Pervasive Computing: A Grand Challenge

Morris Sloman Imperial College London, Department of Computing m.sloman@doc.ic.ac.uk www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~mss



Contents

- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current technology
- Engineering challenges
- Theoretical challenges
- Policy-based autonomic management
- Future activities & conclusions



Grand Challenges

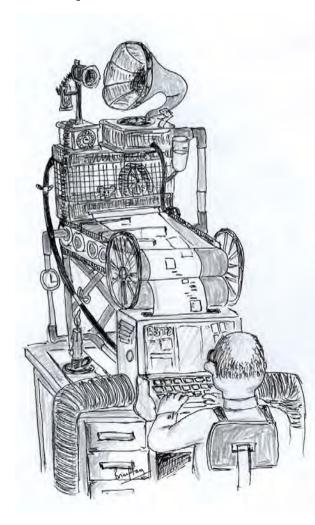
- A long-term challenge for which there is currently no recognised and accepted solution
- Define a 15-20 year project to try to solve the challenge
- Identify clear goals and clear failure criteria
- Encourage world-wide participation
- How to formulate the challenge to be relevant to non-technical public?

What is Pervasive Computing?

- Technology View
 - Pervasive, Ubiquitous, Sentient
 - Intelligent devices everywhere: home, office, street, car, trains, on-body, implanted, in appliances 100K devices per person?
 - Mobility of people, environment, and programs
 - Battery powered
 - Capable of wireless communication
- User View
 - Devices mostly invisible devices interact implicitly with each other and environment
 - Augment human abilities in performance of tasks

"The Computer of the 21st Century", Mark Weiser, 1991, Scientific American

The UbiComp Challenge!



- How to build the truly invisible intelligent environment?
- Designed rather than ad-hoc implementation
- Understandable
- Analysable based on underlying theory
- Manageable
- Dependable and secure
- Does not infringe privacy

Need both design and science

Healthcare Everywhere

Applications

- Automated monitoring
 - Implanted devices
 - Smart clothing
 - Swallow/inject intelligent sensors and actuators
- Health advisor



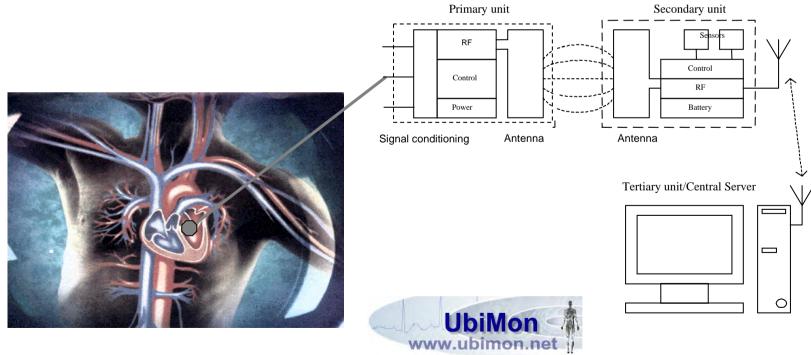
Benefits

- High → lower risk monitoring
- Mobility for chronically ill
- Greater out-of-hospital patient management
- Mass data & analysis
- Emergency feedback or response

Wireless video camera pill







Pervasive GC

Smart Environments

- Lights, air conditioning, TV automatically switch on and off when you enter or leave rooms
- Sit on your favourite chair and TV switches on to the program you usually watch at this time of the day
- Use communicator/pda for phone, remote control, keys payments, passport, health records, authenticator.
- Route input from 'virtual' keyboard to nearest suitable display.
- Automatic detection of new items to control and physical layout in a room or office.

Contents

- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current technology
- Engineering challenges
- Theoretical challenges
- Policy-based autonomic management
- Future activities & conclusions

Current Technology



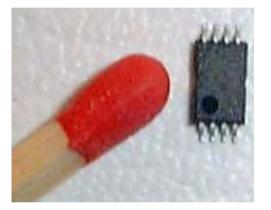
Wireless PDA/phone Video phone

Softphone www.eleksen.com

Bluetooth Handsfree









Matchbox computer

Web Server

Best friend

http://matchbox.stanford.edu/cebit.html http://www-ccs.cs.umass.edu/~shri/iPic.html

Wearable I/O

LCD Jacket



twiddler?



