Uncovering the potential of Real Time Location Systems (RTLS) to improve healthcare operations management

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Abstract
As we are entering in the era of Ubiquitous Computing and the Internet of Things, the adoption of novel technologies such as radio-frequency identification (RFID) along the healthcare value chain are transforming the sector by enabling automatic identification and tracking of products, people, and assets - resulting in real-time visibility and improved efficiency in the delivery of healthcare services.

For instance, recent deployments of Real-Time Location Systems (RTLS) around the world illustrate a key trend in RFID where hospitals are using the technology for a wide range of applications such as to track and manage critical mobile assets, improve medical staff and patient workflow management, ensure staff security, and even monitor hand-hygiene compliance.

Since different technological designs can be envisioned for RTLS applications, managers in charge of such projects still face several challenges when selecting, implementing and integrating RFID-specific systems to support their operations.

This seminar provides a focused background for practitioners and researchers on RTLS and their use in the health-care sector as we will (a) propose a typology of the main RFID-enabled application domains in healthcare (b) clarify the role of RFID technologies in supporting innovative RTLS healthcare applications (c) discuss different technological options presently available on the market and (d) highlight critical steps and pitfalls in RTLS implementations.

A real live demo will be performed to present how the technology can transform healthcare processes.

PLEASE RSVP by October 14th (Kristen.oliver@mcgill.ca) - A light lunch will be served