CS160: User Interface Design

Qualitative Evaluation 03/08/10

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BART Application Examples

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New Assignment

Perform Heuristic Evaluation of another student's Programming Assignment #4

Due: 1 week from today
10 points, no extra credit

Section this week

1. Bring your paper prototype if you need practice being the "computer"
2. Work on the heuristic evaluation assignment

Midterm on 3/17

If you are registered with the DSP office and have special needs, we need to see your letter by **this Wednesday,** 3/10, 6pm to make accommodations!

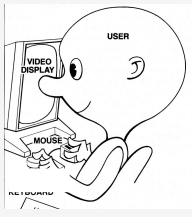
Today

1. Keystroke Level Model (KLM) Example
2. Qualitative Evaluation: Cognitive Walkthrough and Heuristic Evaluation

Keystroke Level Model (KLM)

Describe the task using the following operators:

K: pressing a key or a pressing (or releasing) a button
t_K = 0.08 - 1.2s (0.2 good rule of thumb)
P: pointing
t_P = 1.1s (without button press)
H: Homing (switching device)
t_H = 0.4s
D(*n*,*l*): Drawing segmented lines
t_D = 0.9*n + .16*l
M: Mentally prepare
t_M = 1.35s
R(*t*): system response time
t_R = t



KLM Heuristic Rules (Raskin's)

0: Insert M
In front of all K
In front of all P's selecting a command (not in front of P's ending command)

1: Remove M between *fully anticipated* operators
PMK → PK

2: if a string of MKs belong to *cognitive unit* delete all M but first
4564.23: MKMKMKMKMKMK → MKKKKKKK

3: if K is a *redundant terminator* then delete M in front of it
↵↵: MKMK → MKK

4a: if K terminates a constant length string (command name) delete the M in front of it
cd↵: MKKMK → MKKK

4b: if K terminates a variable length string (parameter) keep the M in front of it
cd class↵: MKKKMKKKKKMK → MKKKMKKKKKMK

Using KLM

Encode using all physical operators (K, P, H, D(n,l), R(t))

Apply Raskin's KLM rules [0-4]

Transform R followed by an M

If $t \leq t_M$: R(t) → R(0)

If $t_M < t$: R(t) → R($t - t_M$)

Compute the total time by adding all individual times

Converting Temperatures 1

Temperature World™

Temperature Converter - Plus! ™

Type the temperature value to be converted in the °F, °C, or °K box and click the submit button

Fahrenheit: Celsius: Kelvin: Submit Reset

Assume: Focus is on the Fahrenheit box, so typing on the keyboard will enter text directly into that box.

Converting Temperatures 1

Temperature World™

Temperature Converter - Plus! ™

Type the temperature value to be converted in the °F, °C, or °K box and click the submit button

Fahrenheit: Celsius: Kelvin: Submit Reset

Case1 (F->C): MKKKK HMPK = 5.2s
Case2 (C->F): H MPK H MKKKK HMPK = 8.65s
Average: 6.925s

Converting Temperatures 2

Google™

92.3F in C

Advanced Search
Language Tools

Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky

92.3 degrees Fahrenheit = 33.5 degrees Celsius

More about calculator.

Assume: Focus is on the search box, so typing on the keyboard will enter text directly into that box.

Converting Temperatures 2

MKKKKK MK MKK MK MK MK = 10.3s

Limits of our KLM Analysis

Is TemperatureWorld always preferable?

We looked at one isolated task – do you need to "reset" UI for next conversion? What about interleaving with other tasks?

We assumed desktop input devices (Mouse + Keyboard). What about mobile input?

What about errors?

What GOMS Can Model

Task must be goal-directed

Some activities are more goal-directed

Creative activities may not be as goal-directed

Task must be a routine cognitive skill

As opposed to problem solving

Good for things like machine operators

Serial & parallel tasks (CPM-GOMS)

Advantages of GOMS

Gives qualitative & quantitative measures

Model explains the results

Less work than user study – no users!

Easy to modify when UI is revised

Research: Need tools to aid modeling process since it can still be tedious

Disadvantages of GOMS

Not as easy as other evaluation methods
Heuristic evaluation, guidelines, etc.

