Evaluation

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Overview

- What is evaluation?
- Goals of evaluation
- Formative vs. Summative evaluation
- Evaluation methods
 - Empirical
 - Predictive
 - Heuristic Evaluation
 - Schneiderman's 8 Golden Rules
 - Cognitive Walkthrough
- DECIDE framework

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Evaluation

Gather data about the usability of a design for a particular activity by a specified group of users within a specified environment

Goals of Evaluation

- Assess extent of system's functionality
- Assess effect of interface on user
- Identify specific problems with system

Formative vs. Summative

- Formative evaluation
 - As project is forming
 - All through the lifecycle
 - Early, continuous. Iterative
 - "Evaluating the design"
- Summative evaluation
 - After a system has been finished
 - Make judgments about final item
 - "Evaluating the implementation"

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Multiple ways to evaluate

Empirical Assess with real users

Formal Models and formulas to calculate measures

Automated Software measures

Predictive/Critique Expertise and heuristic feedback

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Some Evaluation Methods

- Empirical evaluation
 - Lab studies
 - Field studies
 - "Think Aloud"
- Predictive evaluation
 - Heuristic Evaluation
 - Cognitive Walkthrough
 - Pluralistic Walkthrough (not covered)

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Empirical Evaluation

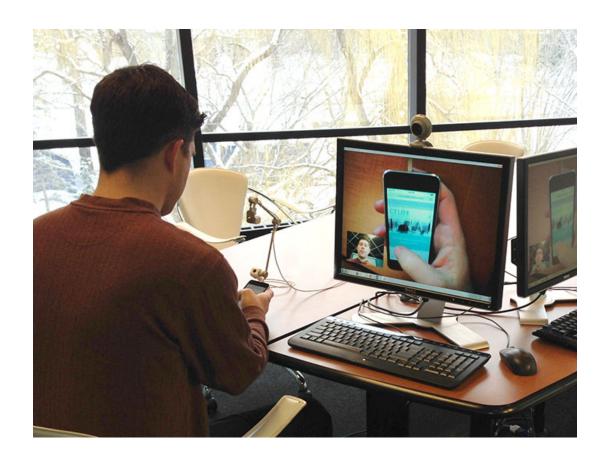
- Verifiable or provable by means of observation or experiment (based on empirical evidence)
- Qualitative or Quantitative
- Conducted with real users
- Earlier in the design process: testing paper prototypes in the lab
- Later in the design process: Field studies, out in the wild, usability testing

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Empirical Evaluation

Lab studies (quantitative results)

- Typically in a closed, lab setting
- Manipulate independent variables to see effect on dependent variables
- Compare experimental group with the control group
- E.g. new UI vs. existing UI
- Pros: Replicable
- Cons: Expensive, requires real users and lab



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Empirical Evaluation

Field studies (qualitative results)

- Observation occurs in "real life "setting
- Natural environment
- Watch process over time
- Pros:
 - "Ecologically valid"
 - Cheap, quick, less training required
- Cons:
 - Not reproducible; user-specific results
 - Not quantitative (how much better is it...?)



User Tasks

- Give user some tasks to complete
 - Tasks related to objectives/goals
 - Objective may have one or more tasks
- Tasks have a description
 - Task user needs to complete
 - Input and expected output
 - Normally included on an information sheet
- Decide on measures and questions
 - Measures to be made during the task: what to measure, how to measure?
 - Time taken to complete the task
 - Number of errors made
 - Number of users completing the task successfully
 - Number of time users had to see information sheet to complete the task

Think Aloud Protocol

- Ask users to think aloud while completing the tasks
 - Speak loud the steps to complete the tasks
 - Speak up any issues they are facing
 - Speak about confusion they are encountering
- Evaluator role:
 - Conduct observation of the user
 - Take notes
 - E.g. of problems faced, confusion and types of errors made
 - Record video or audio
 - Analyze data later

Useful to know what users are thinking, while the task is being completed

Think Aloud Protocol

- May need to facilitate user responsiveness
- Possible prompts:
 - "Tell me what you are thinking."
 - "Tell me what you are trying to do."
 - "Are you looking for something? What?"
 - "What did you expect to happen just now?"
 - "What do you mean by that?"

Do not help users to do the tasks or give solutions. Want to understand the problems and issues users are facing.



