Solving the Problem of Forgotten Items

The Retrieval of Forgotten Items

A White Paper from Team FIRB

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It is widely accepted that people are forgetful.

Important items are left at home at the most inconvenient times. The question is not: How can people more effectively remember to grab those items before leaving the house? The real question is: How can these items be best retrieved?

This white paper discusses methods of forgotten item retrieval and highlights the newest technologies that make forgotten item retrieval efficient and inexpensive.

The Value of Retrieving Forgotten Items

If a forgotten item was not needed, it would not be considered forgotten; it would just be another stack of papers, or a USB drive, or a pair of glasses on a desk at home. Forgetting to bring a novel to read at the doctor’s office is not the same as forgetting to put a term paper in a backpack on the day it is due. However, the retrieval of both of these items has value. It is entertainment for the patient in the waiting room, and it is a good grade (hopefully!) for the student.

The Problem of Forgotten Items

College students are often forgetful. Amid the stresses of homework, projects, term papers, and exams, many things slip through the cracks of their memory. Forgotten homework can lead to lower, penalized grades, which can ultimately affect their GPA and their future after graduation.

There are millions of college students in the United States, and in a recent study by The College Board, 85% of college students admit to forgetting some important piece of school work in their dorm room or at home.

In a similar study, also conducted by The College Board, 50% of professors responded that they do not accept late homework. Of the 50% that do accept late homework, 80% of them penalize students for handing in late work.

Recent developments in robotic technology have led to robots with the ability to retrieve these forgotten items.
Solutions for Forgotten Items

What is a student to do when she forgets an important paper in her dorm room, which is all the way across campus? She has several options, and none of them are ideal.

**Option One**
Self-Retrieval

She can race back to her dorm, potentially missing important information in class. She can wait until class is over before going back to her dorm, but this might cause her to miss important information in another class and possibly receive a penalized grade on the assignment.

**Option Two**
Retrieval by a Friend

She has another option that does not involve leaving class. She can call or text her roommate and see if she can bring her the forgotten assignment. If she and her roommate do not get along, this is not a viable option. If they are friends, this option can work only so many times before it adds another stress to the delicate relationship between roommates. If her roommate is fast, the forgetful student can receive her assignment and turn it in before the end of class.

**Option Three**
No Retrieval

She can go about her day, with her forgotten assignment still in her dorm room. If she remembers it the next time her class meets, she can turn it in then, or she can bring it to her professor’s office. This solution is by far the worst, as she will most likely receive a penalized grade, if her professor accepts the late work at all.

For other situations, such as important business documents left at home, late retrieval or non-retrieval can have consequences more serious than a lowered grade. Missing an important deadline at work can lead to termination of employment. The manager who forgets his budget request at home can leave the office and race back home, or request that his spouse deliver it to him in the office. However, much like the roommate situation, if the manager is particularly forgetful and habitually asks his spouse to retrieve items he has forgotten, unnecessary strain can be added to their relationship.

Not all items forgotten at home are as immediately necessary as a homework assignment or a budget request. However, if retrieved, they can add comfort and enjoyment to our day. Still, they are not worth returning home for, or troubling a friend or spouse for, and so we do without.
The Better Solution for Retrieving Forgotten Items

The student who forgets a homework assignment, the manager who leaves his budget request at home, and the harried mother who longs for a novel to read while her son is in his karate lesson all have another option for retrieving their forgotten items.

Meet FIRB, the Forgotten Item Retrieval Bot. Through FIRB’s easy-to-use interface, you can select the item you have forgotten and have it delivered to your location or a location of your choosing. Using RFID tags integrated with and matched to your FIRB, you can tag often-forgotten items which will speed up the retrieval time.

Four Simple Steps to Forgotten Item Retrieval

1. Select the forgotten item from FIRB’s database. If your forgotten item is not tagged, simply direct FIRB take a picture of the room in which your forgotten item is, and select the item from the picture.

2. Select the urgency with which you need your forgotten item. You can select immediately, for retrieval as soon as possible, or you can set a day and time up to 48 hours in the future, for FIRB to deliver your item to you.