Takes lots of time, skill, & effort

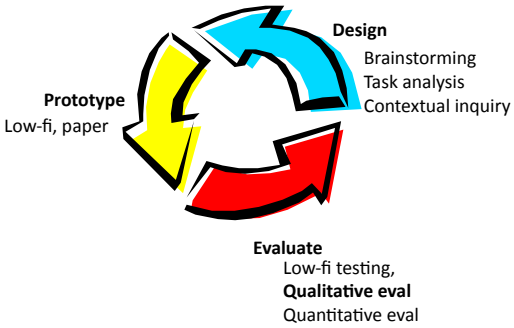
Only works for goal-directed tasks

Assumes tasks **expert** performance without **error**

Does not address other important UI issues, e.g., readability, memorizability of icons, commands

Usability Inspection Methods

Iterative Design



Genres of assessment

Automated	Usability measures computed by software
Empirical	Usability assessed by testing with real users
Formal	Models and formulas to calculate measures
Inspection	Based on heuristics, skills, and experience of evaluators

Quantitative Testing is Costly

User studies are very expensive – you need to schedule (and normally pay) many subjects.

User studies may take many hours of the evaluation team's time.

A user test can easily cost $10k's

"Discount Usability" Techniques

Cheap

No special labs or equipment needed

The more careful you are, the better it gets

Fast

On order of 1 day to apply

(Standard usability testing may take a week)

Easy to use

Can be taught in 2-4 hours

"Discount Usability" Techniques

Cognitive Walkthroughs

Put yourself in the shoes of a user

Like a code walkthrough

Heuristic Evaluation

Assess interface based on a predetermined list of criteria

Other, non-inspection techniques are on the rise

e.g., online remote experiments with Mechanical Turk

Cognitive Walkthrough

Cognitive Walkthrough

Formalized technique for imagining user's thoughts and actions when using an interface:

"*Cognitive walkthroughs involve simulating a user's problem-solving process at each step in the human-computer dialog, checking to see if the user's goals and memory for actions can be assumed to lead to the next correct action.*" (Nielsen, 1992)

Cognitive Walkthrough

Given an interface prototype or specification, need:

- A detailed task with a concrete goal, ideally motivated by a scenario
- Action sequences for user to complete the task

Ask the following questions for each step:

- Will the users know what to do?
- Will the user notice that the correct action is available?
- Will the user interpret the application feedback correctly?

Record: what would cause problems, and why?

From: Preece, Rogers, Sharp – Interaction Design

Cognitive Walkthrough Example

Task: Find the call number and location of the latest edition of the book "Interaction Design" by Preece, Rogers & Sharp in the Berkeley library

Typical users: Students who are familiar with the web, but not necessarily with the library or its website

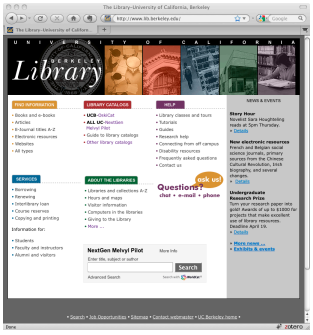
Cognitive Walkthrough Example

Step 1: Select library catalog.

Will the user know what to do?

Will user notice that action is available?

Will user interpret feedback correctly?



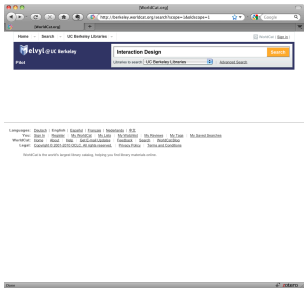
Cognitive Walkthrough Example

Step 2: Complete the search form

Will the user know what to do?

Will user notice that action is available?

Will user interpret feedback correctly?



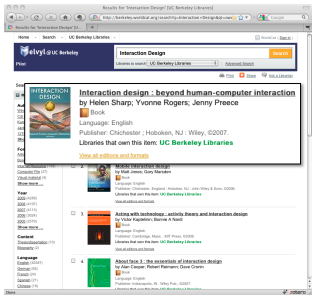
Cognitive Walkthrough Example

Step 3: Locate the right edition, click to detail screen

Will the user know what to do?