Think Aloud Usability Test

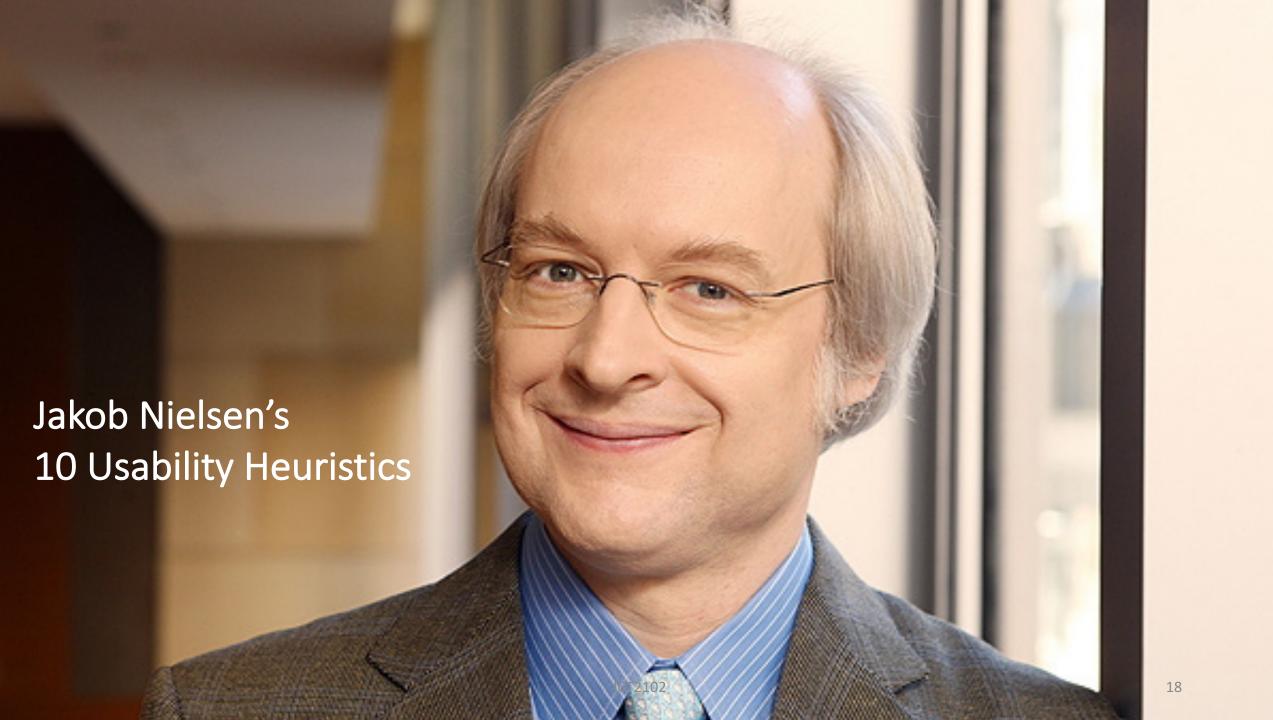
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrU5pLGs3JQ
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-h8hUtwkMCE

Predictive Evaluation

- Conducted with expert reviewers in the field
- HCl experts (<u>not</u> real users) interact with the system, find potential problems, and give prescriptive feedback
- Works best if they:
 - Haven't used earlier prototype
 - Are familiar with domain or task
 - Understand user perspectives

Predictive Evaluation Methods

- Heuristic Evaluation
- Cognitive Walkthrough
- Many other methods



Heuristic Evaluation

- Developed by Jakob Nielsen in the early 1990s
- Heuristics are developed based on broad "rules of thumb"
- Small set (3-5) expert usability evaluators assess system based on simple and general heuristics (principles or rules of thumb)
 - independently check for compliance with usability principles ("heuristics")
 - different evaluators will find different problems
 - evaluators only communicate afterwards
 - findings are then aggregated
 - Can perform on working UI or sketches
- http://www.nngroup.com/articles/ten-usability-heuristics/

Ten Usability Heuristics

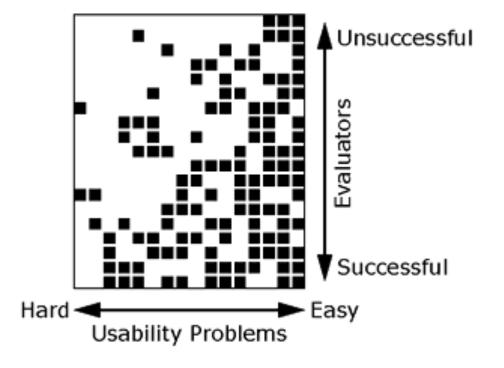
- Visibility of system status
- Familiar metaphors & language
- User Control & freedom
- Consistency
- Error prevention
- Recognition over recall
- Flexibility & efficiency
- Aesthetic & minimalist design
- Recognize, diagnose, & recover from errors
- Help

