



The Role of Virtual Reality in HCI: Opportunities and Challenges

COMP2044: Human-Computer Interaction (2024-2025)

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Workshop Overview

Virtual Reality (VR) is widely seen as a significant step forward in HCI. By creating immersive, interactive digital environments, VR has the potential to reshape industries such as education, healthcare, remote work, and social communication. However, its adoption also presents challenges in usability, accessibility and ethics.

Task

In groups of two to four, discuss the following topics for the next 30 minutes:

1. Do you use any VR applications or devices? If so, what do you use them for? If not, why not?
2. What are the main opportunities and challenges of using VR in HCI?
3. How does VR affect accessibility? Does it promote or hinder inclusivity?
4. What ethical or social issues might arise from VR?

After the group discussion, write a your personal reflection on VR's impact on HCI, using insights from the discussion and your own perspective.

- Your response should be no more than 150 words.
- You do not need to cover all topics but should present a clear, well-supported argument.
- Include at least one citation from a reputable source to support your view.

What is a reputable source?

A reputable source is a widely recognised and reliable source of information. In academic writing, such sources typically include:

- Peer-reviewed journals
- Books
- Conference papers

Additionally, websites from reputable organisations, such as government departments or international institutions, may also be considered.

Once completed, share your writing on the workshop forum available on Moodle.

But wait, there's more!

In addition to sharing your opinion, engage with your peers by reading and commenting on **at least two other** students' posts.

In each response, you should:



- Highlight one aspect of the post that you found interesting.
- Identify one aspect you disagree with or would like to see expanded upon.

Submission Checklist

This activity contributes **1%** towards your module grade.

To receive credit, you must:

- ☐ Submit your writing to the workshop forum.
- ☐ Ensure your writing is no more than 150 words. Moodle will provide a word count for your post. Posts over 150 words will receive a **0**.
- ☐ Include at least one citation from a reputable source to support your opinion.
- ☐ Comment on at least two other student posts.
 - Your comments should provide substantive feedback and add to the discussion.
 - Each comment should be at least **50 words** long and should:
 - ★ Highlight one aspect of the post that you found interesting.
 - ★ Identify one aspect you disagree with or would like to see expanded upon.
 - ★ Do not simply “agree” or “disagree” with the post.

The forum will close on **2025-03-10 at 15:00**.

After this period, you will be unable to engage with the forum. **Late submissions are not accepted.**

! Respect your peers

Remember to be respectful and constructive in your comments. It is okay to disagree with someone’s view, but it is not okay to be disrespectful or dismissive of their opinion.

Academic Conduct

In this workshop, we want to hear your unique and original opinion, not something copied and pasted from elsewhere.

To be clear – you are **not** permitted to use LLMs or any other AI to generate your writing, beyond simple spelling and grammar checks. There may be workshops in the future where AI-generated text is required, but this is **not** one of them.

Plagiarism, false authorship, and collusion (when not permitted) are all forms of academic misconduct, with well-defined procedures and penalties at our university. To avoid such consequences, use tools like ChatGPT responsibly and carefully consider their output.

Any misuse or inappropriate behaviour will be addressed in line with the **university’s policies**.