A Menu-planning Support System to Facilitate Face-to-Face Interaction Using Cooking Ingredient

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The emergence of the Internet has facilitated communication between people physically located in a distance from each other. Through a variety of Web services, people can virtually get together to video chat, edit documents, and engage in other activities. Web services such as social networking services (SNS) enable interaction between not only friends but also strangers. SNS users can form virtual networks using their hobbies, events, and other common factors. Through there are many chances of communication among people who are connected to the internet, people who live close to each other do not always have a chance of meeting with their neighbours face-to-face.

While SNS encourage people to communicate through the network, thus providing a virtual platform for remote users to get together, we focus on people living close to each other and try to facilitate an actual get-together (a face-to-face encounter among neighbours).

To achieve this purpose we consider one of what we do every day: "cooking". Cooking has an important function in that they facilitate face-to-face encounters with each person while they are cooking together. In our research, we prepare a menu-planning support system that suggests dishes from the shared information of cooking ingredients owned by individuals, and tries to encourage people to bring along their own cooking ingredients to a get-together for cooking and eating. In this essay, we explain the benefits and drawbacks of cooking ingredients as a means for multi-person cooking. In order to solve the drawbacks we

introduce a menu-planning support system and its workings.