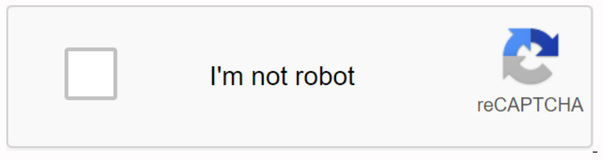

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What is smps in computer

The Xerox researcher has a problem that she wants to talk to a colleague about, so he walks across the hall to her office. As the two brainstorm on the board, a third colleague notices his activity and decides to fall in. He leaves the meeting after a few minutes, and then he has an idea that might help him. He printed it on a post-it list and left it on one of their desks. Such interaction happens every day in workplaces around the world. Because of these special interactions, it's that three of our colleagues are thousands of miles apart. They work in virtual offices, walk through virtual halls, write on virtual boards. Post-it message? Guess it: virtual. These Xerox researchers work in Jupiter, the most exotic and advanced collection of community-based systems in development at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). Jupiter is not misleading for traditional technology. It's not about e-mail, databases or other information systems that help people organize and access facts. Jupiter is a social system – a network location designed so that colleagues, regardless of their physical location, can share and create ideas. Jupiter is a virtual social reality, says John Seely Brown, CEO of PARC and Xerox's chief scientist. It's a system that supports the organizational mind. Jupiter is the work of a few parc researchers, led by Paul Curtis, a 35-year-old computer scientist. He has long hair and a beard and works from a full office like cubbyhole - exactly what you'd expect at PARC. In fact, Curtis has some cult personalities in computer circles, a hacker, best known for his revolutionary work on MUDS (Multi-User Dungeons) and MOOs (MUDS, Object-Oriented), two of the internet's most novelist and dynamic technologies. MUD were created in the late 70s to support interactive adventures. Participants built their electronic worlds, embraced new identities, searched for treasure or fought wars. Because the MUDs got more sophisticated, the players used them to write the software to make their games more exciting. MUD has become a software tool. Moo is a subset of the MUD. They use object-oriented programming to make code writing easier and make the environment more robust. Sam Curtis is best known as the creator of LambdaMOO, which he presented in January 1991. LambdaMOO is a virtual world inhabited primarily by students. Participants play games, discuss homework and interact in ways that students interact everywhere. LambdaMoo is an evolving community, although it is built on hundreds of thousands of computer code lines, most of which were written by its members. MoO's are extremely compelling, says Curtis, whose LambdaMOO identity is archwizard Haakon. People deal in a very active way. He says it wasn't all of that. leap of students discussing homework, engineers who change ideas about new products. So he was born Jupiter.Na computer screen in front of me are the kinds of windows that conjure memories of Hollywood Squares or the opening credits of The Brady Bunch. But occupying these squares, there are ordinary people in ordinary offices who do what people do: sit at their desks, talk on the phone, tap on computer keyboards. Xerox researchers and engineers are in the midst of their daily activities. There are people who work in Jupiter.As far as the most deci stays Jupiter from traditional computer systems is its ground floor in the physical world. Jupiter's various rooms offer clues as to what kind of behavior is appropriate there. One-on-one discussions in a private office are more informal than, for example, group discussions in one of Jupiter's virtual laboratories. And people can't access their colleagues by your will. Each video square has an icon that indicates how disconnected the person wants to be. An open door means that colleagues must click and enter freely. Locked doors are an electronic sign of no-disturbed. People want a border, says John Seely Brown. They want to know what's expected of them. So different social protocols are gathered in different places. It gives you the feeling that you are located and willing to interact in natural ways. Equally important as these social protocols are the tools that Jupiter incorporates to enable productive collaboration and focused conversation. Jupiter's virtual whiteboards, fax machines, tape recorders, and messaging systems provide all the functionality of physical tools — but without their limitations. I watched Jupiter from the outside – now it's time to step in and become an actor. I'm late for a meeting with someone on the other side of the building. I click on his market and I see it's on the phone. I'm typing in a message to tell him I'm coming. I drag a message into his window and click. The words Give a note to Miku are displayed on the screen – a narrative created by the omniscient Greek choir, programs that run events that give a rolling commentary about the action. Mike, still on the phone, gives me a wave and gesture to get by. Fewer than 60 people today use Jupiter, mainly researchers at PARC and its sister laboratory in Grenoble, France, as well as Xerox engineers in Rochester, New York. For this core group, however, the system has become an essential part of their daily work experience. A team of engineers reports that Jupiter played a major role in how the prototype of the new product, internet account and credit approval system is. Most use it for routine activities, such as tracking hard-to-reach colleagues. And people rejoice Jupiter's serendipity allows, like a swoops on a friend, who takes a break in the salon — a friend who happens to be on the other side of the country. Jupiter is still an experiment, not quite ready for the first time. But his technical headaches are getting less painful every day. Meanwhile, demand for part of Jupiter continues to grow. We never tried to get users, curtis says. Instead, we have had a problem of catastrophe success – people keep coming to us and say they really want to use it. So Curtis and his colleagues are working on reproductive strategies. This fall, PARC plans to release a version of Jupiter designed to run on PCs - opening it up to a much larger population within Xerox. Curtis rejoices: That's when we'll learn what these systems are really good about. Debra Feinstein (debra@loop.com) writes about technology and innovation from Topanga Canyon, California. California.