Will user notice that action is available?

Will user interpret feedback correctly?



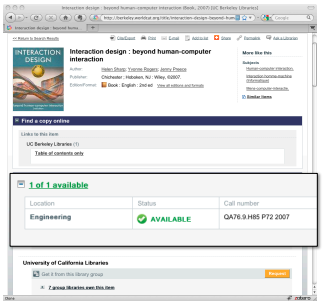
Cognitive Walkthrough Example

Step 4: Locate call number and library location

Will the user know what to do?

Will user notice that action is available?

Will user interpret feedback correctly?



Heuristic Evaluation

Usability Heuristics

"Rules of thumb" describing features of usable systems
Can be used as design principles
Can be used to evaluate a design

Example: Minimize users' memory load

Pros and cons
Easy and inexpensive
Performed by experts
No users required
Catch many design flaws
More difficult than it seems
Not a simple checklist
Cannot assess how well the interface will address user goals

Heuristic Evaluation

Developed by Jakob Nielsen (1994)

Can be performed on working UI or on sketches

Small set (3-5) of evaluators (experts) examine UI
Evaluators check compliance with usability heuristics
Different evaluators will find different problems
Evaluators only communicate afterwards to aggregate findings
Designers use violations to redesign/fix problems

Nielsen's Ten Heuristics

H2-1: Visibility of system status
H2-2: Match system and real world
H2-3: User control and freedom
H2-4: Consistency and standards
H2-5: Error prevention
H2-6: Recognition rather than recall
H2-7: Flexibility and efficiency of use
H2-8: Aesthetic and minimalist design
H2-9: Help users recognize, diagnose, recover from errors
H2-10: Help and documentation

Original Heuristics

H1-1: Simple and natural dialog
H1-2: Speak the users' language
H1-3: Minimize users' memory load
H1-4: Consistency
H1-5: Feedback
H1-6: Clearly marked exits
H1-7: Shortcuts
H1-8: Precise & constructive error messages
H1-9: Prevent errors
H1-10: Help and documentation

H2-1: Visibility of system status

Keep users informed about what is going on. Example: response time

0.1 sec: no special indicators needed

1.0 sec: user tends to lose track of data

10 sec: max. duration if user to stay focused on action

Short delays: Hourglass

Long delays: Use percent-done progress bars

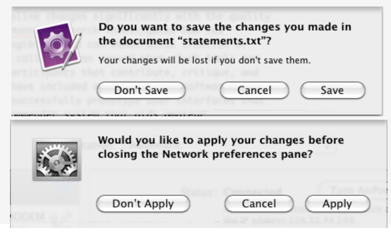
Overestimate usually better

H2-1: Visibility of system status

Users should always be aware of what is going on

So that they can make informed decision

Provide redundant information



H2-2: Match System & World

Speak the users' language

Follow real world conventions

Pay attention to metaphors

Bad example: Mac desktop

http://www.synthmania.com/Famous%20Sounds/Images/tb-303.jpg
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/Roland_TR-808_drum_machine.jpg
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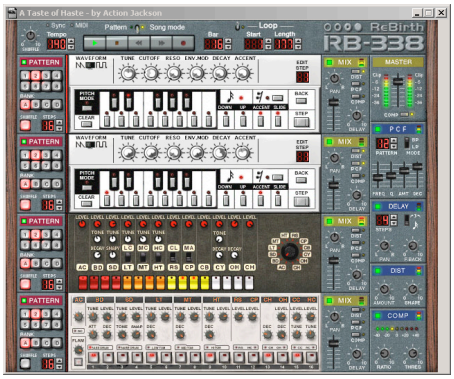


http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/da/Rebirth_rb-338_screenshot.png

H2-2: Match System & World

H2-3: User control & freedom

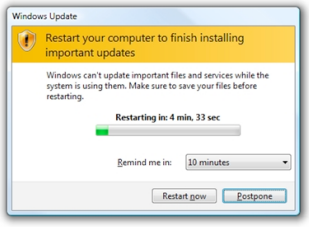
Users don't like to be trapped!

Strategies

Cancel button (or Esc key) for dialog

Make the cancel button responsive!

Universal undo



H2-3: User control & freedom

Offer "Exits" for mistaken choices, undo, redo

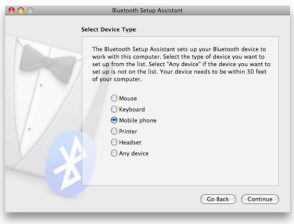
Don't force the user down fixed paths

Wizards

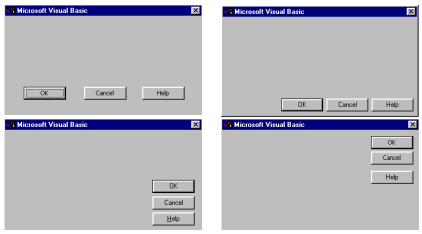
Must respond to Q before going to next step

Good for infrequent tasks (e.g., network setup) & beginners

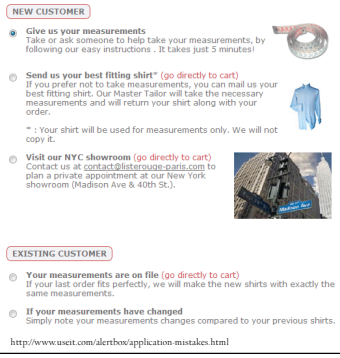
Not good for common tasks (zip/unzip)



H2-4: Consistency and standards



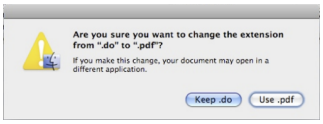
H2-4: Consistency and Standards



http://www.useit.com/alertbox/application-mistakes.html

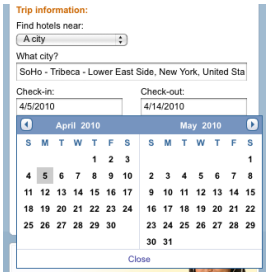
H2-5: Error Prevention

Eliminate error-prone conditions or check for them and ask for confirmation

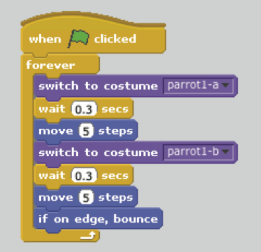


H2-5: Error Prevention

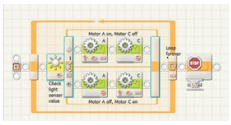
Aid users with specifying correct input



H2-5: Error Prevention



MIT Scratch



Lego Mindstorms

Don't allow incorrect input

Preventing Errors

Error types

Slips

User commits error during the execution of a correct plan.

Typos

Habitually answer "no" to a dialog box

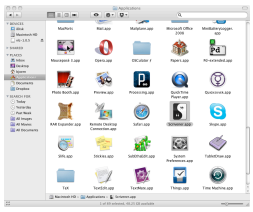
Forget the mode the application is in

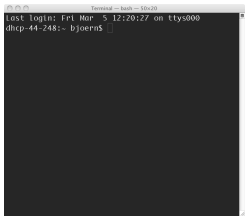
Mistakes

User correctly executes flawed mental plan

Ususally the result of a flawed mental model – harder to guard against

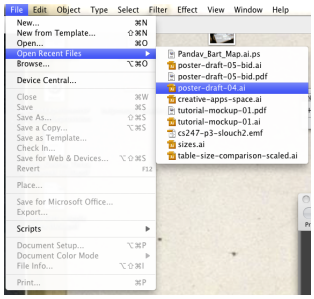
H2-6: Recognition over Recall



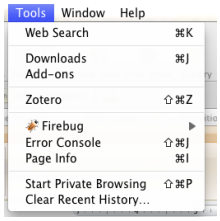


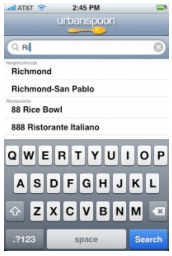
H2-6: Recognition over Recall

Minimize the user's memory load by making objects, actions, and options visible.



