

## Learning Objectives

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{11.1}}$  Explain the process of designing interfaces and dialogues and the deliverables for their creation

11.2 Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

**11.3** Describe and apply the general guidelines for designing interfaces and specific guidelines for layout design, structuring data entry fields, providing feedback, and system help

**11.4** Design human-computer dialogues and understand how dialogue diagramming can be used to design dialogues

11.5 Design graphical user interfaces

**11.6** Discuss guidelines for the design of interfaces and dialogues for Internet-based electronic commerce systems

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## Introduction

- Defining the manner in which humans and computers exchange inform
- Interface design focuses on how information is provided to and captured from users
- Dialogues analogous to a conversation between two
   people

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## **Interface Designs and Dialogues**

**11.1** Explain the process of designing interfaces and dialogues and the deliverables for their creation

- User-focused activity
- Prototyping methodology of iteratively:
  - Collecting information
  - Constructing a prototype
  - Assessing usability
  - Making refinements
- Must answer the who, what, when, where, and how questions

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## **Deliverables and Outcomes**

**11.1** Explain the process of designing interfaces and dialogues and the deliverables for their creation

- Deliverable is the creation of a design specification that includes:
  - 1. Narrative overview
  - 2. Sample design
  - 3. Testing and usability assessment
  - 4. Dialogue sequence
    - The ways a user can move from one display to another

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## **Interaction Methods and Devices**

**11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

- Interface method by which users interact with an information system
- All human-computer interfaces must:
  - have an interaction style
  - use some hardware device(s) for supporting this interaction

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## **Methods of Interacting**

**11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

- Five widely used styles of interacting include:
  - Command line
    - Includes keyboard shortcuts and function keys
  - Menu
  - Form

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- Object-based
- Natural language

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## **Command Language Interaction**

- **11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system
- Command language interaction human-computer interaction method whereby users enter explicit statements into a system to invoke operations
- Example from Linux command prompt: **\$ cp file.doc newfile.doc** 
  - Makes a copy of file.doc and names it newfile.doc
  - The dollar sign is the command prompt from Linux, not part of the command itself

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## **Menu Interaction**

**11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

- Menu interaction human–computer interaction method in which a list of system options is provided and a specific command is invoked by user selection of a menu option
  - Menus can differ significantly in design and complexity
     Larger systems might use menu hierarchies providing navigation
  - Variation in menu arrangement can greatly influence system usability

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## **Pop-Up Menu**

**11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

- **Pop-up menu** menu-positioning method that places a menu near the current cursor position
  - Also called a dialogue box
  - Users don't have to move their position or eyes to view system options
- Drop-down menu menu-positioning method that places the access point of the menu near the top line of the display; when accessed, menus open by dropping down onto the display

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## Table 11-1: Guidelines for Menu Design

Wording	Each menu should have a meaningful title.
	Command verbs should clearly and specifically describe operations.
	Menu items should be displayed in mixed uppercase and lowercase letters and have a clear, unambiguous interpretation.
Organization	A consistent organizing principle should be used that relates to the tasks the
	intended users perform; for example, related options should be grouped together, and the same option should have the same wording and codes each time it appears.
Length	The number of menu choices should not exceed the length of the screen.
	Submenus should be used to break up exceedingly long menus.
Selection	Selection and entry methods should be consistent and reflect the size of the application and sophistication of the users.
	How the user is to select each option and the consequences of each option should be clear (e.g., whether another menu will appear).
Highlighting	Highlighting should be minimized and used only to convey selected options     (a.g., a shock mark) or unpublishe actions (a.g., dimmed toxt)











## **Form Interaction**

- $\ensuremath{\textbf{11.2}}$  Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system
- Form interaction highly intuitive human-computer interaction method whereby data fields are formatted in a manner similar to paper-based forms
  - Allows users to fill in the blanks when working with a system

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## **Object-Based Interaction**

**11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system

- Object-based interaction human-computer interaction method in which symbols are used to represent commands or functions
- $\ensuremath{\textit{lcon}}\xspace graphical picture that represents specific functions within a system$

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- Take up little screen space
- Quickly understood by most users

