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Science & Technology

Robot butter can open doors, talk, and separate Oreos

Kurt Luther, an assistant professor in computer science and associate professor of the Robertson Institute, has created a new project, "Pipeline," that allows people to communicate with strangers who aren't involved but have an interest.

The idea for Pipeline originated while Luther was completing his dissertation at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He had just finished a degree in computer graphics and animation, but his advisor, Amy Bruckman, wanted him to work in online communities. While looking for an issue that could spark both of their interests, Luther discussed collaboration on creative projects online. Luther then identified a central project he wanted to work on.

"Pipeline" allows the involved people to create an artistic project of any form in public. The creators can choose to communicate with strangers or not at all.

All of these qualities fit the definition of "artistic engagement" as the creators create an artwork that is not constrained by the leader. Instead, people are allowed to contribute as they please, as long as they follow the rules of the project.

"It is a way for people to work together on a creative project without the need for a central leader. It is a creative commons project, and people can work on it as they see fit," Luther said.

Luther added that the project is not just for artistic projects. It could also be used for any purpose, such as a collaborative research project or a community project.

"People interested in a project can ask to join the effort, or they can create a project themselves. The project is designed to be flexible and open-ended," Luther said. "People can contribute to the project in any way they see fit, as long as they follow the rules."