3. Select your destination. The FIRB app is integrated with the location services on your phone, so you can select ‘Here’ as the delivery destination. You can also set multiple locations for FIRB to remember, and select the delivery destination from them.

4. Confirm your selection: the item, the urgency, and the delivery location. After FIRB receives your confirmation, it will retrieve the forgotten item and place it in its lockbox safe cargo hold.

Delivery time to the location selected depends on distance, traffic, weather, and other environmental concerns. When FIRB arrives, unlock its cargo hold and remove your forgotten item. You can then send FIRB back home, or keep it with you to carry your items.

A Case Study

In 2013, an independent research company conducted a study at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Every student at UAF was given the use of a FIRB for the fall semester. The study’s results definitively show that the use of a FIRB can strongly impact a student’s GPA and overall well-being.
A baseline survey conducted the previous spring showed that 40% of students believed that living with a roommate produced additional stress on their lives. After the study, that number had dropped to 20%. Professors reported initially that 35% of their students habitually turned in late homework, or forgot to turn in their homework entirely. Those professors also reported that the grade these forgetful students received was typically 10% to 25% lower than the grades given to their classmates. After the study was completed, professors reported that only 5% of their students turned in late homework, and that more students received higher grades in their classes.

**FIRB**

**The Best Solution for Forgotten Item Retrieval**

A forgotten item can add unnecessary stress to our day and to our relationships. We can miss important events to retrieve the item, we can ask a spouse or trusted friend to get the item for us, or we can choose to do without the item. None of these choices are ideal, and until now, we had no other options. FIRB, the Forgotten Item Retrieval Bot allows us to remain at our current location and to not have to rely on favors from family and friends to get the item for us. Students can utilize FIRB for assignments forgotten in dorm rooms, workers can rely on FIRB to bring them important papers, and mothers can deploy FIRB to bring forgotten lunches to their children’s schools. FIRB will increase students’ GPAs, increase productivity in the office, and relieve stress in human relationships.
FIRB Buyer’s Guide

**Base-Model FIRB**

The base-model FIRB comes with everything you need to get started. It includes five RFID tags for items that you commonly forget at home and a FIRBy door and installation kit to ensure security of your home or office.

**Gold-Model FIRB**

The gold-model FIRB comes with ten RFID tags and two FIRBy doors and installation kits. It also includes the Telepresence add-on that allows you to communicate and interact remotely with people in the vicinity of your FIRB.

**Upgrades**

- Additional RFID tags are available to purchase in bundles of five, ten, twenty, and fifty.
- FIRBy doors and their installation kits are also available for separate purchase.
- The Telepresence add-on can be fitted to a base-model FIRB should you wish to upgrade at a later date.

**Insurance**

Team FIRB recommends that FIRBs be insured in the same manner in which your vehicle is insured. This is to protect you from liability should your FIRB be involved in an accident. Contact your insurance provider for their FIRB insurance rates. Should your FIRB be involved in an accident and be unable to travel on its own, a FIRB Recovery Team will be dispatched to the FIRB’s location, clean up any wreckage, and securely deliver your FIRB’s contents to you.

**About Team FIRB**

Team FIRB was formed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a collaborative project between Charlie Carlson, Mike Moss, and Ann Tupek. Utilizing the latest in robotic technology and clean energy sources, as well as security and real-time traffic analysis, they developed FIRB to solve a problem most students face at some point in their college career—a forgotten homework assignment.

Team FIRB has grown from its initial three person team to a Fortune 500 company that employs over 20,000 individuals. FIRB usage has gone beyond college campuses, and now many businesses use FIRB as a courier service for important and confidential documents. FIRBs are also appearing in the general commercial sector, favored by overburdened mothers whose children often forget their school lunches. Team FIRB continues to develop cutting edge robotics for use in schools, in businesses, and in homes. Stay tuned for next year’s release of LIRB, the Lost Item Retrieval Bot.

Contact info@TeamFIRB.com for more information, or visit www.TeamFIRB.com