/2

18 URLs containing "mobiles" were viewed a total of 1,762 times

Content Performance

| Page Views 1,762 % of Site Total: 2.12% | Unique Page Views 1,336 % of Site Total: 1.89% | Time on Page 00:01:06 Site Avg: 00:02:25 (-54.74%) | Bounce Rate 36.59% Site Avg: 78.50% (-53.38%) | % Exit 22.47% Site Avg: 59.92% (-62.49%) | $ Index $0.00 Site Avg: $0.00 (0.00%) |

URL	Page Views	Unique Page Views	Time on Page	Bounce Rate	% Exit	$ Index
/email/mobiles/	690	477	00:00:34	28.52%	18.70%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/symbian/	248	166	00:00:09	0.00%	6.85%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/othermobile/	196	171	00:02:04	50.00%	40.31%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/wm6/	141	117	00:02:05	66.67%	36.17%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/symbian/index.xml.ID=body.1_div.2	139	104	00:02:06	100.00%	18.71%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/symbian/index.xml.ID=body.1_div.1	116	90	00:01:55	75.00%	12.07%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/wm5/	81	78	00:02:07	50.00%	32.10%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/symbian/index.xml.ID=body.1_div.3	77	68	00:02:37	0.00%	35.06%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/wm6/index.xml.ID=alternative	30	26	00:00:39	66.67%	36.67%	$0.00
/email/mobiles/wm6/index.xml.ID=troubles	17	14	00:00:51	100.00%	23.53%	$0.00

[Source: Google Analytics]

Project Proposals

- Eduserv: OxPDA – University e-Diary
- Eduserv: 2D Barcodes for Museum Displays
- JISC: E-resources Easily: Erewhon
- JISC: Podcasting

Ideas for Future Development

- Guidelines for developing mobile-friendly Web content

- Mobile Groupware: development, testing, documentation etc.

- Guides on delivering teaching materials to mobile devices

- Support for mobile devices…?

What's available to ITSS now?

- pda-discuss – encourage users to post there
- ITSS Sigma Wiki: https://wiki.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itss/Mobile
- mobile@oucs.ox.ac.uk – but currently only on a best efforts basis
- Some info on OUCS Web site

Discussion: How should ITSS be involved?

- First: Any interest?
- Communication
- Documentation
- Project Partners
- OUCS 5 Year Plan
- Seminars
- *Other suggestions?*

Optional Demo

HTC P3600 < - > Asus Eee PC

(works better with interactive whiteboard!

http://handheldmusings.blogspot.com/2008/05/smartboard-demo-of-my-mobile-life.html)

Contact: mobile@oucs.ox.ac.uk