

Project Proposal: Microwave-Embedded Dinner Vending Machine

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Project description:

The project aims at developing a simulation of hot dinner vending machine. It is kind of a cross between Figures 1 and 2. It serves 24 different dinners, and it has a microwave oven embedded in the machine. It will have icon-based interface (like Figure 1) but with delivery tray as in Figure 2.

The user interface as well as the steps from choosing a dinner to getting it will be delivered as Flash movies.



Figure 1: icon-based vending machine



Figure 2: hot dinner vending machine

Target audience:

UCSC students (the machine will be installed next to the ATMs at the Student Union complex)

Why it is interesting/challenging:

The project is challenging and interesting in several aspects:

1. The types of dinners to provide
2. The complexity of the dinner arrangement (how to organize the 24 dinners in logical order)
3. The pictorial representation and the supporting text for each icon (e.g., where to place allergy warning, calorie content, etc)
4. The sequence of operations – and therefore the locations of all the supporting functions (payment, choosing how many minutes in the microwave oven, etc).