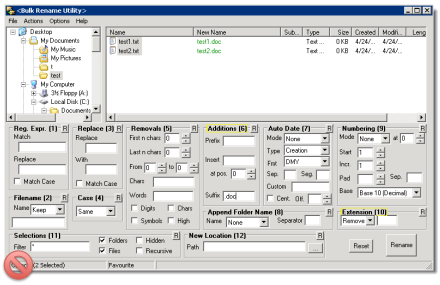
H2-7: Flexibility and efficiency of use





http://www.iphoneuxreviews.com/?p=114|

H2-8: Aesthetic and minimalist design



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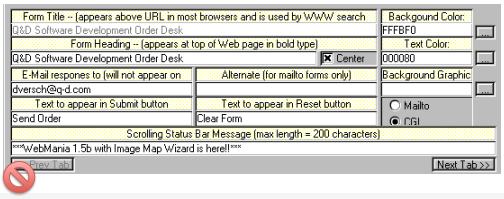
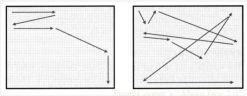
H2-8: Aesthetic and minimalist design



No irrelevant information in dialogues

H2-8: Aesthetic and minimalist design

Present information in natural order



Occam's razor

Remove or hide irrelevant or rarely needed information –
They compete with important information on screen

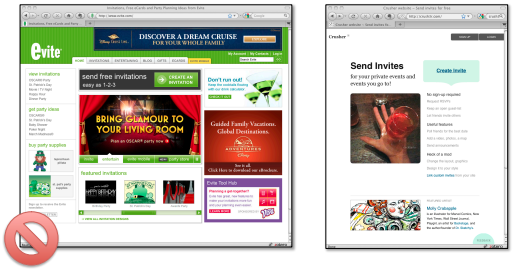
Pro: Palm Pilot

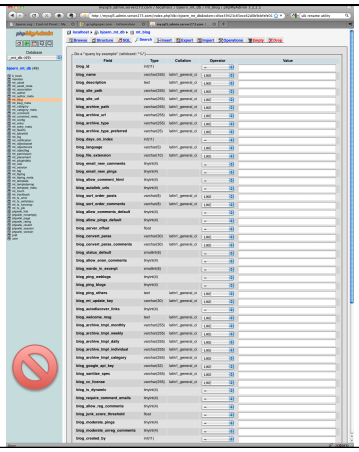
Against: Dynamic menus

Use windows frugally

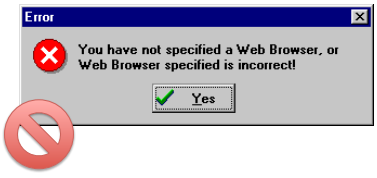
Avoid complex window management

H2-8: Aesthetic and minimalist design

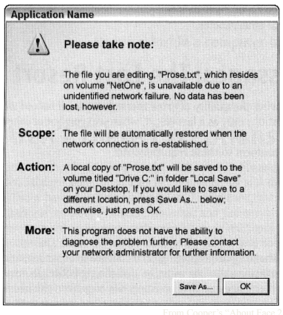




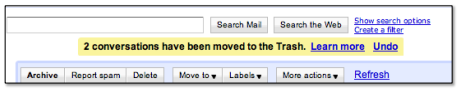
H2-9: Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors



Good Error Messages



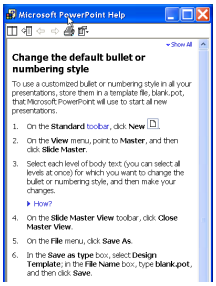
H2-9: Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors



H2-10: Help and documentation

Help should be:

- Easy to search
- Focused on the user's task
- List concrete steps to carry out
- Not too long



Types of Help

Tutorial and/or getting started manuals

Presents the system conceptual model

Basis for successful explorations

Provides on-line tours and demos

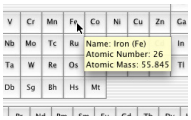
Demonstrates basic features

Reference manuals

Designed with experts in mind

Reminders

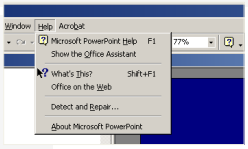
Short reference cards, keyboard templates, tooltips…

