



Aalto University

# Engineering for Humans: Introduction

*ELEC-D7010*

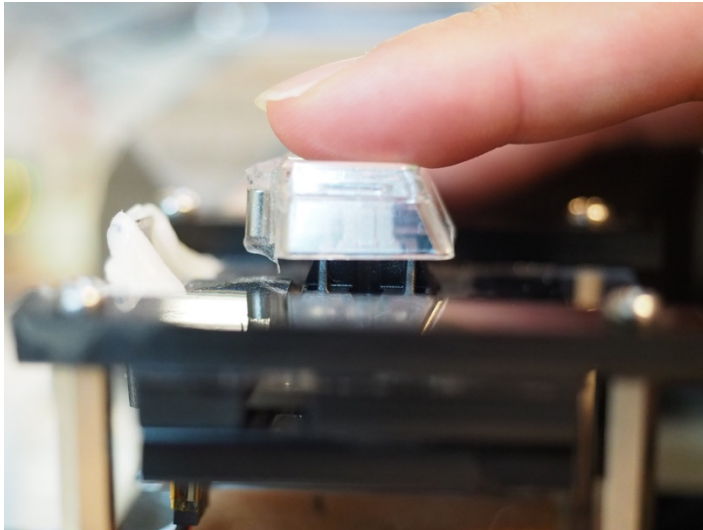
*April 20, 2021*

*Antti Oulasvirta*

*Aalto University*

# Hi!

*I lead the User Interfaces group at the Aalto University School of Electrical Engineering. I'm also part of FCAI, the Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence ([fcai.fi](http://fcai.fi))*



— **We model** human performance in human-technology interaction

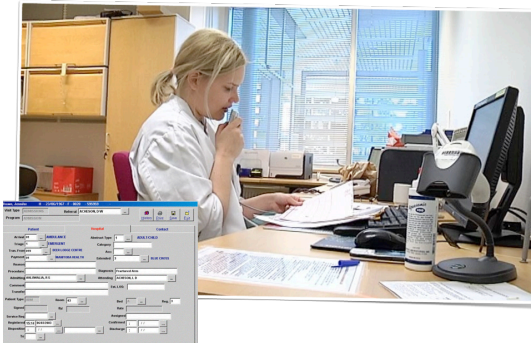
— ... and develop **new algorithmic principles** of design and interaction

— ...in order to **improve** user interfaces for human use

# Welcome!

## Contents today

1. Motivation
2. Human Factors Engineering
3. Course Organization
4. Failures and Epic Failures
5. Design Heuristics
6. Assignment 1





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# Motivation

*In random order*

# Understanding users is a top 3 reason for failure/success of IT projects



[Miettinen et al. 2011]

Also: 10-30% of R&D budgets goes to user interfaces (2021)

# Design of technology affects well-being



Roos, Jennifer H - 23/06/1967 - F - 0020 - 595959

Visit Type: ADMISSIONS Referral: ACHESON, D W

Program: ADMISSION

History Print Save Eye

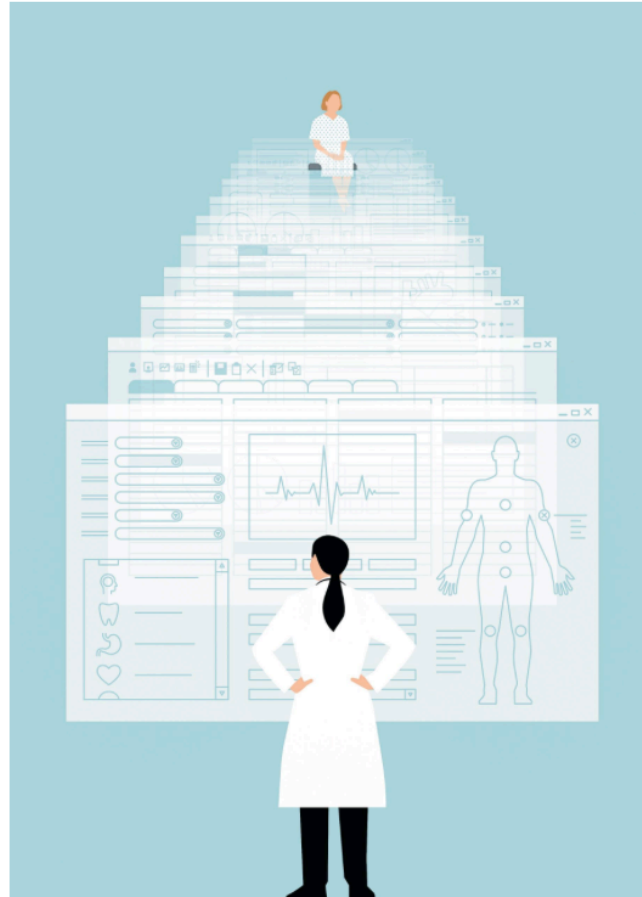
| Patient      |                       | Hospital      |                | Contact |   |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---|
| Arrival      | 01 AMBULANCE          | Abstract Type | 1 ADULT-CHIL D |         |   |
| Triage       | 1 EMERGENCY           | Category      |                |         |   |
| Tran. From   | 999 DEER LODGE CENTRE | Acc           |                |         |   |
| Payment      | 01 MANTOBA HEALTH     | Extended      | 3 BLUE CROSS   |         |   |
| Reason       |                       |               |                |         |   |
| Procedure    |                       | Diagnosis     | Fractured Arm  |         |   |
| Admitting    | AHLIOWALIA, R S       | Attending     | ACHESON, L D   |         |   |
| Comment      |                       | Est. LOS:     |                |         |   |
| Transfer     |                       |               |                |         |   |
| Patient Type | 0000                  | Room          | 03             | Bed     | A |
| Signed       |                       | By:           |                | Rate    |   |
| Service Req  |                       | Assigned      |                |         |   |
| Registered   | 15:14 06/03/2003      | Confirmed     | 1 1.0          |         |   |
| Disposition  | 1 1.0                 | Discharge     | 1 1.0          |         |   |
| To           |                       |               |                |         |   |

ANNALS OF MEDICINE NOVEMBER 12, 2018 ISSUE

# WHY DOCTORS HATE THEIR COMPUTERS

*Digitization promises to make medical care easier and more efficient. But are screens coming between doctors and patients?*

By Atul Gawande  
November 5, 2018



# Humans are beyond intuition

Can you read this?

**Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mse and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.**



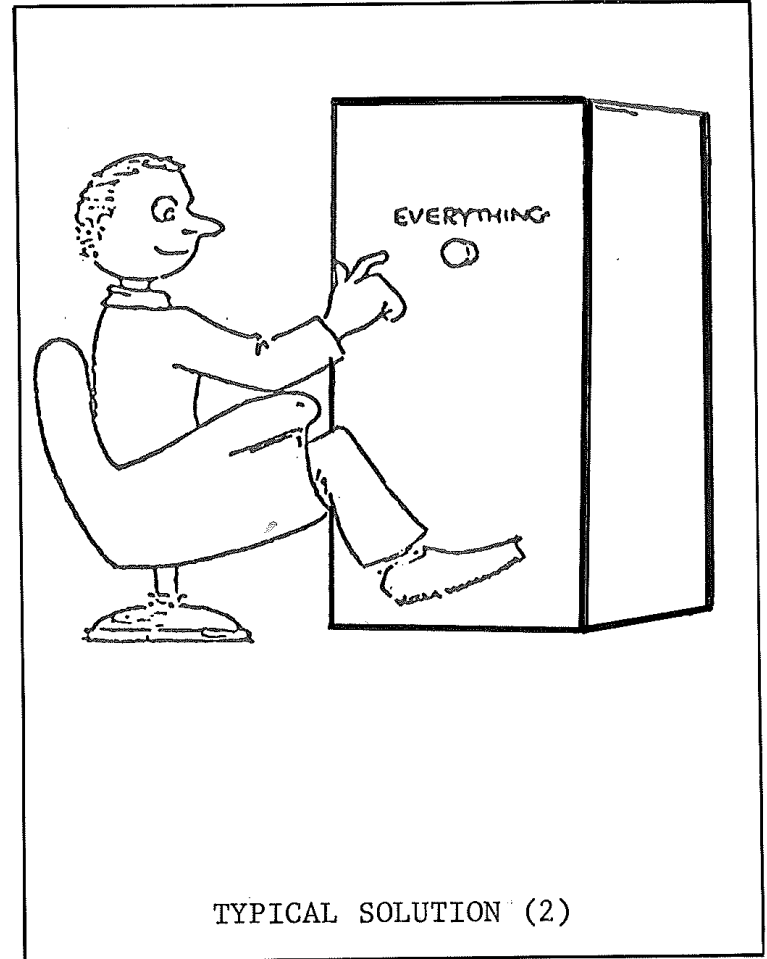
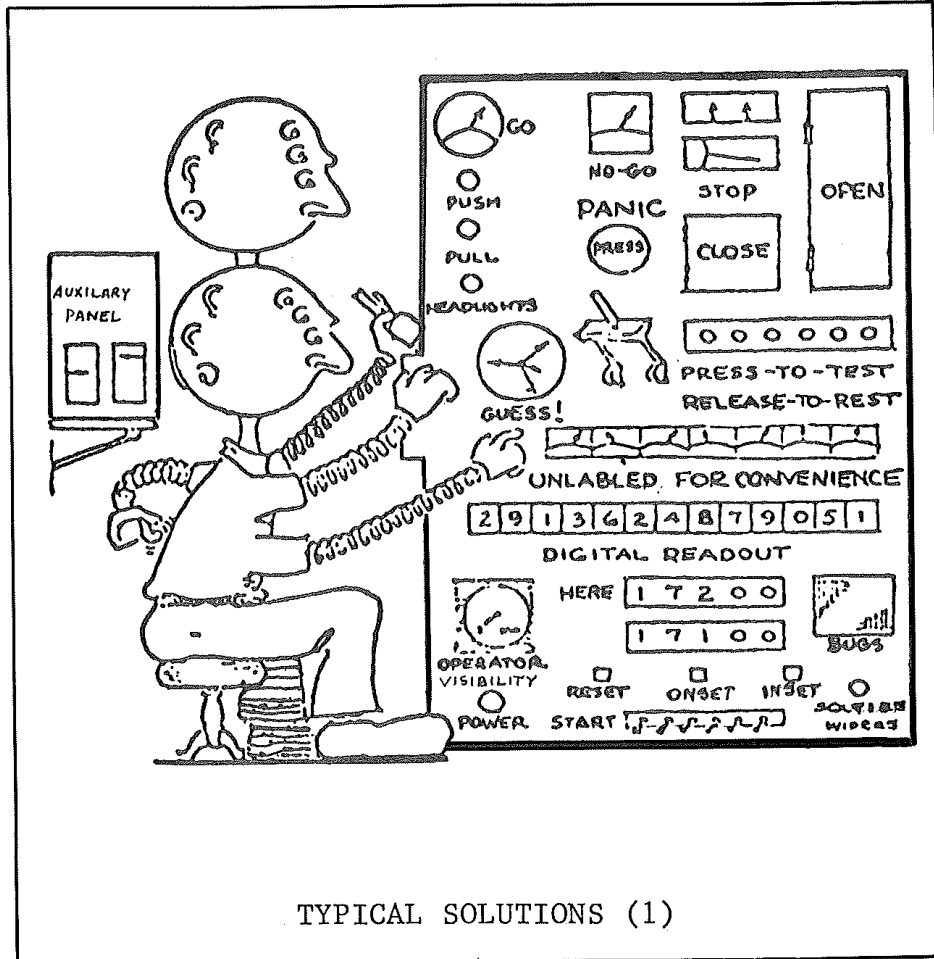
Find the Calendar icon:



