

# Ambient Intelligence: Applications and Privacy Policies

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we present a complete overview of Ambient Intelligence (AmI) focused in its applications, considering the involved domain and technologies. The applications include AmI at home, care of elderly and people with disabilities, healthcare, education, business, public services, leisure and entertainment. The aim of this survey of AmI's applications is to show its social and ethical implications and specially privacy issues. Intelligent Environments (IE) collect and process a massive amount of person-related and sensitive data. These data must ensure privacy of the users. An important concern in AmI's applications is privacy. Addressing design by privacy, an important challenge to consider is the development of an architecture that includes the different privacy policies and how can we fusion them in a specific application domain. Ensuring privacy in Intelligent Environments is a difficult problem to solve, as there are different perceptions of privacy and its role in computing for each user. In the so called 'design by privacy' we have to identify the relevant design issues that should be addressed for its developing. Here we present an approach to the dimensions to consider, in order to provide privacy in the design of Ambient Intelligence's applications.

**Keywords:** Ambient Intelligence, Design Dimensions, Privacy-Policies, User's profile, Intelligent Environments.

## 1 Introduction

Ambient Intelligence (AmI) involves extensive and invisible integration of computer technologies in people's everyday lives. Ambient Intelligence [1, 2] consists in the creation of living environments (called Intelligent Environments, IE) [3] where users interact in a natural and intuitive way with computational services which ease the completion of the user's everyday tasks, being this for leisure, help or work assistance [4, 5]. Ambient Intelligence has potential applications in many areas of life, including home, office, transport, industry, entertainment, tourism, recommender systems, safety systems, healthcare and supported living. Ambient Intelligence will undoubtedly bring substantial economic and social benefits to citizens and industry, but they will come alloyed with many risks.

Ambient Intelligence can be identified as an intelligent, embedded, digital environment that is sensitive and responsive to the presence of people [6], with five related key technology features: embedded, context aware, personalized, adaptive, and anticipatory [7]. The integration of computer technologies in AmI will inevitably open up issues of privacy, risks, acceptance and security. It has been widely acknowledged that is a need for acceptable standards and for laws regulating access, to avoid social and ethical problems [8].

This paper presents a survey of Ambient Intelligence applications focused in the involved domains and technologies. In order to provide a conceptual framework that includes the different privacy policies, privacy issues must be considered in the design in AmI's applications. The design by privacy in AmI has to include several levels of privacy about how a specific Ambient Intelligence's application, acquires, stores, manages, shares and sends different types of personal dates. The different privacy policies depend on the next elements: ambient ubiquitous, devices, user, services, and legal requirements. Computer scientists who research in AmI must design Ambient Intelligence applications that achieve privacy by design jointly with legal experts.

The related work is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews some of the Ambient Intelligence applications considering the involved domain and technologies. In section 3 we show a study of privacy in AmI. In section 4 we show the design dimensions in the development of these applications in order to provide privacy with the aim to approach a framework for privacy enforcement, based in the domain of Ambient Intelligence and centered in the user. Section 5 presents our conclusions and proposes future work.

## 2 Ambient Intelligence Applications: A Survey

This section reviews some researches on Ambient Intelligence applications in several domains that include: home, care of elderly and people with disabilities, healthcare, education, business, public services, leisure and entertainment. The employed technologies include several devices as sensor, smart phones, tablet, NFC, RFID, etc.

- **Leisure and Entertainment / Commerce and Business**

The mobile interactions with the physical world are becoming available on the market, using mobile phones equipped with Near-Field Communication (NFC) [9]. The possibilities that NFC brings to users of mobile devices show a large variety in applications domains like shop, tourism and leisure. An important issue that must be considered is the user's interactions with NFC services. The authors of [10] showed potential of improvement and development for future NFC services that make it clear where interaction occurs, where feedback is given, and how the flow of interaction takes place. User problems in the interactions with this technology are strongly related to recognizing the availability of services, as interaction capabilities are often hidden.

