

Exploring Public Wearable Display of Wellness Tracker Data

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Abstract

We investigate wearable presentation of tracked wellness data, and people's perceptions and motivations for sharing it through a wearable display. Whilst online sharing is a common feature in wellness tracking solutions, the motivations and experiences of users to share tracked data in situ has not been widely studied. We created two functional prototypes – the hat tracker and the tracker badge – which we used as probes in two focus groups to elicit opinions on the content and format of wearable tracker displays. Complementing this, a study where participants used the hat tracker prototype in public locations provides insights on sharing in everyday life use contexts. We report that users appreciate the motivating nature of such displays, but favor the display of positive information. Leveraging prior work, we present a model describing the factors affecting users' willingness to share tracked data via wearable displays, and highlight such displays' potential for supporting behavior change.

1. Introduction

2 During the past few years, personal wellness and activity tracking has
3 become a common trend and commercial solutions ranging from bracelets
4 to rings and garment-integrated activity trackers are available at affordable
5 prices. Interest in wellness tracking has expanded from the original small
6 group of quantified-self users [1, 2] to cover broader user groups. Whereas
7 early activity tracking products focused on heartbeat, routes and step count-
8 ing, the variety of tracking applications has now expanded to cover areas that



Figure 1: The Hat Tracker allowed us to investigate factors affecting users' willingness to share tracked data.

9 are more challenging and combine several data sources to infer the actual ac-
10 tivities being undertaken. Examples of more complex activity trackers are
11 sleep trackers and holistic wellness applications, which fuse together infor-
12 mation from several sources, including physiological or contextual measure-
13 ments, for instance heartbeat, oxygen saturation, body temperature, move-
14 ment, and altitude. This development means that we have ever more personal
15 tracking data available from different aspects of our lives.

16 Ubiquitous connectivity and the wide penetration of social media has
17 made sharing personal tracker data easy. Many activity tracker Apps and
18 platforms, such as Sportstracker, RunTastic, and Endomondo¹, support shar-
19 ing workout results online. Sharing sports performance has been reported to
20 have positive effects on motivation, due to peer support and competitive-
21 ness [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. However, thinking beyond the domain of sport, i.e., the
22 wider scope of health and wellness, it is interesting to examine the sensi-
23 tivity of different data types, and users' willingness to share them, particu-
24 larly as available data is becoming increasingly descriptive. Moreover, new
25 methods of sharing are now possible, for instance through wearable displays,
26 such as shirts displaying the wearer's heart rate or real-time jogging perfor-

¹<https://www.sports-tracker.com>, <https://www.runtastic.com>, <https://www.endomondo.com>, last access: 2019-11-17

27 mance [8, 9]. With these new wearable form factors, people can share their
28 tracker data in public with others in their physical location.

29 We examine issues surrounding the use of wearable displays to present
30 wellness tracker data. To provoke discourse, we created two functional wear-
31 able display trackers (see Figures 1-3). We used these prototypes as probes in
32 two focus groups and evaluated the hat tracker in an in-the-wild user study.
33 The results shed light on how wearable public displays are perceived, how
34 they can motivate users, and what role the perception of others plays.

35 Based on the findings from these user studies and an in-depth discus-
36 sion, we propose a framework identifying the parameters governing users'
37 motivation and willingness to utilize wearable tracker data displays.

38 The contribution of this work is threefold:

- 39 • Two functional prototype wearable displays, visualizing tracker data.
- 40 • Findings from two focus groups and an in-the-wild study on the concept
41 of wearable display of tracker data.
- 42 • A framework describing the key parameters impacting wearable display
43 of tracker data.

44 This paper is structured as follows: 1) We present an overview of the
45 related work, focusing on wellness data sharing and particularly on works
46 that have explored wearable display of personal data in different forms. 2) We
47 describe the design and functionality of our two functional wearable tracker
48 display prototypes. 3) We present findings from focus groups and in-the-
49 wild evaluations. 4) We critically discuss the findings from our studies, and
50 highlight future directions. 5) Based on our findings we introduce a framework
51 for the wearable display of tracker data.

52 2. Related Work

53 Today, commercial devices and applications allowing wellness and activity
54 data to be collected and shared online are available to mass markets. These
55 devices track not only activity data, based on motion sensors and GPS, but
56 also a vast amount of physiological data such as heart rate, skin conductance,
57 etc. Utilising sensor fusion and long-term data, such systems are able to make
58 inferences about deeper health and wellness issues, such as for instance sleep
59 problems and over-training.

60 The process of sharing personal activity data became easier with the
61 introduction of mobile phone integrated wellness tracking functions [10], and
62 has since expanded to encompass a wide set of technologies. In a study of
63 activity tracker users [11] 36% shared their data online, whilst a larger 72%
64 reported sharing their data verbally, to those around them. To position our
65 work, we review works exploring tracker data sharing, wearable and tangible
66 data displays, and perceived challenges with sharing tracker data.

67 *2.1. Sharing Activity and Physiological Tracker Data*

68 *2.1.1. Individual Connectivity*

69 Sharing physiological data has been suggested as a means to create a
70 feeling of connectivity between individuals. For example, Kim et al. presented
71 BreathingFrame, a photo frame that inflates based on a remote person’s
72 breathing, supporting connectedness and stimulating curiosity [12]. Min and
73 Nam [13] and Slovak et al. [14] presented concepts sharing heartbeat and
74 breathing rhythm to another person, creating a sense of connectivity between
75 the partners. United-pulse presents a pair of rings which share the wearer’s
76 heartbeat with their partner, experienced as haptic pulses [15].