People are  
different



# Good design reduces complexity

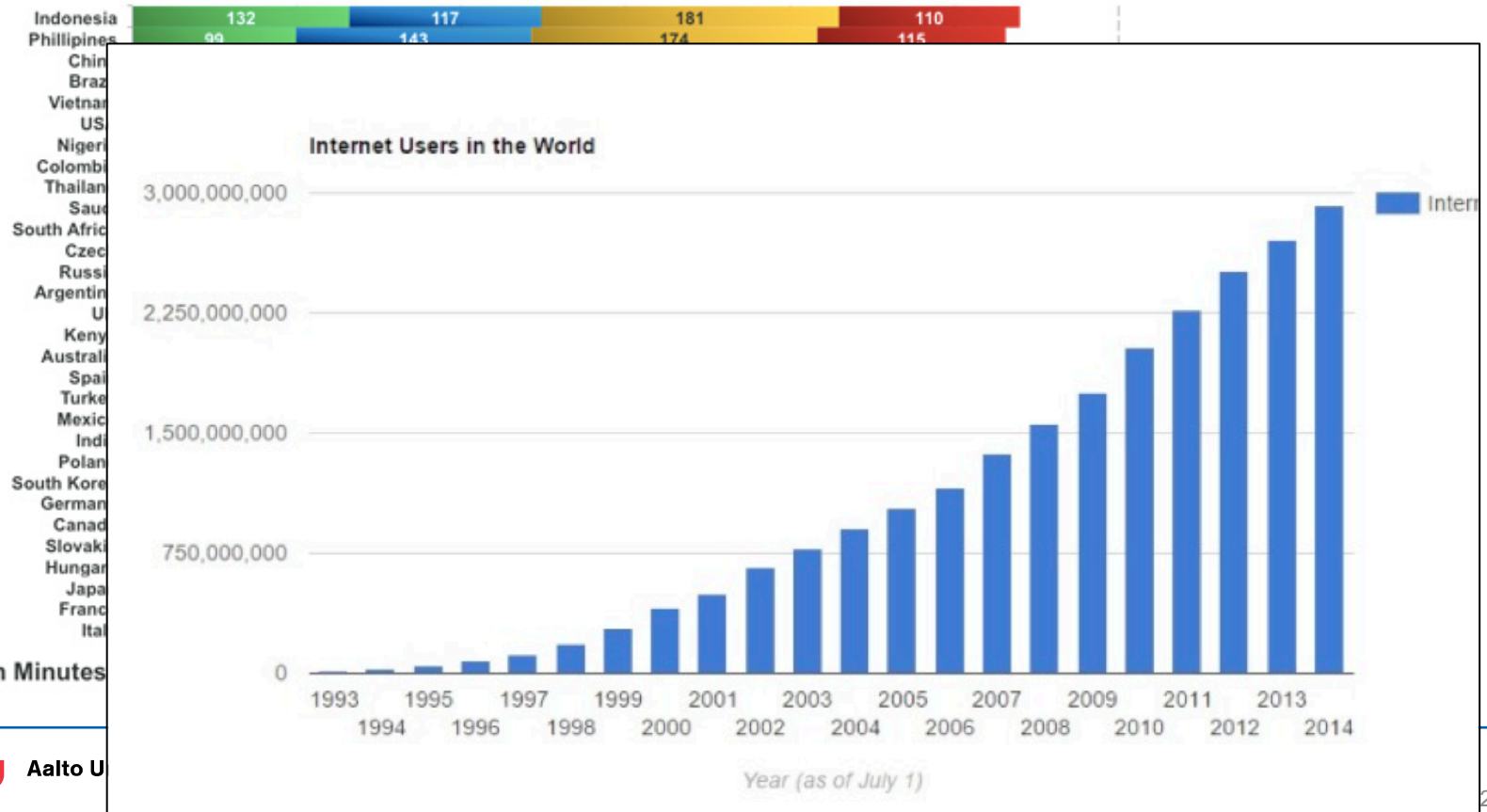


# Poor design is a cause of death



# Design impacts a large number of people

Daily Distribution of Screen Minutes Across Countries (Mins)

