GAZE AWARENESS FOR DISTRIBUTED WORK ENVIRONMENTS

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BENJAMIN KOEHNE

INSTITUTE FOR SOFTWARE RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
IRVINE, CA 92697-3425
bkoehne@ics.uci.edu
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ABSTRACT
Recent CSCW related research is exploring new ways to support distributed work settings. Advanced audio- and video-conferencing systems allow workgroups across the globe to collaborate. New developments change the character of meetings and vice versa. Distributed meetings become an increasingly interactive experience offering more flexibilities and functionality than supported by earlier systems. There are two main factors that have both pushed and enabled recent research efforts to explore new distributed meeting concepts and implementations: external, environmental influences and technological advancements. This paper focuses on the concept of gaze awareness for distributed work environments and draws on research done in the areas of virtualization technologies and videoconferencing systems. Companies already have, or may soon develop, have a growing interest in integrating existing virtual (prototyping) environments in the company with collaborative tools based on interaction in these virtual worlds. Until then, videoconferencing systems can be vastly improved to mediate awareness states in innovative ways.