

# CMSI 370

## INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2009

### Assignment 0922

While the main, credit portion of this assignment is due on September 22 (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 the time up until then (and keep you from cramming near the deadline!).

### Not for Submission

#### By September 15

1. Read Chapter 1 in Norman.
2. Read Chapter 2 in Shneiderman/Plaisant.
3. If you don't already have one, acquire a Keck lab user account.
4. Run the *setup-class* script for class *cmsi370* and user *dondi*.
5. Browse through the Apple and Microsoft interaction design guidelines, playing closest attention to the guidelines that are most applicable to the platform on which you will...
6. ...evaluate either Internet Explorer 8 (Windows) or Safari 4 (Mac OS X).
7. Download and play with Google SketchUp and Second Life.

#### By September 17

8. Start writing the report that is to be submitted for this assignment (even if it's just a stub containing an outline), so you can ask any questions that come up during class.

### For Submission

#### Platform-Specific Applications

Evaluate (or "audit") Internet Explorer 8 on Windows or Safari 4 on Mac OS X against the User Experience/Human Interface Guidelines of their respective platforms:

1. Choose two (2) general areas of focus from the overall guidelines document (e.g., menus, dialogs, layout, controls, etc.).
2. Use LaTeX to write a report on your "audit." Format the report as a series of screenshots + guidelines excerpts + commentary. Make at least three such sets, but if you feel moved, you can do more.

#### "Cross-Platform" Applications

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

1. One of the sets of principles mentioned in class or in the textbooks, and
2. One of the theories mentioned in class or in the textbooks.

Note how this part of the assignment is less concerned with a specific technology platform.

In a subsequent section of your LaTeX "audit report," answer the following questions once for each application:

1. Which principle does [SketchUp|Second Life] appear to follow most closely? Least closely? Do you agree with this design choice?
2. How well does [SketchUp|Second Life]'s interaction design appear to fit your chosen theory?

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

#### How to Turn it In

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.

1. Commit your LaTeX and figure files to version control under */homework/cmsi370/ui-audit*. Commit them so that checking them out and running LaTeX at the checkout location produces the desired final document.
2. Bring a hardcopy of your final report to the September 22 class.