Call for Contributions

COOL2011

Date: Monday 4th July 2011

The aim of this workshop is to stimulate debate on, and increase knowledge of, designing for cool. The workshop will aim to answer the following three questions;

  - What is cool? How do artefacts become cool? What are its essential characteristics and what makes a product, or a behaviour around a product cool?
  - How can ordinary items be appropriated in 'cool ways?
  - How are we to design for appropriation in cool ways?

 The workshop is intended to open a debate about some key themes that are specific to cool but also have an interesting meaning throughout the HCI design space Discussion will include the extent to which an attribute can be designed for, can be specified by characteristics that do not rely too much on interpretation and to explore the most appropriate methods for design in this space.

The workshop organisers are currently engaged in a project to design technologies for teenagers and whereas Cool design is surely about a wide range of products and applications.

Participation

Attendance at the workshop is open in two ways. Participants can prepare a position paper or can attend with a piece of research or with a design artefact that they want to share.

The workshop will begin with the laying out of opinions, biases and preconceptions in an interactive ?fessup? session and then participants will be given short bursts of time to share their contributions (whether positions or solutions). Participants will then be placed into groups and, in a competitive mode, each group will aim to characterise cool, to provide a design rubric for cool and to be cool before bringing their ruminations back to the table in the form of a cool design. A facilitator will then bring the participants together and the workshop team will identify the key aspects. A ?cool wall? (as seen in Top Gear?) will be used to untangle the contributions from the participants.

Findings from the workshop will be published on the workshop website. It is expected that a follow on workshop will be arranged for January 2012 which will focus on bringing together the same group of people in an extended (two day event).

For more information and to participate in this workshop please email Dr. Janet Read < jcread@uclan.ac.uk > with your proposal