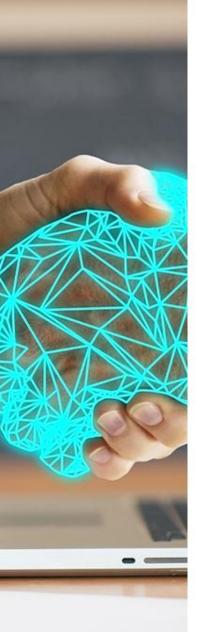
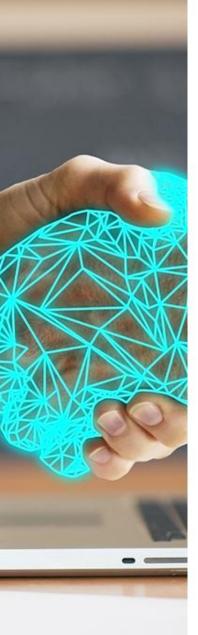


Material by: Alan Dix (The author of Human-Computer Interaction bool



## Interaction design basics

- design:
- what it is, interventions, goals, constraints
- the design process
  - what happens when
- users
- who they are, what they are like ...
- scenarios
  - rich stories of design
- navigation
  - finding your way around a system
- iteration and prototypes
  - never get it right first time!



#### interactions and interventions

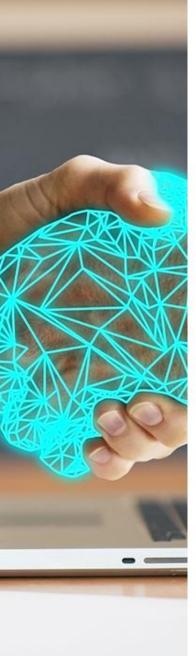
design interactions not just interfaces
not just the immediate interaction
e.g. stapler in office – technology changes interaction style

manual: write, print, staple, write, print, staple, ...

• electric: write, print, write, print, ..., staple

designing interventions not just artefacts not just the system, but also ...

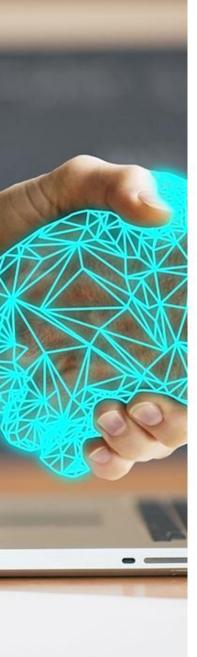
- documentation, manuals, tutorials
- what we say and do as well as what we make



## what is design?

#### achieving goals within constraints

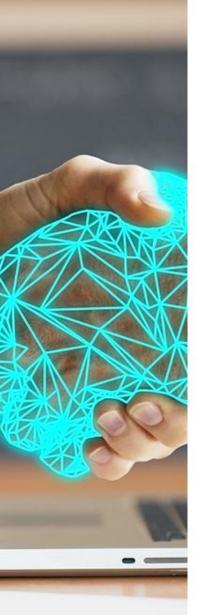
- goals purpose
  - who is it for, why do they want it
- constraints
  - materials, platforms
- trade-offs



## golden rule of design for Human–Computer Interaction

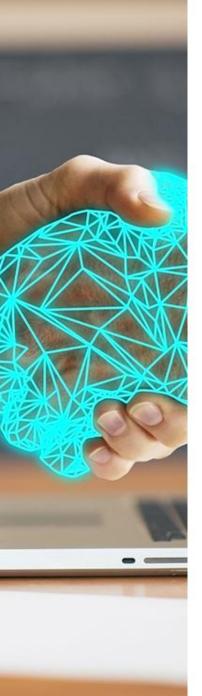
#### understand your materials

- understand computers
  - limitations, capacities, tools, platforms
- understand people
  - psychological, social aspects
  - human error
- and their interaction ...



#### To err is human

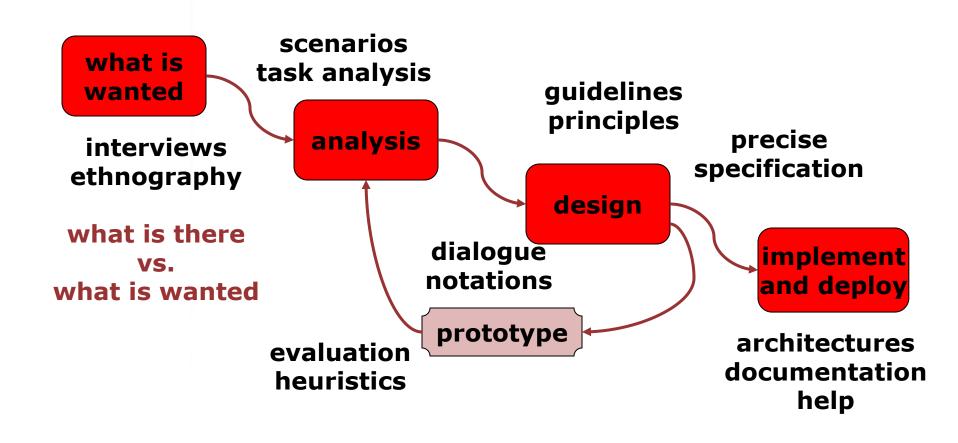
- accident reports ..
  - aircrash, industrial accident, hospital mistake
  - enquiry ... blames ... 'human error'
- but ...
  - concrete lintel breaks because too much weight
  - blame 'lintel error' ?
    - ... no design error we know how concrete behaves under stress
- human 'error' is normal.
  - we know how users behave under stress
  - so design for it!
- treat the user at least as well as physical materials!

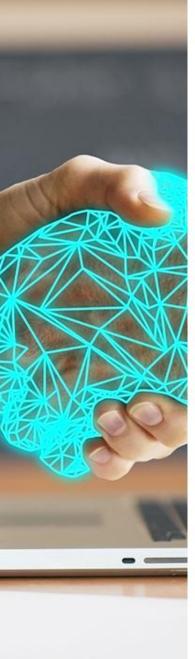


Central message ...

