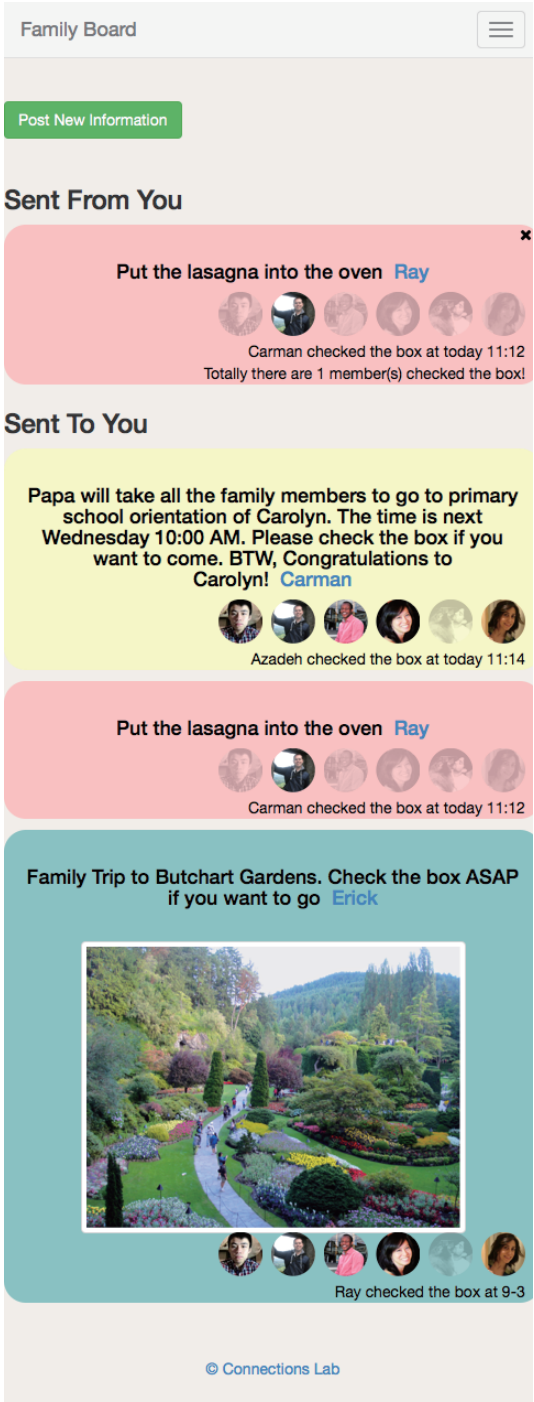


# The Family Board: An Information Sharing System for Family Members

#domestic computing #interaction design #family communication

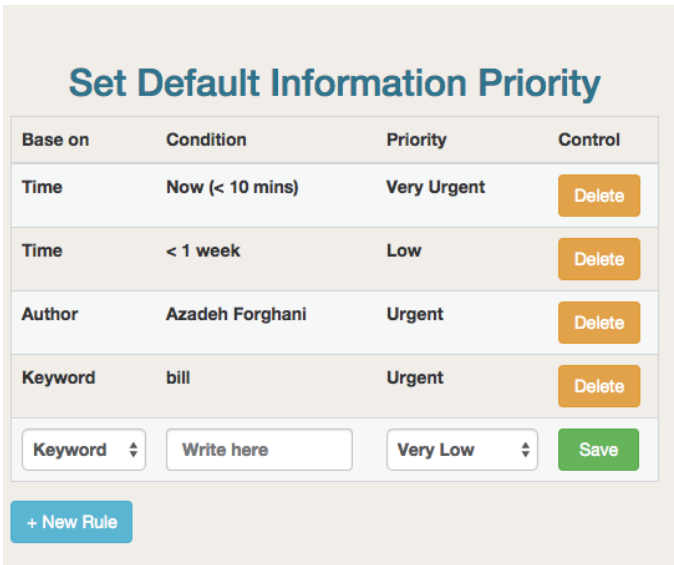
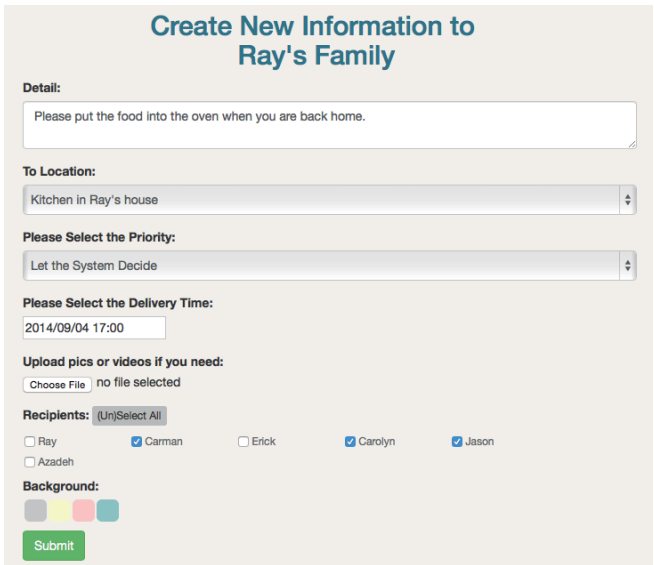


## Introduction

Family life is complex and involves a large amount of communication, coordination, and information sharing amongst family members. It can be difficult for family members to keep track and stay aware of the activities that are going on, and correspondingly communicate with others about them. This is because it can be difficult to know what is most important to deal with and at what point in time.

## Our Method

The Family Board provides a means for family members to communicate with one another and organize and handle incoming information in daily life. With the Family Board, users can post simple and direct messages that can be shared with family members. Messages are tagged with a sense of ‘priority’ so that others know how quickly they may need to respond to information. Messages can also be shared with specific devices in certain locations of relevance or at certain times.



## Design

The Family Board runs on a web platform that can be accessed via computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones. Users simply need an account and password to login. The system is divided into three parts: the message creation page, the main board, and the priority-setting page:

In the message creation page, users can choose who in their family a message is intended for, what device it should appear on, and what time it should be delivered. The system also supports image, video, hyperlink preview and background color choices. When sending a message, users choose a ‘priority’ level that helps determine how it appears on the receiving device.

In the main board, messages are sorted by the priority score. Upon touch, a slider appears at the bottom of the board and allows users to filter messages according to their priority. Each message item contains small image thumbnails, which initially appear greyed out but clicking on them toggles them to be in color. We imagined this feature could be used by familiar members in a flexible way to quickly and easily indicate replies to a message.

The priority-setting page allows users to define rules as to what priority score a message should have. Three types of rules are supported: *Time*, *Author* and *Keyword*.

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