Reconfiguring Critical Computing in an Era of Configurability
(06/27/05)

Recommended Citation:

Document Status:
☑ Published Paper
☐ Working Paper
☐ Report
☐ Draft
☐ Presentation

☑ Practitioner’s Pointers
☐ Briefing Note
☐ Research Tool
☐ Overview

Prepared by:
Ellen Balka
Simon Fraser University
Ina Wagner
Institute for Technology Assessment & Design
Vienna University of Technology
Casper Brunn Jensen
ACTION for Health
Simon Fraser University

Document Contact:
Ellen Balka
Centre for Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluation
828 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5Z 1L8
tel: +1.604.875.4111 ext. 66240
e-mail: act4hlth@sfu.ca
website: www.sfu.ca/act4hlth/
Reconfiguring Critical Computing in an Era of Configurability
Ellen Balka¹, Ina Wagner² & Casper Brunn Jensen³

¹Professor, School of Communication & Director, Assessment of Technology in Context Lab Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. CANADA V5K 1S6 ellenb@sfu.ca
²Institute for Technology Assessment & Design Vienna University of Technology Argentinierstrasse 8, A-1040 Wien iwagner@pop.tuwien.ac.at
³ACTION for Health, Simon Fraser University Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V5T 1E2 casper_jensen@sfu.ca

Abstract

In this paper, we discuss the challenges of altering computer systems that are increasingly characterized by high degrees of system configurability for use in complex organizational and technological work contexts. We suggest that configurable systems are often accompanied by additional system intermediaries, which in turn introduce new challenges for users’ ability to adequately configure systems in practice.