Assignment 0922

While the main portion of this assignment is due on September 22, accomplishing the intermediate tasks by the given dates will allow you to get the most out of the time up until then (and keep you from cramming near the deadline).

Outcomes

This assignment will affect your proficiency measures for outcomes 1e, 2c, 2d, 2g, and 3l.

Not for Submission

By September 13
1. Read Chapter 1 in Norman.
2. Read Chapter 2 in Shneiderman/Plaisant.
3. Browse through the Mac, Windows, iOS, and Android interaction design guidelines, so you can get a feel for what to look for when you…
4. …perform at least one of the audits listed in this assignment.
5. If necessary, download and install any software that you don’t already have. If you don’t want to add stuff to your own machine, you can ask our lab administrator to install/update the software in the Keck lab.

By September 15
6. Start writing the report that is to be submitted for this assignment (even if it’s just a stub containing an outline), so you can ask any questions that come up during class.

For Submission

Perform user interface “audits” of two (2) out of the following four (4) types of applications against their corresponding guidelines. Choose two (2) areas of focus from the guidelines (e.g., menus, dialogs, layout, icons, widgets, controls, etc.) then write a report on your “audit.” Look for both “violations” and “compliance” — the more compelling, the better.

For each application type, examples are provided — if you can identify others that fit the category, run them by me and we’ll see if they work.

- **Platform-specific applications by the platform’s vendor.** e.g., Internet Explorer on Windows and Safari on Mac OS X; Office on Windows and iWork on Mac OS X — each application against the guidelines of their respective platforms.
- **Cross-platform desktop applications.** e.g., Firefox and Chrome on either Windows or Mac OS X (your choice); Google SketchUp; Skype; Second Life — each application against the guidelines of the chosen operating system.
- **Mobile web applications.** e.g., Facebook web app on iOS against the iOS Human Interface Guidelines; Twitter web app on Android against the Android User Interface Guidelines (or vice versa) — each web app against the guidelines of the chosen operating system.
- **Native mobile applications.** e.g., Facebook native app on iOS against the iOS Human Interface Guidelines; Twitter native app on Android against the Android User Interface Guidelines (or vice versa) — each native app against the guidelines of the chosen operating system.

Format the report as a sequence of guideline + commentary + screenshots. Document as many instances of violations or compliance as you can find. Again, the more striking, shocking, epic, or legen…dary, the better.

Conclude the report with an assessment of how well the “audited” applications conform to their corresponding guidelines documents.