Pervasive GC

Wearable I/O





Sony Glasstron

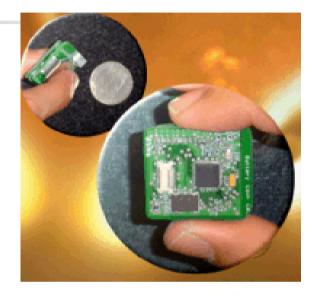
Smart Dust

- Autonomous sensing and communication in a cubic millimeter – "dust motes"
- Sensors for temperature, humidity, light, motion
 With bidirectional radio or laser + battery
- Costs soon < \$1</p>
- Typical Applications
 - Defence related battlefield sensors, motion detectors etc.
 - Inventory control on boxes which communicate with crates, trucks, plane etc to tell you where they are
 - Product quality monitoring vibration, humidity, overheating
 - Car component monitoring

Body Sensor Nodes

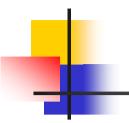
TinyOS

- TI MSP430 ultra low power processor
 - 16 bits RISC processor
 - 64KB +256B Flash memory
 - 12-bit ADC
 - Very low power
- Chipcon CC2420 RF module
 - IEEE 802.15.4 (Zigbee) wireless link
 - 2.4GHz, 250kbps
 - Low current consumption (RX:19.7mA TX:17.4mA)
 - Hardware MAC encryption
 - Range 50m
- 6 analog channels (connect up to 6 sensors)
- 512kByte serial memory





Pervasive GC

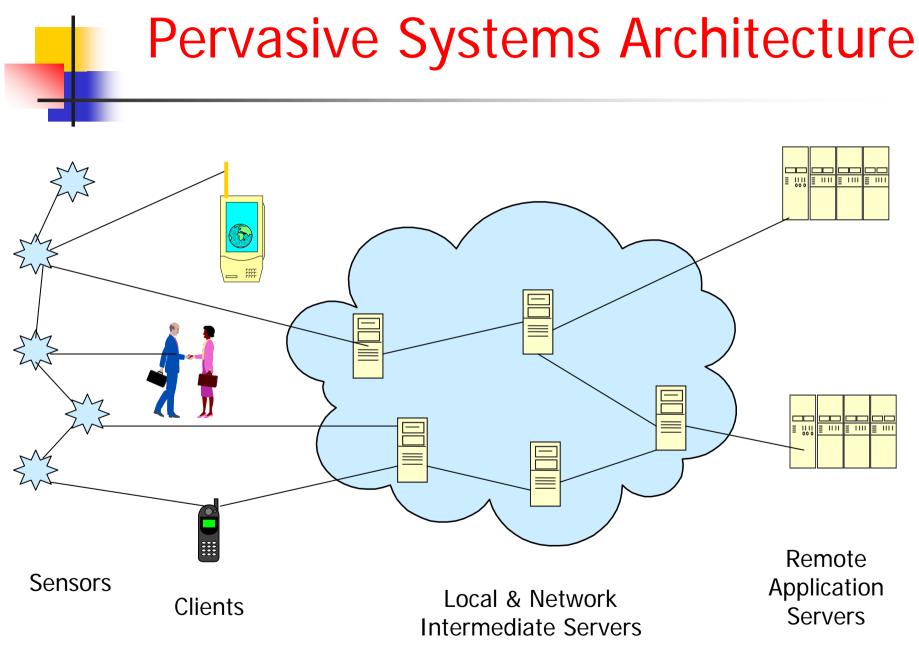


On the Horizon

- Intelligent paper with integrated radio replace current displays
- Smart paint monitors vibrations and detect intruders or changes colour to react to temperature, lighting etc.
- Intelligent glass can filter sunlight, become opaque no need for curtains
- Smart garments or injectable sensors for people monitoring
- Printable batteries
 - http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/review/2001-02-12-batteries.htm
- Etc., Etc.,....

Contents

- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current technology
- Engineering challenges
- Theoretical challenges
- Policy-based autonomic management
- Future activities & conclusions





Power Management

- Require ultra-low power devices, transmitters etc. for body implants, sensor networks
- Light-weight communication protocols
- Sleep mode + low power modes for reduced QoS
- Energy scavenging extract power from light, heat, vibration or motion
 - Heart motion, solar cells, fuel cells, heat converters, heart motion MEMS generators

SRI Shoe Power 0.5W



Context Awareness

• Context defined by:

Current location

Need location detection eg GPS or base station Indoors – sonic or ultrawideband wireless tags \rightarrow 10cm

User activity

Walking, driving a car, running for a bus – how to detect this?

