

Task Analysis

User analysis

- The process of identifying and describing the users who use the system
- Characteristics of target users
 - Age, gender, culture, language
 - Computer experience
 - Domain experience, application experience
 - Usage frequency
 - Physical limitations
 - Education
 - Motivation
 - Work environment
 - User relationships
 - User social status (e.g., role, position)
 - Etc.



Image: growthpixel.com

User analysis (cont'd)

- Description of target users
 - General information
 - User characteristics (discussed above)
 - User environment
 - Where the tasks will be performed?
 - Major goals of the job
 - What is the end result?
 - User roles (e.g., buyer, seller)
 - if any
 - User preferences
 - Relationships among users
 - if any





Images: openclipart.org

User analysis (cont'd)

- Example system: HaiLua.com.vn
 - A web-based application for users to sell and buy farming products
 - Key features
 - Post products to sell (by famers and others)
 - Search for products
 - Buy products
 - Compare products' prices and other characteristics
 - Rate sellers and buyers
 - Provide comments or feedback on products or transactions

User analysis

- By role
 - Buyers/customers
 - Sellers (farmers and traders)
 - Administrator
- By language/culture
 - Focusing on Vietnam farming products from Vietnamese farmers





User analysis (cont'd)

Techniques to do user analysis

- Recording
- Interviews
- Questionnaires
- Observation
- Combination of the above

Obstacles/challenges

- Designers and users are sometimes isolated
- Users may be overlooked by designers
 - Designers may make wrong assumptions about users
- It's expensive and difficult to talk to some users
 - E.g., high-ranking people, doctors, executives

Task analysis

- The process of analyzing and documenting the tasks that the system may provide to users
 - What needs to be done (goal)
 - What conditions to do the task (precondition)
 - What steps to be taken (subtasks)
- Each task is often a goal to achieve by users
- Task analysis is an early step in UI design that provides basis for
 - UI designing
 - UI evaluation and improvement
 - User documentation

Task analysis procedure

Two main steps

- 1. Model tasks
 - Gathering information
 - Describing tasks into requirements

2. Evaluate and refine

Review and update requirements

Model tasks

- Create a list of all tasks to be performed by users
- Rank the tasks by frequency of use and importance
- Gather other detailed information about each task
- Model the relationships (e.g., using use-case model)
 - between tasks and users
 - among tasks
- Present/describe tasks in forms of documents, diagram, etc.

Techniques to do task analysis

- Techniques to gather in formation (same as doing user analysis)
 - Data recording
 - Interviews
 - Questionnaires
 - Observation

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- Combination of the above
- Technique to analyze
 - Task decomposition

Data recording

- Documents, manuals, instructions
- Notes, audio, photographs
- Notes + photographs
- Audio + photographs
- Video



Observation

Direct observation

- in the field or in controlled environments
- Structuring frameworks
- Think-aloud protocol
 - Person talks about what they are doing, while they are doing it (or just before or after)
 - Observer can ask probe questions
- Probe questions affect performance, as does thinking aloud

Indirect observation

- tracking users' activities
 - Physical location/movement
 - Interaction logging, timers

Observing People

What do we "see"?

- Opportunities for new designs
- Breakdowns
- Workarounds
- Mismatches between what users say and do

Observation

In the user's own environment

Observation of everyday tasks

Why are work-arounds opportunities for new designs?

Why are breakdowns opportunities for new designs?

Why are unexpected uses opportunities for new designs? User customization?

LOOK at what users really do

- Behavioral Archaelology
- Behavioral Mapping
- Fly on the Wall
- Guided Tours
- Personal Inventory
- Rapid Ethnography

- Shadowing
- Social Network Mapping
- Still-Photo Survey
- Time-Lapse Video

Interviews

Structured

- tightly scripted, often like a questionnaire
- replicable but may lack richness

Unstructured

- not directed by a script
- rich but not replicable

Semi-structured

- guided by a script but interesting issues can be explored in more depth
- can provide a good balance between richness and replicability

Relying on what users say

Can we rely on what users say about what they want in a new design?

- Very carefully
 - "Henry Ford:" "If I had asked my customers what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse."

