



A Tale of a Hypothetical SenSys Submission

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Soap Box talk



SenSys'03



- “Seth G.” comes up with the Claytronics vision of programmable matter
- In his enthusiasm for this compelling vision, he submits a paper to SenSys'03
- SenSys TPC recognizes that this is a vision paper with no results
- Scores are very poor => Reject!



SenSys'04



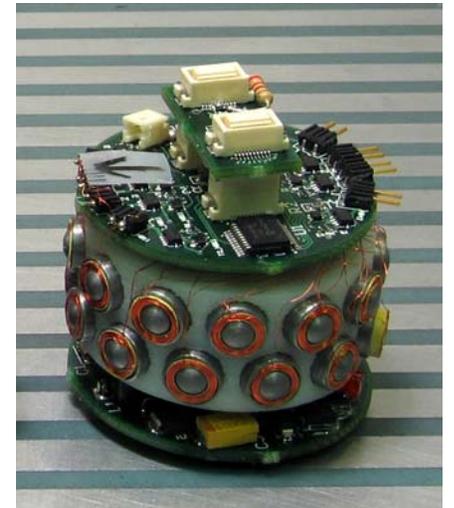
- Seth G. continues to work on Claytronics, develops some key algorithms (e.g., for power routing) & develops a Claytronics simulator used to evaluate the algorithms
- Very excited, he submits a paper to SenSys'04
- SenSys TPC recognizes that the evaluation is on a simulation platform that has not been validated against any real devices
- Scores are poor; paper not even discussed at the TPC meeting => Reject!



SenSys'05



- Seth G. takes the feedback to heart and builds a prototype of a claytronics device
- Very excited, he submits a paper to SenSys'05
- SenSys TPC recognizes that the prototype is quite crude: 4 cms across (50X too big), 2-D only, no networking, no sensors
- Although paper discussed at the TPC meeting with some excitement => Reject!





SenSys'06



- A stubborn guy, Seth G. continues to work on Claytronics, developing new ideas for programming large ensembles that may be useful for sensor networks
- Very excited, he submits a paper to SenSys'06
- SenSys TPC recognizes that the connection to programming sensor networks was not supported by any evaluation on sensor networks. Moreover, there is no deployment & no concrete application evaluated.
- A heated discussion at the TPC meeting ensues, but in the end => Reject!



SenSys'07



- More determined than ever, Seth G. and team develop a very novel approach to creating sub-millimeter scale devices
- Very excited but convinced that SenSys has no interest in the work, he submits a paper to a conference other than SenSys...



Discussion



- SenSys' strength as a systems conference is also a possible weakness
 - At what point, if any, should the hypothetical paper* been accepted?
 - Where are the SenSys papers with a more long-term horizon? (beyond what can be demonstrated with today's technology)
- As the sensornets industry matures, companies will address the near term. Academic researchers will need to work on more long term problems
- None of these problems are unique to SenSys

*Note: This example is completely fictional: Seth has never submitted to SenSys