## the user

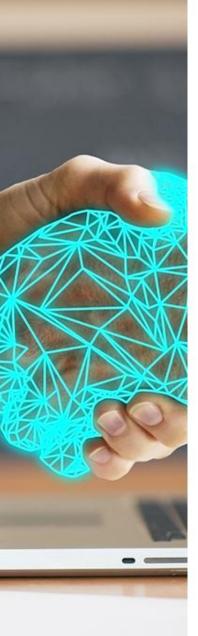
## The process of design





## Steps ...

- requirements
  - what is there and what is wanted ...
- analysis
  - ordering and understanding
- design
  - what to do and how to decide
- iteration and prototyping
  - getting it right ... and finding what is really needed!
- implementation and deployment
  - making it and getting it out there



#### .. but how can I do it all!

- limited time ⇒ design trade-off
- usability?
  - finding problems and fixing them?
  - deciding what to fix?



- a perfect system is badly designed
  - too good ⇒ too much effort in design



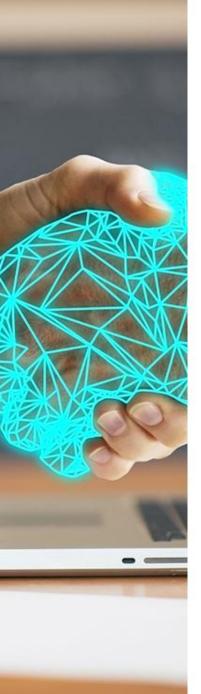
## know your user

- who are they?
- probably <u>not</u> like you!
- talk to them
- watch them
- use your imagination



#### persona

- description of an 'example' user
  - not necessarily a real person
- use as surrogate user
  - what would Betty think
- details matter
  - makes her 'real'



## example persona

Betty is 37 years old, She has been Warehouse Manager for five years and worked for Simpkins Brothers Engineering for twelve years. She didn't go to university, but has studied in her evenings for a business diploma. She has two children aged 15 and 7 and does not like to work late.

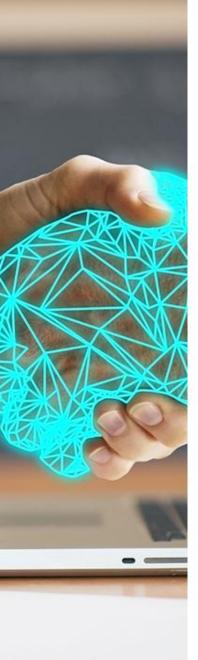
She did part of an introductory in-house computer course some years ago, but it was interrupted when she was promoted and could no longer afford to take the time. Her vision is perfect, but her right-hand movement is slightly restricted following an industrial accident 3 years ago.

She is enthusiastic about her work and is happy to delegate responsibility and take suggestions from her staff. However, she does feel threatened by the introduction of yet another new computer system (the third in her time at SBE).



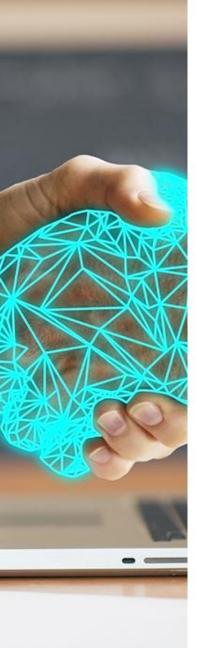
#### scenarios

- stories for design
  - communicate with others
  - validate other models
  - understand dynamics
- linearity
  - time is linear our lives are linear
  - but don't show alternatives



#### scenarios ...

- what will users want to do?
- step-by-step walkthrough
  - what can they see (sketches, screen shots)
  - what do they do (keyboard, mouse etc.)
  - what are they thinking?
- use and reuse throughout design



### scenario – movie player

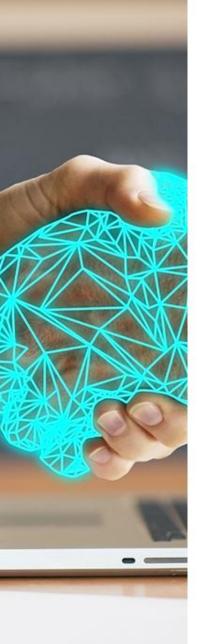
Brian would like to see the new film "Kungfu Panda 4" and wants to invite Alison, but he knows she doesn't like "animated" films.

He decides to take a look at it to see if she would like it and so connects to one of the movie sharing networks. He uses his work machine as it has a higher bandwidth connection, but feels a bit guilty.

He knows he will be getting an illegal copy of the film, but decides it is OK as he is intending to go to the cinema to watch it.

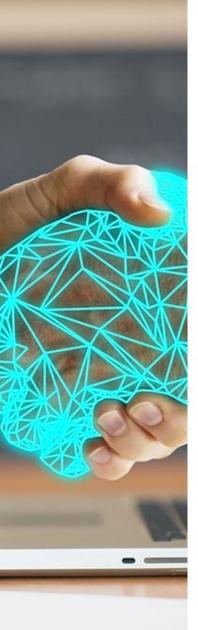
After it downloads to his machine he takes out his new personal movie player. He presses the 'menu' button and on the small LCD screen he scrolls using the arrow keys to 'bluetooth connect' and presses the select button.

On his computer the movie download program now has an icon showing that it has recognised a compatible device and he drags the icon of the film over the icon for the player. On the player the LCD screen says "downloading now", a percent done indicator and small whirling icon. ... ...



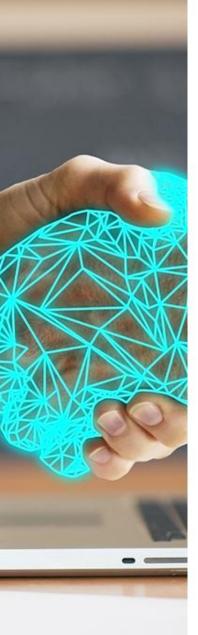
## ... explore the depths

- explore interaction
  - what happens when
- explore cognition
  - what are the users thinking
- explore architecture
  - what is happening inside



#### use scenarios to ..

- communicate with others
  - designers, clients, users
- validate other models
  - 'play' it against other models
- express dynamics
  - screenshots appearance
  - scenario behaviour



