



KMDI
Room BA7256 [7th floor]

*Bahen Centre for Information Technology
University of Toronto
40 St. George St.*

Oct. 29, 2007
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. EDT

**Speaker: Liam Bannon, Interaction Design Centre
University of Limerick, Ireland**

**Title: Who Wants Total Recall? An Argument for Taking
Forgetting Seriously**

Abstract:

In recent years, there has been extensive research into how new kinds of information and communication technologies can enhance human activities. One area that has attracted much attention has been concerned with the augmentation of human memory and the capture of everyday life happenings. Technologies such as Microsoft's SenseCam, a body camera taking thousands of pictures per day as a person performs their daily activities provides a glimpse of the future. People are developing cheap and easy to use audio recorders in order to create "personal audio life logs". Projects such as Microsoft's MyLifeBits are an attempt to digitize "everything" in a person's life and develop tools for indexing and annotation of this massive archive. This talk will raise some questions about such endeavors, both analytic and practical, drawing attention to the importance of forgetting in human activities. However, the talk is not simply a critique of certain projects, but also attempts to develop a new discourse in design, by showing how taking the notion of judicious forgetting seriously might open up a new design space for the exploration of a class of new ubiquitous computing applications.

Brief bio:

Liam Bannon is Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and Director of the Interaction Design Centre at the University of Limerick. He is a Fellow of the Irish Ergonomics Society, a Member of Irish Computer Society and ACM, and Irish representative on the IFIP Technical Committee on Human-Computer Interaction (TC13). His background is in psychology and computer science, and he has been a research academic in Universities and research centres around the world, including Honeywell and Xerox EuroPARC, UK. His research interests range over a broad range of topics in human-machine systems, including cognitive ergonomics, human-computer interaction, computer-supported cooperative work, knowledge management, computer-supported collaborative learning, new media and interaction design, and social dimensions of new technologies. He has been an invited speaker at many international conferences in cognitive ergonomics, information systems, human factors, decision-support systems, interaction design, advanced automation, etc. Several of his articles have been anthologized in edited collections of HCI and CSCW research. He was a founding editor of *CSCW: The Journal of Collaborative Computing* and is, or has served on, the editorial boards of; *Journal of Cognition, Technology, and Work*; *Requirements Engineering Journal*, *Universal Access in the Information Society Journal*; *International Journal of Cognitive Technology*, *International Journal of Web-Based Communities*, *Co-Design Journal*, *Behaviour and Information Technology Journal*, and *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*.