User Experience Design

Chapter 2. The Wheel: A Lifecycle Template

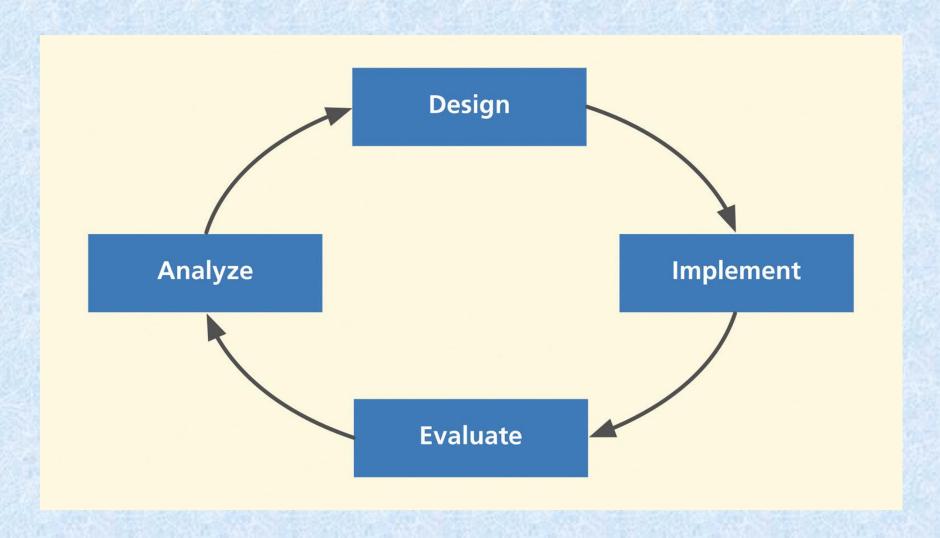
The Wheel

- Iterative, evaluation-centered, UX lifecycle template
- Why need a process?
- Lifecycle is structured framework consisting of a series of stages and corresponding activities
- Iteration: All or part repeated for purpose of exploring, fixing, or refining design

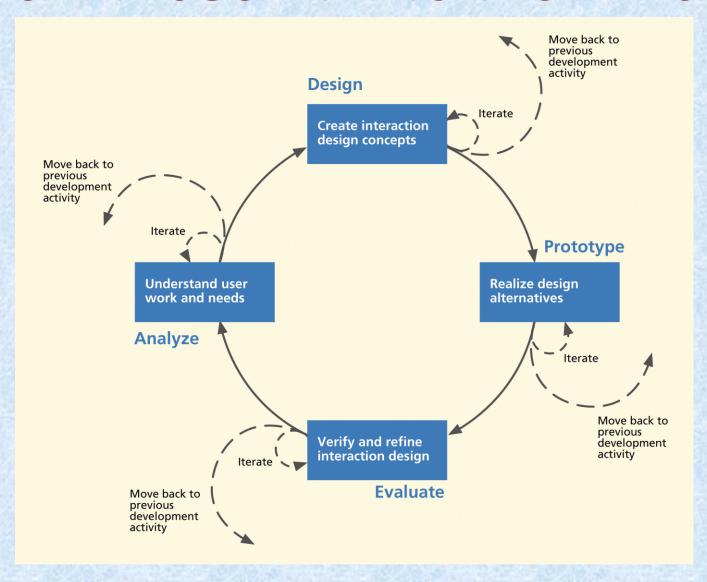
The Wheel

- Characterizes course of evolution of an interaction design
- Template: a skeleton of development activities that must be instantiated within each project
 - Based on project resources, goals

Four basic abstract activities



How these fit into the Wheel



Analyze

- Understanding work/play domain, user work, and user needs
 - Chapter 3: Contextual inquiry
 - Chapter 4: Contextual analysis
 - Chapter 5: Extracting requirements
 - Chapter 6: Synthesizing design-informing models

Design

- Creating conceptual design, interaction behavior, and look and feel
 - Chapter 7: Design thinking, ideation, and sketching
 - Chapter 8: Mental models and conceptual design
 - Chapter 9: Design production

- Prototype
 - Realizing design alternatives
 - Chapter 11

Evaluate

- Verifying and refining interaction design
 - Fully rigorous methods: Chapters 12, 14-17
 - Rapid evaluation methods: Chapter 13

Flow among activities for UX

- Activities can iterate, overlap
- Process managed with activity transition criteria
- Main goal: Move forward to production

Managing progress within lifecycle

- Team must be able to decide:
 - When to leave an activity
 - Where to go after any given activity
 - When to revisit a previous process activity

