

Direct Manipulation and the Home Network

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ABSTRACT: Much as personal computing needed the “direct manipulation” interface, home networking today needs a new human computer interface: Like the PC, circa 1980, huge numbers of people want to try the new technology but most lack the expertise to use current products. The current home network HCI is typically based on web pages, uses password-controlled access, and fails to enable most people to directly connect personal devices or even to recognize that they own a home network. The simplest, “plug-and-play” home networking techniques have problems today and good alternatives are lacking. This talk considers home networking problems and alternative solutions for setup, control, and use as demonstrated by people in a recent ethnographic study.