

Transcript – P1

D: What do you miss about your partner while you're apart...?

R: Being in close contact... watching things together and spontaneous activities like getting out of bed at 11pm to get them a McDonalds because they want one... shared experiences...companionship it would be I think...

D: Do you think you could make a communication system to help feel more companionship with your partner?

R: No, not for that... other than getting a lifelike robot and even then you'd know it wasn't them...

[scenario 1 – sleepyWhispers]

[measure]

D: So what are your initial thoughts about the sleepyWhispers concept?

R: It was described nicely in the scenario, it was a happy scene... but I'm not sure I'd use it because it would seem weird... hearing messages in a... I was about to say in a place you wouldn't normally hear them; you wouldn't normally hear messages in bed, you might hear your partners voice, just not recorded... we don't actually say goodnight, which I find a bit weird, so if she suddenly started saying goodnight in a disembodied form, that would be even weirder...

D: So it doesn't fit with your current behavior...

R No... it's not my preference and the scenario seemed nice...

D: What were the likes and dislikes about it?

R: I liked the way it was disguised as an object; that was cool... although I don't keep a photo frame near my bed, I know people that do so it was quite nice that it was appropriated, you just have a button on the object...

[prototype]

[measure]

R: I like the design; I would say it has finesse, it doesn't look like a prototype...

R: Having heard that, it seems more like an answer message in your bed which could be fun... I don't know why but I was thinking about whispers, and someone whispering a way they don't normally do

could be very strange... perhaps this is something that needs to be tried to work out whether you like it or not... I liked the look of it but when I heard it it seemed better than I thought...

D: Is there anything about it which you might change?

R: No, I'm quite happy with it...

D: Frame vs pillow idea

R: I think it's better how it is, you have some control over it... the only thing is there was no feedback that it had worked... if there was an LED which lit up to show it had worked... but increasing the feedback would diminish the normality of the unit... it doesn't look like some piece of technology right now, it looks like an everyday object which is good but if you put a light in it, it starts to look like technology which is bad...

D: The way we described this, only your partner could use it... do you think you'd use it with other people?

R: No, I wouldn't want that... although it could be fun, I'm not sure I'd want it... my other friends can leave me messages on my answer machine... I think this is best left as a private medium

[scenario 2 - MSD]

[measure]

D: What are your first thoughts about the magic sock drawer?

R: It was a nice scenario again... as an idea, it seems good...

D: What is it about the idea you liked?

R: Finding the notes, not knowing what was going to be on the note, that element of surprise...

[going to know that he's case-studied it]

D: So what are your reflections, having used the system?

R: I didn't have a problem with the design or execution but it's the implementation, the tools that you're lumbered with, that led to some frustration and disappointment during our use of the device...which did affect the way that we used it; the fact that it wasn't reliable... If you can't rely on it, messages sometimes got lost, it was off-putting if you take a while writing them and they don't get through... the

idea is good and it was fun sending the notes and it was fun drawing them but it wasn't fun the notes not getting there...

D: do you think you'd send notes to people other than your partner?

R: yeah, maybe... I can imagine it on a mobile device for example... you could use that for everyone but not this specific one... I would be more willing to open this one up than the pillow one – I don't want random voices in my bed! But I wouldn't mind random drawings from people...

D: Do you think the difference is between the drawing and the voice or because of the bed...

R: I was thinking more about location than medium...a bit of the two maybe

[scenario 3 - hotHugs]

[measure]

R: I liked it, the scenario wasn't as good as the other ones though cause they were sitting at desks...

D: So first thoughts about this one?

R: The other ones they're more like doing things together... more like the companionship I talked about earlier...

[does sit a skype]

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

R: Could be... probably no... compared to the other two, it's a little more ridiculous... you put on this funny belt, they are totally separate from a computer and I like to get away from that... and sitting there while wearing it would be ridiculous, if someone came in they'd be like "what are you doing!"

D: how do you think the toy compares to the frame?

R: I can see what you're trying to achieve by putting it inside a real object... I also don't know how this replicates hugging either for me... I think sleepyWhispers might be a increment forwards from the hug belt

[demo]

R: The arm position isn't quite right... though it's going to be different for every person...

R: It's too different to the other devices to relate too... one's an everyday object, the other is completely different... sitting on skype is the tyranny of the distance relationship really so I guess it's an improvement on that... Id rather use the other two I think... it's going back to skype again and I've done that with three relationships in the past and I've had enough of it now really...

D: Talking about wearing it, instead of just wearing it, you could mount it onto the chair

R: yeah that would be good... if you put that on, it's like putting your weirdo suit on... I like this approach of augmenting the objects... as long as you knew they were the one doing it, I think that's more important, to let the other person aware of the fact that something is being done to them... that's more important than whatever the thing being done is...

D: So having used it, has your opinion changed at all?

R: yeah, probably, I'm a little more open to it than before... but I still like the others more

D: what would you change about it?

R: Try and shift some of the "I'm a weirdo who sits there with this belt on" connotations maybe... it's also not very playful compared to the MSD... you can do silly things which has meaning to your relationship whereas this is just heat, it doesn't hold any meaning beyond "they are making me warm"

D: Would you consider using this concept with other people?

R: Possibly... you mean just this heat belt? No probably not... I don't think id use it with Caitlin...

[measure]

[scenario 4 - doodleMessenger]

[measure]

D: so what were your first thoughts about this one?

R: It seems fun...

D: Do you think it might be something you'd use...

R: yeah, maybe... I don't know, it's difficult to get a good idea of it from the scenario... I think I would use it though, yeah

D: Likes and islikes?

R: It's hard to know without using it really

[prototype]

R: That was fun, lets me feel mischievous

D: So having used it, have your thoughts changed?

R: Well I have an opinion now, it was hard to form an opinion from the scenario... I enjoyed it, it was fun... I can imagine myself drawing on images that we'd taken together... or on images of people that we both know and sending those...

D: Was there anything you'd think you'd like or dislike which you've changed your mind about?

R: not really

D: Was there anything about it which you'd change?

R: not really... I'd have to use it for a longer period of time to know...

D: how do you think this compares to the MSD?

R: I think this one seems less complex, because it's based on your phone rather than new technology... they are slightly different in that you could do a drawing from scratch but you cant do it on a photo... I remember using early apps where'd you'd like put a moustache on a photo of your uncle and show people and they'd laugh... but this is different as you can send it so I can imagine an exchange going... so it removes the printing thing [which is the problem we had with it]... you could print these, if you wanted to, but they are still on your phone... on the app there its on the phone so you have it with you... but you wouldn't have it with you on the tablet, so having the printouts was nice because it was separate...I valued the printing but it was frustrating when they didn't print... but when mobile, I don't think you need them printed... it might be considered more throw-away... but it's fun for that reason.

D: Would you consider using this one with other people

R: yeah, I can imagine a few people I would use this with

[measure]

[wrap up]

D: Could you rank them, from best to worst

R: favorite is the app... ranking would be app, if it worked the MSD, then I'd like to try the pillow because I'm curious to see whether I'd like to use it, then the belt comes last

D: [behavior question] do you have any thoughts about trying to support behaviors at a distance? Do you think it's something worth pursuing?

R: yeah... because you can... people don't know what they want so I think giving people tools to communicate in different ways is a legitimate avenue for exploration...

D: How do you think these compare to the hand holding concepts?

R: I like these more... they feel less prototypey... I can see them fitting into your day to day life...