Evaluators' Process

- Step through design several times
 - Examine details, flow, and architecture
 - Consult list of usability principles
 - ..and anything else that comes to mind
- Evaluate against heuristics
 - Nielsen's "heuristics"
 - Category-specific heuristics
 - e.g., design goals, competitive analysis, existing designs
- Use violations to redesign/fix problems

Multiple Evaluators

- No evaluator finds everything
- Some find more than others
- Single evaluator achieves poor results
 - Only finds 35% of usability problems
- 5 evaluators find ~ 75% of problems



Phases of Heuristic Evaluation

1. Pre-evaluation training

• Give evaluators needed domain knowledge and information on the scenario

2. Evaluation

Individuals evaluate and then aggregate results

3. Severity rating

 Determine how severe each problem is (priority). Can do first individually and then as a group

4. Debriefing

Review with design team

How to perform heuristic evaluation

- At least two passes for each evaluator
 - first to get feel for flow and scope of system
 - second to focus on specific elements
- If system is walk-up-and-use or evaluators are domain experts, no assistance needed
 - otherwise might supply evaluators with scenarios
- Each evaluator produces list of problems
 - explain why with reference to heuristic or other information
 - be specific & list each problem separately

How to perform heuristic evaluation

- Why separate listings for each violation?
 - risk of repeating problematic aspect
 - may not be possible to fix all problems
- Where problems may be found
 - single location in UI
 - two or more locations that need to be compared
 - problem with overall structure of UI
 - something that is missing
 - common problem with paper prototypes
 - note: sometimes features are implied by design docs and just haven't been "implemented" – relax on those

Severity Rating

- Independently estimate after review
- Allocate resources to fix problems
- Estimate need for more usability efforts
- Severity combines:
 - Frequency: how common?
 - Impact: how hard to overcome?
 - Persistence: how often to overcome?

Severity Ratings

- 0 don't agree that this is a usability problem
- 1 cosmetic problem
- 2 minor usability problem
- 3 major usability problem; important to fix
- 4 usability catastrophe; imperative to fix

Severity Ratings Example

1. [H1-4 Consistency] [Severity 3][Fix 0]

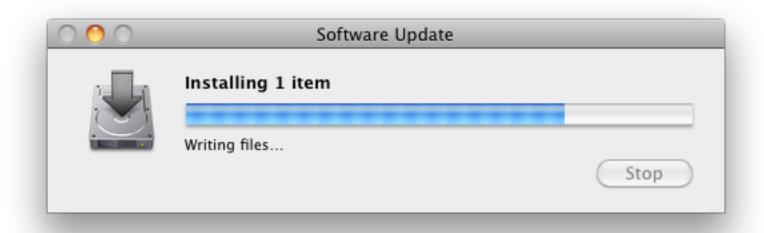
The interface used the string "Save" on the first screen for saving the user's file, but used the string "Write file" on the second screen. Users may be confused by this different terminology for the same function.

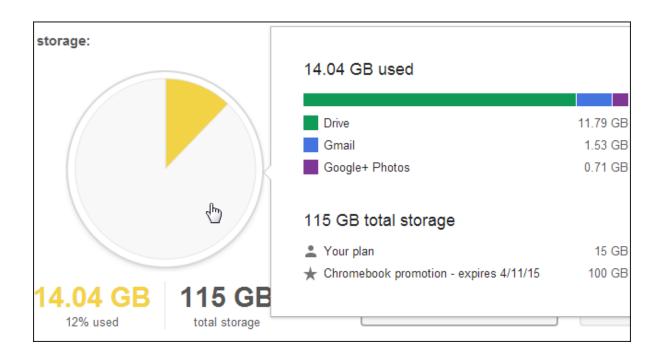
Debriefing

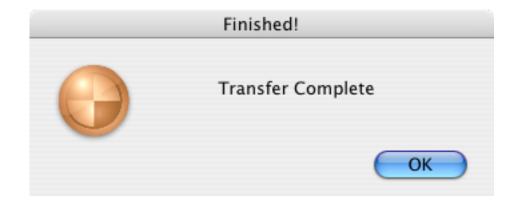
- Conduct with evaluators, observers, and development team members
- Discuss general characteristics of UI
- Suggest potential improvements to address major usability problems
- Development team rates effort to fix
- Brainstorm solutions

