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Multi-touch Table Technology for Enhancing Collaborative Programming and Learning

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Abstract:

Our research goal is to provide a new use for multi-touch table technology by developing new resource software to be used as an environment for collaborative pair programming. Such a project will yield new opportunities and provide improved quality within the field of collaborative learning (Nosek 1998; Williams et al., 2000a, 2000b; Williams et al., 2001; Cockburn et al., 2000; Mcdowell et al. 2002; Gallis et al. 2003; Cao and Xu, 2005; Brereton et al., 2009; Sanjay and Goel and Kathuria, 2010; Rick et al., 2011). For instance, the proposed project (1) is time-effective and leads to a better product, (2) is more enjoyable for developers, (3) may increase work satisfaction, (4) promotes student learning, (5) leads to better student activity engagement, (6) contributes to enhancing the level of student understanding with regard to programming modules, which makes students more confident in their work and more positive about programming and, finally, and (7) supports the awareness of others' actions and the ability to support concurrent input; it also encourages the development of problem-solving skills, efficiency, quality and teamwork.

The project begins with a survey of the available tools for collaborative pair programming, such as Scratch Programming (Scratch, 2014), and then these tools will be evaluated to determine their suitability for use in multi-touch tables. The most suitable tool will then be selected for development to be run on a multi-touch table. Alternatively, new resource software will be created for the project. In the final stage, the usability of new software, in terms of collaborative pair programming, will be evaluated.

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