This workshop is concerned with exploring the implications for digital storytelling methodologies as society moves toward an ‘internet of things’. The term, ‘internet of things’, refers to the technical and cultural shift that is anticipated as society moves to a ubiquitous form of computing in which every device is ‘on’, and every device is connected in some way to the internet. The specific reference to ‘things’ refers to the concept that every new object manufactured will also be able to part of this extended Internet, because they will have been tagged and indexed by the manufacturer during production. It is also envisaged that consumers will have the ability to ‘read’ the tags through the use of mobile ‘readers’ and use the information connected to the object, to inform their purchase, use and disposal of an object. Digital Storytelling methodologies are required to understand how narratives between objects can be constructed as individual objects become connected with others. The implications for the knowledge to support this cultural/technical revolution are widespread – in particular of industry, but also leisure and the arts.

As well as facilitating logistical procedures in the manufacturing and production/consumption industries such as attaching tracking data to objects, the same technology offers the opportunity for the public to attach stories to objects. This workshop will provide a critical context in which participants will be asked to explore the theoretical and practical implications for the retention, recall and construction of stories when they become associated with physical artefacts.

The workshop is offered by academic partners involved in a large EPSRC funded project that has been researching the potential of the technology to conserve social history. Whilst the technology at present is effective at recalling individual stories the team are interested in how discrete instances of stories can be associated with other stories to construct larger narratives. As more and more objects in daily life become tagged and connected to the internet, the potential for linking the data behind each object to other artefacts increases. This linkage offers a rich space and new space for digital storytelling.
PROGRAMME:

9.30 - 10.00
An introductory talk will describe the theoretical context and potential of the internet of things, followed by a practical demonstration of the technology in which stories will be recalled from an artefact.

10.00 – 10.30
Participants will be offered the opportunity to attach individual stories to a series of objects in the form of video, text or audio. By attaching printed barcodes to the objects, the stories will be able to be recalled with the use of mobile phones. This simple recall procedure will provide the premise for a discussion to clarify the potential of the technology and imagine future contexts in which multiple objects carry stories.

10.30 – 10.45
A short practical demonstration of how databases can form connections between the keywords found in the stories offers the basis for the second part of the workshop.

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00
Participants will be asked to work in small groups to ‘design’ approaches for linking disparate stories / artefacts to construct larger narratives. The groups will be asked to present contextual solutions and reflect upon their implications upon digital story telling methodologies and the implications for the future.

12.00 – 12.30
Round table discussion reflecting upon the implications for the technology and subjects discussed.

PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO ATTACH A STORY TOO!
Delegates are asked to bring something along with them that become part of a series of props in a story. The object will be tagged with a QR paper tag and the story retrieved by an iPhone / Android app.

CHAIRS:

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE
The workshop is delivered by Dr. Chris Speed, Duncan Shingleton and Arthi Kanchana Manohar, however it is convened by the Co-Investigators on the TOTeM research project:
Maria Burke, The University of Salford
Andrew Hudson-Smith, University College London
Angelina Karpovich, Brunel University
Simone O’Callaghan, The University of Dundee
Jon Rogers, The University of Dundee
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