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Project:	User Interface Support for Today's Crazed Information Worker: From Scatterbrained to Focused		

What?

Software and hardware user interface designs that support current and future information workers, both at work and at play. We have developed tools to help you track your online activities, display enhanced presence information, and prioritize your and your group's work efforts. In addition, we are developing tools to help track your health and wellness progress. Finally, we explore novel methods for evaluating an information worker's productivity, including their cognitive load.

Results so far:

We have developed StatusWriter, software that tracks your online activities and helps you reason about your priorities and task progress. This builds on our earlier tools like GroupBar and Scalable Fabric and its successors (Clipping Lists and Change Borders). In addition, we have shown that wearable health monitoring can improve your workout activities. Finally, our brain-computer interaction research has shown promise at detecting various levels of cognitive load.

Why?

Helping users be more aware of how they are spending their time online should allow them to better hone their work practices to their priorities. In addition, lightweight presence enhancements may ensure that interruptions are kept to a minimum during periods of intense work activity. MPTrain has been proven to improve the average runner's performance against her goals. Finally, BCI is another input mechanism which can be used as a sensor for periods of heavy cognitive load, to prevent interruptions or for evaluating novel designs.

How? Using user-centered design and benchmark testing, we are iterating our software and hw designs.

Graphic: