



Centre for  
HCI Design

## Multimedia Design for the Web

Alistair Sutcliffe & Leon Watts

Centre for HCI Design  
Department of Computation  
University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology  
P.O. Box 88  
Manchester M60 1QD, UK

[a.g.sutcliffe@co.umist.ac.uk](mailto:a.g.sutcliffe@co.umist.ac.uk)

[http://www.co.umist.ac.uk/hci\\_design/index.htm](http://www.co.umist.ac.uk/hci_design/index.htm)

CHI 2003 Tutorial

Multimedia & the Web



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## Tutorial Outline

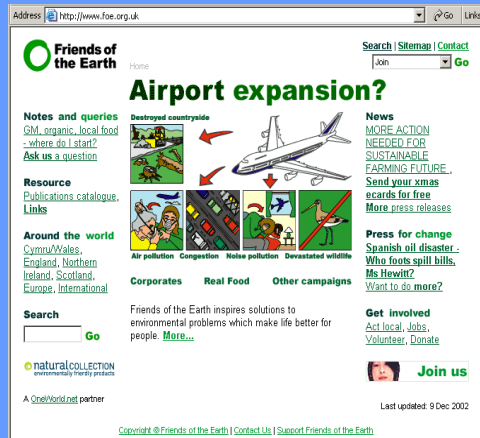
- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9.00 - 10.30  | Background psychology for multimedia design   |
| <i>coffee</i> |   |
| 11.00 - 12.30 | Design process:<br>Information Architecture<br>Case study - requirements & content<br>Media selection and integration |
| <i>lunch</i>  |   |
| 1.30 - 3.30   | Attraction & Attention<br>Case study - storyboards  |
| <i>tea</i>    |   |
| 4.00 - 5.30   | Storyboard walkthroughs<br>Multimedia dialogues   |

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## Design problems

- Choosing the right media to convey the message
- Making sure the message and theme are clear and coherent
- Directing the user's attention - thread of viewing/reading
- Optimise the User Experience - but what *is* engaging and attractive interaction ?



## Applying Psychology to Design

- Perception: how people receive information. Vision and hearing are prime modalities; but touch, smell, taste in the future
- Cognition: how people comprehend information and reason with it
- Attention: how we manage multiple demands on limited cognitive resources
- High-level model of human information processing as "tool for thought"
- Design principles and guidelines based on cognitive models and experimental evidence



## Vision

- Central vision for detail, peripheral vision for awareness (movement but not much else)
- Visual perception is an abstracted view of reality; seeing is by interpretation - “what we see is what we know”; visual illusions
- Eye scans over images in rapid movements or *saccades*; look at complex detail, odd/separate features, object boundaries, colour
- Visual acuity varies widely (age, colour blind); also depends on ambient light
- Detail best in high contrast (foreground/background)

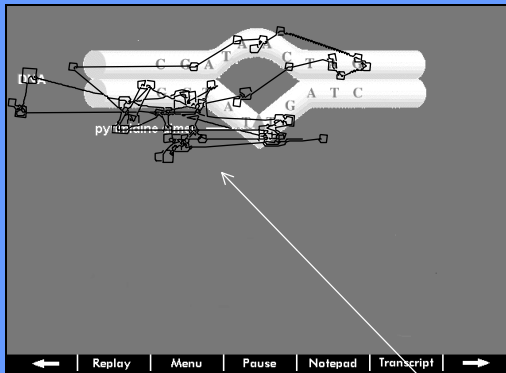


**Where** will you look in this image ?

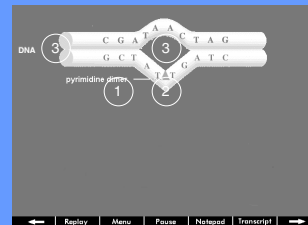
**What** information will you extract ?



## Eye tracking



Fixations



Rapid scans - fixations followed by jumps - saccades mainly unconscious control

## What you see depends on ...

\* Air France sur le Net \*

- La Com page
- Horaires
- Achat en ligne
- Coup de cœur
- Nos meilleurs tarifs
- Notre offre
- Avantages client
- Espace Jeunes
- Plateaux d'Affaires
- Evénements
- Carrières, Emploi
- Contactez-nous

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... your motivation, knowledge, animation, layout structure, density, colour, expectations

