UI Design

Tuesday, October 16



Announcements

Thursday guest lecture: Dr. Carlos Jensen

Overview of the front-end



Interaction Design Concepts

Usability goals

Heuristic Evaluation

Design principles

Affordance

Visibility, Consistency, Feedback

Design guidelines



Nielsen's usability goals

- 1. Learnability
- 2. Efficiency
- 3. Memorability
- 4. Errors (safety)
- 5. Satisfaction



Class exercise

For each goal, write down one software application where:

The usability goal is **very** important

The usability goal is **not very** important

Learnability

Efficiency

Memorability

Errors (safety)

Satisfaction



Learnability

How easy a system is to learn to use

Can the user figure out the system by exploring?

How hard will it be to learn the whole set of functionality?



Learnability



Learnability



Efficiency

The way a product supports users in carrying out their tasks

Once a user has learned the system can they sustain a high level of productivity?



Efficiency





Efficiency



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Memorability

How easy do you remember how to use a product, after learning it?

What kind of interface support has been provided?

Especially important for interactive products that are used infrequently



Memorability

Added slides

commit 9ffafaa24d572df35409d8aae3e765d54bb66b39

Author: Caius Brindescu <caius.brindescu@gmail.com> Date: Wed Oct 3 16:00:12 2018 -0700

Fixed typo in sprint 1

commit 8b6aca59fb892503a167a604d5e1f10a2aea769e
Author: Caius Brindescu <caius.brindescu@gmail.com>
Date: Wed Oct 3 07:56:58 2018 -0700

Fixed typos on slides

commit c3e960eba783f64704126d8bc66a3990ab85c372
Author: Caius Brindescu <caius.brindescu@gmail.com>
Date: Tue Oct 2 12:34:54 2018 -0700

Added solid reading Adso:website caius\$ git status On branch sources Your branch is up to date with 'origin/sources'.

nothing to commit, working tree clean Adso:website caius\$

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Errors (safety)

Protecting the user from dangerous conditions and undesirable situations, also from perceived fear

Question:

What is the range of errors possible

What measures to recover easily from them





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Satisfaction

Subjective quality of how a system feels to a user

What is the user's response after finishing their task/ interaction



Satisfaction



Satisfaction



A simple and structured process for finding usability problems

3-5 evaluators

Can be performed on a working UI, or on sketches (i.e. paper prototypes)

Short set of heuristics

The evaluator can keep all of them in their head



1. **Visibility of system status**. Users should always be informed of system operations.

2. Match between system and the real world. Designers should endeavor to mirror the language and concepts users would find in the real world based on who their target users are.

3. **User control and freedom**. Offer users a digital space where backward steps are possible, including undoing and redoing actions.

4. **Consistency and standards**. Interface designers should ensure that both the graphic elements and terminology are maintained across similar platforms.



5. **Error prevention**. Whenever possible, design systems so that potential errors are kept to a minimum.

6. **Recognition rather than recall.** Minimize cognitive load by maintaining task-relevant information within the display while users explore the interface.

7. **Flexibility and efficiency of use**. With increased use comes the demand for less interactions that allow faster navigation. This can be achieved by using abbreviations, function keys, hidden commands and macro facilities.



8. **Aesthetic and minimalist design**. Keep clutter to a minimum. All unnecessary information competes for the user's limited attentional resources.

9. Help users recognize, diagnose and recover from errors. Designers should assume users are unable to understand technical terminology, therefore, error messages should almost always be expressed in plain language.

10. **Help and documentation**. When users require help, ensure it is easily located, specific to the task at hand and worded in a way that will guide them through the necessary steps towards a solution to the issue they are facing.



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Visibility of system status

Match between system and the real world

User control and freedom

Consistency and standards

Error prevention

Recognition rather than recall

Flexibility and efficiency of use

Aesthetic and minimalist design

Help users recognize, diagnose and recover from errors

Help and documentation







Gestalt principles

Gestalt = an organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts.

Our way of acquiring and maintaining perceptions in a chaotic world



Proximity

When items are close together, they are perceived as a group.





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Continuation

Elements arranged in a line or a soft curve are perceived to be more related than those arranged randomly or in a harsh line.



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Nike Air Max	\$200	\$125		\$120		\$190







Similarity

Similar elements are visually grouped, regardless of their proximity to each other















Closure

Your brain will fill in the missing parts of a design or image to create a whole.
















Figure and Ground

Your brain will distinguish between the objects it considers to be in the **foreground** of an image (the figure, or focal point) and the **background** (the area on which the figures rest).







Symmetry and Order

Your brain will perceive ambiguous shapes in as simple a manner as possible.

It also prefers to view images as symmetrical









Affordance

It should be obvious how a control is used







Affordances

The perceived and actual fundamental properties of the object that determine how it could possibly be used (Gibson 1977)

Some affordances are **obvious**, some **learned**

Have suggestions or clues about to how to use these properties

Can be **dependent** on the

Experience

Knowledge

Culture of the actor

Can make an action easy or difficult



Affordances of a Teapot?





Affordance of a tricycle?





Affordances in Screen Based UI

Designer has control over perceived affordances

Graphical elements will afford only some kinds of actions

e.g. checkboxes and radioboxes







Mappings

Natural mappings use constraints and correspondences in the physical world



For computer UI design:

Mapping between controls and their actions on the computer



Mapping controls to physical outcomes





Transfer effects

People transfer expectations from known objects to similar new ones

Positive: previous experience applies to new situation

Negative: previous experience conflicts with new situation







Restricting interaction to reduce errors

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Visibility

Making it obvious which actions are available













Consistency

Uniformity in appearance, placement, terminology, and behavior

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Feedback

Send information about what is happening back to the user









Feedback - from Bad to Better











Keep it simple









All in one doesn't work





Organize the UI in a meaningful way

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Tolerance

Prevent user from making mistakes. Or allow for an easy recovery (undo).

Forward error recovery - system accepts the error and helps the user to accomplish their goal

Backward error recovery – undo the effects of the previous interaction







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Showing results for human *computer* interaction Search instead for human coputer interaction





Location on screen

Eyetracking





Image courtesy Ed Cutrell, Microsoft Research

The fold



Oregon State University

The fold

For websites: what the users see without having to scroll

Varies a lot because of different device sizes

Beware of big banners or navigations bars

Beware of ad placement







Resources

Usability Goals: Nielson's 5 Goals

https://www.nngroup.com/articles/usability-101-introduction-tousability/

Design principles: First Principles of Interactive Design http://www.asktog.com/basics/firstPrinciples.html

Design Rules: 8 Golden Rules

http://www.usask.ca/education/coursework/skaalid/theory/ interface.htm