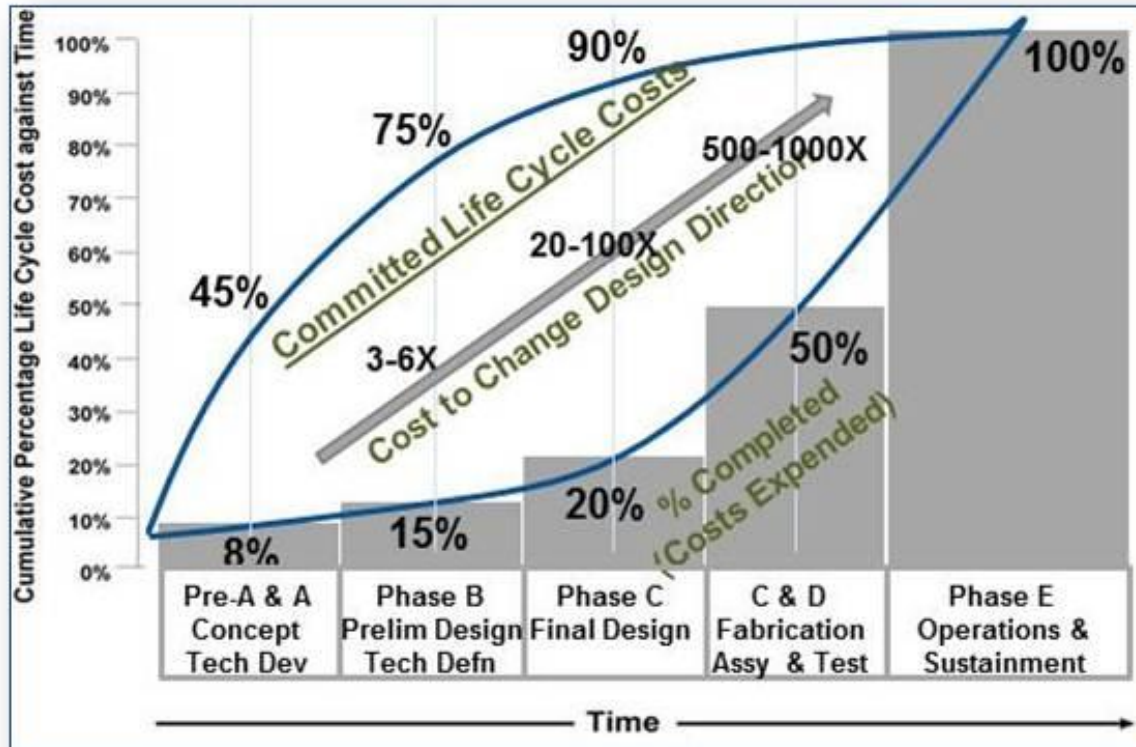


# Legal responsibility



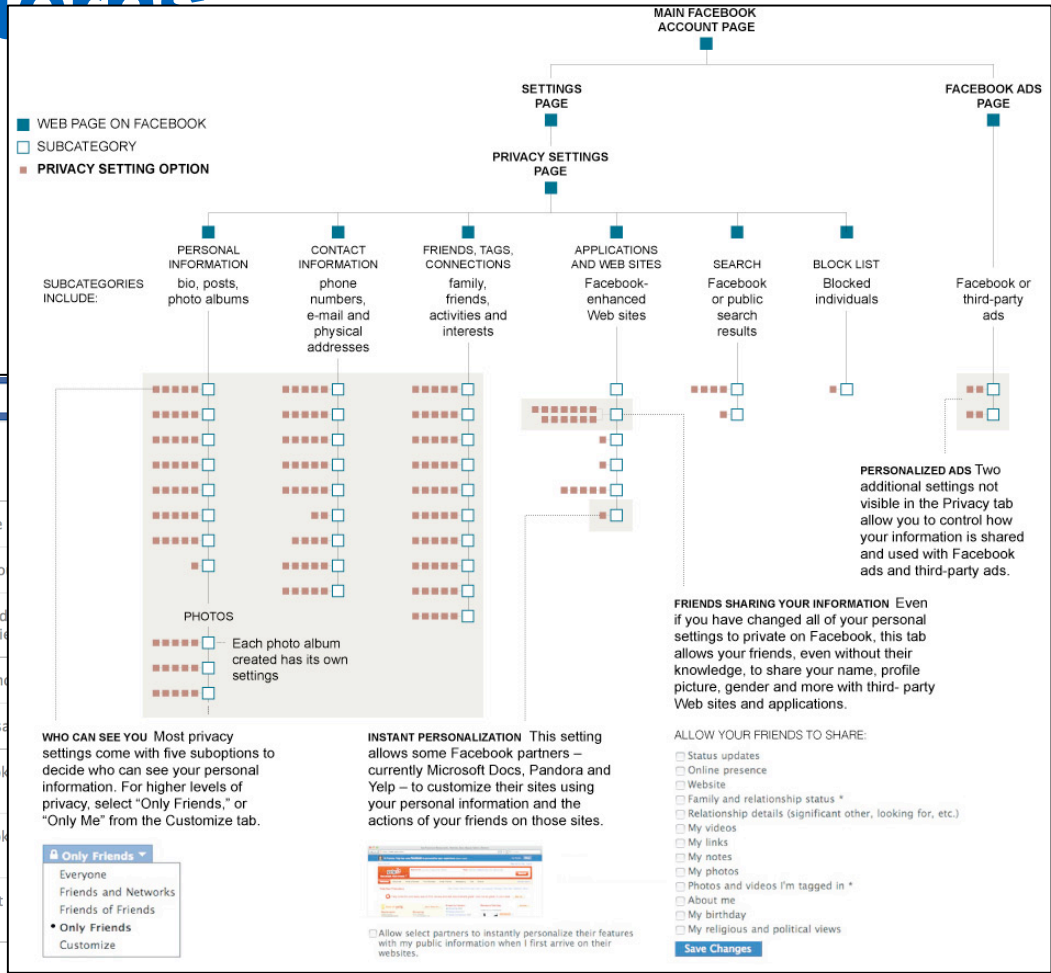
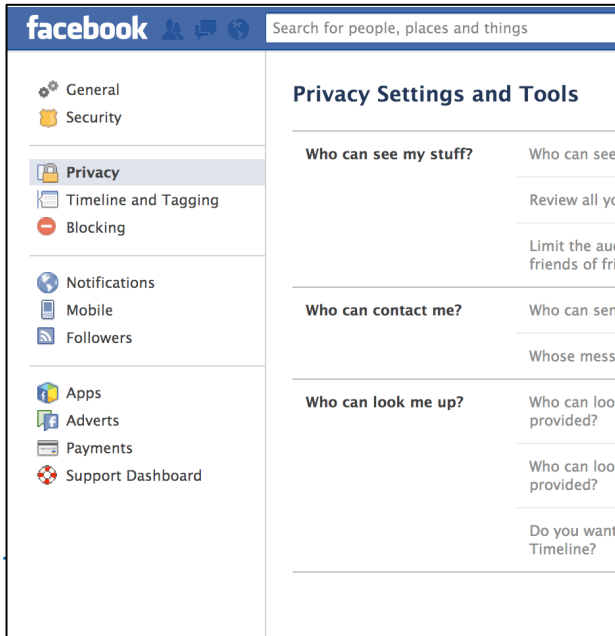
# Reduce development costs

The later you account for human factors, the more it costs



“Locked in costs”

# Fight dark patterns



conferencing. XMPP proponents, on the other hand, tout an XML-based data transport technology that is built to manage IM and presence.

As it now stands, real-time communications in the enterprise is in its infancy. The long-term goal is to develop a single protocol that not only unifies real-time messaging with the tracking and notification of worker presence and availability but also allows for those functions to be performed across corporate boundaries and on a vast range of devices.

[ Take control of your Mac with [30 essential MacOS command-line tips](#). | Cut to the key news in technology trends and IT breakthroughs with the [InfoWorld Daily newsletter](#), our summary of the top tech happenings. ]

Beyond basic IM system interoperability, a common protocol for IM and presence holds the key for unlocking valuable state awareness from the tethers of a stand-alone system. The challenge of stitching availability awareness into a variety of systems — both within and between enterprises — is piquing the interest of heavy hitters. IBM and Microsoft have stepped up to the plate to declare standards compliance, regardless of whether the market or the protocols themselves are ready.

“It is very important here at this [early] stage of enterprise IM [for vendors] to say, ‘We are compliant with these standards.’ It is more important to say it than to do it,” says Robert Mahowald, research manager at IDC in Framingham, Mass.

**The favored SIMPLE**

FROM IDG

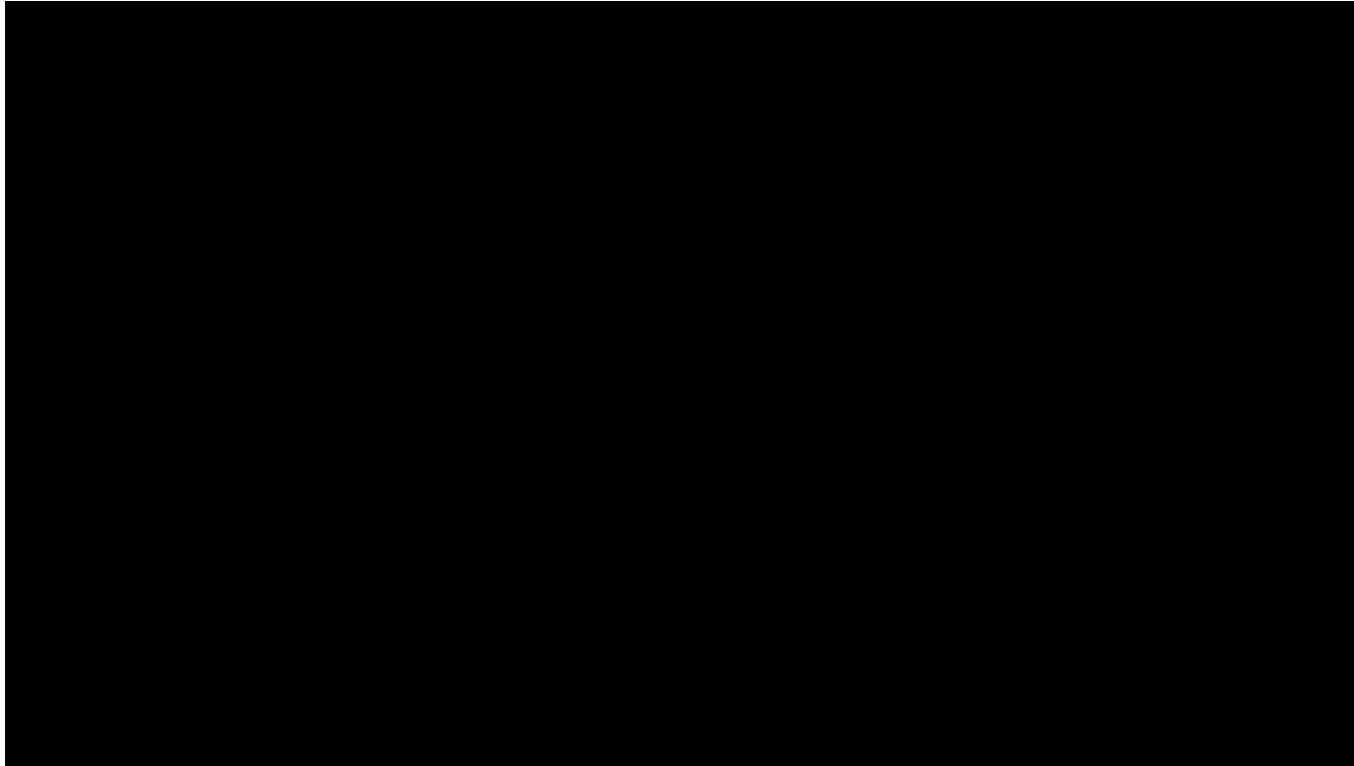
A BIT OF YOUR  
TIME COULD  
GET YOU **\$250**

