

### Transcript

[HotMits first scenario]

D: What are your first thoughts on the HotMits system?

V: I quite like the idea; I had never thought of anything like that before. Honest first thought being it's a logistical thing, I could put my hand into Tim's handprint but he'd be like trying to fit his big hands into my weird child hand size so you'd almost want it sticking out... so then you could feel the hand rather than it being like a hole... but that's like a logistical thing.

D: What about the concept in general?

V: I think it's cool to feel a touch thing, I think that's, to know they're touching something is quite cool.

D: What about the process of doing the kit, did you have any thoughts on that at all?

V: I suppose yeah, like people go away and celebrities put their hands their and you like feel connected to them, putting your hand where there's was. And making it together sounds fun, be quite fun and amusing and a connecting experience... Because you've actually seen them do it rather than it just arriving in the post- here's my hand! It would be nice to do it together

D: You think that might be weird if it just turned up in the post one day

V: Yeah, just a hand... although if you had never met someone before that might be quite nice I suppose... but seeing as I see them, it's not as good

D: Was there anything about it you thought was a bit weird, that you didn't like?

V: I don't know if I'd paint it. No, I don't know... I might paint the whole thing... maybe if we painted each other's then that would be more personal...

D: So you'd paint tim's and he'd paint yours

V: Yeah so it would represent my hand, cause otherwise he'd paint mine like really boring colours

D: So you'd rather paint the hand Tim gave you?

V: Oh no yeah, that's true; it should represent him, so if he painted it boring colours that would be fine, that's what I'd have on my desk. But yeah, it should represent them

D: So Tim should paint his hand and give it to you?

V: Yeah, and I should paint my hand and give it to him?

D: You think that would be the best way round?

V: Yeah, so his becomes all sparkly and bright colours with hearts on it, yeah

D: Do you think this a type of system you might use?

V: I like the fact that you've got something on your desk, that's kind of cool, ummm.... I guess I don't know, it depends if was just there, I'd use it... I wouldn't go out of my way to purchase something and get it but if I had it then yeah I guess... I'm just thinking, I quite like the concept, especially if you like personalise it and stuff, made the hands stick out so you can put your hand on top rather than in the hand.

D: [play with device]

V: Tim does have extra warm hand's... I think that's quite nice actually, yeah. There's something quite interesting about using a heat thing, cause I've never really used a technology which does warmth and it's quite like a nice idea, it's a different connection, a bit more personal, a physiological signal...

[end use]

D: So having used the prototype has your opinion of the concept changed at all?

V: I think there's definitely something about the heat thing which I'd never thought of as an interaction method before... like feeling the heat feels like more personal than I thought it would feel; it's a different sensation, I've never had anything which someone else could control and it's quite good, yeah

D: Better than you were expecting?

V: Yeah, I think so, I was sort of, there was something quite secure about having a warm hand [giggles].

D: Was there anything you thought you would like or dislike about the concept which you now dislike or like more?

V: Well I like the heat more

D: What about the painting?

V: I definitely think that having the hand a different colour to the outside is beneficial, I would probably think, yeah it would be cool to decorate the other person's, you can personalise it, I'd paint patterns and stars and hearts on it, make it overly girly

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V: and my hand fitted in this one; for me my hand fits in a big handprint, but yeah, if it was a guy they might want to put their hand on top and feel like they're holding the hand

D: You don't think it's too creepy or anything then?

V: It might be a little bit weird just having a hand on the desk like the thing from the Adam's family

D: So you quite liked the casting idea; what if we told you it wasn't a cast of Tim's hand, you just got a standard hand, do you think that would change what you think?

V: Yeah, I think it should be their hand; I think I would prefer it to be their hand because it's more personal. I'd always wonder whose hand it was otherwise

D: Do you think that's connected to it being tim's hand or the making it together?

V: Both! Cause it's a connecting activity to do it and then it's a personal thing for me; no one else knowingly has Tim's hand on their desk unless you know, he's having multiple affairs.