## linearity

Scenarios – one linear path through system

#### Pros:

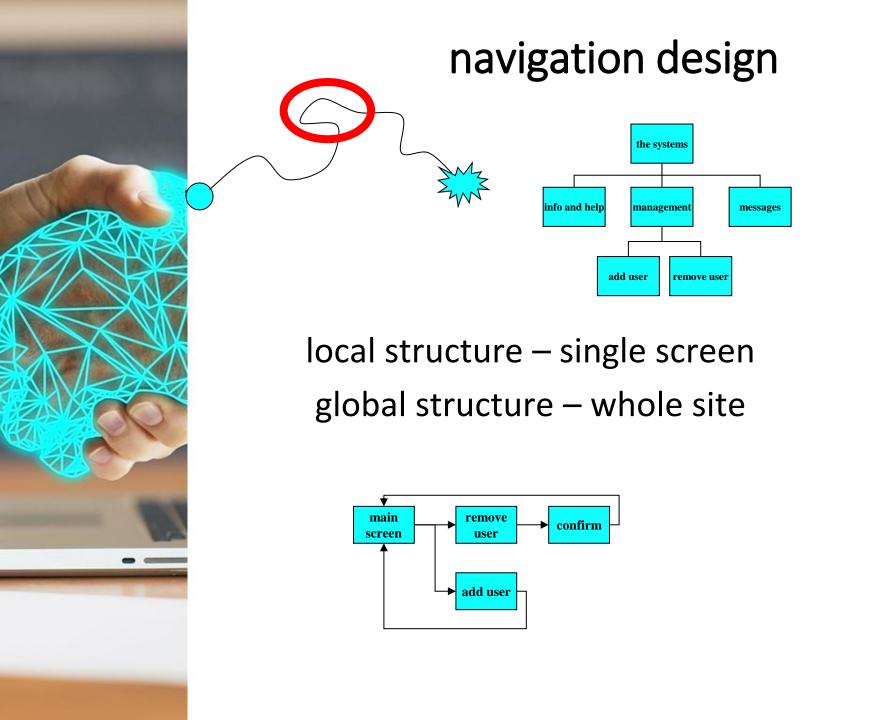
- life and time are linear
- easy to understand (stories and narrative are natural)
- concrete (errors less likely)

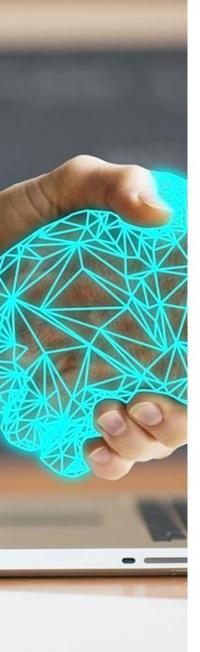
#### Cons:

- no choice, no branches, no special conditions
- miss the unintended

#### So:

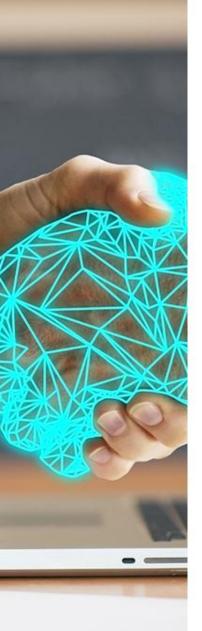
- use several scenarios
- use several methods





### levels

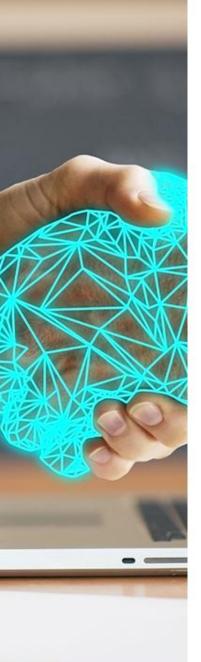
- widget choice
  - menus, buttons etc.
- screen design
- application navigation design
- environment
  - other apps, O/S



#### the web ...

- widget choice
- screen design
- navigation design
- environment

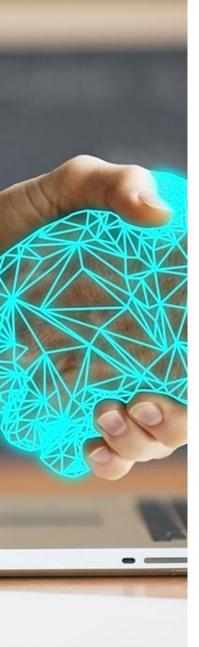
- elements and tags
  - <a href=""...">
- page design
- site structure
- the web, browser, external links



## physical devices

- widget choice
- screen design
- navigation design
- environment

- controls
  - buttons, knobs, dials
- physical layout
- modes of device
- the real world

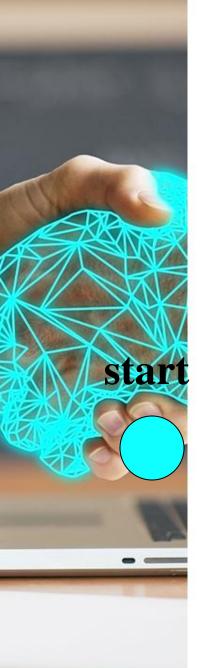


#### think about structure

- within a screen
  - later ...
- local
  - looking from this screen out
- global
  - structure of site, movement between screens
- wider still
  - relationship with other applications

