

FreeWalk is a desktop meeting environment that supports informal communication generated by accidental encounters in a 3D virtual passageway. Users are represented on via live video, which allows them to move freely. They can watch others from a distance. Conversations can be started from chance meetings. And many users can talk simultaneously without confusion, just as they would in real life. Voice volumes are proportional to the distance between the sender and the recipient.

The prototype system has been used by six simultaneous participants, who have reported a variety of interesting behaviors, including eavesdropping on a couple's conversation from a distance.

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