**CLICK HERE**

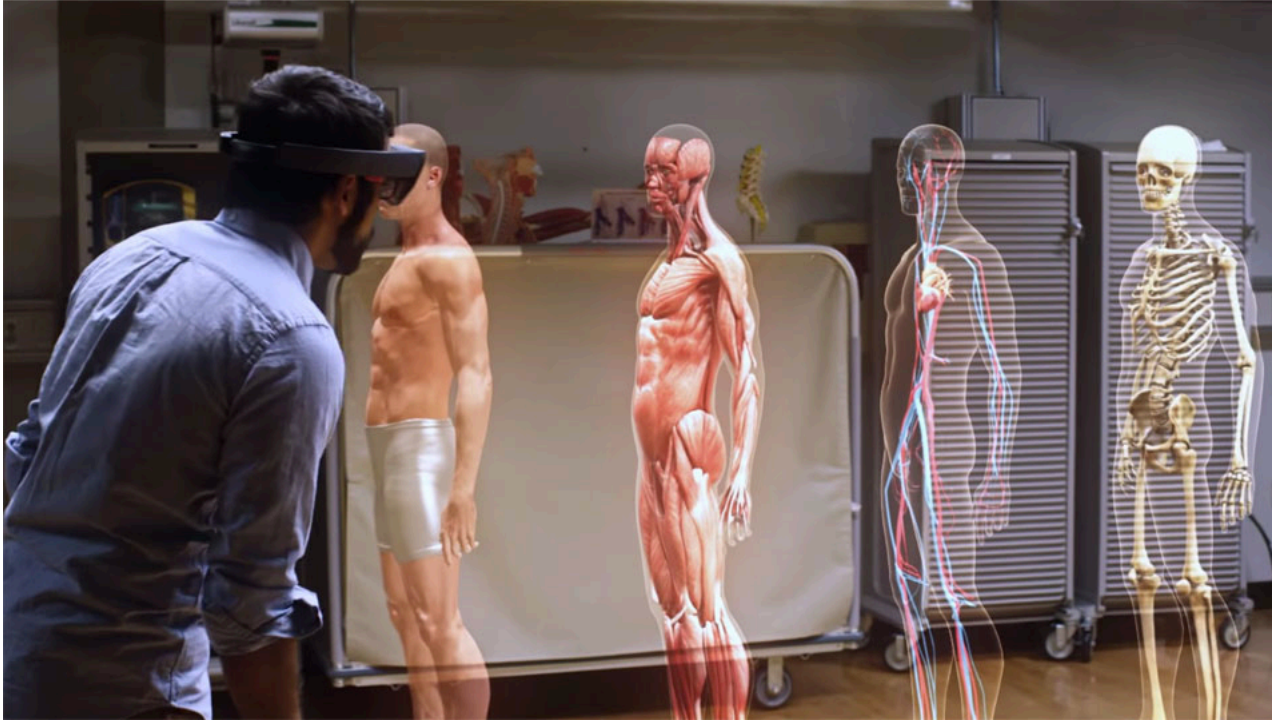




# Innovate new experiences



# Reinvision work practices



# Compete with usability



# Improve performance



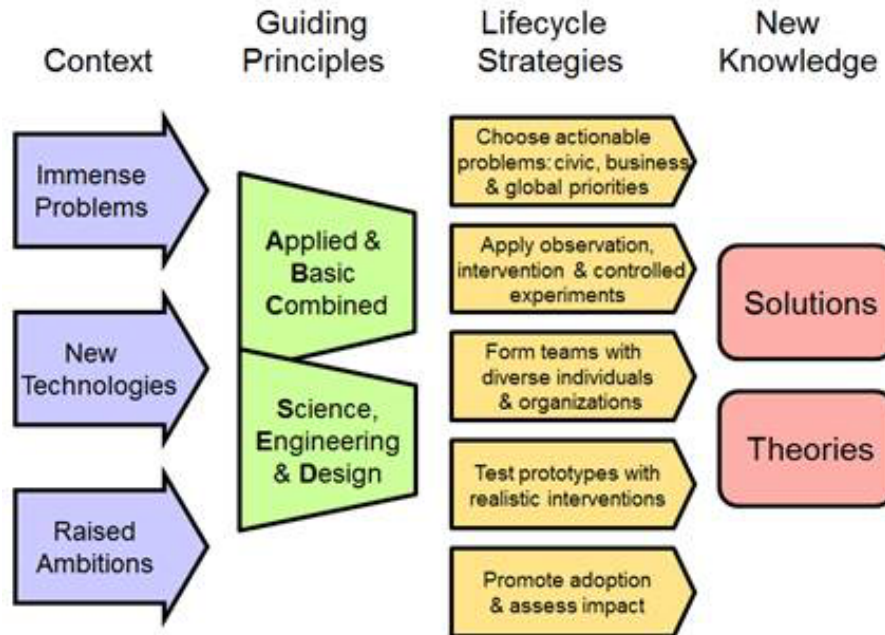
# Illuminate emerging human-related phenomena

## Case in point: Zoom fatigue



# Human factors engineering is part of modern innovation

## The New ABCs of Research



# Summary: Why study human factors?

1. Increase efficiency, enjoyability, and robustness of technology
2. Avoid catastrophies and loss of life
3. Offer proofs and guarantees for design
4. Improve the hit rate of user-centered design
5. Reduce development time of ICT
6. Harness new technological innovations quicker



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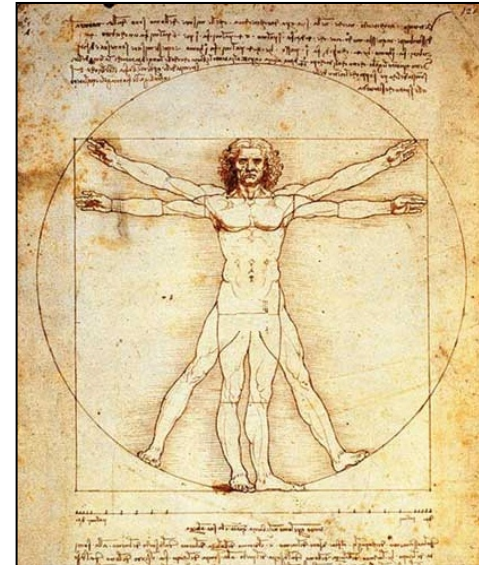
# Human factors engineering



# Human is the criterion for decisions

Human factors starts from human needs, limitations, and capabilities

- Perception
- Attention
- Motor control
- Reasoning
- Sensory capabilities
- Working memory
- Long-term memory and learning
- Biomechanics and anthropometrics
- Needs, motivations
- ...



# Formulate measurable objectives related to people



## Key objectives for engineering

Improve effectiveness

Improve efficiency

Improve safety

Improve satisfaction

Improve experience

Decrease errors

Reduce fatigue

Reduce the learning curve

Ensure operability and usability

Meet user's needs and wants

Positive perception of product

# This course: Key design goals

## Product fit

- Does the product meet the users needs and expectations? Are the right features included, do they—and can they—use those features?

## Errors

- Objective measure provided by the overall task error rate and the frequency and severity of the error. How many users make mistakes and are they able to recover?

## Efficiency

- Objective measure yielded by time on task. How long does it take the user to complete the task? Often correlated with satisfaction.

## Satisfaction

- Satisfaction measures are subjective measures provided by the user.

## Learnability

- How easy the system is to learn. Can be expressed by a learning curve and typically is associated with error and efficiency rates over time to show trending

# A multi-disciplinary field

## Human Factors Engineering (HFE)

- **Integrates** human considerations within the system development process
- **A comprehensive**, multidisciplinary, technical and management process
- **Ensures** that the human contribution toward system performance is consistently addressed throughout the system life cycle

# Beyond luck and intuition


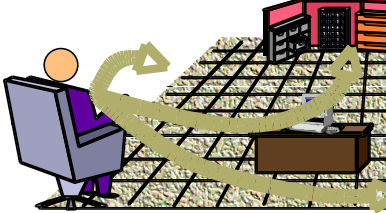
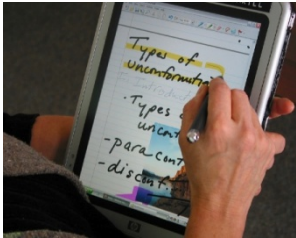

**Understanding:** Identify factors behind human performance, error, behavior and experience

**Analysis:** Identify solutions with desirable properties

**Quality guarantees:** Offer guarantees for solutions, implement them in standards and methods

**Insight:** Facilitate idea-generation

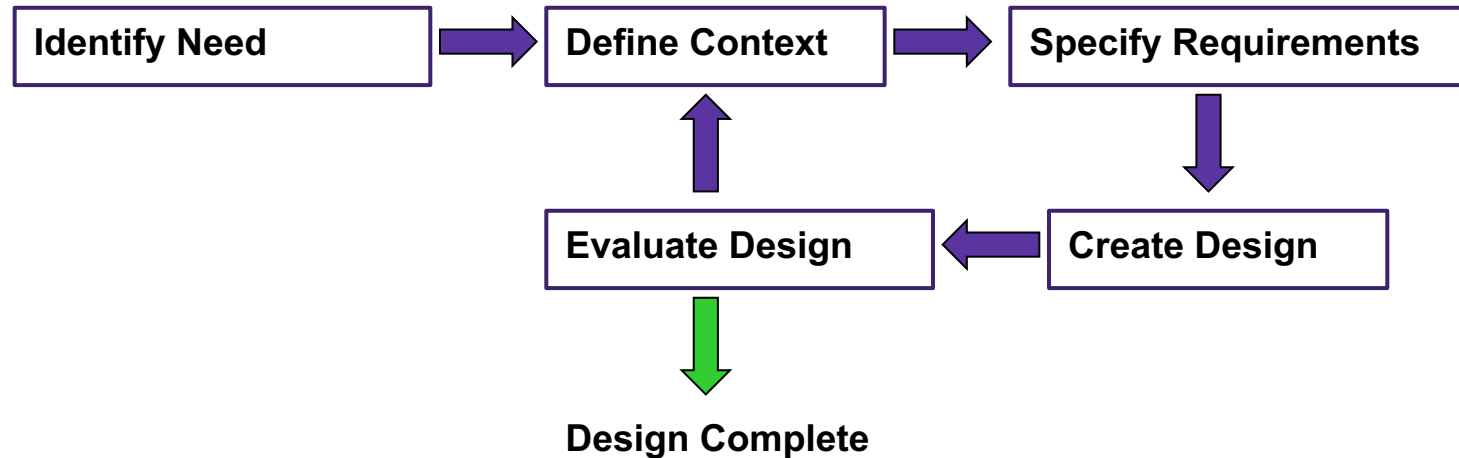
# Multiple levels of analysis

|  |            |                      |  |
|--|------------|----------------------|--|
| $10^7$ (months)<br>$10^6$ (weeks)<br>$10^5$ (days) | SOCIAL     | Social Behavior      |   |
| $10^4$ (hours)<br>$10^3$<br>$10^2$ (mins)          | RATIONAL   | Adaptive Behavior    |   |
| $10^1$<br>$10^0$ (sec)<br>$10^{-1}$                | COGNITIVE  | Immediate Behavior   |   |
| $10^{-2}$<br>$10^{-3}$ (msec)<br>$10^{-4}$         | BIOLOGICAL | Physiological events |  |