A framework for a location based mobile Information and Communications Technology (ICT) system for the tourist industry is presented in [11]. This project is focused on content, information, products and services than can be offered tourists on a mobile platform, typically tablets or smartphones giving the users extra utility value. The solutions are interactive and based on the needs of the customers and the tourist

operators. Qualitative feedback is required to improve and develop customized content for mobile tourism services. The lack of this qualitative information about tourist experiences is a path to follow in combination with existing quantitative information. Ethical aspects about collecting customer data through mobile devices in this framework should be clarified.

The automation of baggage management in an airport is presented in [12]. The main goal of baggage in an airport is to manage the transport of the luggage via conveyors, carts and planes to right destination. The baggage is tagged at the Check-In, traditionally with barcodes, nowadays more and more with RFID tags. Visibility, security and privacy of baggage events are challenging issues to address.

In [13] an application to tourism in the city of Córdoba is presented. The solution is based in the use of mobile phones provided with Near Field Communications Technology (NFC) and Smart posters spread up along the smart environments offering the users/visitors, in a way easy, intuitive and context-awareness, support for the navigation and localization in urban smart scenarios. The idea proposed in this work is that the user could design its own routes making use of a set of intelligent objects (Smart Posters) augmented by RFID Tags with information about localizations where the tourist could visit.

- **Education**

Mobile learning (m-learning) [14] provides great opportunities to interact with learning materials in different ways while exploring a physical environment both outdoor and indoor. The use of mobile devices like smartphones may expand learning, freeing the user from ties to a particular location. For instance Explore! [15] is an m-learning system implementing a game to help middle school students to acquire historical notions while visiting archaeological parks.

- **Healthcare and Assisted Living**

The qualitative study presented by [16] contributes to the design of Information Technologies supporting diabetics in their daily live. Most IT designed for diabetics have an exclusive medical focus. Aspects of co-operation (in particular the data transfer between people) is possible with the availability of medical devices and self-management tools with communication possibilities. There exists an endless offer of networking possibilities for diabetics (forums, chats, weblog, video or picture sharing sides). Through these networks people strengthen and encourage each other, sharing their thoughts, problems and fears and also their experiences. Thus, co-operation is the central activity, accompanied by informing, finding and planning. In the design of the MaXi-project an important implication to consider is a sustainable privacy and security that give the user full benefit and control of the data-flow.

A personalized system that allows a person and their care givers to monitor the person's health status is described in [17]. Health monitors may be particularly useful for chronically ill people as well as for elderly citizens [18]. Sensors automatically capture health-related data such as heart rate and blood pressure, the location of the person in reference to a room, or the intake of medication. The data needs to be protected from tampering, from external unqualified access, as well as being kept safe for long term storage.

UbiMeds is a mobile application that would allow patients to have easy access to prescription information in a mobile phone platform [19]. This mobile application integrates with current Personal Health Record systems to provide automated scheduling, reminders and tracking of prescription drugs intake, including proactive alerts sent to physicians and relatives then the patient fails to adhere to the prescription regime. Privacy issues are important to consider. This is particularly critical on applications where health related information is involved and when they use third party service such a Google Health or Microsoft Vault to store the health records.

GerAmI (Geriatric Ambient Intelligence) is a system based on agents to facility the care of Alzheimer patients [20]. The system contains ID door readers, ID bracelets for the patients and the nurses, with each bracelet containing an RFID chip, PDAs for nurses, controllable alarms and locks, and wireless access points. The architecture uses a multi-agent structure. The manager and the patient agents run on a central computer and the nurses agents run on mobile devices. The patient agent records the location of the patient hourly and sends the record to a central database.

An application to promote physical exercise for elderly people using the digital televisions is described in a research study about its usability and acceptability [21]. The aim of this study was to obtain feedback from representative elderly people to inform further development of this application. The devices and technologies used were: HD cameras, wide-screen LCD TV connected to a mini-PC unit, video capturing devices like de USB web-camera, wireless connectivity by Bluetooth, Nintendo Wii Fit (NWF).

Building Bridges is a project for social connection to elderly people, their family and friends. It intends to reduce the risk of loneliness and social isolation of them [22]. The communication device used to connect elderly people with their peers, family and friends is based in a touch screen. Further functionality includes individual or group calls, a (textual) messaging service, and a “tea room” which represents a chat forum. The aim of this study was to examine usage and usability of the device communication device for these purposes.