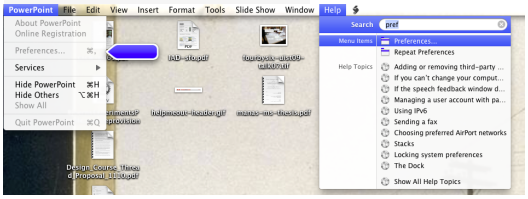


Types of Help

Context sensitive help

Search





The Process of Heuristic Evaluation

Phases of Heuristic Eval. (1-2)

1) Pre-evaluation training

Provide the evaluator with domain knowledge if needed

2) Evaluation

Individuals evaluate interface then aggregate results

Compare interface elements with heuristics

Work in 2 passes

First pass: get a feel for flow and scope

Second pass: focus on specific elements

Each evaluator produces list of problems

Explain why with reference to heuristic or other information

Be specific and list each problem separately

Phases of Heuristic Eval. (3-4)

3) Severity rating

Establishes a ranking between problems

Cosmetic, minor, major and catastrophic

First rate individually, then as a group

4) Debriefing

Discuss outcome with design team

Suggest potential solutions

Assess how hard things are to fix

Examples

Typography uses mix of upper/lower case formats and fonts

Violates "Consistency and standards" (H2-4)

Slows users down

Fix: pick a single format for entire interface

Probably wouldn't be found by user testing

Severity Rating

Used to allocate resources to fix problems

Estimates of need for more usability efforts

Combination of Frequency, Impact and Persistence

Should be calculated after all evaluations are in

Should be done independently by all judges

Levels of Severity

0 - don't agree that this is a usability problem
1 - cosmetic problem
2 - minor usability problem
3 - major usability problem; important to fix
4 - usability catastrophe; imperative to fix

Severity Ratings Example

1. [H2-4 Consistency] [Severity 3]

The interface used the string "Save" on the first screen for saving the user's file, but used the string "Write file" on the second screen. Users may be confused by this different terminology for the same function.

Debriefing

Conduct with evaluators, observers, and development team members

Discuss general characteristics of UI

Suggest improvements to address major usability problems

Development team rates how hard things are to fix

Make it a brainstorming session
Little criticism until end of session

Pros and Cons of Heuristic Evaluation

HE vs. User Testing

HE is much faster
1-2 hours each evaluator vs. days-weeks

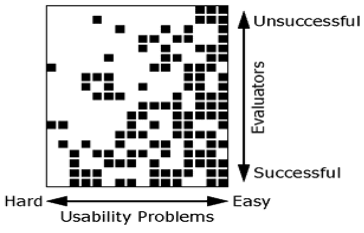
HE doesn't require interpreting user's actions

User testing is far more accurate
Takes into account actual users and tasks
HE may miss problems & find "false positives"

Good to alternate between HE & user-based testing
Find different problems
Don't waste participants

Why Multiple Evaluators?

Every evaluator doesn't find every problem
Good evaluators find both easy & hard ones

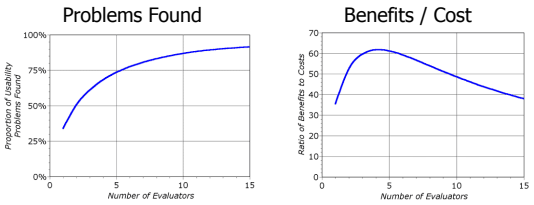


Number of Evaluators

Single evaluator achieves poor results
Only finds 35% of usability problems
5 evaluators find ~ 75% of usability problems
Why not more evaluators???? 10? 20?
Adding evaluators costs more
Many evaluators won't find many more problems

But always depends on market for product:
popular products → high support cost for small bugs

Decreasing Returns



Caveat: graphs are for one specific example!

Summary

Heuristic evaluation is a discount method

Have evaluators go through the UI twice
Ask them to see if it complies with heuristics
Note where it doesn't and say why

Have evaluators independently rate severity

Combine the findings from 3 to 5 evaluators
Discuss problems with design team

Cheaper alternative to user testing
Finds different problems, so good to alternate

Next Time

Quantitative Evaluation

1. *Doing Psychology Experiments.* Chap 2,7,12. Marin.