77 *2.1.2. Group Connectivity*

78 With the aim of increasing group bonding, tracked data sharing in out-
79 door sports contexts are discussed by Fedsov et al. [16] and Wozniak et
80 al. [17]. Fedsov et al. noted that sharing happens not just during the activ-
81 ity, but also pre- and post-activity, with different content being shared at each
82 point [16]. The majority of prior work on the topic has reported that beneficial
83 sharing happens only with like-minded others, i.e. within a group engaging in
84 the same activity at a similar level [17, 18, 19, 20]. Sharing with such groups
85 leads to improved performance [21] and long-term engagement [19]. In their
86 *stickers for steps* – which encourages face-to-face comparing of activity data
87 recorded by a mobile app – the authors’ report that the intervention triggered
88 general discussions on activity and wellness [22].

89 Although sharing to broader groups has been investigated, e.g. leveraging
90 a person’s existing social network for motivation [23, 24], there is mixed
91 evidence on its benefit. Fritz et al. [18] found that sharing data with real-life
92 friends and family was generally not motivational. However, the desire to
93 offer encouragement and support to others, based on visibility of their data,
94 has been identified [18, 20]. Overall prior work has presented mixed findings
95 on the effectiveness of sharing tracker data as a driver for behavior change,

96 with the differences being generally attributable to context or baseline of
97 comparison [3, 4, 5, 6].

98 *2.1.3. Cultural and Gender Influences*

99 Prior works have highlighted cultural differences in interest to adopt wear-
100 able technologies [25, 26]. For example, Wang et al. [25] noted that elderly
101 Chinese and Korean participants exhibited higher interest in using technol-
102 ogy to connect with others than their US counterparts. In a study comparing
103 cultural and gender perceptions of wearable display of information on emo-
104 tional states, conducted in France and Japan, display of information for gen-
105 eral social purposes was universally disliked, and more strongly so by female
106 participants [26]. Whilst French participants wished to be fully in control of
107 the publicly displayed information, Japanese participants were accepting of
108 some level of AI based content selection. In a study examining willingness to
109 share health information on social media, Li et al. [27] report that Chinese
110 participants were less willing to seek or share information than Italians. The
111 authors infer that, for the Chinese, this reluctance is based on the perceived
112 risk of being misinformed by non-healthcare professionals.

113 *2.2. Wearable Displays*

114 Today, wearables, such as activity trackers, have been widely adopted for
115 data collection [28] and, in addition, have have been presented as output
116 devices in different forms. The design space dimensions for such wearable
117 displays has been explored by various researchers [9, 29, 30]. Important di-
118 mensions relate to the targeted viewer of the display (i.e. the wearer or a third
119 party observer), the content, and the source of information, which could ei-
120 ther display information provided by the wearer (e.g., personal information),
121 the viewer, or the environment [9, 30]. In addition, technology-related aspects
122 such as size, shape, orientation, body position, and display technology are of
123 interest [9]. Possible form factors include a brooch, e.g., Bubblebadge [30],
124 otherwise attached to the body [31], or a handbag [32].

125 Typically, in the case of wellness and physiological data tracking wear-
126 ables, the output is targeted to the wearer, although it is generally not ex-
127 plicitly hidden from other viewers. The glancability of such displays for the
128 wearer has been explored, e.g. by Gouveia et al. [33]. However, a wide variety
129 of works have investigated wearable public display of tracker data [34, 8, 35].
130 The open heart cycle helmet [34] uses the wearer’s heart rate and displays
131 it to the following cyclists. Similarly, a wearable display shirt worn by one

132 runner in a group, and visible to other runners, is presented by Mauriello et
133 al. [8], reporting the display shirt improved group cohesion and motivation.
134 In Activmon, Burns et al. [35] evaluate a wearable activity display, comparing
135 the display of both own and group data.

136 As well as displaying the wearer’s own data, wearable displays can display
137 data from others or from environmental sources [36, 37]. Williams et al. [36]
138 explored a scarf to either display the wearer’s own emotional state or the
139 mood of others. Ashford experimented with pendants to visualize the wearer’s
140 attention and meditation to others and a barometric skirt that visualizes
141 environment parameters (temperature, pressure and altitude) and their effect
142 on the wearer’s body temperature [37].

143 While there has been a large variety of wearable display concepts present-
144 ing activity and physiological data, these have so far been isolated solutions
145 and no structured approach to understanding the issues affecting the design
146 of the display and its perception have been presented.

147 *2.3. In Situ Display of Tracker Data*

148 As well as sharing via online and wearable display channels, prior work
149 has considered sharing personal tracker data via fixed public displays or as
150 tangible artefacts. In a recent work, Altmeyer et al. used a fixed public dis-
151 play and semi-anonymous nicknames to display users activity data [38]. They
152 noted that the public display significantly increased step counts and motiva-
153 tion to walk, but raised concerns about the possibility of being confronted
154 by others about performance [38]. Khot and Mueller demonstrated the con-
155 struction of a physical representation of activity data [39], enabling tangible
156 sharing, and Stusak et al. explored how Activity Sculptures impact running
157 activity [40].