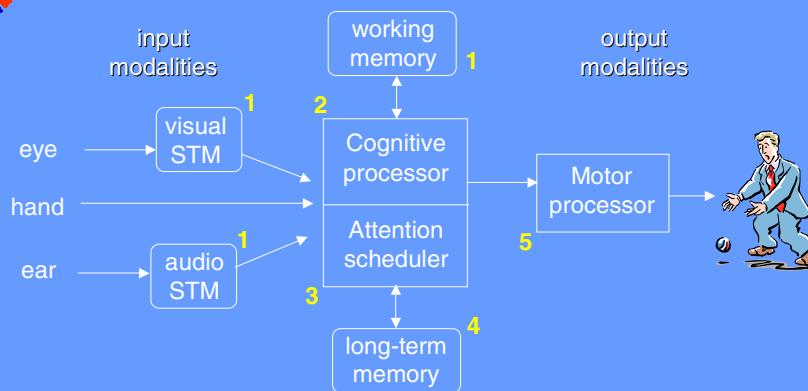


## Hearing

- Abstracted view of reality, separate processing for speech: what we hear is what we expect to hear
- Transient modality, subject to interference: background noise, directional or broadcast modality
- Human speech recognition tolerates mispronunciations, non-grammatical sentences, dialects
- Sound/speech discrimination varies with age, depends on frequency (pitch), amplitude (loudness) and contrast (foreground/background: Db ratio)



## Cognitive User Model



### Bottlenecks

1. Capacity overflow: information overload
2. Integration: common message?
3. Contention: conflicting channels
4. Comprehension
5. Multi-tasking input/output



## Working Memory

- Limited capacity: 7 +/- chunks, but chunk size depends on abstraction
- Chunking helped by making patterns and associations explicit, e.g. telephone numbers 020 7477 8000 better than 02074778000
- Demands on working memory: input from senses, vision and hearing + facts used in reasoning + facts retrieved from long term memory + output (speech, actions)
- We manage by chunking and rapid time-slicing between input/process/output but easy to overwhelm WM with too much MM input

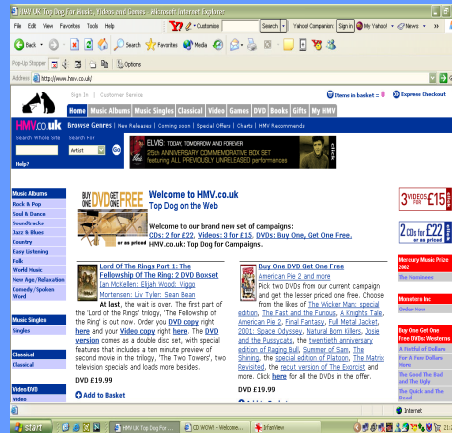


## Long-Term Memory

- Remembering: two-phase process - recognition then recall.
- Memorisation helped by reasoning and problem solving - depth of encoding
- Memorisation helped by chunking (abstraction), clear structure, access paths and context
- Multimedia can help by providing richer access paths and memorisation context (visual, verbal, audio cues), also richer schema
- Consistent content and navigation structure help memorisation and recall

## Selective Attention

- Input competition from the world: vision, hearing, etc., with reasoning, memorisation and action
- Background and foreground processes; automatically monitor the world while thinking, talking, etc.
- Attention directed to change in the world: sound, moving image are very salient
- Too many inputs at once will create conflicts, continual stimuli over a long period can cause stress



## Reading and Viewing Multimedia

- Dynamic media - film, video, speech - we have no choice but to process in sequence; onset of a dynamic medium grabs attention
- Text: also processed mainly in sequence, reading order of syntax, but may skip/scan
- Still image: viewing sequence more complex. What we comprehend in an image depends on:
  - what we look at (motivation, task)
  - what we know
  - how salient objects are in the design
- Need to control user's reading/viewing sequence – attention to theme, key items

