CS220: Human-Computer Interaction, Spring 2010

P1: User, Task, and Domain Analysis

Due Thursday, Feb 22, 2010, before class.

Reading: before completing this assignment read sections 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 from the Task Analysis chapter available in the E-Reserve conference, and the Case Study in Personas also available in E-Reserve.

In this team assignment, you will start the design of your project by doing the following:

User analysis. Identify the characteristics of your user population, as we discussed in lecture. If you have multiple user classes, identify each one. Create at least 3 personas to represent your user populations.

Task analysis. Determine the tasks of the problem you have chosen, analyze their characteristics, and answer the general questions about tasks we asked in lecture (think about other questions you should ask that might be relevant to your particular domain). You should find and analyze at least 5 high-level tasks. If you can't find that many, then your problem may be too small to serve as a good project.

Domain analysis. Determine the important entities and relationships of your problem domain, and show them in an entity-relationship diagram.

To gather information for the user and task analysis, you should talk to and observe at least 3 representative users (at least 1 from each user class, if you have multiple user classes). Make sure you observe users within the settings in which they typically tackling the problem your project addresses (e.g. office, dorm room, campus center). When you write up your analysis, do not provide a mere narrative of these sessions. Instead, offer your conclusions, and justify them when you can by referring to observations. Also, don't identify the users you interviewed by name, unless you get their permission to do so.
Web page

In this assignment, you should also create your team’s web page, and start to fill it with information about your project. To request a team account on the CS server fill in this form: \url{http://cs.wellesley.edu/accounts/team-account-request.html}. You will continue to add to your page over the course of the semester. Each assignment (like this one) will add more information to the page. By the end of the semester, your web page will constitute the final report for your project. At this point your web page should include the following information:

- **Project name.**

- **Team members.** A list of your team members.

- **Problem statement.** A concise statement of the problem your project is trying to solve.

- **P1 User and Task Analysis.** This section should contain the report for this assignment, with three subsections:

  1. **Users.** Your user analysis from this assignment, describing your major user classes and their characteristics. Create a persona for each user class.

  2. **Tasks.** Provide a summary of the 5 (or more) high-level tasks you have identified. Every task should have a goal and subtasks. Some tasks may also need preconditions, exceptions, time constraints, and frequency of use. In addition, present a hierarchal task diagram that shows the decomposition of each task to subtasks.

  3. **Domain.** An ERD model that describe your domain. Include commentary about any entities or relations that aren’t obvious.

Feel free to use this web page for working documents and communication within your group.

**What to Hand In**

The deliverable component for this assignment is your team web page containing the results of your analysis. Send by email to the course Assignments conference a link to your team web page.