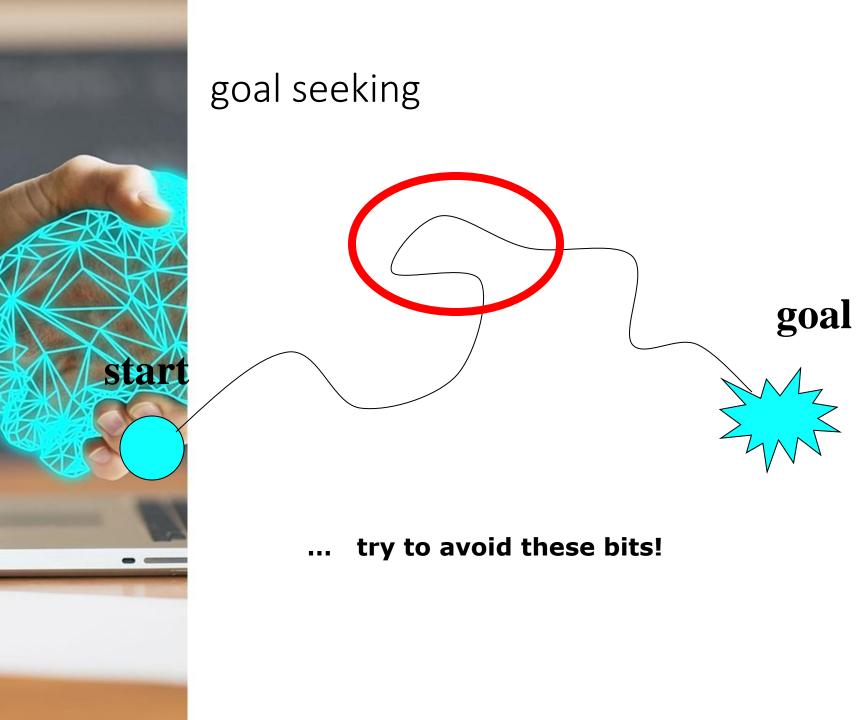


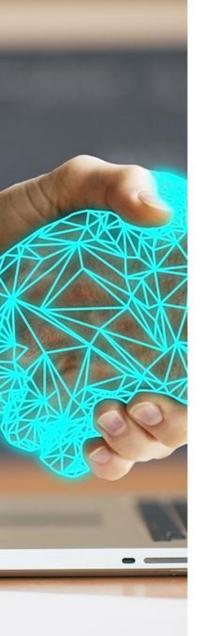
from one screen looking out



## goal seeking



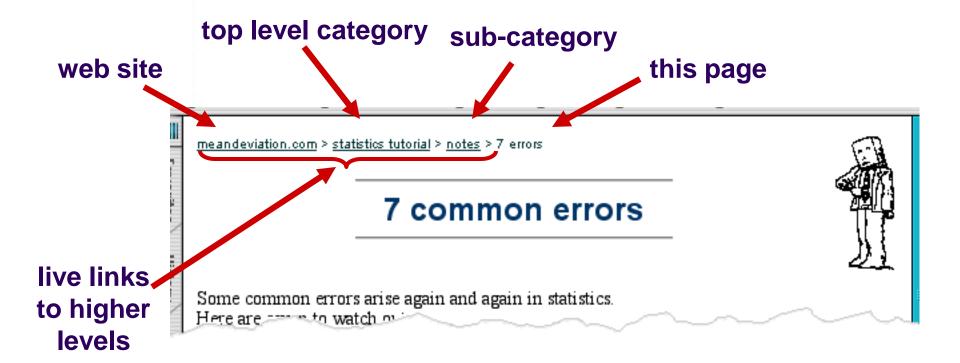


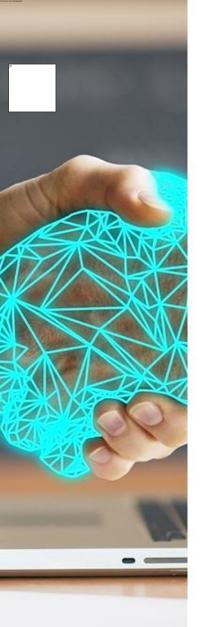


## four golden rules

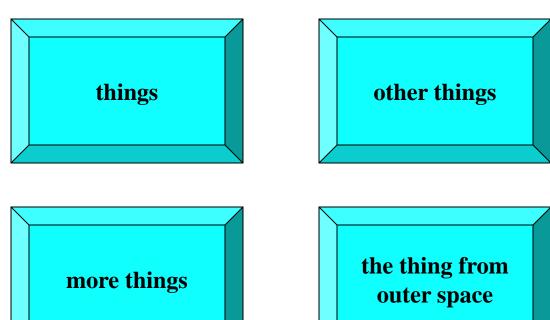
- knowing where you are
- knowing what you can do
- knowing where you are going
  - or what will happen
- knowing where you've been
  - or what you've done

# where you are – breadcrumbs shows path through web site hierarchy

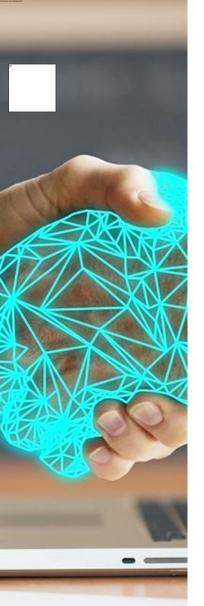




## beware the big button trap



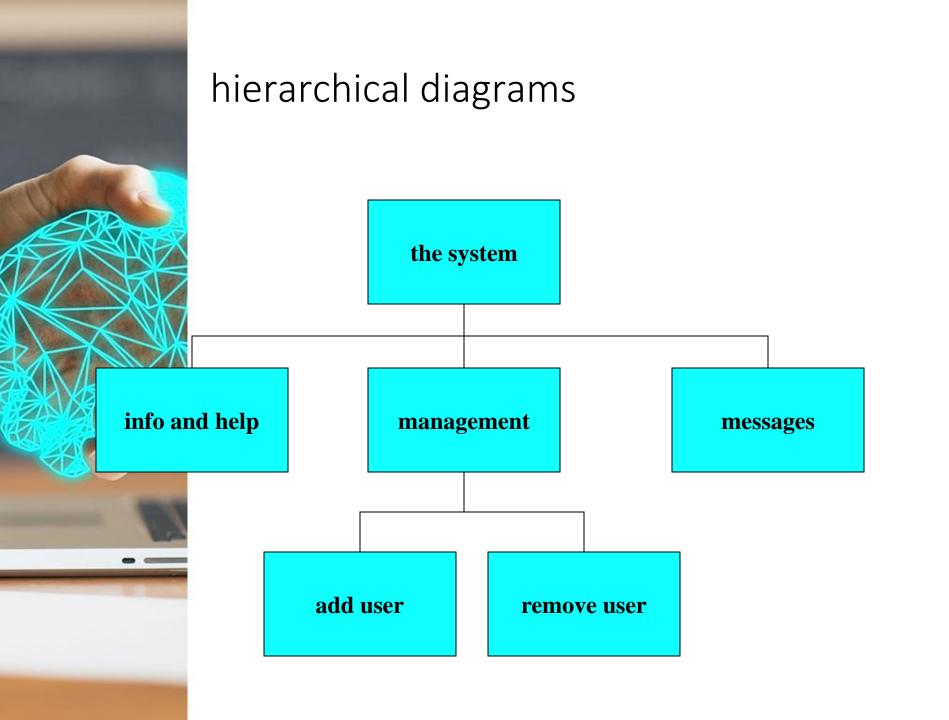
- where do they go?
  - lots of room for extra text!

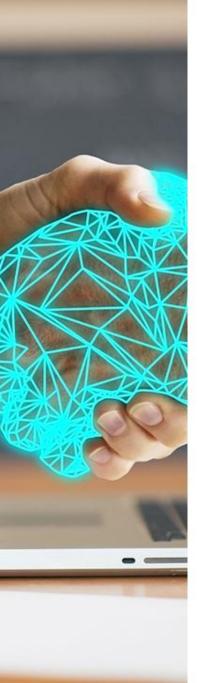


#### modes

- lock to prevent accidental use ...
  - remove lock 'c' + 'yes' to confirm
  - frequent practiced action
- if lock forgotten
  - in pocket 'yes' gets pressed
  - goes to phone book
  - in phone book ...
    'c' delete entry
    'yes' confirm
    ... oops!