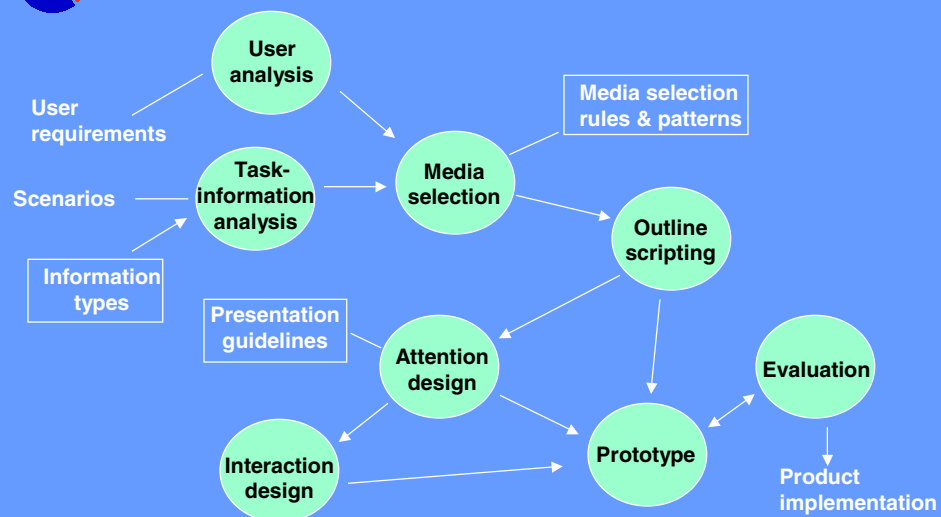


## Session 2 Design Process

- Requirements and task/information analysis
- User analysis
- Media selection and integration
- Outline scripting



## Design process







## Session 3 Presentation and Dialogue Design

- Planning thematic threads through several media
- Presentation layout: sequential or concurrent
- Drawing attention to key facts especially in image
- Specifying explicit links between different content: design of *contact points*
- Dialogue, navigation and interaction



## Presentation Techniques

- Techniques are used to draw the user's attention to key items in content
- Direct user's viewing/reading sequence via contact points
  - Direct contact point: highlight in both source and destination
  - Indirect contact point: highlight only in source or destination medium
- Sequence highlights to direct viewing within and between media
- Contact points in hypermedia become link and anchor cues



## Design for Attention

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- Visual image media: movement, on/off effects, highlights, outline, shape, size, symmetry, oddity, icons, symbols (arrows), zoom/pan to foreground objects
- Text: blink, bold, font size, font type, underline, format, caption links, and content reference
- Speech: voice tone (prosody), change speaker, rate, loudness, and content reference
  - “look at figure 1”, “find the mouse beneath the table”, “beware of the delete...”
- Animation: zoom/pan to foreground, close-ups, freeze frame, cuts, overlay markers, icons
- Window management: foreground window, centre embed displays; tracing techniques: links, arrows, landmarks

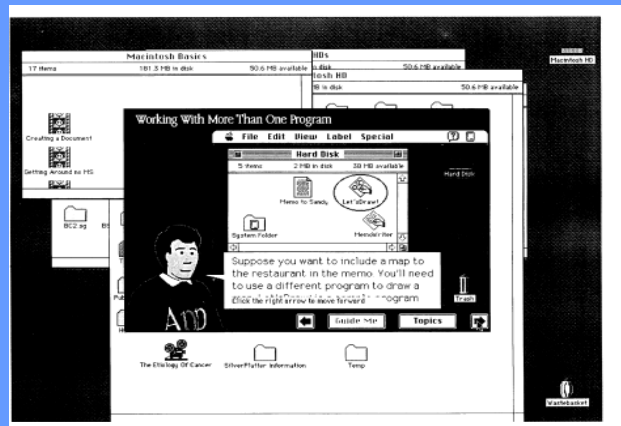
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## Contact point example

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Text and speech linked to image with boundary effect

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## Contact point: text, speech & image

(i) DNA strands damaged by Pyrimidine Dimer

Protein Pyrimidine Complex

(ii) Protein-Pyrimidine Complex formed from Dimer & Photolyase

(iii) Light energy absorbed by Protein-Pyrimidine complex

visible highlights

speech contact point

← | Replay | Menu | Pause | Notepad | Transcript | →

Next, the protein pyrimidine complex absorbs light This causes the DNA to be repaired from the visible range

## Contact points: text to video segments

http://www.city.ac.uk/~af547/aproc.htm - Microsoft Internet Expl...

File Edit View Go Fgvorites Help

Links | Address | http://www.city.ac.uk/~af547/aproc.htm

Do not refresh this page. Press 'Done' when you are happy that you understood everything.

Damaged DNA

CGATAACTAG  
GCTATGATC

Light energy causes Photoreactivation

↓

CGATAACTAG  
GCTATGATC

Repaired DNA

DNA is damaged by a Pyrimidine Dimer. Repair begins when a photoreactivating enzyme, Photolyase, attaches to the Dimer. This creates a Protein-Dimer complex. Light energy then strikes the Protein-Dimer complex, causing photoreactivation. This causes the DNA to be repaired.

buttons access video segments

Done



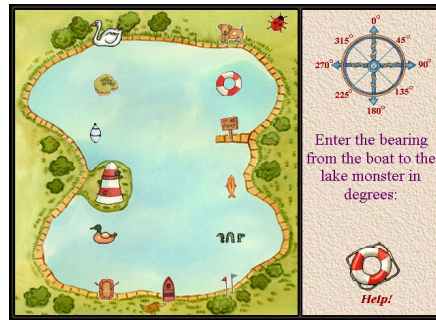
## Interaction

- Interaction engages users: motivating also improves learning
- Ideas? - interactive metaphors for navigation, games, quiz, user as actor in presentation
- Dialogue plans from task analysis, scenarios
- Prototype and/or storyboards for early evaluation; feedback from users