- Ambient environment
 In theatre, alone, in meeting
- Device capabilities
 Screen, input, processing power, battery life
- Current QoS availability particularly for radio links
- Fusion of information from multiple sources



Seamless Communication

- Bandwidth Shortage reuse techniques
- Heterogeneity Zigbee, Bluetooth, GSM/GPRS, 3G, IEEE 802.11 a, b & g
- Multimode hardware + seamless handover
- Low power protocol techniques
- Emphasis on IP protocols?





- Common user interface for workstation and mobile device applications
 - Adaptive information display
- Replicate characteristics of paper-based notebooks for annotatability, robustness, universality
- Flexible voice based input+output
 - Voice recognition + text to speech conversion
- Gesture recognition



Information Management

- Billions of sensors generating petabytes of (dynamic) data
- Need filtering, aggregation, collaborative sensing, new query techniques which cater for errors in source.
- Meta data description of information
- Provenance → audit trails, how and where modified etc.







- Lessons from history: everything worth hacking gets hacked
- SECURITY solutions that are proactive, minimally intrusive, easy to use
- Need for secure 'out of the box' set up
- Devices that recognise/respond to "owners" only
- Means of tracing stolen devices, proving transactions
- Ability to be invisible or anonymous when needed
- Protection from spam, viruses, denial of service, identity theft etc.....

SECURITY solutions that are adaptive and context-aware



• You are now predictable



- System can co-relate location, context and behaviour patterns
- Do you want employer, colleagues or insurance company to know you carry a medical monitor?
- Tension between authentication and anonymity business want to authenticate you for financial transactions and to provide 'personalized' service
- Users should be aware of being monitored
- Ability to control who/what has access to "my" data (stored, communicated, inferred), ability to define levels of privacy, trust etc

The Business Model $_{\simeq}$

 Who pays for the pervasive support infrastructure of processing, storage, wireless services everywhere: on the street, in planes, trains, shops, home?



Accounting and billing







Pervasive GC

Contents

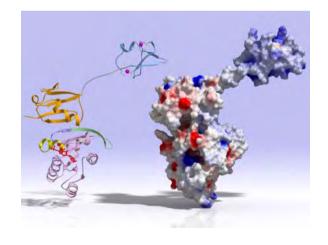
- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current technology
- Engineering challenges
- Theoretical challenges
- Policy-based autonomic management
- Future activities & conclusions

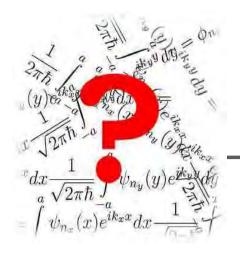
Theory for Pervasive Systems

 We have theory for design and analysis of complex buildings, bridges, electronic circuits



- We need the theory to understand and model complex interactions of pervasive systems
- Currently use ad-hoc implementation, relying on skill of programmers.





Theory Challenges

- Large Scale, complex, dynamically self-modifying system, unplanned interactions ...
- To develop an informatic science whose *concepts*, *calculi*, *theories* and automated tools allow descriptive and predictive analysis of a pervasive system at each level of *abstraction*
- That every system and software construction including implementation languages should employ only these concepts and calculi, and be *analysed* and *justified* by these theories and tools.

Theoretical Foundations

- Basic notions Automata; Relational databases;
 Program logics; Verication; Mathematical semantics;
 Type theories; . . .
- Concurrent systems Petri nets; Process calculi; Logics of action; . . .
- Ubiquity Mobility (ambients, pi calculus); Security and privacy; Boundaries, resources and trust; Distributed data; Game-theoretic models; Hybrid systems; Stochastics; Model-checking; . . .

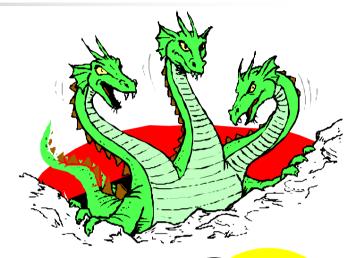
www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/rm135/plat.pdf

Contents

- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current Technology
- Engineering Challenges
- Theoretical Challenges
- Policy-Based Autonomic Management
- Future activities & conclusions

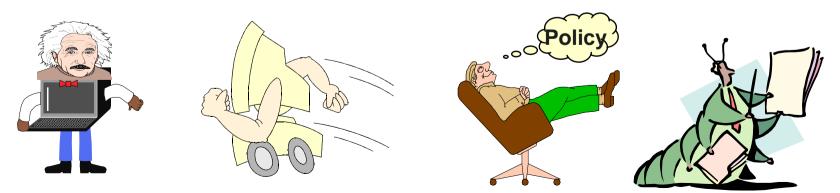
Management – the nightmare!