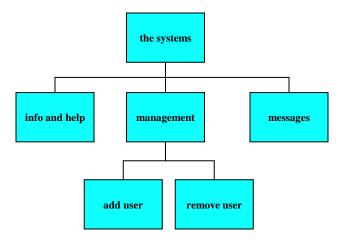


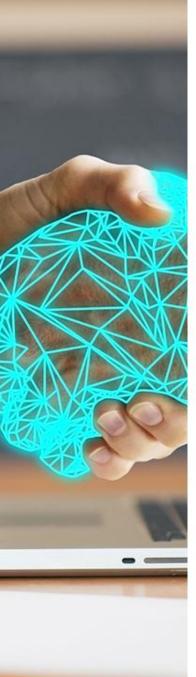




## hierarchical diagrams ctd.

- parts of application
  - screens or groups of screens
- typically functional separation

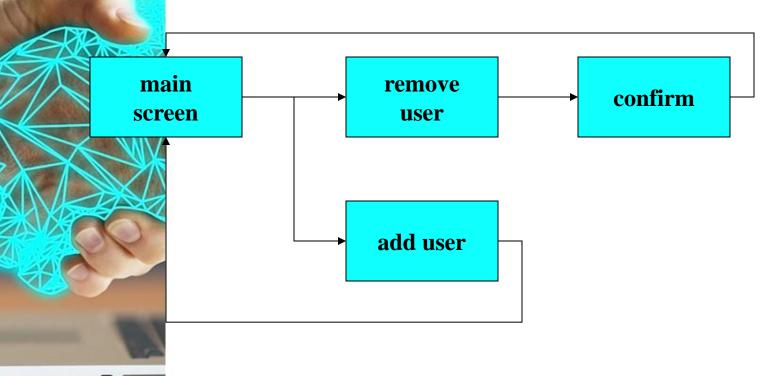




## navigating hierarchies

- deep is difficult!
- misuse of Miller's 7 ± 2
  - short term memory, not menu size
- optimal?
  - many items on each screen
  - but structured within screen

## network diagrams

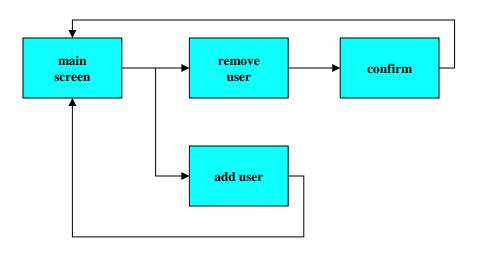


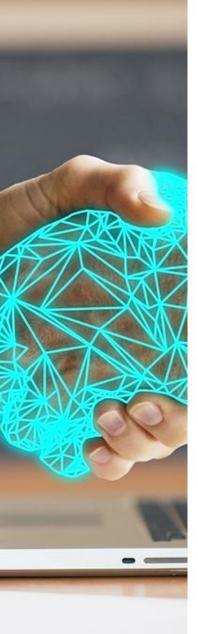
show different paths through system



## network diagrams ctd.

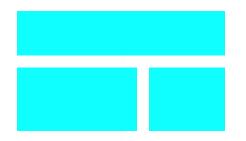
- what leads to what
- what happens when
- including branches
- more task oriented then hierarchy





#### wider still ...

- style issues:
  - platform standards, consistency
- functional issues
  - cut and paste
- navigation issues
  - embedded applications
  - links to other apps ... the web

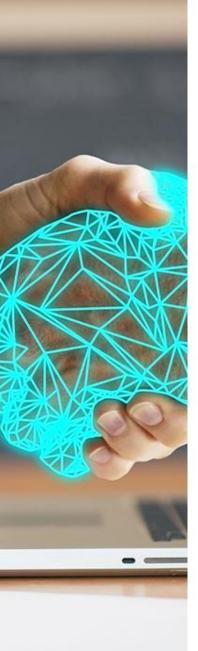


Dix , Alan Finlay, Janet Abowd, Gregory Beale, Russell

# screen design and layout

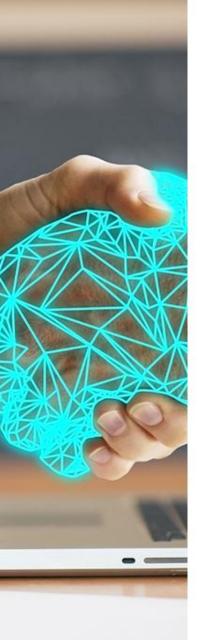
basic principles
grouping, structure, order
alignment
use of white space





# basic principles

- ask
- what is the user doing?
- think
  - what information, comparisons, order
- design
  - form follows function



#### available tools

- grouping of items
- order of items
- decoration fonts, boxes etc.
- alignment of items
- white space between items



# grouping and structure

logically together  $\Rightarrow$  physically together

**Billing details:** 

Name

Address: ...

Credit card no

**Delivery details:** 

Name

Address: ...

**Delivery time** 

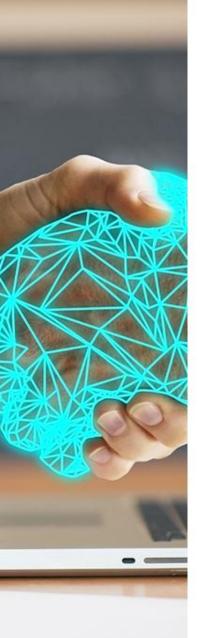
**Order details:** 

item

size 10 screws (boxes)

quantity cost/item cost

3.71 25.97



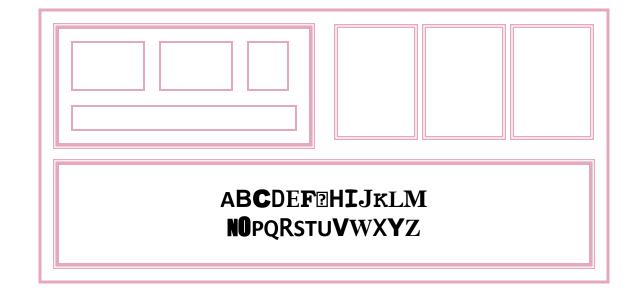
# order of groups and items

- think! what is natural order
- should match screen order!
  - use boxes, space etc.
  - set up tabbing right!
- instructions
  - beware the cake recipie syndrome!
     ... mix milk and flour, add the fruit after beating them



#### decoration

- use boxes to group logical items
- use fonts for emphasis, headings
- but not too many!!