1/10 Visibility of system status

- Feedback of system's current state
- Page is loading, error loading page, something saved or deleted
- Show completion and what to do next

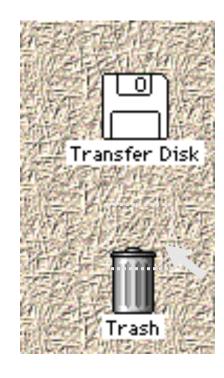




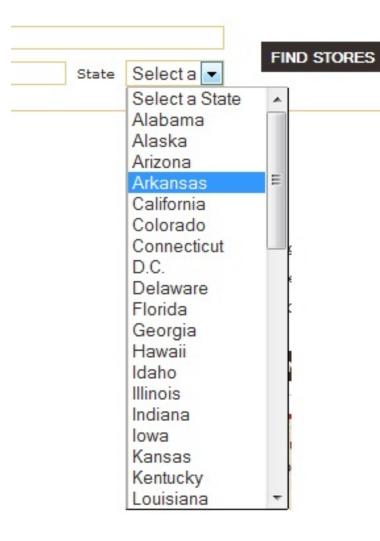


2/10 Familiar metaphors & language

- Match between system and real world
- Follow real world conventions
- Speak the user's language
- Familiar categories, language and choices
- Familiar components and widgets



Old Mac Desktop: Dragging disk to trash should delete it, not *eject* it





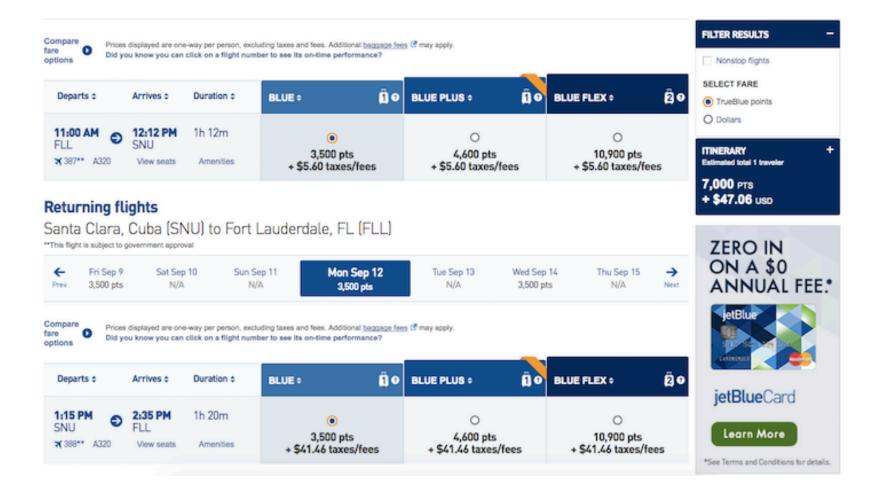


3/10 User control and freedom

- Freedom to undo, explore and change choices
- "Exits" for mistaken choices
- Exploration of data or options
- Multiple methods of doing the same thing
- Do tasks the way they like

← FEB	MARCH ▼					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	25	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	\$194 OHE-WAY/PP	\$194 ONE-WAY/PP	13 \$194 ONE-WAY/PP	\$139 ONE-WAY/PP	\$139 ONE-WAY/PP
\$139 ONE-WAY/PP	17 \$139 ONE-WAY/PP	18 \$49 ONE-WAY/PP	19 \$49 ONE-WAY/PP	\$ 84 ONE-WAY/PP	\$139 ONE-WAY/PP	\$104 OME-WAY/PP
\$124 ONE-WAY/PP	\$104 ONE-WAY/PP	FROM \$49 ONE-WAY/PP	\$49 ONE-WAY/PP	\$49 ONE-WAY/PP	\$89 ONE-WAY/PP	\$79 ONE-WAY/PP
\$124 ONE-WAY/PP	\$69 ONE-WAY/PP	1	2	3	4	5



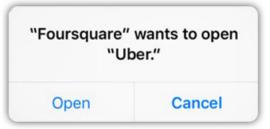


4/10 Consistency

- Consistent layout
- Standard locations and positions
 - Same language, placement etc. everywhere
 - Follow platform conventions
- Same terminology is used
- Same structure on all webpages
 - E.g. submit button at the bottom after filling out information

