

Education

M.S. - Human Computer Interaction, Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, Georgia, May 2004.

B.E. (Computer Science & Engineering), University of Madras

Chennai, India, April 2002.

Work Experience

Research Engineer

Yahoo! Integrated Consumer Experiences. June 2009 – present

Building prototypes and technologies for the Integrated Consumer Experiences Ideation team to design new front-end experiences for Yahoo! users on both web and mobile. Multiple prototypes have since been added to the Yahoo! production roadmap.

Research Engineer

Yahoo! Connected Life. May 2008 – May 2009

Member of the Early Stage Product group working on strategy, IP, prototypes and platforms to inform the future direction of mobile products within Yahoo! During this time I also wrote the server-side location platform that interfaced with the Yahoo! Go 3.0 mobile application.

Research Engineer

Yahoo! Research Berkeley, Berkeley, California. June 2005 – May 2008

Working on media analysis and developing new methods to infer the content and context surrounding collected media. Public projects include ZoneTag, TagMaps, Zurfer and FireEagle.

Visiting Researcher

Garage Cinema Research, University of California at Berkeley, April 2005 – May 2005

Worked with Prof. Marc Davis on conducting research into collecting metadata information from camera phone users. Responsibilities include technical feasibility studies, cell phone programming, UI design, user testing, data mining, etc...

Graduate Research Assistant

*College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology,
Atlanta, Georgia. August 2002 – May 2003, August 2003 – May 2004*

Lead investigator with Dr. Elizabeth Mynatt to study task management strategies of knowledge workers. Responsibilities included protocol design, user research, iterative UI design, human subject testing and data analysis. Engineering tasks included writing window tracking software, using Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) to track activity in the Microsoft Office suite, instrumenting email clients to log activity and building adaptive software to detect task changes.

Research Intern

*California Research Center, Ricoh Innovations Inc.,
Menlo Park, California. May 2003-August 2003*

Lead designer in creating a multi-user, collaborative book marking system to create augmented recordings of meetings and presentations for later review and/or quick skimming. Duties included background research, iterative design, building prototypes and final evaluation. Technologies used include SMIL, SVG and the Batik toolkit and were integrated using Visual Basic and Java.

Projects

- Developed several internal prototype applications using both HTML5 and the Nokia Widget Runtime (HTML/Javascript/CSS).
- Designed, developed and deployed server-side infrastructure for cell tower based location sensing technology for [Yahoo! Go 3.0](#). Project was completed in 3 weeks.
- Designed and built the location sensing and tag suggestion back end of the [ZoneTag](#) context aware photo uploader. Public API's have also been released.
- Developed the tag extraction algorithm and serving algorithms used in the [World Explorer](#) prototype that extracts meaningful tags from unstructured flickr photographs. Also developed a real-time API for both internal and external use.
- Designed and built the server backend for [Zurfer](#), a context aware photo browser. Services were designed to add a location layer over existing Flickr API's and to optimize phone communication.
- Designed and built PhotoLOI, an application that filters, aggregates and visualizes photographs taken by multiple users based on temporal, social and/or spatial context.
- Created the technique of Bluetooth Pooling to share context data between collocated users.

Skill Set

- Several years of experience in working with context aware technologies with an emphasis on location aware systems.
- Experienced in designing, building and maintaining API interfaces to a variety of different backend systems.
- Experienced with iterative design and rapid prototyping techniques using wireframes and paper prototypes as well as multi-fidelity computer prototypes.
- 5+ years of work and academic experience in design, testing and evaluation of software interfaces with an emphasis on human factors and usability principles. Methodologies used include requirements analysis, task analysis, persona creation, storyboarding and heuristic analysis.
- Significant experience with designing and conducting user studies and usability tests utilizing techniques such as ethnography, think alouds, experience sampling, contextual inquiry, surveys, questionnaires and interviews.
- PHP, MYSQL. Knowledge of Javascript, CSS, C, C++, Java.

Patents Pending

20+ pending patents

Publications

Naaman, M. and Nair, R. ZoneTag Tag Suggestions: What is this person doing on my phone? To appear in IEEE Multimedia special issue on Collaborative Tagging.

Naaman, M., Nair, R. and Kaplun, V. Photos on the Go: A Mobile Application Case Study. To appear in *SIGCHI conference on Human Factors in computing systems* (CHI 2008).

L. Kennedy, M. Naaman, S. Ahern, R. Nair, T. Rattenbury. How Flickr Helps us Make Sense of the World: Context and Content in Community-Contributed Media Collections. In *Proceedings of Multimedia 2007*. ACM, New York, NY, 631-640.

Hwang, A., Ahern, S., King, S., Naaman, M., Nair, R., and Yang, J. 2007. Zurfer: mobile multimedia access in spatial, social and topical context. In *Proceedings of Multimedia 2007*. ACM, New York, NY, 557-560.

Ahern, S., Naaman, M., Nair, R. and Yang, J. World Explorer: Visualizing Aggregate Data from Unstructured Text in Geo-Referenced Collections. In *Proceedings JCDL 2007*. ACM Press (2007). 1-10.

Ahern, S., King, S., Naaman, M. and Nair, R. Summarization of Online Image Collections via Implicit Feedback (Poster). In *Proceedings of WWW 2007*. ACM, New York, NY, 1325-1326.

Ahern, S., Eckles, E., Good, N., King, S., Naaman, M. and Nair, R. Over-Exposed? Privacy Patterns and Considerations in Online and Mobile Photo Sharing. In *Proceedings of CHI 2007*. ACM, New York, NY, 357-366.

Ahern, S., Davis, M., King, S., Naaman, M. and Nair, R. Reliable, User-Contributed GSM Cell-Tower Positioning Using Context-Aware Photos. (Poster) In *Poster Session at the Eighth International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp 2006; Orange County, USA)*.

Ahern, S., Good, N., King, S., Naaman, M. and Nair, R. Privacy Decisions for Location-Tagged Media (Poster). In *Poster Session at the Eighth International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp 2006; Orange County, USA)*.

Nair, R., Reid, N. and Davis M. (2005) Photo LOI: Browsing Multi-User Photo Collections (Technical Demonstration). In: *Proceedings of 13th Annual ACM International Conference on Multimedia (MM 2005; Singapore)*. ACM Press (2005). 223-224.

Davis et.al. (2005) MMM2: Mobile Media Metadata for Media Sharing" (Video). In: *Proceedings of Multimedia 2005*. ACM Press (2005). 267-268.

Nair, R. and Davis, M. "Bluetooth Pooling to Enrich Co-Presence Information". In *Proceedings of the Poster Session at the Seventh International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp 2005; Tokyo, Japan)*.

Nair, R., Volda, S. and Mynatt, E.D. "Frequency-based detection of task switches". In *Proceedings of the 19th British HCI Group Annual Conference (HCI 2005; Edinburgh, Scotland)*. Springer-Verlag (2005), Vol 2. 94-99.

Nair, R. "Calculation of an Aggregated Level of Interest Function for Recorded Events." In *Proc. of ACM Multimedia 2004*, ACM Press (2004), 272-275.

Nair, R., Shiroor, K. and Godfrey, J. "BuzzTrans: Evaluation of a Translating Instant Messenger Client". In *Proceedings of IHCI 2004*.