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Table of Contents

List of Figures

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Abstract | 6 |
| 2. Ubiquitous Technologies, Embedded Democracies and Bright Green Futures | 7 |
| 3. Ubiquitous Technologies | 9 |
| 3.1. Mobile Phone | 9 |
| 3.2. Digital Tools | 10 |
| 3.3. Maps | 11 |
| 3.4. Man and Machine | 12 |
| 3.5. Internet of Things - Human Networks | 13 |
| 3.6. Case Study: Pachube | 15 |
| 3.7. Networked Cities and Urban Ecology | 15 |
| 4. Embedded Democracies | 18 |
| 4.1. Science and Society - Lost in Translation | 18 |
| 4.2. Citizen Science – Community as Part of the Solution | 18 |
| 4.3. Case Study: Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology | 19 |
| 4.4. Value of Biodiversity and Citizen Scientists | 20 |
| 4.5. Citizen Science | 21 |
| 4.6. Case Study: ParkScan | 22 |
| 4.7. Case Study: Fix My Street | 23 |
| 4.8. Benefits for City Citizen Technological Engagement | 24 |
| 4.9. Communities and Social Media | 24 |
| 4.10. Social Media and Political Engagement | 25 |
| 4.11. Case Study 1: Recovery | 26 |
| 4.12. Case Study 2: Ushahidi | 26 |
| 4.13. Collective Intelligence and Crowdsourcing | 27 |
| 4.14. Media Convergence, Participatory Culture, Collective Intelligence. | 28 |
| 4.15. Old Media and New Network Culture | 29 |
| 4.16. Platforms for Urban Participation | 29 |
| 4.17. My Sensor | 30 |
| 5. Bright-Green Futures | 32 |
| 5.1. Health and Pollution | 33 |
| 5.2. Air Pollution Sources | 34 |
| 5.3. Health Consequences and Historical Background | 35 |
| 5.4. New Zealand Air Quality | 35 |
| 5.5. Mapping | 36 |
| 5.6. Benefits | 36 |
| 5.7. Stakeholders | 37 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 6. | Design | 38 |
| 6.1. | Designing for Mobile First | 38 |
| 6.2. | Inherent Constraints Encourage Focus. | 38 |
| 6.3. | Context of Use | 41 |
| 6.4. | Mobile Capabilities | 42 |
| 6.5. | Designing the App - Design Process | 44 |
| 6.6. | Application Audience | 45 |
| 6.7. | Site Map | 46 |
| 6.8. | Interface Design - Main Considerations | 46 |
| 6.9. | Persuasive Design | 47 |
| 6.10. | Perceived Credibility | 47 |
| 6.11. | Intentional Persuasion | 47 |
| 6.12. | The Principles of Mobile Persuasion | 48 |
| 6.13. | Application Classification | 48 |
| 6.14. | Iconography | 49 |
| 6.15. | Specific Screens | 50 |
| 6.16. | Colour Choices | 54 |
| 7. | Conclusion | 57 |
| 7.1. | Future Applications | 58 |
| 8. | Bibliography | 59 |
| 9. | Appendix | 70 |

List of Figures

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 1: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs | 7 |
| Figure 2: Mobile Web Growth | 9 |
| Figure 3: Global ICT developments 1998-2008 | 10 |
| Figure 4: Pachube | 15 |
| Figure 5: Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems | 16 |
| Figure 6: eBird Animated Occurrence Maps | 20 |
| Figure 7: Nasa iPhone Chemical Air Tester Prototype | 21 |
| Figure 8: Trees, Crime and Cabs | 22 |
| Figure 9: Fix My Street | 23 |
| Figure 10: SF Trees | 23 |
| Figure 11: Recovery AR Application | 26 |
| Figure 12: Ushahidi.com examples: Haiti and Christchurch | 27 |
| Figure 13: U.S Mobile Internet Time by Category: May 2010 | 28 |
| Figure 14: In The Air | 33 |
| Figure 15: Visual Summary of Air Pollution Sources | 34 |
| Figure 16: Air New Zealand Desktop Screenshot | 39 |
| Figure 17: Air New Zealand iPhone Application Screens | 40 |
| Figure 18: Tune In Share Out Screen | 40 |
| Figure 19: The Context of Mobile Interaction | 42 |
| Figure 20: Bump iPhone Application Screen | 43 |
| Figure 21: Tune In Share Out Site Map | 46 |
| Figure 22: TISO Icon | 54 |
| Figure 23: Auckland Nitrogen Dioxide 24 Hour Sample | 55 |
| Figure 24: Proportion of PM10 Samples Belonging to Different Air Quality Categories | 55 |
| Figure 25: Air Quality Index Values | 56 |

1. Abstract

This thesis explores the intersections of ubiquitous technologies, embedded democracies, and bright green futures and how that is resolved in a user interface design for a citizen centric mobile phone application.

My main question of enquiry is: How can I connect citizens to their local environment through human interface design on a mobile platform? *The Politics of Nature* by Bruno Latour proposes;

'An end to the old dichotomy between nature and society... of a collective, a community incorporating humans and non humans and building on the experiences of the sciences as they are actually practiced.' (Latour, 2004, p. 186-206).

Design research throughout this thesis explores the intersections of urban health, human interface design, captology, mobile and sensor technology and citizen science while proposing an interactive mobile application for local and national governments to engage with an increasingly urban and technological savvy agora.

The aim of the accompanying mobile application prototype titled *Tune In, Share Out* (TISO), gives access to air and water quality information coupled with a mobile air quality sensor device which enables urban citizens to directly participate in the concept of the quantified self (Fawkes, 2010) by monitoring their pollution paths, while sharing this information through their respective social networks within a mobile mapping platform.

Concurrently this project contributes air quality information to aid citizens, scientists and city planners to make more informed and sustainable decisions within their local environment and agora.

Benefits of this application include citizen and environmental interaction and awareness, the ability for local government and citizens to enhance their tacit and embodied knowledge of respective groups and individual's, enabling greater understanding of each others perspective, while offering a channel of participation to an otherwise silent segment of society.