### Information Awareness

**What is Information Awareness?**
- Staying aware of information changes
- It’s a secondary, peripheral task
- Examples: news, sport scores, stock prices, weather forecasts, etc.

**Implications**
- Large amount of information
- Small amount of dedicated screen real-estate
- Animation helps

**Why Tcl/Tk?**
- Development and maintenance costs are low
- Powerful networking and regular expression packages allow easy information collection and extraction
- Cross-platform support with low runtime resource requirements
- Peripheral information display widgets available

### “What’s Happening”: An Example Application

**Goal**
To keep up with the happenings in an organization

**Features**
- Automatically collects information of popular interest
- Automatically cycles through available information
- Encourages user to submit new articles
- Supports lightweight chat-room discussions
- Most importantly, stays in the periphery

**New article flag**
See what others are chatting about it

**Submit an article**
Go to the corresponding Web page for more details

**Jump through the articles**
Take this article out of the cycling schedule

**Access various options**
The topic image tells what the article is about at a glance

### Techniques to Minimize Distraction:

**Smooth, Slow-changing Animated Transition**
A “wipe-down” animation takes 64 steps to transit from the previous article to the next. A time-lapse series of 5 of the steps is shown below:

**Topic Images**
- User contributed content
- Calendar of events
- School calendar
- Weather forecast
- slashdot.org
- Salon/Herring/Wired/Fool
- Merriam-Webster word-of-the-day
- Yahoo stock quote service

### For more information, please visit:
[http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii/community/]