## Structuring Dialogues

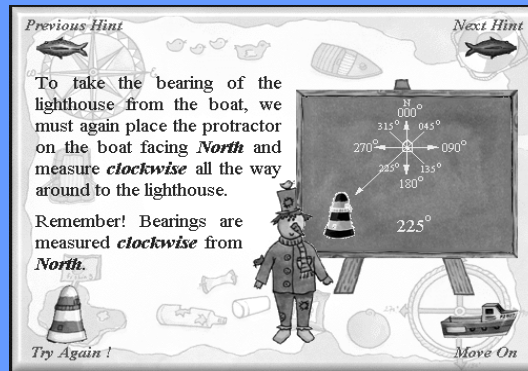
- Dialogue sequences based on scenarios, use cases or task analysis
- For information-intensive applications, dialogue becomes access and navigation problem
- Navigation links & controls based on information architecture: list, hierarchy, network, lattice
- Design access paths are menus (hierarchies), links and maps (networks), tables (lattice)
- Add controls for media resources, user interaction/ manipulation



Conceptual explanation: notion of direction and navigation  
 Abstract objects and actions..... space, vectors, directions, move on bearing  
 Metaphor of real world used with designed image and text

- Zoom/Pan controls
  - Compass metaphor: movement within image/ structure
  - Timeline: navigation by sequence, date, history
  - Card index: content structure
  - Agent metaphors: move *self/presence*
- always test metaphors; your interpretation might not be the user's

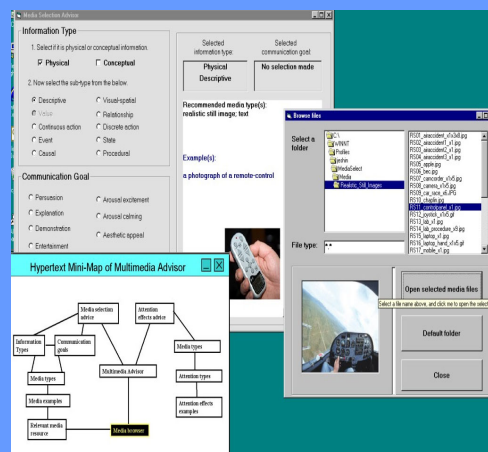
## Simple controls



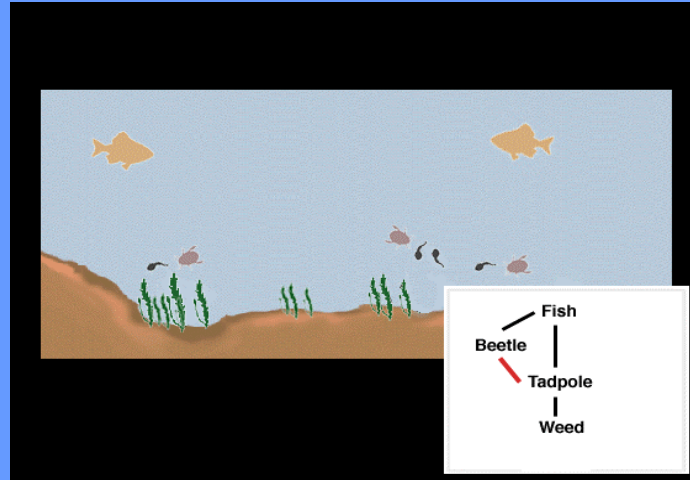
Browser style controls, more complex metaphors, e.g. compass to navigation within an image or media stream

## Navigation Controls

- Web Browser-style controls: Back, Forward, Home
- Video metaphor controls for dynamic media << | Stop | Play | >>
- Content-addressable browsing: thumbnails, video segments
- Bookmarks, visit-lists, overview maps of navigation space, you-are-here markers
- Guided tours, active links (destination hints & queries)



## Pondworld (Rogers & Scaife, 1999)



Integrates real world view with abstract diagram + interaction

## Summary of Session 3

- Dialogue network diagram/site map: specify navigation paths, dialogue/interaction
- Facilities provided for navigation support
- Cues, prompts & metaphors for navigation and interactive support; predictability
- Feedback, status messages, and presentation; observability and understanding
- Designs for interactive functions to support user's task (or learning)