



ParkService

Free demonstration of visual cueing and video technology for people with Parkinson's disease

The ParkService project will be demonstrating the use of Internet-connected television and the INDIGO walking aid at a free public event. The event will be aimed at clinicians, people with Parkinson's and their carers.

Tuesday 27th March 2007 pm

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ParkService Outline

If you have Parkinson's disease the chances are you face a combination of disabling symptoms such as poor mobility, speech disorders and depression. You are also likely to struggle with the lack of suitable neurologists. Your symptoms may fluctuate with the time of day, swinging "on" and "off". Two things are certain. Firstly, you are unique; PD affects each person differently and, as a progressive disease, its effects change over time. Secondly, you are not alone. Two in a thousand of the general population have Parkinson's.

When you sit and watch television, it would be great to switch off the news and fight your disease. Maybe talk to your doctor on another channel, or read text or video messages from other people with Parkinson's. Perhaps make a short video of yourself when your symptoms are at their worst, and securely pass it just to the people you want. There must be no complicated user interface – your fingers are not so nimble. These are the beginnings of ParkService - a prototype service supporting people with Parkinson's at home. With a MediaCenter and a remote control users simply and securely network with each other and doctors. But ParkService really comes into its own when combined with Indigo, a remotely-configurable walking aid specifically for Parkinson's.

One of the puzzling things you may have noticed about your symptoms is that your slow, shuffling steps down corridors are replaced by large free strides up stairs. Some people with Parkinson's react strongly to external "cues": visual or audio stimulation that helps their walking. Steps, stripes and obstacles may all work. Indigo projects moving video over the user's normal view of the world. If the video is configured correctly the resulting improvement in walking can be astonishing. Indigo won the Commission's Assistive Technology Award in November 2004. Combined with telematic support from skilled clinicians, it's a full service!

ParkService consortium and support

The eTEN ParkService market validation project brings together:

- ParkAid (<http://www.parkaid.net/>)
- Schneckenhaus (<http://www.parkinsonweb.com/>)
- La Fondazione Grigioni per il Morbo di Parkinson (<http://www.parkinson.it/fondazione.php>)
- Institute of Neurology (<http://www.ion.ucl.ac.uk/>)
- Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (<http://www.iccs.gr/>)
- Oxford Computer Consultants Ltd (<http://www.oxfordcc.co.uk/>)
- IES Solutions Srl (<http://www.i4es.it/>)

From July 2005 to March 2007, we will establish our route into the European health market, via analysis, networking and demonstration pilot sites in Germany, Italy and UK. To follow our progress please visit <http://www.parkservice.biz/>.

