The head of the Human-Computer Interaction Group of the University of Bamberg, Prof. Dr. Tom Gross and his team develop technological concepts, prototypes, and systems based on an understanding of how people interact with and communicate through information and communication technology. We depart – from the perspective of Human-Centred Computing – from an understanding of human, social, and cultural requirements in order to make technology useful and usable.

The curriculum teaches basic methodical and technological paradigms, principles, and concepts for the user- and application-oriented conception, implementation, and evaluation covering the following three technological areas:

- **Interactive systems**: graphical user interfaces and Windows-Icons-Menus-Pointing Devices (WIMP) metaphor (e.g., operating systems like Windows, Mac OS X, Linux)
- **Cooperative systems**: computer-supported communication und cooperation (e.g., Web 2.0, Social Media like Facebook)
- **Ubiquitous systems**: natural user interaction based on sensors and actuators (e.g., speech input and finger gestures in modern smart phones)

In the Cooperative Media Lab of the HCI Group the researchers and students develop methods for the design, implementation, and evaluation of systems. Furthermore, we design, implement, and evaluate platforms and toolkits as well as prototypes and systems. The contributions of the HCI Group are primarily in:

- **Foundation**: methodological, conceptual, and technological foundation for the design of interactive, cooperative, and ubiquitous systems
- **Context support**: modelling of information and contexts, sensors for capturing data, and actuators for adapting the environment
- **Novel user interfaces**: exploration, conception, implementation, and evaluation of innovative mobile, Web-based, and ubiquitous user interfaces

The HCI Group has been actively involved in the acquisition, coordination, and cooperation in international, national, and regional research projects (e.g., the EU project Adaptive Learning Spaces; the DFG (German Research Foundation) project Recommender Systems, the BMVBS (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, and Urban Affairs) project TransKoop). In the latter project TransKoop we explored, developed, and transferred cooperation concepts and technologies to industry partners of Thuringia’s Children’s Media industry.

Prof. Dr. Tom Gross has published numerous articles in journals, conference proceedings, books and book chapters. He has been teaching at various universities across Europe and has given keynote talks and tutorials at international conferences. He is the official representative of Germany in the TC.13 Human-Computer Interaction of the International Federation of Information Processing IFIP, member of the Steering Committee of Human-Computer Interaction of the Germany Informatics Society (Gesellschaft fuer Informatik), and has been program and conference co-chair of many international conferences.

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