

COGAIN BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL ADVISORS AND MINUTES

BOARD OF USER COMMUNITIES AND

SUPERVISORY BODY ON STANDARDS (SBS)

PLENARY MEETING

Time: 3.9.2008 at 5 pm

Place: Hotel Diplomat
Evropská 15
Praha 6, 160 41
Czech Republic

List of issues on the Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Feedback to the recommendations of BIA and BUC 2007
3. The development of the web: user involvement
4. Standardization roadmap
5. Results of the CIE Technical Committee Meeting 1.9.2008
6. Discussion in groups
 - 6.1 What has COGAIN been doing well so far, in your opinion?
 - 6.2 What could COGAIN have done better, in your opinion?
 - 6.3 What should COGAIN do in the future? Questions relating to COGAIN Association in particular. The results of the meetings will be collected in writing and presented to the whole audience orally.
7. Closing of the meeting

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The plenary meeting for the Board of Industrial Advisors (BIA), the Board of User Communities and Supervisory Body on Standards (SBS) and COGAIN partners was opened by Marco Di Girolamo at the COGAIN 2008 Camp.

The following participants were present:

- BIA members Lorenzo De Filippis, Easylabs
 Luis Figueiredo, Magic Key
 Markus Joos, Interactive Minds Dresden
 Wolfgang Lehmann, Alea Technologies
 Logan McKinley, Eye Response Technologies
 Giulio Vaccari, Helpicare
 Christian Villwock, SMI Sensomotoric Instruments
- BUC members Marina Green-Järvinen, IT and Communication Centre Tikoteekki of the
 Finnish Association on Mental Retardation, Finland
 Valentina Pasian, Hospital Molinette, ALS Centre, Italy
 Simon Judge, Barnsley District General Hospital Foundation Trust, UK
- Others Ana Gomes, Escola Infante d'Henrique
 MaryAnn McPhee Calvary Healthcare, Australia
 Zoe Robertson, Barnsley District General Hospital Foundation Trust, UK
- COGAIN Stina Boedeker, UTA (secretary)
 Margret Buchholz, DART
 Dixon Cleveland, LC
 Nancy Cleveland, LC
 Fulvio Corno, POLITO
 Sara Cotmore, ACE
 Gintautas Daunys, SU
 Donatas Dervinis, SU
 Marco Di Girolamo, HP (chair)
 Mick Donegan, ACE
 Bjarne Ersboell, DTU
 Marcela Fejtova, CTU
 John Paulin Hansen, ITU
 Dan Witzner Hansen, ITU
 Roger Henriksson, Tobii
 Eva Holmqvist, DART
 Vincas Laurutis, SU
 Päivi Majaranta, UTA
 Fiona Mulvey, TUD
 Kari-Jouko Räihä, UTA
 Olga Stepankova, CTU
 Sebastien Vermandel, Metrovision
 Arantxa Villanueva, UPNA

2. FEEDBACK TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF BIA AND BUC 2007

BIA commented:

Networking activities, student competition were considered as positive.

COGAIN answers:

Networking activities were intensified, as preparations have been going on for almost a year now to establish the COGAIN Association in order to make COGAIN sustainable. The founding meeting of the association took place in Prague on 3.9.2008. Spreading the network further would be valuable. The Association is open and COGAIN hopes that your organization and you personally could join at <http://www.cogain.org/association> to integrate the members of the advisory boards closer together to the COGAIN Community.

COGAIN Competition has been launched again at the Camp in Prague on Tuesday, 2.9.2008, during the Academic Sessions, see <http://www.cogain.org/competition/>

BIA recommended:

Simplify and push COGAIN standard to industries, keep focus on disabled users, involve more students. Refocus on development of applications and software rather than hardware. Spread the word that eye tracking works, also to decision makers.

COGAIN answers:

COGAIN standard roadmap has been drafted and an advisory body, Supervisory Body on Standards (SBS), has been formed. It includes the members of the BIA and the BUC. WP5 together with WP2 and SBS works towards a CIE endorsed international standard. Such a standard, not envisaged at the beginning of the COGAIN project, underlines the reactivity and impact of the COGAIN project.

