

If You Get Any Closer, Introduce Yourself

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All PDC'94 conference participants will be invited to participate in a community-building exercise. As we did at PDC'92, we will collaboratively build a wall display of individual perspectives (Muller, Kuhn, and Dykstra, 1992) through the use of a paper template distributed at the conference. At PDC'92, the Democracy Wall theme was "defining participatory design." We are pleased to report that roughly 50% of the participants contributed to the 1992 Democracy Wall; a collection of these contributions was made available to participants after the conference.

This year, each participant in the conference will receive a Wallpaper (a formatted paper template) and information about this year's Democracy Wall theme in her or his registration materials. The Wallpaper is an excellent way for participants to make a contribution to the conference's shared discourse. As participants complete a Wallpaper, they are invited to post it on a series of bulletin boards reserved for collaborative discussion. These bulletin boards thus become a browsing surface through which participants can learn more about one another, and about the conference's emerging character and themes. The surface is also relatively democratic, because it does not make

distinctions between the Proceedings' "authors" and "readers," or the sessions' "speakers" and "listeners." Everyone at the conference has both the roles of author and reader for this activity.

Participants are given options for the post-conference use of WallPapers: a section of the Wallpaper form will allow each contributor to designate whether that contribution may be included in or should be excluded from an informal book of contributions to the shared space. Additionally, participants may indicate on the Wallpaper whether or not they wish to receive a copy of the resulting collection of contributions.

We hope that PDC'94 participants will use this year's shared conversation space to inform one another of their diverse opinions.

REFERENCE

Muller, M.J., Kuhn, S., and Dykstra, E.A. (1992). *Homage to Democracy Wall*. Shared space at PDC'92. Cambridge MA: Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

In PDC'94: *Proceedings of the Participatory Design Conference*. R. Trigg, S.I. Anderson, and E.A. Dykstra-Erickson (Eds.). Chapel Hill NC USA, 27-28 October 1994. Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, P.O. Box 717, Palo Alto CA 94302-0717 USA, cpsr@cpsr.org.