Laundr

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The Problem: Laundry Is Tedious

- Are the machines in use?
- Will all my laundry fit?
- Do I have enough time?
- Is my laundry done?
Design Research: Goals

● First idea: track ownership of clothing, suggest outfits.
  ○ Not a common problem; solutions exist.
● Pivot: focus on the process of doing laundry.
  ○ More interesting design space.
Design Research: Methods & Participants

- **Methods**
  - Contextual inquiries
  - Semi-structured interviews

- **Participants**
  - Residents in dorms at a large university, and a smaller college
  - Young working professionals living in apartment buildings and at home
Tasks

- Separating laundry by types or color
- Deciding when you have a full load of laundry
- Determining if you have enough coins to clean all your dirty clothing
- Coordinating with machine availability
- Knowing when the washing and drying cycles are completed
- Knowing how to wash a certain type of clothing
Design Sketches

Hanger & Closet

Hanger sensor
Hanger sensor-light

Main Sensor

Touch-screen
Main control

Camera

Worn-free
Wash?
Age?

App

Closet space
Design Sketches

Ball & Scale

- Spiky surface for easy grip
- Light band that glows after use
- Laundry ball to put in washer & dryer
- Can slide under laundry basket

The ball's charging deck
(styled like a basket)
Design Sketches

Smart Basket

- Lining to pull out bottom of laundry
- Two compartments for two types of laundry
- Sensor for laundry
- Handle
- Compartment divider
- Light indicators: separate scales for each load
Storyboard: Finding A Free Machine

1. Calendar
2. Time to go downtown!
3. Laundry
4. Washing machine
5. TV
6. Communicates with other balls to schedule the dryer cycle
Storyboard: Reminder To Do Laundry

1. Sensor detects fullness and sends a signal.
2. "I'll just skip laundry once week."
3. "Oops, this will only take 5 minutes.
4. "Washer."
5. "Hip."
Summary: Lessons Learned

- Be careful about choosing a focus too early.
- The interesting problem is not necessarily the most universal one.
- Diverse designs can solve similar tasks.