COGAIN has been active in dissemination activities, also to decision makers. It was invited to eInclusion Ministerial meeting in Lisbon, 2.-3.12.2007. The compact exhibition was given so much positive feedback by high rank decision makers that the Commission invited COGAIN back for this year's event.

COGAIN will attend the Ministerial eInclusion meeting to be organized 30.11.-2.12.2008 in Vienna, Austria, participation by invitation only.

COGAIN was also accepted to the annual ICT event in Lyon, France, 25.-27.11.2008.

Additionally, COGAIN ran a stand at three other major international conferences:

- ETRA Symposium on Eye Tracking Research & Applications, 26.-28.3.2008, in Savannah, Georgia, USA. COGAIN also participated in the organization of ETRA.
- CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 5.-10.4.2008 in Florence, Italy.
- The Conference organized by the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), 2.-7.8.2008 in Montreal, Canada.

BUC commented:

Website and networking are good. Impressed by the work Mick Donegan and his team's work with challenging users. This meeting has given an added value to our work, and has been very interesting.

Provision on systems: even though it is not perfect, we have had people funded for systems in the UK, which is fantastic. COGAIN work has affected prices also. We have worked with manufacturers, which would not have happened without COGAIN.

COGAIN answers:

COGAIN invests a lot of resources on user impact, so these results are extremely important to us. Please spread the lessons learned within your organizations as appropriate.

The opportunity to work together with manufacturers and researchers will continue to be available by joining the COGAIN Association. Your organisation and you can join at <http://www.cogain.org/association>.

BUC recommended:

In the future there could be descriptions on the different products on the website. Put more resources on the website, such as videos and eye gaze used in different modes. A “What’s new?” area could be good on the website.

COGAIN answers:

After the last COGAIN Conference, a lot of new material has been published on the COGAIN portal. The User Involvement section has been made as a starting point for users and a lot of the new material has been linked to that page for easy access. Examples include:

COGAIN Eye Control Hints and Tips is a multimedia training resource with several stand-alone presentations and examples on eye control assessment, software, etc. http://www.cogain.org/user_involvement/eye-control-hints-and-tips

COGAIN is also preparing Exemplar Grids which people can download and use as a starting point for their own eye control and communication grids. The grids are downloadable from the COGAIN website and include instructions for use, see

http://www.cogain.org/user_involvement/exemplars/

The exemplar page is still under construction, it will be ready and published before the end of October, 2008.

COGAIN has also produced easy-to-access web versions of the WP3 deliverables that report user trials. D3.1 and D3.2 are ready and D3.3 web version is under construction. See:

http://www.cogain.org/user_involvement/d3.1

http://www.cogain.org/user_involvement/d3.2

COGAIN received a lot of questions about COGAIN and eye control. The most frequently asked questions and answers have been collected under

<http://www.cogain.org/faq>

COGAIN recorded all the presentations in COGAIN 2006 and COGAIN 2007 conferences, as well as lectures on the COGAIN PhD course in 2006. The videos have all been converted and uploaded to the web, but not all speakers have yet given their permission to show them on the web (each speaker can first review the video online before the whole world sees it). We will try to collect the missing permissions from people face-to-face at the Prague camp.

COGAIN conference videos and FAQ as well as an extensive gaze interaction bibliography (<http://www.cogain.org/bibliography/eyetracking-papers>) and other related training material are part of D1.6 “Information and training material on eye tracking published online” which is currently under construction. It includes an index page for information and (self) training material found on the COGAIN web portal. The page will be published within 2 months after the COGAIN 2008 Conference.

In addition to the catalogue of eye tracking systems targeted at people with disabilities, COGAIN has also made sections for low-tech and low-cost solutions and maintains a list of systems targeted at research and analysis, see

<http://www.cogain.org/faq/eye-gaze-communication-board>

<http://www.cogain.org/eyetrackers/low-cost-eye-trackers>

<http://www.cogain.org/eyetrackers/eyetrackers-for-eye-movement-research>

Having a “What’s new” section is a good idea and we will consider it. WP3 is currently working on a new easy access point for users. The webmaster will see if that includes such a section or if a separate one is needed.