# A human-centred design process

There are 4 fundamental steps to the process:

- **Define** the context of use: what are the tasks or objectives associated with the design.
- **Specify** requirements: what expectations or requirements must the design accommodate
- **Create** design solutions: prototyping, rendering, mockup building
- **Evaluate** designs: modeling, usability testing, and ergonomic assessment

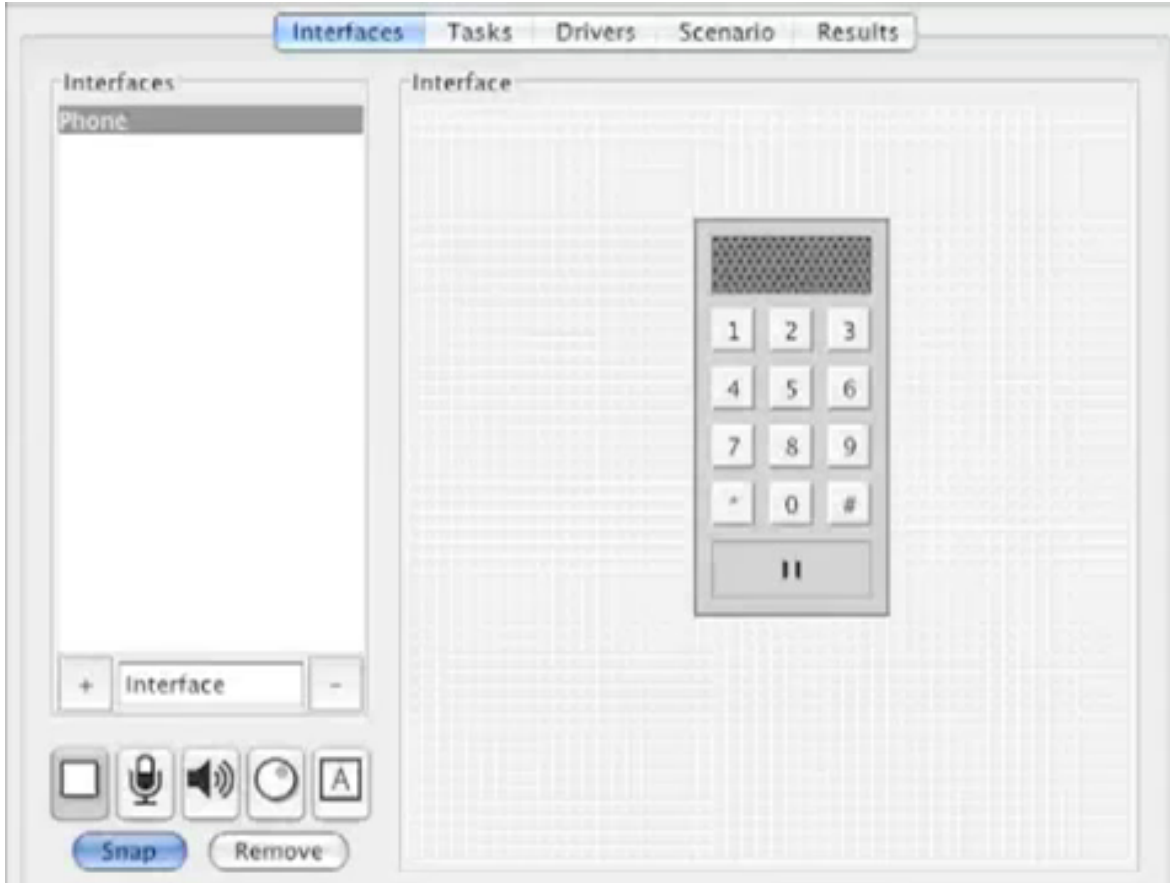


# Example: NASA's HFE process

- a. **Operation and scenario development**
- b. **Task analyses**
- c. **Function allocation** between humans and systems
- d. **Allocation of roles and responsibilities** among humans
- e. **Iterative conceptual design and prototyping**
- f. **Empirical testing**, e.g., human-in-the-loop, testing with representative population, or model-based assessment of human-system performance
- g. **In-situ monitoring** of human-system performance during flight.



# Models and simulations example: Distract-r



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Dario Salvucci

# This course

**1. Design as problem-solving:** Finding the best solution for a given problem definition systematically, either via models or via empirical research



**2. Models and theories** of human performance



**3. Empirical methods** for evaluating designs



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# Course organization

# Learning objectives

## First touch with human factors engineering

1. **Understand** basic human factors, behavior and experience
2. **Formulate** tractable questions concerning design
3. **Solve** them using models, theories, and empirical methods
4. **Analyze** the strengths and weaknesses of solutions
5. **Gather** information to assist in analysis
6. **Assess** design solutions critically
7. **Familiarize** with standards and processes (more on other courses)
8. *Learn to learn*

# Example student project: HSL card reader redesign case 2017

## Opiskelijat: Näin HSL:n matkakortinlukijasta tulisi looginen ja nopea

18.1.2017 09:35:02 EET | [Aalto-yliopisto](#)

Jaa      

Toimivamman käyttöliittymän suunnittelussa hyödynnettiin käyttäjien ideoita ja matemaattista mallinnusta.



# Activities overview

## Lectures

Tuesdays 10.15am-12pm (Zoom)

Thursdays 12.15pm-2pm (Zoom)

**No dedicated exercise sessions (contrary to Oodi)!**

**Assignments: Typically 1 mandatory and 1 optional per lecture**

Released Tuesday evening → Due by following Mon at 21.59

Released Thursday evening → Due by following Wed at 21.59

# Course participation

**Lectures:** mandatory (up to 3 absences are OK)

**Assignments:** 1 mandatory task *per lecture* worth 5 points, 1-2 optional tasks (each 5 points)

**Readings** are optional unless otherwise mentioned

**Exam is mandatory.** Materials announced in early May

# Grading (1-5)

## Exam (40%):

Maximum 50 points

Minimum for passing: 20 points

## Assignments (60%):

Maximum: 100 points

Minimum for passing: 40 points

## Note

- Points cannot be moved between categories



# About assignments

- **One assignment sheet** per lecture, consisting of one mandatory and 1-2 optional tasks (each 5 points)
  - Types: design problems, theoretical problems, numerical problems, empirical tasks, (maybe) essays
- **Points** you can earn per lecture: 0-10 or 0-15
  - **If you miss an assignment or get a poor score, that's fine!**  
You can compensate by doing optional tasks
- **All submissions via MyCourses: Deadline always at 21.59**
  - *We recommend submitting in advance due to issues with last minute congestion*
- **Grades will appear in MyCourses** (after 1-2 weeks)

# Tips for assignments

**Start early**, don't leave this to the last hours. Ensure you have tried a solution

**Pre-allocate sufficient time** each week for assignments

**Choose optional assignments** by assessing (critically) which you can solve within your time budget

**Report** your solutions well!

**Try hard. If you bump into an obstacle, you can:**

- Email teachers
- Give up early and do some other task

**Note** that assignments will take a bit more time in the beginning of the course

# Exam (MyCourses)

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Readings** will be announced in early May in MyCourses

**Scoring:** Max 50 points, minimum for passing: 20

**Tasks:** 10 tasks, one per page, 5 points each

**Types:** definitions, essays, identifications, analyses, and simple numerical tasks. Focus on conceptual understanding and applications

**Grading:** 0-5 per task. Answers must base on course materials only. Story-telling will be penalized

**Equipment:** An open book exam

***We will do a practice exam in May***

# Course policies 1/2

- ! **ALL EXERCISES** are to be done on your own. Do not do them in pairs or groups.
- ! **PLAGIARISM:** In cases of plagiarism, we will follow the policy of Aalto University. While we recommend talking with other students and learning from the Internet, exercise solutions must be executed individually and by the student. The student must be ready to explain his/her solution when requested.

# Course policies 2/2

- **INACTIVITY:** A student who is inactive for two or more weeks may be removed from the course. Students who have already reached the assignment point minimum are exempted.
- **DEADLINES:** Please observe the deadlines for returning the exercises. No extensions will be granted.
- **EQUIVOCATION:** When grading exercises and exams, we may punish for "fishing" points by equivocating in answers. If you do not know the answer, just say so.

# Changes from last year

**One lecture changed**

**Some materials have been dropped**

**Changes in guest lecturers**



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# Fails and Epic Fails

*ELEC-D7010 Engineering for Humans*

*Antti Oulasvirta*

*Aalto University*

# Learning objectives

**1. Epic Fails**  
And how **design heuristics** would have stopped them

Knows and can apply basic design heuristics

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# When Design Fails

# Trivial design failures are unacceptably too common

**In the following, I will**

- Present cases of design failures, asking for your input on what went wrong
- Present **design heuristics** that would have fixed these issues