D: So the scenario described the way it was going to be activated that if Tim put his hand in his, yours would be activated... do you think that's a suitable way of making the connection?

V: Could you, I think obviously once you'd first done it, and then you'd be sitting there with your hand on it, could you control it somehow to like, change so it's not just like "oh that's warm" it could, the change in heat is quite cool so you could make it seem like you're doing more than just, more of an interaction

D: Less passive

V: Yeah... cause I think the novelty would soon wear off and be like "oh yeah that's your hand" – you could do more with it

[scenario 2, yourglove]

D: So again, first thoughts?

V: I've seen it sitting on your desk so I suppose I'm a bit biased... it has got the "it" thing going on, just a hand stuck on your desk, I like the idea of it being personalised because like I've always seen it like a hand with a jumper and a glove over it and have been like "that could be anyone's hand" but if you put something that belongs to them on it obviously makes a difference. I think it would be easier for a girl to personalise it because she probably has gloves and jewellery... I don't even know if Tim owns gloves, he probably does,

D: could buy him some

V: could buy him some and be like "you can only have one", because I'm going to have the other one!

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D: you could buy him three!

V: [laughs] ah, I could knit him some! No, I cant knit gloves... Its more interactive, obviously you can move your hand more... Im worried it's... uncanny valley – it might be too like you know, the other one's a more abstract concept and might be better

D: Do you think the personal idea takes away some of that creepiness?

V: Im not sure until I've had a go – Ive seen it sat there but never had a go, so id have to reserve judgement on that... I think definitely if it looked like something they'd wear that would be less weird instead of it being like a strangers hand on your desk

D:

V: I've always just seen it sticking up...

D: Do you think this is something you might use?

V: Ummm I think I might find it a bit freaky having it on the desk... and it would take up more space – yeah I'd like one which almost looks like an art piece on your desk, and this is more like a decapitated arm on your desk

D: like a sculpture?

V: yeah, id almost like it to look kind of arty...

D: Can you think of a way of doing that?

V: No... something that would look cool on your desk! But then it might become really normal and you'd get used to it... I'd have to see, if I thought it was really cool to use, I might change my opinion...

[irrelevant]

V: There's more too it, a more long-lasting interaction than just putting your hand on it... too lifelike and be like dunno if I want that

[use]

[fingers through]

V: [giggles] ahhh, it makes a mechanical noise!

P2

[side on]

V: ah, that feels more normal that way... I normally feel tims hand another way but that feels more like a grip... I guess that's the way its moving

D: would you normally hold tims hand more like with the fingers interlaced

V: Oh I don't know, I can't remember how I hold his hand...

V: It's cool, ive actually seen it work

[questions]

[discussion about moving the switch]

V: I think pretty much however you hold it you can get it... maybe you could have different buttons or you could put it where you wanted it depending on how you hold hands...

D: Has your opinion changed at all, or what do you think about it now?

V: I think I wouldn't, the mechanical noise is a bit odd as it reminds you, you couldn't like close your eyes and pretend it was them because im pretty sure tims hand doesn't go [buzzzzz] [giggles]... it feels quite, especially when I started with my fingers between them that didn't feel quite right, but when I had my hand [palm to palm] it gripped my hand and that actually felt quite real... don't know if it needs such a long arm bit but then again that's presumably, the prototype needed it that long

D: No, it needs a little bit of arm, about a third of the length

V: Yeah cause the arm's not really doing much so...

D: Do you find that quite uncomfortable then

V: Yeah, especially if it's on a desk as well

D: And if it did cut down, would it loose some of the pragmatic "it's huge" thoughts?

V: yeah, probably, definitely, probably

D: So is there anything about it which you thought you'd like that you disliked or the other way round?

V: I thought it would feel more mechanical than it does... the grip feels quite realistic but obviously it could be a bit softer

D: So that hand itself isn't quite...

