Android App to Track Couch Potatoes

WISDM creates an Android app called ActiTracker to track users’ activity. The app uses smartphones’ accelerometers to determine how information such as whether or not you are walking or running can be derived from the sensors included in most smartphones. The WISDM team hopes that this app will be useful for many people, especially those in the medical field.

The app exhibits impressive functionality. One feature graphs the activity of a phone’s accelerometer in real time, responding quickly and accurately. ActiTracker also features a map view based on Google Maps for Android which alludes to the project’s prospective interest in GPS-based data mining. The app can also record a user’s activity, such as speed and altitude in real time.

An undergraduate research team in the Computer Science department at Fordham is currently building that app. Their project, called WISDM (Wireless Sensor Data Mining) will determine how information, such as whether or not you are walking or running, can be derived from the sensors included in most smartphones. The WISDM team hopes that this app will be useful for many people, especially those in the medical field.

The WISDM project is funded through a variety of grants and endowments. There are Summer Science Research Internships for students who wish to work on WISDM over the summer. Dr. Weiss has also received a Faculty Research Grant from the university as well as a Google Faculty Research Award worth $25,000. However, the biggest contribution so far has been the National Science Foundation Grant, which gave $240,000 to fund undergraduate and graduate student researchers involved in the WISDM project for the next three years.

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