A System to Exploit Food as a Social Catalyst in Hungry Coders at Siebel Center

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Abstract

In this visualization we suggest a collection of tools that use food as a social catalyst to bring computer science students who are separated, but in the same building together. In plain English, we connect hungry people with one another. A system will monitor the number and location of hungry people in the building, and then facilitate placing group orders for food delivery.

1 Motivation

At the University of Illinois, computer science students are often working late at night. Sometimes they work in small groups, or sometimes they are in the lab alone. In either case, they inevitably get hungry. Unfortunately, often times computer science students have trouble socializing with other computer science students on their own. This is unfortunate, because a lot of times they share similar interests. We suggest a way to bring these people together while simultaneously satisfying their hunger.

2 Method

2.1 Twitter

Hungry people can post an update on their Twitter account. For example I could post @siebelfood I want some pizza or Jimmy Johns. Then, our system would pick that up and add michaelphines to the list of hungry people. People could then continue to discuss, or would be prompted to get together.

2.2 LED Sign

An scrolling LED sign that also has the ability to play simple sounds exists in the ACM office at Siebel Center. When someone is hungry the sign could make a sound similar to a stomach growling, and display the people who are hungry and the last message sent.

2.3 Food map

People could then visit a website to see where in Siebel the people who are hungry are, what kind of food they’re requesting, and other comments from those people.
2.4 Other

A microphone could be placed in the ACM office that detects when someone says the word ‘food’. A simple VXML app could let people call in to say what they’re hungry for.