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## **Natural Language Interaction**

- **11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system
- Natural language interaction human-computer interaction method whereby inputs to and outputs from a computer-based application are in a conventional spoken language such as English
  - Based on research in artificial intelligence
  - Current implementations are tedious and difficult to work with, not as viable as other interaction methods

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## Hardware Options for System Interaction

- **11.2** Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system
- A growing number of hardware devices are employed to support human-computer interaction
- Selection of an interaction device must be selected during the logical design phase
- To design the most effective interfaces you need to understand the capabilities of the various methods and devices

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# Table 11-2: Common Devices forInteracting with an Information System

Description and Primary Characteristics or Usage Device Keyboard Users push an array of small buttons that represent symbols that are then translated into words and commands. Keyboards are widely understood and provide considerable flexibility for interaction. A small plastic box that users push across a flat surface and whose movements are translated into cursor movement on a computer display. Buttons on the mouse tell the system when an item is selected. A mouse works well on flat desks but may not be practical in drivy or busy environments, such as a shop floor or check out area in a retail store. Never pen-based mice provide the user with more of the feel of a writing implement A small vertical lever mounted on a base that steers the cursor on a computer display. Provides similar functionality to a mouse. Mouse Joystick Trackball A sphere mounted on a fixed base that steers the cursor on a computer display. A suitable replacement for a mouse when work space for a mouse is not available. Selections are made by touching a computer display. This works well in dirty environments or for users with limited dexterity or expertise. Touch Light Per Selections are made by pressing a pen-like device against the screen. A light pen works well when the user needs to have a more direct interaction with the contents of the screen. Graphic Tablet Moving a pen-like device across a flat tablet steers the cursor on a computer display. Selections are made by pressing a button or by pressing the pen against the tablet. This device works well for drawing and graphical Spoken words are captured and translated by the computer into text and commands. This is most appropriate for users with physical challenges or when hands need to be free to do other tasks while interacting with the asolication. /oice Pearson Copyright © 2020, 2017, 2014 Pearson Education, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Device	Visual Blocking	User Fatigue	Movement Scaling	Durability	Adequate Feedback	Speed	Pointing Accuracy
Keyboard		•	•		•	•	
Mouse	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Joystick			•		-	•	-
Trackball		•				•	
Touch Screen	•	•	•	•		•	•
Light Pen	•	-	•			•	•
Graphics Tablet			•		•		
Voice							

□ = little to no usability problems ■ = potentially high usability problems for some applications

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Table 11-4: Summary of General Conclusions fromExperimental Comparisons of Input Devices inRelation to Specific Task Activities

Trackball, graphics, tablet, mouse, joystick	Touch screen, light pen,	Touch screen, light pen
	trackball	
Mouse	Mouse	-
Light pen	Light pen	-
_	Light pen	-
Light pen, cursor keys	Light pen	Light pen
Touch screen	-	Keyboard, touch screer
g the cursor to select a figure he cursor to select a block o rmation of any type into a sy ng the cursor to a specific p the cursor to a location to m ng a menu item	e or item If text /stem osition ake a text correction	
	Light pen — Light pen, cursor keys Touch screen the cursor to select a figure the cursor to select a block of mation of any type into asy ing the cursor to a specific p ing the cursor to a location to m on the research	Light pen Light pen

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## **Designing Interfaces**

**11.3** Describe and apply the general guidelines for designing interfaces and specific guidelines for layout design, structuring data entry fields, providing feedback, and system help

- · Should use standard forms for forms/reports
- Typical paper based form has several common general areas such as:
   Header information
  - Sequence and time-related information
  - Instruction or formatting information
  - Body or data details
  - Totals or data summary
  - Authorization or signatures
  - Comments

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# Table 11-5: Data Entry ScreenFunctional Capabilities (1 of 2)

#### Cursor Control Capabilities:

- Move the cursor forward to the next data field
- Move the cursor backward to the previous data field
- Move the cursor to the first, last, or some other designated data field
- Move the cursor forward one character in a field
- Move the cursor backward one character in a field

