

CMSI 370

INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2010

Assignment 092I

While the main, credit portion of this assignment is due on September 21 (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 14

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*. The script lives in *~metropolis/scripts*:

```
~metropolis/scripts/setup-class cmsi370 dondi
```
5. Browse through the Apple and Microsoft interaction design guidelines, so you can get a feel for what to look for when you...
6. Perform at least two of the three audits listed in this assignment.
7. If necessary, download and install any software that you don't already have. If you don't want to add stuff to your own machine, you can ask our lab administrator to install/update the software in the Keck lab.

By September 16

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

Perform user interface “audits” of three (3) out of the following five (5) types of applications against their corresponding guidelines or principles. Choose two (2) areas of focus from the guidelines or principles (e.g., menus, dialogs, layout, feedback, consistency, etc.) then write a LaTeX report on your “audit.” Look for both “violations” and “compliance” — the more compelling, the better.

Format the report as a sequence of guideline/principle covered + commentary + screenshots.

Document at least three (3) instances of violations or compliance.

The applications given below are recommendations — if you can identify others that fit the category, run them by me and we'll see if they work.

- *Platform-specific applications by the platform's vendor.* Audit Internet Explorer on Windows and Safari on Mac OS X against the guidelines of their respective platforms. Office and iWork are also good alternatives.
- *Cross-platform desktop applications.* Audit Firefox and Chrome on either Windows or Mac OS X (your choice) against the guidelines of the chosen operating system. Google SketchUp and Second Life are also good alternatives.
- *Desktop web applications.* Audit the *desktop* web versions of Facebook and Twitter against one of the sets of principles in class or in the textbooks.
- *iOS web applications.* Audit the *iOS web* versions of Facebook and Twitter against the iPhone Human Interface Guidelines for Web Applications.
- *iOS native applications.* Audit the *iOS native* versions of Facebook and Twitter against the iPhone Human Interface Guidelines.

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. Be prepared to present your findings to the class. I'll checkout your reports and project them on the screen as visual aids.