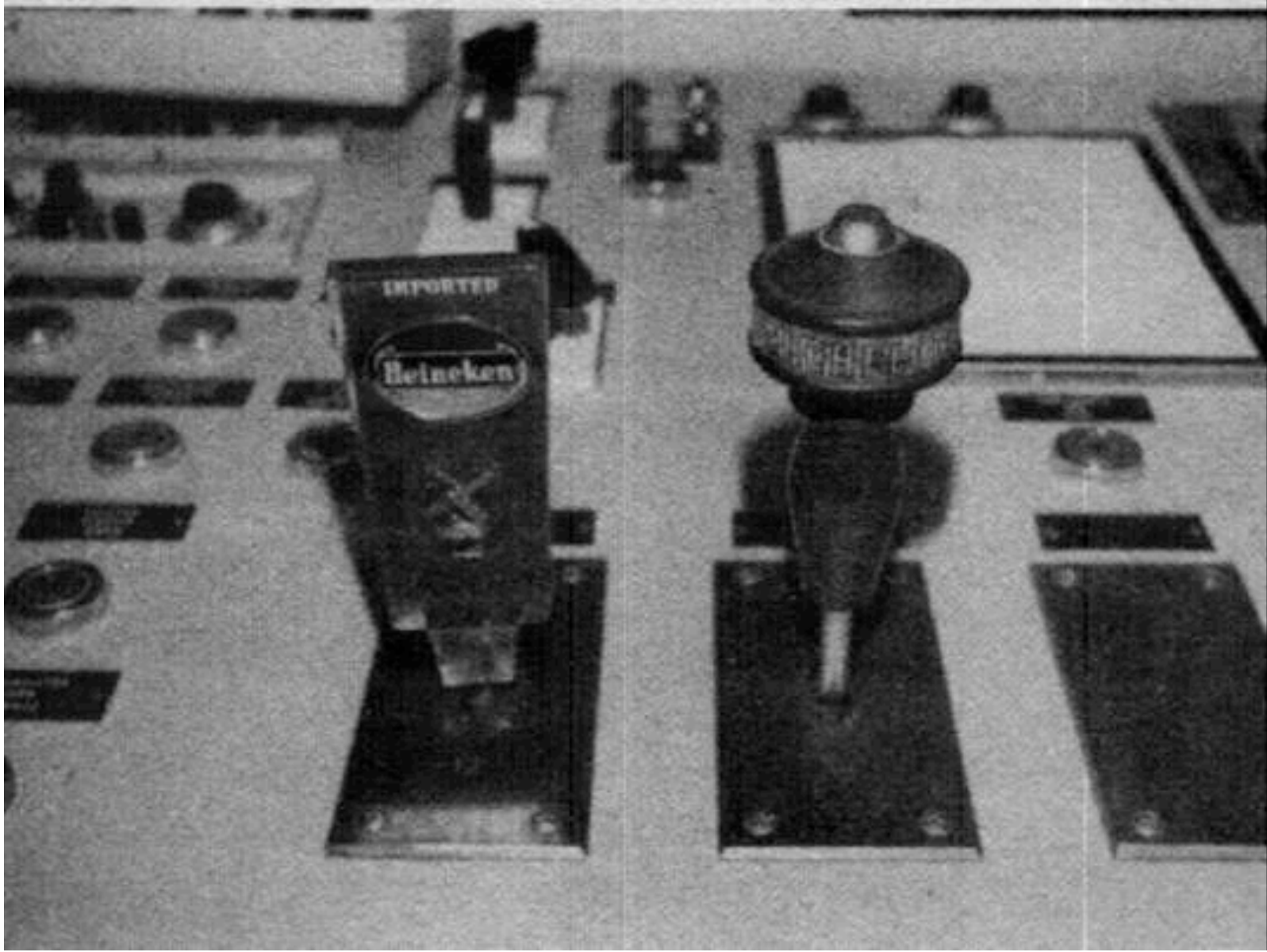
**Heuristics, or rules-of-thumb, describe good practices and objectives in design**

- "Design wisdom" in a verbal, actionable form
- We will see many of them later...

# Warm-up: What was wrong with this UI?

















ENG

4:51 PM  
2/02/2018



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F11

PgDn  
F12



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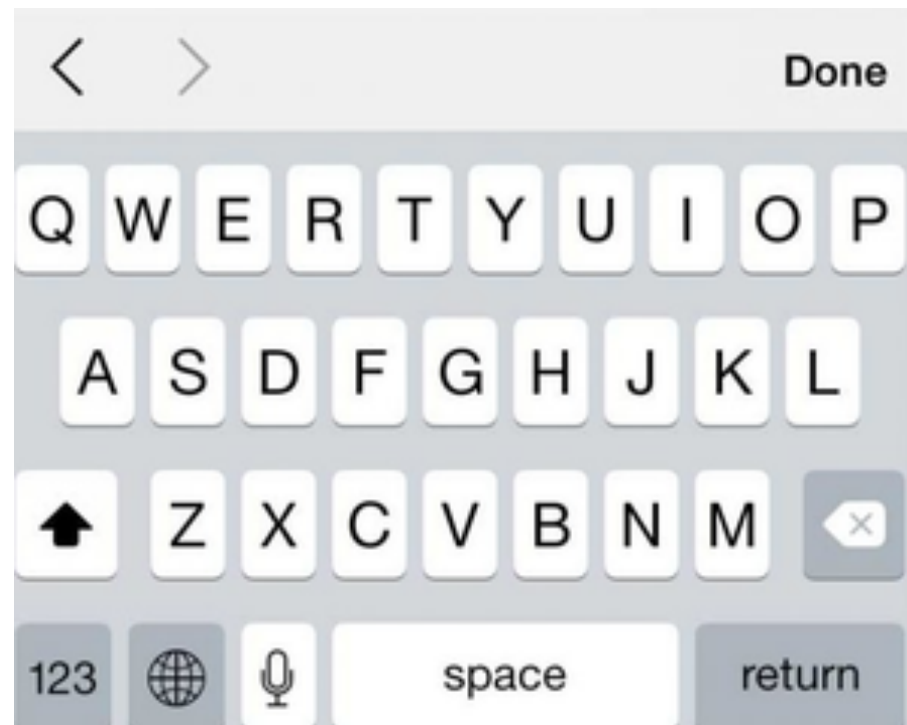
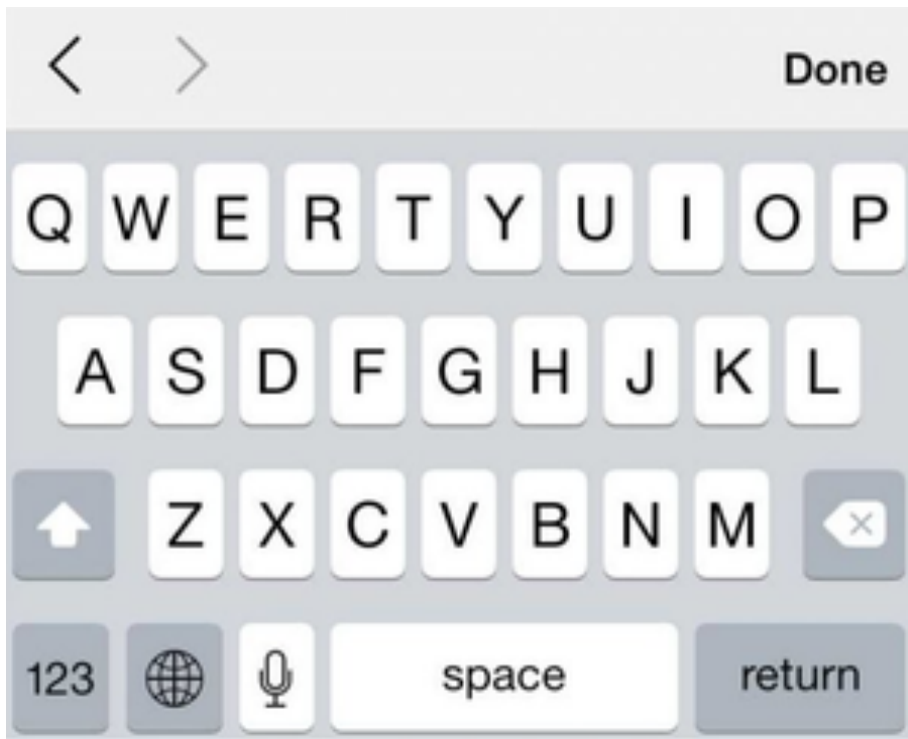
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## Reject the file

Are you sure you want to cancel? If you cancel now you will not receive this file.

Do not ask me again

OK

Cancel

## Add Imports Validation Error



Importing 'ConsoleApplication1.Ns1' would change the meaning of other identifiers in this file. To correct 'C2' and preserve the meaning of other identifiers, choose one of the following options:

- Import 'ConsoleApplication.Ns1' and qualify the affected identifiers.
- Do not import 'ConsoleApplication.Ns1', but change 'C2' to 'Ns1.C2'.

OK

Cancel







C210 (C210) / Uusi tapahtuma / Ti 25.04.2017


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| Aikaväli  | 10:00 - 12:00  | Vahvistustila  | Vahvistettu  |                          |                          |                          |    |    |    |    |                          |                                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Pvm   | 25.04.2017 Ti<br>Valitse alkupvm   | 25.04.2017 Ti<br>Valitse loppupvm  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yksittäinen/toistuvaisvaraus<br><input type="radio"/> Yksi monipäiväinen varaus   |                          |                          |                          |    |    |    |    |                          |                                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Viikonpäivät  | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ma</td> <td>Ti</td> <td>Ke</td> <td>To</td> <td>Pe</td> <td>La</td> <td>Su</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> |  |  | Ma                       | Ti                       | Ke                       | To | Pe | La | Su | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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# Start

Ian Paul

Metro New York Cha...  
Hoosier Happy Hour--Trivia at Compa...  
Having trouble viewing this email?




38



Calendar



Internet Explorer



Store 15




Bing



People



Photos




Maps



SkyDrive



Travel





Messaging




Finance


Boston Herald - Giants getting good rolls so far this World Series



Games




Camera



15:02 Friday October 26




At \$2b, presidential election is most expensive ever




Music




Video




Search




Share



Start



Devices



Settings



It looks like you're writing a letter.

Would you like help?

- Get help with writing the letter
- Just type the letter without help
- Don't show me this tip again





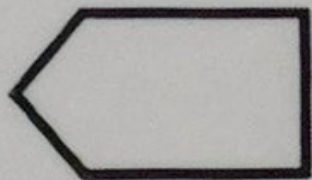
← How Spicy?

