MSc AISD - INDIVIDUAL WORK (50%)

Alan Dix & Keith Cheverst

For your individual work you are to perform some partial implementation, evaluation and broader critique of the systems designed in your groups.

This will be evaluated primarily through a written report, but as part of this you will need to submit some supporting materials from the work you have done (e.g. code).

THINGS TO DO

(1) build a prototype implementation of the designed system or a part of it.

An example of the kind of thing we are thinking of can be found at:

http://www.hcibook.com/alan/teaching/MScHCI/alarm-demo/alarm.html

Notice the way the code is structured (a struggle in places) to organise the code into sections that correspond roughly to Seeheim?? or MVC paradigms.

The example is in JavaScript, but you can use anything you can demo so long as it has some real code (not just hyperlinks). Java with AWT/SWING, JavaScript, VB, ... Director or Shockwave would be fine if you use these.

If you like the group could decide to prototype different parts of the system so that you end up with a prototype that covers more of the whole system, or you can work independently. If you do decide to work more as a group you must have parts that are individual and you must identify them in the report and in the code.

We will organise a period in week 10 or early next term when you can do a brief demo to us and your colleagues of your prototypes. However, note you will not be assessed on the quality of this prototype more on the way in which you describe the way you have produced prototype (e.g. process rather than end-product) and in particular the architectural decisions.

(2) consider the potential ways to evaluate or study the system your group developed. For this you will need to independently read about different evaluation and empirical study techniques (e.g. chapter 9, 13 and bit in chapter 20 on ubicomp evaluation in my book, or equivalent in other texts). Because some of your systems are quite different from traditional GUI designs you should think hard and justify your choice of techniques and consider how they might actually be used on a deployed system, pitfalls etc.

(3) write a report!

based on the above and the groupwork ... see below ...

THE REPORT

The report should contain the following sections (approx sizes in 'standard' pages of text):

(i) introduction (half to 1 page)

short reminder of your group design, plus introduction to rest of report

(ii) prototype implementation (1 or 2 pages)

discuss the structure of this and any issues you had whilst coding this, make use of the models and architectures discussed on "Day 1" to help you discuss your work. Explain the rationale of the proposed architecture, possibly after exploring other options in the design space. Include an appendix with any code you want to refer to in this section.

(iii) discussion of how you would evaluate/study the use of the system if fully deployed (1 or 2 pages)

discuss issues that you might wish to uncover in such a study and how the study might be carried out. Also describe any technical features that could be developed in order to specifically support your evaluation/study. Argue what you think would be suitable timescales to carry out the study.

(iv) critique of use of notations (1 or 2 pages)

in your groupwork you used various notations and methods. Discuss some interesting points from this, either things that arose during the group exercise (e.g. "when we did the HTA we suddenly noticed that X wouldn't work when doing more complex tasks") or may be things that you have noticed yourself after (e.g. "table Y shows the state model being played alongside our scenario" , "at step 7 the state model doesn't do what we intended".

(v) summary (half to 1 page)

highlight most interesting issues and problems, including anything not covered by above such as lessons you learned, how can the system be extended, what could have been done differently.

(v) references

use a standard style (e.g. Harvard) – see your research methods self-study materials.

Example Mark Sheet Used for MSc Individual Component

MSc HCI Module – Individual marks

name / number: **--name--** group: **--group number--**

(i) **Introduction/Summary** **A–E**

-- brief comments --

(ii) **Prototype implementation** **A–E**

-- brief comments --

(iii) **Discussion of Evaluation/Use Study** **A–E**

-- brief comments --

(iv) **Critique of use of notations** **A–E**

-- brief comments --

(v) **Appropriate use of references** **A–E**

-- brief comments --