Managing progress within lifecycle

- Team must be able to decide:
 - When to stop making transitions and proceed to production
 - Answers depend on transition criterion at end of each process activity
 - Based on whether designers have met goals and objectives for current iteration

Managing progress within lifecycle

- Resources limits
 - Especially time and budget
 - Can trump other criteria for stopping process

Project parameters influence choice of process

- Tolerance for risk
 - Of things going wrong
 - Of features or requirements being missing
 - Of not meeting needs of users
- The less tolerance for risks—the more need for rigor and completeness in process

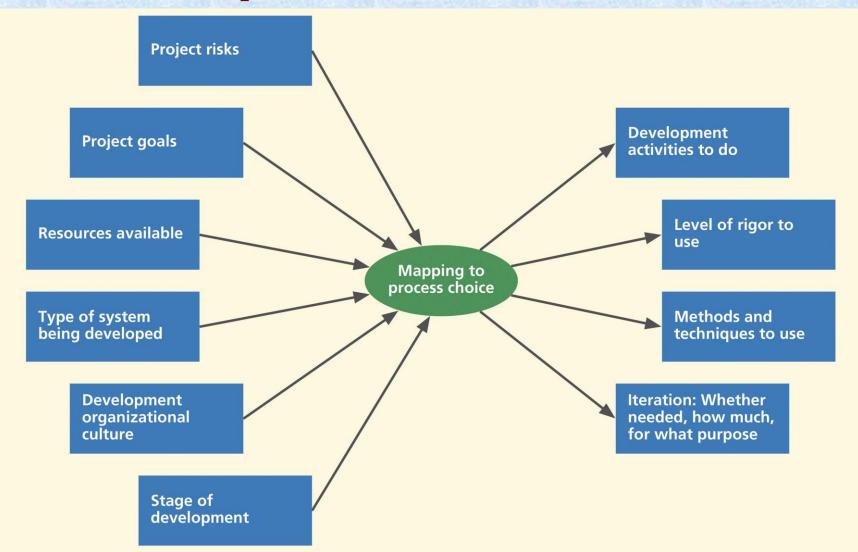
Project parameters influence choice of process

- Project goals: goal-oriented process choices
- Project resources: budget, schedule, person power, skills (people with extensive experience and maturity need less rigorous process)

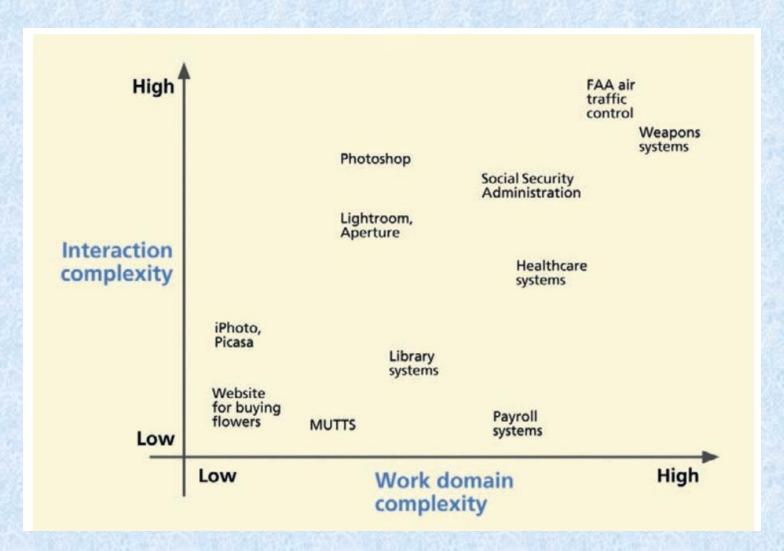
Project parameters influence choice of process

- Type of system being designed (for example, mp3 player vs. air traffic control system)
- Development organizational culture (organizational history, traditions, market position, urgency to market)
- Stage of progress within project

Mapping project parameters to process choices



The system complexity space



Interaction complexity

- About intricacy or elaborateness of user actions
- Includes cognitive density

Interaction complexity

- Difficulty of tasks with system
 - Low interaction complexity smaller, easier tasks (example, ordering flowers from a Website)
 - High interaction complexity is larger, more difficult tasks, often requiring special skills or training (example, manipulating a color image with Adobe Photoshop)

Work domain complexity

 About intricacy and technical nature of corresponding field of work

Work domain complexity

- High work domain complexity
 - Convoluted and elaborate work flow mechanisms
 - Collaborative work flow
 - Dependencies and constraints
 - Example, geological fault analysis for earthquake prediction

Work domain complexity

- Low work domain complexity
 - Way system works within setting relatively simple
 - Example, Website for buying flowers