Orange Chicken

- Medium
- Mild
- Not Spicy
- Spicy
- Very Spicy

Apply





# Too high latency









## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- 1. To ensure your privacy, push switch to locked position.**
- 2. Before leaving, please push switch to unlocked position otherwise switch remains in locked position and door will not open from outside.**
- 3. If door is locked, contact Facilities service call desk on extension 55900.**



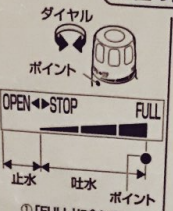
吐水・止水方法

ダイヤルを回して吐水・止水します。

■ 通常吐水  
吐水→「OPEN◀」方向に回し、目盛を「FULL」に合わせると水(湯)が出ます。

■ 止水  
止水→「▶STOP」方向に回し、目盛がない位置に合わせると止まります。

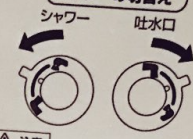
■ 定量吐水  
吐水→「OPEN◀」方向に回し、目盛を「FULL」に合わせます。次にダイヤルを戻しながら希望の吐水量に合わせます。ダイヤルが回り、自動で水(湯)が止まります。



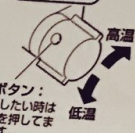
- ① 「FULL」に合わせる。
- ② 希望の吐出量に合わせる。

水栓の使い方

シャワーの切替え



温度調節



注意

- シャワーをお使いになる前に、必ず手で適温であることを確かめてください。
- 高温の湯をお使いの際は、必ず温度を40℃以下に戻してください。
- ハンドルは、ゆっくり回してください。

AOE





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# How will you die?

# Human error

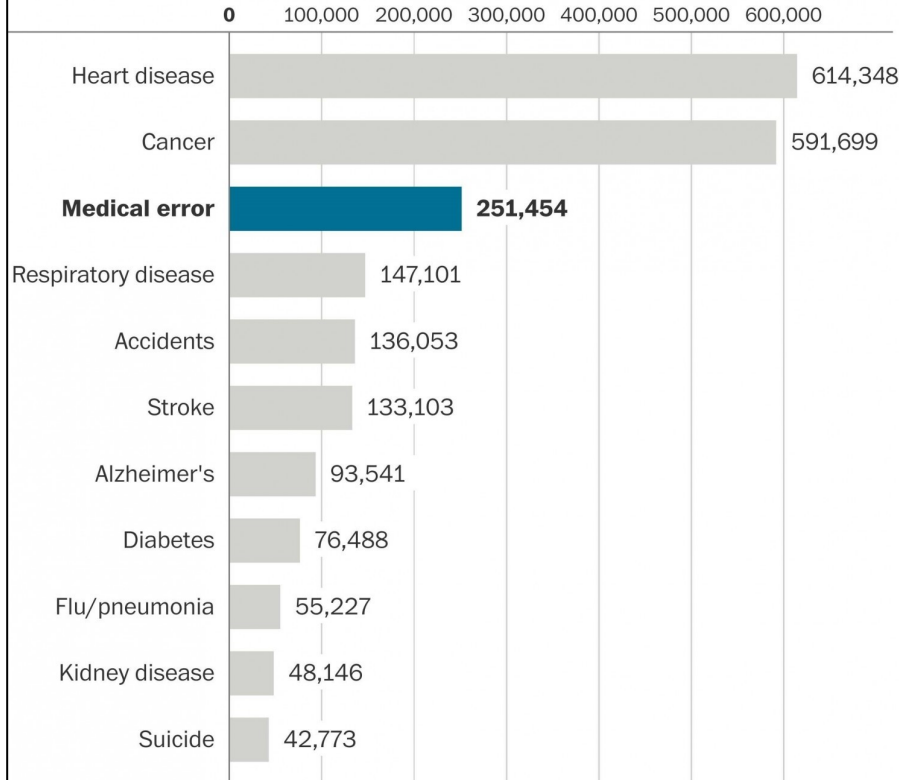
- **An inappropriate or undesirable human decision or behavior that reduces or has the potential to reduce effectiveness, safety, or system performance**
- **A human action/decision that exceeds system tolerances**
- ***“An action is taken that was ‘not intended by the actor; not desired by a set of rules or an external observer; or that led the task or system outside its acceptable limits”***

(Senders & Moray, 1991, p. 25 as cited in Proctor & van Zandt, 1994, p. 43).

# How will you die?

## Death in the United States

Johns Hopkins University researchers estimate that medical error is now the third leading cause of death. Here's a ranking by yearly deaths.



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, BMJ

THE WASHINGTON POST

## HUMAN ERROR IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH



DIAGNOSTIC ERRORS, PREVENTABLE EFFECTS, PROVIDER JUDGMENT LEAD TO 250,000 DEATHS A YEAR, RESEARCH SAYS

A recent study completed by a team of medical professors at Johns Hopkins University suggests that human error should be recognized by the CDC as the third leading cause of death in the United States.

This study concluded that about 250,000 Americans die annually from mistakes made in the medical field in four areas. These include the provider's judgment, skill or coordination of care; diagnostic errors; system defects; and preventable adverse effects. For example, surgical complications or mix-up with doses or medications given.

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease is the current third-place holder on the CDC's list, but in 2013 human error deaths surpassed those due to respiratory disease by more than 100,000. The researcher's goal in completing this study is to increase the amount of research grants that go towards this subject.

More than 250,000 Americans die each year from medical errors.

"You have this over-appreciation and overestimate of things like cardiovascular disease, and a vast under-recognition of the place of medical care as the cause of death," stated surgeon Martin Makary, the lead author.

The Johns Hopkins team wrote a letter to CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden making a case for human error to be put on the list of leading causes of death, but other experts say this move may be premature. It is generally accepted though, that for how many mistakes are made, this topic is not discussed frequently enough or given enough attention.

Sources: NPR, John Hopkins University

WRITTEN BY  
LAUREN TURVILLE



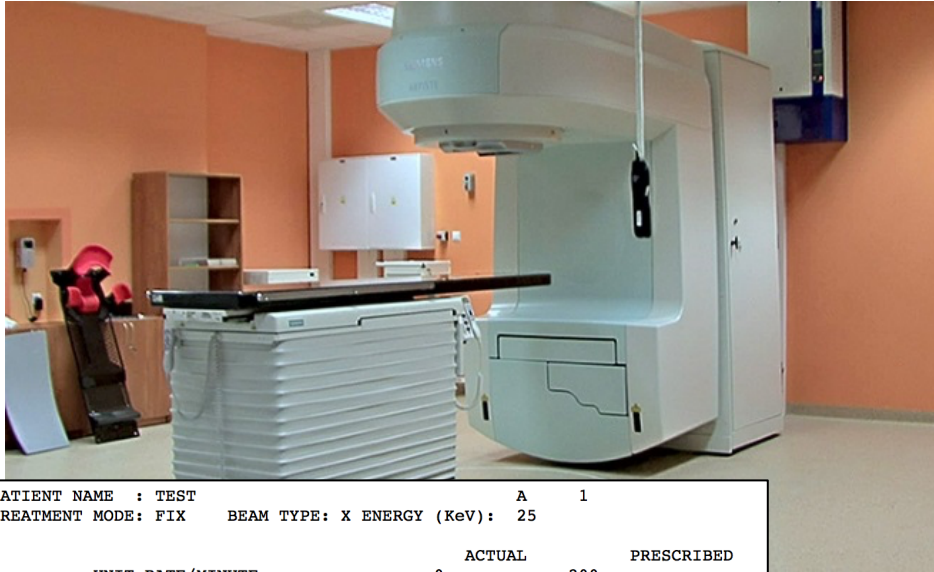
July 2016 53

**Note:** This claim – originally published in BMJ 2013 - has been contested on methodological grounds

20.4.2021

80

# Therac-25 Medical Accelerator - 1985-7



“An operator involved in an overdose accident testified that she had become insensitive to machine malfunctions. Malfunction messages were commonplace, most did not involve patient safety. Service technicians would fix the problems or the hospital physicist would realign the machine and make it operable again.”

```
PATIENT NAME : TEST          A      1
TREATMENT MODE: FIX      BEAM TYPE: X ENERGY (KeV): 25

UNIT RATE/MINUTE          0      200
MONITOR UNITS             50  50  200
TIME (MIN)                0.27  1.00

GANTRY ROTATION (DEG)     0.0      0  VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR ROTATION (DEG) 359.2    359 VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR X (CM)         14.2    14.3 VERIFIED
COLLIMATOR Y (CM)         27.2    27.3 VERIFIED
WEDGE NUMBER              1      1  VERIFIED
ACCESSORY NUMBER          0      0  VERIFIED

DATE : 84-OCT-26  SYSTEM: BEAM READY  OP.MODE: TREAT  AUTO
TIME : 12:55. 8  TREAT : TREAT PAUSE  X-RAY      173777
OPR ID: T25VO2-RO3 REASON: OPERATOR  COMMAND:
```

**Figure A. Operator interface screen layout.**

# Three Mile Island accident - 1979



“Despite the valve being stuck open, a light on the control panel ostensibly indicated that the valve was *closed*. In fact the light did not indicate the position of the valve, only the status of the solenoid being powered or not, thus giving false evidence of a closed valve. As a result, the operators did not correctly diagnose the problem for several hours.”



