

WP2: summary of year 1 progress

WP2 is responsible for four channels of public dissemination for Awareness research, with the objective of contributing to fostering a research community by creating a common pool of knowledge and resources to inform interested researchers of the latest initiative and recent results. The WP also has a public-facing perspective and addresses the implications of awareness research for EU citizens.

The four channels of dissemination are

- the Awareness Magazine
- Newsletters
- Book
- Documentaries

Two deliverables summarise the separate aims and objectives of each channel, and evaluate progress and achievements made in the first year in realizing those objectives. The AWARE Magazine is described in Deliverable 2.1 and progress on newsletters, the AWARE book and documentaries are covered in Deliverable 2.2.

DELIVERABLE 2.1 Launch of AWARE Magazine

Aims and Objectives

The dissemination aim of the Aware Magazine is to propagate information on the latest projects, programmes, ideas, insights and late-breaking results from Awareness researchers. The idea is to publish short (880 word) magazine-like articles which can be understood by fellow researchers from different disciplines and well-informed members of the public (i.e., we are aiming for a standard of *New Scientist*, or similar magazines). In this way we hope to help foster inter-disciplinary communication, critical mass in the community and the spread of common knowledge and shared goals. The model used is one from the PerAda coordination action, the PerAda Magazine (www.perada-magazine.eu/), which was seen as very successful.

Achievements

So far, the following actions have been performed and the some goals have been achieved:

- A Call for Tenders for the magazine was distributed in December. Four bids were received. These were reviewed by a panel from Napier and Imperial College with cost and functionality the primary distinguishing criteria. It was determined there was one outstanding bid that offered to deliver all of the requirements within the stated budget, and the decision was made to offer the sub-contract to *Form&Content Media Ltd*.
- The Aware Magazine main website has been set up and is ready for integration with the main Aware website, using the same seamless integration as in PerAda. This partially achieves Deliverable D2.1; completion of this deliverable will follow with the *launch* of the magazine. This however has been delayed (please see the *Discussion* below).
- The commission to the six Awareness Project Coordinators was distributed, plus an additional commission.
- A first tranche of 25 (external) article commissions has been sent out.
- An open request for pro-active submission of articles has been included in the latest Newsletter.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `editor.fac-media.com/firstauthor`. The page title is "The Editorial Assistant - Form and Content Media Administration". The user is logged in as "Dr. Jeremy Pitt (Client, Last 1)". The main menu on the left includes "Articles", "Copyright Forms", "Users", "Author", "Source", and "Contact Us". The main content area is titled "Commissioned Authors" and features a table of authors with columns for Name, Suggested Topic, Detailed Topic, Article Length, Article Comment, Suggested By, Response, and Article Status.

Name(Commissioned Date)	Suggested Topic (Article Deadline)	Detailed Topic	Article Length	Article Comment	Suggested By	Response	Article Status
Dr. Holger Kern 23-September-2011 holger.kern@monsoft.com View Email Trail (Newest)	self awareness in autonomic systems 28-Oct-2011	awareness and wearables	800	a short article putting your recent work in context for a general audience, explaining the basic ideas, and summarizing your most interesting and important results	Ms. Alice Haigh alice.haigh@img.net	No response yet	Not yet submitted
Prof. Denisa Kara 23-September-2011 denisa@med.ox.ac.uk View Email Trail (Newest)	self awareness in autonomic systems 28-Oct-2011	awareness and public participation in science	800	a short article putting your recent work in context for a general audience, explaining the basic ideas, and summarizing your most interesting and important results	Ms. Alice Haigh alice.haigh@img.net	Later	Not yet submitted
Dr. Bily Whitty 23-September-2011 billy@fussell.ac.uk View Email Trail (Newest)	self awareness in autonomic systems 28-Oct-2011	social impact of awareness	800	a short article putting your recent work in context for a general audience, explaining the basic ideas, and summarizing your most interesting and important results	Ms. Alice Haigh alice.haigh@img.net	Accepted	Not yet submitted
Prof. Janis Jeffries 23-September-2011 jjeffries@img.net View Email Trail (Newest)	self awareness in autonomic systems 28-Oct-2011	wearables	800	a short article putting your recent work in context for a general audience, explaining the basic ideas, and summarizing your most interesting and important results	Ms. Alice Haigh alice.haigh@img.net	No response yet	Not yet submitted
Prof. Albert Zomay 23-September-2011 albert.zomay@img.net View Email Trail (Newest)	self awareness in autonomic systems 28-Oct-2011	Energy Conscious Scheduling	800	a short article putting your recent work in context for a general audience, explaining the basic ideas, and summarizing your most interesting and important results	Ms. Alice Haigh alice.haigh@img.net	No response yet	Not yet submitted