158 *2.4. Ambient Display of Tracker Data*

159 As an alternative to explicit, for example, numerical, display of tracker
160 data there has been much work on the use of ambient displays, that re-
161 quire some level of interpretation by the viewer. Aesthetically inspired pub-
162 lic sharing of tracked data is demonstrated by Arroyo et al.’s water fountain
163 display [41], Khot et al.’s Tastybeats [42] and Fan et al.’s informative art
164 display [43]. Ambient visualization of tracker data, predominantly with the
165 aim to increase physical activity, has been presented by Davis et al. [44],
166 Nakajima and Lehdonvirta [45], Fortmann et al. [46], and Rogers et al. in
167 their twinkly lights concept [47].

168 *2.5. Concerns on Sharing Tracker Data*

169 Although many works have reported positive aspects of tracker data shar-
170 ing, almost all also mention people’s concerns about sharing such data. For
171 example whilst noting motivational benefits, Gui et al. [24] and Newman et
172 al. [48] report on users’ concerns about their online image and the need to
173 maintain a positive impression of one’s self to the social community. Simi-
174 lar issues were found by Hassib et al. [49] who studied users’ willingness to
175 share physiological, emotional, and cognitive personal data, finding that the
176 parameter value or valence affects willingness to share [49].

177 Early work on sharing personal data by Consolvo et al. [50], reflected on
178 users’ willingness to share location information, concluding that who, what
179 and why are the criteria applied when selecting to share restricted informa-
180 tion. Prasad et al. [51] report that people are less willing to share personal
181 demographic information than information collected by the device. This find-
182 ing is echoed by Shirazi et al. [52], who report interest in sharing sleep in-
183 formation to selected individuals via social networks, but concern that the
184 information would leak to others. Sharing of heart rate values has been ex-
185 plored in the context of a chat application in the HeartChat app [53]. In a
186 medical context, Jacobs et al. [54] report on cancer patients’ reluctance to
187 share information with family and social networks, not wishing to be labeled
188 by their condition. Additionally, whilst patients were willing to share quanti-
189 tative data with healthcare providers, some reluctance was noted related to
190 subjective information, such as feelings of loneliness [54].

191 *2.6. Summary*

192 From prior research, we learn that a huge variety of approaches to shar-
193 ing wellness and physiological data have been investigated. In some works,
194 the findings have suggested that the act of sharing has been motivational,
195 although in general the motivational effects do not appear to be significant
196 or effective in practice. Underlying these prior findings is the sense that the
197 issue is complex and multi-faceted, with seemingly small details, such as the
198 actual value being shared, the people that it is being shared with, or the
199 presentation approach impacting perception. Additionally, attitudes to pub-
200 lic data sharing have been shown to be influenced by culture and gender.
201 With this background, we aim toward the creation of a model, detailing the
202 main parameters of the space. To provide further data, in addition to that
203 provided by prior work, we first create and evaluate two prototype forms of
204 wearable tracker displays and use them as probes in user studies.



Figure 2: Hat Tracker Prototype, showing the 3 different display modes supported – step count (top left), total sitting time (top right), sitting time bar chart (bottom). The display mode was selected at random every minute.

205 3. Prototypes

206 To enable the elicitation of user perceptions on the topic of wearable
207 tracker displays, we first created two functional wearable tracker display pro-
208 totypes: the *Hat Tracker* and the *Tracker Badge*.

209 3.1. *Hat Tracker Prototype*

210 The Hat Tracker consists of a small Android smartphone (Moto G ver-
211 sion 1), securely attached to a baseball cap by an elasticated pouch (Fig-
212 ure 2). As the smartphone was situated on the wearer’s head, the platform
213 integrated step count function did not return reliable results. Hence, we de-
214 veloped an Android application, which, based on the output from the smart-
215 phone accelerometer, classify each minute of wear as either being sitting or
216 walking. The parameters required for the classification algorithm were estab-
217 lished through a short practical iteration process. As step count is nowadays
218 a ubiquitous way of measuring activity, we made a crude translation, con-
219 verting each active minute to between 70 and 120 steps, depending on the

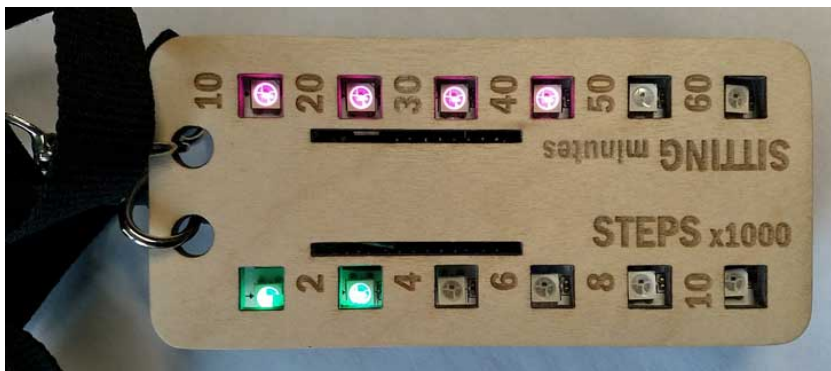


Figure 3: Tracker Badge Prototype, displaying steps and sitting time using LEDs.

