Assignment 1030

This is a longer-range assignment meant to appeal to the other side of your brain while you are hacking away at some raw code. I recommend that you switch between them as a “break” from each assignment. Do not plan on doing them sequentially—you’ll have more code to write after Assignment 1016 is due.

Outcomes

This assignment will affect your proficiency measures for outcomes 1a, 2a, 2c, 4d, 4e, and 4f.

Background Reading

The following textbook readings will be helpful for this assignment, in addition of course to readings specific to your chosen topic:

• Norman Chapters 1 and 2
• Shneiderman/Plaisant Chapters 1 and 2
• Nielsen Chapters 2, 4, and 5

For Submission

Mental Model Research and Analysis

Write a concise paper that answers the question below in relation to one of the three items listed after that question (i.e., choose one):

What role or relevance does a successful alignment of user and developer mental models play in…

• The popularity and longevity of the Hewlett-Packard 12c calculator?
• The usability (or not) of skeuomorphic user interface designs?
• The ideas and proposals in Bret Victor’s blog post on “learnable programming” (http://worrydream.com/LearnableProgramming)

For this assignment, very strongly consider using LaTeX to write the paper. With the need for proper references, figure management, clear sectioning, and others, this assignment truly plays to LaTeX’s strengths. Of course, I am available to help you figure out anything that you are unable to immediately get working.

Commit your work to mental-model-paper in your GitHub repository.

Entry Into LMU ULRA

If you use the services, resources, and collections of the William H. Hannon Library while working on your paper, you can enter it into LMU’s annual Undergraduate Library Research Award (ULRA). Information about ULRA can be found here:

http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ulra

Three words: One. Thousand. Dollars.