It is better to watch what they do than to go only on what they say

Mismatches may hold keys to new designs

Users' words are unreliable

People are notoriously bad at predicting what they would use or would prefer when it is only hypothetical

They can much better respond to actual, concrete things, or make comparisons

This highlights the importance of observation and of prototypes

Users can however...

Tell you what they are doing right now

Tell you how they are feeling right now

Tell you what their goal is right now

Questionnaires

- Paper, email and the web used for dissemination
- Questions can be closed or open
 - closed questions are easier to analyze, and may be done by computer
- Can be administered to large populations
- Sampling can be a problem when the size of a population is unknown
 - common online
- Tool
 - https://surbee.io

Online questionnaires

Advantages

- Responses are usually received quickly
- Data can be collected directly into database for analysis
- Time required for data analysis is reduced
- Errors can be corrected easily
- Many online survey tools available
 - E.g., survey monkey

Problems

- Sampling is problematic if population size is unknown
- Preventing individuals from responding more than once
- Delayed response

Task decomposition

Aims

- describe the actions people do
- describe order of subtasks
- structure them within task subtask hierarchy

Hierarchical Task Analysis (HTA)

- introduced by Annett and Duncan (1967) to evaluate an organization's training needs
- very useful for analyzing and representing the behavioral aspects of complex tasks
- now widely used in interface design

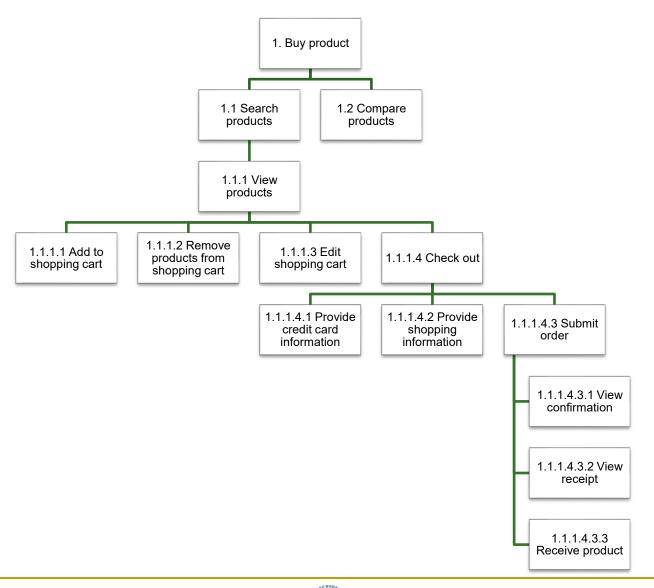
Hierarchical Task Analysis (HTA)

- Breaks tasks into subtasks and operations or actions
 - These components are represented using a structure chart
- Includes
 - identifying and categorizing tasks
 - identifying the subtasks
 - checking the overall accuracy of the model
- Useful for UI design
 - Enabling designers to envision the goals, tasks, subtasks, operations, and plan essential to users' activities

Generating the Hierarchy

- 1. Start from overall goal, e.g. clean the house
- 2. Get list of tasks
- 3. Break down into numbered sub-tasks
 - Group tasks into higher level tasks
 - Decompose lowest level tasks further
- 4. Describe each sub-task
 - How do we know when to stop?
 - Is "empty the dust bag" simple enough?

HTA for HaiLua.com.vn



Task analysis procedure

- Two main steps
 - Model tasks
 - Gathering information
 - Describing tasks into requirements

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- 2. Evaluate and refine requirements
 - Review and update requirements

Evaluate and refine requirements

- Evaluate, simplify and fix issues in the task description
- Evaluation techniques
 - Walk-through
 - Formal review/inspection
 - Offline review
 - Online review

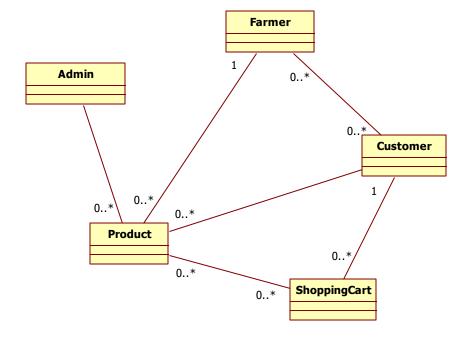
Domain analysis

- The process identifying data models for the system domain
 - People and things
 - How they are related
- Outputs
 - Object or class models (e.g., using UML diagram)
 - Data models (Entity Relationship models)