3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEB: USER INVOLVEMENT

Mick Donegan stated that the focus has shifted from acquiring information to giving out information and he showed the sections on the web site. The sections are referred to in item 2 of the agenda as subsections of http://www.cogain.org/user_involvement

4. STANDARDIZATION ROADMAP

Fulvio Corno's presentation is Annex 1.

5. RESULTS OF THE CIE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING 1.9.2008

Fiona Mulvey's presentation is Annex 2.

6. DISCUSSION IN GROUPS

6.1 WHAT HAS COGAIN BEEN DOING WELL SO FAR, IN YOUR OPINION?

Safety study is a new activity and it shows COGAIN has made changes, as the standards were previously not suitable for long-term exposure to IR light. In the draft, the limits are well defined and it is easily understandable.

Presentations/Conference this year was more relevant to the industry than previously. Publicising the exhibition was done thoroughly and effectively. COGAIN succeeded in making the contact between developers-research-end users. The focus of the Conference was relevant.

Continuing of the organisation by founding the COGAIN Association is a valuable contribution, and it enables an active actor to become a full member within the COGAIN Community in the future. Previously the division between advisory boards and full members ranked actors in different categories.

End User work is one of the strengths of COGAIN, as it is not too research oriented. COGAIN adds value to practice.

Helped pushing the take-up of eyegaze technology. People have already used website information. COGAIN is a catalyst for change. There is evidence of success, as there is more use of hardware and software and the prices have gone down.

Political impact can also be seen. There is a case history for evidence of use: e.g. in Sweden a model for acquiring eye tracking equipment has been created during the COGAIN project. What seemed impossible is nowadays possible. COGAIN speeded up the potential impact. Such examples of success stories in different countries could be collected. It would be interesting to collect data about company numbers for rentals->sales.

Networking has worked well. There is genuine contact between companies, researchers and users and they all form the COGAIN community. COGAIN spreads the word about communication by gaze and it has unified the field of eye tracking.

Software development is positive. The numbers of downloads of Gazetalk are promising.

6.2 WHAT COULD COGAIN HAVE DONE BETTER, IN YOUR OPINION?

Increase user involvement :

Users should be represented and involved in all the COGAIN work. However, there are organisational problems, and this type of activity requires funds. Companies could perhaps sponsor their users/customers to attend conferences as ambassadors in COGAIN booth?

Spread out COGAIN :

Local organisations could continue to raise awareness amongst the local assistive technologies conferences. COGAIN as an international activity could focus the

communication on pertinent events (REHACARE, ISAAC), as it has done so far. Cooperation at local level with ISAAC even more, although BUC has been the contact to ISAAC.

6.3 WHAT SHOULD COGAIN DO IN THE FUTURE? QUESTIONS RELATING TO COGAIN ASSOCIATION IN PARTICULAR. THE RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS WILL BE COLLECTED IN WRITING AND PRESENTED TO THE WHOLE AUDIENCE ORALLY.

The COGAIN Association could carry out any of the following activities: to exercise fund raising, to contribute to standardisation by giving recommendations, act for the benefit of the users by involving users in the Association, to give the voice for the manufacturers, to focus on academics, to organise COGAIN meetings, to bring together users, academics and manufacturers.

Some opinions are to be considered while making a decision on what to focus on in the future. It is good to have a division between academics and exhibitions during the Conference. Standardisation could perhaps lead to streamlining and non-innovative climate. On the other hand, there are a lot of access methods out there, so to be able to have a standard API for all input methods would be a benefit for all. COGAIN logo could be granted to a recommended way to construct your eye-tracker. It is important that COGAIN logo is NOT a legal standard.

Wikipedia form could be one option for the website in the future. Users could update the information themselves, and the information could be up-to-date.

COGAIN website is a nice place to return to. It should be maintained in the future to bridge the gap between users, manufacturers and academics. It is important to focus on gaze interaction, but not only on eye-tracking!

7. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The chair closed the meeting at 6.45 pm.