Human-Computer Interaction

Assignment 1

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Good Design:

Breville's "A Bit More" Toaster

You might think this is a weird choice as a "good design", especially a toaster being such a simple appliance. Nevertheless, Breville introduced a button that had the label "A Bit More" to its most recent toaster and this button does exactly what it says.

Once you initially toast the bread, and you see it comes out not as toasted as you wanted it to be, you could press the "A Bit More" button and the bread would lower back into the toaster and come out a little bit more toasted.

This button solves a problem that many of us face every morning. Before this button the user had two options: 1) Eat the bread as is, not toasted to perfection or 2) activate the full toasting function once again and wait until it is toasted to the point of liking and where you could cancel the toasting procedure in order not to burn the bread.

Now, instead of both those options, the user could now just press the new button and the toaster would initiate a shorter cycle, toasting the bread slightly more and stopping before the bread would be burnt.

A simple feature, a simple button, with clear instructions, that solved a common problem most of us face daily.

Bad Design:

CLIP's Shortcut feature

Everyone that has created a shortcut in CLIP has probably faced this problem. Once you create a shortcut, the navigation within the website is confusing.

You can click the "+" button to create a new shortcut. This will bring you to a page where you can insert the shortcut's name, but, after you confirm, it refreshes the page and leaves the user without a clear navigation. The user can return to the previous page using the browser's functionality but that is unintuitive or, the user can click on the NOVA logo but that is also unclear to where it will lead.

In my opinion, the page should go back to the original page that created the shortcut, as it makes no sense to remain in the shortcut creation page since there is no use to creating a duplicate of a shortcut.