

PanaFriend

The PanaFriend team is working with Panasonic to design a fashionable wearable device that enables friends to communicate with one another wirelessly through physical gestures and senses. Imagine being able to instantly send a "hug" to your friend across the country by gently squeezing one such device - let's call it the emBracelet. The emBracelet will detect the pressure and temperature of your squeeze, and transmit the data via Bluetooth to your cellphone, which routes it via the cellular network and once again via Bluetooth to your friend's emBracelet. Your friend literally feels your "hug" through gentle pressure and warmth. And this is just the beginning. We envision using advanced pressure-sensing components to enable other intuitive and fun gestures. In addition, we think an awesome visual element as you touch to communicate will make this device even more attractive to our young adults market. To make this not only possible but also with a simple and fun interface, CS gods like you will play a big role! There is great potential to explore mobile application development as well as algorithms to determine literally how cool the visual element can be! If you have questions, please email 310-panafriend@lists.stanford.edu. We look forward to you joining the PanaFriend team and sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge!