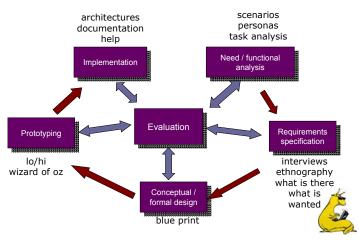
CMPE 233: Human Factors



Evaluation



User-centered Design



Evaluation

- Concerned with gathering data about the usability/ usefulness of
 - a design or product
 - by a specific group of users with certain limitations/abilities
 - for a particular activity/task
 - in a specified environment or context
- Formative early, meshed closely with design, guides the design process
 - Predict usability of product or aspect of product
 - Check design team's understanding of user requirements
 - Test out ideas quickly and informally
- Summative late, judgment about the almost finished product
 - identify user difficulties / fine tune
 - improve an upgrade of product



- CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) in the UK, 1991
- Original system -- data in variety of formats
 - analog and digital dials
 - CCTV, paper, books
 - some line of sight, others on desks or ceiling mountings outside view displays
- Goal: integrated display system, as much info as practical on common
- Major concern: safety
- Evaluate controller's task
 - want key info sources on one workstation (winds peed, direction, time, runway use, visual range, meteorologica data, maps, special procedures)

Reasons for doing evaluations

- Understanding the real world
 - How to employ in workplace?
 - Better fit with work environment?
- Comparing designs
 - compare with competitors or among design options
- Engineering towards a target
 - x% of novice users should be able to print correctly on first try
- Checking conformance to a standard
 - screen legibility, accessibility.



Air Traffic Control, continued

- Develop first-cut design (London City, then Heathrow)
- Establish user-systems design group
- Concept testing / user feedback
 - modify info requirements
 - different layouts for different controllers and tasks
 - greater use of color for exceptional situations and different lighting conditions
 - ability to make own pages for specific local conditions
 - simple editing facilities for rapid updates
- Produce upgraded prototype, "Road Show" to five airports, develop system specification
- > Build and install system: Heathrow in 1989, \rightarrow ge further needs; others 1991



Case Study: Forte Travelodge

- System goal: more efficient central room booking
- IBM Usability Evaluation Centre, London
- Evaluation goals:
 - identify and eliminate problems before going live
 - avoid business difficulties during implementation
 - ensure system easy to use by inexperienced staff
 - develop improved training material and documentation

Setup a usability lab to study users

- Similar to TV studio: mic, audio, video, one-way mirror
- set up to resemble Travelodge reception area, attempt to be non-threatening

Evaluation Methods

- Observing and monitoring behavior
 - field or lab, observer takes notes / video
 - keystroke logging / interaction logging
- Collecting users' opinions
- interviews / surveys
- Experiments and benchmarking
 - semi-scientific approach (can't control all variables)
- Interpretive Evaluation
 - informal, try not to disturb user; user participation common
 - includes participatory evaluation, contextual evaluation

Predictive Evaluation

- predict problems users will encounter without actually testing the system with the users
- keystroke analysis or expert review based on specification, mock-up, low-level prototype



How Can We Compare Methods?

- > Type of information (qualitative vs. quantitative)
- Relevance
 - does the method provide information to our question / problem?
- Setting
 - is it important that the system be evaluated in-context?
- Generalization
 - how well can I generalize the information produced to other situations?
- Repeatability
 - would the same results be achieved if the test were repeated?



Travelodge: Procedure

- Developed set of 15 common scenarios, enacted by cross-section of staff over 8 half-day sessions
- Emphasize that evaluation is of system not staff
- Debriefing sessions after each testing period, get info about problems and feelings about system and doc
- Areas of interest:
 - system navigation, speed of use
 - screen design: ease of use, clarity, efficiency
 - effectiveness of onscreen help and error messages
 - complexity of keyboard for computer novices
 - effectiveness of training program
 - clarity and ease-of-use of documentation
- New system: higher productivity, low turnover, faster booking, greater customer satisfaction



Why Use Different Methods?

- Information requirements differ
 - pre-design, iterative design, post-design, generalizable knowledge...
- Information produced differs
 - outputs should match the particular problem/needs
- Cost/benefit of using a certain method
- One method's strength can complement another's weakness
 - no one method can address all situations
- Constraints
 - may force you to chose quick and dirty discount usability methods



How Can We Compare Methods?