- Huge, complex systems
 - Billions of processors
 - Multiple organisations
 - Managing physical world, controlling sensors, actuators
 - Humans will be in the way
- Hacker and virus paradise
- System propagates false information about individuals or organisation
- Complexity of s/w installation on a workstation or server how do you cope with billions?
- Cater for huge systems
 - + scale down to body area networks



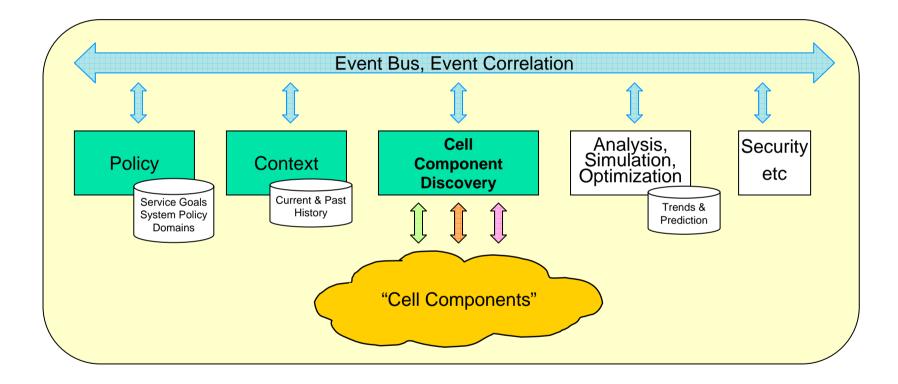
Autonomic Management

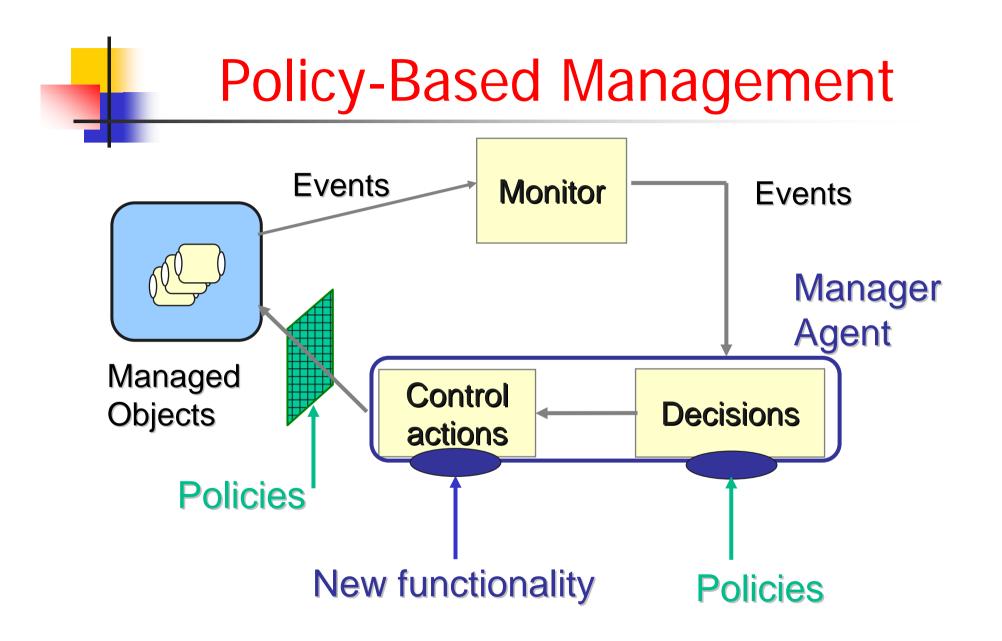
- Autonomic self-organising, self-configuring, self-healing, self-optimising, adaptive management
- Remove human from the loop
- Intelligent agents, mobile agents, policy, genetic algorithms?

