

How Technology is Used to Solve Problems of Living Independently...A Practical Approach

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Location: 360 Ferguson Center (Forum)

Abstract:

After using customized technology to address the challenges associated with living independently, the results seem obvious. When designing assistive technology for the elderly and disabled, the practical applications often escape us. Join us for an interactive talk on how every day devices and technology, combined with home automation, unique rules, mobile devices and 802.15.4 mesh networks, are used to produce unexpected outcomes for the elderly and disabled. We will illustrate how innovative technology can have “real life” applications and how we make it accessible to a broad range of needs (e.g., our work was recently focused on “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”). This talk will conclude with “Show and Tell” of current and future directions in research and development for assistive technology, data storage/retrieval, as well as how technology is being embraced by human services.

Biography:

Allen Ray is CEO and President of SimplyHome, LLC and CMI, Inc.. He received a BS in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering from the University of Alabama in 1982. Allen is a Licensed PE (1988-1998) and a Certified Aging in Place Specialist. He has owned and operated several long-term-care companies. Since 2004, SimplyHome has designed, engineered, developed and used assistive technology to increase independence and lower costs for seniors and people with disabilities or special needs. SimplyHome was the first company to receive national accreditation (CARF) using technology in support of independent living and aging in place. Allen is also a national speaker, presenter and instructor on assistive technology use to international associations, state agencies, provider groups as well as a US Senate Committee on Aging. He served as a former appointee by the Governor of North Carolina on the NC Health Reform Commission and NCDD Managed Care Policy Group. Mr. Ray is a former Board member and officer of NC AAIDD, and an active member of several state and national associations (ANCOR, ARC, NAIPC, AAIDD).