54. Easy parking, happy drivers

Hi-tech system allows vehicle motorists to reserve a car park space

Drivers often get irritated about issues relating to car parks. So wouldn't it be great if there was an intelligent car park, designed to make the operation smooth, easy and pleasant?

Sino Parking Services Limited teamed up with PolyU's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering to design an intelligent car parking system. It was an enormous job to cover detailed research and the implementation of a pilot project.

It was complicated. The size of car parks ranged from small to large, and services had to be available in an hourly, daily or monthly package. Parking spaces had to cope with normal cars and environmentally-friendly cars.

Dr Andrew W.H. Ip, Associate Professor of PolyU and Mr Herman Fung, General Manager of Sino Group came up with the idea of "An n-Tier Distributed Business Intelligent Architecture for Car Park Service" system. The "n" in "n-tier" refers to number, indicating that the system is designed to be scalable and flexible.
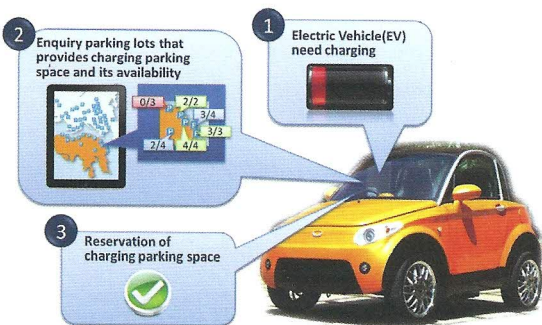
In addition to real-time monitoring, the system includes a reservation system so that drivers can enquire about free spaces and book one. It also includes Customer Relationship Management (CRM) through mobile devices, as well as Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) and Near Field Communication (NFC) elements which are built into a hi-tech package. In sum, it is expected that the new system will not only enhance parking efficiency with the aid of navigation services, but will also improve customer satisfaction.

Mr Herman Fung, General Manager of Sino Group (Left) and Dr Andrew W.H. Ip, Associate Professor of PolyU (Right)
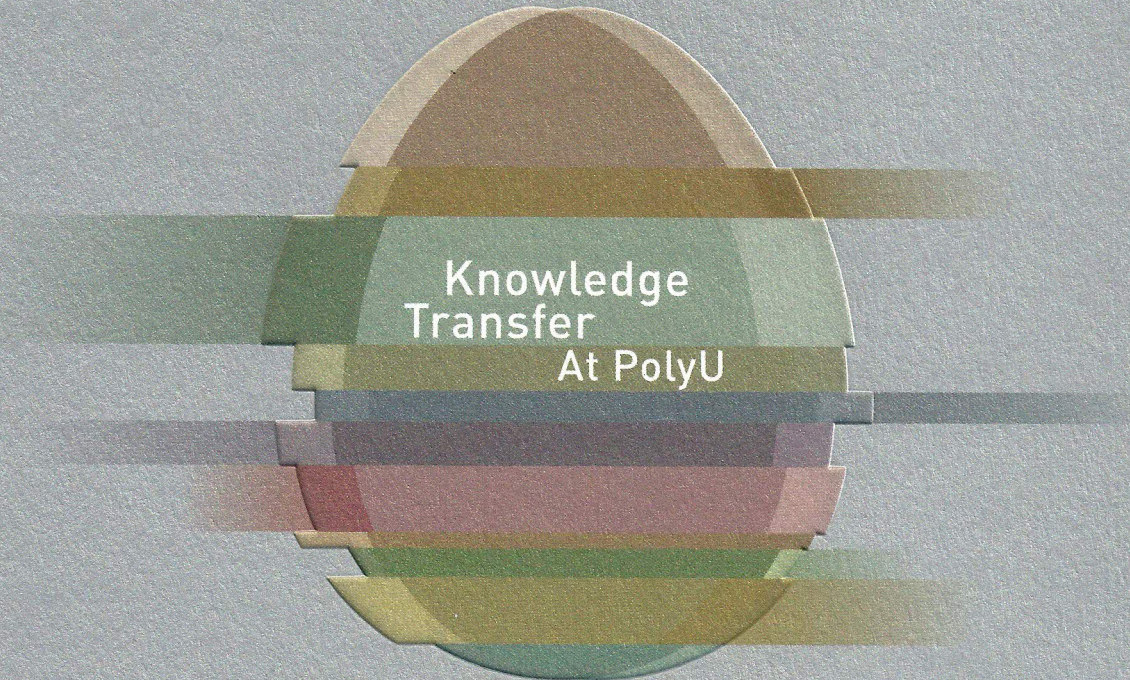
" The project delivers a comprehensive car park management system with user-friendly interface, which leads to our great satisfaction. We definitely enjoy working with the inspiring and innovative research team. "

Mr Herman Fung, General Manager of Sino Parking Services Limited

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