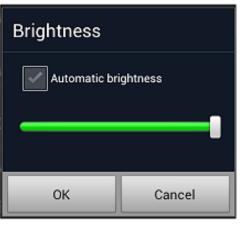






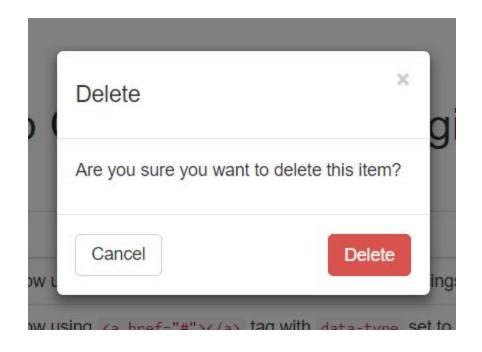
iOS uses action priority rather than static button order

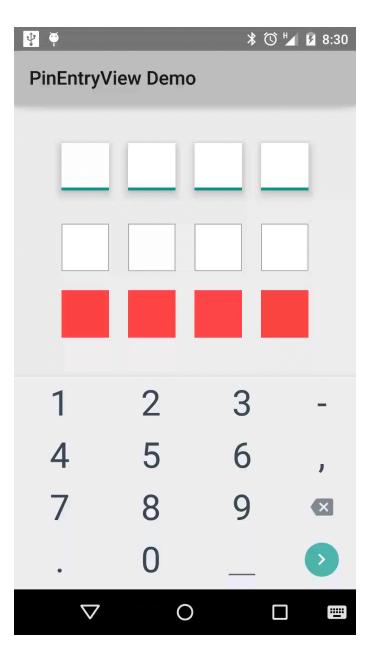




5/10 Error prevention

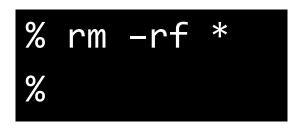
- Prevent data loss
 - e.g. Confirmation dialog before deleting an item
- Prevent bad input
 - e.g. restrict to numerals if asked to key in mobile number
- Prevent misinterpretation of the message
 - e.g. User entered text in the field when entering their mobile number. The system also displays errors about compulsory fields not completed, but the problem is with the mobile number input

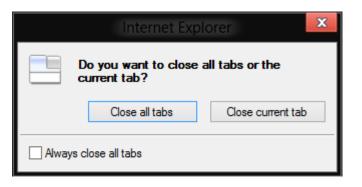


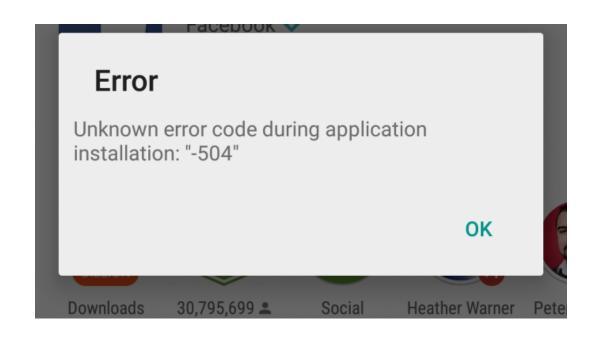


6/10 Recognition over recall

- Make objects, actions, options, & directions visible/easily retrievable
- Show users previews e.g. images, results
- Do not use codes
- Icons to click rather than type the text