220 amount of motion measured. Informed by the work of Hassib et al. [49] on
 221 the impact of data valence on the willingness to share, we selected to present
 222 the same data in both polarities, i.e. walking and sitting. The activity status
 223 is displayed on the device screen using large numeric visualizations, that by-
 224 standers can read at a distance. For sitting time, we utilized a bar chart type
 225 visualization. The data displayed on the hat updates once a minute, with the
 226 visualization being randomly selected as one of:

- 227 • Number of steps, e.g., *Steps: 345*
- 228 • Total sitting time, e.g., *Sitting Time: 18 min*
- 229 • Sitting time bar chart, a green or red colored bar depending on the
 230 sitting time value

231 Whilst the prototype in its current form is clearly not yet suitable for daily
 232 wear, we envisaged that its provocative form would be effective in eliciting a
 233 wide range of responses from study participants wearing the prototype.

234 3.2. Tracker Badge Prototype

235 To explore a different wearable form factor and visualization format com-
 236 pared to that of the Hat Tracker, we created the Tracker Badge (Figure 3).
 237 As with the Hat Tracker, to expose any differences caused by presentation
 238 polarity, the design of the badge aimed to present data in both positive and
 239 negative polarities, i.e. sitting and walking. The badge consists of 2 rows of
 240 6 multicolor LEDs, the upper row indicating step count and the lower sit-
 241 ting time. For the step count, each LED illuminated in green represents 2000

242 steps, and for the sitting time, each red illuminated LED represents 10 min-
243 utes of sitting time. The sitting time count records the time of the current
244 sitting session, and is reset to zero when more than 10 steps are taken within
245 a one minute time window. The display LEDs are driven by a small Arduino
246 micro-controller with on-board Bluetooth low energy connectivity.

247 All the elements plus a small battery are housed in a conference badge
248 style pouch with a lanyard enabling the badge to be worn around the neck.
249 The data for the Tracker Badge is provided by an Android app, utilizing the
250 platform step count functionality. Once connected to the badge via Blue-
251 tooth, the app can run as a service in the background enabling, e.g., the
252 smartphone to be placed in the user’s pocket. To enable evaluation of the
253 prototype in a short time, the smartphone app includes settings where the
254 number of steps and sitting time can be multiplied by 10 or 100 times.

255 4. Focus Group

256 To find insights on the area of wearable tracker data displays, we con-
257 ducted two focus group-based user studies.

258 4.1. Method

259 We structured the focus group sessions to investigate participants’ views
260 and ideas on wearable display of tracker data, with particular emphasis on
261 what information is displayed, how it is displayed and in what context it is
262 visible (i.e., who sees the information). A moderator guided the discussion
263 towards these topics, supported by probe images. In addition, the focus group
264 participants used our functional prototype wearable tracker displays during
265 the session, such that they would gain insights into displaying their own
266 personal data. The focus group was organised according to the institution’s
267 ethical guidelines. As the study did not include children or vulnerable groups,
268 no additional ethics approval was required.

269 4.2. Procedure

270 The focus groups were run by a single moderator, who also made audio
271 recordings of the sessions which we later transcribed for analysis. We used
272 several different probes to support the participants’ discussion and ideation:

- 273 • To open the topic of self-tracking, the moderator presented a collection
274 of 8 screenshots from popular smartphone apps as probes. The images



Figure 4: Ideation probe images showing a variety of wearable tracking data display formats in various contexts. Top row: suitcase display at a railway station, hat display in a park. Lower section (showing 2 states of the display in each case): Embroidered color changing badge on left shoulder in a cafe, color changing sports shirt – jogging in a park, pattern changing formal shirt in a business meeting.

275 were chosen to represent the variety of data sources in tracker apps,
 276 e.g., daily steps, amount of sleep, heart rate, performance vs. activity
 277 target, etc., as well as the different data visualization approaches used.

278 • The hat tracker and tracker badge prototypes were introduced and
 279 worn by each of the participants for some time during the session.

280 • A set of images illustrated different contexts and data visualization
 281 approaches (Figure 4). These included a column chart on a suitcase,
 282 a bar chart on a woolen hat, an embroidered pattern on a shirt that
 283 changed color, a sports shirt that changed color, and a formal shirt
 284 with a changing pattern. Participants were guided that the information
 285 displayed could be various kinds of tracked data.

- 286 • A set of images illustrating different data visualization techniques, e.g.,
287 numeric, line charts, bar charts, etc.

288 During the focus group, the moderator directed discussions to consider:
289 1) The effect of the data source on their willingness to share such information
290 content about them-selves; 2) If their perception of the value of the data vs.
291 socially accepted values would have any impact on their willingness to share
292 it (for example, step count in respect to a generally known daily target of
293 10000 steps for healthy living [55]).

294 4.3. *Analysis*

295 The sessions lasted approximately 45 minutes each. Altogether 6 partici-
296 pants from different fields (4 female, age 20-27 years) were recruited from the
297 university’s test participant pool, and divided into two groups of three (Fig-
298 ure 5). A second researcher (not the moderator) analyzed the transcription
299 from the focus group, who used an affinity grouping approach to identify ma-
300 jor themes raised by participants. We identified four themes: the preference
301 for presenting a positive image, the role of social pressure, the influence of
302 the data source, and the format in which the data is presented.

