

incident during the day, it has shortcomings such as interrupting the subject from daily activities, asking at inconvenient moments, etc.

Day reconstruction method

The DRM on the other hand, assess how people experience their various activities and settings of their lives [1]. Subjects in this case have to reconstruct and reflect on the activities they perform during the day. Shortcomings of the method include the accuracy and difficulty in remembering occurred events.

Combining the two

The combination of the two methods phases out the shortcomings of each; when a participant is unable to answer when the ESM prompts him to, he can provide the answer at a later time by using the DRM. Furthermore, the main shortcoming of the DRM (difficulty in remembering) is tackled by ESM. The combination of the methods phases out obviously their shortcomings providing the researcher a powerful tool.

In practical terms, the ESM is carried out with the use of a mobile device. We have developed software which prompts questions to the participant few times during the day (Figure 2). The DRM is carried out with the use of a website. Initially, the website gathers information about the places and activities a participant performs. This information is then transferred to the mobile device. In this way when the participant is asked what information he is willing to share with his partner he is asked at the same time to define the place and activity he is doing.

We decide to develop such a system because from our experience with pilots we saw that it would be very difficult for participants to insert information to the mobile device. Thus we wanted to keep the information input in the mobile device as minimum as possible. We achieve that by asking the participant to make a few choices he is presented rather than to type text. The website offers the possibility to the participant to answer questions he was not able to do in the mobile device as well as provide comments to support his answers. Moreover, the participant can always insert more places and activities, or even update the existing ones, during the development of the study (Figure 3).

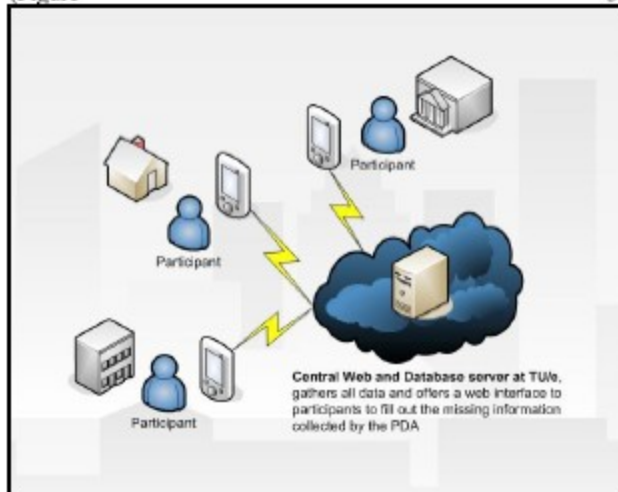


Figure 2: Participants are prompted by a mobile device during a day to answer research questions

Our plans are to execute the method with at least 20 busy parents. We are planning to deploy the tools for five working days of theirs.

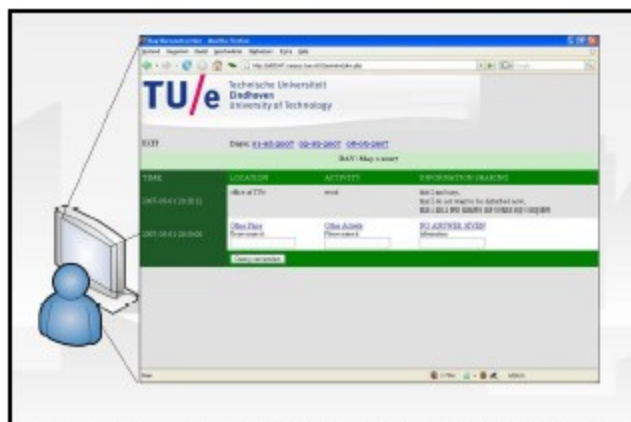


Figure 3: The website offers the possibility to the participant to answer questions he was not able to do in the mobile device

3. SUMMARY & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To develop PA we need to know what information under which context participants are willing to share. Therefore it is of great salience to capture the requirements while those arise during the day. However, we focus in a group that has busy lives and it would be a mistake from our part to expect them to have both the time and willingness to answer our questions on the PDA. Therefore we want to combine a web interface, which reconstructs events captured by the PDA device during the day with the use of the PDA itself.

The continuous investigation of finding out what information parents would like to automatically exchange between them during a day lead us in concluding that the most suitable method would be a combination of the Experience Sampling method with the Day Reconstruction Method. In this paper we have describe the pros and cons of the two methods as well as our reasoning and tools in combining the two methods.

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4. REFERENCES

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