

HTA is a hierarchical task analysis that provides an understanding of the tasks that the users need to perform to achieve certain goals. When designing a new system, hierarchical task analysis lets you explore various possible approaches to completing the same task.

When analyzing an existing system, it can help you to optimize particular interactions. Once the hierarchical task analysis has been created, it can serve as an effective form of system documentation, enabling developers to rapidly understand how users interact with a system.

HTA consist of two parts one is hierarchy description where the approaches are described step by step and another is plans which gives how and how many ways the approaches could be done.

For example, lets create an HTA of cleaning a room

HTA descriptions

0. in order to clean the house
 1. bring the vacuum cleaner
 2. bring other appropriate attachment
 3. clean the room
 - 3.1. clean the bed sides
 - 3.2. clean the table sides
 - 3.3. clean the clean the other sides
 4. empty the dust bag
 - 4.1. some task
 - 4.2. some other task
 5. put vacuum cleaner and attachments away

Plans

Plan 0:

- do 1 - 2 - 3 - 5 in that order. when the dust bag gets full do 4

Plan 3:

- do any of 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3 in any order depending on which rooms need cleaning

Plan 4:

- do 4.1 or 4.2 in any order