V: Yeah it needs to be more hand like but it feels quite a secure grip which I didn't think it would feel

D: Were you worried about that, that it might be too [makes strong noises]

V: and that it's wouldn't be enough... that it would feel like a robot grip but it feels a bit like a human grip... but yeah I probably wouldn't stick it up like that, id probably have it lying down... or something flexible so you can move it around a bit... cause it's a bit awkward to get your hand around it

D: so something which perhaps the arm you can tilt...

V: something yeah

D: It's a one way thing, you press the button and tim's would close...

V: obviously the ideal would be you could do this [] and they'd both close

D: you mean you're both holding it and until youre both holding it neither closes...

V: I cant think how it would actually work... if you hold hands with someone really, you both go at the same time... but obviously you haven't got the... ive never broken it down... you definitely grab someone's hand and you don't have to be looking at them... both at the same time thing... like a mutual hand holding rather than one hand being held by the other [person]

V: sounds like a screwdriver or an electric toothbrush

[scenario 3 – hothands]

V: So this is what I was saying...

[scale]

D: So, first thoughts

V: My first thoughts are "oh, this is the thing I said" but... then I was like, actually, the other one is growing on me more, I like the idea of it being a block on your desk so it doesn't sort of look like a body part on your desk, its something that represents it... but yeah, itll be like itll actually look like their hand so that will be quite nice... obviously the logistical thing of being able to put your hand doesn't happen any more... and the curveness, im not sure if youd put your hand on top of it like a mouse then?

D: Well you can do it either way round?

V: can you do it palm to palm?

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D: not at the moment but there's no reason why you couldn't

V: see id, with the other one id imagined it like your hand on the desk and then you put your hand on top of it...

V: make it almost like more abstract [by putting it on a block/base] but then it still feels like...

D: maybe merging it with the other one...

V: yeah, maybe

V: I obviously have to feel what it feels like... but I think I got more of the feel, maybe the wording was different, but I got more of a feel that you put your hand on it and it warms up slowly and I kind of liked that like almost transferring body heat but over a distance... but your sort of getting the heat that ive generated which I like...

D: What about painting it or do you think you would leave it as is?

V: I don't know because in a way it looks quite like a hand, do you want like a blue hand on your desk... I don't know if you would... but then white obviously looks like a dead person so maybe you want it skin coloured

D: you seemed to like the painting of the other one...

V: I did because it seemed more like an art piece, it was more of a sort of thing; you know like when you're a kid and you make hand print things and take them back to your parents...

[use]

V: I was sort of imagining like that thing but that's because that's what came into my head... I don't know, this you'd actually be able to hold parts of their hands, its like sitting your hand on a mouse... handshake mouse... it might be different for me if I was holding a big man's hand... I think the thing is it almost gets too hot, not in an uncomfortable way but like, times got hot hands, but like an oven

D: Do you think some control over that then...

V: So it would almost feel the heat of your own hand and send that across... or in tims case he'd get a really cold hand

D: and you'd get a really hot one

V: yeah I suppose that's something you do for dinner

D: but you seemed to quite like the idea of fingers up

P2

V: Well that was more a flat hand thing whereas this is more I don't know what you'd do, it would be more awkward I suppose you could cast the hand differently... that's the thing, if you were making the hand you could choose how it was made

D: so you'd get to pick how you'd want to hold

V: so you could do a flat hand if you wanted or you could do a grasping hand or rude gestures not that I ever do but some people bond in that way...

[scale]

D: So having seen it and played with it, have your opinions about it changed at all?

V: its not as, yeah I quite like the concept of the hand sticking up, its quite good because you can rest your hand in it in a more normal manner, you wouldn't normally sit with your hand flat but you can sort of rest your hand on it...

D: Do you think putting it on the block...

V: If you put it on the block it wouldn't be so flexible so maybe not... this way you can move it round a bit better... and its just the hand which is good, it doesn't take up too much space

D: and what about painting it

V: I definitely wouldn't have it white cause it was just like not natural, so id rather have it hand coloured or you could paint it

D: and you'd be more tempted to go for the flesh or would you play with it until you found something

V: I'd try it out I think, im not sure im trying to imagine a blue hand or something and im not sure about it

D: Whereas with the other one

V: Cause the other's ones almost an art piece...

