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Comments for week 5
Ubiquitous computing

Weiser's assertion on ubiquitous computing is clear and ambitious. When computers become tools that are invisible and do not intrude on our consciousness, how can they handle complicated tasks like spreadsheets and photo manipulations? Is a keyboard an invisible tool that is qualified to be part of the ubicomp world? Calm design that can move easily from periphery of our attention, to the center, and back sounds like a promising solution for the ideal ubicomp, but I still hardly imagine a specialized invisible tool to deal with thousands of data. Although many projects at the tangible media group have made brilliant attempts to executes the notation of object affordances by giving digital information a physical embodiment and control, there are still many constraints due to existing technologies especially the input and output devices. I am not sure if e-paper, digital ink, flexible display, handheld projector will be appropriate as part of the ubiquitous computing, new display is definitely has to be developed for it. Input devices can be either embodied in daily life objects or be part of a context of use to achieve the invisibility of tools, new devices or interfaces for manipulating large volume of data or handling meticulous tasks also have be developed. Lastly, with wireless networks everywhere, or may even with the use of human area networking, personal privacy issues will become crucial to the ubicomp.