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CSE 440AB (Cleaning and the Internet of Things)

The purpose of our project is to help users keep their living environment clean and mess free. We aim to achieve this by helping users prioritize, schedule and track the tasks responsible for general housekeeping.

### **User Groups**

There are two main user groups we're interested in: UW students and Microsoft employees.

Students are an interesting user group as they have less time to clean and have more commitments outside of the home. Similarly, working professionals such as developers work at least eight hours a day and have little time to devote to chores such as cooking and cleaning.

All in all, renters and homeowners/working professionals are suitable for our study primarily because they are user groups that have important and significant commitments outside of their homes for most of the day. Cleaning to these user groups takes up time, which could have been spent elsewhere doing things like spending time with family, doing homework, or relaxing.

### **Session Description**

We are going to conduct four contextual inquiries this week. Two student sessions and two working professional sessions. We will be visiting all participants in their homes. For the working professional user group, we contacted two married females, engineers at Microsoft that are also homeowners. We will also enlist the help of students from the UW community. All of our participants will be or were recruited through recommendations from personal connections of our team members (i.e. friends of friends).

During the inquiry sessions, we will follow the apprentice/master approach. At the beginning of the session, we'll explain the purpose of our study and how the observation is supposed to work. Then, we will observe them in their house or apartment using retrospective accounts, because it is not likely that they will be in the process of planning their house chores. We will ask questions along the way (see below) and we will go over, if any, artifacts they use for planning. In general, we will talk to them about recent behaviors, explain our design solution, and offer our interpretations along the way.

### **Potential Questions**

- How do you determine what needs to get done around the house?
- How do you schedule and how do you prioritize these tasks? What is the reasoning behind the prioritization?
- Tell us about the last time you wanted to clean or perform a housekeeping task and instead got sidetracked. What was the distraction? Did you reschedule the task?
- How do you feel after/before cleaning your house?
- Do you track how long does it take you to accomplish a chore? Why yes or why not?
- Do you use any type of resources or artifacts to assist your chore planning?