

# URBAN TAPESTRIES

Public Authoring in the Wireless City



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Urban Tapestries is a framework for understanding the social, cultural, economic and political implications of pervasive location-based mobile and wireless systems. To investigate these issues, we are building an experimental location-based wireless platform to allow people to author and access location specific content (text, audio and pictures). It is a forum for exploring and sharing experience and knowledge, for leaving and annotating ephemeral traces of peoples' presence in the geography of the city.

Urban Tapestries allows people to author their own virtual annotations of the city, enabling a community's collective memory to grow organically, allowing ordinary citizens to embed social knowledge in the new wireless landscape of the city. People will be able to add new locations, location content and the 'threads' which link individual locations to local contexts, which are accessed via handheld devices such as PDAs and mobile phones.

A Proboscis Project

In Partnership with:

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Project Team:

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The culmination of the first stage of this research and development project is a public trial of a prototype Urban Tapestries public authoring system in Bloomsbury, London.

Over nine days in December 2003, members of the public are able to borrow HP iPAQs & SonyEricsson P800s to drift through the area, authoring their own threads of information and accessing those left by other participants.

Urban Tapestries is an authoring platform for:

- personal memories
- family history
- spatial artworks
- community action
- mapping relationships
- sound maps & journeys
- anonymous communication
- local history
- pervasive gaming
- distributed narratives
- sharing local resources
- tracing personal journeys
- embedding local knowledge
- *your imagination...*



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[www.urbantapestries.net](http://www.urbantapestries.net)

