

**LAB 6: DESIGNING USER INTERFACE COMPONENTS**

**BITM 2313**

**SEMESTER 2**

**SESSION 2020/2021**

## **1.0 OBJECTIVE**

To design simple icons to represent the operations.

## **2.0 BEST PRACTICES FOR DESIGNING AN INTERFACE**

Everything stems from knowing your users, including understanding their goals, skills, preferences, and tendencies. Once you know about your user, make sure to consider the following when designing your interface:

- **Keep the interface simple.** The best interfaces are almost invisible to the user. They avoid unnecessary elements and are clear in the language they use on labels and in messaging.
- **Create consistency and use common UI elements.** By using common elements in your UI, users feel more comfortable and are able to get things done more quickly. It is also important to create patterns in language, layout and design throughout the site to help facilitate efficiency. Once a user learns how to do something, they should be able to transfer that skill to other parts of the site.
- **Be purposely in page layout.** Consider the spatial relationships between items on the page and structure the page based on importance. Careful placement of items can help draw attention to the most important pieces of information and can aid scanning and readability.
- **Strategically use color and texture.** You can direct attention toward or redirect attention away from items using color, light, contrast, and texture to your advantage.
- **Use typography to create hierarchy and clarity.** Carefully consider how you use typeface. Different sizes, fonts, and arrangement of the text to help increase scan ability, legibility and readability.
- **Make sure that the system communicates what's happening.** Always inform your users of location, actions, changes in state, or errors. The use of various UI

elements to communicate status and, if necessary, the next steps can reduce frustration for your user.

- **Think about the defaults.** By carefully thinking about and anticipating the goals people bring to your site, you can create defaults that reduce the burden on the user. This becomes particularly important when it comes to form a design where you might have an opportunity to have some fields pre-chosen or filled out.

### 3.0 LAB ACTIVITY

Sketch simple icons to represent the following operations to appear on a digital camera screen:

- Turn image 90-degrees sideways
- Auto-enhance the image
- Crop the image
- More options

Show them to your friends and see if they can understand what each represents.