### 3 Privacy in AmI

The massive collection of data by the Ambient Intelligence technologies that populate Intelligent Environments enables extensive profiling, which in turn is necessary to deliver the benefits promised by Ambient Intelligence. AmI weaves together heterogeneous systems and devices into a seamless architecture able to accommodate the wishes of commercial agents who want access to as much data from as many sources as possible, not only for a higher level of service personalization, but also of security. Data collection and data availability in the AmI world are not the only important issues to be examined, as we also need to consider what “knowledge” is generated from the data. Clearly, the more data, more precise are the profiles [23]. The knowledge about citizen- consumers is often produced to achieve a certain purpose, e.g. to encourage them to buy something or to judge their eligibility for certain services or to assess them as a security risk. Hence, the knowledge does not match the intentions or expectations or interests of the concerned citizen-consumers. The knowledge derived from the use of AmI can create information asymmetries between those who are under surveillance and those who are doing surveillance.

SWAMI (Safeguards in a World of Ambient Intelligence) [24], was a policy-oriented research project focused on social, economic, legal, technological and ethical issues of AmI with particular regard to privacy, trust, security and identity through four dark scenarios that encompass individual-societal and private-public concerns. The results of analysis of each of the scenarios revealed various risks, threats and vulnerabilities posed by AmI in relation to privacy, trust, security, identity and inclusion, among which were greatly increased surveillance and monitoring, a deepening of the digital divide, identity theft, malicious attacks' and so on.

The study presents in [25], involves more than 70 Research and Development projects, from the point of view of what types of scenario they focus on, what assumptions they do about the users, and the control of AmI systems they envisage. The projects cover five application domains: home, health, shopping, work and mobility, leisure and entertainment. In the envisaged and developing applications, where the AmI system was aimed at providing safety or security it had a high level of control. In particular, AmI control is assumed to be very high in envisaged emergency situations, requiring little numbers of communication with humans. On the other hand, where the system had a more advice-giving role it had lower levels of control, possibly subordinate to the user.

In [26] the authors identifies the two central features of AmI that pose the main challenge to privacy: the ability of AmI systems to collect large and detailed amounts of data about individuals' everyday activities over long periods of time, and the enhanced ability for integrating, searching, and retrieving these large amounts of data. These features are central for one of the key objectives of AmI, which is to provide personalized services. AmI can provide sophisticated support for everyday living, but the information capabilities it may use for this purpose can also potentially provide an invisible and comprehensive surveillance network – walls literally can have ears. The authors identify three additional issues to consider in AmI environment: reliability, delegation of control and social compatibility and acceptance.

In [27] the author consider the current European privacy and data protection frameworks and questions if they are applicable and adequate for dealing with the kind of data collection and processing that is at the heart of AmI scenarios and technologies. The European human rights framework incorporates “autonomy in the construction of one's identity”, explicitly in the right to privacy. One consequence of this statement, interpreted in courts, is the individual's right to control personal information. The pervasiveness of AmI and the invisibility of data collection and information systems may make it highly unlikely that the individual (the person being observed) will retain control over the data. Furthermore, one objective of AmI systems is to learn user profiles in order to respond to human needs, but these needs are being defined increasingly by the systems themselves, and thus by the designers of the systems, and not by the users. The author [27] shares with [26] the concern about delegation of control in AmI systems that are likely to be distributed systems in which multiple artificial and human agents collaborate and interact. So the notion of human agency, traditional in law for assigning individual responsibility and liability, becomes blurred.

Other features of AmI studied concern information flow, its advantages and dangers. AmI massively increases the amounts of detailed personalized data that is collected and stored, and has the potential to make, and indeed in some applications must make, such data easily available. Furthermore, as [26] has also observed, personalization of data and

provision of services, can ultimately lead to the control and filtering of what news or information the users see. Some authors [25] look at data privacy in Ambient Intelligence settings. Their implemented case study concerns to an organization (a university) collecting information about its members accessing Web sites. The purpose of these data is to enable ranking of Web sites and making recommendations to those with similar interests. However, the malicious use of the data can disclose information about what times, and for how long, someone accessed some given Web sites. To counter this, the proposed solution is that users can specify life-cycle policies on data collected on them.

