

eINTERFACE 2005 Daily

Friday, July 22nd

Communicating ... -Exotic Hardware-



What is the goal of the eINTERFACE 2005 Workshop in Mons ? All is in the name: the eINTERFACE Workshop aims at creating new interfaces between humans and electronic devices. Humans are all in Mons ready to communicate, but what about the machines ?



People have their beloved laptop, but they brought much more ... Some of them have only some simple add-ons like a wireless keyboard and a mouse or a second flat screen extending the size of their desktop. Many have cameras, extensively used to make them understand humans' gestures or attitudes. Then, we have those who brought giant screens and projectors with stereo vision cameras. These stereo cameras are mimicing



the binocular vision and bring important information about the depth of the objects. And this is not all! We can also see some game steering wheels for the driver hypovigilance detection, or various sensors used to record EEG, EMG, EOG, GSR, BVP and other biological trigrams... All the modalities showing human expressions or feelings are put together to get smart machines. And now they can understand and recognize us, can we really understand them ? Machines will soon give us emotions by synthesizing sounds, music, or making caricatures of our gestures. Hence plenty of musical instruments and professional recording electronic devices can also be found on some tables.



It is difficult to describe all hardware present at eINTERFACE, nevertheless we can say for sure that there are more machines than people attending the eINTERFACE Workshop. Their number and diversity characterize the fullness and the complexity of communication and feelings. And as usual, when we want to teach something, we have to really master the subject. eINTERFACE is a place where we teach communication to machines, but also a place where we learn much about ourselves and human-to-human communication.

Spanish Girls ... - Connection -

Over all nationalities represented at eINTERFACE, the Spanish one counts the largest number of girlstudents. Eloisa and Ana are undergraduate students from Politecnica of Madrid while Mariella, a PhD student for six



months, comes from UPC, Barcelona. They have different goals and backgrounds but quite the same interest for eINTERFACE. Mariella, 25, born in Italy, has been inspired by project number 7 which integrates 3D images manipulation. Ana, 24, hesitated a long time before deciding between projects 3 and 7. She was hesitating between her hobby, piano, and her master project which deals with 3D avatars. Eloisa, almost 25, Ana's friend for long time, is also part of this twin master project. While she translates speech into sign language, Ana interprets Eloisa's results to give motion to her own avatar. Both of them hope to learn much from the eINTERFACE workshop to integrate some ideas and add more realism to their fascinating project. Even if the "accogliente" eINTERFACE atmosphere makes Mariella sure of her desire of pursuing research in the future, she has not an accurate idea yet and hesitates between an academic and industrial career. Ana and Eloisa hope to find a job quickly after their graduation, in video games design or education-based application for the first one and in development/integration in a mobile phone operator for the second one. Their common point is to enjoy eINTERFACE and to practice English and French in a professional situation and especially to share their love for dancing and getting out with friends... Finally, Eloisa's last words will be: "El trabajo con azucar acaba antes" as a motivation for everybody! ("work with sugar goes better").

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