Domain analysis (cont'd)

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HaiLua.com.vn's class model (high-level)



Requirements document

User analysis

- Description of target users
 - General information
 - User characteristics (discussed above)
 - User environment
 - Where the tasks will be performed?
 - Major goals of the job
 - What is the end result?
 - User roles (e.g., buyer, seller)
 - if any
 - User preferences
 - Relationships among users
 - if any

Requirements document (cont'd)

- Task analysis, for each task
 - Goal, precondition, subtasks
 - Where the task is performed
 - On Internet, desktop, mobile
 - At a kiosk, a workstation
 - How often is the task performed?
 - every hour, every day
 - once a day, once a month
 - What are resource constraints
 - One second, one minute, or not constrained
 - How the task is learned?
 - □ Training, install-and-use, by trying, by watching others
 - Task exceptions
 - What are exceptions for the task and how exceptions are handled
 - Who else are involved in the task

Requirements document (cont'd)

- User and Task analysis
 - Use-case model
- Domain analysis
 - Object model
 - ER model

Team work

- Teams in this exercise are the same as those of your projects
- Two team members who are BA go to another team to interview several potential users about BA's product
 - Record and summarize user characteristics and tasks
- Time
 - Interview: 15 minutes
 - Report: 10 minutes (5 minutes x 2 teams)

PERSONA

a.k.a. Personas

Learn

Look

Ask

Try

[Chris]





"I wouldn't be caught dead using moisturiser"

"I never buy after shave...I get it for Christmas"

"I read men's magazines sometimes, but I'd never buy one"

"I only really take vitamin C when I've got a cold"

"keeping fit isn't that important to me"

Character Profiles

HOW: Based on observations of real people, develop character profiles to represent archetypes and the details of their behavior or lifestyles.

WHY: This is a useful way to bring a typical customer to life and to communicate the value of different concepts to various target groups.

In order to understand different types of customers and how to target them, IDEO developed four characters for a pharmacy wanting to reach the male beauty-product market.



Wendy

busy budget vegetarian

I have kept 20 libs off for over 10 years, mostly by eating vegetarian and watching calories and fat. I wish healthy food, especially organic produce, were less expensive. Plus, it's hard to fit healthy cooking into a busy schedule.

primary persona

Personal Details

Age: 38

Profession: Fashion Stylist

Home: Los Angeles, CA High rise apartment with boyfriend and a cat.

Goals and Priorities

Eat great vegetarian food

Maintain healthy weight

Affordable and convenient

Amount Per Si Age: 38	Los An	geles, Ci Ith Facts
Total Weight p	ounds	15
Height Inch	100	- 6
BMI	DV GSWS	2
Cholesterol 16	st mg/dl	Norma
Sodium 124 ft	Eq/L	Norma
Glucose 122 n	ng/dL	Norma
Blood pres. 12	1/76 mmHg	Goo

Wendy is a 38 year old vegetarian living with her boyfriend in an urban Los Angelse neighborhood. She was a "fat kird" growing up, and continues to work hard to maintain healthy habits and stay in shape. She tries to eat right, mostly by limiting calories, fat, and carbohydratas, and by avoiding meat altogether. She used to track her setting with paper and pencil, using the Weight Watchers point system. It was a hassle though, and once she got the feel for portions and types of foods, she stopped tracking. She has a smart phone now, but uses it mostly for social networking and text messaging, and isn't really interested in heavy duty apps. She would like to track food somehow though, to help resist cravings and bed habits.

For exercise, Wendy uses the elliptical trainer in the gym in her building three times a week, but doesn't always find time to stick to that schedule. She almost always cooks at home, and considers cooking a hobby. She consciously avoids fast food, but often gets take-out for lunch when she hasn't had time to pack something, and onjoys eating out with her boyfriend a few times a week. Wendy drives to Ralph's (Safeway-esque) for most of her groceries, but also tries to get fruits and veggies at the farmer's market in her neighborhood. On a limited income in an expensive city though, she finds it challenging to always afford fresh and organic produce.

