Case study: A smarter mouse

Our user

Someone who must use multiple devices in daily activities/work and who has a natural proficiency with the devices

The questions

Can a mouse communicate to users when a device transition is occuring? Does the user benefit from knowing when a transition is ocurring?
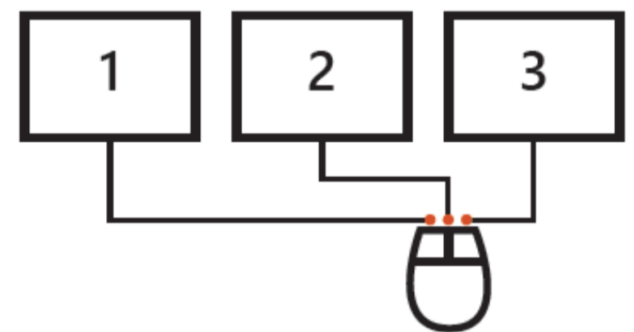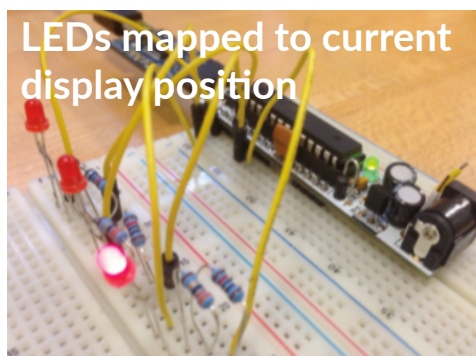
The prototype

Uses LEDs to indicate to the user in which screen the mouse is located among many devices

Arduino controlled LED

LEDs mapped to current display position

Lessons learned

The hits
The LED indicators were very useful for distracted or distanced users. Users indicated it would also have been ideal if the LEDs worked as buttons that allowed the user to switch between screens that way.

The misses
Many users didn't bother to look down to the mouse to check the LED feedback. Instead, they wish to locate the LED indicators somewhere on the screen in their line of sight.