Quickness

- can I do a good job with this method within my time constraints?
- Cost
 - is the cost of using this method reasonable for my question?
- Equipment
 - What special equipment / resources required?
- Personnel, training and expertise
 - What people / expertise are required to run this method?
- Validity
 - External validity: can the results be applied to other situations?
 - Internal validity: do we have confidence in our explanation?



How Can We Compare Methods?

- Subject selection
 - how many do I need, who are they, and can I get them?
- Scope of subjects
 - is it good for analyzing individuals? small groups? organizations?
- Control
 - do I need to control for certain factors to see what effects they have?
- Cross-sectional or longitudinal
 - is it important that changes over time are measured?
- Support
 - are there tools for supporting the method and analyzing the data?
- Comparative
 - can I use it to compare different things?

Direct Observation

Difficulties:

- people "see what they want to see"
- "Hawthorne effect" -- users aware that performance is monitored, altering behavior and performance levels
 single pass / record of observation usually incomplete
- Useful: early, looking for informal feedback, want to know the kinds of things that users do, what they like, what they don't
- \triangleright Know exactly what you're looking for \rightarrow checklist
- Want permanent record: video, audio, or interaction logging
- Ethnography: Immerse in situation you want to learn about (participant observer, privileged observer)

Analyzing video data

Task-based analysis

 determine how users tackled tasks, where major difficulties lie, what can be done

Performance-based analysis

- obtain clearly defined performance measures from the data collected (frequency of task completion, task timing, use of commands, frequency of errors, time for cognitive tasks)
- classification of errors
- repeatability of study
- time (5:1) -- tools can help
- ▶ Slight variation \rightarrow video of screen interaction
 - complement other data collection
 - important to cross check user comments



How Can We Compare Methods?

- Does the test measure something of relevance to usability of real products in real use outside of lab?
 - Some typical reliability problems of testing vs. real use
 - non-typical users tested
 - tasks are not typical tasks
 - physical environment different
 - social influences different



Indirect Observation

- Alleviates some difficulties of direct observation
- Can be synchronized with keystroke logging or interaction logging
- Problems:
 - effort required to synchronize multiple data sources
 - time required to analyze
 - users aware they're being filmed → set up and leave for several days, they get used to it
- Virtual ethnography (netnography)
 - Like ethnography but for technologically mediated interactions in online networks and communities
 - Used to observe blogs, web-rings, chat, SMS, game communities, bulletin boards, and mailing lists



Verbal protocols

- User's spoken observations, provides info on:
 - what user planned to do and their mental model
 - user's identification of the terms they use to refer to objects or actions
 - reactions when things go wrong, tone of voice, subjective feelings about activity
- "Think aloud protocol"
 - user says out loud what s/he is thinking while working on a task or problem-solving
- Post-event protocol (retrospective testing)
 - users view videos of their actions and provide commentary on what they were trying to do
 - less intrusive, important for time- and error-sensitive tasks or for people with ADHD



Interviews

- Structured interviews
 - predetermined questions, asked in a set way
 - no exploration of individual attitudes
 - structure useful in comparing responses, claiming statistics
- Flexible interviews
 - some set topics, no set sequence
 - interviewer can follow replies
 - less formal, for requirements gathering
- Semi-structured interview
 - set of questions available for interviewer to draw on if interviewee digresses or doesn't say much
- Prompted interview
 - draw out more information from interviewee, based on screen design or prototype \rightarrow "what do you mean by..."

Which scale to use?

- Major task in measurement: systematically apply numbers to variables.
- Nominal (naming/category scale)
 - Differences between categories qualitative.
 - represent categories where there is no basis for ordering the categories, e.g. male vs. female, ford vs. toyota.
- Ordinal (order):
 - involve categories that can be ordered along a preestablished dimension.
 - no way of knowing how different the categories are from one another, e.g. white, green, blue, brown belts.
- Ratio (numbers) :
 - Distance between adjacent numbers are equal.
 - Most ratio scales are counts of things (e.g. temperature)
 - There is reference to zero point.

