

# Melodious Walkabout

Implicit Navigation with Contextualized Audio Contents



<http://www.melodiouswalkabout.com>

Design: <http://www.sektion2.de>

The problem of conventional navigation systems is that they interrupt current tasks, when displaying navigation information. While this may be ok for a variety of cases, this states a disadvantage if navigation is not the main task. Especially being navigated in your leisure time may not require explicit instructions being visually displayed or read out aloud e.g. when listening to your music. In this poster a different approach is followed to transport navigation information implicitly, without the need to interrupt any concurrent task. The idea is to use the spatial quality of music for the conveyance of the navigation information. Melodious Walkabout is able to render navigation information and music in real-time and to audify the direction and the

distance to a destination by modulation of the spatial music quality. This enables the user to listen to his favorite music, or any audio content without any inter-ruption, while being navigated at the same time.

How to use the system?

1. Select your audio files, e.g. favorite music
2. Select your travel destination
3. Start walking and follow the sound

How does it work?

During the navigation the user is located with GPS. A PDA constantly calculates the direction and distance to the destination and aggregates the spatial information in real time to the audio files the user is listening to. The user hears audio files which reach him out of a certain direction. This direction implicitly indicates him in which direction to go. When approaching the destination changes in volume indicate the user the distance to the destination.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the system with 40 users showed that the users were able to understand the navigation with the system intuitively, without any prior knowledge or instructions. All users completed their routes close to the optimum course. Thus the system works effective and highly efficient. The users stated that the navigation information required only minimal attention and perceived it as very unobtrusive and effective.