#### Editing Capabilities:

- Delete the character to the left of the cursor
- Delete the character under the cursor
- Delete the whole field
- Delete data from the whole form (empty the form)
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# Table 11-5: Data Entry ScreenFunctional Capabilities (2 of 2)

## • Exit Capabilities:

- Transmit the screen to the application program
- Move to another screen/form
- Confirm the saving of edits or go to another screen/form

#### Help Capabilities:

- Get help on a data field
- Get help on a full screen/form

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Table 11-6: Guidelines for StructuringData Entry Fields		
Entry	Never require data that are already online or that can be computed; for example, do not enter customer data on an order form if those data can be retrieved from the database, and do not enter extended prices that can be computed from quantity sold and unit prices.	
Defaults	Always provide default values when appropriate; for example, assume today's date for a new sales invoice, or use the standard product price unless overridden.	
Units	Make clear the type of data units requested for entry; for example, indicate quantity in tons, dozens, pounds, etc.	
Replacement	Use character replacement when appropriate; for example, allow the user to look up the value in a table or automatically fill in the value once the user enters enough significant characters.	
Captioning	Always place a caption adjacent to fields; see Table 11-7 for caption options.	
Format	Provide formatting examples when appropriate; for example, automatically show standard embedded symbols, decimal points, credit symbol, or dollar sign.	
Justify	Automatically justify data entries; numbers should be right justified and aligned on decimal points, and text should be left justified.	
Help	Provide context-sensitive help when appropriate; for example, provide a hot key, such as the f f key, that opens the help system on an entry that is most closely related to where the cursor is on the display.	
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# Table 11-7: Options for Entering orSelecting Text

Options	Example
Line Caption	Phone Number() -
Drop Caption	( ) - Phone Number
Boxed Caption	Phone Number
Delimited Characters	
	Phone Number
Check Boxes	Method of communication (check one or more)
	🗅 E-mail
	SMS (Text Message)
	Phone
Radio Buttons	Method of communication (check preferred method)
	O E-mail
	○ SMS (Text Message) ● Phone

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## Table 11-8: Sources of Data Errors

Data Error	Description
Appending	Adding additional characters to a field
Truncating	Losing characters from a field
Transcripting	Entering invalid data into a field
Transposing	Reversing the sequence of one or more characters in a field

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## Table 11-9: Validation Tests and Techniquesto Enhance the Validity of Data Input

Validation Test	Description
Class or Composition	Test to ensure that data are of proper type (e.g., all numeric, all alphabetic, all alphanumeric)
Combinations	Test to see if the value combinations of two or more data fields are appropriate or make sense (e.g., Does the quantity sold make sense given the type of product?)
Expected Values	Test to see if data are what is expected (e.g., match with existing customer names, payment amount, etc.)
Missing Data	Test for existence of data items in all fields of a record (e.g., Is there a quantity field on each line item of a customer order?)
Pictures/Templates	Test to ensure that data conform to a standard format (e.g., Are hyphens in the right places for a student ID number?)
Range	Test to ensure data are within proper range of values (e.g., Is a student's grade point average between 0 and 4.0?)
Reasonableness	Test to ensure data are reasonable for situation (e.g., pay rate for a specific type of employee)
Self-Checking Digits	Test where an extra digit is added to a numeric field in which its value is derived using a standard formula (see Figure 11-14)
Size	Test for too few or too many characters (e.g., Is social security number exactly nine digits?)
Values	Test to make sure values come from set of standard values (e.g., two-letter state codes)





## **Providing Feedback**

**11.3** Describe and apply the general guidelines for designing interfaces and specific guidelines for layout design, structuring data entry fields, providing feedback, and system help

- Three types of system feedback:
  - Status information: keep user informed of what's going on, helpful when user has to wait for response
  - Prompting cues: tell user when input is needed, and how to provide the input
- Error or warning messages: inform user that something is wrong, either with data entry or system operation Pearson

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## Table 11-10: Examples of Poor and **Improved Error Messages**

Poor Error Messages	Improved Error Messages
ERROR 56 OPENING FILE	The file name you typed was not found. Press F2 to list valid file names.
WRONG CHOICE	Please enter an option from the menu.
DATA ENTRY ERROR	The prior entry contains a value outside the range of acceptable values. Press F9 for list of acceptable values.
FILE CREATION ERROR	The file name you entered already exists. Press F10 if you want to overwrite it. Press F2 if you want to save it to a new name.