Most of the studies about Ambient Intelligence applications are focused in the technologies, in some cases in the users and in a few cases in the issues of social and privacy impact of AmI technology in order to provide personalized services. In spite of there is much agreement about concerns over security and the social and ethical implications of Ambient Intelligence. It are also crystal clear the reasons why Ambient Intelligences gives rise to security concerns: the collection of large amounts of personal data, the long-term persistence and integration of such data and the possibility of, and in fact often the need for, providing easy access to the data in a technological world increasingly complex.

#### **4 Design Dimensions in Ambient Ingelligence: Design by Privacy**

Although most of AmI applications are focused in the technology involved (sensor devices, device's communication) and in some cases are focused in the user, we consider that the most important element in AmI applications is the user, and so it must be the application the one that adapts itself to the user's profiles, being the privacy one of the most important issues to be considered. Different levels of privacy should be identified and appropriate mechanisms shall be developed to distinguish life-threatening requests from other applications with various security priorities and appropriate privacy-protections measures.

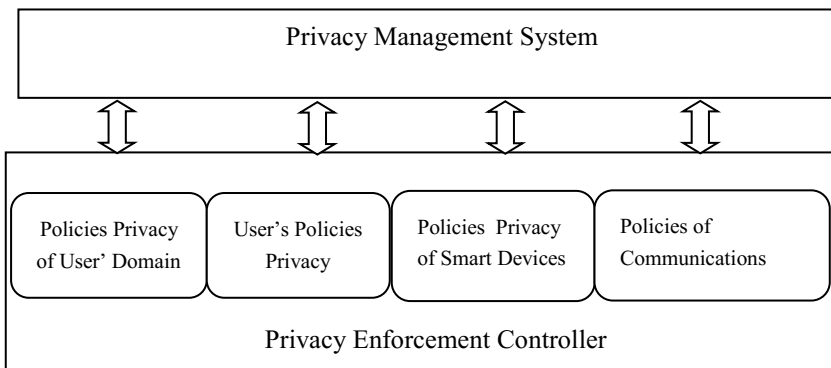
Hong et al., [28] suggest designers of ubicomp systems need to deploy a privacy risk analysis considering social and organizational content. This type of analysis considers: Who are the users? What kind of personal information is being shared? How is personal information collected? The authors suggest after the initial privacy risk analysis designers need to prioritize the findings and develop a privacy risk management record. Privacy risk model helps designers consider the specific group of users, potential risks and benefits, and the type of feedback users will be giving the system. Privacy risk models will help with designing and understanding social issues as trends move towards ubiquitous computing environments.

The mains dimensions of design by privacy in the AmI's domain and centered in users are:

- Privacy of personal data (data or information privacy). Individuals claim that data about themselves should not be automatically available to other individuals and organizations, and that, even where data is possessed by another party, the individual must be able to exercise a substantial degree of control over their data and its use.
- Privacy of personal behavior (media privacy). This relates to all aspects of behavior, but especially to sensitive matters, such as sexual preferences and habits, political activities and religious practices, both in private and in public places.

- Privacy of personal experience. Individuals gather experience through buying books and newspapers and reading the text and images in them, buying or renting recorder video, conducting conversations with other individuals both in person and on the mobile phone, meeting people in small groups, and attending live and cinema events with larger numbers of people. Until very recently, all of these were ephemeral, none of them generated records, and hence each individual's small-scale experiences, and their consolidated large-scale experience, were not visible to others. During the first decade of the 21st century, reading and viewing activities have migrated to screens, are performed under the control of corporations, and are recorded; most conversations have become 'stored electronic communications', each event is recorded and both 'call records' and content may be retained; many individuals' locations are tracked, and correlations are performed to find out who is co-located with whom and how often; and events tickets are paid for using identified payment instruments. This massive consolidation of individuals' personal experience is available for exploitation, and therefore it is exploited.

In the development on AmI's Applications an important issue to add from the beginning of the development process is privacy. In order to enforce privacy according to the different privacy policies and how can we fusion them, we propose a conceptual framework (Figure 1) that contain a Privacy Management System and a Privacy Enforcement Controller that takes care of interaction between technologies and devices, users and application's domain.



