

Briefing Script

Accessible Pointing Approaches for Web Applications

Background

Most websites are designed to be used with mice.

Unfortunately, many people can't use a mouse to browse websites. For example, disabled users, or users on devices like games consoles.

These users need a way to point in webpages without a mouse. Typing is one alternative worth exploring, since many input devices can 'type' (like remote controls, gamepads, or speech-to-text).

Project Aim

We have created a novel keyboard pointing approach, ChibiPoint (chibi means 'pipsqueak').

It is to be contrasted with the existing keyboard pointing mechanism in web browsers, 'tabbing' navigation (that is, pressing the 'tab' key to focus the button that the user wants to point at).

User Study

The aim of this study is to compare how these two systems (ChibiPoint, and 'tabbing navigation') perform at pointing tasks on web pages. ChibiPoint itself will be tested in two modes (to determine the difference made by one of its features), so in total three systems will be under test.

You will be asked to:

1. Fill in a preliminary questionnaire.
2. Read instructions for how to use these 3 systems to navigate websites.
3. Navigate websites using these 3 systems.
4. Fill in another questionnaire indicating your preferred system.

It must be emphasised that this study is testing the performance of the system, not of the user. You are not required nor expected to be an expert of any of the systems under test.

This study aims for a fair comparison of the merits of all three systems; there is no onus (implied or otherwise) on the participants to try to generate a particular result.

Study context

The system is to be used in the context of being denied mouse usage.

Here is a scenario to imagine, should it help:

As a result of playing too much Counter-Strike, you have a repetitive strain injury. It hurts to click, and making fine movements of the mouse is also difficult. You can still type without much difficulty, but you would prefer to type as few keys as possible.

Any mouse will be unplugged from the computer for the duration of your test, to restrict your input options to those of the disabled user.