

CMSI 370

INTERACTION DESIGN

Fall 2009

Assignment 0910

This assignment starts up your reading for this course, and seeks to get your feet wet with taking and recording some of the established usability metrics.

Not for Submission

By September 8

1. Read Chapter 1 in Shneiderman/Plaisant.
2. Read Nielsen Chapter 2.
3. Review LaTeX, and ask me any questions that may arise from this review. You might even want to start up a stub of your report.
4. Use the weekend to perform the activities on the right, and record the necessary data. This way, you can focus on writing your report during the week.

For Submission

With your class-assigned teams, record some usability metrics for both a platform-native GUI calculator and Google's calculator and compare these metrics to your initial subjective impressions of the user interfaces:

1. First, spend some time with both applications and write down what you like and dislike about each of them. Make sure that you spend enough time so that you feel fairly confident that you know how they work.
2. Perform the following calculations on each system, making sure to record the answers that you got. Every team member should take turns as the "user" and the "timer/recorder," to maximize the sample size. Repeated runs can also be done if desired.
 - $5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 1 = 21$
 - $(5 + 3) * 2 * 2 * 2 = 64$
 - $(8 / 4) + 9 - 1 = 10$
 - $9999 - (256 * 2 / 8) = 9935$
 - $1000 / 10 / 10 = 10$
 - $(0.75 + 0.25 - 1.5) * 2 = -1$
 - $5.9891 + 94.0109 = 100$
 - $((32 + (12 * 4)) / 4) - 20 + 30 = 30$
3. Record the following information:
 - The total time to perform the calculations
 - Any mistakes made, including, but not limited to, incorrect answers, backspacing, mistaken mouse clicks, or repetitions
4. Write up a LaTeX report that presents your subjective impressions and recorded results. Conclude the report with some commentary that compares the two data sets.

Submit the report on hardcopy — but don't throw away the original source file. When the Keck Lab is ready, we'll work on setting up your CVS repositories then committing this to version control.