Towards a Personal Autonomous Presentation Assistant: Applying Technology for Intelligent Assistance during Live Presentations

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ABSTRACT

This paper proposes "Autonomous Presentation Assistance Theory" (APAT) which suggests that technology either currently exists, or will soon exist, that can serve as the presenter's "assistant" during live presentations. The need to be able to effectively present information to a live audience is a vital skill in nearly every domain, and the use of electronic visual aids have become an almost ubiquitous part of live presentations. Currently computer-aided slideshow technology allows for the display of content only in a linear, pre-determined sequence. Through the use of (1) an autonomous machine agent, (2) a seamless means of communication between the presenter and the machine agent, (3) a secure connection to an external data store, and (4) computer-aided slideshow software that can create, add, and display content seamlessly while a presentation is running, an APAT system can provide live assistance to the presenter during a presentation. While the paper outlines what an APAT system would require, it also points out that much of the technology required to create an effective system either does not currently exist or does not have the proper level of functionality, accuracy, or efficiency to be useful at the present time. It is hoped that this paper will provide the impetus for discussion and future work.