

Technology Radar: BusinessLab's review of technologies that are making the news, Sep 2013

An *ActiveAge* Report

Mobile app to make healthcare 'Better'

A new healthcare App is being tested by the Mayo Clinic in the US. 'Better' is a healthcare concierge app with access to the knowledge and expertise of the Mayo Clinic.

From anywhere in the world, you can use 'Better' to identify problems based on your symptoms, connect with a nurse/doctor, research your condition or schedule an appointment.

A beta version of the app is currently available although they have yet to establish how the pricing will work. There will however be a free version which will only provide access to the Mayo website and allow you to create medical records.

Subscriptions will be based on a monthly amount increasing with a greater access level and will range from \$90 to \$500 per month.

For more information visit:

<http://www.getbetter.com/>

A tram sightseeing app

A new App has been designed to provide a guided tour of Gothenburg that doesn't cost anything other than your tram ticket. The app guides you to the nearest tram stop and selects a suitable route and departure. Once you are on board, the sightseeing begins. All tours take less than an hour and you can listen to your guide with headphones. The tour always ends at the same stop you started.

For more information:

http://www.vasttrafik.se/timetables/sightseeing/index_eng.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU18c2ItyPk&feature=youtu.be>

Finding disaster victims using technology

NASA has announced that its Jet Propulsion Laboratory is working with The US Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate on a portable radar device called FINDER. It will be able to detect the heartbeats and breathing patterns of victims trapped under rubble after a disaster.

The prototype is called Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response technology can locate people buried as deep as 30 feet in crushed material or beneath 20 feet of solid concrete and a distance of 100 feet in open spaces.

For more information:

<http://www.dhs.gov/detecting-heartbeats-rubble-dhs-and-nasa-team-save-victims-disasters>

Stagecoach trials near field communication smartphone technology

Near Field Communication (NFC) is a technology that seems to have a lot of potential although it's adoption by major companies hasn't been flooding the market with new products.

Now transport company Stagecoach has launched a new scheme that allows passengers in Cambridge to obtain timetable information direct to their smartphones.

The project is live across several routes enables bus users to access timetable information about their journey to their smartphone by using the phone to scan information tags and codes on bus stop displays.

At present 34 bus stops in Cambridge have a sticker containing the NFC tag and QR code. Stagecoach say they are looking to deliver more convenient and simple ways for their customers to access information and buy tickets.

At the moment the Cambridge project is a pilot and has been developed alongside Connectthings, a specialist in NFC tag management systems.

For more information:

<http://www.stagecoach.com/media/news-releases/2013/2013-09-12.aspx>