

Showcasing ICT research breakthroughs

Myriad potential uses

Apart from the CHIL technologies already being commercialised, vast potential applications have been identified. One is SmarTrack, a real-time spatial location system for monitoring and analysing sportsmen and women which could help TV commentators and coaches.

Computer-controlled smart homes, which anticipate their occupants' every need, is also a future application of CHIL's work.

Face recognition is another area ripe for development, replacing personal identification numbers and other forms of biometric recognition like fingerprints.

Applications here include more sophisticated key-pass technology for entering buildings and improved security in electronic banking or at cash point machines, according to the European researchers in CHIL.

What's inside?

Content for this publication was provided by the ICT Results editorial service, working to showcase breakthrough ICT research in Europe. It is part of a series of leaflets on high-impact projects coming out of EU-funded ICT research programmes.

ICT Results

<http://cordis.europa.eu/ictresults>

Project info

Project name: CHIL

Start-end date: December 2003 – December 2006

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(towards total project costs of €23.44 million)

EU initiative: Multimodal interfaces

CHIL website: <http://chil.server.de>

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COMPUTER SAYS "YES"
CHIL FOR MORE
HUMAN-CENTRIC
COMPUTING

CHIL

European Commission
Information Society and Media



Computers understand our needs?

Future generations of computers will be much more in tune with what humans want and need, and capable of acting on it. Anybody using a computer today has to make a conscious effort to interact with the machine. Users waste too much time and effort taming the computer instead of performing useful tasks.



New horizon for human-machine interaction

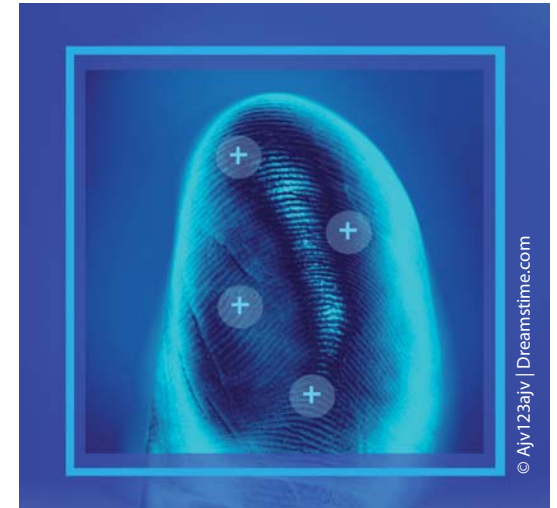
European researchers on the CHIL project spent three years creating environments in which computers serve the needs of humans, creating a new paradigm of machine-supported human-human interaction. Their work is the beginning of a journey in machine evolution which ends with computers anticipating human needs and acting to meet them – a virtual butler, if you will.

Commercial exploitation

In one of the largest collaborative projects ever undertaken in Europe, 15 partners from nine countries developed a range of services, technologies, new standardised architectures and evaluations.

For example, CHIL developed systems using mobile technology which could secretly send vital information to a delegate in a meeting, and provide a virtual shared workspace for all.

From the European Union's perspective, not only has a whole new way of putting machines to best use been developed, but a range of new tools employing the technology are coming to market and making workers more productive and their data more secure.



Successes fill a book

CHIL's achievements could fill a book, and that is exactly what is being produced in 2008. One of the 50-plus new technologies developed, 'smart-room' technology, is the subject of further research being done by several organisations, including Germany's Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, which aims to develop a user-friendly control-room system in a crisis-management scenario.

Further, a start-up company will provide a CHIL-derived service for retailers helping to analyse customer behaviour to determine, for instance, which displays are attracting attention and which are not.