Parametric vs. Non Parametric

Mean, stdev vs. median, quartile

Parametric statistics assumptions

- Observations must be independent
- Observations must be drawn from normally distributed populations
- These populations must have the same variances
 - Non-Parametric statistics assumptions
 - Observations are independent
- Variable under study has underlying continuity
- What tests?
- 1. Tests of differences between groups (independent samples)
- Tests of differences between variables (dependent samples)
 Tests of relationships between us is between the samples of the samples
- 3. Tests of relationships between variables



Questionnaires and surveys

- Focus is on preparation of unambiguous questions
- ▶ Pilot study important \rightarrow once it's out there, it's final
- open questions:
 - respondent free to provide own answer
- closed questions:
 - respondent selects from set of alternative replies
 - usually some form of rating scale
 - Yes/No/maybe
 - Likert scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree)
 - Semantic difference (extremely | quite | slightly | neutral) with easy and difficult in two extremes
 - Rank order rank 1-4 the following items in its ease of use
 - Which scale to use (cont.)?
- ► Interval :
 - similar to standard numbering scales except that they do not have a true zero (distance between successive numbers is equal), e.g.: IQ (there is no 0).
- Why do we need to make the distinction?
 - It affects the statistical procedures that will be used in describing and analyzing data (parametric vs. non).
- Effective range of the scale
 - Every measure has an effective range for the population under study.
- Attenuation effect: if effective range is inadequate (distorts data & threatens the validity of the study).
 - Ceiling effect restricted higher range
 - Floor effect restricted lower range

Summary Table of Statistical Tests

Level of Measure- ment	Sample Characteristics					Correlation
	1 Samp le	2 Sample		K Sample (i.e., >2)		
		Independ ent	Depende nt	Independe nt	Depende nt	
Categoric/ Nominal	X ² or binom	X ²	Macnarmar's X ²	X ²	Cochran's Q	
Rank or Ordinal		Mann Whitney U	Matched Pairs Signed Ranks	Kruskal Wallis H	Friendman's ANOVA	Spearman's rho
Parametric (Interval & Ratio)	z test or t test	t test between groups	t test within groups	1 way ANOVA between groups	1W ANOVA (within or repeated measure)	Pearson's r
		Factorial (2 way) ANOVA				1

A good survey

- Name your survey interestingly
- Write a short questionnaire
 - What is essential to know? What would be useful to know? What would be unnecessary?
- Use simple words
 - Don't: "What is the frequency of your automotive travel to your parents' residence in the last 30 days?"
 - Do: "About how many times have you driven to your parent's home in the last 30 days?"

Relax your grammar

- Don't make the questions sound too formal.
- For example, the word "who" is appropriate in many instances when "whom" is technically correct.



A good survey

Balance rating scales

- Mediate the scale so that there is room for both extremes.
- Don't make the list of choices too long
 - If the list of answer categories is long and unfamiliar, it is difficult for respondents to evaluate all of them. Keep the list of choices short.
- Avoid difficult concepts
 - Questions that involve difficult concepts cause variability due to understanding.
- Avoid difficult recall questions
 - People's memories are increasingly unreliable as you ask them to recall events farther and farther back in time.
- Avoid double negatives
- Think about order of questions



Participative Evaluation

- ►A.k.a. participatory design → Scandinavian idea
- Beyond standard user-centered design method
- Users considered domain experts and active participants
- cooperative prototyping, facilitated by
 - focus groups
 - designers work with users to prepare prototypes
 - iterative prototyping with user evaluation inseparable
 - tight feedback loop with designers
- But problems include:
 - may not get management commitment to let people go
 - union rep or users?
 - difficult to coordinate timing with various stakeholders



A good survey

- Start with interesting guestions
 - Start easy and attractive.
 - Put difficult or threatening guestions down.
 - Voicing guestions in the third person can be less threatening than questions voiced in the second person.
- Don't write leading/assuming questions
 - Don't ask "How many children do you have?"
- Assure a common understanding
 - Write in a way that everybody understand in the same way.
 - Don't assume that everyone has the same understanding of the facts or a common basis of knowledge.
 - Identify even commonly used abbreviations to be certain that everyone understands.