Wendy's Goals and Priorities

- · Maintain healthy weight
- . Learn to be an expert on what's healthy or not
- . Cook at home with fresh ingredients, pack lunches
- Healthy microwave or take-out options when in a hurry
- · Resist junk food temptations in favor of healthy snacks
- · Get the best fresh food value for her money



Lance

mobile gourmet

I know it's important to eat well for all the right reasons, and I love delicious food. But in reality, it's really tough to make time for shopping and cooking. Fresh stuff requires more frequent trips to the grocery store, planning, and preparation, which I really just don't have time to do.

secondary persona

Personal Details

Age: 32

Profession: Architect

Home: Nashville, TN Small house, also functions as his studio.

Goals and Priorities

Convenience above all

New flavors and experiences

Balanced healthy ingredients

Lance Facts Serving Size: 1 Serving Per Container: 1				
Amount Per Serving				
Apr: 52	Nashville, TN			
	Health Facts*			
Total Weight pounds	140			
Height Inches	64			
EMI	24			
Cholesterol 194 mg/d	Normal			
Sodium 148 mEq/L	Elevated			
Glucose 118 mg/dL	No mal			
Blood pres. 128/74 mm	mHg Good			
Not a significant health ri healther daily nutrition an				

Recent blood test a part of his yearly

Lance is always juggling 2 (or more likely 5-6) projects at once. He is an articled with a focus on green housing, and he supervises a team of off-site collaborators and on-site contractors. Lance loves to eat healthy and tasty food, but prioritizes his nutrition and health like everything else in his file (deadlines alwayc come first).

His main objective in buying food is convenience and flavor. Lance really loves trying new flavors and new food experiences. He considers himself a sushi expert, sandwich snob, and barbacue afficionado. With his busy work life, he tands to fall back on restaurant meals to fee hid needs, but he knows that too much of that really his the waistline and drags his energy level down. He's also lactose intolerant, and it can be tricky avoiding dairy in restaurant food.

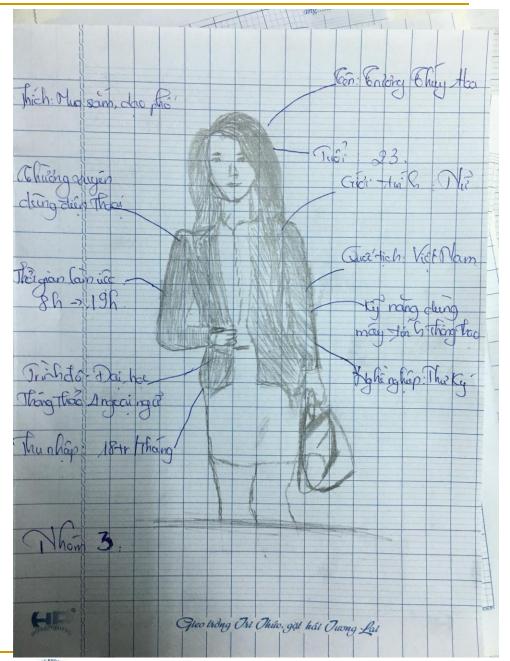
The majority of his groceries come from Amazon Freshë, and he appreciates the flexible functionality of the site. For example, keeping lists, maintaining a grocery history, and adding alerts for items he frequently buys. Since he's always online, in the studio and in the field, he's really comfortable using technology to get things done.

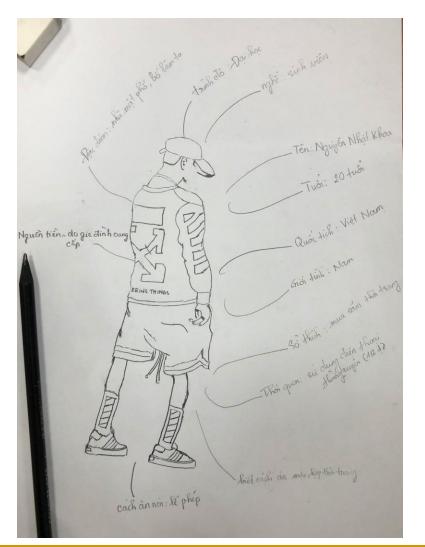
Lance's Goals and Priorities

- · Convenient food where and when he needs it
- · Stay healthy so he can maintain his high-energy lifestyle
- · New flavors that satisfy his adventurous palate
- · Mobile solution that keeps up with him
- · Easy, so it doesn't take any more valuable time

