

CMSI 370

INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2006

Assignment 0921

For this assignment, we'll get some practice on seeing how well a particular user interface conforms to some set of interaction design principles.

For Submission

Choose a set of principles from the handouts and/or the textbook(s) and report on how well (or how badly) one of these user interfaces conforms to those principles:

- Amazon
- AIM
- eBay
- Eclipse
- Gaim
- iTunes
- Firefox
- GMail
- Google Maps
- Google Video
- ManeGate
- MapQuest
- Microsoft Messenger
- Microsoft Office
- NetBeans
- OpenOffice
- SourceForge
- Yahoo Mail
- Yahoo Messenger
- YouTube

In the case of a Web site, make sure to try at least two Web browsers to see if there are any browser-specific behaviors — sometimes this makes for a significant difference.

What to Do

For each principle from a set of your choosing (Shneiderman, Nielsen, Tognazzini, etc.), submit the following:

1. Three to five sentences explaining how the user interface fulfills or violates the principle overall.
2. At least two screenshots, with accompanying explanations or annotations, that illustrate specific instances of that user interface's fulfillment or violation of that principle.

Make sure to cover *all* of the principles in the set that you choose; also, remember that a user interface may fulfill a principle in one place but violate it in another. In addition, principles may take different priorities depending on the specific application and target user. The more thorough the analysis and the more striking the examples, the better.

Submit your analysis on hardcopy. If some of your screenshots require color to illustrate your point(s), then ask Caskey if you may print those pages on the color printer.

Extra Credit

Only the hardcopy is required, but you will get extra credit if you submit an electronic version via CVS following these specifications:

- Place the files in *homework/cmsi370/principles*.
- Place a *PostScript* or *PDF* version of your analysis directly within this directory.
- Place your original files (whatever you used to create them) in a *src/* subdirectory within *homework/cmsi370/principles*.
- Tag the files as *hw-0921*.