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openness of the platform and the possibility of providing real services from a personal device. One participant even suggested that companies release “open source” hardware platforms for external researchers.

Along with the usual discussions about context-aware middleware and its role in effective mobile-application development, more interesting discussions dealt with the real need to support multiple domain-specific and general-purpose languages in the same mobile device. Most participants felt that another challenging issue is characterizing how user requirements can influence or drive system-support platform design. Indeed, they realized that ubicomp researchers have concentrated mostly on either usability or system support issues and have rarely

tried to merge the two worlds within a single research effort. Some participants pointed out how mobile-device manufacturers have kept most of the system-support APIs closed and how time-consuming standardization processes have negatively influenced the relationship between industry and academic researchers.

The participants were happy to see more open platforms coming from device manufacturers. In addition, they emphasized how, independently of the device manufacturer, some mobile-phone development platforms have been less open than those available for some PDAs.

The workshop proceedings, published by the IEEE Computer Society, are available at <http://csdl2.computer.org/persagen/DLPublication.jsp?pubtype=p&acronym=FUMCA>. 

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