

M. BOSTRÖM. *What do old persons think about the first generation of security systems? Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):266*; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.131.00 **Purpose** Older people don't always know what new technology can do, so it may be difficult to outline needs, constraints and specifications. The marketing functions, the demand for technology and the supply of technology therefore needs to be strengthened. Though many older persons rely on various assistive technologies in their daily life, and therefore represent a large group of consumers with the experience of existing technology, their influence over the technology they have access to as well as their involvement in design processes and product development is also very small. This study has two objectives; the first is to describe older people's experiences about using their existing security systems. The second is to highlight and make the older peoples thoughts and wishes available in further development and innovations of the second generation of context-aware distributed assistive systems, like wireless sensor network (WSN). **Method** Five focus group interviews including 7-10 persons were conducted. Totally, 45 community living men and women (75-85 years of age) without home help and who had not been diagnosed with dementia participated. Data were analyzed by content analysis and selected into six themes. **Result & Discussion** The preliminary results show that the old persons feel dissatisfied as well as unsafe with their present security alarms. They feel limited when security alarms are only fit in their own apartment, and therefore they feel insecure and restricted in their freedom. They are experiencing a need to compensate the lack of safety with other products or persons. They also report that they have received poor information, which affects their sense of security. The elderly seem to have specific needs with their alarm systems that might be useful in further development of context-aware distributed assistive systems as well as ethical issues which also arose in the discussion about enlarged alarm systems.

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