303 4.4. *Results*

304 4.4.1. *Presenting a Positive Image*

305 The participants’ willingness to share data varied, ranging from “Why
306 not, what bad would it [showing data publicly] do?” (#1) to “I think it
307 would be uncomfortable” (#2), but group discussions revealed deeper insight
308 to the underlying factors. Participants argued that they were much more
309 willing to publicly display information that presented a positive image of
310 themselves: “I would of course rather show positive [data]! Like look how
311 much I have been walking today!” (#1). “This one [shirt changing color
312 when steps goal achieved] I could really use, because it has a positive flavor.”
313 (#1). “Would you like to share information that everyone can see: well, he
314 doesn’t walk enough? It’s like you share negative data about yourself. What
315 you can interpret is that that guy doesn’t workout enough or he doesn’t take
316 care of his fitness. I wouldn’t feel that it would be nice” (#5). “It [negative
317 information] would easily put a stigma on you. For instance if one only wants
318 to sit in peace for a while, others would think like ha-ha, that guy is just
319 sitting there all the time” (#4).

320 The perception by others and the use context were strongly affecting on
321 the willingness to display data. Altogether, creating a good image of one-
322 self was perceived as very important, e.g., “I feel that this kind of Am-I-in-
323 control-of-my-life application would be just horrible! For myself I could show
324 [information like this], but not to others. Especially things like, here are my
325 different life sectors, and here I have scored only 4%” (#2). Giving a good
326 impression was also commented to be more important in certain situations,
327 or with certain people, than others, e.g., “If you were on your first date and
328 didn’t know the other person, it would be awful if you give the impression,
329 like, that guy doesn’t do anything else but sit all day long” (#4).

330 Interestingly, displaying negative information was seen also as a way to
331 get pity or as an excuse for something; bad mood, tiredness, or wanting to get
332 a seat in the rush hour. It was then seen as a way to show evidence of one’s
333 condition: “At the airport that would be useful, because you could justify
334 to someone why they should give you a chair to sleep on, like, look at this,
335 I have slept so little!” (#3). “To get points for pity. Look how dreadfully
336 hard travel I have had” (#2). It was commented that the impressions the
337 other would get would change their attitude or behavior towards you: “[if I
338 had slept only for 3 hours, they could say at work] Don’t take this hard task
339 today, here is an easier one” (#2).

340 4.4.2. *Social Pressure*

341 Relating to the perception by co-located people, a public wearable display
342 for sharing activity tracking information was seen to create social pressure.
343 There were several comments where participants indicated that creating a
344 good image of themselves would push them to be more active, and pay more
345 attention to it. For example: “[displaying the sitting time on the hat] would at
346 least increase the social pressure. Because everyone else can see how long you
347 have been sitting for” (#3). “If you feel that sitting is negative, you would
348 start paying more attention to that. Because you wouldn’t like to signal to
349 others that you have been sitting a lot.” (#6). Especially, trying on the hat
350 tracker prototype provoked comments in this direction: “This would make me
351 feel anxious, as others can see how much you have been sitting and so” (#1,
352 when trying on the hat prototype). “I’d start feeling that I would change my
353 behavior because of this, because you don’t want to show that you have been
354 sitting so long and you would somehow like to present a positive image of
355 yourself, like I am a healthy person” (#5, when trying on the hat prototype).

356 Social pressure through wearable displays could push more than one per-

357 son to be more active. The possibility for facilitating healthy group behaviour
358 and gamification, e.g., between colleagues was highlighted: “If all employees
359 had the same display, this could trigger a group exercise break” (#5).

360 4.4.3. *Type of Data*

361 The attitude towards sharing data depended on the type of data, and
362 was linked with the perceived privacy. Sharing activity (steps) was easier
363 to accept than sleeping data. Sleep was perceived as more personal, telling
364 others more about personal life, and the accuracy of sleep data was doubted.
365 E.g.: “It wouldn’t hurt to show I have been running this much.” (#5) “Maybe
366 I could display some running, if I would run more often – then I could show
367 my progress. But I don’t know about the sleep, if I would share it. Somehow
368 I feel I would get lots of pressure [to sleep well] from that” (#4). “I don’t
369 know if it [displaying sleep time] would cause such [thoughts] as oookay, that
370 guy has been sleeping only three hours. He’s been partying yesterday and
371 now he has a hangover!” (#2).

372 4.4.4. *Data Presentation*

373 Data presentation comments related to two aspects: the information vi-
374 sualization style and the wearable form factor. Ease of use and glanceability
375 were appreciated, and for instance displays on sleeves (#2) and shoes (#2,
376 #3) were suggested for jogging. It was perceived that a wearable display
377 would be easier and faster to use than a phone or smartwatch, and would
378 also be more noticeable. Participants commented: “On the sleeves, although
379 it is similar to a watch, [it would be easier to use and see] even if you are
380 wearing a thick coat [and can’t easily look at your watch]” (#2). “It would
381 change [my behavior] because you would simply pay more attention to that.
382 Like if it [wearable display] was green and so on. It would show so clearly
383 that you have been sitting too much and now you need to do something”
384 (#4). “I think it would be easier than checking the phone all the time to see
385 if you have run enough.” (#6). Thus, if in vicinity, wearable displays were
386 commented to be a good solution for the users themselves.

387 Comments on the data presentation format highlighted two main themes.
388 Firstly, participants pointed out many times that an abstract, ambient style,
389 with fewer details, would be preferred, as it revealed less information to
390 others, whereas the users themselves would understand the meaning. For
391 instance, “I like that [color changing shirt] much more [than number display].
392 Because others don’t necessarily know that your shirt is changing color, but to



Figure 5: Focus group#1 discussing around the probe images. Note the participant on the left wearing the Hat Tracker functional prototype.

