Theodore, a gentle and careful assistant implementing Compassionate Interface

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Theodore will listen to you in a more human way than todays voice assistants do. Theodore takes into consideration voice pitch, choice of words, body language, signals of stress - even eye movement, in order to better understand and assist.

Today's interfaces for communicating with the digital world come with all sorts of barriers and obstacles, and the informatio n that is able to pass the man -machine interface is low. This is the case whether we are talking about keyboard, touch or voice based interfaces. Theodore builds on the design principles such as Compassionate Interface and as such deploys multiple simultaneo us channels allowing for different forms of sensemaking to flow through the interface and enrich the experience.

Where the touchpads and voice assistants of today let you skip a song on spotify (after only a few tries!), Theodore will gen tly and friendly put you in charge and make sure the digital world works for you, without you having to jump the loops.. Theodore app lie s a modular design approach, where features are added or removed freely. There are modules for body language, eye movement and voice pitch to name a few, and the possibility to plug in smart-watches to read stress levels and body temperature.

The wealth of data that flows in this compassionate interface is not waster though. but can be used to keep a friendly eye on smaller details in your life and gently warn you in the case anomalies are detected. The sooner signs of functional decline a reidentifies - the more efficient you can prevent them from having a negative impact.

WHOM IS IT FOR?

For elderly that feel unwelcome to the digital world, that don't want to argue with Alexa.

For us all as we grow older and come to an age when an early warning of a risk could mean many years of health and independance.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

Digital interfaces as of today are typically/ designed for fully functional and experienced digital citizens. And even we have a hard time sometimes to navigate. Add cognitive decline, fears, impaired eye -sight, loss of hearing, dryer skin and less motoric dexterity and you have a barrier that is hard to overcome.

Now if this barrier is broken down by a applying a richer interface that enables also the ones suffering from all the conditions describved to be understood by digital tools, then the data captured can be set to a second use - that is give us early warnings of threats like Alzheimers, stroke,

WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE IDEA?

A new set of design principles aimed at our fragile selves needs to be formulated.
Compassionate interface design should be a part
With the design principles in place, an MVP can be created using an Android tablet

WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

Software Developers/ Architects
Design Researchers
UX Designers
UI Designers