# Table 11-11: Guidelines for DesigningUsable Help

Guideline	Explanation
Simplicity	Use short, simple wording, common spelling, and complete sentences. Give users only what they need to know, with the option to find additional information.
Organize	Use lists to break information into manageable pieces.
Show	Provide examples of proper use and the outcomes of such use.

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## Table 11-12: Types of Help

Type of Help	Example of Questions
Help on Help	How do I get help?
Help on Concepts	What is a customer record?
Help on Procedures	How do I update a record?
Help on Messages	What does "Invalid File Name" mean?
Help on Menus	What does "Graphics" mean?
Help on Function Keys	What does each Function key do?
Help on Commands	How do I use the "Cut" and "Paste" commands?
Help on Words	What do "merge" and "sort" mean?
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## **Designing Dialogues**

**11.4** Design human–computer dialogues and understand how dialogue diagramming can be used to design dialogues;

- Dialogue sequence of interaction between a user and a system
- Three major steps in the dialogue design process:
  - Designing a dialogue sequence
  - Building a prototype
  - Assessing usability
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## Table 11-13: Guidelines for the Design of Human–Computer Dialogues

Guideline	Explanations
Consistency	Dialogues should be consistent in sequence of actions, keystrokes, and terminology (e.g., the same labels should be used for the same operations on all screens, and the location of the same information should be the same on all displays).
Shortcuts and Sequence	Allow advanced users to take shortcuts using special keys (e.g., CTRL-C to copy highlighted text). A natural sequence of steps should be followed (e.g., enter first name before last name, if appropriate).
Feedback	Feedback should be provided for every user action (e.g., confirm that a record has been added, rather than simply putting another blank form on the screen).
Closure	Dialogues should be logically grouped and have a beginning, middle, and end (e.g., the last in the sequence of screens should indicate that there are no more screens).
Error Handling	All errors should be detected and reported; suggestions on how to proceed should be made (e.g., suggest why such errors occur and what user can do to correct the error). Synonyms for certain responses should be accepted (e.g., accept ether "t, ""," or "TRUE").
Reversal	Dialogues should, when possible, allow the user to reverse actions (e.g., undo a deletion); data should not be deleted without confirmation (e.g., display all the data for a record the user has indicated is to be deleted).
Control	Dialogues should make the user (especially an experienced user) feel in control of the system (e.g., provide a consistent response time at a pace acceptable to the user).
Ease	It should be a simple process for users to enter information and navigate between screens (e.g., provide means to move forward, backward, and to specific screens, such as first and last).
(Source: Based	on Shneiderman et al., 2016)
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## Designing the Dialogue Sequence (1 of 3)

**11.4** Design human–computer dialogues and understand how dialogue diagramming can be used to design dialogues

- Typical dialogue between user and Customer Information
   System:
  - Request to view individual customer information
  - Specify the customer of interest
  - Select the year-to-date transaction summary display
  - Review the customer information
  - Leave system

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## Designing the Dialogue Sequence (2 of 3)

**11.4** Design human–computer dialogues and understand how dialogue diagramming can be used to design dialogues

- Dialogue diagramming formal method for designing and representing human–computer dialogues using box and line diagrams
- Dialogue diagramming has one symbol with three boxes representing three sections as follows:
  - Top—contains a unique display reference number used by other displays for referencing it
  - Middle-contains the name or description of the display
  - Bottom—contains display reference numbers that can be accessed from the current display

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## Designing the Dialogue Sequence (3 of 3)

- 11.5 Design graphical user interfaces
- Become an expert user of the GUI environment
  - Understand how other applications have been designed
  - Understand standards
- Understand the available resources and how they can be used
  - Become familiar with standards for menus and forms
  - Failure to follow standard design conventions can prove very confusing to users