393 you, it is like saying: Hah! I have done my jogging for today!” (#2). Secondly,
394 possible misinterpretation of the data, or one’s intentions, provoked concerns.
395 “If I saw that someone’s shirt is changing its color, I would think it would
396 relate to temperature or something like that. Then you would think that the
397 wearer is nervous, or sweating, or [I would wonder] what is going on” (#2).

398 5. Field Study

399 To complement the focus group and get insights on practical use of public
400 wearable wellness displays, we conducted an additional field study where
401 participants had to wear the hat prototype.

402 5.1. Participants and Procedure

403 To elicit insights on using public wearable displays, we ran a study requir-
404 ing participants to wear the hat in public for a short time (30 to 90 minutes)
405 whilst performing their normal daily tasks. We recruited a test group of 12
406 participants from the university’s staff and students. Whilst there were no
407 particular selection criteria, we aimed to recruit a gender and age balanced
408 set of subjects. The study was organised according to the institution’s eth-
409 ical guidelines. As the study did not include children or vulnerable groups,
410 no additional ethics approval was required.

411 The 12 participants were aged from 21–60 years ($M = 37$ years) and seven
412 were female. Considering prior tracker experience, five had no experience of
413 activity trackers and nine had never tried a sleep tracker. Only one partici-
414 pant was currently using a tracker, to track activity. Of the participants 3/12
415 stated they were not getting enough exercise and 5/12 not enough sleep. We
416 acknowledge that the prototype tracker displays we created were rather un-
417 aesthetic and that our study participants only wore the displays for a short

418 time. However, as the displays were fully functional, we believe they enabled
419 participants to quickly feel the issues related to displaying their own data.

420 5.2. Results

421 Two-thirds of our participants (67%) stated that the main reasons they
422 would share wellness tracked data would be self-motivation or to start a
423 discussion with others. Younger members of the study group highlighted
424 competition as one reason to share the data, resulting in overall 42% of
425 participants mentioning this driver. The perceived effect of data valence was
426 not strong, with only 17% stated that they would only share positive results.
427 Participants' main reasons for not sharing data were that no one would be
428 interested (57%) and that they considered the data too private (50%).

429 Initially several of our participants were reluctant to wear the hat in
430 public. Although all did, several noted that it caused some social discomfort,
431 e.g., "People were asking and laughing when I had the hat on!" (Female,
432 59). Overall, participants gave neutral feedback on their opinion of the hat's
433 ability to motivate them to be more active ($M = 4.2$, $SD = 1.5$; scale:
434 1 = not at all motivational, 7 = very motivational). We asked participants
435 if they saw a benefit in seeing similar wellness data of those around them.
436 Here, 58% felt such knowledge would help them better relate to others and
437 be more sympathetic. In this respect participants stating, "As a lecturer I
438 would know if my students have slept enough etc. Would be good to know!"
439 (Male, 40) "I would encourage people to sleep more and be more active, if
440 I'd see them do poorly." (Female, 59)

441 5.2.1. Data Source and Valence

442 The majority of participants (92%) did not consider step count or sitting
443 time to be particularly private information. In contrast around half felt that
444 resting heart rate (58%) and blood sugar level (50%) were examples of private
445 information they would not share on a public wearable display. Although in
446 this respect not all agreed, "Depends on the situation. People would know
447 that if my blood sugar level is low, I'm hungry. They would believe me, so
448 it would be like a proof to them." (Female, 28). When asked what other in-
449 formation they would not share on a wearable display 44% mentioned sleep
450 quality/duration. Interestingly, and rather a dystopian thought, 25% sug-
451 gested they would not like any diseases they have to be shown on a wearable
452 display. Participants were reluctant to consider showing negative values on
453 a wearable display, with 50% stating they would only show positive values.

454 One participant stated she would not use the application at all, “If I hide
455 the negative results, then everybody would know why, so I wouldn’t even use
456 the whole application.” (Female, 26).

457 *5.2.2. Display Form Factor and Presentation Format*

458 None of the participants favored a hat or the head area as the location
459 for a wearable display. The most popular form factors/locations stated were
460 accessories (58%) such and jewelry, a watch shoes and belts. Generally, these
461 suggestions undermine the design target of public visibility, as stated by one
462 participant, “It would be nice to hide the tracker display if necessary.” (Fe-
463 male, 28). An interesting pivot for future work was raised by one participant,
464 “I would like to see the information also myself!” (Male, 24). Participants
465 mentioned a variety of preferred visualization formats including numeric val-
466 ues (33%), symbols (33%), colors and patterns (42%) and graphs and bars
467 (42%). However, there was excitement about the idea of colors and patterns
468 changing, “We need that kind of clothes here that when I have run enough,
469 my co-workers would see it from my clothes via a color change and then I
470 could go and rest for a while.” (Female, 59, Restaurant Worker). “You could
471 choose your own theme and an icon! A greyhound for dog-lovers, if you’re
472 really active.” (Male, 60).

473 **6. Towards a Model for Wearable Display of Wellness**

474 **Tracker Data**

475 Based on our review of the related work, we identified the following factors
476 as contributing to the user experience of using a wearable display showing
477 personal tracker data: the data source, the valence of the data, the presenta-
478 tion form factor and data visualization, and the context of use. To provide a
479 structured view to the topic, we present a model, highlighting the scope and
480 interplay between the various factors (Figure 6).