Discussion

At this point, we should make clear the process by which articles are commissioned and published. In the first instance, the editor makes a commission through a web-interface provided as part of the package by Form&Content. An email is automatically generated inviting the proposed author to contribute. He or she has three alternatives: to accept, to accept but later (in which case the system sends an automatic re-invitation 3 months later), or to decline. When an author uploads their contribution, they also upload a copyright form. The editor is notified: it is at this point that the article is checked for technical quality by scientific peer review as well as copyright. If the articles passes on both counts, then the article is approved. It then passes to pre-publication editorial functions such as type-setting (for both html and pdf versions) and proof-reading, before the article is finally approved for publication and appears on the website.

At the time of preparation of this report, of the original 32 invitations, there were 20 positive responses, with 13 'accept's, of which 3 are submitted, approved and are in pre-publication phase, and so 10 are pending; there were 8 'later's; and there were 11 no replies, which will be chased. There were no 'stop's. In fact a one-third success rate for acceptance is in fact slightly higher than we were achieving in PerAda, although we may reasonably expect not all accepts/laters to deliver.

Compared to the PerAda magazine, it is interesting to note two distinct differences. In PerAda there was reluctance to commit to form (i.e. the idea of an online magazine) but a regular stream of content (i.e. authors and articles). For the Aware magazine, there was no shortage of bidders, i.e. other scientific writers had caught up with the niche in the market, but the prospective pool of potential content providers was much more amorphous. The intuition is that

the concept of awareness is not so well defined as an area of research as pervasive and adaptive computing were; and whereas in PerAda we were seeking complementarity and synergy between two extant and well-established fields, here we are trying to consolidate a new community out of several fields, which have the concept but it is not in itself an area with which researchers, it appears, immediately identify themselves.

Plan

There are five action points.

1. When the fourth project article is approved, we will launch the magazine.
2. A gentle inquiry will be made to ascertain if the non-respondents from the first tranche were a stop or the invitation was missed, misunderstood, etc.
3. A new tranche of up to 30 new names is being compiled and will be sent out in October.
4. The editor will be attending several conferences from September to November, including ECCS, SASO, Rule-ML, and PRIMA. He will be presenting work related to Awareness at each of these conferences. The intention is that this work will tap into Awareness activity in each of these communities, respectively complex systems, adaptive systems, rule-based systems, and multi-agent systems.
5. The Advisory Board will each be asked to nominate 6 prospective authors from whom articles could be commissioned. The expectation is that together with AP4, this will generate up to 50 new names to commission articles, and this tranche will be sent out in January.

Summary

The activity is technically behind schedule, but only because we are 'keeping our powder dry'. It would be inadvisable to 'launch' without content, but we are in a position shortly when we will be able to launch with confidence. If the authors who already accepted the commission do deliver, then we will already have a very interesting, diverse but representative collection of articles on the many different dimensions of awareness research.



awareness
SELF-AWARENESS IN
AUTONOMIC SYSTEMS

Awareness Magazine

We are publishing an online magazine that gives a broader perspective on **AWARENESS related research**. The magazine publishes short articles on high-level, informative descriptions of projects, research programmes, initiatives and late-breaking results, and in particular focusing on their **impact on society**, for example with respect to **usability, sustainability, climate change, culture**, and so on.

The magazine editors are commissioning articles describing systems which are 'aware' of a **socio-technical aspect** and/or have a **socio-technical impact**:

- by taking **measurements of both environment and the users** (e.g. their physiological or emotional state)
- by representing, understanding and reasoning with **social, legal, or organisational constructs**
- by **collaborative decision-support** which has an impact on human behaviour and attitudes
- by making any or all these conceptual features perceptually prominent through advanced **visualisation techniques**.

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www.aware-project.eu