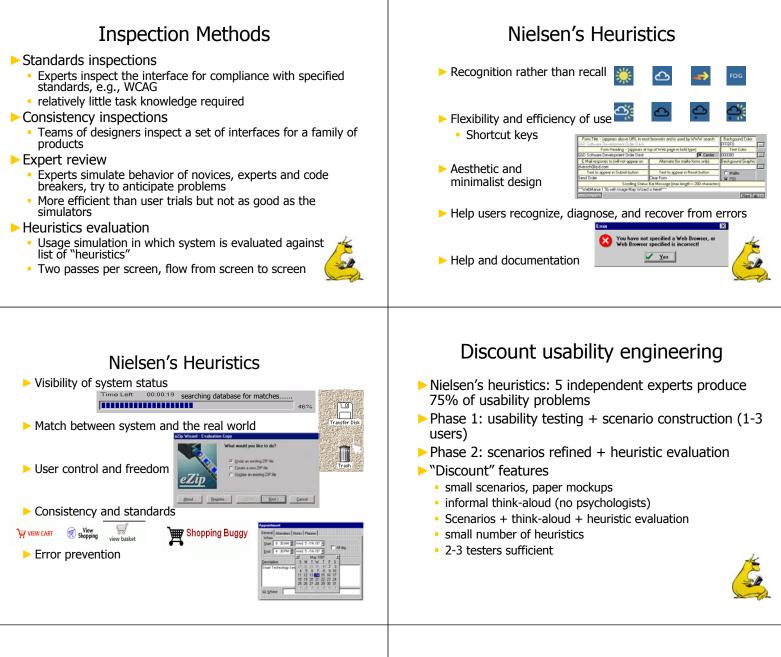
Contextual Inquiry

- Users and researchers participate to identify and understand usability problems within the normal working environment of the user
- Usability issues that go undetected in laboratory testing
 - Line counting in word processing
 - Unpacking and setting up equipment
- Differences from other methods include:
 - work context larger tasks
 - time context longer times
 - motivational context -- more user control
 - social context social support included that is normally lacking in experiments
 - environment context effects of artefacts



- Predict aspects of usage rather than observe and
 - measure, usually by experts
- \triangleright doesn't involve users \rightarrow cheaper in time and efforts
- Inspection Methods
 - Standards inspections
 - Consistency inspection
 - Heuristic evaluation
 - "Discount" usability evaluation
 - Walkthroughs
- Modeling: The keystroke level model, GOMS (Goals-Operator-Method-Selection), ACT-R, EPIC (Executive Processes in Cognition) \rightarrow in general cognitive architecture models





(Cognitive) Walkthrough

- A formalized way of imagining people's thoughts and actions when they use an interface for the first time.
- Variation: pluralistic walkthough (done in pair)
- Theory :
 - A user sets a goal to be accomplished by the system.
 - The user will search the system for the action that seems likely to make progress towards that goal.
 - By putting yourself in the user's shoes you can figure out where the problem might occur.
- Must be complemented with user studies because:
 - Is diagnostic, not prescriptive
 - Focuses mostly on novice users
 - Relies on the ability of evaluator to put themselves in the users shoes



Cognitive Walkthrough How To

- Begin by collecting:
 - An idea of who the users will be and their characteristics
 - Task description
 - Description of the interface (a paper prototype)
 - Written list of the actions to complete the task given the interface (scenario)
- For each action in the sequence (scenario)
 - tell the story of why the user will do it ask critical questions:
 - . will the user be trying to produce the effect?
 - 2. will the user see the correct control?
 - 3. will the user see that the control produces the desired effect?
 - 4. will the user understand the feedback to proceed?
 - 5. will the user select a different control instead?



Modeling: keystroke level model

- Goal: calculate task performance times for expert users (no error)
- Requires
 - specification of system functionality
 - task analysis, breakdown of each task into its components
- Time to execute sum of:
 - Tk keystroking (0.35 sec)
 - Tp pointing (1.10)
 - Td drawing (problem-dependent)

(0.4)

- Tm mental (1.35)
- Th homing
- Tr system response (1.2)

Controlled Experiments

- Typically narrowly defined, evaluate particular aspects such as:
 - menu depth vs. breadth
 - new vs. old icon design
- Major issues:
 - What to change? What to keep constant? What to measure?
 - Hypothesis, stated in a way that can be tested.
 - Statistical tests: which ones, why?
 - Uncontrolled items (disruption, order effect, fatigue)
- Variables
 - Independent: the manipulated one (the icon designs)
 - Dependent: the measured one (time, error)
 - Control: age, gender, expertise



