Home Control, Via Wearables

Written by Marco Attard 02. 09. 2014

Philips and Accenture team up to develop software connecting a wearable display and an Emotiv Insight Brainware headset to a home control setup, allowing users to control devices and lighting with their minds.



The aim of the project is to help people suffering from neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (aka Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS of Ice Bucket fame). The Emotiv headset reads EEG brainwaves, which a table translates into control signals directed at Philips products, include the Lifeline Medical Alert Service, smart TVs and Hue lighting.

Meanwhile the wearable display provides a GUI users can navigate using either their eyes or voice.

"This proof of concept exemplifies how people, devices, data and technology could be brought together quickly to connect beyond the hospital walls in a way that can potentially help improve the quality of life for patients, wherever they are in their journey," Philips says. "Philips will continue to collaborate with innovative technology companies such as Accenture to explore new wearable and sensor solutions that change peoples' lives and create a healthier future."

The companies insist their work so far is strictly a prototype, if one that has been tested by ALS patients. A potential 40 million people around the world can benefit from the solution, and the next step is for more partners to join in the venture.

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