# Fluid Navigation

YING SHEN

SCHOOL OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

TONGJI UNIVERSITY

## Outline

Introduction

Navigation by selection

Small displays

**Content organization** 

Audio menus

Form fill-in and dialog boxes

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#### Introduction

Navigation by selection

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Navigation enables users to know where they are and to steer themselves to their intended destination

Navigation is about getting work done through a series of actions

• Key to successfully operating interactive applications

The goal for designers is to enable fluid navigation that allows users to get to where they want to go



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## Navigation techniques include menus, embedded links, or tool palettes

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3/9/2022



Users can touch, tap, or swipe of the figures to indicate their choices

Careful design, keyboard shortcuts, and gestures allow expert users to navigate quickly



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#### Choices can be presented explicitly

- Embedded links of webpages were first popularized in the Hyperties system
- Highlighted names, places became menu items embedded in text

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Choices can be presented explicitly

• Graphical techniques are an attractive way to present choices



#### **Binary menu**



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<ul><li>■ 市民广场</li><li>● 中山公园</li></ul>		预订
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起 同济大学 BP商务花园		预订
展开线路图 >		①实时动态
<mark>汽车城(老街</mark> ) (7:22 - 7:22)	)临空线	
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#### Series of choices

• Radio Buttons and Checkboxes

Does anyone in your household currently smoke?	
<ul> <li>Yes, someone does</li> <li>No, no one does</li> </ul>	н
O Not sure	

What treatment would you like to discuss with a nurse?

Surgery

- Physical therapy
- Medication

Acupuncture (not available in your area)



Menu bars are found at the top of applications or both at the top and on the side of the screen



Palettes are displayed on right or left and is mainly used to color the screen or modify the window and several icons are present on the window.

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○ 图片或纹理填充(P)		-
○ 图案填充( <u>A</u> )	缩放高度(H) 100%	* *
○ 幻灯片背景填充( <u>B</u> )	缩放宽度( <u>W</u> ) 100%	-
▲ 线条	✓ 锁定纵横比(A)	
● 无线条(N)	✓ 相对于图片原始尺寸(R)	
○ 实线( <u>S</u> )	□ 幻灯片最佳比例( <u>B</u> )	
○ 渐变线(G)	分辨率( <u>O</u> ) 640 x 480	-
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#### Accordion menus

- Advantages: Users don't have to scroll too far to find submenu items
- Disadvantages: When the menu structure is too deep, it's not easy for users to find the target item



#### Large submenus are expanded below or to the side

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The limited screen space of mobile devices leads to limited items

Menu items are moved into a separate screen that is accessible from a main menu icon (hamburger menu icon)



Pop-up menus appear when clicking or tapping with a pointing device

When the content of the pop-up menu depends on the cursor position, it is called a context menu



Pop-up menus can also be organized in a circle to form *pie menus* 

• Advantages: The average distance to travel to select an item is smaller than linear menus



Toolbars, iconic menus, and palettes can offer many actions that users can select with a click and apply to a displayed object

Users need to be able to customize toolbars

- Users can eliminate most or all the toolbars and palettes to conserve screen space
- Experts can have dense menus with many small icons



#### Ribbons ere introduced in Office 2007

## Ribbons attempt to replace menus and toolbars by one-inch tabs grouping commands by task

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#### Shortcuts and gestures for rapid interaction

Keyboard shortcuts/hotkeys are essential for expert users

• Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V, etc

The first letter of the command is often used for the shortcut

Shortcuts should be used consistently across applications

Learning shortcuts is one useful way to reaching expert performance



#### Shortcuts and gestures for rapid interaction

Since typing keyboard shortcuts become impractical with touchscreen devices, gestures often serve as a shortcut for rapid selection

Gestures can be hard to discover and learn and have few or no affordances

Careful design and use of gestures can bead to fluid navigation for expert users but cause frustration when actions are triggered inadvertently

Allowing users to customize the gestures may help users remember them and provide better accessibility

#### Shortcuts and gestures for rapid interaction

Examples of common gestures and their effect:

- Tap: select
- Long press: varied, from magnified cursor (iOS) to showing a tooltip (Windows 8)
- Double tap: varied, e.g. zoom (iOS)
- Small swipe: varied, e.g. move location or order of objects, reveal a delete button
- Large swipe: usually scroll
- Rapid swipe or fling: fast scroll with inertia
- Pinch and spread: zoom in and out
- Variation with two or more fingers: varied effects