### alignment - text

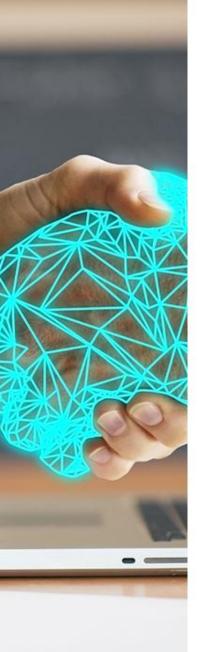
you read from left to right (English and European)
 ⇒ align left hand side

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
Winston Churchill - A Biography
Wizard of Oz
Xena - Warrior Princess

boring but readable!

fine for special effects but hard to scan

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
Winston Churchill - A Biography
Wizard of Oz
Xena - Warrior Princess



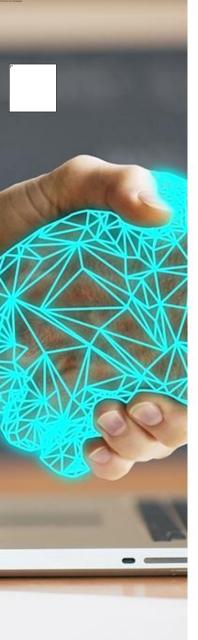
# alignment - names

Usually scanning for surnames ⇒ make it easy!

Alan Dix Janet Finlay Gregory Abowd Russell Beale

Dix , Alan Finlay, Janet Abowd, Gregory Beale, Russell

Alan Jix
Janet Finlay
Gregory Abowd
Russell Beale

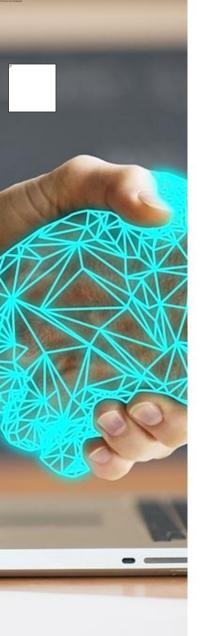


# alignment - numbers

think purpose!

which is biggest?

532.56 179.3 256.317 **15** 73.948 1035 3.142 497.6256



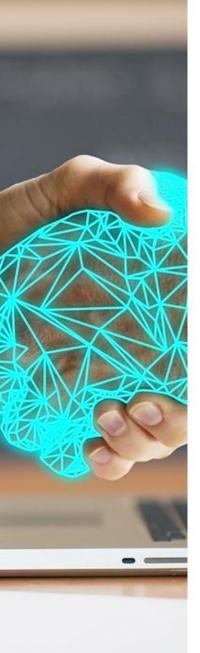
### alignment - numbers

visually:

long number = big number

align decimal points or right align integers

627.865 1.005763 382.583 2502.56 432.935 2.0175 652.87 56.34

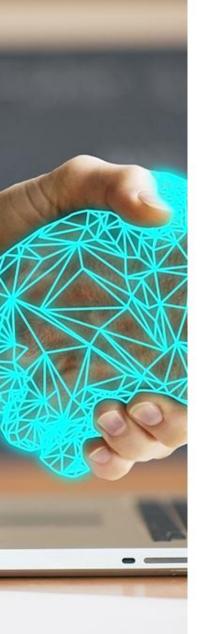


## multiple columns

scanning across gaps hard:

 (often hard to avoid with large data base fields)

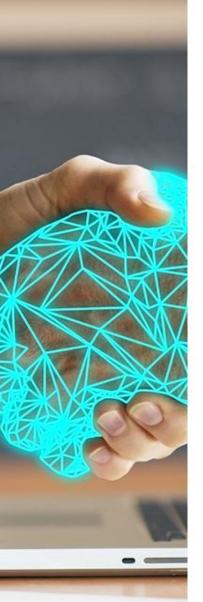
sherbert75toffee120chocolate35fruit gums27coconut dreams85



# multiple columns - 2

use leaders

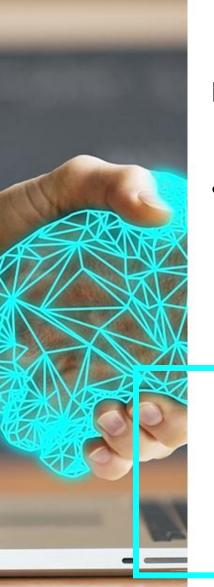
sherbert	<b>75</b>
toffee1	20
chocolate	<b>35</b>
fruit gums	<b>27</b>
coconut dreams	85



# multiple columns - 3

or greying (vertical too)

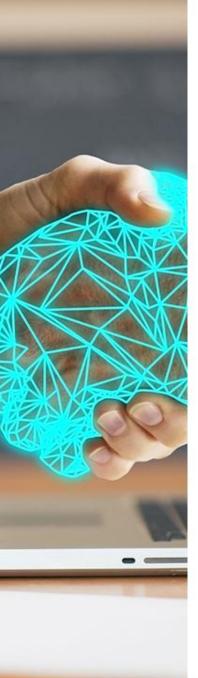
sherbert	<b>75</b>
toffee	120
chocolate	35
fruit gums	27
coconut dreams	85



