Screaming Photo Booth

Project proposal by Kyle Adams

Overview

- I plan to create and install a functional photo booth that lets out a loud noise/scream in order to catch the reaction of its user.
- My reasoning is that I wanted to create something so weird, exciting, and startling that not only would people remember it, but want to tell their friends about it.
- I want to play off both of the primal reaction of flight/fear in my user and the modern societal interaction based around video sharing and social media.

Inspiration

This idea has been brewing in my head for a while, and I was never quite sure what i wanted to do with it. For an earlier project I created a screaming chair, which basically served as a high tech whoopie cushion to scare my professor. It wasn't until I reviewed the footage later, however that I realised what was truly funny and meaningful about this interaction, it was not as much the fact of being scared by a chair that made people laugh, but seeing it happen again to another person or to yourself. This is the same reason that I believe people think pranks are funny.

Sit

The user sits in the device, being detected through pressure sensors, tilt sensors, or capacitive touch in the chair.

Scream

The camera begins to record a short video of the person a moment before the device lets out a surprising scream.

Review

The user is prompted to review their footage and see their own reaction.

How it Works

Physical Interface

I propose to create a relatively simple setup with a camera, Ipad, and Chair. I can laser cut a holding container for the main device. I plan to place much if not all of the circuitry out of sight (under the chair) in order to make the entire thing look inconspicuous.

Classic Photo booth

A Practical example

Essential Materials

Conductive Chair

free-$30

Teensy

Approx $20

Ipad

I'll rent one

Speakers

Depends on how many I need/ how I use them

Webcam

The IM lab has some- $20

Bits, Pieces, Wire, and Power, Acrylic

TBD

01
Code the Thing
There are several things I still need to figure out in code, such as playing noise from a scream library
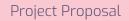
02
Test the Thing
I need to make sure that my concept works, and people intuitively understand it. Testing can help me tweak it

03
Build the Thing
I need to make sure that the thing doesn't only look pretty, but is durable enough to stay up for weeks.

04
Install the Thing
I plan to install this project at the top of the westernmost stairs in the arts center and need permission.

Timeline

Project Proposal — **September 16**

Revisions made/Sound library created/playback figured out — **September 22**

Camera/Ipad/Teensy connection established (build code) — **September 29**

Build/ User Testing/ Instillation — **September 29 – October 9**

Thank You

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