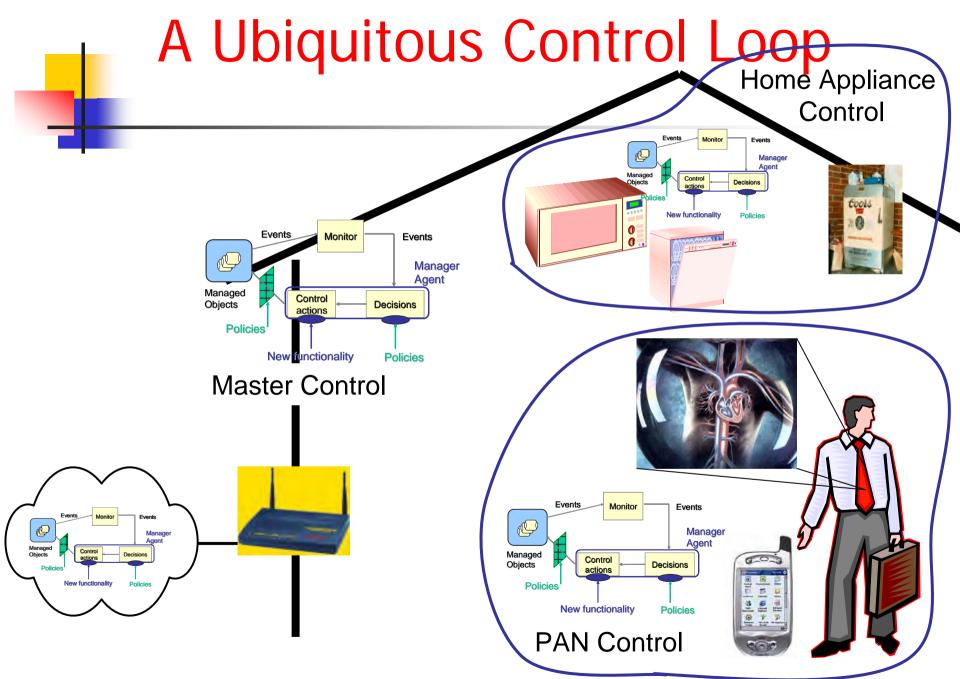




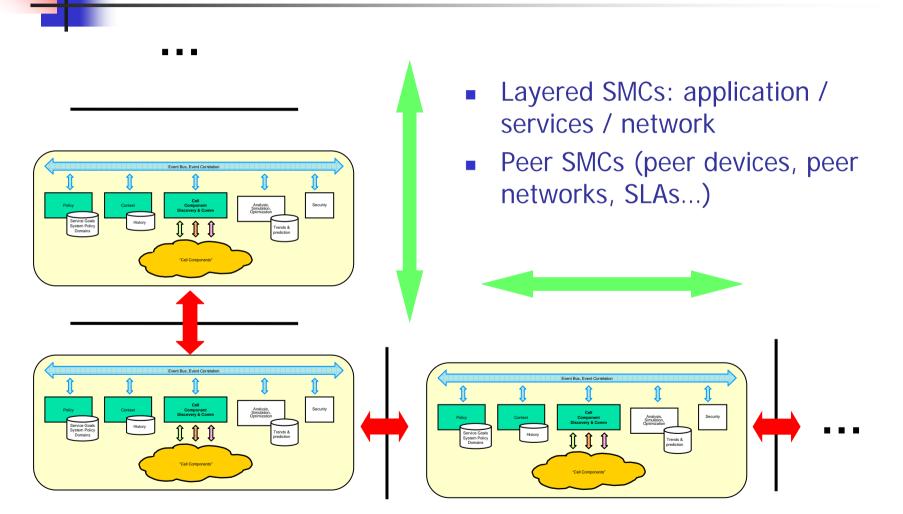
Self-Managed Cell (SMC)