	The researcher	The Sysadmin	The OSS developer	The CS student
	NOT NOT			
Name	Alexander Weiß	Donald M. Berry	Kristian Larsson	Eric Nevitte
Age	30	30	26	24
Location	Germany	US	Sweden	France
Social Life	Alexander lives with his girl-friend in a flat in Hamburg.	Donald lives with his wife and 1-year old daughter in a house in Portland.	Kristian shares an apartment with two friends in Stockholm. His girl-friend lives in Uppsala. They see each other every weekend.	Eric lives with his parents in a small city close to Lyon. He visits the university there. Often, he stays at his friend's apartment for playing PC games and programming.
Work Life	He works at centre for environmental systems research and designs plans for replacable energies in a EU-funded project.	He is a lead system administrator in a huge network solutions company in Portland.	A software developer with a dayjob in a medium- sized software company. Works on KDE in his spare time.	He is a student of computer science. Besides university, he performs small programming jobs for people in his neighbourhood.

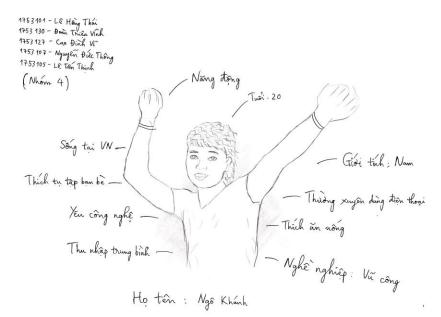
An example of User Persona



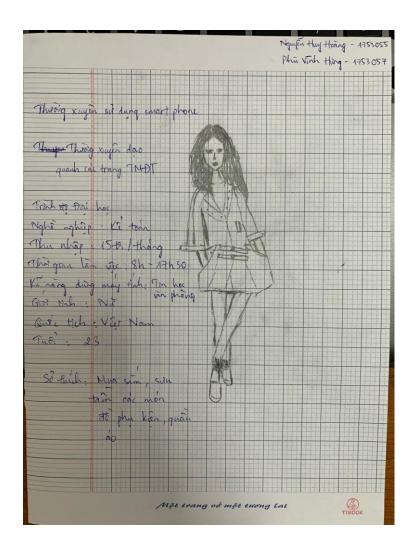


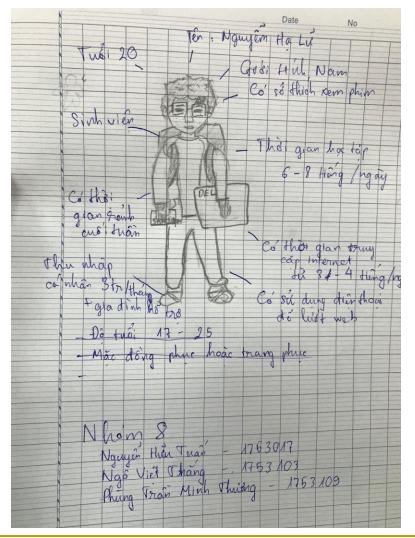




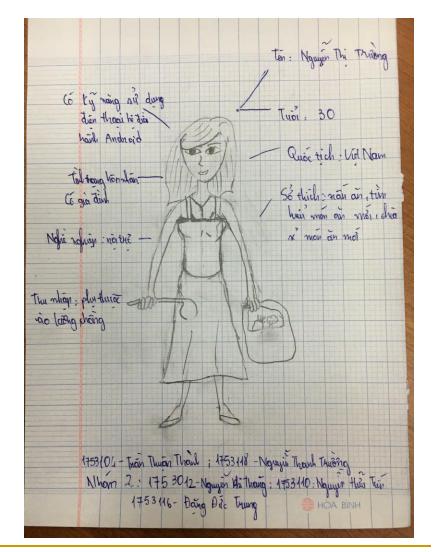


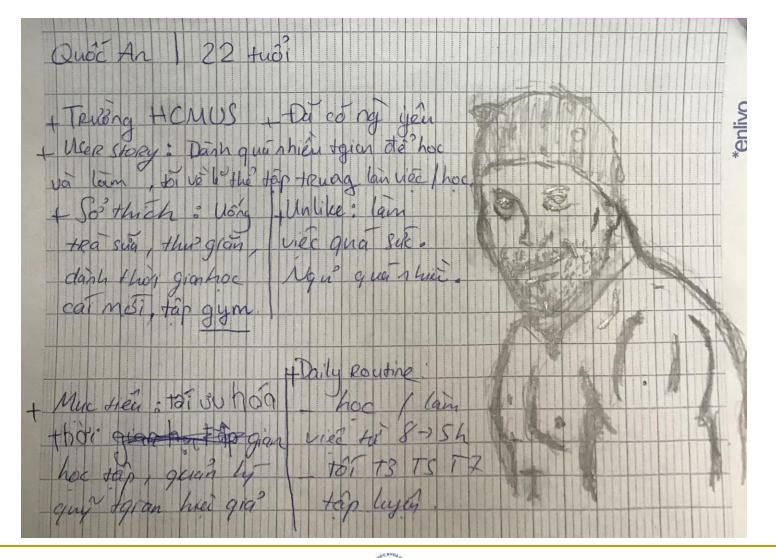
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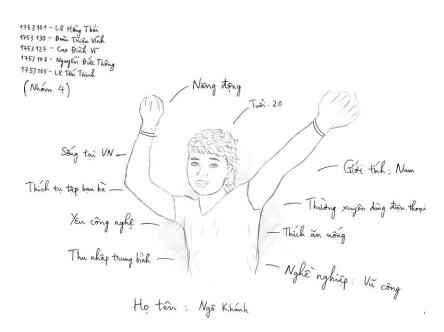




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Teamwork

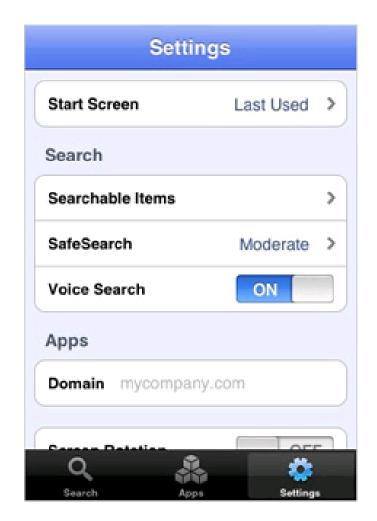
- Work in your team
- Interview the potential user in your team or the person who knows most about your users
- Draw a persona for the user
- Describe the user



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Over-design UI



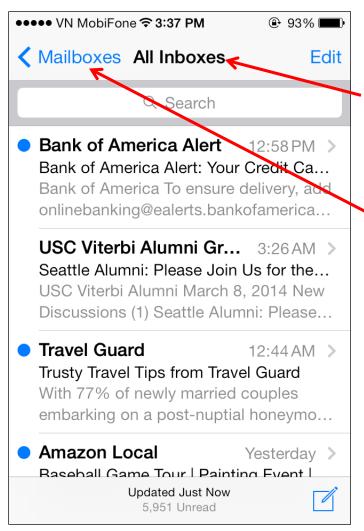


Over-design

Good design

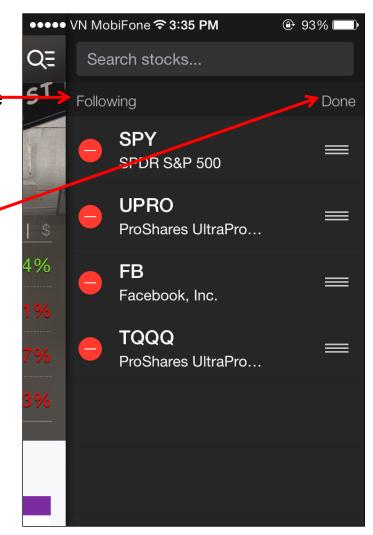
Source: http://mobile.smashingmagazine.com/2009/07/21/iphone-apps-design-mistakes-overblown-visuals/

