Ethics Review Form

Title: Using direct manipulation to author graphs

(Can you think of a catchier title here?)

Project Leader: ns532

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Start Date: 15th March 2014

End Date: 22nd April 2014

Type of study: controlled experiments for technology evaluation

The study will use external participants recruited by the experimenter (Neil Satra), to evaluate the usability of a newly designed system for making graphics on a computer using sketch input, as compared to traditional methods like using Microsoft Excel.

Brief Description:

A pilot study will be completed on Friday 14th March, using 2 participants recruited from within the research team. Based on this, the format and the materials for the final study will be refined.

The final study will use 10 participants recruited through various channels while the experimenter is in Mumbai, India. They will all be adults who speak English as a first or second language. For each participant, the study will follow the sequence below:

* Sign consent form
* View demo of experimenter drawing a graph using the new system
* Complete 2 tasks involving drawing a graph using the new system, based on how the experimenter did it. The participant is timed.
* Complete the same tasks of drawing a graph using Microsoft Excel. The participant is timed.
* Fill in a questionnaire designed to determine the user’s mental model of how the system worked, and their past experience with systems like Microsoft Excel, which could affect how quickly they’re able to do the task.

Precautions taken:

The pilot study should help identify any problems with the reliability of the data collection methods, which can be corrected before the main study.

Participants will be recruited such that the sample is as representative as possible of a population. No children, elderly people or otherwise vulnerable sections of the population need be used in the study.

A consent form based on documentation previously used by other studies from the Rainbow group should help inform participants about their rights and obligations, and about how their data will be used.

The questionnaire will not collect any personally identifiable data, as there is no need for this. Hence, this should not fall under the Data Protection Act.