The Reign of Catz & Dogz at CHI 2009

Call For Participation

The Reign of Catz & Dogz at CHI 2009 is a one day workshop which intends to explore aspects of interaction with ethologically inspired virtual creatures, which include anthropomorphised embodied devices such as Aibo and Pleo, and software such as Catz, Dogz and Nintendogs, as well as non-commercial devices that have been developed in many research labs. Despite the commercial success of these artefacts, the academic understanding of human interactions with such systems remains limited. The day will include presentations, discussion panels, demonstrations and activities, and intends to foster useful interaction among attendees. Extended abstracts ranging from three to four pages in length can be submitted on any relevant topic. Papers will be accepted based on the quality of research and potential interest to attendees. We are particularly keen to receive submissions from researchers outside of computer science and also from researchers addressing intercultural aspects of interactions with virtual creatures.

Potential topics include:

• The role of virtual creatures in the workplace and at home
• Innovative applications for virtual pets
• Social studies of the benefits of owning virtual pets
• Cross cultural studies of aspects of virtual creatures

For further information please see the workshop website http://www.catz-and-dogz.org.uk.

Papers and any queries should be emailed to Thomas Chesney (thomas.chesney@nottingham.ac.uk) before the 24th Oct 2008. Please note that at least one author of each accepted paper needs to register for the workshop and for one or more days of the conference itself. Workshop fees for participants are estimated to be $175.