

# Professional Issues in Computing

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- In Information and Privacy, I had asked you to think about the ways in which your daily lives are tracked...
- How?

- Now imagine a system in which you actively participate in the collection of information...  
MyLifeBits

# What is MyLifeBits?

- <http://research.microsoft.com/barc/MediaPresence/MyLifeBits.aspx>
- Microsoft claims that MyLifeBits “is the fulfillment of Vannevar Bush's 1945 Memex vision”
- You can store everything about your life, and annotate and search it
- Bell, G., Gemmell, J., 2007, A Digital Life in Scientific American Magazine, February 18, 2007.

# What is MyLifeBits?

- Demo

# Ethical Issues

- Identify ethical issues...

- Committing crimes: criminal recordings, victim recordings, will a suspect be able to offer MyLifeBits to prove innocence?
- What if you're abroad? Photographing every one you meet, sexual encounters, recording telephone conversations - email exchanges are already recorded... do you need the others permission to retain the email, or is it non-contentious because of the medium (compare with POTS telephony!)

- Frequently need others' permission to make a recording
- Sometimes, recording is illegal, e.g., a film you watch in the cinema, inside sensitive areas such as an airport, etc.



- Secrets!
- Tell me where you've been vs. show me where you've been!
  - Can say anything you like
  - Can “switch off” recording
    - But lack of recording is not the same as being able to “show” what you where up to!
- Will MyLifeBits encourage us to avoid unethical behaviour?

- We cannot copyright, protect, etc. what's "in our head" (i.e., our memories: because there is no need to) but this changes once they are "fixed" or "expressed"
- Witnesses frequently rely on memory. If memory is recorded, then evidence is material
- Can MyLifeBit entries be forged? We know digital photos, video, audio can be tampered with - how do we guarantee that MyLifeBits is tamper-proof, or will MyLifeBits be inadmissible in a court of law?

- Do the potential benefits outweigh the disadvantages?