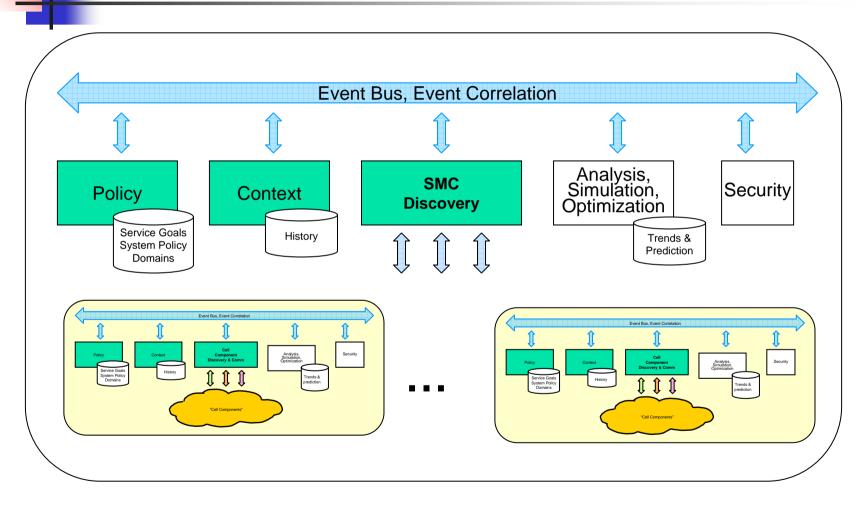




Layered and Federated SMCs



SMC Composition



Enclosing SMC "programs" the nested SMCs



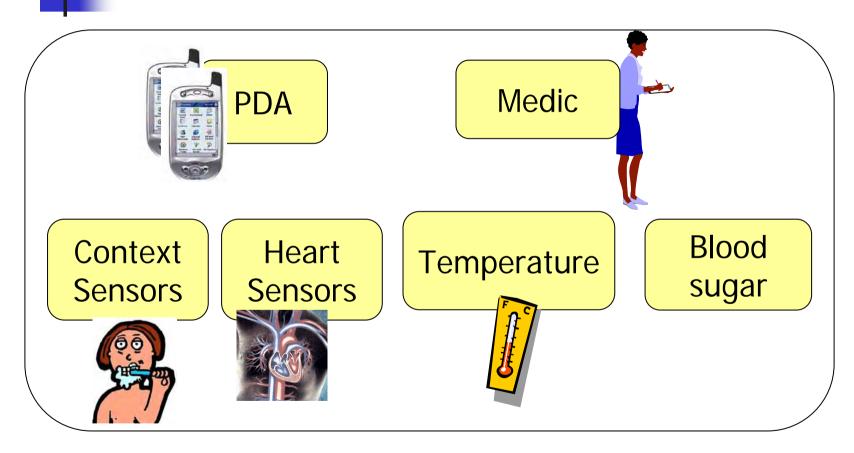
SMC Interactions

Layered - Network SMCs interact with application SMCs, the SMC controlling a heart rate monitor reports to a diagnostic management device, ...

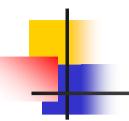
Federated, Peer-to-peer – SMCs for peer devices interact with each other.

SMC Composition – Need to be able to compose SMCs into larger structures e.g., home patient monitoring SMCs "program" individual device SMCs

Body Sensor SMC 'Roles'



SMC defines role assignment policies
 + role interaction relationship policies



Discovery Policies

```
on detect (Xname, Xaddr, Xtype) -> medic.add (Xname, Xaddr)
   when Xtype = nurse &
        signed (Xaddr.getCertificate, nursingCouncil_PK)
on detect (Xname, Xaddr, Xtype) -> temperature.add (Xname, Xaddr)
   when Xtype = tempSensor
```

every mins (polltime) -> temperature.pollmembers -> medic.pollmembers

.

.

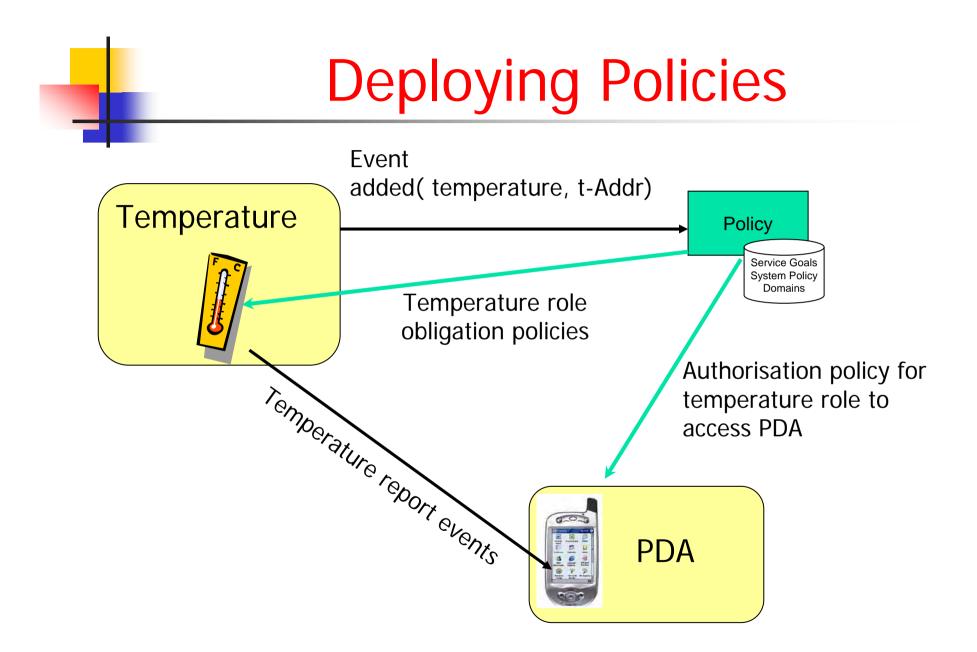
poll all members of a role and remove any which have not responded after max tries.



