

Mental Model Topic Study

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1 Abstract,

2 Introduction

In this paper we will be discussing, the definition, history, and the latest offerings the new technology that is called Second Screen has come up with. Also, we will discuss how this new technology relate to guidelines and principles of interaction design. Which, with the results of some recent studies, we will conclude if Second Screen technology might, or might not make the current way of interacting with visual media take a new turn to be widely used, and more interactive, and enjoyable by the users in the future.

However, what is Second Screen? "A second screen is a second electronic device used by television viewers to connect to a program they're watching. A second screen is often a smartphone or tablet, where a special complementary app may allow the viewer to interact with a television program in a different way." [Jan]

3 Background

Second Screen technology has become more known, and used in the past two years, where most of the famous TV prod-casting companies have implemented the technology in either one, or more of their own shows. Also, as we all know that Xbox, Wii, and PS3 have also have used some compatible devices with second screens in them, to enhance the user experience when interacting with the main screen. However, since we briefly defined what a Second Screen is, let us now explain how, and what kind of ways people can use them.

The first way, Second Screen technology is implemented, "during the live viewing of a show or event, the second screen acts as an additional viewport for the viewer. That means that during an awards show, users can choose to see different camera angles of the venue, access backstage areas and get other content in real-time. Because it's in real-time, this content cannot be repeated for time-shifted viewings (like a DVR)." [Chr] Example of this, is as we have seen in 2011 how the Oscar night used the second screen technology, as well as, Grammys, MTV VMAs and the Emmys.[Chr]

The second way of using Second Screen Technology, is "while watching a show or movie, users get a feed of social information ? such as Twitter feeds from the cast or crew, discussions with other viewers and suggestions and electronic programming guides for other types of programming. This data isn't necessarily time-synced with the show itself, but it offers real-time context around what the viewer is doing." [Chr] Also, maybe it's important to mention the applications that are using these social discovery features. Some of the most popular apps include Miso <http://gomiso.com/> and GetGlue, <http://getglue.com/>. [GRG12] These websites provide the user with applications to download and use in the second device. Which, allow the user to pick the show he/she want to watch and interact with others who have the same interest, either by messages, videos, voice notes, Tweets, and Facebook comments.

Moreover, we are now seeing that most of the cable providers are now launching their applications for the smartphones, and tablets, for the user to use and watch everything on their second device instead of a standard TV. For instance, Time Warner Cable, have their amazing application on IOS, and Android Systems, that you can watch TV on your smartphone, or go through the TV guide and search through the available shows, and programs. Also, they have an interesting tab, which is, DVR, where your phone will work exactly as a remote control and you can record remotely any show you like to watch.

Finally, when we all know that a smartphone most of the time is not a convenient method for watching TV and at the same time interacting with the other users. However, these websites, and cable providers started off their applications on smartphones only, in the years of 2009, and 2010. However, after testing the satisfaction of their users, they concluded that it's hard to use a second screen application on smartphones, due to their small size screens. However, by April 2010, Apple released their iPad, and most of the other companies released their tablets. Therefore, by mid 2011 there came the revolution and the new born of second screen technology, as most of the applications were programmed to work perfectly on those tablets.

Which, resulted in costumer satisfaction and making programming companies direct their focus on making second screen applications.

4 Methods

5 Discussion

6 Conclusion

References

- [Chr] Warren Christina. When did the 'second screen' become a thing?, month = may, year = 2013, note = <http://mashable.com/2013/05/02/second-screen/> (last accessed on 05/11/2013).
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