HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN



Herb Simon and the Ant

- An ant's behavior looks complex, but the complexity is (mostly) in the environment.
- So if we change the environment, we change the behavior.
- Design transforms existing situations into (hopefully) preferred ones.

All design is redesign

• At least for me, that says we ought to have a really good sense of what the existing situations are and what preferred means for us. "preferred" has to do with both the user's goals and your point of view as a designer.

So far...

- So we have a sense of what people do and their high-level values, goals, and contexts.
- That'll help us connect observation to design. What's our lever?

You'll be able to

- When you are designing, what matters?
 What should it accomplish?
- Estimate whether different designs are meaningfully different

You're doing this already

- Design often includes activity analysis implicitly
- Problem: leap to (just) one solution.
- Our goal is to make it explicit

Making this explicit

- Gives you a conceptual representation
- This increases your mindfulness as a designer, connects you to the texture of the domain, and helps you communicate and discuss with other stakeholders
- Having this intermediate, conceptual representation makes it easier to be creative because you're taking a couple small leaps instead of one big one

The outcome of activity analysis

- What are the steps?
- What are the artifacts?
- What are the goals?
 (how you'll measure success)
- What are the pain points?



Example: steps

- Unlock driver's door
- Take a seat behind the wheel
- Insert key in ignition switch
- Turn key fully clockwise
- When engine starts, release the key
- from http://www.nwlink.com/
 ~donclark/hrd/isd/cognitive-taskanalysis.html

Example: artifacts

- key
- car
 - door-lock
 - ignition switch

Example: goals

- (your point of view comes in here)
- Turn on the car?
- Pick up bread?
- Make a meal?
- Have a satisfying evening?

Example: pain points

- In the narrow version: necessary to put the key in? It's already in the car. Why not just drive off?
- In the slightly broader framing, the pain point could be needing a car to get bread. (Alternatively, bread could be delivered, or you could walk/bike/...)

That helps us create interfaces that...

- From Hackos and Redish: Usable Interfaces
- Reflect workflows that are familiar or comfortable
- Support users' learning styles
- Are compatible in the users' working environment
- encompass a design concept (a metaphor or idiom) that is familiar to the users
- Have a consistency of presentation (layout, icons, interactions) that makes them appear reliable and easy to learn

 Are the things that your interface is designing for something that users actually do -- or might want to do? Activities can and do change over time
 -- often evolving along with technology
 -- and you don't need to just make current paths easy.

Actvitity Analysis is easiest for...

- Workflows like doing taxes or travel planning
- Repeated activities, like scheduling (why does it take 17 emails?)

Challenge: we don't design tasks

- Activities and objects don't map 1:1
 (a smartphone is not just one "activity")
- We design artifacts. So a forum has multiple tasks.

8636	FW: [SERC 21127:] Upcoming Kayak Piloting Clinics	Jo joi
	From: f@ Cc er@ Sent: Wed, Mar 20, 2013 3:44 PM PI [SERC 21127:] Upcoming	т
8637	quick report from tonight's March Board meeting	Di dia
	Greetings Gratitude was sent our way by NPS for the work on Olgacan't thank you enough for the time, the craft and the care	the
8638	Re: quick report from tonight's March Board meeting	Sı m
	I for one an INCREDIBLY appreciative of these notes, the communication and information is WONDERFU S From:	I.
8639	Re: quick report from tonight's March Board meeting	M: m
	Yes, it's great to know this stuff and I am in awe of your energy and dedication. Regards, Madeleine [Non message have been removed]	-te:
8640	Re: quick report from tonight's March Board meeting	C(ka
	Yay, Diane. thank you so much From: com>, "Diane Walton"	ŧ
8641	Why They Posted "Danger: BIOHAZARD" on Tuesday	M: m:
	Hey all, I was curious about why those "Danger: Biohazard" signs were posted on the Beach Tuesday, so I di around the Web. It turns out	d a
8642	Re: Why They Posted "Danger: BIOHAZARD" on Tuesday	Er jol
	Mark: Thanks for this information. What I take away from this experience is that we must be very careful to the day before the SF PUC \dots	no
8643	Mar. 22 Happy Hour: "Paul and Melissa are coming! Paul and Melissa a	kiı kiı
http://s	Dolphins, Come have some fun next door Friday night at an extra special Happy Hour. Same bat time, sam we get to hang out with our former sports.groups.yahoo.com	e b

Have multiple related activities

- The same person uses the same design to achieve slightly different things
- Also, different people may do things slightly differently
- Because they have slightly different goals, expertise, ...
- For empathy, keep 'em human

Recap

- What are the steps?
- What are the artifacts?
- What are the goals?
- What are the pain points?

You can and should adapt this

- More or less formal?
- Diagrams? Text? Pictures? Video?
- Narrow or broad?
 - Individual v. group viewpoint?
- Include more or other things
 like joy points, not just pain points

Be creative and have fun!