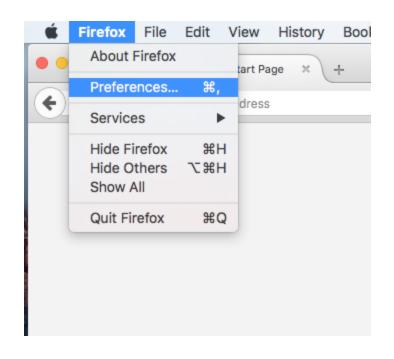




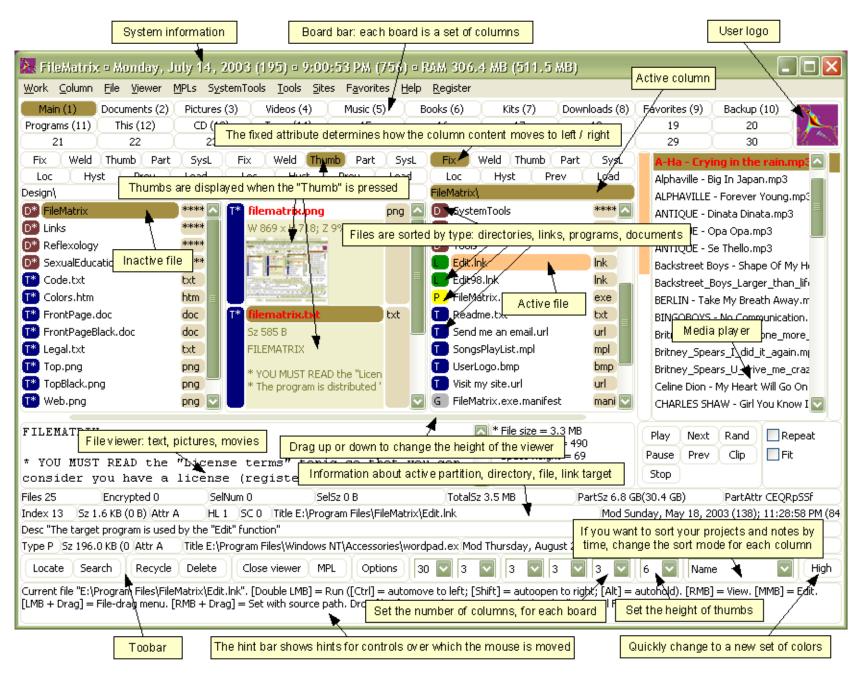
7/10 Flexibility & efficiency

- Flexible shortcuts
 - accelerators for experts (e.g., gestures, kb shortcuts)
 - allow users to tailor frequent actions (e.g., macros)
- Defaults with options
- Recommendations and relevant items



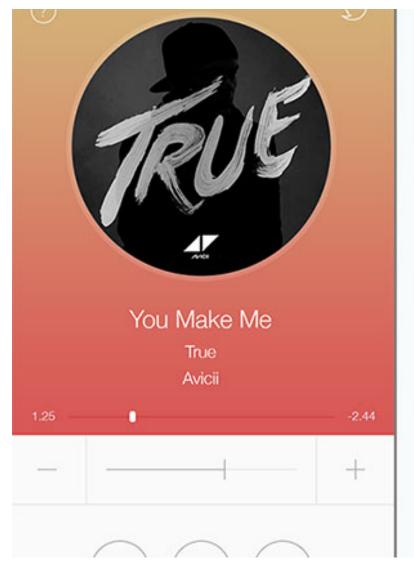


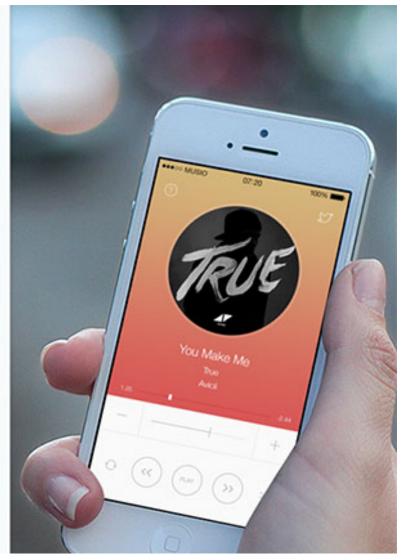


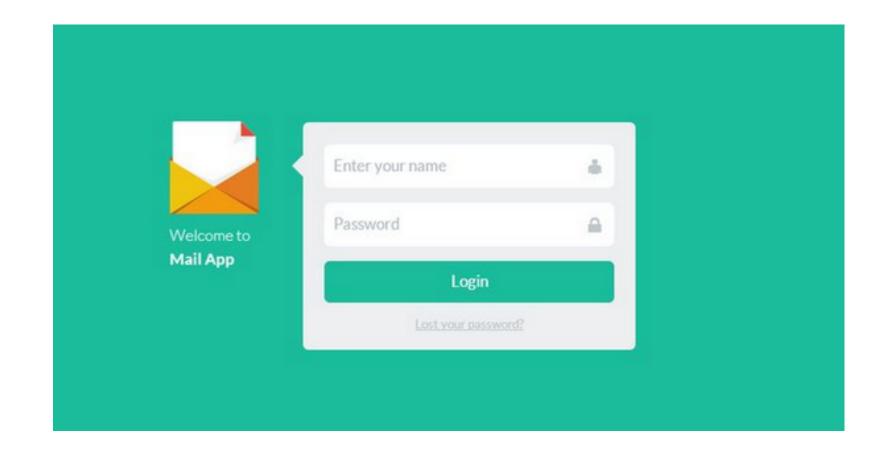


8/10 Aesthetic & minimalist design

- Clean and uncluttered interface
- Eliminate redundant information, only leave what has to be there
- No irrelevant information in dialogs







Note: I live inside this website Monday to Friday 9am-6pm, to give you the very best service and make your experience a happy one! - I am Ling, accept no substitutes





INFORMATION - have a think

ACTION - have a go!







