Capacitive touch sensing – a general view

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In recent years, touch sensing has become more and more prominent in our everyday lives. Touch screens are implemented in smartphones, tablets and laptops among others. There are multiple ways to electronically sense human touch, but lately the capacitive technology has taken over rule within the consumer electronics due to its versatile nature.

Human body is able to act as an electric capacitor. When two capacitors are brought close to each other, the difference in capacity can be sensed. This is what capacitive touch sensing is based on, usually having fingertip as the other capacitor.

Although we use this technology on daily basis, our general knowledge of it is quite limited. This poster explains the main principles behind the capacitive touch sensors and takes briefly look at the future of the technology.