

Accessible Medication Dispensing Device, RERC Project

Week #7

February 20, 2006

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Work Completed:

On Wednesday, Eva met with Bharat from NI. I was able to join them for the last half hour. He helped us build a general program for the medication information to be retrieved and changed using arrays, bundling, local variables, and replace array functions. He also showed us which timestamp function to use.

On Friday, I worked on adding to the motor programs that I had previously written. I set up a simulated DAQ and connector block using what I learned at the NI seminar and put the program within a larger program. The power went out and I lost what I had done, but I redid it. After the power outage, we had a group discussion for a while.

On Sunday, I viewed the online web event entitled, "Introduction to PC-Based Data Acquisition Featuring USB Devices". Much of the presentation was useless, but the parts on analog input/output and digital I/O were somewhat useful.

Future Work:

Over this coming week, Eva and I will continue programming in LabVIEW. If our new parts come in, we will be able to test the compatibility of these components and run them together to see how they will input data into LabVIEW. We will need to make a lot of headway this week since we don't have much time left. I would like to see a 1st draft of our entire program put together by Friday. Next week we will be able to adjust the program and work out the bugs so that we can do preliminary testing by the week that we need to get the project running.

The PDA needs to be reordered. The cut pill collector under the cutter platform needs to be built and the vacuum assembly somewhat finalized.

Project Review:

We are feeling the time crunch at this point. Our PDA was not available and will now have to order it from somewhere else. This is the 4th problem with our ordered parts and it is crucial that we don't have any more issues with them. The programming is not as hopeless as before. Bharat really helped us out, but reinforced the fact that programming is very hard when we don't even know what is available. For example, Bharat solved the beep VI dilemma in about 30 seconds by putting the beep function within the prompt user code, but Eva and I didn't even know that the code for pre-existing functions could be altered or viewed. Things are progressively getting better, but we need to make some huge headway this week if we are to be prepared for any other unexpected delays.

Hours Worked:

4.5 (power outage early on Friday)