Sometimes the menu items may be too long to be displayed

A common solution is to create a tree-structured menu

Typical lists are alphabetically ordered, but categorical lists may be useful

#### Scrolling menus. combo boxes. and fisheve menus



#### Sliders and alphasliders

- When items consist of ranges or numerical values, a slider is a natural choice to allow the selection of a value
- The alpha-slider uses multiple levels of granularity in moving the slider thumb and therefore can support tens or hundreds of thousand of items





Two-dimensional mega menus give users a good overview of the choices, reduce the number of required actions, and allow rapid selection





Some designers choose the more sober style of a text-only large 2D menu

- Allow users to rapidly scan hundreds of choices
- Appealing for websites with little or no competition
- A site map

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# Long lists Tag clouds

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#### Linear versus simultaneous presentation

A sequence of interdependent menus can be used to guide users through a series of choices

- Pizza-ordering interface
- Installation wizards

#### Linear versus simultaneous presentation

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3/9/2022

Simultaneous menus presentment menus at the same time

• Faceted search menus

<b>限定显示范围</b>	1 Bioinformatics 著者 <u>edited by David Edwards, Jason Stajich, David Hansen</u> 2009 电子书: 在线全文	ć	<i>?</i> 99	Σ		•••
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## Small displays

Small devices have very focused functionalities and few selectable areas.

The smaller the screen, the more temporal the interface becomes

• Linear sequences of menus

Discoverability is often an issue







## Small displays

Design considerations for small displays:

- Simplify: "less is more"
- Strive to reduce or eliminate data entry
- Learnability is key
- Consider use frequency and importance
- Plan for interruptions
- Use of contextual information
- Make clear what is selectable and what is not
- Leave room for scroll and swipe gestures to avoid inadvertent actions
- Consider relegating less important functions to other platforms

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### Content organization

Organizing menus in a meaningful structure results in faster selection time and higher user satisfaction

Menu items should be organized by categories and have understandable meanings

• Comprehensible and distinctive



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Organizing menus in a meaningful structure results in faster selection time and higher user satisfaction

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Approaches:

- Linear sequence (e.g. in a wizard or survey)
- Hierarchical structure that is natural and comprehensible (e.g. a store split into departments)
- Network structure when choices may be reachable by more than one path (e.g. websites)

#### Structure and breath versus depth

Categorize similar items using tree structures

• Tree-structured menus are suitable to novice or intermittent users

Rules for forming menu trees:

- Use task semantics to organize menus
- Limit the number of levels (i.e. prefer broad-shallow to narrowdeep)
- Create groups of logically similar items: e.g. Level 1: countries, Level 2: states, Level 3: cities
- Form groups that cover all possibilities: e.g. Age ranges: [0–9] [10–19] [20–29] and [>= 30]
- Make sure that items are non-overlapping: e.g. use "Concerts" and "Sports." over "Entertainment" and "Events"
- Arrange items in each branch by natural sequence (not alphabetically) or group related items
- Keep ordering of items fixed (or possibly duplicate frequent items in dedicated section of the menu)

### Structure and breath versus depth

If the groupings are natural and comprehensible, users can easily accomplish the tasks



Use the terminology from the task domain instead of using a vague title

• "Main Menu Options" vs "Friendlibank Service"



## Structure and breath versus depth

#### Breadth vs depth

3/9/2022

#### The breath is preferred over depth

Given sufficient screen space, it's better to show a large portion of the menu structure

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Kindle 商店		家用电器	
亚马逊海外购		由初/音响	平标曲初   迷你音响   投音机   家庭影院   功祉   设备函件
图书			
手机、摄影、数码		人參电	元代の  浜干の  黒小器   海江春義   油畑の  燃つ加   小相 泳布   酒布   空调   消毒布   洗碗机
电子配件、智能生活		厨 定中 哭	
家居、厨具、家装		68 JH 70 FB	搅拌/榨汁机   面包机   电水壶/瓶   电烤箱   酸奶机   蒸/煮锅
电脑、办公、文具			电饼铛/三明治机   咖啡机   冰激凌机   豆芽机   烧烤炉
家用电器	>	居家电器	空气净化器   吸尘器   取暖器   加湿器   电风扇   电熨斗 📃 📐
美妆、个护健康			挂烫机   饮水机   除湿机
食品、酒水、生鲜		个护电器	电动剃须刀   电吹风   电动牙刷   电动理发器   电动剃毛器/脱毛器
玩具、母婴、家庭会员			耳鼻毛修剪器   电子秤   电动美容器   美发器   按摩器   足浴盆
运动户外、汽车用品		旗舰店	国美电器官方旗舰店 顺电官方旗舰店
服装、鞋靴、箱包			
钟表、首饰			
游戏、影视、乐器			
亚 <b>马逊Drive</b> 			

