CSE 440 (HCI)
Assignment 1b

Project Proposal

As the influx of high-tech gadgets and social media websites enhance our everyday lives, there are also many drawbacks that detach us from the physical reality. With the smartphones taking over our lives and absorbing most of our attention, we don't really take the time to observe the beauty of the world. When I was visiting an aquarium in California, I noticed that at least 90% of the people were busy taking pictures of the sea animals and I could see more phones than the jelly fishes in the tanks. Similarly, the rise of Facebook, Twitter, and other social media websites have also sucked away our face-to-face time with our family and friends. As humans, we need to have actual bonds with others that transcends beyond the electronic screen for our health benefits and sanity. Thus, it is important that we maintain balanced relationships with family and friends.

Obviously, having all these technologies are not necessary detrimental to our worldly relationships. Smartphones can capture all of our memories and selfies for viewing a decade later, and the social websites can keep us up to date of what is going on in the world. However, we need a good balanced between the electronic world and the real world. It would be great if we have a tool to measure our relationship status with relatives living far away, friends that we don't have time or remember to hang out with, and motivate us once again to rekindle those relationships. One example is that someone can utilize a handy app that synchronizes with their computer and smartphone to track how much time they spend on them and allow the individuals to record the amount of time he or she hangs out with family and friends. This way, the individual can be reminded that he or she needs to actually spent some quality times and enhance his or her relationships if needed.