iPhone Mail vs. Yahoo Finance



untouchable-

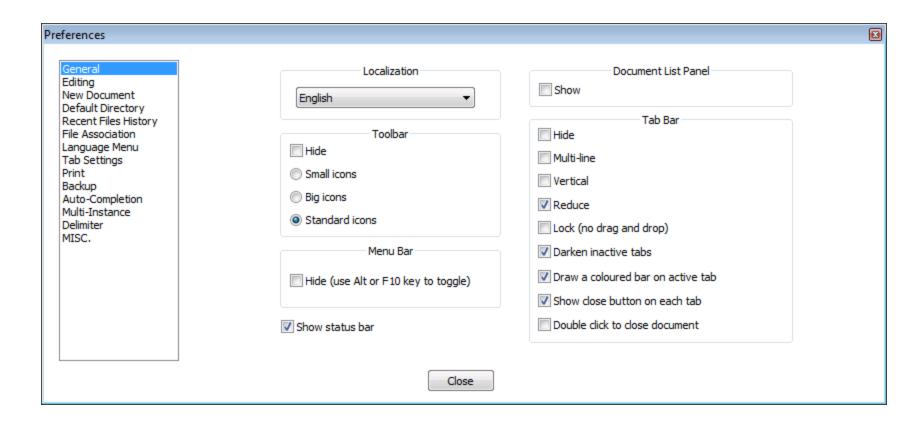
touchable



Inconsistent design

Consistent design

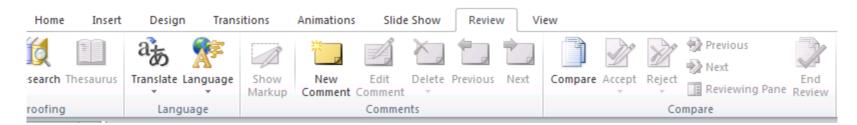
Notepad++ (Preferences Dialog)



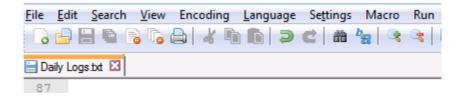
Inconsistent grouping: two top groups have only one item each. "Show status bar" does not belong to any group

MS PowerPoint vs. Notepad++

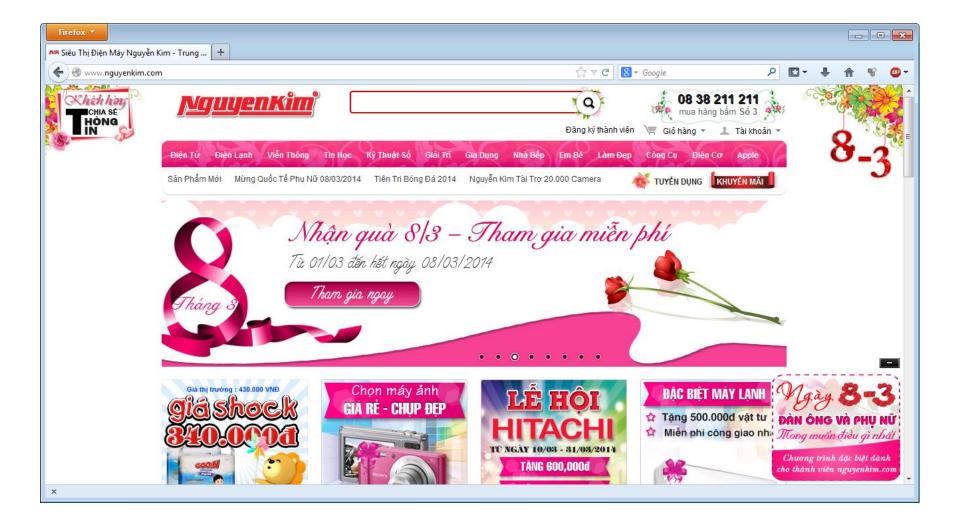
Toolbar buttons are large and with labels



Toolbar buttons are small and without labels



Nguyenkim.com on 8/3



chinhphu.vn



Videos

Others

- http://www.dump.com/2011/02/12/a-day-made-of-glasscornings-vision-for-the-future-with-specialty-glass-at-theheart-of-it-video/
- Starfire
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKJNxgZyVo0