



TECHNOLOGY

LifeLines for Visualizing History Records

OVERVIEW

Records of personal histories are needed in a variety of applications. Members of the medical and legal professions examine a record to garner information that will allow them to make an informed decision regarding their patient or case. Decision making critically depends on gleaning the complete story, spotting trends, noting critical incidents or cause-effect relationships and reviewing previous actions. In most applications delays in gathering information to elaborate a meaningful overview of the record can have deleterious effects. LifeLines mitigates such problems through a general visualization environment for personal histories that can be applied to medical and court records, professional histories and other types of temporal data.

In LifeLines a one screen overview shows multiple facets of the records. Aspects, for example, medical conditions or legal cases, are displayed as individual time lines, while icons indicate discrete events, such as physician consultations or legal reviews. Line color and thickness illustrate relationships or significance, rescaling tools and filters allow users to focus on part of the information. LifeLines reduces the chance of missing information, facilitates spotting anomalies and trends, streamlines access to details, while remaining tailorable and easily transferable between applications.

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For additional information please contact the Office of Technology Commercialization, Office of Technology Commercialization, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Phone (301) 405-3947. E-mail: otc@umd.edu

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