

Michael Ludwig

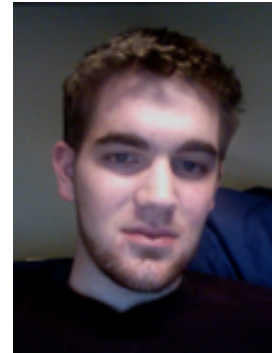
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Mentor: Loren Terveen, Computer
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Growing Geographic Awareness and its Impact on Computing

Interactive web-based maps – e.g., Google Maps, MapQuest, and Yahoo Maps – have become very popular. Ease-of-use is a primary requirement for the success of these systems. One important task users perform with these maps is defining **routes** (or imposing an order on a subset of road segments in the transportation network). However, defining a route interactively is difficult because each route consists of many individual segments whose connectivity relationships become apparent only after the route is completed.

Using an interactive bicycle map previously developed at the University of Minnesota, I have created two novel selection techniques that greatly reduce the time and effort necessary to select a route. They gain this power by building on the fact that routes must be connected. The most advanced technique also assumes that, at a small enough scale, the route a user desires is a collection of smaller paths representing the shortest distance between mouse clicks. We currently are conducting an empirical evaluation of these two techniques against a simpler “point-and-click” technique, analogous to the selection mechanism in file browsers.



Poster Number:

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