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# Table 11-14: Common Properties of Windowsand Forms in a GUI Environment That Can BeActive or Inactive

Property	Explanation
Modality	Requires users to resolve the request for information before proceeding (e.g., need to cancel or save before closing a window)
Resizable	Allows users to resize a window or form (e.g., to make room to see other windows that are also on the screen)
Movable	Allows users to move a window or form (e.g., to allow another window to be seen)
Maximize	Allows users to expand a window or form to a full-size screen (e.g., to avoid distraction from other active windows or forms)
Minimize	Allows users to shrink a window or form to an icon (e.g., to get the window out of the way while working on other active windows)
System Menu	Allows a window or form to also have a system menu to directly access system-level functions (e.g., to save or copy data)

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## **General Guideline Problems**

**11.6** Discuss guidelines for the design of interfaces and dialogues for Internet-based electronic commerce systems

- Growth of the Web has resulted in interface design problems (result of nonprofessionals developing Web sites):
  - Web's single "click-to-act" method of loading static hypertext documents (i.e. most buttons on the Web do not provide click feedback)
  - Limited capabilities of most Web browsers to support finely grained user interactivity
  - Limited agreed-upon standards for encoding Web content and control mechanisms
  - Lack of maturity of Web scripting and programming languages as well as limitations in commonly used Web GUI component libraries
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Error	Description
Opening New	Avoid opening a new browser window when a user clicks on a link unless it is
Browser Window	clearly marked that a new window will be opened; users may not see that a new window has been opened, which will complicate navigation, especially moving backward.
Breaking or Slowing	Make sure users can use the back button to return to prior pages. Avoid
Down the Back Button	opening new browser windows, using an immediate redirect where, when users click the back button, they are pushed or forward to an undesired location.
Complex URLs	Avoid overly long and complex URLs because it makes it more difficult for
	users to understand where they are and can cause problems if users want to e- mail page locations to colleagues.
Orphan Pages	Avoid having pages with no "parent" that can be reached by using a back
	button; requires users to "hack" the end of the URL to get back to some other prior page.
Scrolling Navigation	Avoid placing navigational links below where a page opens because many
Pages	users may miss these important options that are below the opening window.
Lack of Navigation	Make sure your pages conform to users' expectations by providing commonly
Support	used icon links such as a site logo at the top or other major elements. Also place these elements on pages in a consistent manner.

### Table 11-15: Common Errors When Designing the Interface and Dialogues of Websites (2 of 2)

Error	Description
Hidden Links	Make sure you leave a border around images that are links, don't change link colors from normal defaults, and avoid embedding links within long blocks of text.
Links That Don't Provide Enough Information	Avoid not turning off link-marking borders so that links clearly show which links users have clicked and which they have not. Make sure users know which links are internal anchor points versus external links, and indicate if a link brings up a separate browser window from those that do not. Finally, make sure link images and text provide enough information to users so that they understand the meaning of the link.
Buttons That Provide No Click Feedback	Avoid using image buttons that don't clearly change when being clicked; use Web GUI toolkit buttons, HTML form- submit buttons, or simple textual links.

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## Menu-Driven Navigation with Cookie Crumbs

11.6 Discuss guidelines for the design of interfaces and dialogues for Internet-based electronic commerce systems

- Cookie crumbs technique of placing "tabs" or sequenced links on a Web page that show a user where
- he or she is within a site and where he or she has been - Allow users to navigate to a point previously visited and will assure they are not lost
- Clearly show users where they have been and how far they have gone from home

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## Summary (1 of 2)

- In this chapter you learned how to:
- Explain the process of designing interfaces and dialogues and the deliverables for their creation
- Contrast and apply several methods for interacting with a system
- Describe and apply the general guidelines for designing interfaces and specific guidelines for layout design, structuring data entry fields, providing feedback, and system help

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## Summary (2 of 2)

- In this chapter you learned how to:
- Design human-computer dialogues and understand how dialogue diagramming can be used to design dialogues
- Design graphical user interfaces
- Discuss guidelines for the design of interfaces and dialogues for Internet-based electronic commerce systems

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