# multiple columns - 4

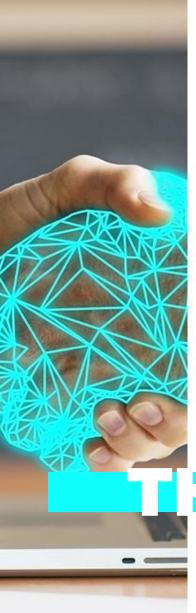
or even (with care!) 'bad' alignment

sherbert 75
toffee 120
chocolate 35
fruit gums 27
coconut dreams 85



white space - the counter

# WHAT YOU SEE

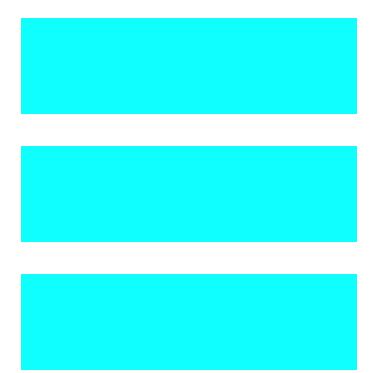


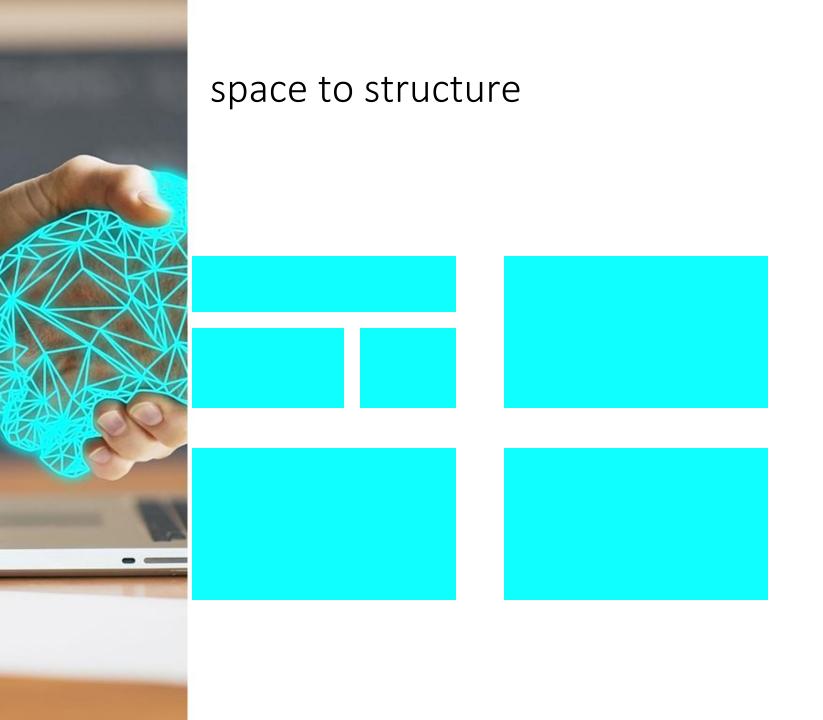
white space - the counter

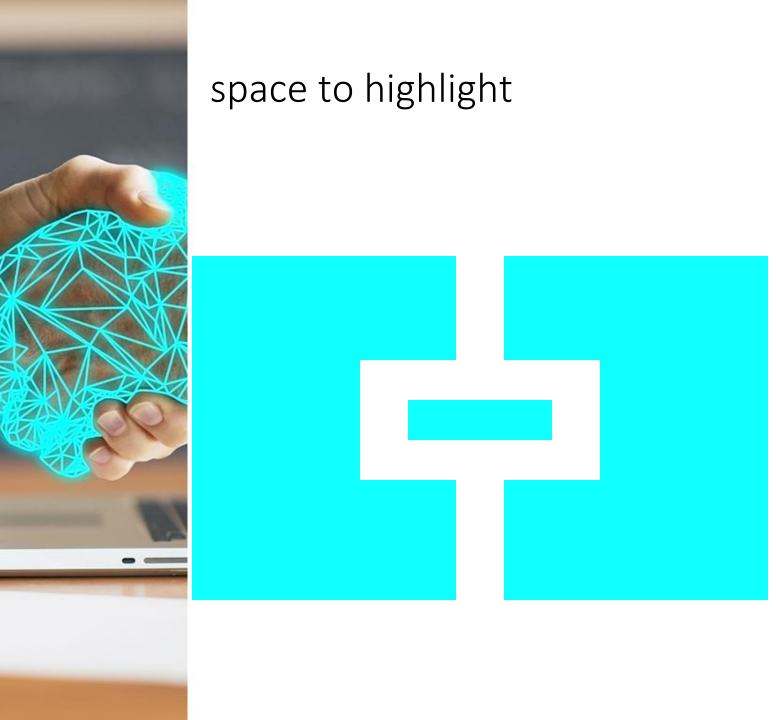
# WHAT YOU SEE



# space to separate







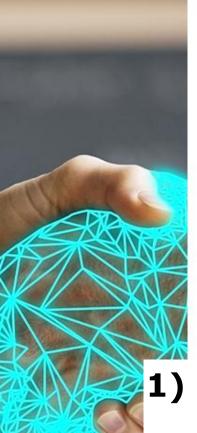
- grouping of items
  - defrost settings
  - type of food
  - time to cook

defrost settings

type of food

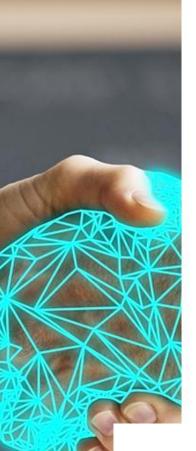
time to cook





- grouping of items
- order of items
  - 1) type of heating
- 1) type of heatingure
- 2) temperature ook
- 3) time to cook
- 4) start



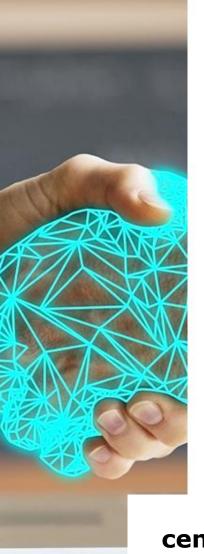


- grouping of items
- order of items
- decoration
  - different colours

different colours for different functions

lines around related buttons (temp up/down)



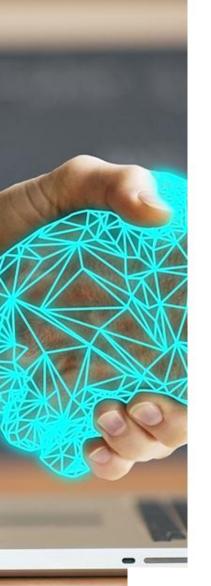


- grouping of items
- order of items
- decoration
- alignment
  - centered text in buttons

centred text in buttons

? easy to scan?