- Complex interaction, complex work domain → strong requirement for rigorous process
 - Example, air traffic control system, air traffic controller deciding landing orders for incoming airliners

Air traffic control domain

- Would likely have complex interaction
- Complex work domain
- Work flow and collaboration among large number of work roles and user types
- Extreme focus on error and risk avoidance
- Emphasis on compliance to rules

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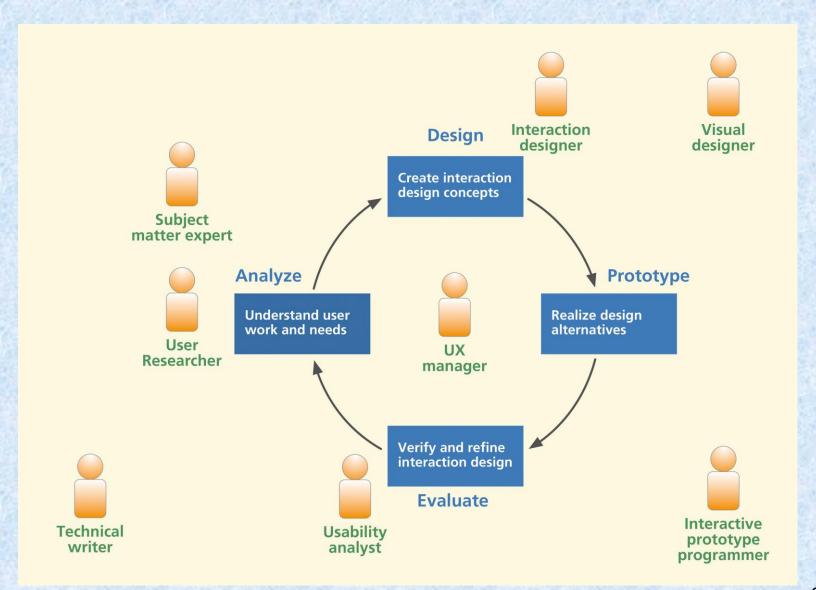
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- Simple interaction, complex work domain
 - User tasks relatively simple and easy to understand
 - But domain complexity calls for more attention to contextual inquiry and analysis, modeling, and requirements

- Simple interaction, complex work domain
 - Need insight into internal system complexity and complex rules and compliance requirements
 - Example, tax preparation software

- Simple interaction, simple work domain
 - Smaller Websites, certain interactive applications, some commercial products
 - Can be need for focus on emotional impact factors such as aesthetics, fun, joy of use
 - Example, designing a new mp3 music player

- Complex interaction, simple work domain
 - Emphasis on design, ideation, and sketching, plus evaluation within real usage
 - Example, designing a digital watch
 - Attention needed for interaction design: task interaction structure, screen layouts, user actions, metaphors



- Project manager
- Lead UX designer
- User researcher
 - For contextual inquiry and other work domain analysis activities
- Users, user representatives, customers, and subject matter experts

- Interaction designer
 - For ideation and sketching, conceptual and detailed design, and low-fidelity prototyping activities
- UX analyst or evaluator
 - For planning and performing UX evaluations, analyzing UX problems, and suggesting redesign solutions

- Visual/graphic designer
 - For designing look and feel and branding and helping interaction designers with visual aspects of designs
- Technical writer
 - For documentation, help system design, and language aspects of interaction designs

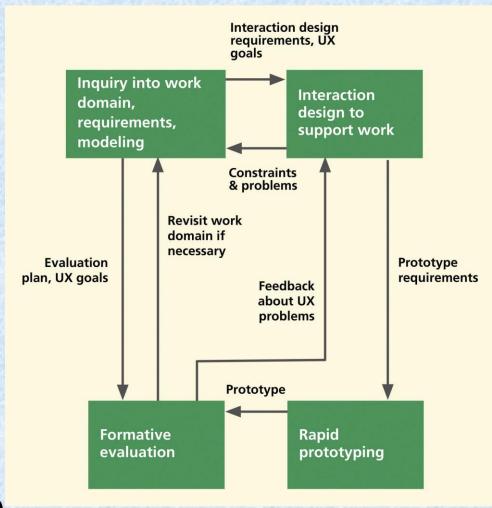
- UI programmer
 - For programming interactive high-fidelity
 UX design prototypes
 - To implement interaction designs in system software
- UX manager
 - Overall responsibility for UX process

Iteration

- Iteration is good, but not enough
 - Iteration can help you converge locally
 - Cannot just start with any old design and iterate yourself to quality user experience

UX iteration scope limited

- UX iteration not same as multiple passes through whole development
- Limited to small, early, lightweight, inexpensive part of overall lifecycle process



Here is where we are going