**Fig. 1.** Proposed conceptual Framework Design by Privacy in Ambient Intelligence

The Privacy Enforcement Controller consists of four different modules:

1. Specific privacy policies of the ubiquitous environment (Policies of User's Domain)
2. Specific privacy policies of the user (User's Policies Privacy)
3. Specific privacy policies of the devices (Policies Smart Applications Devices and Intelligent Sensors)
4. Specific privacy policies of the communications (Public key certificates)

This conceptual framework can help to determinate the privacy policies in a specific domain in AmI, that should include several levels of data protection of the rights by the privacy about how a specific Ambient Intelligence’s application, acquires, stores, manages, shares and sends different types of personal dates (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Privacy Policies in Application Domain in AmI

	General considerations	User’s conditions	Device’s characteristics	Communication’s characteristics	Levels of data protection
Healthcare	Healthcare determines the life and death of people. The access to a person’s health information can be very important in case of emergency.	Patients with autonomous or semi-autonomous life. Patients with limited mental capacity: permanent or transitory (e.g., heart problems and epilepsy).	The character visible or invisible of devices is not so important because there is a Patient Agreement that allows the use of device.	The system must be capable of identify to user. Transmission means must grant: Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability of personal data.	High
Education	In this domain the public interest consists in the protection of personal data.	People interested in enjoy of life-long learning aim, from any place, at any time and at the individual’s own place.	The character visible or invisible of the devices is not important because there is an Education Agreement that allows the use of device.	The system must be capable of identify to user. Transmissions means must grant: Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability of personal data.	Medium
Public Services (Public Transport)	In this domain the public interest consists in the protection of personal data.	Public Transport user’s.	The user must be agreed with the use of geo-localization services includes in devices.	The system must be capable of identify to device (it is not mandatory to know the identity of user). Transmissions means must grant: Integrity and Availability of data.	Low
Commerce (Tourist /Leisure)	The public interest consists in the protection of personal data (e.g. Prohibits capturing, storing, or reading information from a person’s RFID document for particular purpose without that person’s prior knowledge and consent).	Consumers	In this domain could be present invisible devices (e.g. RFID chip).	The system must be capable of identify to person. Transmission means must grant: Integrity and Availability of data.	Medium



## 5 Conclusions and Future Work

The AmI's applications involve an extensive and invisible integration of computer technologies in people's daily lives. Ambient Intelligence has potential applications in many areas of life, including home, office, transport, industry, entertainment, tourism, recommender systems, safety systems, healthcare and supported living.

Ambient Intelligence involves all sorts of legal complexities. Hence, it merits further research on how to strengthen existing regulatory safeguards and devise new ones to meet the challenges before us in the world of Ambient Intelligence.

To approach design by privacy, an important challenge to be considered is the development of an architecture that includes the different privacy policies and how can we fusion them in a specific domain. To design by privacy we should identify the design issues that should be addressed for his developing

This paper presents a survey of AmI's applications based in the domains and technologies involved, in order to provide a conceptual framework that include the different privacy policies that must be considered in the design in AmI's applications. This architecture should include several levels of privacy about how a specific application in AmI obtains, stores, manages, shares and sends different types of personal dates.

The AmI's applications offer great opportunities but in many cases, they are too focused on technology and forgot users. The quality of a system should take in regard several non-technical factors that also play crucial roles in the applications, such as affordability, legal, regulatory and ethical issues like privacy. The quality of the privacy protection highly depends on the used policies.

The success and acceptance of AmI by the citizens-consumers will depend on how secure and reliable it is and to what extent it is perceived to allow the protection of the rights and privacy of individuals. In order to enjoy the benefits of AmI, we must considerer a new approach to privacy and data protection, based on control and responsibility rather than on restriction and prohibition.

Our future researches will focus on a methodology to systematically consider privacy issues (PIA, Privacy Impact Assessment) in an AAL System (Ambient Assisted Living) to evaluate its utility. Other lines of research will address privacy enforcement that includes privacy policies in the design by Privacy in Ambient Intelligence. Design by privacy is a step toward proposing design guidelines for the development of AAL Systems that support independent and private living of the people with disabilities can autonomously live in their own home.

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