481 The value and importance of providing models or frameworks and map-
482 ping design spaces has been recognized by the HCI community. They help
483 to not only understand the consequences arising from changes in the design
484 but also help to find and propose new opportunities [56]. Whereas early work
485 on frameworks and design spaces focused on fundamental HCI aspects, such
486 as the classification and taxonomy of input devices [57, 58], later examples
487 formed a valuable basis for development of the corresponding fields, e.g. de-
488 sign spaces for mobile phone input [59], public displays [60] and multimodal

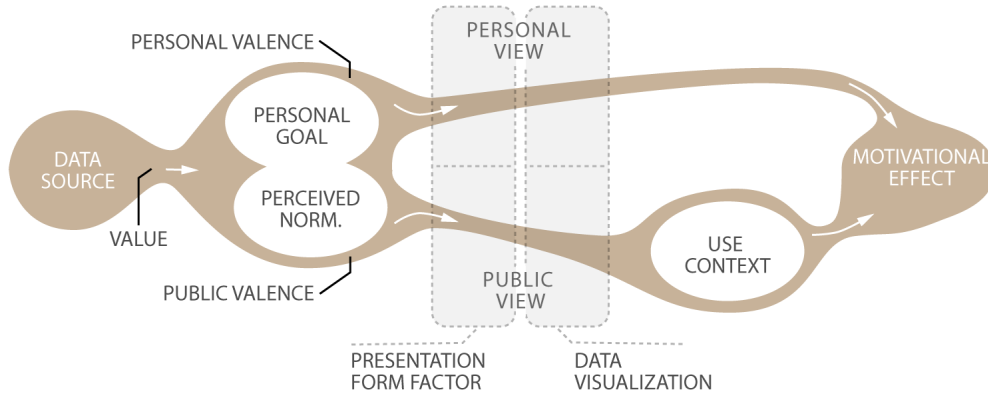


Figure 6: Model for wearable personal and public display of wearable wellness tracker information

489 interaction [61]. Our aim is that the model presented in this paper provides
 490 initial steps towards a structured view to the topic of wearable displays for
 491 wellness data presentation and complement other frameworks in the same
 492 domain such as the wellness tracker goal framework [7].

493 In this section we, firstly, introduce and discuss each factor in the model,
 494 relating it to our prototypes and study results. Secondly, the following section
 495 reflects on the findings from our two user studies against it.

496 6.1. Data Source

497 Prior work has created wearable display concepts covering a wide vari-
 498 ety of different data sources including, steps [22], sleep [52], heart rate [53],
 499 body temperature [37] and emotional state [36]. However, prior work has
 500 not directly addressed the sensitivity of design and experience to different
 501 data sources. In those works that have included multiple data sources, e.g.,
 502 [36, 37], this has not been a focus of the work. We note that not all data
 503 sources are the same, being either direct measurements (e.g., temperature),
 504 data which is calculated from sensor measurements (e.g., number of steps),
 505 or data resulting from more complex algorithms, such as sleep phase identi-
 506 fication. However, for all data, perceived accuracy forms a critical element in
 507 the experience and impact of use (see Niess & Woźniak [7] on *trust*).

508 Our study participants considered some data sources to be more private
 509 than other. For example, many participants felt information related to sleep
 510 was more private than information on their level of activity. We speculate

511 that lack of sleep is widely understood to be reflected in an individual’s work
512 performance, yet the effect of limited activity is less directly observable.

513 *6.2. Valence*

514 The value from the data source takes on a positive or negative valence
515 based on the perception of its value [49]. Whilst many of the perception
516 thresholds that define valence are based on medical research, others may be
517 cultural or based on targets created by groups or even individuals. Addition-
518 ally, we introduce the concept of polarity to handle reporting the same high
519 level parameter from different directions, e.g., daily activity may be reported
520 as number of steps (positive polarity) or the amount of time sitting (negative
521 polarity).

522 To represent user concerns regarding presenting a positive public im-
523 age [24, 48], our model introduces two data valences that exist side-by-side,
524 namely personal and public valences. The personal valence, i.e. the user’s own
525 perception on how good/bad the measured value from the wellness tracker
526 is, is the result of comparing the measurement against the user’s personal
527 goals. In contrast, the public valence is the perception of how the value is
528 received by the public, i.e. co-located people with whom the data is shared
529 with through a public display. This is a major difference when designing for a
530 personal wellness display, where data is typically shown in respect to personal
531 goals and activity history.

532 Our focus group also found that the perception of what was generally
533 regarded as healthy or unhealthy behavior had a strong effect on how the
534 data display was perceived, for example in social situations where they felt
535 pressure to impress those around them there was a preference to convey only
536 positive information about themselves.

537 *6.3. Presentation Form Factor*

538 The presentation form factor can take various forms, e.g., embedded in
539 a shirt [8], a hat integrated display [34], or smart bracelet, and data visual-
540 ization within this form needs to be considered. In our model we divide the
541 output space in two, one for personal view, and one for the eyes of the public.
542 Within this framework concepts can e.g. utilise two separate displays, or a
543 single context adaptive display.