CREDIT CHECK?

DIY, free, HERE

Step P/X by step guide









FREE CASH

blatant bribery

























feed-Wah!



non-franchised 2008





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MORE INFO £169.99/month (plus VAT)













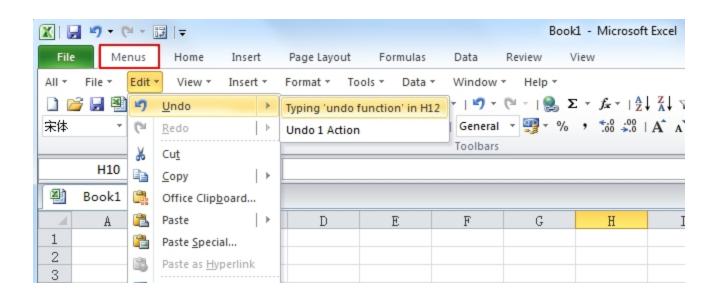
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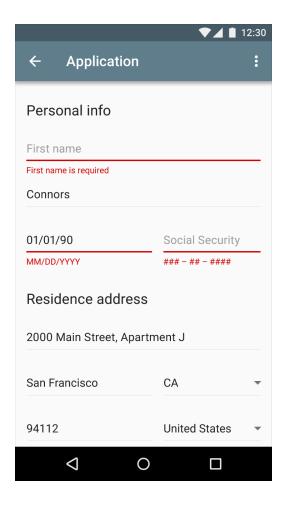


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9/10 Recognize, diagnose, & recover from errors

- Clearly state the problem, provide a solution and how to address the problem
 - E.g. Created a password with 8 characters, but system requires at least 1 special character and 1 numeral. Error message should state the requirements, so the user can fix the error
 - E.g. Did not fill all the fields while registering for an account. Error message should highlight the fields which have not been filled





10/10 Help

- Provide more information and clarify, show steps and what to do next
 - easy to search
 - focused on the user's task
 - list concrete steps to carry out
- E.g. press (?) beside a field, popup will tell you what the field is about, and what you should enter
- E.g. Help text on social networking websites for users to understand the consequences of certain things – upload photos, change privacy settings, who can see your posts etc.

Phone Details
IMEI Code:
PAC Code:
Phone Details
IMEI Code:
Explanation of IMEI Code
The International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number is a unique 15-digit code used to identify an individual GSM mobile telephone. The number can be found on most mobiles by typing in *#06#. If this combination doesn't work on your mobile phone, please call our support centre on +44 (0) 1252 xxxx xxx.
Back to IMEI input field.
PAC Code:

Cost-effectiveness of Heuristic Evaluations

- In one case: benefit-cost ratio of 48
 - estimated benefit \$500,000; cost \$10,500
 - value of each problem ~\$15K
- How to calculate this value?
 - in-house -> productivity
 - open market -> sales
- Severe problems found more often

Heuristics vs. User Testing

- Heuristic evaluation often faster
 - 1-2 hours for each evaluator
- Heuristic evaluation results come pre-interpreted
- User testing is more accurate (by definition)
 - Takes into account actual users and tasks
 - Heuristic evaluation may miss problems & find "false positives"
- Valuable to alternate methods
 - Find different problems
 - Don't waste participants

Shneiderman's 8 Golden Rules

- 1. Consistency
- 2. Shortcuts
- 3. Feedback
- 4. Dialog closure
- 5. Simple error handling
- 6. Reversible actions
- 7. Put user in control
- 8. Reduce short-term memory load

https://www.cs.umd.edu/users/ben/goldenrules.html

Cognitive Walkthrough

- Assess learnability and usability through simulation of the way users explore and become familiar with interactive system
- Essentially a usability "thought experiment"
- Like code walkthrough in software engineering
- Polson, Lewis, et al. at UC Boulder (2002)

Cognitive Walkthrough Process

- Construct carefully designed tasks from system spec or screen mockup
- Walk through (cognitive & operational) activities required to go from one screen to another
- Review actions needed for task, attempt to predict how users would behave and what problems they'll encounter

