

Unit name: Designing Human – Computer Interaction

Unit code: 6389

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Assessment name: PACT analysis

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The product that was chosen for this PACT analysis is the Nest AT3000EX smart thermostat. As the name suggests, this device allows the user to control the heating and cooling solutions remotely through the interface or an app. The defining feature of this product is the fact that it will learn the users' temperature preferences, allowing itself to adjust the temperature automatically to suit the owner's needs. Alongside the ability to link up with mobile devices, it is also compatible with other smart devices like Google Home and Alexa, providing the user with a convenient way to manage their temperature solution (Google Store, n.d.).

Regarding users, this product will suit a wide range of individuals. Take for example, a tech savvy homeowner. This user will utilize the ability of the product to seamlessly integrate with existing smart devices and customizing settings through the app. Another user who could benefit from this product is an elderly homeowner, with the easy-to-use interface of the thermostat can make easy adjustments to suit their needs or even voice command. These features also associated with the main functionality of the thermostat, which is to control the temperature solution. The product is primarily used in a residential context, often installed in easy to reach living places and can be connected remotely to the controller app. It can be installed in a range of settings, such as houses and apartments which can be changed to suit each scenario needs.

The thermostat is a combination of both hardware and software, relying on the app to remotely control its settings and machine learning to analyze specific temperature preferences of the user. The inclusion of voice assistants also allows the user to control the thermostat remotely without using the manual control options. The inclusion of Wi-fi allows the device to communicate with the app to relay settings, connecting with sensors to detect changes in the room to automatically adjust based on the condition of the house. This is also one of the main points for future innovation. The machine learning algorithm can be improved for further learn and even predict the users' preferences with greater accuracy. Integration with power grid can be a future improvement point for users who want to make real time monitor of their energy consumption. Other accessibility features can be included such as a simpler UI, better eligibility or haptic feedback for those with disabilities.

In conclusion, the Nest smart thermostat is a functional and well-designed product that can suit multiple users with an easy way to manage their existing temperature solution. The future of this product lies in the improvement of its own capabilities and accessibility features, ensuring that it continues to accommodate the ever-evolving needs of future users.

References:

1. Google Store (n.d.), "Nest Learning Thermostat." *Google Store*,
store.google.com/au/product/nest_learning_thermostat_3rd_gen?hl=en-GB