tempSensorPolicies {
 every mins (2) ->
 tempSensor.read (tempValue) ->
 tempSensor.tempEvent (tempValue)
 // trigger local event

on tempEvent (tempValue) ->
 pda.reportTemp (tempValue)
 when (tempValue > maxtemp)

```
auth + tempSensor -> pda.reportTemp
}
```



Policies to Protect PDA

on 3* fingerprintfail -> pda/policies/bodymonitor.disable -> pda/policies/selfprotect.enable -> timerEvents.trigger (shutdown, currentTime + 60)



pda/policies/selfprotect
every minutes (5) ->
 sendSMS (07957341, "Stolen PDA", "ownerID", currentLocation)

on shutdown -> pda.locked -> pda.switchoff

Assume this prevents pda from being rebooted or reset without an owner card.

Pervasive GC

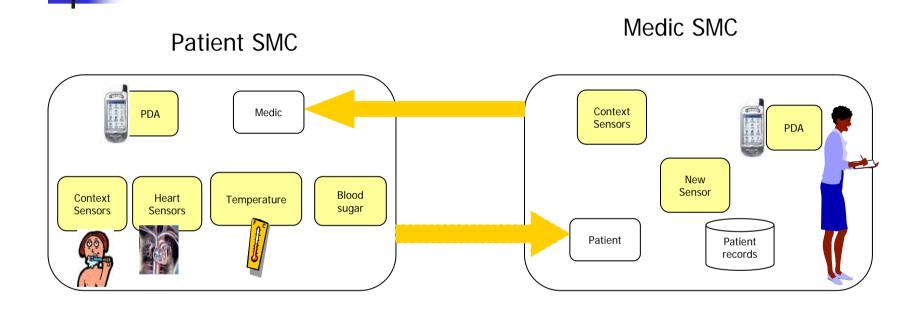


Context aware policies

on enterhome -> pda/policies/trusted.enable -> pda/policies/untrusted.disable

on leavehome -> pda/policies/untrusted.enable -> pda/policies/trusted.disable

Peer-to-Peer Interactions



- Assign peer SMC to pre-defined roles within each SMC
- Predefined policies specify obligations and authorisation for entity assigned to role
- Default entity(PDA) interprets obligation policies provided to it.

Other forms of cell interactions

- SMCs define implementable policies
- What about overall management strategy or goals?
- Requires goal refinement
 - Use *refinement patterns* in order to refine goals
 - Domain independent refinement patterns
 - Domain specific refinement patterns
 - Strategy defines how the goals are achieved. Note, there can be multiple strategies to achieve the same goals.
 - Derive strategy from goals and system description through abduction
- Very hard, not implementable on PDAs
- A Goal-based Approach to Policy Refinement by A Bandara et.al http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~bandara/publications.shtml

Contents

- Grand challenges
- What is pervasive computing
- Current Technology
- Engineering Challenges
- Theoretical Challenges
- Management issues
- Future activities & conclusions

Current UK Activities

- Equator IRC http://www.equator.ac.uk/
- DTI Next Wave Technologies http://www.nextwave.org.uk/index.htm
- EPSRC WINES Program
- Mostly engineering
- Need to develop scientific theory and engineering principles in a tight experimental loop
- UK-UbiNet + Grand Challenges

http://www-dse.doc.ic.ac.uk/Projects/UbiNet/links.html



Conclusion

- Currently pervasive systems are more hype than reality
- Some component technologies are available
- Technology problems seamless communications, power
- Management problems adaptive self management, privacy
- Most research focuses on Engineering aspects
- No theory to underpin understanding, analysis & design
- SMC provides a scope for theoretical analysis and implementation.