2G: Design Review ("1x2")

We chose to expand upon the photo album idea to include a wearable pin to make tracking and notifications more efficient. We wanted to incorporate a voice UI component that was accessible to the user at any time, not just when the user was in a room with the photo frame like in a previous idea. The photo frame will serve as a graphical user interface for users and caretakers to program in reminders, which can be accessed by the senior using the wearable. Simple reminders are a big part of helping people with mild memory loss, and based on our finding that family and familiarity are comforting, we thought that using a photo frame might be a non-intrusive way to incorporate this system into people's lives. The wearable would also function as a tracking device, and would help with the task of keeping people from wandering. The tracker will only notify caretakers of the wearer's location when the proximity is out of reach of the sensors in the photo albums, so the wearer's privacy is protected within the home.

We chose this design over the others we considered for multiple reasons. First, we wanted to come up with a device that could be with the user at all times. Our other potential designs mostly involved purely environmental devices. This limits where and when the user could utilize the device. Second, we wanted to choose devices that are familiar to the aging population. From our research, we found that photos are a great way to keep those with memory loss calm and relaxed. A photo frame device, therefore, would not only be therapeutic to the user, but it would also be a practical choice for a UI, since a good amount of seniors do not have smartphones.

We chose reminders because they encompass a large set of problems faced by people with mild memory loss that forget minor tasks and pieces of information. We chose wandering because it can be very dangerous if a person with memory loss forgets where they are, and it is a problem that can easily be solved with a tracking device. There are other problems that individuals with memory loss face, but based on our research, we believe that these two problems are the most common issues faced by this specific population.

Task 1: Reminders

Task 2: Locating wanderers