

CMSI 370

INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2008

Assignment 0911

While the main, credit portion of this assignment is due on September 11 (note that the assignment's number is its due date in *MMdd* format), accomplishing the intermediate tasks by the given dates will allow you to get the most out of these first few weeks (and keep you from cramming near the deadline!).

Not for Submission

By September 2

1. Read Chapter 1 in Shneiderman/Plaisant.
2. Read Chapter 2 in Nielsen.
3. Review LaTeX and CVS, and ask me any questions that may arise from this review.

By September 4

4. If you don't already have one, acquire a Keck lab user account.
5. Run the *setup-class* script for class *cmsi370* and user *dondi*.
6. Browse through the Apple, Java, and Microsoft interaction design guidelines, playing closest attention to the guidelines that are most applicable to the platform on which you will...
7. ...download and play with Google SketchUp and Second Life.

By September 9

8. Read Chapter 1 in Norman.
9. Start writing the report that is to be submitted for this assignment.

For Submission

Evaluate (or "audit") Google SketchUp and Second Life against:

1. The guideline set that is closest to the platform on which you are running each application,
2. One of the sets of principles mentioned in class or in the textbooks, and
3. One of the theories mentioned in class or in the textbooks.

Use LaTeX to write a report on your "audit." The report should answer the following questions once for each application:

1. Overall, how well does [SketchUp|Second Life] conform to the user interface guidelines of the platform on which you tested it?
2. Which principle does [SketchUp|Second Life] appear to adhere to most closely? Least closely? Do you agree with this prioritization?
3. How well does the [SketchUp|Second Life]'s interaction design appear to fit your chosen theory?

For all questions, provide specific screenshots from each application that support your assessment.

If, at any time, you encounter an issue with LaTeX or CVS, let me know so that I can either answer your questions or troubleshoot any problems.

How to Turn it In

1. Commit your LaTeX and figure files to your CVS depot under */homework/cmsi370/ui-audit*. Commit them so that checking them out and running LaTeX at the checkout location immediately produces the desired final document.
2. Bring a hardcopy of your final report to the September 11 class.