Cognitive Walkthrough Requirements

- Description of users and their backgrounds
- Description of task user is to perform
- Complete list of the actions required to complete task
- Prototype or description of system

Cognitive Walkthrough Assumptions

- User has a rough plan (not always true)
- User explores system, looking for actions to contribute to performance
- User selects action that seems best for reaching desired goal
- User interprets response and assesses whether progress has been made toward completing task

Cognitive Walkthrough Methodology

- Step through action sequence
 - Action 1
 - Response A, B, ..
 - Action 2
 - Response A
 - •
- For each one, ask **four questions** and try to construct a believability story

Cognitive Walkthrough 4 Questions

- 1. Will users be trying to produce whatever effect the given action has?
- 2. Will users be able to notice that the correct action is available?
- 3. Once found, will they know it's the right action for the desired effect?
- 4. Will users understand feedback after the action?

- Will user be trying to produce effect?
- Typical supporting evidence
 - It is part of their original task
 - They have experience using the system
 - The system tells them to do it
- No evidence?
 - Construct a failure scenario
 - Explain, back up opinion

- Will user notice the action is available?
- Typical supporting evidence
 - Experience
 - Visible device, such as a button
 - Perceivable representation of an action such as a menu item

- Will user know it's the right action for the desired effect?
- Typical supporting evidence
 - Experience
 - Interface provides a visual item (such as prompt) to connect action to result effect
 - All other actions look wrong

- Will user understand the feedback?
- Typical supporting evidence:
 - Experience
 - Recognize a connection between a system response and what user was trying to do

DECIDE: An Evaluation Framework

Determine the aims and goals

Explore the questions you will ask

Choose the evaluation approach/method

dentify practical issues

Decide how to deal with ethical issues

Evaluate, analyze, interpret and present the data collected

Determine the aims and goals

- What are the high level <u>objectives</u> of the evaluation ?
- Who wants it and why?
- The goals influence the paradigm for the study
- Some examples of goals:
 - Identify the best metaphor to base the design
 - Check to ensure that the final interface is consistent
 - Investigate how technology affects working practices

Explore the questions

- All evaluations need goals & questions to guide them so time is not wasted on ill defined studies
- Questions are based on the goals of the study
- Example: the goal of finding out how many customers prefer to purchase paper airline tickets rather than e-tickets can be broken down into sub-questions:
 - What are the customers' attitudes to these new tickets?
 - Are they concerned about security?
 - Is the interface for obtaining them poor?

Choose the evaluation paradigm & techniques

- An evaluation paradigm is an approach that is influenced by particular theories and philosophies
- The evaluation paradigm strongly influences the techniques used, and how the data is analyzed and presented
- E.g. field studies do not involve testing and modeling

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Identify practical issues

For example, how to:

- Select users
 - where to find subjects?
 - how to contact them?
 - How many subjects do I need?
- Stay on budget
- Staying on schedule
- Find evaluators
- Select equipment

Decide on ethical issues

- Develop an informed consent form
- Participants have a right to:
 - Know the goals of the study
 - What will happen with the findings
 - Privacy of personal information
 - Not to be quoted without their agreement
 - Leave when they wish
 - Be treated politely
- Ethics board (aka Institutional Review Board, IRB)
 - Need permission from ethics committee
 - Review documentation, approve

Evaluate, interpret and present data

- How data is analyzed and presented depends on the paradigm and techniques used
- The following also needs to be considered:
 - Reliability: can the study be replicated?
 - Validity: is it measuring what you thought?
 - Biases: it the process creating biases?
 - Scope: can the findings be generalized?
 - Ecological validity: is the environment of the study influencing it?
 e.g. Hawthorn effect

Summary (1)

- There are many methods for conducting an evaluation, dependent on the stage in the design process and goals and objectives
- Empirical evaluation is verifiable or provable by means of observation or experiment (based on empirical evidence)
- Predictive evaluation methods are conducted with expert reviewers in the field
- A heuristic evaluation makes use of 10 usability "rules of thumb"
- A cognitive walkthrough is a usability evaluation method in which one or more evaluators work through a series of tasks and ask a set of questions from the perspective of the user

Summary (2)

- Many issues to consider before conducting an evaluation study
- Includes the goals of the study, the approaches and methods to use, practical issues, ethical issues, and how the data will be collected, analyzed and presented.
- The DECIDE framework provides a useful checklist for planning an evaluation study

References

- Usability Engineering, by Nielsen, 1994
- http://www.nngroup.com/articles/
- https://www.cs.umd.edu/users/ben/goldenrules.html