544 Our study findings also locate well in this model. Wearing a public display
545 increased the importance of the co-located community’s role. As the tracker
546 data is shared and observed immediately by surrounding people, feedback

547 can be directly obtained. As well as impacting the wearer, the people around
548 the wearer are also affected. For example, when noticing how long they had
549 been sitting, the whole group could decide it was time to have a walk. Whilst
550 it was also commented that this kind of public display functionality could be
551 interpreted as asking for pity, there is potential for it to contribute to social
552 support and work safety [62]). The potential for the display to indicate that
553 the wearer needs support from those around them is an interesting finding,
554 as prior work has identified the wish to offer support [18, 20].

555 *6.4. Data Visualization*

556 Prior work presented a huge variety of data visualisation approaches pre-
557 senting data, e.g., ambiently, numerically, descriptively or graphically, as sin-
558 gle values or trends. Here, issues related to the design space of wearable dis-
559 plays (screen size, resolution, and usage context) are relevant factors [29, 60].

560 Some participants preferred abstract, ambient display of tracker data, lim-
561 iting the information distribution through the need for interpretation. Such
562 approaches address the challenge of displaying negative data values which can
563 be less immediately eye-catching and require the viewer to understand the
564 visual coding used. Glancability was also raised by our participants, which
565 has previously been studied only for smart watch data visualizations [33].

566 *6.5. Use Context*

567 The context of use plays a major role in how a public wearable display
568 is perceived and how the user takes the audiences reactions or the social
569 pressure it creates. In contrast, and by definition, the private view of our
570 model is unaffected by context. When sharing tracked data the "where?"
571 and "who with?" are of paramount importance. Sharing context is a highly
572 influential factor both through the pressure on one's public image, but also
573 potentially from the support the user can receive from co-located people.

574 From our studies we found that context played a central role how wearing
575 a public wellness display was perceived. Rather than the physical context, the
576 social context and the co-located people were perceived most important. This
577 suggests that an interesting direction for future work would be to adapt the
578 data displayed on wearable tracker displays depending on the surrounding
579 people, e.g., friends, family, colleagues or strangers.

580 7. Discussion

581 Reflecting our model against works exploring self-presentation from the
582 psychological viewpoint [63, 64, 65] provides further grounding for our find-
583 ings. Goffman [63] describes people’s actions in social encounters as analogous
584 to actors on a stage, playing roles to fit to the expected social context. With
585 this approach, wearable displays may be seen as props in the show, which,
586 those actors with more extrovert personalities, may wish to engage as part
587 of their presentation to the audience. Focusing on the private vs. public self,
588 Schenkler [64] identifies two axes: *motive*, i.e. accuracy or personal advantage
589 and *audience*, i.e. the private or public nature of the activity being performed.

590 Within this frame, Snyder [65] identifies two categories of individuals: *high*
591 *self-monitors* that adapt their behavior to make a favourable impression on
592 others and *low self-monitors* who are not unduly concerned about opinion
593 of those around them. Thus, our model’s separation of the personal and
594 private, and who is able to view the display, well supports the underlying
595 motivations. For Snyder’s high self-monitors [65], the public dimensions of
596 our model will have a stronger influence than the private, and vice versa for
597 low self-monitors.

598 From our evaluations, including both a constrained focus group setting as
599 well as an in-the-wild setting, we conclude that this “hybrid” methodology
600 is valuable to obtain a broader picture of the domain. For example, while
601 participants in the focus group expressed strong concerns for cases where
602 a potentially negative image of them was conveyed, this concern was much
603 less pronounced among people who actually tested the prototype in-the-wild
604 (where only 22% echoed this concern). Different study paradigms have their
605 strengths when it comes to investigating different research questions. In par-
606 ticular, we found that evaluations in-the-wild are particularly useful if the
607 goal is to test a design regarding user acceptance, social implications, privacy
608 concerns, and user experience. More controlled investigations in the lab being
609 more appropriate to obtain early feedback in the design process and identify
610 interesting directions for future work.

611 As a limitation, we recognize that our work does not contain a long-
612 term study. This aspect should be investigated to gain further knowledge
613 about the user perceptions of wearable public displays. We also recognise the
614 transferability of our findings is limited by our single culture sample. As noted
615 in our review of related work, attitudes to self-presentation are influenced by
616 culture and gender [26, 27, 25], as well as individual aspects [65].

617 For future researchers and designers, our model provides opportunities
618 to design and build novel wearable displays. As a next step, we plan to
619 further explore the form and content of wearable displays for tracker data,
620 moving more to the direction of aesthetic, clothing design integrated, ambient
621 display. With information presentation aspects, it is of interest to investigate
622 how quickly users can grasp the meaning of an abstract representation of
623 data, and generally study the evaluation methods for wearable displays, as
624 done in other domains of public displays [66]. Further, one interesting aspect
625 raised in our study is the effect of wearer non-visibility of the display.

626 8. Conclusions

627 Sharing wellness tracker information with selected individuals has been
628 identified as a motivational factor for the adoption of healthy lifestyles. We
629 have presented two functional prototypes – the tracker badge and the hat
630 tracker – which were used as probes in two focus groups and later evaluated
631 them in an in-the-wild study ($n = 12$). Both studies highlighted the posi-
632 tive potential for such concepts. Leveraging findings from related work, we
633 present a model for the design of wearable displays for tracker data. The
634 model distinguishes between personal and public views of wearable display,
635 which may have differing characteristics. Whilst social context is of highest
636 influence, the data source, its valence and the presentation medium are also
637 identified as factors affecting users’ willingness to utilize such displays.

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