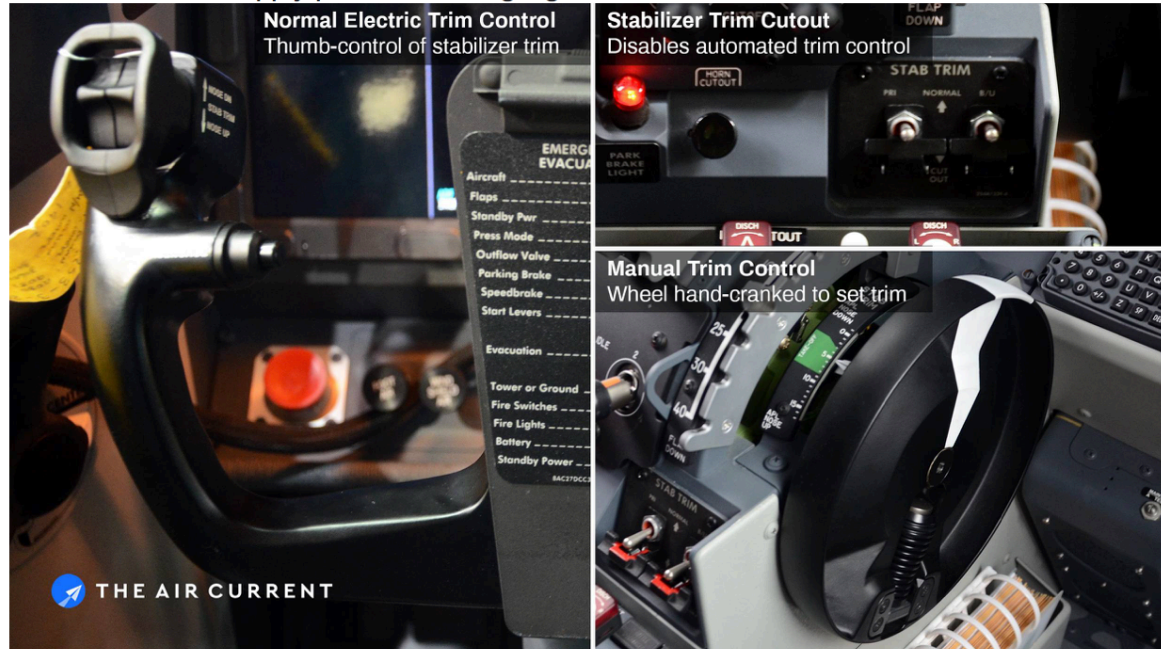
# Grounding of Royal Majesty - 1995



moment at high angles of attack that did not meet FAA longitudinal stability and stick force certification standards. The easiest fix was to automatically apply a little nose down trim at high angles of attack.

## A few things that *should* disable it (with caveats)

1. **Lower the flaps.** It is intended to work only if the flaps are up.
2. **Turn the Stab Trim switches to OFF.** This disables the horizontal stabilizer's trim completely, and reverts to manual trim ([there are two guarded stabilizer trim switches in the aisle stand, see Windshear's answer](#)). This means that the pilots must move/rotate the trim wheels in order to apply pitch trim during flight.



The manual pitch trim appears to be what a few crews did prior to the LionAir crash in October 2018. It is unclear how many of the crews knew that it was MCAS, versus any other trim or pitch anomaly. The previous LionAir crews on the accident aircraft ended up flying to

# Poor design is a preventable and therefore unacceptable cause of death





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# Design Heuristics

# Design Heuristics

**Simple rules-of-thumbs for design**

**Example: “In system error, give a error message that helps the user to recover from the error”**

**“Do this” and “Don’t do this”**

**Based on personal experience rather than rigorous empirical data**



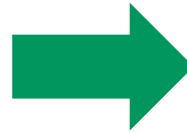
Visibility  
Feedback  
Natural mapping  
Affordances  
Constraints



# Visibility and Feedback

**Heuristic #1: Make relevant parts visible.**

**Heuristic #2: Give each action an immediate and obvious effect**



# Visibility and Feedback

**Sound can be used to provide similar information.**



When the electric engine is engaged, the Prius is quieter than a vacuum cleaner.



# Natural Mappings

***Mapping*** = the relationship  
between two things

***Natural mappings*** can be

- Cultural
- Biological
- Spatial

**Heuristic #3:** Capitalize on  
the concept of natural  
mappings



# Natural Mappings



# Natural Mappings



# Affordances

**Affordance is a property of the object. They provide strong clues to the operation of things.**

**Suggest how the object should be used**

- “Verb”-able

**Users know what to do just by looking at the object.**

- No instructions needed!

**Examples**

- Door plates
- Knobs
- Button

# Affordances



# Affordances



**Heuristic #4:** Use the affordances of objects to help infer their use

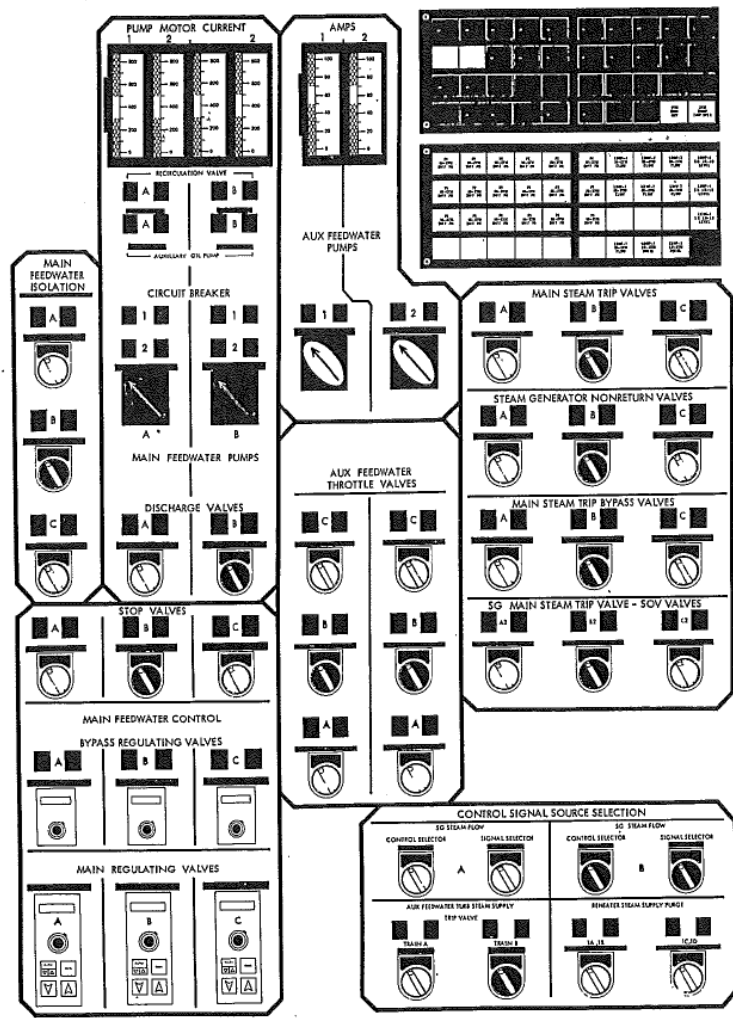
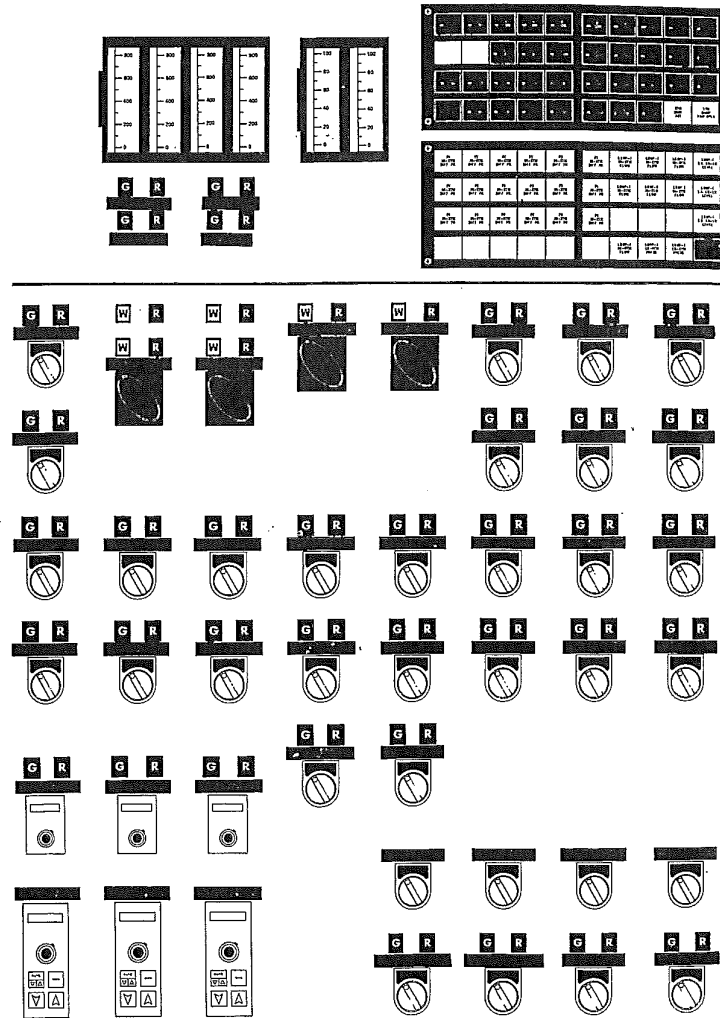
# Constraints

**Constraints limit how the design can be used**

**Types:**

- Physical
  - *Square object and round hole*
- Cultural
  - *Light switches*
- Logical
  - *Order (1,2,3 or a, b, c)*

**Heuristic #5:** Restrict the kind of interaction that can take place at a given moment





# Many other heuristics...

**Jakob Nielsen's 10 heuristics**

**Ben Shneiderman's Golden heuristics**

**Several domain and company specific heuristics**

# Shneidermann's 8 Golden Rules

- 1. Strive for consistency***
- 2. Cater to Universal Usability (Enable frequent users to use shortcuts)***
- 3. Offer informative feedback***
- 4. Design dialogs to yield closure***
- 5. Offer error prevention and simple error handling***
- 6. Permit easy reversal of actions***
- 7. Support internal locus of control***
- 8. Reduce short-term memory load***

We will learn more about heuristics in the home assignment



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# Assignment 1

# Assignment 1

**One mandatory task related to this lecture**

A1-1. Analysis of a UI using design heuristics (5 points)