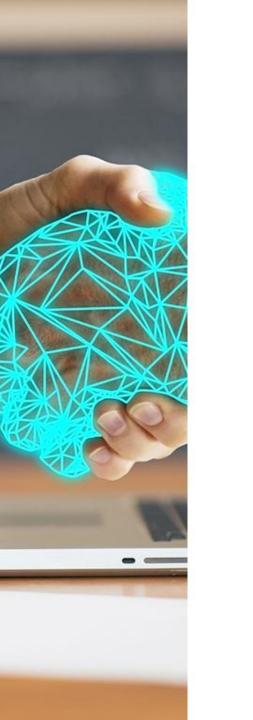




- grouping of items
- order of items
- decoration
- alignment
- white space
  - gaps to aid grouping

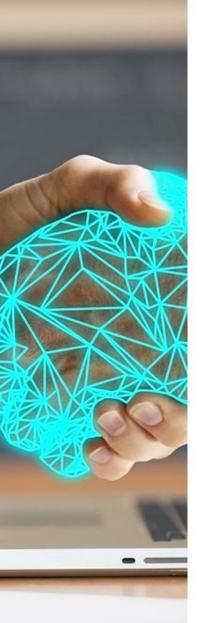
gaps to aid grouping







entering information knowing what to do affordances



# entering information

- forms, dialogue boxes
  - presentation + data input
  - similar layout issues
  - alignment N.B. different label length

Name: Alan Dix
Address: Lancaster

Name: Alan Dix
Addre: : Lancaster

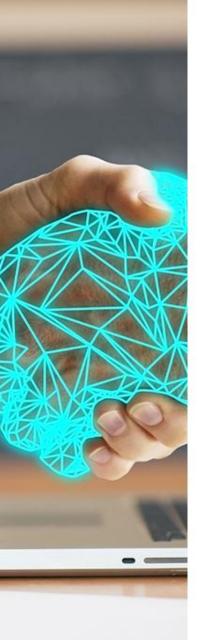
Name:

Address:

Alan Dix

**⊥**ancaster

- logical layout
  - use task analysis (ch15)
  - groupings
  - natural order for entering information
    - top-bottom, left-right (depending on culture)
    - set tab order for keyboard entry



#### affordances

- psychological term
- for physical objects
  - shape and size suggest act
    - pick up, twist, throw
  - also cultural buttons 'afford' pushing
- for screen objects
  - button–like object 'affords' mouse click
  - physical-like objects suggest use
- culture of computer use
  - icons 'afford' clicking
  - or even double clicking ... not like real buttons!



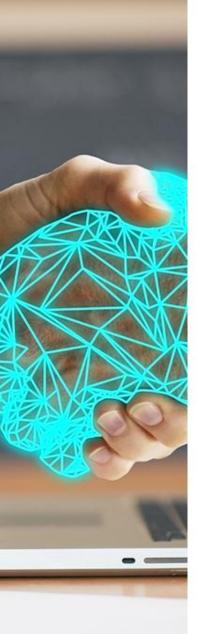
mug handle

'affords' grasping





presenting information
aesthetics and utility
colour and 3D
localisation & internationalisation



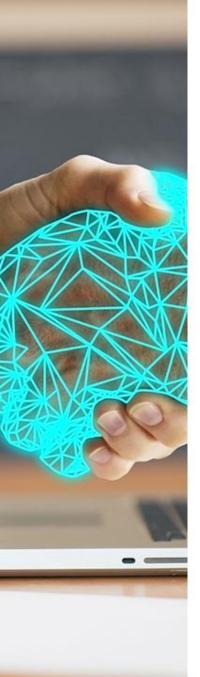
### presenting information

- purpose matters
  - sort order (which column, numeric alphabetic)
  - text vs. diagram
  - scatter graph vs. histogram
- use paper presentation principles!
- but add interactivity
  - softens design choices
    - e.g. re-ordering columns
    - 'dancing histograms' (chap 21)

name	size
chap10	12
chap5	16
chap1	17
chap14	22
chap20	27
chap8	32

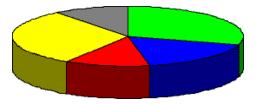
# aesthetics and utility

- aesthetically pleasing designs
  - increase user satisfaction and improve productivity
- beauty and utility may conflict
  - mixed up visual styles ⇒ easy to distinguish
  - clean design − little differentiation ⇒ confusing.
  - backgrounds behind text
    - ... good to look at, but hard to read
- but can work together
  - e.g. the design of the counter
  - in consumer products key differentiator (e.g. iMac)



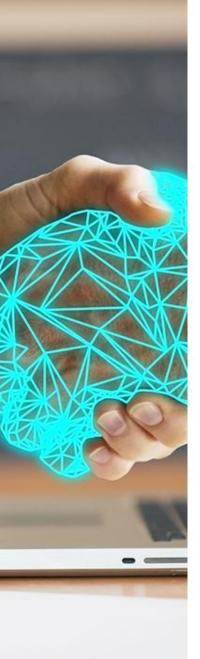
#### colour and 3D

- both often used very badly!
- colour
  - older monitors limited palette
  - colour over used because 'it is there'
  - beware colour blind!
  - use sparingly to reinforce other information
- 3D effects
  - good for physical information and some graphs
  - but if over used ...e.g. text in perspective!! 3D pie charts



# bad use of colour

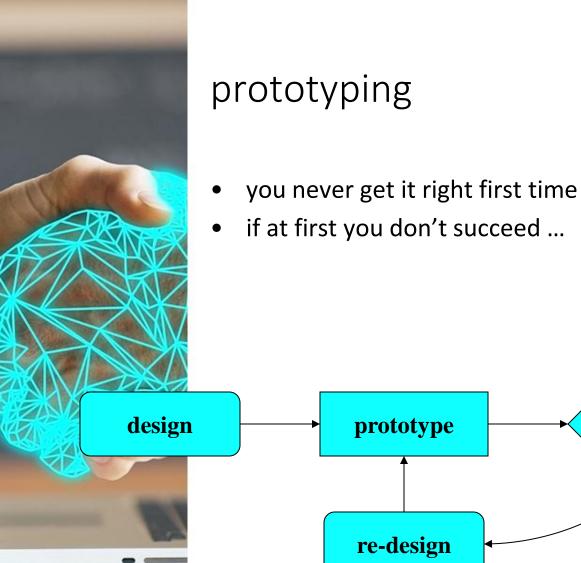
- over use without very good reason (e.g. kids' site)
- colour blindness
- poor use of contrast
- OVER USE without very good reason (e.g. kids' site)
- colour blindness
- poor use of contrast
- do adjust your set!
  - adjust your monitor to greys only
  - can you still read your screen?



#### across countries and cultures

- localisation & internationalisation
  - changing interfaces for particular cultures/languages
- globalisation
  - try to choose symbols etc. that work everywhere
- simply change language?
  - use 'resource' database instead of literal text
     but changes sizes, left-right order etc.
- deeper issues
  - cultural assumptions and values
  - meanings of symbols
     e.g tick and cross ... +ve and -ve in some cultures
     ... but ... mean the same thing (mark this) in others





OK?

evaluate

→ done!

# pitfalls of prototyping

- moving little by little ... but to where
- Malverns or the Matterhorn?

- 1. need a good start point
- 2. need to understand what is wrong