overview of activities

We want to find out what motivates inventors and what their ideal idea capture solution would be.

More specifically we are interested in:
• What do inventors enjoy about their work at MEDRAD?
• How would you ideally like to capture your ideas and experiment results?

protocol for activities

target participants: inventors (research scientists and engineers)
recording device: paper copy

method: The group will be divided into two smaller groups. Group A will be creating a collage about what the inventors/engineers enjoy about their work. Note: group A and B will happen simultaneously. There are two groups doing activities at the same time in the same space.

number of participants: 3-5 subjects per activity, 7-10 total

length of activity: 90 minutes
recording device: digital photography, audio recorder
outcome of research: poster board-sized collages, digital photos, digital audio recordings

timeframe: research will be conducted by april 14th 2006

method: Each participant has a large piece of paper to work with.

Activity 1 (collage: motivation)
activity leader: Welcome. Thank you for agreeing to participate in our research study. We are HCI students working on an electronic lab notebook system for MEDRAD. If you have any questions about the project, we are more than happy
to answer them after the session. Anything that you do tonight will only be used for the project. Any video that we take will only be used by the five of us and any parts that we share with our class as part of the project will be edited to keep your identities private. We hope you have as much fun doing the activity as we did planning it. We are very excited and hope you have a good time. We are going to divide into two groups and do some individual activities for about 90 minutes.

activity leader: Now, with the paper in front of you, the different paper pieces, the glue sticks, and scissors, make a collage on the left side that shows what you enjoy about your work at MEDRAD. You will have about 20 minutes to make this collage. Then on the right side of the paper, make a collage of how you might improve your work situation at MEDRAD.

participants make collages for 40 minutes.

activity leader: Excellent. Now we will go around the room and each of you will explain what you made. First start with the poster of how what you like about your work at MEDRAD, and then how working here could be even better.

analysis: Researchers will review collages and look for similarities and differences between participants.

findings: Findings will be used mostly for inspiration for ongoing sketching and prototyping.

Activity 2 (Idea capture, current and ideal)

activity leader: Please think about the way you currently capture your ideas working at MEDRAD. With the paper in front of you, the pieces, the glue sticks, and scissors make a collage on the left side that shows how you capture your ideas. You should spend about 20 minutes on this chart. Then, imagine you anything is possible. Now create a collage on the right that shows how you would ideally be able to capture your ideas. There are no wrong answers, so feel free to be as creative and imaginative as you like.

participants create collages for 40 minutes.

activity leader: Excellent. Now we will go around the room and each of you will share what you made. First start with the collage of your current idea capture process, and then share how you would ideally capture your ideas.

analysis: Researchers will review collages and look for similarities and differences between participants.

findings: Findings will be used mostly for inspiration for ongoing sketching and prototyping.