D: What if we change it by instead of being tims hand it was just a hand

V: It would have to be tims hand for it to work for me

D: you wouldn't be happy with a generic hand



V: A manikin's hand is quite genuine looking so it could look like that but ummm it might be, that's quite soft, but ummm I think if it was a generic hand, a cast that really looked liked a hand, it would have to be tims hand. If it was more abstracty hand it would be alright

D: Why would it have to be tims hand?

V: Cause I do want it to be someon else's hand, I don't mind if it just represents a hand, but if it looks like someone else's hand that would be weird to me.

D: So it's more about how it looks

V: Yeah, I mean obviously making it would be fun...

[wrap up questions]

D: which one's your favourite

V: do you not what, that one, the first one, I don't know if that's biased because that's the first one but I can see myself having that one my desk more than I can see myself having the others and I think I quite liked, the making together, but then you do with the other hand, I think it would be nice if it stuck out so maybe a combination of the two... but I liked the sort of, its almost like a little mat to put your hand on.

D: Did you prefer the heat to the movement aswell?

V: if the movement was smoother, the movements quite nice but, as it stands this is the most...

D: you can see yourself using that one more...

V: Yeah but if that was more natural... it might, it's pretty good but...

V: the reason I look that on a block I don't know, that one my desk just looks... whereas that's like a hand on the desk and im not sure... I can see like if someone did that as a present and you unwrapped it that would be cool but if someone gift wrapped a hand that would be a bit weird... I don't know why, I cant explain it

D: is holding hands something you miss while you're apart?

V: I miss his warmth so I guess the warmth thing's quite goo because he's quite a warm person... I don't sit and hold hands with him that much, id hold hands if we were walking around somewhere but I wouldn't really sit..

D: not on the sofa...

V: no, I'd sit my legs over him... no so I guess that's a personal thing... I certainly miss like the physical thought, like having someone next to you and that's definitely like that

D: what do you think about the idea of trying to support hand holding? Do you think that's worth aiming for?

V: I've always thought you know ah it would be cool if you could touch each other if you were like the hand, yeah that would be good, maybe because I see tim quite regularly, I don't miss it so much, if we had a really long distance like, we didn't see each other or like my friends boyfriends been in Afghanistan for months and she doesn't get to speak to him on the phone much so other ways of communicating online in a personal way would make a difference... for me, I don't go long enough without seeing him to miss that... but I think it would be quite... I wonder if you had it when you were together you'd hold hands more...

D: Are there other things you miss more than hand holding?

V: Obviously it's nice to have a hug obviously...

D: so you think that would be worth investigating

V: yeah that might be nice...you know how people who are apart end up hugging the pillow in bed

D: These are all almost content free... there's no actual "stuff", they are meant to be used with skype, first question is do you use anything like that already? Do you use im or skype

V: when he's away on skype, we always use skype, when we're in the uk, we use lots of text, don't usually phone him, I guess we're not apart for that long when im in the uk, we def use skype while we're away...

D: do you think the concept of such a content free add-on would be something that you might use...

V: I'd def prefer an add-on which you can just plug in through usb rather than an app which annoys me because skype is really good for talking and seeing, I don't want a tool that does all in one cause then you can get the best add-on, the best audio, the best video...

D: one of the thoughts we've been having is all these systems are quite fleeting, what if you could record the conversation that happened around the action and then be playing it back...

V: you mean playing back the warmth bit

D: the warmth bit with the snippet of conversation that come along with it

V: I suppose like, if you're away for a really long day, you look at photos to remind you of them, I suppose you could do it like that to remind you of them...

P2

D: but its not something that would be...

V:it would be nice to do an asynchronous thing, if I was in Australia and you were in the uk and you were at your desk and thinking of meso you put your hand on it and you come back and its glowing so you know they've been thinking of them cause that's a real annoyance...

D: what about connecting the voice message up to that...

V: yeah that might work...