

Touch is a fundamental aspect of interpersonal communication. Yet while many traditional technologies allow communication through sound or image, none is designed for expression through touch. The goal of inTouch is to bridge this gap by creating a physical link between users separated by distance. InTouch consists of two separate identical objects, each consisting of three cylindrical rollers mounted on a base. The two objects behave as if corresponding rollers are physically connected, but in reality, the objects are only virtually linked. Sensors are used to monitor the states of the rollers, and computer-controlled motors synchronize those states, creating the illusion that distant users are interacting through a single, shared physical object.

Scott Brave

MIT Media Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
E15-468C, 20 Ames Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 USA
brave@media.mit.edu
tangible.media.mit.edu/projects/intouch.html

Collaborators

Scott Brave
Andrew Dahley
Phil Frei
Hiroshi Ishii

