

Discussion-6 menu design

Discussion Topic:

Consider two software applications that you regularly use that have menu interfaces, whether they are PC-or cloud-based applications.

Think about how you use these applications and evaluate them in terms of the menu design.

Use Table 11-1 in your textbook to conduct your evaluation.

Additionally, make a recommendation for improving the interface design.

My Post:

Hello Class,

As a student, I use Microsoft Word every day. However, it took me some time to get used to its Ribbon menu; it has so many choices! I used it to make tables, insert mathematical equations, format my papers in APA format, create of contents, and more.

The other software that I use every day is Google Chrome on my PC, but also on my iPhone. The browser PC version works fine for me; however, with the Apple iOS App. version of the browser, I have a problem using my favorite bookmarks, like finding them. I use Chrome on my phone to research websites, to connect to my Gmail, and more.

For this discussion, I chose to consider Microsoft Word on PC (like most of us) and Chrome (iOS) on iPhone. The table below is based on Table 11-1 Guidelines for Menu Design from “Chapter 11: Designing Interfaces and Dialogues. *Modern Systems Analysis and Design (9th ed.)*” by Valacich and George (2020), and it lists the menu design evaluations for both programs.

Table 1

Menu Guidelines for Word on PC and Chrome on iPhone

Guideline	Microsoft Word (Windows Ribbon)	Google Chrome (iOS app)
Wording	Ribbon tab titles consist of tabs such as Home, Insert, and Layout, and group labels such as Clipboard. These tabs and groups are clear and mixed-case; they relate to tasks.	See iPhone Pic-2, this appears after tapping ... (iPhone Pic-1) A row of icons where icons are labelled Password Manager,” “History,” “Reading List,” “Downloads,” Bookmarks . Labels are clear.
Organization	Commands are grouped by tasks or workflows, for example, Clipboard → Font → Paragraph.	Main screen, see iPhone Pic-1, two layers: (1) a horizontal list for last-visited websites. (2) a horizontal shortcut row for frequently last use features. The split is not customizable, and the shortcut row is hidden until the ... menu is opened, see iPhone PIC-2, so bookmark access still requires two taps.
Length	Each tab shows ≈20 commands. Seldom-used features hide behind tiny dialog-launchers (▼).	The scrolling bottom sheet’s vertical list (Discover Title) takes a full phone screen. (1) a horizontal list for last-visited websites is fixed

		(2) a horizontal shortcut row for frequently last-used features is fixed but scrollable by swiping left.
Selection	Mouse/touch and Ctrl-key-shortcuts similar across tabs; greyed-out items for state.	Large thumb-sized icons, and sheet's vertical list sections are all touch selection.
Highlighting	Active buttons get a grey tint; disabled commands are greyed out.	Tap feedback colors the icon blue, but no persistent, very quick highlight shows your selection.

Recommendations

Although the Word on PC ribbon menu is customizable, it would benefit greatly from offering various customizable ribbon templates accessible through a dropdown menu (▼), which will allow the user to choose which template to use for a specific project. This will make the ribbon less crowded with options.

Making some icons permanent in the main screen, like Favorite Bookmarks icon, letting users organize them, will improve my personal UX and may help other users as well.

Figure 1

Pic-1 Main Screen Chrome iPhone IOS

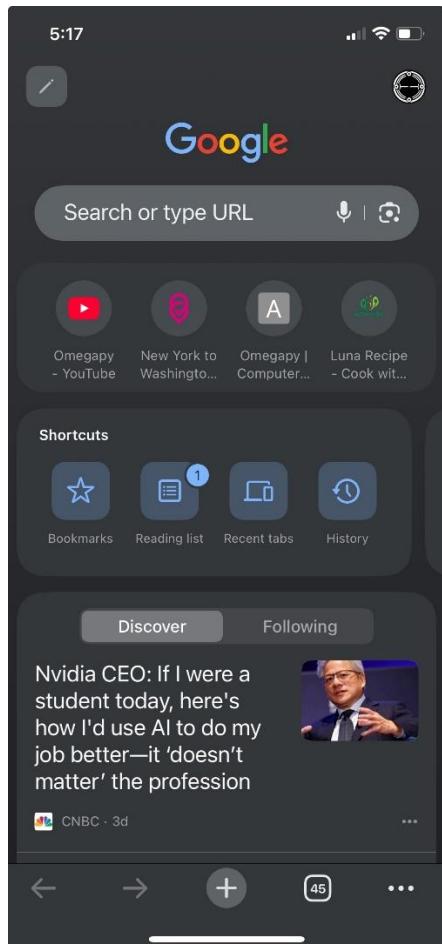
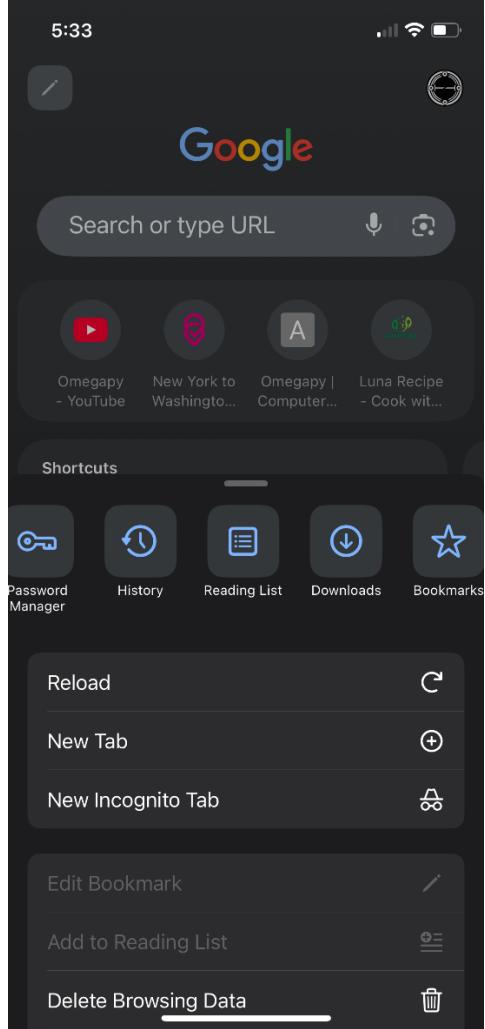


Figure 2

Pic-2 Chrome iPhone IOS '...' Menu



-Alex

References:

Valacich, J., & George, J. (2020). Chapter 11: Designing Interfaces and Dialogues. *Modern Systems Analysis and Design (9th ed.)*. Pearson.