Types:

- Cognitive ability: measures an individual's ability to process information from their environment
- Personality measures: people's dispositions to behave in certain ways in certain situations
- Categories:
 - Normative tests most psychometric tests where data exists which tell us the range of scores expected from the population under consideration e.g. IQ scores
 - Criterion referenced tests commonly used in education where a candidate has to meet some pre-arranged standard.
 - Idiographic tests used in therapy to observe an individual's progress over time



Method Used	Description	Opr	Dur (s)
Cut-and-paste-using-menus	Mentally Prepare	м	1.35
	Move cursor to "quick"	Р	1.10
Ontitled - Notepad Ele Edk Format Yow Bib	Double-click mouse button	к	0.40
Un The fox jumps over the lazy quick brown bag.	Move cursor to "brown"	Р	1.10
	Shift-click mouse button	к	0.40
2 Undo Ctrl+Z : the lazy quick brown bag.	Mentally Prepare	м	1.35
Cut Ctrl+X Copy Ctrl+C	Move cursor to Edit menu	Р	1.10
Paste Ctrl+V	Click mouse button	к	0.20
Delete Del	Move cursor to Cut menu	Р	1.10
M=1.35	Click mouse button	к	0.20
Edit Format View Help P=1.10	Mentally Prepare	м	1.35
The fox jumps over the lazy bag. K=0.20	Move cursor to before "fox"	Р	1.10
(4)	Click mouse button	к	0.20
Ontitled - Notepad	Mentally Prepare	M	1.35
<u>File Edit Format View Help</u>	Move cursor to Edit menu	P	1.10
	Click mouse button	ĸ	0.20
Gut_ Ctrl+X Conv_ Ctrl+C	Click mouse button		
5 B Untitled - Notepad	Move cursor to Paste menu item	P	1.10
Be Edt Fyrmat Yew Hep The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy bag.	Click mouse button	к	0.20
	TOTAL PREDICTED TIME		14.90

Psychometrics Testing

- Psychometrics = scientific measurement of individual differences (personality and intelligence)
 - Psychological qualities of individuals
 - Make predictions about behavior
- Psychometric test: psychology = microscope: biology (Dawis, 1992)
- Test = an objective, systematic and standardized measure of a sample of behaviour
 - Objective = every observer of an event would produce an identical account of what took place
 - Systematic = a methodical and consistent approach to understanding an event
 - Standardized = observations of an event are made in a prescribed manner

Personality measure

Used by:

- Criminal psychologists to measure impulsivity and its relation to crime
- Health psychologists to measure people's optimism in relation to their response to cancer diagnosis
- Occupational psychologists to predict job performance and job suitability.

Forms:

- Objective tests: Individuals are asked to rate their own actions or feelings in set situations
- Projective tests: Individuals are asked to formulate an unstructured response to some form of ambiguous stimuli e.g. Rorschach ink-blot test (Rorschach, 1921)

Three concepts for a good test

- Standardisation: ensures that the conditions are as similar as possible for all individuals who are given the test.
- Reliability a test must measure the same thing in the same way every time someone takes it
 - Internal consistency all the parts of the test are reliable throughout
 - Test-retest the test remains valid over time
 - Inter-rater independent observers rate the same sample should produce more or less the same results
- Validity: a test must provide an indication of the strength of our conclusions, inferences or propositions



Problems Affecting Results

- Social Desirability people feel they are being judged and so alter their answers accordingly for 2 reasons:
 - Self-deception individuals are overly optimistic in their perceptions of their own positive personality features and play down their perceived negative aspects
 - Impression management individuals try to appear 'nice' because they fear social disapproval
- Mood
 - people in a good mood might answer the questionnaire completely differently than if they were in a bad mood
- Features of the environment (noise, heat & light)
 - Hancock (1986) has shown that high temperature has a significant negative effect on vigilance, attention, memory and reaction time

Culture-Free Tests

- Attempts have been made to develop culture-free tests of intelligence, but on the whole these attempts have not been successful, because:
 - Conceptions of intelligence vary widely from culture to culture
 - even if the content of a test can be made culture-free, culture itself will still affect the results through directing attitudes towards tests, test-taking, competition, etc
- Some untimed and language-free (almost) tests
 - The Leiter International Performance Scale Revised (Roid & Miller, 1997): 4 domains of functioning: reasoning, visualisation, attention and memory

http://www.stoeltingco.com/tests/downloads/subtest%20w ebclip.mov

• The Ravens Progressive Matrices (Court & Ravens, 1995): general cognitive ability



Test Validity

- There are four types of test validity:
 - Face validity: does your test appear to measure what it purports to measure
 - Concurrent validity: does your test of honesty correlate with existing standardised tests of honesty
 - Predictive validity: do the results of your test predict future behaviour
 - Construct validity: if all our hypotheses about the test variable (construct) are supported then we have a high degree of construct validity



Harder Problems

Ecological Validity

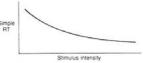
- Ensure test what an individual do in their daily life, not in a research environment
- The tension between controlled experiment and incontext study

Cultural bias

- Most standardized psychometric tests are based on western definitions and western cultural practices
- the possibility of bias in such tests against members of ethnic subgroups of the population
- e.g. newly arrived refugees will have difficulty with an intelligence test which asks them to name leaders of the country to which they escaped from

Performance Test: SRT

- Simple Reaction Time (motor speed test)
- No uncertainty what the signal is, and how to respond
- Affected by:
 - Stimulus Modality: RT(aud) < RT(vis)



- Stimulus Intensity
 - More intense stimuli lead to shorter RTs
 Can be modeled using SDT (aggregation of neural evidence over time)
 - Can raise or lower criterion (e.g., false start for sprinter)
- Temporal Uncertainty
 - Greater uncertainty increases RT



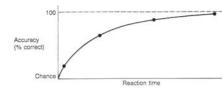
Performance Test: CRT

- Choice Reaction Time (motor + cognitive)
- there can be more than one signal, and more than one type of response
- Factors affecting SRT also affect CRT
- In a choice response time situation, the subject is transmitting information from stimulus to response in the information theory sense
- Hyman's (1953) experiment: S observes set of lights; responds with particular response when particular light flashes
- *Hick-Hyman Law* (H-H Law)
 - Choice RT increases linearly with stimulus information
 - RT= a + bH_s



Speed-Accuracy Tradeoff

- People tend to make more errors when they respond more rapidly; if they take longer they tend to be more accurate
- When you push people to be extremely accurate, reaction time increases a lot for little increase in accuracy—diminishing returns
- To get most efficient performance:
 - For easy task, best to emphasize bandwidth
 - For hard task, best to emphasize speed



Compatibility

- Stimulus-Response Compatibility (natural mapping)
 - between displayed information and response or control
 - *Static sense*: Compatibility between a display location and the location of the response
 - Dynamic sense: Compatibility between display movement and movement involved in the response
 - High SRC = fewer mental operations, quicker response
- Locational Compatibility
 - We have natural tendency to move or orient towards source of stimulation in environment—infants will orient to new pictures, new faces
 - So why not put the control and the display in the same location? Colocation principle
 - If can not, use congruence principle



Hick-Hyman Law

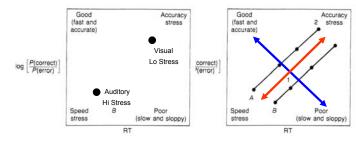
- Slope b is about 170 ms/bit amount of extra time resulting from each added bit of stimulus information to be processed
- Can derive information transmission rate (bandwidth) by 1/b = 0.00588 bits/ms = 5.88 bits/s



- Intercept a (around 180 ms) represents time to encode the stimulus and execute the response) – factors unrelated to the stimulus information
- Doesn't matter how the amount of information in the stimuli is varied
- Affected by number of alternatives, probability, context
- Tested many times with different kinds of stimuli and responses, and is generally accurate

SAOC (Speed-Accuracy Op Char)

- "NW is best; SE is least" good vs. poor performance
- Going from southwest to northeast—moving along the SAOC—represents different speed-accuracy tradeoff settings
- Auditory processing/hi stress tends to lead to more rapid, error-prone performance (quick and dirty) than does visual processing/lo stress



Movement Compatibility

- Typically movement of the control should correspond to the movement in the display
- When not possible, there are common conventions to map display and control movements
- Movement proximity → placing control next to object