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## Sequence, phrasing, and layout

Sequence

• Designer is confronted with the choice of *presentation sequence* 

Some items have a natural sequence and some do not

• Categorical organization is preferred

Split menus extract three or four of the most frequently used items and put them near the top while preserving the order of the remaining items

HUMAN COMPUTER INTERACTION

Adaptive menus provide users with control over the sequence of menu items

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### Sequence, phrasing, and layout

Phrasing

• For single menus, a simple descriptive title that identifies the situation is necessary

Some directives

- Use familiar and consistent terminology.
- Ensure that items are distinct from one another
- Use consistent and concise phrasing
- Bring the keyword to the fore





## Sequence, phrasing, and layout

Layout

- Techniques to indicate position in the menu structure can be useful
- Elements included: Titles, item placement; instructions, error messages

As the user goes down the tree structure, the titles can be designed to indicate the level or distance from the main menu

 Graphics, fonts, typefaces, or highlighting techniques can be used beneficially

> BROWSE BY TOPIC Sports, Recreation & Leisure Baseball Baseball Cards 1887-1914

## Outline

Introduction

Navigation by selection

Small displays

**Content organization** 

Audio menus

Form fill-in and dialog boxes

#### Audio menus

Audio menus are useful in *interactive voice response*(IVR) systems

With audio menus, instruction prompts and options are spoken to users

- Audio menus have to provide a confirmation step following the selection
- To reduce dependence on short-term memory, it is preferable to describe the item first and then give the number
- A way to repeat the list of options and an exit mechanism must be provided



#### Audio menus

Complex and deep menu structures should be avoided

The number of choices should be less than three or four

To develop successful audio menus, it is critical to know the users' goals, make the most common tasks easy to perform rapidly, and keep prompts to a minimum

- 'Listen carefully, as our menu options have recently changed'
- More in Chapter 9



## Outline

Introduction

Navigation by selection

Small displays

**Content organization** 

Audio menus

Form fill-in and dialog boxes

### Form fill-in

This form fill-in allows users to enter information when joining the IEEE Society

- Fields are grouped meaningfully, and field-specific rules such as password requirements are provided next to the fields
- The data is validated as soon as it is being provided and error messages explain how to correct the problem

Create an IEEE Account 📧			×
* Required field			
Provide your personal information	Enter email address & password		
* Given/First name:	The email provided here will be the username of your account.		
Ying	* Email address:		
Middle name:	yingshen@	The email address provided is not in a	
	* Re-enter email address:	valid email format (for example: j.doe@nomail.com). Please try again.	
* Last/Family/Surname:			
Shen	* Password:		
	*****	Your password is good	
	* Confirm password:	Passwords must be between 8 and 64 characters, and include at least one number. More	
	L		

## Form fill-in

Form fill-in design elements

- Meaningful title
- Comprehensible instructions
- Label the field
- Limit data entry
- Explanatory messages for fields
- Error prevention
- Error recovery
- Immediate feedback
- Logical grouping and sequencing of fields
- Visually appealing layout of the form

• ...

#### Format-specific fields

#### Some common fields

• Telephone numbers



Dates

Date: \_ \_/\_ \_/\_ \_ \_ (04/06/2018 indicates April 6, 2018)

- Times
- Dollar amounts

Deposit amount: \$\_ \_ \_ \_.\_

- Passwords
- CAPTCHAs (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart)

### Format-specific fields

#### Some common fields

 CAPTCHAs (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart)

拖動下方滑塊完成拼圖





验证

### Dialog boxes

Dialog boxes are used to request users to select options, perform limited data entry, or review alerts and error messages

Dialog boxes are often shaped and sized to fit each situation, but distinctive sizes or aspect ratios may be used to signal errors, confirmations, or components of the application

## Dialog boxes

This dialog box includes a binary menu with two choices (Yes or No)

- The blue highlighting on Yes indicates that this selection is the default and that pressing Return will select it
- Specific keyboard shortcuts can be made available
- Escape closes the dialog box
- Typing the letter 'N' will select 'No' as indicated by the underlined letter 'N'



## Dialog boxes

This dialog box is used to alert clinicians who try to prescribe the drug Warfarin, because it increases the risk of bleeding of patients already on Aspirin

- Several possible actions are proposed
- Overriding the alert is possible but requires confirmation by clicking a check box
- Because of the severity of the alert, this is a modal dialog box and it requires immediate action

